

SPRING /SUMMER 2023

POINT LOBOS





Our mission is to protect and nurture Point Lobos State Natural Reserve, to educate and inspire visitors to preserve its unique natural and cultural resources, and to strengthen the network of Carmel Area State Parks. pointlobos.org



Happiness is a male Western Bluebird at Whalers Cove. Photo by Sara Courtneidge

Contents

2	Change comes with the wind
3	Talking about weather and whether we care
4	Climate change and Point Lobos
6	State Parks and the climate change challenge
7	Docents are telling visitors about climate change
9	My favorite creature
13	How one woman's dream came true
15	In memoriam: Ed Clifton
17	Notes from the Docent Log
20	Puzzle
21	Acknowledgments

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Change comes with the wind

The PLF remains undaunted after the storms

by Kathleen Lee

Point Lobos State Natural Reserve teaches us that change is constant, and adaptations are necessary. We are living in a period of seemingly frequent and fast-paced changes. I choose to celebrate the opportunities presented by change rather than be daunted by them. The dramatic storms and powerful flooding this winter have altered the landscape, creating many needs for future trail work.

The visible impact of the increasingly powerful storms and the downed trees present Point Lobos Docents with an opportunity to show visitors how climate change is impacting the Reserve. Several docents have completed additional training on effective climate change conversations with school groups and visitors.

Docents have also adapted their interpretive materials relating to how the Ohlone and Rumsen peoples lived in the Reserve and how they used materials found here to weave baskets and gather and prepare food. As we learn more about how the first peoples lived on these lands, our focus turns to the landscape that we work together to protect.

Perhaps it is fitting that our mission encompasses the four Carmel Area State Parks, and we have taken strides in the past year to include a focus on the Carmel River State Beach. The Point Lobos Foundation created a committee comprised of residents and State Parks personnel to identify and fund projects at Carmel River State Beach.

Sam Winter, State Parks Volunteer Coordinator, has partnered with Carmel High School to bring 147 students out on a year-long effort to remove invasive species, gather native seeds and plant native plants on a 3,500 square foot plot.

Their work has made a positive impact in this area and is a model of partnership between donors, community, State Parks and the foundation. Students learn about the impact of rising sea levels, invasive species and the importance of using native plants to restore the landscape. The committee is working to prioritize other trail and habitat restoration in the area, all supported by generous donors to the Carmel River State Beach fund.

I end with a heartfelt thank you to all the generous donors who supported the Point Lobos Foundation through end-of-year giving and the Monterey County Gives! campaign. The foundation received a terrific response to raise money for trail maintenance and habitat restoration. Mother Nature gave us the opportunity to be resilient and identify critical restoration projects to address the damage caused by these natural events.

I am also grateful for the many crews who have worked to restore trails, remove trees and help with storm clean-up. This work is funded by generous donors, guided by eager volunteers and, with the hard work of crews, we are adapting to the changes wrought by climate change.



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Talking about weather and whether we care

by Reg Henry

American English contains a number of humorous aphorisms on weather and climate. A top choice is by an unknown wit who wrote a riff on a biblical verse: “The rain falls on the rich and poor alike, but the rich have better umbrellas.”

Another favorite is often credited to Mark Twain: “Everybody talks about the weather but nobody does anything about it.” But some think this quote is misattributed and that his friend, Charles Dudley Warner, editor of the Hartford Courant, came up with it.

Just as well — because the quote has a bigger problem. It is not true anymore. Some people are doing something about it by talking about climate change, the convulsive spirit increasingly bedeviling the weather around the world.

What they are saying at the Reserve is the main theme of this edition of the Point Lobos Foundation Magazine. Not so long ago, this might have seemed an asking-for-trouble subject. But as Don Blohowiak writes in our lead story, polling shows that most Americans now accept that climate change is real. People just don’t talk about it much.

But we must talk about it. The stakes for our planet are too high not to talk about it. The problem, of course, is that the topic has become highly politicized, which is both a tragedy and an absurdity. Nature, after all, cares nothing for our politics.

A retired academic who was once an Associated Press journalist, Don has written a scrupulously unpartisan account on how climate change may affect Point Lobos. (He last appeared in these pages in the 2020 Spring/Summer edition writing about sea otters.)

In the sense that it’s an ill wind that doesn’t blow somebody some good, our timing for this article and the related

sidebars by Docent Mary Barrett and State Parks Monterey Sector Manager John Hiles represent something of the perfect storm.

We have certainly had our storms here lately. So-called atmospheric rivers, one after another, came to California this winter and made the clouds into waterfalls. Point Lobos was hard-hit with trees uprooted, boulders and debris thrown by waves onto seaside roads and the landscape inundated. Storm-related closures of the Reserve were frequent, 15 in January, one in February and 10 in March.

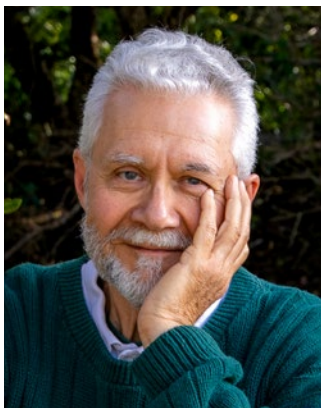
Of course, weather and climate are not the same. As NASA has put it: “The difference between weather and climate is a measure of time. Weather is what conditions of the atmosphere are over a short period of time, and climate is how the atmosphere ‘behaves’ over relatively long periods of time.”

Mark Twain himself discussed the difference between climate and weather: “Climate is what we expect, weather is what we get.”

The fact is that the climate we long expected is no longer what we get. Bad storms have always been a feature of this planet, but we live in an age when extreme weather is becoming more extreme as the Earth warms. The sobering fact is that climate change theory predicts this.

If you need cheering up, former Ranger Chuck Bancroft describes his favorite animal in the Reserve. And Docent Historian Kevin Shabram notes that this year marks the 90th anniversary of the state’s acquisition of the property for a park, which saved it forever.

But will forever be forever? To keep Point Lobos saved for all our favorite animals, everybody should talk about weather being affected by climate change and everybody should do something about it.



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Climate change and Point Lobos

Our recent extreme weather signals a need for action

by Don Blohowiak

"There are many effects that we can see from the atmosphere getting warmer," says Gary Griggs, Distinguished Professor of Earth and Planetary Sciences at the University of California Santa Cruz. "Sea level rising, the ocean getting warmer, the ocean getting more acidic. All those things are affecting the planet and people."

Chances are you know this because you, like most people around the globe, are living through frequent catastrophic weather events as a predicted consequence of a warming planet: droughts, floods, rampant wildfires. Perhaps not surprisingly, most Americans now concede the reality of climate change. A study released earlier this year by Yale University's School of the Environment found that 70 percent of Americans understand that global warming is happening. Yet 63 percent say they rarely or never talk about it.

Let's talk about it.

First, a brief orientation to climate change. Burning fossil fuels — for industry, transportation, agriculture — sends high volumes of gases such as carbon dioxide (CO₂) into the atmosphere. Those gases trap the sun's heat, making the Earth much warmer — the Greenhouse Effect.

That has consequences. "CO₂ emissions, global temperature, sea level rise, they're all parallel," observes Griggs.

How bad is climate change? In a word, bad.

A 2023 United Nations report, approved by 195 governments around the world, found that climate change has caused "substantial damages, and increasingly irreversible losses" in terrestrial, freshwater, and coastal and open ocean ecosystems.

Climate change needs to be arrested, climate scientist Griggs says, to prevent harm to humans as well as "preserve places like Point Lobos, that pristine piece of nature."



Storm-tossed debris on the South Shore Trail. Photo by Don Blohowiak

Beyond suffering both drought and big winter storms, it is difficult to know how much climate change currently is impacting the Reserve. Are specific species such as seals or otters directly affected? There's too little data to know at this point. Besides, says Victoria Derr, associate professor of Applied Environmental Science at California State University Monterey Bay, "We need to focus on ecosystems and larger scale landscapes. We need all the parts. We can't just focus on one thing."

In an ecosystem everything is connected. A recent example of how a warmer ocean negatively affected an ecosystem: The population of ochre sea stars, an important predator of purple sea urchins at Point Lobos and all along the Pacific coast, was ravaged by sea star wasting disease made worse by warmer waters, according to scientists at Cornell, Stanford and other institutions. With fewer of these carnivorous predators, urchin populations increased. Urchins eat kelp. Too many urchins eating too much kelp could lead to dangerously low levels of kelp — the home for sea otters.

It's all connected. Everything affects everything. A warmer ocean presents dangers for multiple marine species. And for us.

Professor Griggs warns ominously, "If humans are going to survive as a species in any way, we've got to start doing things to slow climate change fast." "I can't really think of anything that feels more urgent," says Derr, "because climate change affects so many things. It impacts potentially everything on the planet."

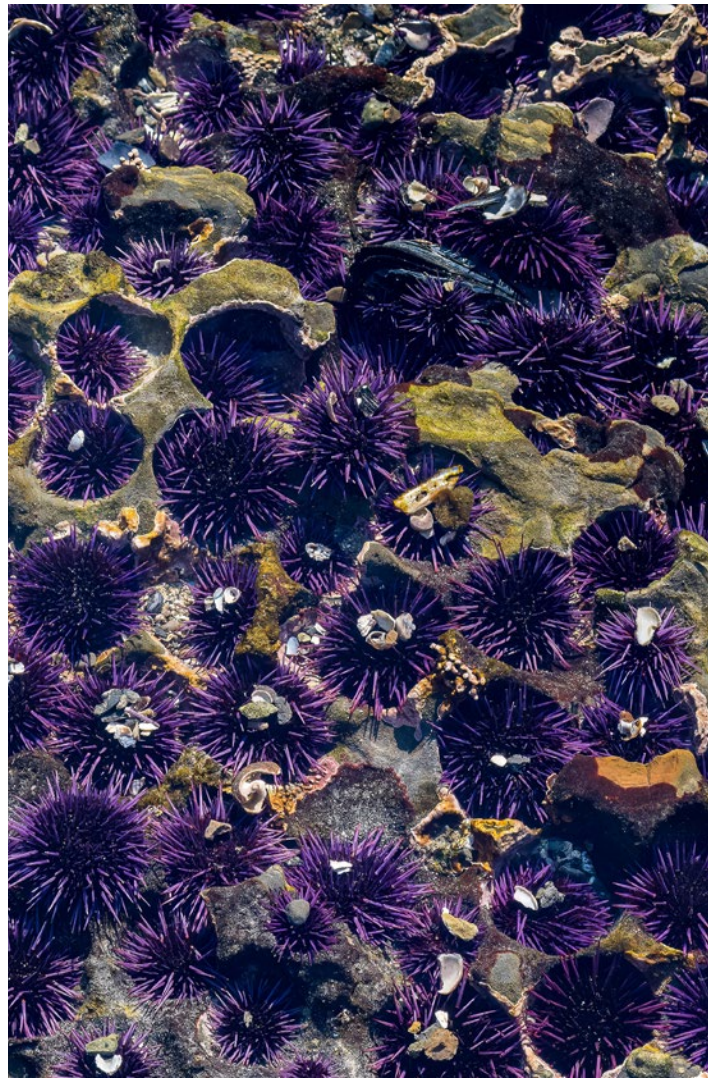
But won't some new, innovative technology save us all? That's an idea advanced by some who promote the notion that capitalism and innovative technology can arrest climate change.

But scientists suggest that expecting technology to remedy climate woes relies more on hope than practicalities. "With engineering, we can do a lot," concedes UCSC's Griggs. "But," he cautions, "there's a limit to what we can do. The extremely large challenge of global climate change and rising sea levels pushes engineering beyond its capacity."

CSUMB's Derr says trying to innovate to mitigate climate damage is fruitless. "As long as we keep putting the emissions out there, technology isn't saving us."

All this dire news about the Earth and oceans getting hotter is "highly depressing. We are seeing many instances of climate anxiety in youth in particular," says Derr. But it's not hopeless. She reports that research shows that "people feel better when they know that there are people who are taking action themselves, and participating in collective action" to improve climate change.

Griggs, who has been studying environmental and climate issues for more than a half century, chooses to be optimistic. "We always have to have hope. We have to, or we wouldn't go on." He balances his optimism with a simple call to



A plague of purple sea urchins, a phenomenon possibly linked to climate change. Photo by Don Blohowiak

action: "Vote!" Voting, he suggests, is the most important act that individuals can take to abate climate change. Policy makers "have a huge impact on our lives and the future of the planet. You only have one Earth. There's no Planet B."

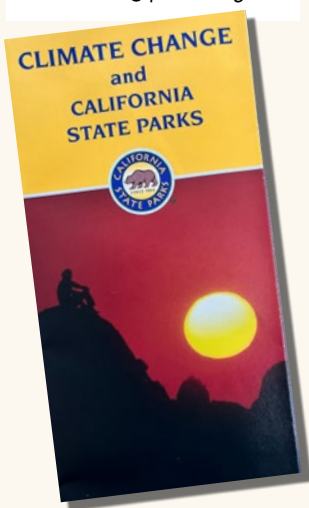
Professor Derr works with middle school students in the city of Marina along the Central Coast. She says this new generation inspires optimism.

"I have far more hope in today's youth than I do in technology," she says. "This generation is frustrated by climate problems but they are ready to effect change. A lot of the younger generation has realized, 'we've got to stop putting Band-Aids on the problem.' They are ready to have the tools and knowledge to make change. That's really exciting and I think hopeful."

"I always see signs of optimism," Griggs says. "Standing in Point Lobos, I think, 'this is amazing.' We have to have hope for this."



John Hiles is the California State Parks Monterey Sector Manager. John began his State Parks career in 2004, starting in Big Sur as a seasonal worker on the Natural Resource Crew, then transitioning into various maintenance positions throughout the Monterey District. He is currently overseeing operations and planning efforts in the Monterey Sector, which includes Point Lobos. A Monterey local, John feels fortunate to work alongside State Parks staff and volunteers with the goal of providing a safe, educational experience for the public while protecting state resources. His email address is John.Hiles@parks.ca.gov



State Parks' official climate change pamphlet available to visitors at Point Lobos. Photo by Don McDougall.

State Parks and the climate change challenge

by John Hiles

California State Parks is one of the largest land managers in the state with a vibrant mission that guides our policies and everyday actions.

Our mission sets a framework for staff and volunteers to achieve multiple goals “to provide for the health, inspiration and education of the people of California by helping to preserve the state’s extraordinary biological diversity, protecting its most valued natural and cultural resources, and creating opportunities for high-quality outdoor recreation.” Two working groups that have been hard at work are the Sea Level Rise Adaptation and the Climate Change working groups led by headquarters staff. It has been very rewarding to be a part of these initiatives.

How does climate change fit into this? Every way.

State Parks policies and directives stem from the Governor’s Office and Legislative Branch. An increasing awareness of climate actions have been outlined by a multitude of guiding documents over the years: “Pathways to 30 x 30 California” (2022) and “Natural and Working Lands Climate Smart Strategy” (2022) are among these statewide directives that are pertinent to the department and the Monterey District and Point Lobos State Natural Reserve. The “Pathways to 30 x 30” initiative tasks California with conserving 30 percent of the state’s lands and coastal waters by 2030 by strategic land acquisitions and natural restoration and protection methods.

Within Point Lobos, a few projects that fit within this goal include our forest health project led by our Natural Resource team. Working within our Monterey pine forest, crews have been hard at work increasing the age diversity of the forest stands, as well as reducing fuel loads that have developed over the years.

Other projects within the Reserve have looked at the network of trails along the coastline. Sea Lion Point Trail is an example of an alignment that was becoming nearly

impossible to maintain for safe public access. The trail was repaired and an epic rock overlook was constructed to provide a scenic viewing overlook for the public to enjoy.

On climate change, a large piece of guidance that State Parks is directed to follow comes from the Department of General Services. DGS oversees many functions of State Parks’ daily operations and has been setting guidelines on state-owned vehicles, and energy-efficient lighting systems with the goal to reduce emissions, to name a few.

Gas-powered vehicles of certain types are being replaced with electric vehicles. The Monterey District is among those replacing our aging fleet with new EVs or hybrids. As many of you have seen, our seasonal staff drive throughout the Reserve in our EV, which was the district’s first.

Planning efforts are also pertinent to climate change. The Carmel Area General Plan addresses this challenge through public access and trail connections from urban areas. This process includes guidance on climate change in natural and cultural interpretation and recreation facilities.

An important factor when projects are complete is to continue conducting long-term monitoring efforts within the Reserve to take into account data from professional organizations and citizen-science studies. This research is critical to learn more about our surrounding areas and the impact that is occurring at a fast pace.

Point Lobos has been an epicenter for decades of research efforts by local universities, nonprofits and State Parks staff studying changes in animal behavior. Having data sets that span many years is a benefit to truly understanding changes that are occurring. Addressing climate change will be an ongoing challenge, and I am confident that staff and volunteers are up for the task.



Mary Barrett is a Point Lobos Docent and chair of the Climate Change Interpretation Group. Her email address is marybarrett854@gmail.com

Docents are telling visitors about climate change

by Mary Barrett

One day at the Information Station, a 5-year-old girl picked up the climate change brochure and said to her mom, "Look, Mom, they have climate change information!" She excitedly took it to share with her school classmates.

The brochure, a State Parks publication previously out of print, was just one of the projects of the Point Lobos Climate Change Interpretation Group. CCIG was formed to facilitate and support Point Lobos Docents in climate change discussions with our visitors. We would like visitors to the Reserve to leave motivated to protect the natural world in their own lives and communities.

The group began in 2019 after Melissa Gobell and Daniel Williford, California State Parks staff both then based at Point Lobos, attended a climate change training session and returned to share their understanding and insights with a group of docents. The members of the initial group learned about the National Network for Ocean and Climate Change Interpretation and worked through the FrameWorks Institute program on interpretation of climate change issues with the public.

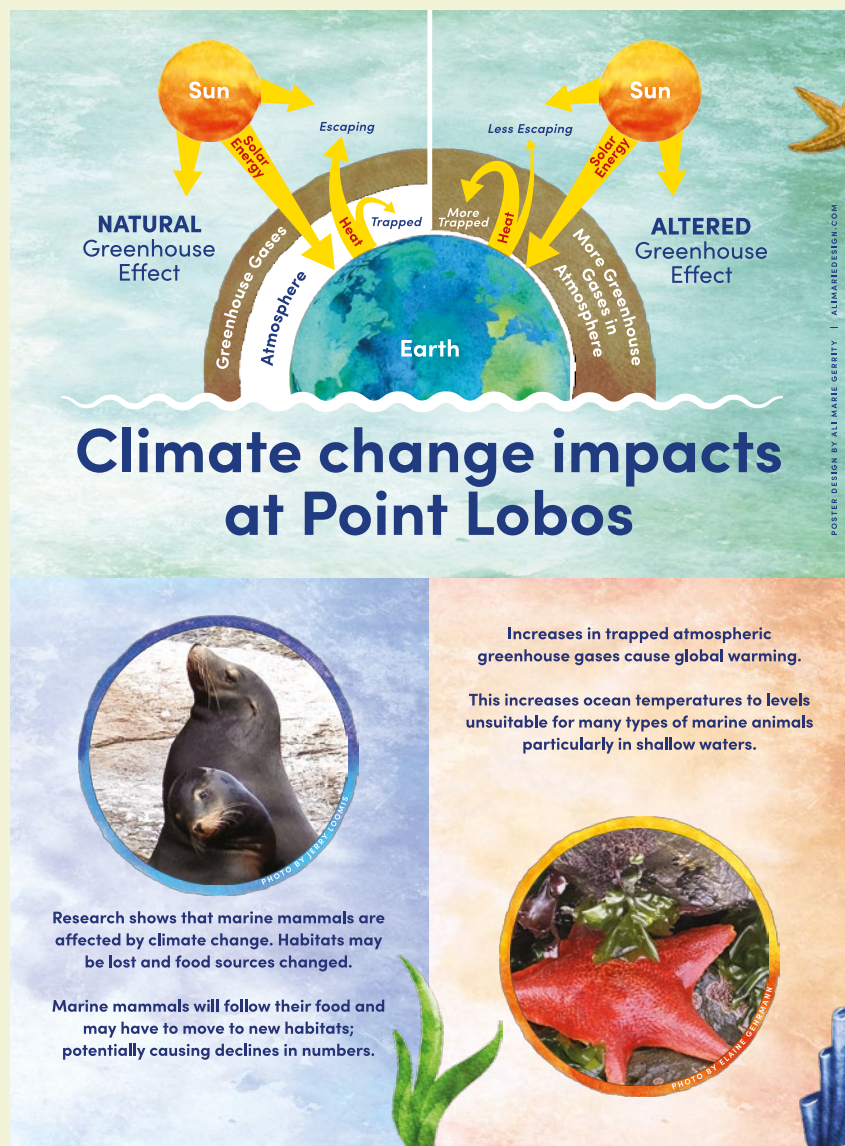
Subsequently, the CCIG was formed as an official docent group and

began to look at ways that we could contribute to the expansion of climate change awareness in the docent body as well as create materials to facilitate discussion with visitors.

We began by researching and creating a series of "Climate Conversations" about the plants, animals and habitats at Point Lobos. These appeared in the

monthly docent newsletter and have been about harbor seals, turkey vultures, Monarch butterflies, poison oak and lace lichen to name a few.

Many docents have adapted the sample climate conversations to their own style and have found them to be very helpful when talking about climate change with visitors.



The new climate change poster on view at Point Lobos. It was developed by the docents' Climate Change Interpretation Group and approved by State Parks.

As the CCIG evolved, we added more tools to the docent's climate change toolkit. "Ask Me About Climate Change" buttons were created and offered to docents who wished to wear them. A program titled "The Basics of Climate Change" was created and a presentation was given at a monthly docent meeting and to the incoming class of docent trainees.

The Point Lobos Foundation helped fund course fees for four docents to attend the Climate Stewards Program at the Pacific Grove Museum of Natural History. Other projects such as creating a sustainable solar power source for the Information Station and making a poster focusing on climate change in the Reserve have been addressed by the group. Climate change issues have been added to the scripts for the Point Lobos cell phone tour.

We hope that citizens and national leaders around the globe will continue to work to mitigate the effects of climate change and that in our little corner of the world we will do our part so future generations can continue to enjoy the beauty and natural diversity of Point Lobos.



WHAT CAN WE DO TO FIGHT CLIMATE CHANGE?

by Margaret Johnson

PERSONAL

- Vote
- Add solar panels to your home
- Drive a low emissions car
- Plant more trees
- Eat less meat
- Take fewer airline flights
- Use less heat in winter
- Use less cooling in summer

COMMUNITY

- Electrify vehicle fleets (buses, utility vehicles, etc.)
- Create a bicycle-friendly town (develop bike paths)
- Monitor community industrial emissions
- Build new buildings in an eco-friendly manner
- Adapt to changing climate events

GOVERNMENT

- Invest in alternative energy technology (carbon capture, renewable energy tech, geo engineering)
- Support improved energy storage capacity
- Enact clean energy standards
- Make international climate agreements
- Restore ecosystems to absorb more carbon
- Protect forests and oceans
- Reduce fossil fuel subsidies

Point Lobos Docent Margaret Johnson is a member of the Climate Change Interpretative Group. Above: A climate change button worn by some docents. Photo by Don McDougall



Chuck Bancroft spent 31 years of his 35-year career as a State Park Ranger at Point Lobos. In retirement, he still does programs and nature walks for members of the Point Lobos Foundation.

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My favorite creature

Sleek bodies and beautiful fur make the bobcat special

by Chuck Bancroft

How many times have you been asked: If you were reincarnated, what would you come back as?

I know many people would immediately say a sea otter. The Teddy Bear of the Ocean is one of the iconic creatures that inhabits the waters in our wonderful Point Lobos. But I would choose the bobcat with its sleek, toned, beautiful body and the magnificent colors and luxurious fur coat that blend in perfectly with its environment.

The bobcat lives throughout North America. Its cousin in the same species, the lynx, is found more in the forest areas of Alaska and Canada. There are lynx populations in Montana, Washington, Minnesota, and Maine.

Even though they look cute and friendly, the bobcat is very wary of people and will turn and disappear when disturbed. They are fierce predators. Bobcats climb trees and cliffs, run at speeds up to 25 miles per hour and even swim. Bobcats hunt for mice, rats, squirrels, chickens, wild birds, feral cats and rabbits. It's even possible that house cats or small dogs left outside unattended can be taken as well.

During the day most bobcats will sleep in a hollow tree or cave. Bobcats are very territorial. It's very common to find their scat along the edge of trails marking the territory so other cats will stay away.

I encountered my favorite animal many times throughout my tenure as a ranger at Point Lobos and more since I've been retired. One day I was on patrol and I saw a kitten come out of the brush at Whalers Cove and walk up the road. When it saw me, it dashed back into the brush and disappeared.



The well-fed bobcat at Bird Island. All photos by Chuck Bancroft

The next day I received a report of an injured bobcat in a culvert on South Shore and it turned out to be the same kitten I'd seen the day before. The poor thing was covered in ticks and appeared to be emaciated and weak. SPCA wildlife personnel came and we captured the cat to be taken to the wildlife center for treatment.

On another day, I was stopped by a visitor who reported dead birds at the Bird Island overlook. Upon inspection, an orange-colored bobcat was sleeping on the nearest island to the south.

There were so many dead cormorants and gulls. A cat-astrophe? The cat had crossed over to the island at a super low tide and preyed on everything in sight. The next day the cat was gone but lots of remnants were left behind.

The open fields out where my wife Sheryl and I live not far from Point Lobos are wonderful for wildlife photography. I've spent countless hours watching the



The rescued kitten.

quail feeding; song birds flying and perched; woodpeckers drumming on the trees; hawks on patrol looking for their next meal; wildflowers blooming along the varied trails and butterflies flying amongst the trees and bushes. And every now and then a bobcat is on patrol.

In stealth mode, bobcats work their way through the fields of grass looking for prey. One day I saw a bobcat slowly walking among the countless gopher mounds. It crept up to a particular mound and then pounced. Success! With a gigantic gopher in its mouth, it started to walk away along the side trail next to the cottonwoods. With my telephoto lens, I walked parallel to the cat snapping pictures. I did get the picture I had hoped to get. We came to a downed tree and the cat climbed over the pile of debris and disappeared into the woods.

The best encounter with a bobcat I have enjoyed was with Sheryl. As we walked along the trail nearest our home,



Bobcat with a darker coat than most.

we saw this beautiful cat just casually walking along. We just stood there as it ignored us.

Naturally, I started taking pictures. The bobcat was much darker than others I've seen — not much of the orange highlights that others had. The markings were on the dark chocolate side of the color spectrum. Sheryl cooed to the guy "kitty, kitty, kitty." Our new friend stopped and looked directly at us and raised its short bobbed tail. We were overjoyed with the encounter and then, having had enough of our wonder and delight, it moved off and disappeared into the grove of thick trees.

I had other sightings of bobcats at Point Lobos over the years but the secretive felines were always just too far away to capture a good image. But I'll keep trying in the belief that my favorite bobcat picture will be the next one I take.



Well-camouflaged bobcat with gopher it has caught.



Bobcat blends in to Bird Island rocks.







Kevin Shabram is the docent historian at Point Lobos State Natural Reserve. A lifelong resident of Carmel, he spent his career as an electronics design engineer.

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How one woman's dream came true

Ninety years ago a deal saved Point Lobos for posterity

by Kevin Shabram

This year marks the 90th anniversary of the state of California's purchase of Point Lobos for a park. Conservationists had been pushing this for many years, but it was one woman's work — and inspiration — that was the catalyst to making it happen. The goal of the conservationists was to save the Monterey Cypress groves. Her vision was to save Point Lobos, "from the highway to the sea." Without her, there could very well have been a much different outcome.

When the purchase was finalized on Feb. 7, 1933, it was the culmination of a seven-year effort that started in the summer of 1926. In the spring of that year, a woman named Caroline Hunter moved to Pebble Beach with her husband Robert. Robert Hunter was a well-known author and amateur golfer. He came to work on the design of the Cypress Point golf course with the world-famous designer, Alister MacKenzie.

Caroline Hunter, who was the daughter of Anson Phelps Stokes, a banker and philanthropist, grew up in the patrician world of New York and Connecticut. She became a conservationist and a member of the Save the Redwoods League and she discovered and fell in love with Point Lobos.

At the time, Monterey County Supervisor John L. Roberts was publicizing a lawsuit that the county had brought against the owner of Point Lobos, A.M. Allan. The county wanted to open the streets of the Carmelito development that had been on the books since 1891. Carmelito encompassed most of Point Lobos, reserving the Cypress Grove on the point as a public park. The county contended

that the development's streets and park area were public and should be freely accessible.

Allan, for his part, had spent the last 20 years buying back most of the lots in the development. His vision was to develop Point Lobos in a way that preserved more of its natural beauty. Although Allan was a developer by profession, he never actually developed it. He was fully aware that he was in possession of a "national treasure," but he did not trust the state to preserve it. Allan won the lawsuit in 1927.

Having read about the Carmelito controversy in the papers, Caroline Hunter decided to do something about it. She wrote a letter to her husband's employer, S.F.B. Morse, president of Del Monte Properties company, asking his opinion on what could be done.

Morse's response was somewhat dismissive saying, "We have the thing pretty well in hand and I do not think there is anything to be concerned about." In the letter, Morse also states that he had been in talks with Allan on possible development plans.

Instead of reassuring Hunter, this only alarmed her more and deepened her resolve to continue to push for saving Point Lobos. She contacted Newton Drury, director of the Save the Redwoods League, and together they came up with the idea of starting a new advocacy organization called the Point Lobos Association. It was also known as the Point Lobos League.

Caroline spent the next few months sending letters to every well-known conservationist in the country, looking



Caroline Phelps Stokes Hunter, conservationist and founder of the Point Lobos Association, a forbearer of the Point Lobos Foundation. Family photo, used by permission

for support. The response was overwhelming. The Point Lobos Association met for the first time Dec. 9, 1926, in San Francisco. Its board quickly realized that simply raising money from the public to buy the land was not going to be realistic.

Instead, the association joined with the Save the Redwoods League and other advocacy groups to push for State Parks legislation and a \$6 million State Parks bond measure that was to be put before the voters. The legislation passed in 1927 and the bond measure passed in November 1928, creating the modern California State Parks system we know today.

The bond measure was important because it meant that advocacy groups such as the Point Lobos Association only had to raise half the funds needed to acquire the lands. The other half would be matched by the state.

In 1930, A.M. Allan died leaving his three daughters as executors. By October 1932, Newton Drury had negotiated a deal with the Allan family to sell Point Lobos to the state for \$631,000, but there was a problem. The Point Lobos Association had not raised enough of the matching funds needed. They were about \$50,000 short and the deal was in danger of falling through.

Newton Bishop Drury, longtime executive director of the Save the Redwoods League, a director of California State Parks and the fourth director of the National Park Service. Official photo of the Department of the Interior.



Newton Drury's brother Aubrey, who was secretary of the association, had even approached John D. Rockefeller Jr. through his friend and classmate Horace Albright, director of the National Park Service. Albright was a friend of Rockefeller and had worked with him on many national parks projects. Albright did not think it was the right time to approach Rockefeller for so small a sum due to his involvement in several active National Park Service projects, so that solution fell through.

They seemed to be at an impasse until January 1933 when Newton Drury had a revelation. "It just occurred to me late one night, that the state hadn't matched all the private money the Save the Redwoods League had given for the northern redwoods; there was a balance of about \$100,000 there (the Redwoods League had put up \$500,000, but very properly the Park Commission felt it couldn't continue matching only redwood money). So, lo and behold, we got the attorney general to rule that that could be matched down there, and the Redwoods League put up another \$50,000 out of its treasury and the thing was done."

Horace Albright was also closely watching the progress of the deal. In a letter to John D. Rockefeller Jr. he wrote: "I was so impressed with Point Lobos that I was prepared to recommend its acquisition by the government as a national monument if the state found it impossible to acquire it for a park."

This deal covered 400 acres but left out the northeast section at Moss Cove, designated as Parcel 4. Caroline Hunter was appointed to the Point Lobos advisory committee and helped in the work of turning Point Lobos into a State Reserve. She continued to advocate for the acquisition of the Moss Cove parcel throughout her life. Finally, in 1974, 10 years after her death, Parcel 4 was acquired, completing the present day Reserve.

In memoriam: Ed Clifton

by Trudy Reeves

On Jan. 17, 2023, we lost H. Edward Clifton, known by friends, family, colleagues and his many students as Ed, a brilliant and accomplished scientist, a talented communicator and an open-hearted leader. His radiant smile and corny sense of humor lit up a room or a beach.

Ed became fascinated with the rocks of Point Lobos when he first saw them in 1965. His curiosity and passionate pursuit of the stories held in those rocks never waned. He observed them. He questioned them. And the rocks answered. He shared their stories with infectious enthusiasm, leaving his audiences with smiles on their faces and a new appreciation for the rocks of Point Lobos and the natural history of our planet.

Shortly after receiving his Ph.D. from Johns Hopkins University in 1963, Ed began a stellar career as a research geologist, primarily studying coastal sedimentology, with the U.S. Geological Survey and then the petroleum industry. He was the first geologist aquanaut, spending a record-breaking 60 days in an underwater habitat on the Tektite I project in St. John, U.S. Virgin Islands, and an additional 20 days the next year as crew chief on Tektite II.

Those who have attended any of Ed's presentations, often described as riveting, lively and sometimes hilarious, will not be surprised to learn that in 1978 he wrote an article for the *Journal of Sedimentary Petrology*, entitled "Tips for Talks or How to Keep an Audience Attentive, Alert, and Around for the Conclusions at a Scientific Meeting." The article became the most reproduced, reprinted, cited and downloaded piece in that journal's history. It begins with the following quote, paraphrased by Ed from Sir Walter Scott:

***"Breathes there a speaker with soul so dead,
who never to himself hath said,
as he hears his name from the podium read,
I wish to hell I stayed in bed!"***



Ed's formula for mustering speaking confidence included thorough preparedness, deep breathing, and, the best of all teachers, experience. "I know my stage fright will largely dissipate once I begin talking, and nightmares to the contrary, all appropriate zippers *will* be closed and I will not, part way through my talk, abruptly switch to a recitation of "Mary had a little lamb."

Ed's extensive contributions to Point Lobos included six years as a board member of the Point Lobos Association, now the Point Lobos Foundation, serving two of those years as president. Since 2002, Ed served as a docent, mentor, trainer, newsletter editor and frequent presenter at Point Lobos.

In that time, he received two Golden Poppy awards for exemplary volunteer service to California State Parks and the Volunteer Medallion award for superior achievement. In 2016, Ed received the Jud Vandevere Lifetime Achievement Award from the Point Lobos Foundation.

Ed could often be found in solitary contemplation of the rocks at Weston Beach or occasionally surrounded there by eager students – docents, docent trainees, geologic scholars, school groups, enthralled visitors and the like — all of whom came away changed by a deeper appreciation for rocks and the stories they have to tell.

On the eve of his passing, Ed delivered what could have been a well-prepared farewell address, without his usual accompanying slides. He explained that he wouldn't be around much longer, that he had lived an incredible life filled with travel, adventure and discovery, and that he was looking forward to a good long, permanent rest . . . because he had earned it. He expressed love and gratitude for those present, concluding with, "I'm going back to sleep now." He passed away the next morning, surrounded by loved ones.

Bravo, Ed! Well done. You truly rocked our world. Rest in sweet peace.

Docent Trudy Reeves is a freelance writer and editor. Her email address is trudyreeves@gmail.com

Photo from the Clifton family archives



Emily Hull-Parsons, originally from Illinois, arrived on the Monterey Peninsula over 40 years ago. During those years she ran an active consulting practice in the areas of management and philanthropy. Now retired, she has found time to enjoy serving as a Point Lobos Docent and has become an avid landscape artist, as well as a very enthusiastic grandparent.

Notes from the Docent Log

Compiled by Emily Hull-Parsons

At the Information Station, two boys were quietly but intensely discussing the pelts of our favorite marine mammals. I eavesdropped and found one boy was clearly teaching the other about the differences between sea lions, harbor seals, and southern sea otters.

"Is this your first visit to Point Lobos?" I asked.

"I came on a field trip with my school," the "teacher" responded. This was followed by his father's comment that his son was so excited after the field trip (Ladd School in Hollister) and had taught the whole family what he had learned. They had to come see this wonderful place together!

The school walk sparked this young learner to want to know more and to share his knowledge with the people he loves most in the world. Thank you to all the docents who support this valuable program. You are making a difference.

Jeri Passalacqua, 12/04/2022

They're here! Monterey Bay Whale Watch saw their first group of five gray whales yesterday so we can start telling visitors to look for them. I got asked lots of times yesterday and today when they were going to come by. Yay!

Susan Lambert, 12/19/2022



Photo by Dan Blohowiak

With wind gusts near 50 mph, some six inches of rain and high surf, Point Lobos took a pounding over the past several days.

Don Blohowiak, 01/06/2023



Photo by Fred Brown

Another interesting day at Weston Beach and a low, low tide.

Fred Brown, 01/21/2023

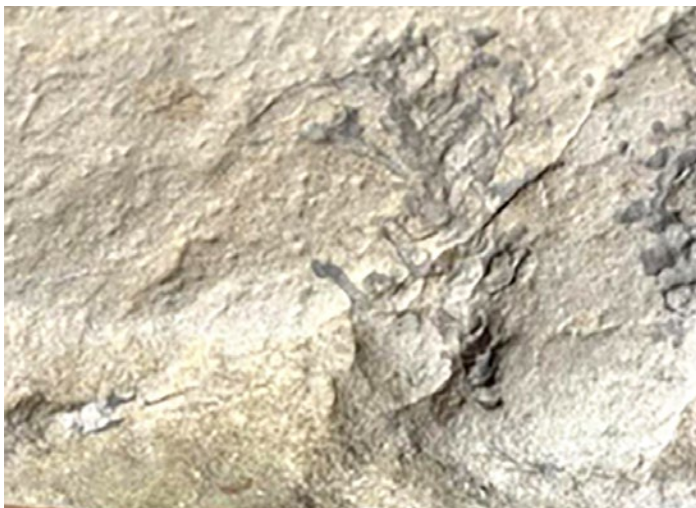


Photo by Deborah Ju

I had a shift at the Information Station today and saw the beautiful rock someone placed on the pelt display table. The rock face contains prominent trace fossils. While I believe it was washed up at Weston Beach and just discovered by a docent, the timing seems magically perfect as we prepare to honor our departed colleague Ed Clifton this weekend. It was Ed who taught most of us about trace fossils while giddily climbing around on the rocks like a billy goat to point them out. You can call it a coincidence, but I think that rock showed up now with a purpose, as a tribute to Ed.

Deborah Ju, 03/13/2023



Photo by Stan Dryden

I was greeted by a gorgeous rainbow arcing over Cypress Grove, then the beautiful aquamarine waters of Sea Lion Cove!

Stan Dryden, 02/04/2023

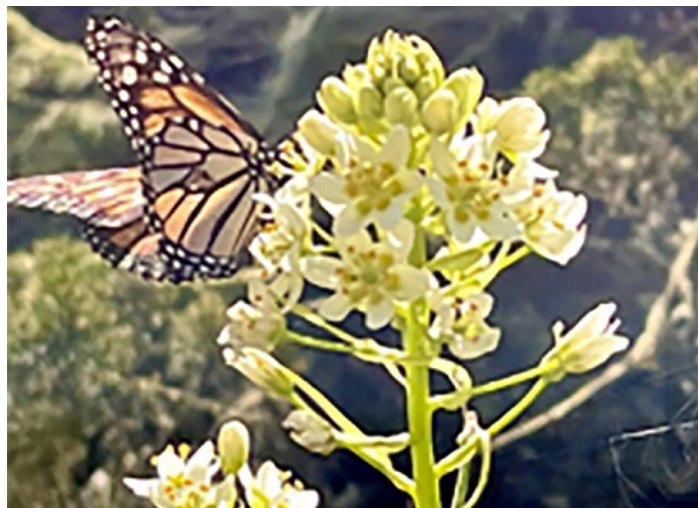


Photo by Jeri Passalacqua

Today, Monarch butterflies entertained guests (and docents) in Cypress Grove. I spied several of these winged beauties as they danced along the trail looking for something tasty. Their delicate wings beat furiously against the wind and then stretched out to glide in a gentler breeze. I spied two devouring the zygodene blossoms. Soon all these butterflies will be on their way away from the coast. But memories like this, and hopes for their return, will linger until they once again flutter around the Reserve.

Jeri Passalacqua, 03/13/2023



Photo by Karen Wagner

It is a treat that Bird Island Trail is open again. We were out there this afternoon and in addition to the harbor seals and their pups we spotted this otter hauled out nursing her pup.

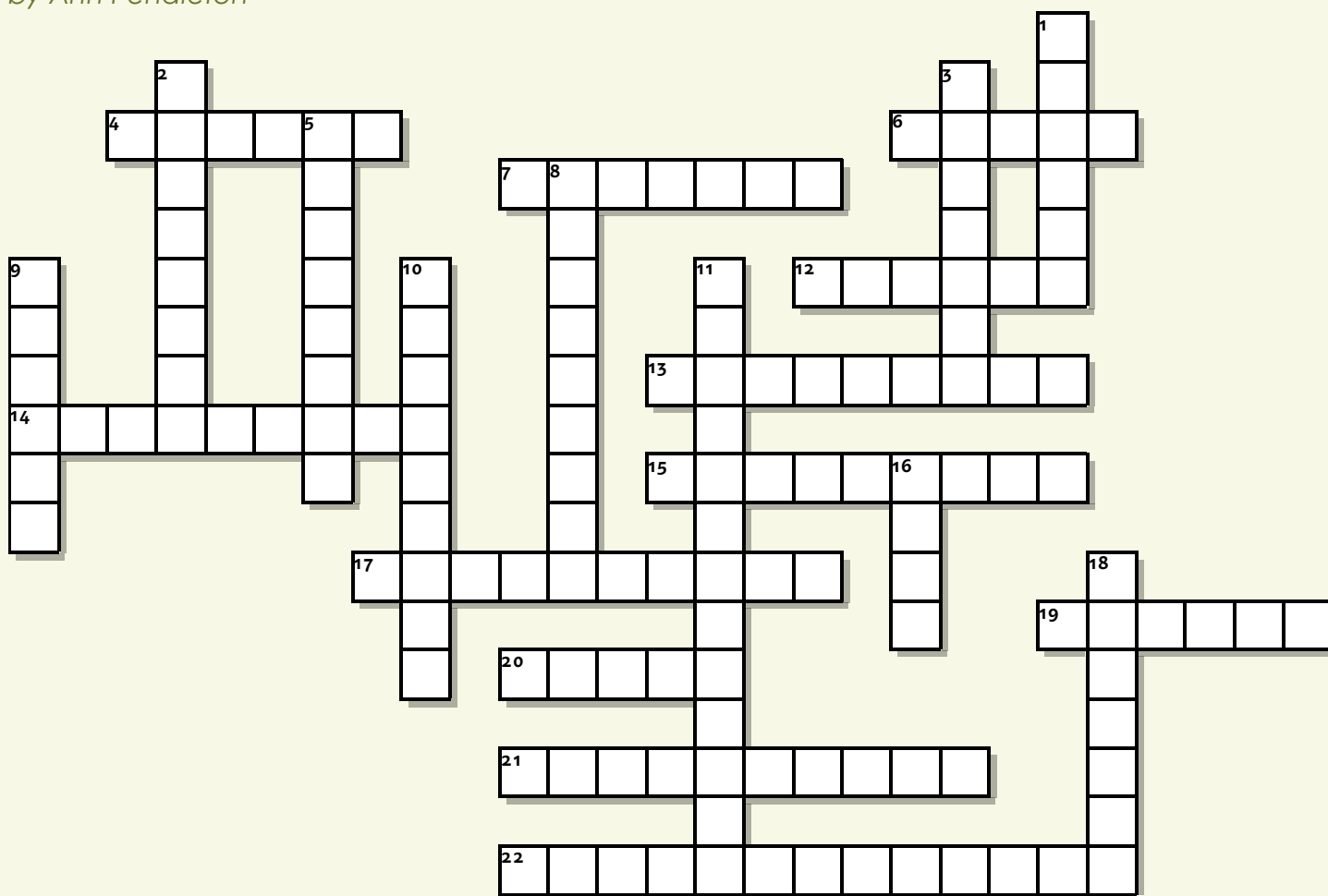
Karen Wagner, 4/05/2023

*After the storm in Point Lobos.
Photo by Robin Scott*



Puzzle: Climate Change and Point Lobos

by Ann Pendleton



ACROSS

- 4 Point Lobos Association was also known as Point Lobos _____
- 6 A.M. _____ believed Point Lobos was a "National Treasure"
- 7 Catastrophic weather events are a consequence of a _____ planet
- 12 Climate change can _____ everything on the planet
- 13 What creates the wettest forest in Point Lobos (2wds)
- 14 The increase of CO₂ _____, is parallel to global temperatures and sea levels rising
- 15 _____ was the name of the housing development planned where most of Point Lobos is today
- 17 Burning fossil fuels sends volumes of gasses into earth's _____
- 19 _____ is an important act to abate climate change
- 20 "You only have one _____, there is no planet B"
- 21 _____ is from the sun's heat being trapped
- 22 In 2023 the _____ released a report on climate change (2wds)

DOWN

- 1 Policy makers have a huge impact on our lives and future of our _____
- 2 Point Lobos Association joined forces with Save the _____
- 3 Some PL Docents wear buttons, "Ask me about _____ Change"
- 5 An oil found in poison oak which triggers an allergic reaction to many
- 8 A study shows that 70% of _____ understand global warming is happening.
- 9 Sea _____ are rising, oceans are getting warmer and more acidic
- 10 In an _____ everything is connected
- 11 The study of _____ needs to be on larger landscape and not about one thing. (2wds)
- 16 Bobcats are cousins to the _____
- 18 _____ are fierce predators who can swim, climb trees, and run up to 25 mph

Answers at pointlobos.org/crossword

Acknowledgments

Memorials, tributes and grants Oct. 16, 2022 - April 15, 2023

BIRTHDAY

For the birthday and in honor of
Suzanne Taunt
Diane Douglas
Stephen Kraemer
John Wright
Marion Keyworth

IN HONOR OF

Holly Carlin
Alice Kinsler
Carol Rossi
Janet Leask
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Cammy and Tim Torgenrud
Ann Pendleton
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Karin and Scott Stratton
Linda Dudley
Danny Ramjit
Cameron and Amanda Zinsli

IN MEMORY OF

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Leon Silverman and Suzanne Stevens

Barbara Baer
Kathleen Nesbitt

Curt and Betty Cureton
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Donations made to the Sister Anna Voss Memorial Fund, and the income generated by it, are restricted to the education and direct support of the Point Lobos Docent Program and the school education outreach programs.

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Jane Brown
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Susan Bass
Joseph and Georgia Stern
Brenda Wolber*

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Tom and Eileen Fukunaga
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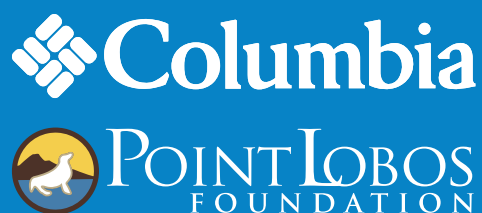
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