

Point Lobos

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images by Ranger Chuck Bancroft

MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT JUDD PERRY

This is my inaugural Message from the President, and I want to say that I am both honored and humbled to be asked to lead this marvelous organization for the coming year. I want to thank Ed Clifton for his wise and steady guidance as President during the past two years. I look forward to continuing to work with him as a member of the Board and will doubtless be leaning on him heavily for advice and support as I begin this journey into largely unknown territory.

I also want to thank outgoing Board member Keith Chase for his many contributions to the Association during his six year tenure on the Board. His candid and insightful advice will be sorely missed, and we all wish him the best.

I would like to introduce you to our newest member of the Board, Steve Dennis, and our new Secretary and member of the Executive Committee, Joyce Olcese.



Judd Perry



Steve Dennis

Steve Dennis was elected to succeed Keith Chase at the January annual membership meeting. Steve brings a tremendous amount of energy and enthusiasm to the Board and has already taken on the arduous task of facilitating the Five Year Strategic Plan process that has been undertaken this year by the Board. Steve has an extensive and impressive business background, beginning as a Program Manager for General Electric's Apollo Moon Project and continuing in a variety of successively more senior responsibilities with GE. Later, Steve served as Chairman and CEO of two successful Silicon Valley business systems software development companies, both of which he founded. In the not-for-profit arena, Steve has served on the boards of Sea Studios Foundation, Elkhorn Slough Foundation, Mal Paso Creek Property Association and Family Service Agency of Monterey County. In addition, he has worked as a facilitator at corporate retreats for a number of organizations, including Monterey Bay Aquarium (where he is also a volunteer Guide), York School, Elkhorn Slough Foundation, Monterey Bay Sanctuary Foundation, and Na-

tional Marine Sanctuary Foundation. Steve's energy, talents and expertise will be greatly benefit the Association.

Following the annual meeting, the Board elected the PLA officers for 2007. The officer roster, which also makes up the Board's Executive Committee, consists of: myself as President (new); Paul Wineman, Vice President (continuing), Kerstin Jones, Treasurer (continuing) and Joyce Olcese, Secretary (new). I want to thank Paul and Kerstin for remaining on in their officer and Executive Committee roles. Their contributions to the financial strength of the Association, (Kerstin as Treasure and Paul as Chair of the Finance Committee) have been invaluable.

Joyce Olcese has been a member of the Board since 2005, and has now assumed the additional duties of Secretary of the Association. Born in San Francisco and a life-long Californian, Joyce's history with Point Lobos goes back to her almost

twelve years as a Park Aide at the Reserve, which she describes as “one of the highlights of my life.” She and her husband (an environmental engineer) operate a family real estate business and a hog ranch. She recently retired from her own floral business, which she operated for many years, capitalizing on her experience of almost 20 years working on a truck farm. Her work with the Association compliments a broad array of other interests, including travel, gardening, cooking, painting and her four kiddies.

As for myself, I am a retired attorney having practiced for 35 years in California and New York, primarily in the field of corporate and internet law. My wife and I retired to Pacific Grove because, after years of travel around the country and the world, the Monterey Peninsula was the place we most wanted to spend the remaining years of our lives. After 8 years, it has vastly exceeded our expectations. In addition to working with the PLA, I am a member of the Point Lobos Docent program and a guide at the Monterey Bay Aquarium. In addition, I serve on the Board of Directors and as Secretary of the Pacific Grove Museum of Natural History Association. I also participate in the Monterey Bay Sanctuary’s Urban Watch program, which monitors storm water run-off into the Monterey Bay.

We have a very strong team on the Board and Executive Committee and we are well situated to manage both the challenges and the opportunities that will come our way during the coming year. We thank each of you, our members, for making it possible for us to carry on the important work of the PLA.

Point Lobos Association

OFFICERS

President: **Judd Perry**
Vice President: **Paul Wineman**
Secretary: **Joyce Olcese**
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Docent Administrators: **Joe & Pat Bova**
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Jerry Loomis **Lynne McCammon**
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Under My Brim

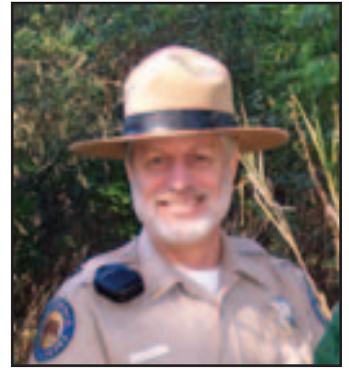
Whalers Cabin Nominated to the National Register of Historic Places

On February 1st, 2007, I attended the quarterly meeting of the State Historical Resources Commission in Placerville, CA. at the El Dorado County Board of Supervisors' Chambers. On the agenda for the meeting were eight properties nominated to the National Register of Historic Places. Among the properties in the list are the Carnegie Library in Oroville, Butte County; the Andrew McNally House in Altadena, CA; the Hewlett Packard House in Palo Alto, CA' and the Whalers Cabin in Point Lobos State Reserve. All eight properties have very



important local significance in their communities, and the Hewlett Packard property was nominated with national significance. Cynthia Howse, State Historian 111, Supervisor of the Registration and Fiscal Unit and Patricia Ambacher, State Historian 1, gave a Power Point program illustrating the importance of all these properties to the history of California. The remarks of Patricia Ambacher about the Whalers Cabin and the Chinese people who first came to Point Lobos in 1851 was detailed and powerful. Executive Secretary of the Commission, Milford Wayne Donaldson, also spoke from his board chair on the significance of the Whalers Cabin. And I even had the opportunity to say a few words, thanking some very special people for the hard work they put in over the past two years to place the Cabin before the Commission for nomination.

In 1985 work began to really convert the Whalers Cabin from my old residence to a museum that would educate the visitors to the Reserve about the many people who lived and worked at Point Lobos, including the long period of Rumsien peoples living here to the Spanish occupation and Mexican independence, and the Californios. The arrival of American businessmen, Chinese fisherman in 1851, the Portuguese whalers in 1864, A.M. Allan in the 1890's and his partnership with Japanese Marine Biologist Gennosuke Kodani, Hollywood, the War Years; all of these events shaped the area around Point Lobos. Its remarkable that when Point Lobos became a state reserve and all the buildings and things that marked human occupancy were removed...the Cabin was kept as a residence for a staff person. There were some who said the Cabin should be torn down. Thank goodness it wasn't.



Ranger Chuck Bancroft

We now have a wonderful collection of artifacts and information to teach the visitors about this remarkable landscape. We must really start by thanking our own Kurt Loesch, long time docent at the Reserve, whose passion for history and the Cabin began when he came to us in the early 1980's. Kurt was there to help with the removal of modern adornments, help the state archaeologists, research the history with Sandy Lydon, retired history professor from Cabrillo College, meet the descendents of the people who lived and worked here, gather artifacts and donations, and really make the dream of a museum come true. But his work became really significant when he helped begin the process of getting the Cabin on the National Register of Historic Places. Kurt was a strong advocate for the nominations and worked tirelessly with Wayne Donaldson, Patricia Ambacher and others to make a success story.

The next step??? The nomination is forwarded to the Keeper of the Register at the National Park Service in Washington, DC. The Keeper has 45 days upon receipt to review the nominations. The Keeper makes the final decision and the result are sent to our Office of Historic Preservation and the to the applicant. The Keeper then lists the property in the Weekly Listing that NPS posts on their website.

Now it's wait and see the results of so much hard work by Kurt, Patricia, Wayne and all of the people involved since 1983 when the movement began to make the Whalers Cabin into one of the finest museums of a special local history on the West Coast.

Harbor Seal Nursery

Article and Images by Steve Ligas

Shh! They are resting below. Welcome to the harbor seal nursery at Whaler's Cove, where every April expectant mothers gather to deliver and nurse their pups. Standing along the wooden fence one hundred feet down the road from the Whaler's Cabin, you can watch the interactions between mothers and their young. The harbor seal is a nocturnal animal whose natural environment is the ocean. It is easily alerted by any noise and particularly frightened by man. They are protected by the Marine Mammal Protection Act from all human disturbances. Fortunately the viewing area near the Whalers Cabin offers ideal conditions for getting close without alarming the harbor seals.

In April the mothers arrive in stages and nurse their pups for four to five weeks. When the sandy beach is covered by water at high tide, the harbor seals rest elsewhere. Morning or early afternoon with lower tide conditions is an ideal time for a visit. Respect the seals' serenity. These are a protected species in a nature reserve. If they track you with their eyes alter your behavior because you are disturbing them. These animals scare easily. The entire colony may stampede into the water for no obvious reason.

The activity on the beach is driven by the pups. Although the adult females prefer to rest and relax, they are very attentive to the needs and safety of their young. They defend the pup from lurking gulls hoping for a quick snack. During birthing, the pup and birth sac are quickly ejected by the mother. The seal's afterbirth is a highly prized gull delicacy. Gulls on the beach will often signal the presence of a newborn pup. A visible umbilical cord will mark a pup as newborn for a few days.

The mother bonds with her pup via scent and recognition of its bark. She reassures her baby by rubbing noses. Her milk and affection are reserved for her pup exclusively. An abandoned pup has little chance of survival. Each adult seal is surrounded by a small buffer zone that is enforced by bark or bite when it is violated. Stray pups will be rebuffed even for incidental contact. The maternal instincts are strong. I have observed mothers protecting dead pups from being attacked by gulls five days after they were deceased.



Swimming lessons are a high priority for aquatic mammals. Although buoyant, the pup lacks any swimming skill. It will quickly learn while its lungs mature. Initially, it may ride on mom's back while acclimating to its watery habitat. These animals are not graceful on land. They are limited to belly lunges because their limbs provide no assistance. On shore, mom may need to block her charge from being washed away by the receding waves until her pup has safely crawled up the beach.

Within the Reserve, there are other places to view harbor seals and their pups. Moss Cove, Whaler's Cove near the intersection with the Carmelo Meadow trail, and Bluefish Cove near the bottom of the steps all have their own harbor seal nurseries. The beach at China Cove is closed when nursing seals are resident. Elsewhere in Monterey County, seals can be seen at the Hopkins Marine Station in Pacific Grove, along 17 Mile Drive in Pebble Beach and at Elkhorn Slough. Remember to bring your binoculars.



*Ranger Chuck's image
"View from a
Sea Lion"*

Observations

by Sparky Starkweather

Lucky for me the communication system between all of us critters is quite good and I can be in the right place to watch as events unfold. There I was watching the trucks pull into the parking lot at Whalers Cove. Nice blue trucks with big boxes in the beds of the trucks. An interesting aroma filled the air as the trucks passed me. The news media arrived as well with photographer and writer to document the event. Visitors began to gather and ask lots of questions. THE EVENT you ask? The Marine Mammal Center had come to release three animals that had been recovered from various places along the central coast due to injuries and illness. The animals had been cared for, rehabilitated, fed, and now was the time for them to rejoin the other marine mammals in the natural environment.

A yearling sea lion had been terribly exhausted on its trip up from the rookeries on the Channel Islands off Santa Barbara. Hungry and too tired and wounded on its head caused this young male, this young amle needed to be cared for. After just a couple of months he was ready to make his return. Released from his travel box, a mad dash to the water's edge, and then a wonderful pause to survey Whalers Cove.

Two juvenile elephant seals were to join the sea lion and go back to the open ocean, but these two were very reluctant to venture far. Probably they were so used to humans feeding them they really didn't want to return to the water. Marine Mammal Center volunteers with herding boards patiently helped guide the two elephant seals back to the water. "Pinky" kept coming back to land and had to be coaxed several times before finally disappearing back to the open ocean, to find others of its kind or more likely to find some good fish for dinner.



Quotes from the Docent Log

Edited by Stan Dryden

November 2: Audie Housman

Had quite a show upon arrival at Whalers Cabin, with a bird feeding frenzy in the Cove. Lots and lots of cormorants ducking to eat

whatever but not diving. One pelican sat on the big rock playing King of the Hill (rock), and then joined by a lesser one who smartly sat just below the "King". Many other pelicans arrived too plus many gulls. Then, all of a sudden, the fishes moved on and all became quiet but the birds all rimmed the whole cove and sat upon all the rocks. No otters or harbor seals.



November 7: Dione Dawson

The otter count for November was 34 adults and 1 pup. It was an unusual warm day with incredible visibility but an absence of kelp,

which made hunting for our furry friends quite a job. Perhaps it is a fact that over 100 otters are at Elkhorn Slough as there certainly aren't many at Point Lobos! Rafts were seen south of Sea Lion Rocks and Bird Island, which has been a steady occurrence all summer, but the kelp was pretty sparse, which diminishes the number of otters.



December 11: Ed Clifton

A dramatic day at Point Lobos! An angry sea assaulted the South Shore coast, and between Sea Lion Point and The Slot another drama was taking place. Silhouetted against the white spume of the breaking waves and the gray-green water farther to sea were hundreds of birds feeding in the breakers. Gulls, pelicans and cormorants soared above the waves, rode the breakers, or huddled on the south shoulder of Sea Lion Point, where they seemed surprisingly well organized. A congregation of pelicans at the cliff edge gave way to gulls on the rocks up the slope. The haunting cries



of the feeding gulls penetrated the roar of the sea. I was loath to leave!

December 29: Marty Renault

At a monthly docent meeting several years ago, a letter was read which praised the Quarterly, especially the Docent Log section. The writer explained he had grown up coming to Point Lobos with his family, and continued the tradition every holiday season when he visited his parents who still lived in the area. But his father had now passed away, and he feared he would not make the yearly trek from the east as often, if ever again. Reading the Docent Log helped him re-live many happy times here, and he thanked us for sharing our day-to-day experiences in the magazine. His eloquent description of his deep love for Point Lobos had many of us in tears, and I resolved to contribute to the Docent Log as often as possible.

January 21: Louise Stuart

We had a very interesting visitor at the cabin, a former diver for the Navy. He explained many of the features of our diving suit, including the valves, air inlets, etc. on the diver's uniform. Said he'd been one of the last 'hard-hat' divers in the Navy and had done salvage work in many parts of the world. Said he'd begun working in a 'wet suit', then used a

'dry suit' similar to the one on our model. Noted that, in order to express excess air from the suit, one could insert fingers into the cuff to let air out! Explained that it took about 3 months to train a diver – to determine if a man could handle the job, the front glass panel would be opened: if the man's eyes were bulging (or if he insisted), he'd be turned down - claustrophobia!

In the Navy he'd worked as a salvage diver. Later he worked for Lloyd's of London, doing similar work, with headquarters in London. He recommends the film "Men of Honor" about the training of Navy divers, especially the story of Chief Brashear, the first black diver in the Navy. He'd trained others, lost a leg while diving but continued to dive.

January 22: Dione Dawson

An abundance of otters in plain sight at Point Lobos today, thrilling the visitors: Seven were hauled out at Bird Island. A gentleman who came along with a high-powered scope confirmed this, and a bunch of people were able to see them. Three were in the water at Bird Island with 1 pup. Headland Cove had 7 adults with 3 pups. Great viewing with a decent scope on Sand Hill Trail! Cypress Cove had 2 adults and 1 pup. One loner was in the cove below the Bird Island parking area.

January 28: Jinny Robertson

A Carmel local, Mrs. Maria Ludovina Amoral de Silveira,



came in to Whalers Cabin to show friends the picture of her grandfather which is located in the smaller room in the cabin. Even her mother, she reported, never saw a photo of her own father. Jacinto DeAmoral, a whaler here, returned to the Azores when his wife died, she told me. He married for a second time there when quite old, and the new wife, our visitor's mother, had just one child. She, however, had twelve children, many of whom, including our visitor, emigrated. I was delighted to be able to show her our new book, The Portuguese Shore Whaling in California, 1854-1904, by Bertao and find his brief biography with his date of birth. She was thrilled because now she would begin genealogy studies.

By the way, the green license by his photo reports in very fine print that he was 63 in 1918, and it was apparently after that date when he returned to the Azores, married and fathered his daughter.

January 28: Helena Greenwood

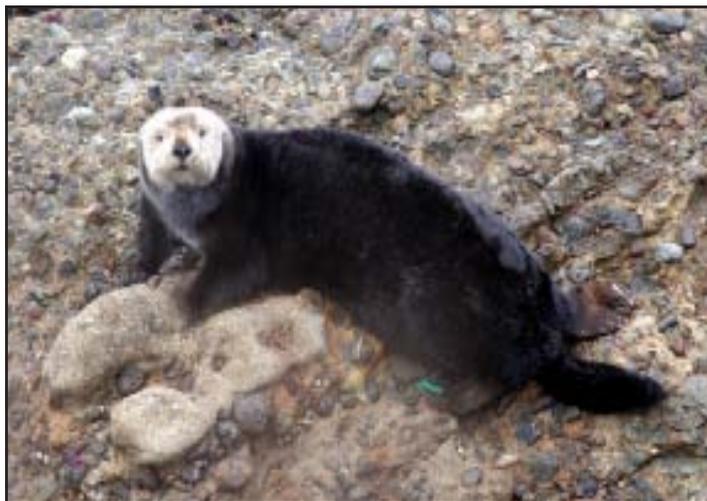
It was an eventful late Sunday morning, the ocean a steel blue color, the sky a palette of creamy whites and steel blues; the air itself felt crisp and blue. As I walked along the trail above China Cove, I saw the unusual sight of a woman sitting on the bench there, knitting. Although it isn't unusual to have a visitor enjoying the spot, the knitter was a first for me.

She was fulfilling an order for head bands, or ear warmers. Her enterprising 5-year-old grandson had conceived of the notion that hikers, bikers, skateboarders, and joggers are in need of ear warmers. He persuaded his Granny to be the knitter, and at \$20 per band he had made \$200 so far. However, Granny began to feel that the moment was rapidly approaching for a discussion on a division of income between employer and employee. The employer was having a good time on the beach below us.



January 29: Rick Pettit

I was watching the cormorants and oystercatchers on Bird Island when I noticed an otter quite close to the seaweed-covered rocks on the northeast side. After a few minutes, to my surprise, she



clambered up and found a flattish spot about six feet in. A bit later, lo and behold, yet another otter arrived at the water's edge, scrambled up and started getting physical. A winter romance, or a mother and offspring? That was answered soon when the latecomer grabbed the first arrival in the jaw region and wrestled her back into the water. For the next ten minutes or so they rolled around amorously, trending towards China Cove, before parting and going their separate ways.

February 13: Carol Bloner

Walked the southern route counting otters today. Only six otters, but they were special. We watched a mom with a large pup feeding. Then they swam side-by-side and sometimes nose-to-nose until mom swept the pup onto her tummy and took her to calm waters for a thorough grooming. Three otters and one pup were hauled out on a small rock near the westernmost point on the Bird Island trail. Most unusual place to find otters, and I never saw a land raft before. Mom was very aware of our group, but the pup slept soundly.

**February 13: Dione Dawson**

The otter count for February was 34 adults and 8 pups. The North Shore was the place to be, as they had the largest count, with otters scattered from Cypress Cove to the northern boundary. The ocean was choppy with lots of whitecaps, which didn't interfere with those otters that were feeding and tending to their pups. The biggest difficulty for the count in general was the lack of kelp, since without it there is little chance of finding an otter. The South Shore was practically bereft of otters until we came to Bird Island, where we found three otters and a pup hauled out on a tiny rock. No one had ever seen them there before. They do tend to haul out at the bottom ledge of Bird Island itself, but not on this little island. They seemed very comfortable in their spot and were easy to see.

(Dione also sent me the report of the fall 2006 statewide otter count, which was a bit of bad news with some good news. The total count was just over 2000 animals, about 10% less than the previous fall. The pup count of 208, however, showed an increase of almost 8%, and was the second highest fall count on record. The spring count may be completed before you read this, and those data will be plotted and on display at the Information Station after we get them. Ed.)

February 20: Stan Dryden

Point Lobos wasn't at its best for my public walk today. We seem to have been in the window of time between the southern leg and the northern leg of the gray whale migration – no spouts despite fair visibility. The coastal scrub was barely beginning to leaf out and, frankly, looked dead. The wildflowers had not yet started their performance. There were very few seaside daisies and wood mint flowers, no flower stalks on the Douglas iris, and even the zygadene (star lily) – our harbinger of spring – was far from in full bloom. And no otters were to be seen in Headland Cove nor from any of the overlooks to the open ocean.

But this is not to say that the visitors were disappointed. It was a lovely, calm day, after several days of high winds. Four deer were grazing less than 20 feet from the trail at the Headland Cove overlook, not a bit concerned about the attention they were getting. A Peregrine falcon was perched on a snag near the Pinnacle overlooking Carmel Bay. And as we walked down the steps toward Cypress Cove we heard the characteristic high-pitched “meow” of an otter pup in the Cove. At the end of the trail we were treated with not one, but two mom-pup pairs. These visitors were able to take away fond memories that will stay with them a long time.



Even when not at its best, Point Lobos is still magical!

The Poetry Corner

Point Lobos

by Jason Back

7th grade, Monte Vista Christian School

Though I shall dwell in the town of Aromas,
my heart shall always be in the ocean-touched- breeze of
Point Lobos.

Her ocean calms my soul, her forest relaxes my mind.
She is my sanctuary, my guardian from the hectic modern
world.

Her beauty is like a painting.
Her cypresses are like solemn ghosts.
Her salty wind is like a sailor's medicine when their soul
hurts the most.

Her land is as beautiful as the sound of an angel's voice.
Her land is as wonderful as the first winter fire.
The combination of both creates a great feeling inside the soul.
It makes you fall in love with her, a feeling that will never go.
Although sometimes I may be far from her, as soon as I remember her sweet breeze
I know I'll be okay, and she will never be too far away.



Weathered cypress by Chuck Bancroft

There are more colors of flowers throughout the Reserve than you can image.

Were you able to identify these blossoms from the front cover?

From left to right: Sun cups, California poppy, Davy's centaury, Yadon's Rein orchid, Blue dicks, Bush lupine, Sticky monkey flower, Johnny nip, Johnny jump-up



“I just wish I could put this place in my pocket and take it home with me.”

This visitor’s thought is something all of us have felt at one time or another when visiting Point Lobos. The Point Lobos Association, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, was formed to enhance the public’s awareness of the unique qualities of Point Lobos State Reserve. Our membership fees are reinvested in public education and service activities, such as developing and supporting docent training, publishing and distributing interpretive materials, conducting school and public nature walk programs, and maintaining interpretive centers like the Information station, the Whalers Cabin, and the Whaling Station Museum. All contributions are tax deductible. Membership benefits include:

- * Point Lobos Association Quarterly
- * 20 % discount on all items sold by the association
- * Voting privileges in the association
- * Participation in association meetings and special programs

Please join us. Return our application with your check or credit card information.

Membership Application: Return to PLA, Route 1, Box 62, Carmel, CA 93923

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ **State** _____ **Zip Code** _____

Telephone Number _____

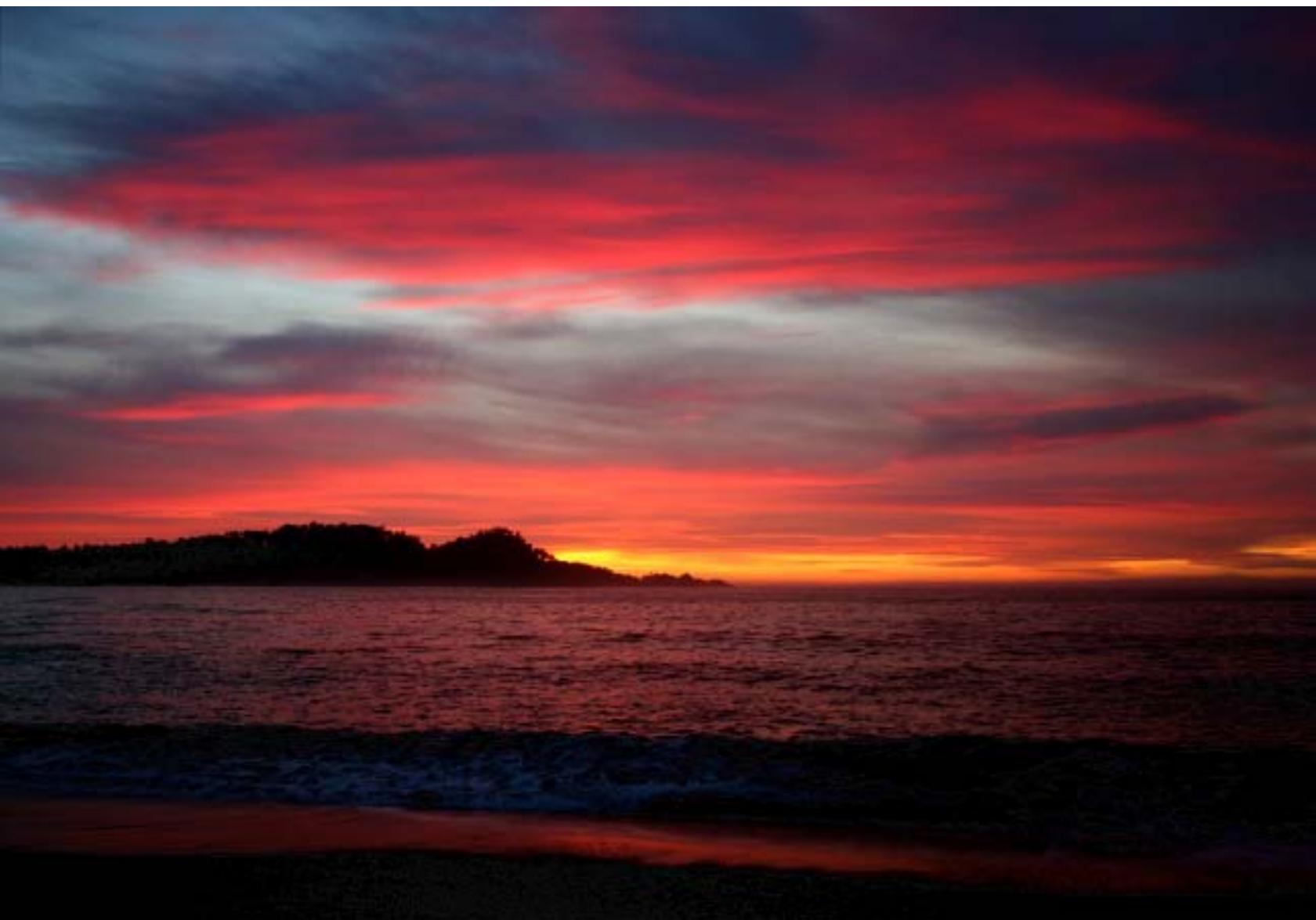
___ Individual	\$20.00	___ California Sea Lion	\$100.00
___ Family	\$30.00	___ Life Member	\$1000.00
___ Sea Otter	\$50.00	___ Donation	(\$ _____)

Payment Method: ___ Check ___ Visa ___ MasterCard ___ Am/Ex

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Please make checks payable to PLA. Many companies match employee contributions to nonprofit organizations. Check with your personnel office. If you have any questions about our Association..give us a call..our number is 831-624-1470.



Sunset over Point Lobos
by Werner Lu

*Cover images of Wildflowers
by Chuck Bancroft*

*Not only will you see lots of spring
wildflowers throughout the
Reserve, keep your eyes open for
the harbor seals and new pups,
Pacific gray whales heading north,
and hundreds and hundreds of
cormorants gathering at the
southern islands for the
nesting season.*

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