

FALL/WINTER 2022

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



Photo by Yvonne Wright.

Contents

- 2 Among the sights to see
- 3 The siren song of the sea lions
- 4 Kings and queens of Point Lobos
- 9 The best drummers of all time
- 13 Lights, cameras, environmental damage
- 16 Point Lobos
- 17 Notes from the Docent Log
- 19 Monterey County Gives!
- 20 Puzzle
- 21 Acknowledgments

Board of Directors

Jim Rurka
President

Scott Kurteff
Vice President

Holly Carlin
Treasurer

Donita Grace
Secretary &
Docent Administrator

Karin Stratton
Immediate Past President

Tyler Eberly

Karen Max Kelly

Betty Maurutto

Carol Rossi

Tracy Richards

Ruth Rodriguez

Kara Torres

Staff

Kathleen Lee
Executive Director

Tracy Gillette Ricci
Development Director

Caitlin McMillen
Finance Specialist

State Parks Partners

Melissa Gobell
Docent Coordinator &
School Group Coordinator
melissa.gobell@parks.ca.gov

Sean James
California State Parks Liaison
sean.james@parks.ca.gov

Publication

Reg Henry
Point Lobos Magazine Editor
regwriter43@gmail.com

Tracy Hopper
Designer
tracy@hopperopolis.com

Cover photograph by
Chuck Bancroft

Center Spread: A lone sea lion
surveys Whalers Cove. Photo by
Chuck Bancroft.



Kathleen Lee is the
executive director of the
Point Lobos Foundation.

Her email address is
kathleen@pointlobos.org

Among the sights to see

Celebrity guests come to our celebrated Reserve

by Kathleen Lee

As I write this, I am entertained by a Scrub Jay who seems to take great delight in taunting a squirrel our family has dubbed Fat Squirrel, whose antics at retrieving seed from the bird feeder have proven both acrobatic and effective. The birds and squirrels are getting ready for the colder months ahead and I enjoy seeing the activity.

Docent communications from Point Lobos State Natural Reserve tell stories of other changes; whales delighting visitors as they move along the coast, otters getting frisky in the coves or Brown Pelicans enjoying Whalers Cove. These moments remind us to embrace the movement of the tides and the changing of the seasons as an opportunity to look forward to the days ahead and to reflect upon the past months.

Former President Barack Obama and Mrs. Michelle Obama surprised docents as they hiked along the coastal trails at the Reserve, no doubt enjoying the crisp fall air during their 30th wedding anniversary trip to the Monterey Bay. The Obamas have seen many of America's best national and state parks and we are delighted that they chose to explore the Reserve.

Earlier in the year, the Reserve was enjoyed by an Apollo 8 astronaut, Maj. Gen. William A. Anders, USAFR (Ret.), and his wife Valerie. Monterey County schoolchildren are once again participating in docent-led school walks as part of the Experience Point Lobos program. Imagine being able to tell them that they are walking the same trails as a former president, former first lady, and an Apollo 8 astronaut!

Programs like our Experience Point Lobos school walk program and EZ Access program are made possible through the generous support of donors and grants from foundations.

The return of the gray whale also marks the return of the season of giving and the Point Lobos Foundation is delighted to have two exciting opportunities to support our programs. On Tuesday, Nov. 29, we are partnering with Pizza My Heart at Del Monte Center, which will donate 30 percent of sales to the foundation. The 2022 MCGives! campaign runs Nov. 10 through Dec. 31 and we are delighted to be a part of the campaign and raise money for trail maintenance and habitat restoration projects within the Reserve.

Donations can be made online at www.montereycountygives.com/lobos starting on Nov. 10. We thank you for generous support so that we can continue to protect the magic of the Reserve for generations to come.



President Obama at Point Lobos.
Photo by Bob Andonian.



Reg Henry, a docent, is editor of the Point Lobos Magazine.

His email address is regwriter43@gmail.com

The siren song of the sea lions made us do it

by Reg Henry

In the late 1980s, I had the good fortune to be the editor of the Monterey Herald, which was then at the corner of Pacific and Jefferson streets in downtown Monterey. The building, now completely renovated and occupied by the Middlebury Institute of International Studies, had a wonderful location.

Close to the city's iconic adobes and across from a little park, not far from historic Colton Hall and its spacious lawns, the old Herald building had another advantage unlike anything I had known at other crusty newspaper offices.

When you left the building in the evening, you were serenaded by sea lions. As they had for years, they were gathered in great numbers near the breakwater and Coast Guard pier about a half a mile away, out of sight but still close enough to be heard on the wind.

"Arf, arf, arf."

Which I took to mean: "Good night, ink-stained scribbler, you write with nature at your doorstep!" It made me feel like I had the best job in all of journalism.

Two years later, the Herald moved a few miles inland to new premises at Ryan Ranch. Out of range, the sea lions sang to me no more. I had to cheer myself up in the evenings without their barking assistance. The readers barked at me a lot -- that is the fate of a newspaper editor -- however it wasn't the same.

But as a writer with the byline William Shakespeare observed: "There is a tide in the affairs of men / Which, taken at the flood, leads on to fortune."

Sure enough, years later I returned to this area and became a Point Lobos Docent, a place with its own resident sea mammal choir out on the rocks.

It is now my further good fortune to be the editor of the Point Lobos Magazine and repay my old sea lion friends with some well-merited publicity. As it happens, the author of the main article, Ruthann Donahue, is herself a docent. In fact, she was the expert instructor for my docent trainee class in marine mammals six years ago.

As Ruthann points out, sea lions are central to Point Lobos' identity. The very name Point Lobos refers to them in an odd, roundabout way and a sea lion, not the ever-popular sea otter, is on our logos.

Because the sea lions are usually a fair distance from shore, docents at the Information Station lend visitors binoculars if they leave their car keys as surety (we promise not to do wheelies). That these huge marine mammals can scale the heights of Sea Lion Rocks is a marvel to see.

But Point Lobos has some competition for viewing sea lions -- Monterey Harbor. This past summer, dozens of sea lions left the breakwater for whatever reason and camped on the beach near Fisherman's Wharf, just a few feet from the tourists.

Today we bring them into your living room without the sardine breath. I hope their large presence in these pages fills you with joy.

There are other treats to savor too. Docent historian Kevin Shabram writes on problems posed by early movies made at Point Lobos and former Ranger Chuck Bancroft looks at the woodpeckers in the Reserve.

Knock on wood, I hope these features move you to shout: "Arf, arf, arf."



Ruthann Donahue, who was born in St. Louis, Mo., attended the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, where she earned a M.S. degree and a Ph.D. in biochemistry. She fell in love with California after a postdoctoral fellowship at UC Davis. After 27 years teaching at a medical school and university in Texas, she retired to Pacific Grove in 2002 and became a Point Lobos Docent in 2009. She loves being outdoors and sees every visit to Point Lobos as a one-on-one teaching opportunity. Her email address is ruthann@sbcbglobal.net.



The PLF logo.

Kings and queens of Point Lobos

Sea lions are the central characters in the Reserve's history

by Ruthann Donahue

Point Lobos State Natural Reserve attracts over 600,000 visitors each year, not only for enjoyment of its outstanding visual beauty, but equally for the opportunity of visitors to experience the close-up observation of its amazing marine mammal population.

As early as the 16th century Spanish explorers named this landmark *Punta de los Lobos Marinos*, Point of the Sea Wolves. Spanish sailors and cartographers had seen this animal along the east and west shores of South America and certainly didn't think they were hearing or seeing wolves.

Since the 19th century, the landmark has continued to honor this history as Point Lobos, but the English translation of sea wolf to sea lion is universally used to reference this marine mammal.

On the Sea Lion Point Trail, a view of dozens, if not hundreds, of sea lions romping in the ocean or cavorting on land is a highlight of many visitors' experience. Appropriately, the California sea lion is featured on the logos of the Point Lobos Foundation and the Point Lobos Docents.



Photo by Sara Courtneidge.



Photo by John Drum.

In addition to the abundant California sea lions at the Reserve, the much larger Steller sea lion is also occasionally sighted by visitors. Neither of these species is endangered although some worldwide populations of the six extant sea lion species are threatened.

The California sea lion is gregarious and inquisitive and very proficient at reproduction, leading some coastal residents to opine that some fewer would be desirable.

Adult males, which can weigh 800 pounds and extend to 8 feet in length, roam central Pacific Ocean shores.

In some years they congregate on the rocks at the Reserve and other years they clog the boat ramps and beaches in Monterey or the jetties of San Francisco. Loud barks, growls and occasional roars announce the presence of adult males before they can be sighted from shore and serve as warnings to territorial intruders as well as being a means of communications with other sea lions. Approximately 230,000 California sea lions call our West Coast home.

California sea lions share their coastal home with approximately 35,000 harbor seals. Excluding whales, harbor seals are the second largest mammal at Point Lobos after sea lions. Both marine mammals are pinnipeds, or feather-footed, and share some basic distinguishing traits. Similar sea lion and harbor seal physical characteristics include short

hair, efficient swimmers, and blubber (fat) that provides insulation, reserve fuel and buoyancy. Both are terrestrial as well as marine dwellers and are voracious carnivores.

California sea lions feed primarily on small, schooling fish and invertebrates such as krill and squid found in waters up to 1,000 feet deep. Harbor seal territories are closer to shorelines and they rely on prey commonly found in shallower waters. The result is a peaceful coexistence of the two pinnipeds.

Despite these similarities, sea lions can readily be distinguished from harbor seals in their native environments. Adult female and juvenile sea lions are slender-bodied and are a uniform tan in color. Adult males are larger than females and are mostly dark brown to black in color.

By contrast, harbor seals are much thicker through the middle and always have spotted coats, usually a light gray coat with dark spots. Male and female harbor seals are approximately the same size and are 5 to 6 feet in length, somewhat smaller than adult male sea lions, but similar in length to female sea lions.

Marine biologists have postulated that all pinnipeds evolved from a family tree including bears, dogs, wolves and weasels, but until recently no evidence existed of a “missing link” common pinniped ancestor which was a

SEA LION

- **Socialization:** Large colonies, playful
- **Land mobility:** Can climb large rocks “Walks” on land using front and back flippers
- **Size:** Males: 800 lbs, 8 feet
Females: 300 lbs, 6 feet



Photo by Chuck Bancroft

How to tell a sea lion from a harbor seal



Photo by Dave Evans

HARBOR SEAL

- **Socialization:** Small groups or solitary, sedate
- **Land mobility:** Climbs low rocks, beaches
Scoots on land. Limited land mobility
- **Size:** Males/females: 350 lbs, 6 feet

semi-aquatic carnivore. In 2007, Dr. Natalia Rybczynski's research team uncovered a unique, but extinct, animal on a remote northwest Canadian island. This remarkably intact fossil was named *Puijila darwini*, the *darwini* a nod to Charles Darwin and his Origin of Species theories and *Puijila*, an Inuit word for small seal.

This fossil represents the oldest, most complete morphological link in pinniped evolution. *Puijila* is 20 million years old, whereas sea lions and seals are thought to have diverged into separate branches of the evolutionary tree approximately 16 million years ago. The fossil remains include skull and teeth which resemble contemporary pinnipeds and feet that were likely webbed.

The animal probably doggy-paddled with all four feet; the modified limbs of contemporary sea lions developed somewhat later as pinnipeds relied more on ocean prey and less on terrestrial hunting.

The sleek, efficient ocean hunters that now populate Sea Lion Point are a mix of large males and juveniles of both sexes. In the course of evolution, a significant sexual dimorphism occurred with male sea lions being more than three times the size of females. Females congregate in the Channel Islands, which are the primary breeding grounds for Point Lobos sea lions. The males live comfortably on the abundant prey and haul out on rocks, boats and docks in the northern bay areas.

In late spring, mature males migrate to breeding grounds and establish individual territories. Territories are fiercely defended, and weaker or lesser mature males often abandon the mating effort. Males are polygamous and can control up to 15 females in their harem. Females give birth in late May and June and three to four weeks after giving birth are ready to mate again. In the crowded breeding grounds, females fight other females to protect their pups and establish a home space.

Although a female may be pregnant with next year's offspring, she continues to lactate and nurse her current pup for up to one year. One or two days after giving birth, females head to the open ocean to feed and rebuild energy reserves required for production of the very rich milk that is the sole source of nourishment for the pups. She spends two to five days feeding, then returns to the breeding grounds to nurse. During the mother's absence, the pup doesn't eat. Females continue a pattern of foraging at sea for several days and nursing ashore for several days until they wean their pups.

After the first year, the young sea lions usually follow the males when they return to home territories. Adult males socialize with the teenagers and provide some protection from large predators. Sea lions reach sexual maturity at 4 to 5 years old, but do not attain competitive breeding skills until they are much older, usually around age 7 or 8.

Sea lions are near the top of the food chain and have few natural predators. Large sharks and orcas are the biggest

natural threats to both male and female colonies. Man has been the biggest predator of the California sea lion. Historically, the sea lion was hunted for food, oil and pelts. The Marine Protection Act of 1972 effectively halted these practices; however, entanglement in fishing gear is a major threat to sea lions.

Another threat to this species looms in the future: climate change. In 2015, Pacific waters, warmed by an El Niño event, forced females to forage farther offshore to find prey in cooler waters. Newborn pups were left for days without feeding. The resultant lack of nutrients and fluid caused a massive die-off among the pups. From January to March, over 2,000 emaciated and dehydrated pups were washed up on Pacific beaches.

This event was caused by the natural climate fluctuations of the eastern Pacific and the population has robustly recovered. A prolonged ocean-warming event would likely not have such a favorable outcome.

The reason why Sea Lion Rocks is called Sea Lion Rocks. Photo by Sara Courtneidge.





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.

His email address is sparkystarkweather@gmail.com.

The best drummers of all time

Woodpeckers are busy setting the beat at Point Lobos

by Chuck Bancroft

“Behind every great band is a skilled drummer who can set the beat and keep everyone else in sync. While they aren’t always the face of the group, they’re arguably one of the most important. A solid rhythm section is needed to make people dance and feel the groove. Over the years, many iconic drummers have set themselves apart from the rest of the crowd for their unique ability to craft a memorable rhythm.” –A quote from the website Music Grotto.

In our world of natural iconic scenery, incredible diversity of animals and plants, there are remarkable sounds surrounding us daily. As you traverse the landscape at Point Lobos, you tune your eyes and ears to its wonders: the sound of crashing waves against the rock forms, the barking of the sea lions vying for space on the islands offshore, the call of courting birds during nesting season, the whispers of the grasses dancing to and fro during a breeze. And, of course, you must listen for the persistent drum beat of woodpeckers.

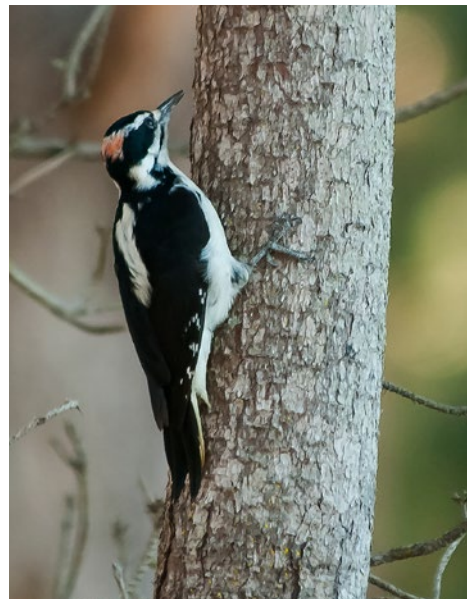
Several different woodpeckers live in the Reserve and more are to be found in habitats nearby. Woodpeckers are part of the family *Picidae*. They are chiefly known for their characteristic behavior. They mostly forage for insects on the trunks and branches of trees. They communicate by drumming with their beaks, producing a sound that can be heard at some distance. They usually nest and roost in holes that they excavate in tree trunks, and their abandoned holes are of importance to other cavity-nesting birds. The most common woodpeckers found nearby are the following:



Acorn Woodpecker.



Downy Woodpecker.



Hairy Woodpecker.



Northern Flicker.



Nuttall's Woodpecker. Photos by Chuck Bancroft.

The most recognized is probably the Acorn Woodpecker; perhaps the inspiration for the cartoon character Woody Woodpecker. The red cap, black chin and white cheeks and forehead are very distinctive. Females have a smaller bill and a black bar on the forehead. This woodpecker is very social and found in small groups that can be very noisy. The common call is *waka waka waka*. Their food source is acorns and other nuts in winter. A granary tree is used year-after-year to store food. They drill holes in the trunk and poke a nut into the hole. They will also catch insects on the fly and are very common in oak woods and pine forests.

Nuttall's Woodpecker has a black-and-white barred back with spotted sides and white breast and belly. The red crown is toward the back of the head. These woodpeckers can be found in a variety of habitats including the woods along rivers, oak and cottonwoods, and in pine forests with plenty of oaks nearby. Their diet consists mainly of insects that they pursue by circling the branches and twigs. But they also feed on beetles, caterpillars, ants and even nuts, seeds, and berries. The call is a low, rattled *prrrt* that can be followed by a series of loud descending notes.

The Hairy Woodpecker has a white back and a small red patch on the back of the head distinguishing it from others. The female lacks the red patch. The outer tail feathers are all white. Their habitat can vary as long as there are large trees like our pines for foraging. This bird does a lot more pounding while searching for its prey. They can scale off the bark and excavate into dead trees looking for insects. Their voice is a loud sharp *peek* and a slurred *winny*.

The Downy Woodpecker is about 3 inches smaller than the Hairy. It is the smallest of the woodpeckers in North America. It too has the white back but the outer tail feathers

have faint dark bars or spots. The male has the red spot on the back of its head but it is lacking in the female. Its small size makes it versatile, and it may forage on weed stalks as well as in large trees. They forage sometimes hanging upside down gleaning for insects. The *peek* and *winny* is softer and higher-pitched than the Hairy Woodpecker.

The Northern Flicker looks completely different than the aforementioned woodies. This bird has magnificent brown markings. The back is barred, with spotted underparts with a black crescent bib. The males have what looks like a red mustache-type stripe below the eye. The rump is white and very conspicuous in light. In flight it flashes bright orange colors under the wings and tail.

Northern Flickers feed by hopping on the ground, climbing tree trunks and limbs, occasionally flying out to catch insects in the air. It feeds mostly on ants and other insects. But it also feeds on beetles, termites, caterpillars and other insects and eats many fruits and berries, especially in fall and winter, and eats seeds and nuts at times.

The call during breeding season is a long series of *wick-er* notes. A single loud *klee-yer* can be heard year-round. The beautiful tail and wing feathers were highly prized by the Rumsen people as additions to their regalia for dance and ceremonies.

Hopefully, you can now venture along the trails and have a keen ear for the sounds of our woodpeckers. Take time to sit and listen for their drum beats and picture yourself listening to Gene Krupa, Charlie Watts, Ginger Baker or Ringo Starr. It is a truly wondrous experience to imagine the sounds of nature repeating the music we grew up with and so love.





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.

His email address is kevin.shabram@sbcglobal.net.

Unless otherwise indicated, all photos are courtesy of the Santa Cruz County Historic Photograph Collection, University of California Santa Cruz.

Lights, cameras, environmental damage

In 1920, large movie sets became a problem at the Reserve

by Kevin Shabram

On Nov. 28, 1920, over 500 of San Francisco's most prominent citizens descended upon Point Lobos for a "once in a lifetime event." A dinner was held the night before at the Del Monte Hotel to kick off the festivities. This dinner featured Herman Heller's orchestra transmitted by wireless from the California Theater, 100 miles away in San Francisco.

The group was to participate as extras in the filming of the movie "Foolish Wives." In return, Universal Film Co. made a \$5,000 donation to two San Francisco charities. An expansive set had been built on Sand Hill near Sea Lion Point. It transformed the wild Point Lobos coast into the seaside resort of Monte Carlo in Monaco. Costumes were supplied, but in most cases, people came in their best sporting attire to be filmed strolling along the seashore.

The director and star of "Foolish Wives," Erich Von Stroheim, spared no expense in making this movie. In fact, it was the most expensive film made up to that date. This film had a total cost of over \$1.2 million, far outstripping any other film at the time.

In addition to the "society set" from the Bay Area, many local people also participated in the filming. Soldiers from the Monterey Presidio were recruited to play American, French and British veterans of World War 1. According to an article in the Monterey Cypress, "Even A. M. Allan," the owner of Point Lobos at the time, "was worked into a uniform for the occasion."

Von Stroheim had already spent months filming at Point Lobos. There were three separate movie sets built: The Monte Carlo set, which encompassed almost all of Sand



The Villa Amorosa set on the cliff edge above Sea Lion Point. Parts of the Monte Carlo set and camera towers can also be seen. Created for the movie Foolish Wives.

Hill; the Villa Amorosa set, built on the cliff edge overlooking Sea Lion Cove; and a set just south of Sand Hill Cove, known as the Dove Shoot set. This set depicted a shooting club on the French Riviera. Another large set of the Monte Carlo Casino was constructed in Southern California.

Point Lobos had been used for movie making since Jack London's "Valley of the Moon" was filmed in 1914. In all, between 1914 and 1960, some 48 films were shot with Point Lobos as a backdrop.

With "Foolish Wives," a trend of building large sets began. In 1928, the village of Grand Pre was created rising from the beach at Headland Cove up through the



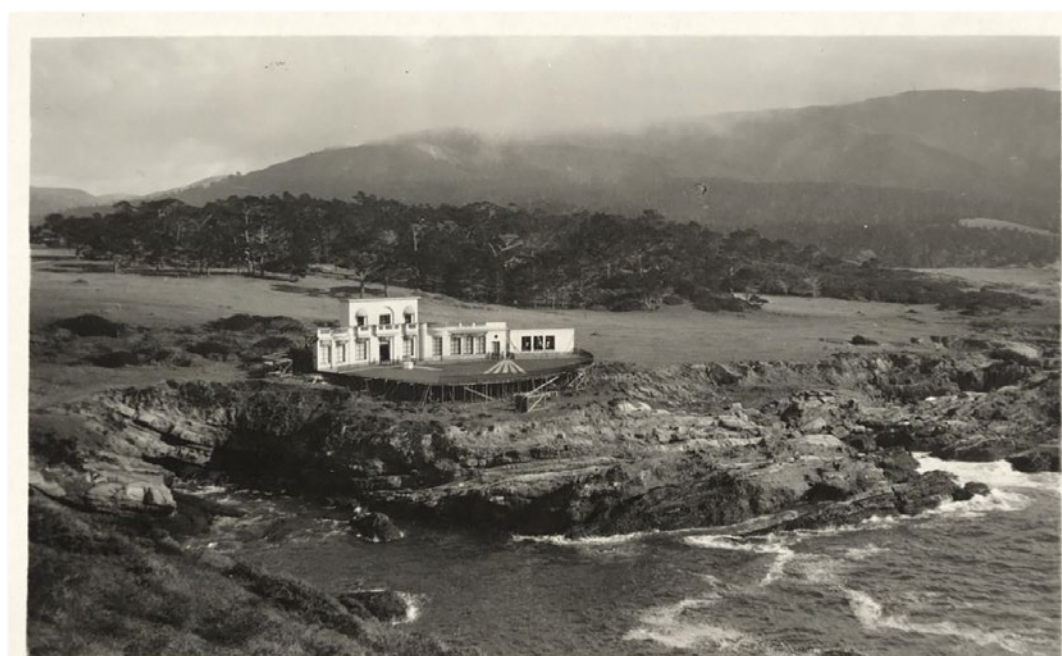
View of the Monte Carlo set with Whalers Knoll and Big Dome in the background.



Monte Carlo set deteriorated and abandoned.

present-day Sea Lion Point parking area. This set was for the movie "Evangeline." The filming culminated with the village being burned to the ground. However, the fire got out of control and burned the hillside, putting the rare Monterey Cypress groves in jeopardy.

In 1921, the "Foolish Wives" set was abandoned by the movie company and just left as is. Parts of the set were blown down by the wind and people began to scavenge souvenirs from it. A.M. Allan had to have it dismantled himself. He obtained a settlement from Universal for \$1,000 and ownership of all the materials and lumber, which he sold off. The scars from these works remained for many years.



The Dove Shoot set just south of Sand Hill Cove, built to depict a shooting club on the French Riviera for the movie Foolish Wives.



Soldiers in costume representing British, French and American World War I veterans.





Erich von Stroheim (center) director and lead actor in the movie Foolish Wives.



Extras take a break.

In 1936, after the Reserve was acquired by the state, a restoration of the area was undertaken by George Vaughan and Frederick Law Olmsted Jr. A large area of Sand Hill had been destabilized by the 1920s set construction. Sand Hill has only recently fully returned to its natural state after 100 years.

Even though, Point Lobos had become a state Reserve in 1936, the use by movie companies continued through the late 1930s and early 1940s. Conservationists and people who loved Point Lobos were well aware of the damage being done to the fragile landscape.

In 1945, the Point Lobos League was reformed by Francis Whitaker and Laidlaw Williams, to address the situation. The league had originally been formed to advocate for Point Lobos as a state park.

Whitaker was a master blacksmith and ornamental ironworker who had a forge in Carmel called The Forge in the Forest and Williams was a well-known ornithologist and naturalist. They were responding to an application by Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer to the State Parks Commission. MGM wanted to build a "house" on Sea Lion Point, "two

wharves" and "install a victory garden" employing 40 to 60 people for several weeks of filming for the movie "Desire Me."

The Point Lobos League's contention was that the Parks Commission should just simply enforce the rules of the Reserve and not allow it. Commissioner Charles Kasch realized that the rules, as recommended by the Advisory Committee in 1936, had never been formally adopted by the commission. This was somewhat of a loophole for the movie companies. At the next commission meeting, Kasch made a motion to formally adopt those rules and they finally became official.

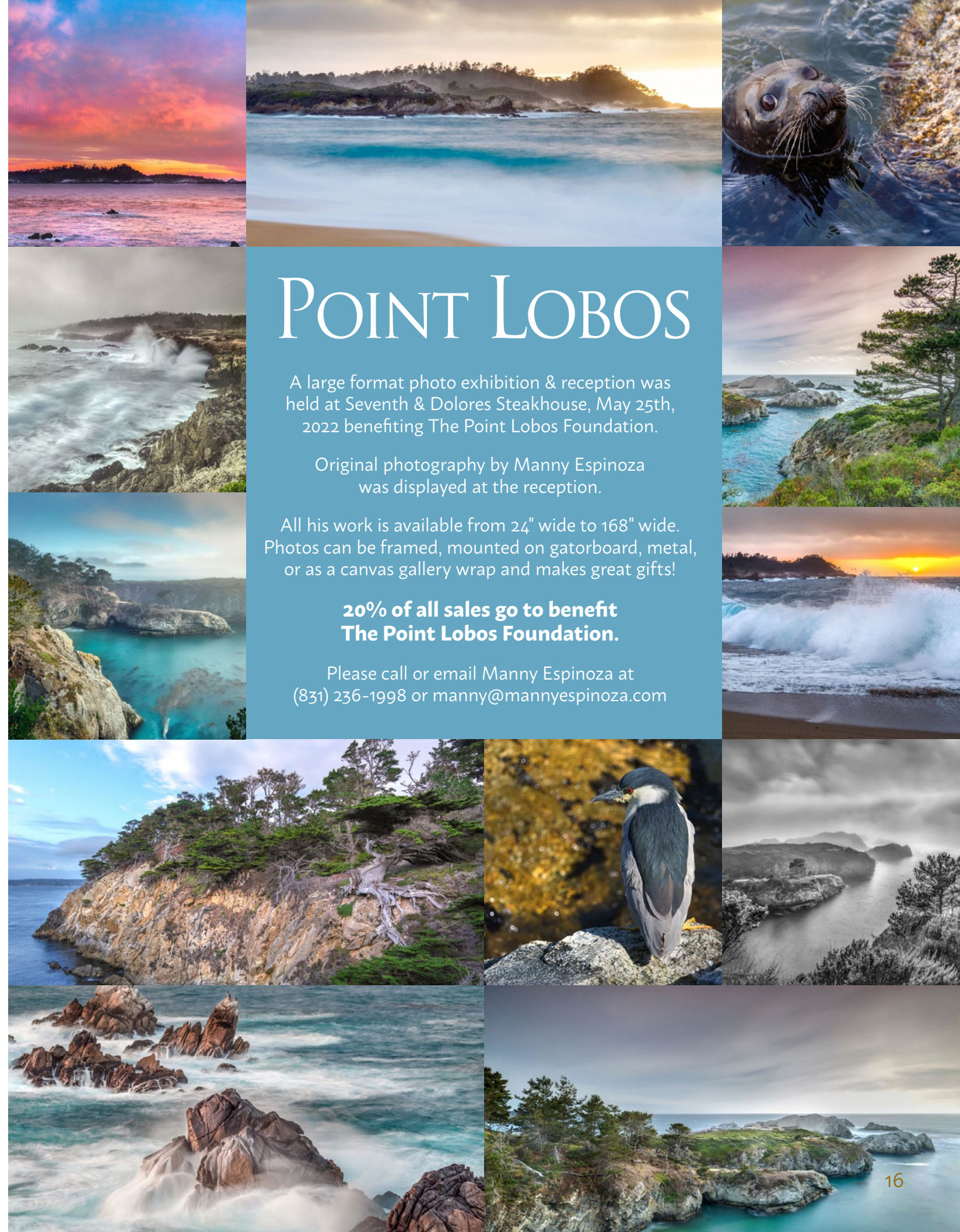
MGM was allowed to film but was not allowed to build any sets. It was a major victory for the Point Lobos League and for the Reserve.



Restoration work at Sand Hill in 1936. This area was destabilized by the 1920's Foolish Wives set. Photo from Point Lobos Foundation Archive.



Monte Carlo set.



POINT LOBOS

A large format photo exhibition & reception was held at Seventh & Dolores Steakhouse, May 25th, 2022 benefiting The Point Lobos Foundation.

Original photography by Manny Espinoza was displayed at the reception.

All his work is available from 24" wide to 168" wide. Photos can be framed, mounted on gatorboard, metal, or as a canvas gallery wrap and makes great gifts!

**20% of all sales go to benefit
The Point Lobos Foundation.**

Please call or email Manny Espinoza at
(831) 236-1998 or manny@mannyespinoza.com



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

I was near the end of my shift at Whalers Cabin and I saw an elderly woman being helped to walk to the cabin by two healthy adults. The younger adult wanted me to know that the elderly woman was 99 years old and that she was about to be 100 and that she had just won a blue ribbon at the 2022 Monterey County Fair for her watercolor painting of the rocky shoreline of Point Lobos (pictured below). Her name is Tomiye Tanaka. She lives in Seaside.

Mary Conway, 09/25/2022



Concerning the history of the house that the actor Brad Pitt recently bought next to the Reserve: Standing on the bridge overlooking Gibson Beach, one can look across to a house hugging the cliff built between 1918 and 1922 of local stone by architect Charles Sumner Greene, one of two brothers who designed and built many “ultimate” bungalows in the Pasadena area, like the Gamble House (yep, the Gamble in Procter & Gamble). Built for D.L. James, a mid-west merchant, uncle to the outlaw Jessie James, I have on occasion pointed it out to guests.

Robert Grace, 07/26/2022

The sea lions are progressing up to the highest zone (the avian snow zone) on Sea Lion Rocks. Among otters, we have a new addition to the raft — a pup still hanging out with mom in Sea Lion Cove, but foraging on its own.

Stan Dryden, 09/23/22

One of my favorite activities at Point Lobos is scoping at Sea Lion Point. One of my favorite themes I develop with guests is the importance of protecting the environment, as exemplified by the majesty they see before them. The Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary was designated 30 years ago, and the consequences are encouraging and spectacular.

Robert Grace, 09/26/2022

The goal is Pelican Point, but I am snared and immobilized by China Cove. Wind gusts make fleeting scribbles on its placid surface. Spatters of rain come and go. Bulky floating pelicans fish in a loose circle around an off-duty pair of otters. A sudden rattle, and a kingfisher darts and splashes. An impossibly white egret sails in to hunt from a raft of kelp. There in the west, a faint rainbow forms, and slowly brightens, until its bands tint the ocean waters beyond. Vultures teeter in the wind, and oystercatchers announce their unseen presence.

Rick Pettit, 09/18/2022

This morning at the Information Station, Docent Nelson Balcar greeted a young family speaking both English and Mandarin. Nelson seized the opportunity to practice a few Mandarin phrases. Both dad and children correct Nelson’s pronunciation. Nelson pivots. He grabs the sea otter skull and engages with the two young girls. The older sibling, probably about 10, begins telling Nelson about seals, sea lions and otters. She goes on for... quite a while.... Nelson turns to the taciturn younger sibling (maybe 5 years old); with a smile and inviting tone, he asks, “Would you like to say something?” “I don’t like to talk,” she retorts. There is a half-second of silence. Big sister immediately fills the brief void by launching into an explanation of how the animals around Point Lobos that live in the sea are marine mammals.

Nelson seizes the opportunity to educate. “What are five characteristics that typify a mammal?” he gently enquires. Big Sis clearly knows her stuff. She begins to explain, in great detail, those defining characteristics, pointing out, for example, that whales are mammals but don’t have much hair. Then she states that mammals, “usually give live birth.” Hearing this, Nelson assumes the role of caring teacher.

He respectfully interrupts the enthusiastic exposition of mammalian attributes. “Rather than hatching from eggs, all mammals give live birth,” he corrects. Big Sis didn’t even take a breath. “What about a platypus?” she fired back. And that, my friends, is the joy of working at the Information Station. So many teachable moments.

Don Blohowiak, 08/30/2022

The recent days have been glorious. Today was spectacular—warm enough to wear a T-shirt while removing velvet grass from Carmelo Meadow. What we discovered was that beneath the dry invasive grass is a carpet of estivating (summer dormant) blue-eyed grass! And that the effects of work we did, clearing weeds out of circles with Anna Bonnet way back in 2019, still shows. In other words, bit by bit what we have done, volunteers, docents, and State Parks, is beginning to show! Yay!

Katherine Spitz, 08/10/2022



Photo by Paul Reps.

The end of July. Enjoy, what a beautiful end to a month!

Paul Reps, 07/31/2022

There was a negative low tide and I came to see what I could find in half an hour of discovery. I was so happy to see so many bat stars, and a sea urchin showing its teeth, in addition to our usual finds!

Yvonne Wright, 06/20/2022



Photos by Yvonne Wright.





SUPPORT WHAT YOU LOVE
#pointlobosfoundation
#outdoorsforall

Photo by Chuck Bancroft

Donate today to help us ensure
future generations can safely explore
the beauty of Point Lobos
State Natural Reserve.



pointlobos.org • montereycountygives.com/lobos

MONTEREY COUNTY *GIVES!*
Joining Together for Big Ideas

Increase your Point Lobos Foundation membership renewal or year-end gift
by making your donation through the Monterey County Gives! campaign.
Donations made November 10 through midnight December 31, 2022 will receive a pro-rata match!

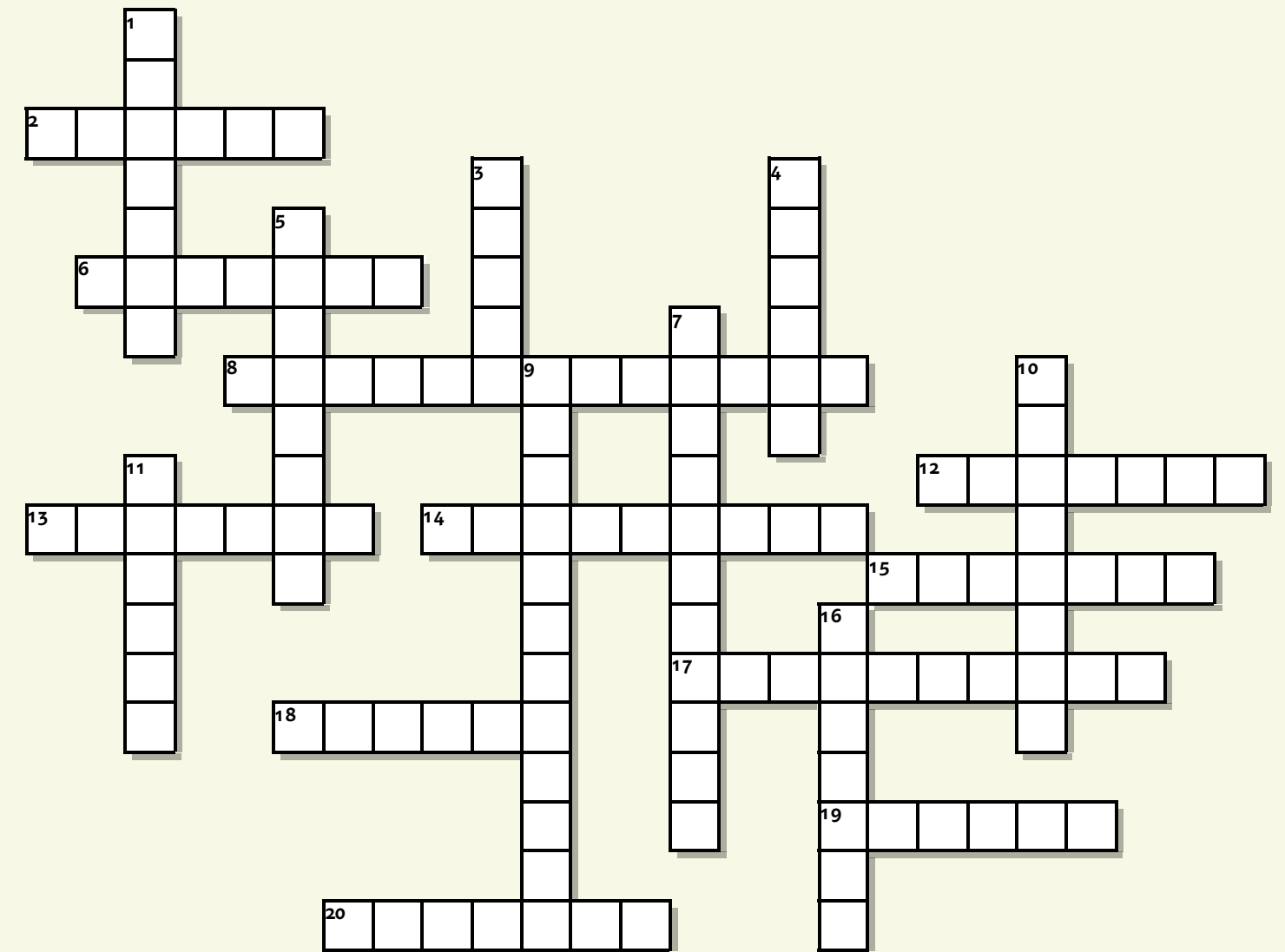
Payment methods accepted: Checks by Mail, Credit Card, IRA, Stock.

Contact supportplf@pointlobos.org with questions and for more information.

Monterey County Gives! is a philanthropy-inspiring partnership between the Monterey County Weekly, the Community Foundation for Monterey County,
and the Monterey Peninsula Foundation. @Montereycountyweekly @cfmco @montereypeninsulafoundation @MontereyCountyGives

Puzzle: What Do You Know About Sea Lions?

by Ann Pendleton



ACROSS

- 2 Large _____ and orca whales are the biggest natural threat to sea lions
- 6 What CA animal is featured on the PLF logo? (2 words)
- 8 Sea lions eat fish and _____ found in deep waters
- 12 Sea lions have a _____ tan colored coat
- 13 Sea lions have _____ to keep them warm and help with buoyancy
- 14 Harbor seals hunt in _____ waters than sea lions
- 15 The _____ temperature of the Pacific Ocean is causing sea lions to forage farther off shore
- 17 CA sea lions are threatened, but not considered _____
- 18 The _____ Protection Act of 1972 protects sea lions
- 19 _____ sea lions feed for 2-5 days and then return to pups to nurse
- 20 Harbor seals' coats are always _____ in color

DOWN

- 1 Female sea lions congregate in the _____ Islands
- 3 Puijia is an _____ word meaning "small seal"
- 4 In English "Lobos" translates to _____
- 5 The "ORDER" of Sea lions and harbor seals is _____
- 7 Seal lions share their coast with _____ (2 words)
- 9 _____ of fishing gear is a major threat to sea lions
- 10 Seal lions have short hair and are efficient _____
- 11 The biggest predator of sea lions is _____
- 16 Sea lions roam the _____ Ocean

*This puzzle is based upon Ruthann Donahue's article on sea lions starting on Page 4.
Answers at pointlobos.org/crossword*

Acknowledgments

Memorials, tributes and grants April 16, 2022 - October 15, 2022

IN HONOR OF

Carol Rossi
Janet Leask
Glenn and Carole Schweitzer

Eric Mobley
Mike and Kelly Odell

Dan Bursch and Sharon Yencharis
Jan Golden

Maureen Mason
Karen Calley

Aviona Guaracha and Chris DiGiacinto
Loyanne Flinn

Peter Fletcher, Carol Marquart,
and Carol Greenstreet
USSGA Pacific Coast Tournament

Andrew Gordon
Cathy Gordon

Trisha Bennett Mayer
Jacelyn Harmer

IN MEMORY OF

Mary McDougall
Michael and Betty Maurutto

Kevin Simpson
Mary Gagliardi

Sylvia Perry Conn
Brian and Becky Decker
Donna Elliott

Carol Hackford
Tom and Eileen Fukunaga

Carol McCrae Taylor
George Taylor

Christine Armanasco
Suzanne Saunders Shaw

Mary Ann Whaley
Baird Whaley

Linda McHarry
The Bengard Family

Putnam Payne
Thomas Payne

Harold H. "Ted" Brown
Marlene Brown

Ron McNay
Marylou McNay

Barbara Patchell
Christopher and Natalie Patchell

Klaus Hedbabny
Annis and Nick Kukulan

John Kiliany
Joan Sullivan

Sara Caitlen Gobets
Karen Kalvelage

Claire Louise Reordan
Nancy Spear

Richard M. Jacobs
Linda Jacobs

Gwen Blaney-Owen
George St. Clair

Ruth Taylor Swan
Carolyn Swan Mack

Carol Mintz
Leigh Mintz

Ken Whiting Nisewaner
Kristin Nisewaner

Mary Whalen
Frank Pajerski

Mike Turbow
Philip and Tessie Young
Laurie Jarrett
Arthur and Helen Bobrove
Jacquelyn Gottlieb
Ann Rando

Bob Cowdrey
Kit Armstrong

Mary Louisa Downes
Judy Landry

GRANTS

Arts Council for Monterey County

Chapman Foundation

Community Impact grant from the
Terry Layne Fund for Beach Protection of
the Community Foundation for
Monterey County

Harden Foundation

Justice Outside

Manitou Fund

Monterey Peninsula Foundation

Nancy Eccles and Homer M. Hayward
Family Foundation

Pebble Beach Company Foundation

Yellow Brick Road

SISTER ANNA VOSS FUND

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.

The William Gonda & Sally Sehring Family Charitable Fund
Dave Roy

IN HONOR OF

Deborah Ju
Shirley Keenan
Grace Ju

IN MEMORY OF

Ron Collins Point Lobos
Docent Class #34
Ruth Carter

Geoffrey Bromfield Point
Lobos Docent Class #40
Mary and Tim Conway
Alexanne Mills
Shirley Chapman
Tom and Eileen
Fukunaga

Rebecca (Becky) Hanna
Point Lobos Docent
Class #13
Her Hiking Friends
Judith and William
Dupee
Elizabeth and Ronald
Sollenberger
Catherine Campbell

Dennis Renault
Mary Conway

Carl F. Voss
Carol Voss

Mary McDougall
Mary and Tim Conway

Sylvia Perry Conn
Phil & Tina Schuh



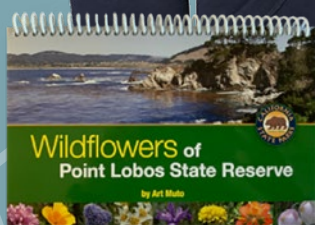
80 Garden Court
Suite 106
Monterey, CA 93940
866.338.7227
pointlobos.org

Presorted First-Class
U.S. Postage
PAID
All American
Mailing



Your purchase helps to fund
trail and facility maintenance,
educational programs, and the
volunteer docent program at Point
Lobos State Natural Reserve.

SHOP.POINTLOBOS.ORG



Gift with purpose