

The

EXPLORER

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*Newsletter of
Cabrillo National Monument
and
Cabrillo National Monument
Foundation*

Twenty Years of Progress

by Patricia Heusner, Editor

Where were you twenty years ago? I was sitting in my high school English class, attempting to analyze poetry, and running for the track team, hoping not to trip over a hurdle. Well, I've moved from analyzing poetry to editing *Explorer* articles (which I love!), and from hurdling to hiking the Bayside Trail! How about you? Where have the past twenty years taken you?

And for Cabrillo National Monument? On March 1, 1987, a new era in Cabrillo National Monument's history began: for the first time the monument, along with many other National Park Service sites, was authorized to collect entrance fees. Ten years later, in 1997, Congress established the Recreation Fee Demonstration Program, which allowed each park to keep 80% of the fees collected for use in projects that benefit visitors. The remaining 20% is available to parks for which collecting fees would be impractical. For example, if the fees collected at a park would not be enough to pay the salaries of



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the fee collectors, much less support park projects. As you can see, 100% of entrance fees collected goes right back into the national parks.

As we look back at the past twenty years, we see many opportunities afforded us by this program, including construction of a greenhouse, a new entrance station, the museum storage building, and the accessible ramp to the Military History exhibit. Fee dollars were

also used to install a solar emergency phone in the tidepool area, restore the lighthouse grounds and Assistant Keeper's Quarters, renovate the Cabrillo exhibit, reconstruct tidepool parking lots 2 and 3, and create a new tidepool film. Phew! This place has been BUSY these past 20 years!

The mission continues. What would you like to see happen at Cabrillo National Monument in the next twenty years? Members of the Cabrillo National Monument Foundation are already actively supporting research, education, and preservation. Thank you! This is YOUR park!

Here's to the teamwork and diligence that will direct the next twenty years of care for this treasure we call Cabrillo National Monument.

Would you like further opportunities to take part in the preservation of history and nature? You can get involved by volunteering to monitor the tidepools, pull weeds, help with herp research, or assist in other areas of interest to you! See our website nps.gov/cabr for volunteer position descriptions.

The Explorer

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Superintendent's Corner

by Terry DiMattio

This issue of *The Explorer* looks back at the accomplishments of the past 20 years and the changes that have occurred at Cabrillo National Monument. It has been my good fortune to have been here for most of that time. So I thought I would take this opportunity to talk about three programs or events that I believe are particularly noteworthy and have helped shape the Cabrillo NM we enjoy today.

The first is the implementation of the entrance fee. From this decision so many other positive changes have come about. Fortunately, I was not here at the time. Superintendent Gary Cummins and Ranger Bob Randall established the program on March 1, 1997. I understand that it was very controversial at the time and that many San Diegans did not like the idea of having to pay to visit Cabrillo NM. Growing up in San Diego I remember coming out to Cabrillo NM and the lighthouse when it was free. After we returned in 1990, I talked to a number of people who told me they stopped coming to the park when we started collecting the entrance fee. If I "had my druthers" I would not charge a fee. I think it is safe to say, though, that without the revenue we have collected we would not have been able to make the improvements to the park that we have. Likewise, these funds have improved our visitors' experience and the value they receive from their \$5 entrance fee.

I think the list of projects funded from entrance fees is impressive. These funds have enabled us to repair two large gullies west of Gatchell Road, install an emergency phone at the tidepools, replace deteriorated



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asphalt walks with sustainable, tan-colored concrete walks with red brick edges, relocate the entrance station to provide an extra measure of protection for the tidepools, produce a new film to educate our visitors about the tidepools, modify the original exhibit room to make it ready for the exhibit on Cabrillo and the Age of Exploration that was funded by the Cabrillo National Monument Foundation, purchase dual-level, accessible drinking fountains, install a 15kW photovoltaic system on the roof of lower maintenance, build a climate-controlled storage facility for the museum collection, rehabilitate the area around the Old Point Loma Lighthouse and create the exhibit "The Lighthouses of Point

Looking back over the past 17 years—indeed to 1972 when I began my association with the park as a volunteer—there have been numerous changes and improvements to Cabrillo National Monument, promoted, fostered, and brought to fruition by many dedicated, hardworking civil servants and volunteers. Being a part of these improvements has been a very gratifying part of my career and a great source of pride for me.

Loma.” Fee revenue has also allowed us to begin designing two shelters that will replace the Whale Overlook, and, beginning this month, build a visitor contact office for the rangers. The Recreation Fee Demonstration Program that first allowed us to keep 80% of the funds we collect at the entrance station was extended in 2004 for 10 years in the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act. This will allow us to continue improving our care of Cabrillo NM and the service we provide our visitors.

The second event that I believe has had a profound effect on the park was the initiation of the tidepool monitoring program that began in the spring of 1990. This too was a program that began before I arrived. Funded by the Cabrillo National Monument Foundation, then known as the Cabrillo Historical Association, and carried out by Gary Davis, Senior Scientist at Channel Islands National Park, and Dr. Jack Engle, Marine Biologist, UC Santa Barbara, it spawned other programs, most notably the Tidepool Protection, Education and Restoration Program. It also dramatized the need for us to learn more about the plants and animals that live within the park and the Federal reservation on Point Loma. So that we could better care for them, we needed to know how many different species there are, their relative

abundance, and what their condition might be. This led to the creation of the Natural Resource Science division and the hiring of the park’s first marine biologist. This has allowed us to facilitate research and promote the park and the Federal reservation on Point Loma, as a good place to conduct research, to initiate or continue monitoring certain species that had been started by others—in particular the tidepools, vegetation, and reptiles and amphibians (what we refer to as “herps”)—and contract for research by outside scientists. When scientists request permission to do research at Cabrillo NM, we encourage them to contact the Navy and extend the scope of their project beyond the park’s boundary. We also encourage Navy scientists to include Cabrillo NM in their studies. This has led to studies that have given us a broader understanding of the life of Point Loma. We are learning more and more about the natural resources on the peninsula and those under our care: bats, small mammals, breeding birds, rare plants, lichens, limpets, and marine fish, to name a few. At the same time, as more scientists, including graduate students and PhD candidates, have become aware of the value of Point Loma for research, word is spreading and others are requesting research permits. As our natural resource

science program has grown, it has also attracted people who are interested in helping the park and who are now part of our Volunteers-In-Parks program. Among other things, they help us count shore birds during low tides, classify invertebrates, conduct tidepool sampling each fall and spring, and enter and retrieve data from our Geographic Information System (GIS), all of which have helped us better understand the nature and condition of the natural resources under our care. For a ranger whose background is history, this is exciting stuff.

The last program that has contributed to noticeable and exciting changes is the one to enhance, restore, and preserve the native habitats within the park and the surrounding Federal reservation. It too is one that had its beginnings before I arrived. Do you notice a trend here? The park and I have been the beneficiaries of the decisions and actions of some wise and farsighted park people. Former Chief Ranger Howard Overton began slowly, but steadily, removing exotic vegetation shortly after he arrived in the late 1970s. In 1992 we created a vegetation management plan. In it we identified areas within the park where acacia and eucalyptus (natives of Australia), ice plant, myoporum and other non-native species that we had planted or that had become established over time, should be



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removed. We believe we needed to remove them for several reasons: to allow the increasingly important and threatened coastal sage scrub, maritime succulent scrub and southern maritime chaparral habitats to survive and spread; to reduce the amount of water and money we were expending to keep the exotic vegetation alive; and to re-direct limited staff toward caring for our finite cultural and contemporary resources. Over the past 15 years we have been using park staff, VIPs, Scout groups, students, and the Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) and California Conservation Corps to remove these exotic species, including invasive weeds, such as Russian thistle, yellow-star thistle, and oxalis. As a result, we have saved millions of gallons of water and have converted the once lush, urban park-like landscape to the biologically-diverse coastal Mediterranean ecotype that had evolved over time for this part of the world.

In the early 1990s the park began working more closely with

its neighbors to preserve these native habitats. About 1993 or 1994, the Navy began preparing a comprehensive natural resource management plan for its commands within the Federal reservation. The Navy invited us to participate, and one of the recommendations in the "Point Loma Natural Resource Management Plan" was to create an ecological reserve. This reserve would include the increasingly sensitive, high-quality native habitats owned the Navy, the Coast Guard, the Department of Veterans Affairs, the City of San Diego and the National Park Service. It did not take us long to realize that if we were going to preserve the natural resources within the boundary of the park, we would need to join with our neighbors to preserve the significant habitat types on the peninsula. In 1995 we signed the first memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the US Fish and Wildlife Service that created the 600+ acre Point Loma Ecological Reserve. By doing so, we all agreed to set aside land in perpetuity that could be used as mitigation for construction projects in undisturbed habitat outside of the reserve. In 2005 all of us signed a new MOU with the Fish and Wildlife Service extending our commitment for another 10 years. In addition to preserving sensitive habitat, the MOU has had other salutary effects. When we plan a construction project, instead of looking at sites on undeveloped land, we do our best to site it

outside of what we now refer to as the Point Loma Ecological Conservation Area (PLECA). It has also encouraged us to work together to remove the exotic vegetation—such as acacia, eucalyptus, and ice plant—that is found throughout the PLECA, in particular along road corridors and in drainages. Creation of the reserve, and now the PLECA, has led to a greater degree of cooperation and communication among the landowners on Point Loma, and to the steady enhancement of the sensitive coastal Mediterranean habitats within this island-like enclave.

Looking back over the past 17 years—indeed to 1972 when I began my association with the park as a volunteer—there have been numerous changes and improvements to Cabrillo National Monument, promoted, fostered, and brought to fruition by many dedicated, hardworking civil servants and volunteers. Being a part of these improvements has been a very gratifying part of my career and a great source of pride for me. So it is with mixed emotions that I will be retiring from the National Park Service on June 2nd of this year. I will leave knowing that the park is in good hands and in good shape and will be getting better in the years to come.

The "Gang of Eight"

and the little cash register by the side of the road

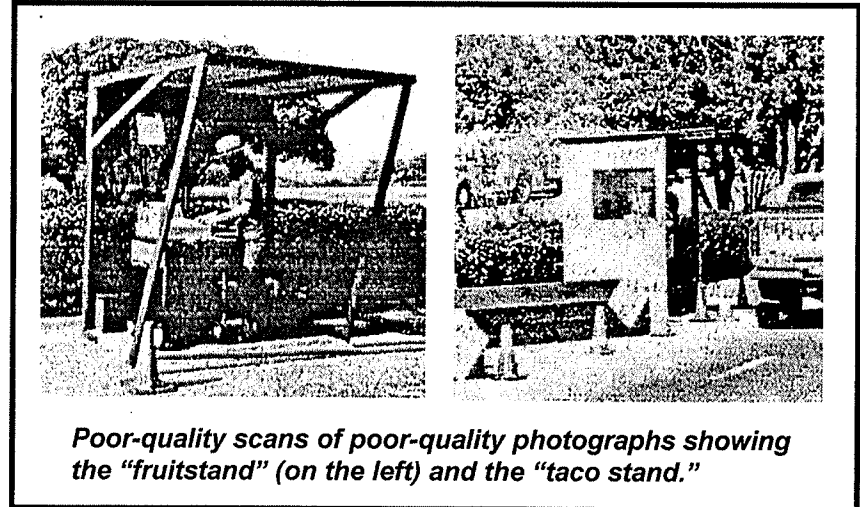
by Jim Nauman

On March 1st, 1987, drivers on the San Diego Scenic Route that passed through Cabrillo National Monument were surprised to be stopped near the CNM traffic circle by a ranger in a fresh new uniform standing behind a cash register mounted on an old slide-projector cart. This was the opening day of the first-ever fee-collecting program at Cabrillo—a program not originated by the park, but mandated by the higher echelons of the National Park Service. Needless to say, the fee collector had a lot of explaining to do to the confused, often angry, visitors who intended to visit the park or just drive happily through without being charged as they had heretofore.

To implement the fee collection, the park was allowed to recruit eight seasonal rangers to serve for nine months. Permanent ranger Bob Randall was charged with setting up the program and training the new seasonals. The "Gang of Eight," as they were called, was a motley group of mostly young people—many just out of college and contemplating a career in the NPS or in some type of outdoor recreation job. Others had been in the Volunteers-in-Parks program and just wanted to broaden their experience in the park service.

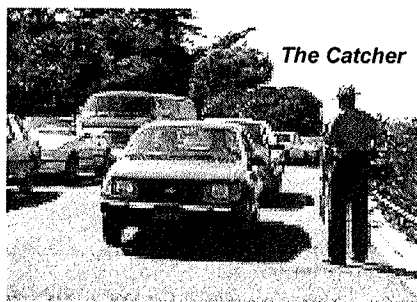
The two-week training encompassed more than just the rudiments of fee-collecting and NPS rules, regulations, and etiquette. There was a crash course in the themes of the park and how to interpret them for visitors, given by such experienced rangers as Edmond Roberts, Lorenza Fong, and Russ Brown.

Each morning the projector



Poor-quality scans of poor-quality photographs showing the "fruitstand" (on the left) and the "taco stand."

cart was rolled out on its tiny casters to the collection point and a stop sign put in place on the road. Power for the register was supplied by two 12-volt batteries, supplemented by an array of solar cells (which may or may not have been effective). The ranger collected a three-dollar-per-car fee from those who intended to visit the park, and wished a nice day to those who were just passing through. They could not be seen



The Catcher

for any great distance after leaving the check point, and undoubtedly some of the declared passers-through decided to stop and have a free look around.

While most visitors accepted the necessity of paying a fee, there were a few each day who vented

their feelings, claiming the fee was unfair because they paid taxes, or lived on Point Loma, or there was nothing to see at the park. Discussions often resulted in traffic backups, particularly on weekends and holidays. To alleviate this problem, Ranger Randall came up with an idea: one ranger was designated the "catcher," and if the line of autos reached the top of the hill, the fee collector would radio the catcher who would then screen cars in the line separating the visitors from the passers. On Saturday or Sunday afternoons, the voice of one of the rangers, an earnest young woman resembling Alexander Wyeth's "Helga," would often be heard on the radio exclaiming frantically, "They're backed up to Kingdom Come!"

But fee collecting occupied only half of the new seasonal's day. The other half was spent in a much more pleasant interaction with the visitors. There was a full schedule of talks and walks to be given in addition to the auditorium programs, and one ranger was always present at the visitor center information desk. A special treat

for the seasonals was being in the tidepools. Tidepool duty often occurred in the afternoon after a morning at the fee station; this combination of duties was known as "pits and pools."

Two of the gang had been to law-enforcement training, so they got to strap on their weapons and go out on patrol duty when not collecting fees. Visitors did not dare to drive too fast or walk off trail in those days. Good lads, both, but thoroughly enjoying their new responsibilities.

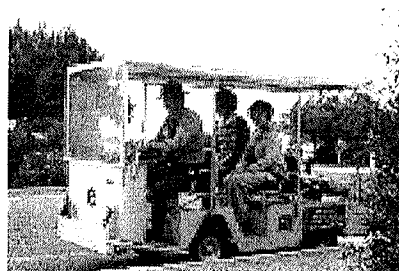
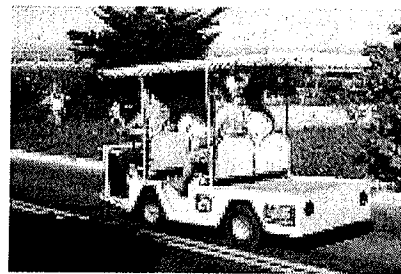
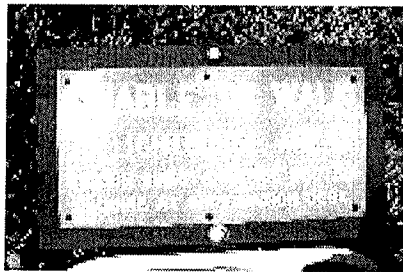
Standing out in the open allowed the fee collector to become acquainted with the local fauna, including rabbits, towhees, mocking birds, alligator and fence lizards, but it frequently required him or her to dodge an erratic

driver. And as the sun became more intense, the necessity for overhead protection became apparent. So a crude wooden frame with a canopy was built around the cash register. It quickly became known as the "fruit stand," or (affectionately, of course) the "Randall Pavilion." The article by Betsey and Bob Clopine in this issue will give you more details about the fate of this humble enclosure. The following year it was replaced by a more substantial structure, referred to as the "taco stand." A far cry from the fine, appropriately located entrance station we enjoy today.

Those were good days at Cabrillo, both for the eight rookie rangers and the visitors. There was a full schedule of activities, en-

abling the rangers to exercise their newly acquired interpretive skills, and visitors learned that the park was not just a pretty view but a place for learning about San Diego's history and abundant natural resources.

By early December, the eight seasonals had moved on; it would be interesting to know what each of them is doing now and what the impact of their experience at Cabrillo had on their lives and careers. We do know that one of them ran for political office several years ago, one is the mother of teenagers, and another is now in a prestigious administrative position at UCSD. Another of the old gang still comes around Cabrillo NM once in a while, somewhat nostalgic for the old days.



1987 was also the last year the slow, electric, two-passenger-only shuttle to the lighthouse was in operation. Serving as the chauffeur was pleasant duty for rangers and volunteers.



The Cabrillo Historical Association

—20 years ago *Bob and Betsey Clopine*

Ever wonder how things used to be at the monument? What changes occurred and how has this organization evolved in the past 20 years? We used to be called the Cabrillo Historical Association (CHA), and now are known as the Cabrillo National Monument Foundation (CNMF). The name change ushered in a broader structure, and expanded the mission to include fund raising and other responsibilities consistent with that activity.

Twenty years ago the Association was tied directly to the National Park Service (NPS) through a Cooperating Association Mutual Working Agreement with Cabrillo National Monument. The same relationship exists today. Until the mid-1980s, the Association had no Executive Director, only about 30 members, a very small staff, and a Board of Directors that might be called "hands-on" managers. This changed in 1986 with the appointment of our first Executive Director, John Pearson, whose first office was a desk in the NPS lunchroom. A good-natured person, John cheerfully endured the many distractions of park personnel taking breaks and eating lunch right in his office. However, the Association did begin to operate on a business-like basis, with the Board assuming more of a policy-making role.

The Association operated the monument bookstore, and funded programs assisting NPS operations, including the volunteer program, Cabrillo Festival, and interpretive programs. Funded by the

Association, the first curriculum-based education program was developed and established at that time by association employee Betsey Clopine. As an ex-ranger, she provided training for NPS rangers who presented the programs to school children with their adult chaperones from all over San Diego County, featuring the monument's themes of Cabrillo, Tidepools, the Old Point Loma Lighthouse, and the Pacific gray whale. The program offered some students their first-ever view of the ocean! Betsey also set up meetings with representatives from other educational agencies and museums in San Diego to coordinate field-trip efforts in the area. And, eventually, thanks to the Eagle Scouts, an Education Office was established in the basement of the lighthouse. Visitors would walk by, peeking into the ground-level window to investigate the activity taking place in that old historic building. During this time, the NPS initiated a fee-collecting program for visitors to the Monument. A temporary kiosk in a windy spot near the road to the lighthouse had to be weighted down with several sandbags to keep it from blowing over on windy days. That system failed once: the kiosk complete with ranger inside blew over with money scattering all about!

The INS held its July 1986 naturalization ceremony in front of the lighthouse for the induction of nearly 1,500 new citizens into the United States. Then-governor of California, Pete Wilson, attended the event. The weather was perfect. It was a glorious day.

After much planning and preparation, the new Cabrillo Statue arrived at the Monument. We all held our breath on that February day in 1988 as the massive statue was delivered and lowered into place by helicopter to its new and present location. Local and NPS dignitaries and delegates from abroad witnessed that significant addition to the park.

In May 1987, Robert Clopine became Chair of the Board of the Association, which, for better or worse, led to the Vice-Presidency of the Conference of National Park Cooperating Associations (CNPCA). In 1990, he retired from his 35-year financial career in the San Diego area, and resigned from the Association Board to become a public information officer in Yosemite National Park, fulfilling a life-long dream.

What will the future be? For whatever reasons, visitation to the Monument has decreased in recent years. This presents new and interesting challenges to the board and staff of the Foundation. The basic function of this organization is to give visitors the opportunity to investigate and purchase interpretative items from the Visitor Center, providing the revenue to partially fund NPS interpretive and resource programs. In addition, our longer-term goal is to build an endowment fund through donations and bequests to fund our activities. Times change and we need to meet the future with new and innovative ideas. We have a strong Board of Directors and a talented staff that deserves our support in these endeavors.

From static to ecstatic

The Cabrillo exhibit transformed from 1966 to 2002

by Mike Nelson

Back when I began to visit Cabrillo National Monument in the mid-1970s, I browsed through the Cabrillo exhibit a few times but never came away with a personal connection to Juan Rodríguez Cabrillo, his times, or the fact that he is the primary reason for the existence of the monument. This is mostly because I spent so little time in the exhibit when more “real” parts of the park attracted me—the view, the lighthouse and the bunkers. For the “kid” in me, the exhibit was, in a word, uninspiring.

Fast forward from 1960s to the 1990s. CNM was trying to renovate the exhibit to prepare it for the 21st century. The project was only one of many including:

- The new intertidal zone video.
- The book *An Account of the Voyage of Juan Rodríguez Cabrillo*.
- The assistant lighthouse keeper’s building and exhibit.
- The on-going tidepool monitoring and interpretive program.
- The design and building of the military history exhibit in the radio room.

The trick was to tell the story of Cabrillo, the man, in the context of his culture, his time, and the peoples that he encountered and how he relates to us today—and to do this on a near-shoestring budget, to have low maintenance costs, and to get the new exhibit to fit in the same room. There were several advantages to renovating the exhibit room at the same time as producing the book *An Account of the Voyage of Juan Rodríguez Cabrillo*, including saving money by sharing the results of research as well as utilizing some of the graphics and themes in both projects.

The old exhibit was Spartan by today’s standards. Everything was put behind a “no-touch, no-play” window. The old navigation presentation was about seven feet wide. Today’s exhibit uses a whole wall to tell that aspect of Cabrillo’s culture with greater detail and has a touch’n’play globe for interactivity. Detailed backgrounds and pop-out backgrounds make the story more interesting and inviting.

The Revised Final Exhibit Production Package dated December 11, 1995, laid out the vision for the exhibit. The plan used mannequins of Cabrillo during three eras in his life to provide a personal connection to him. Electronic interactive displays allowed visitors to learn more through instant gratification—a must for our interactive culture.

The vision became reality in June, 2002, when the new exhibit was opened to the public. The work of so many—Superintendent Terry DiMattio, Rangers Edmond Roberts and Karl Pierce, and so many others at Cabrillo National Monument, the Western Regional Office, Harpers Ferry Center, and Point Zero Design—was a success.

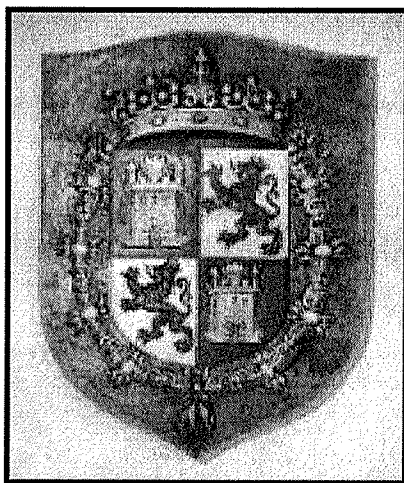
Unfortunately, the Kumeyaay *ewa’a* home was never completed and the mannequins have been damaged over the years since the exhibit was opened. Recently, Chief of Interpretation Karl Pierce announced that the project has been approved to finish the *ewa’a*, to put the mannequins behind protective shields, and to upgrade the software on the touch-screen interactive display.



The trick was to tell the story of Cabrillo, the man, in the context of his culture, his time, and the peoples that he encountered

Today, it is a delight to see visitors explore the exhibit to learn and personalize their experience with Juan Rodríguez Cabrillo. The exhibit really has gone from “static to ecstatic!”

Editor’s Note: Funding for room remodeling for the new Cabrillo exhibit was provided through entrance fees, collected under the Recreation Fee Demonstration Program, which began in 1987.



The crest of Charles V and the replica of Cabrillo's "gravestone" were among the original items incorporated into the new exhibit.



Birds of Cabrillo National Monument

by Claude G. Edwards

An over-wintering brown thrasher

On occasion I am inspired by a species of bird whose plumage, behavior, movements, or occurrence on or around Point Loma and Cabrillo National Monument inspire me to write about it. Although I am enjoying the typical year-round birds in our area, and also the familiar seasonal migratory species, I feel a special thrill and fascination about those that originate from afar. Point Loma is the most well-known and best documented location in San Diego County for out-of-range and unseasonal bird occurrences. This story is about one such bird.

The patch of mixed native and exotic shrubs known to birders as the "Myoporum Grove," situated below the Military History Exhibit, has been the wintertime home of a brown thrasher (*Toxostoma rufum*). This species is the only thrasher breeding in the eastern United States, and is a rare vagrant to California, according to the *San Diego Bird Atlas*. It is one of ten species in the group Mimidae, which includes our friends the northern mockingbird (*Mimus polyglottus*) and California thrasher (*Toxostoma redivivum*). It is also arguably the most beautiful of them all.

The brown thrasher is categorized as "Mr" on the Point Loma bird list, signifying that it is a "Migrant" and that it is "rare," meaning "unusual, out of range or habitat." As such, it is worthy of being reported to the local birding community. It is very rarely recorded in San Diego County and usually does not linger more than

a day or two as it passes through. In various references it is considered a "casual visitor occurring mostly between September and April, primarily in the southern half of the state" and a "rare but regular spring and fall migrant, and casual winter visitant." To my knowledge, this individual is the first to stay the winter at Cabrillo NM.

Like other thrashers, it is medium-sized with a slender build, measuring 10 to 11.5 inches in length. Both sexes look alike and are distinctive in appearance. The upper parts—crown, back, wings and tail—are bright rusty-rufous. Wings are marked with two narrow, white cross-bars. The underparts—throat, breast and belly—are white with a slight orangey wash on the breast. The brown thrasher is conspicuously marked with narrow black streaks underneath, unlike the overall plain and dull coloration of the California thrasher. Its bill is in between the length and dimensions of the mockingbird's and the California thrasher's, with only a slight down-curve. Clear yellow eyes are set within a slightly grayish face.

Like other thrashers, this species stays close to the ground and favors dense, brushy cover to hide and feed in. At Cabrillo, this bird has been spotted when it comes in for a drink or to bathe at the dripping sprinkler, always alert and nervous, quick to retreat. It has been heard calling but not always seen by those who want to view it. Nonetheless, it is a fancy bird in our area.

References on request

The face of Point Loma

by New Thanyachareon

Taking care of a park is no easy task; there are many aspects. You need a plethora of people with different talents to take care of the park's needs. Some of those needs are administrative, maintenance, law enforcement, and education, just to name a few. Cabrillo National Monument has seen many changes since its inception in 1913. Increasing in size from a one-acre lot to the present day 166 acres, Cabrillo National Monument has been both transformed and preserved. The park was established because of its historical significance, to commemorate Juan Rodríguez Cabrillo's 1542 voyage. With more land acquisition came changes to our park-specific mission statement. We have added World War II military history, tidepools, gray whales, the coastal Mediterranean ecosystem, and of course the Old Point Loma Lighthouse to the list of themes we interpret.

One of the needs of the park I find interesting is returning the natural area of the park to the way it was during the times of Cabrillo himself—unspoiled. I must admit that when I came to the park years ago, I wasn't sure how I would like a historical park, being a nature lover and all. My views have changed for the good. I have found that the park has a natural side, a unique one at that: the coastal Mediterranean ecosystem. What a beauty! However, that beauty has yet to be fully restored. We can't fully restore nature but we can give it a hand. The face of Point Loma has changed over the years. Human impacts are prevalent throughout the area—

from the military remnants to the landscaped visitor-use areas. Non-native species have been introduced and have taken over in some areas. Many species of ice plant still exist within park boundaries. In recent history, non-native eucalyptus, Monterey cypress, Torrey pine and other trees have dotted the landscape. Some of them are still here, providing shade and aesthetic enjoyment.

Many people have come and gone, staff and volunteers alike, who have taken the time to give back to the park by removing exotic vegetation and planting native species. For some it was their job, others donated their time because they like working with plants and want to make a difference in the environment. These taxing jobs range from a few hours on duty to weed-pulling parties, and many volunteers have stayed committed to this effort over months and years of weeds! These jobs may not sound like much but they build camaraderie and foster stewardship. When it's all over, you can see the fruits of your labor. Still, the job is never done. The weeds just keep coming back in this never-ending cycle. And so, we invite you to come and look at the changes at Cabrillo National Monument as we help native plants regain their leading role.



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The rise and ebb of the tides

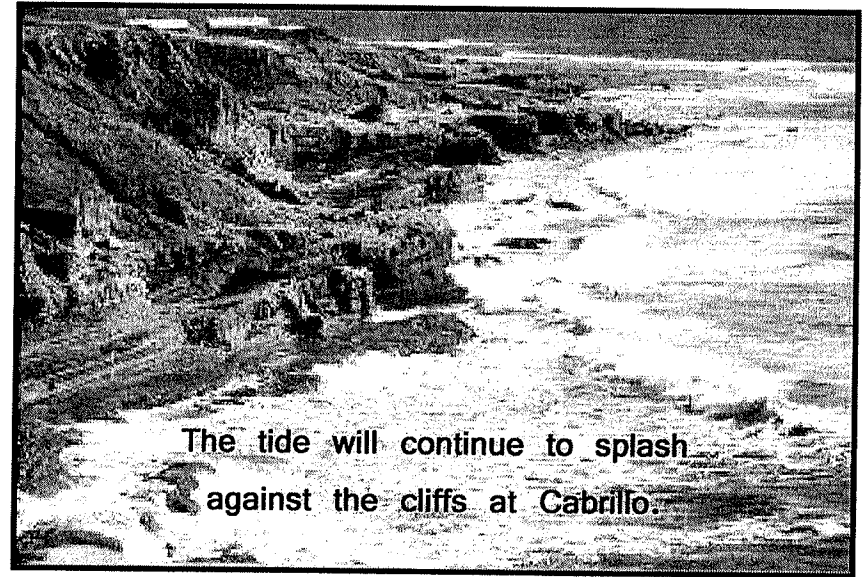
by Camille A. Bledsoe

The Pacific Ocean waters rise and ebb along the southeastern coast of California just as they did when Juan Rodríguez Cabrillo landed four hundred sixty-four years ago. We have no photos or written documentation of exactly what Cabrillo saw when he came ashore but we do know that there have been many changes to the land, the people, plants, and animals in the four plus centuries since then.

By 1987, a national monument commemorated Cabrillo atop the cliffs south of where he had landed. One of the first lighthouses along the California coast represented another era of Point Loma history. The National Park Service, in charge of these historical sites, also appreciated the natural resources in the park, the rangers recognizing that the park had one of the largest and most diverse rocky intertidal habitats in southern California.

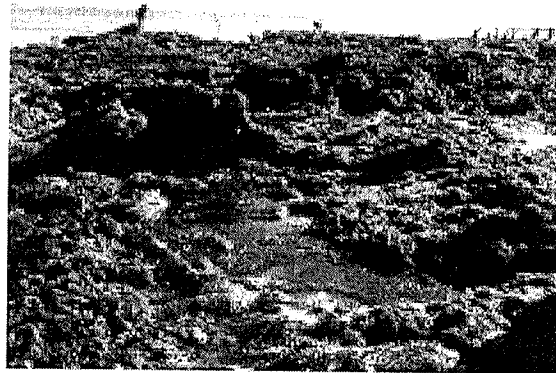
Nationally, the environmental awareness that had been growing in the 1960s and 1970s led to the passage of several statutes such as the Endangered Species Act and the Tide and Water laws. An inventory of the plants and animals in the rocky intertidal area had been done in 1976 by Dr. Joy Zedler, a biologist at San Diego State University; she recommended that the park staff institute long-term monitoring.

The following year, another study was done, assessing the effects human visitation had on the tidepools. The conclusion of



The tide will continue to splash
against the cliffs at Cabrillo.

the study was that several activities were harmful to the tidepool habitat, including trampling and rock turning. It also revealed that these activities were concentrated in the area of closest visitor access.



In 1985 the park had hosted a gathering of scientists from Scripps Institution of Oceanography and other sites who were doing studies of various species of tidepool plants and animals. Listening to the audio cassette tapes of that seminar lends credence to the idea that the park's

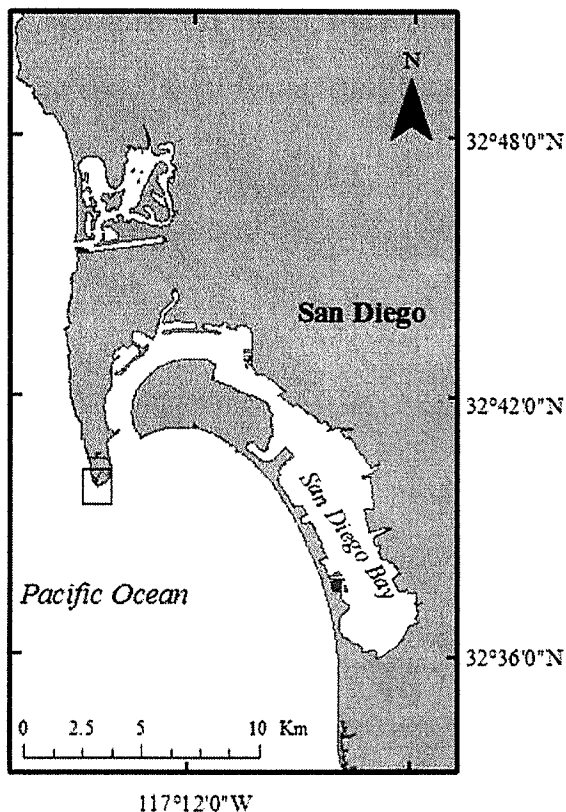
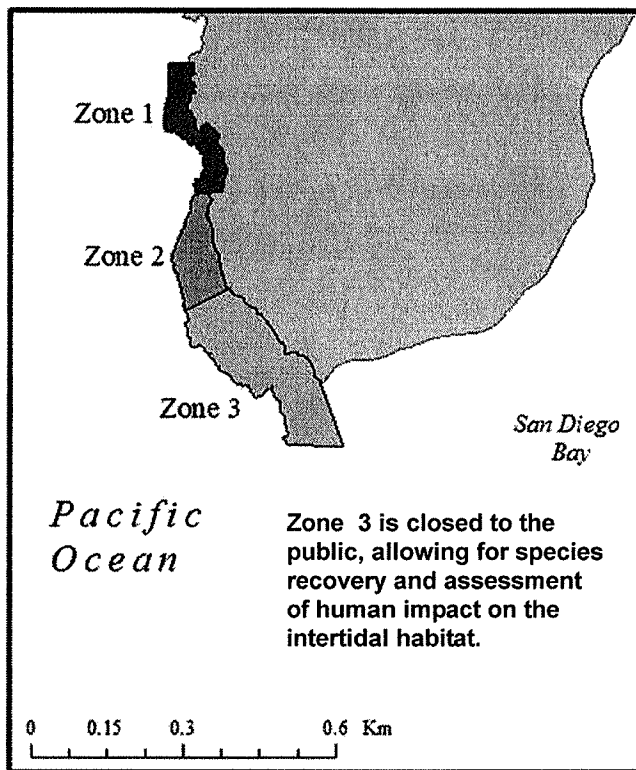
management was interested in finding ways to protect the intertidal life forms. They also wanted to share the beauty and wonders of this special habitat with visitors. Children were thrilled by their experience of watching anemones open up, or observing sea stars.

Many adults were as enthralled as the children, most having many questions.

At this time there was no established volunteer program to help with monitoring the tide pools for poaching or destructive handling of the plants and animals. This job fell to the park

rangers, along with that of educating the public about these prohibited activities. And with a million or more visitors to the park annually at that time, they are to be commended for their valiant efforts in this regard.

In 1990 the Cabrillo Rocky Intertidal Monitoring Program



(CRIMP) began monitoring thirteen key species or species groups along with determining the presence or absence of two rare species: black abalone and ochre sea stars. Also, shore birds and visitors were counted during a number of low tides that occurred during daytime hours in the fall, winter and spring.

The monitoring continued over the next six years. In the December 1996 issue of *The Explorer*, Cabrillo NM Superintendent Terry DiMattio



expressed concern over results of the study. He stated that it showed that the health of the tidepools had deteriorated—some species, such as the California mussel, having declined by as much as 87%. He wrote that other species had declined less, including the

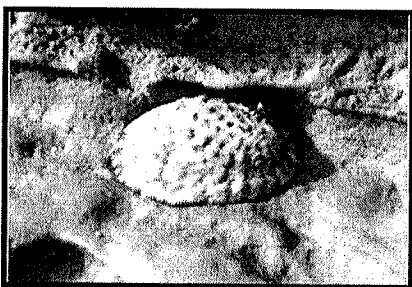
gooseneck barnacle which had dwindled by 29%. Superintendent DiMattio commented, "We strongly suspect that human factors, such as trampling, collecting, and rock turning by the 70,000 to 90,000 people who visit the tidepools each year, have contributed to the loss of the species."

He then focused on a new plan called the Tidepool Protection, Education, and Restoration Program (TPERP). The program consisted of three parts. The first concentrated on educating visitors and enforcing park regulations. This was to be accomplished by using more park rangers along with Volunteers-in-Parks (VIPs) at the tide pools during low tides. The park recruited and trained more

volunteers. Superintendent DiMattio said, "These concerned and dedicated staff members will help our visitors find often-hard-to-spot tidepool plants and animals, show them how to observe these curious creatures in the least harmful way, and answer their questions about our tide pool program. The increased number of rangers and VIPs will also deter such things as rock-turning and collecting."

The second part of the program was to continue the monitoring that had been established in 1990. The third item was to close off the most southern and least-visited part of the tidepools to the public. This was done to allow it to recover and to be able to use it as a control, comparing data obtained there with data retrieved from the area visited by the public.

Now, in 2007, CRIMP and TPERP continue to fulfill their responsibility of protecting one of the last rocky intertidal areas



The owl limpet *Lottia gigantea* is a common resident of the rocky intertidal.

in southern California and at the same time providing its visitors with an enjoyable and educational experience. It would not be possible to do this without the volunteers. Cabrillo National Monument now has about 40 volunteers in the TPERP program. In the CRIMP program at least 307 people, including staff and volunteers, have participated in the twice yearly inventories from 1900 through 2005. The volunteer program manager is park ranger Marcy Marquez. When I spoke to her about these programs, she voiced high praise for the volunteers. "They are all dedicated and really involved," she said.

The efforts of all these dedicated individuals appears to be paying off. In a 2006 report by Bonnie J. Becker, PhD, titled *Status and Trends of Ecological Health and Human Use of the Cabrillo National Monument Rocky Intertidal Zone (1990-2005)* is the following statement in the conclusion of the report:

"With regard to the tidepools, the NPS objective is to 'manage visitor use patterns and activities to protect, preserve and restore the tidepools as (closely as) possible to a healthy, functioning ecosystem, allowing visitors to experience and learn without harming the resources.' The TPERP and CRIMP programs allow us to achieve this seemingly inconsistent goal—visitors are

given access to most of the tidepools, but part of it is set aside for replenishment and study of the resource. This rocky intertidal habitat is widely considered to be among the best protected in southern California, a highly urbanized area with extreme amounts of anthropogenic disturbances, especially along the coast. This protection has led to demonstrably healthier intertidal communities within the area administrated by the park."

The tide will continue to splash against the cliffs at Cabrillo. The dedication of the rangers and volunteers working together today helps ensure that twenty years from now visitors will still be enjoying this monumental wonderland as the tide rolls in, and then recedes.

References on request



Hooray for volunteers

Cabrillo people

by Patricia Heusner



Erin Michener, Fee Collector

Erin, a student at San Diego State University, comes to us from Joshua Tree National Park where she worked as a Fee Collector for six months. Erin's family moved to Twentynine Palms when she was a year old, as her father's position with the United States Marine Corps was relocated there. Erin grew up exploring Joshua Tree, and her father, who is retired, now volunteers there with the search and rescue operations. Her sister also works at Joshua Tree as a Fee Collector!

Erin is studying English at San Diego State University, and plans to use her degree in writing or teaching. Recently she's become more interested in working with the National Park Service after hearing her coworkers' stories about the amazing parks where they've worked. Erin enjoys her coworkers and loves the views of the ocean and the city here at Cabrillo National Monument (a big change from her lifelong desert view!) and says that the views make even stressful days enjoyable. "I can just look out

and remember that this is why I'm here," she says.

Erin's hobbies include writing, karaoke, dancing, and theater. She was a theater major for two years, and acted in many productions at Twentynine Palms' "Theater 29" community theater while she was in high school. If you're ever in Twentynine Palms, she highly recommends "Theater 29" for a local production. She loves musicals and was part of the cast of *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *Calamity Jane*, *Guys and Dolls*, and *Evita*, to name a few. As you enter the monument, sing a few lines of your favorite musical, and you'll be greeted with a smile by Erin with her cheery and easygoing personality.



Jason Richards, Fee Collector

Jason began his NPS career in 1992 as a seasonal Cave Explorer at Carlsbad Caverns National Park. He soon became a Cave Specialist and began his career by climbing a rope to 254 feet above the "Big Room" into the "Spirit World," to explore a stalagmite in this exceptional region of the cave. Later, Jason became an Environmental Protection Specialist, ensuring preservation of the cave for any underground project. He oversaw the installation of the Lechuguilla gate, which turned out to be the

most expensive cave gate in the world! This seems reasonable, considering that the gate leads to the world's deepest limestone cave, with 117 miles of mapped passages. Also found in this cave are cytotoxic bacteria, which have recently been found to be toxic to breast cancer cells and not to normal cells; research using these bacteria may lead to a cure for some types of cancer! In 2001, Jason found his most exciting job yet as an Interpretive Ranger. He likes people and working with the public, and hopes to return to interpretation one day soon.

Jason is enjoying working with the great team of Fee Collectors at Cabrillo National Monument, and he loves the views from here! In his free time, He enjoys sailing, art projects such as wood sculpture, and being with his wife, Barbara! (Barbara is Cabrillo National Monument's Administrative Officer.) This year, Jason and Barbara enjoyed sailing from Chula Vista to Mission Bay and doing a "raft-up" with four other boats: linking the boats together, dining and socializing, then sailing back in the morning. You're sure to recognize Jason at the entrance station with his friendly smile and warm greeting.

Nisse Goldberg, Marine Biologist

Nisse has jumped in with both feet as the monument's new Marine Biologist. Before she arrived, however, she had already gotten her feet wet in a number of places around the world! She focused on marine biology at UC-Santa Cruz for her undergraduate studies, then worked with the Peace Corps in Fiji helping community members establish fish farms. The goal of her Peace Corps project was to help villages,

women's groups, high schools, and others who were interested in starting Tilapia fish farms by teaching them how to build the farm, then stock, maintain, and sell the fish. This, in turn, would help increase protein in the people's diets. Next, this water-loving scientist earned her master's degree in marine science at Moss Landing Marine Labs in central California, and her PhD studying algal ecology at the University of Western Australia. Her research focused on the diversity of algal species (seaweeds) on the south coast of Australia in an island archipelago. She found that the algae were extremely diverse, with up to 40 species in 1/4 square meter!

Nisse enjoys walking, hiking, scuba diving, and spending time with husband John Heine—also a research marine biologist and author of numerous books on research diving. John and Nisse are newlyweds as of October 28, 2006! When diving, Nisse prefers staying near the bottom of the ocean and exploring seaweed gardens, while John has helped researchers safely study in the water column. Nisse says, however, that their number-one hobby is their dog, an Australian Shepherd named Georgia. When you meet Nisse, be sure to ask her about her experiences scuba diving in the Antarctic!



Cabrillo National Monument Foundation

We have received a grant from The Beth V. Paynter Memorial Fund and generous donations from Carolyn Medina and Dr. James Nauman towards printing costs for the Old Point Loma Lighthouse book project. We appreciate the support we have received and will let everyone know when the book is published later this year.

CNMF has also received a grant from The Hattie Ettinger Conservation Fund for educational activities and projects such as the Whale Watch Weekend and Intertidal Life Festival that took place at the park January 27th & 28th.

Change is inevitable and things have certainly changed at Cabrillo National Monument and Cabrillo National Monument Foundation in the last 20 years.

Some of the highlights include:

- In 1996 the Visitor Center got a complete make-over, changing it from the dark, heavy look of the 1960s to a more open, light, and accessible appearance.
- CNMF changed its name from Cabrillo Historical Association in 1997 to better identify ourselves within the community, and our relationship with CNM.
- A multi-level membership program was created in 1999 that immediately increased the number of members from 50 to over 300.
- We have published seven books over the last two decades including; *A Harbor Worth Defending*, *An Account of the Voyage of Juan Rodríguez Cabrillo*, and *Understanding the Life of Point Loma*.

The volunteers-in-parks program, junior ranger program, education program, brochure printing, special events, books for the library, organization membership dues, media subscriptions, promotion of the park, and scientific research are some of the budget items that CNMF consistently funds.

This fiscal year we will print the new edition of *The Old Point Loma Lighthouse* book that we have been working on; we are all looking forward to this updated and expanded revision.

Karen Eccles, Executive Director

Make a Lasting Legacy

The CNMF Endowment Fund, established in 1997 with the San Diego Foundation, is another way you can support the endeavors of Cabrillo National Monument. Interested donors can contact us at (619) 222-4747 or by e-mail at

CNMFKaren@aol.com



Calendar

Bird Walks with Claude Edwards
3rd Saturday of every month
(except December)

New Members

**We welcome the following new
Cabrillo National Monument
Foundation members:**

Chuck Ambers
Marilee Bankert
Barbara Borchardt
Richard Burton
Linda & Frank Chisari
Al Clarke
Nancy Faustmann
Stephanie Glenn
Pao-I Huang
Ann Kinner
Cindy Matteson
Steve Matthews
Henry D. Mervynne
John Messner
Kevin Monahan
Nancy Montalvo
Karen Ostegard
Bob Purgavie
Albert Salmon
Suarez Family
Susan Swalwell
Tina Terrell
Cam Tredennick
Susan Ulevitch
Kitty Walden



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www.CNMF.org



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