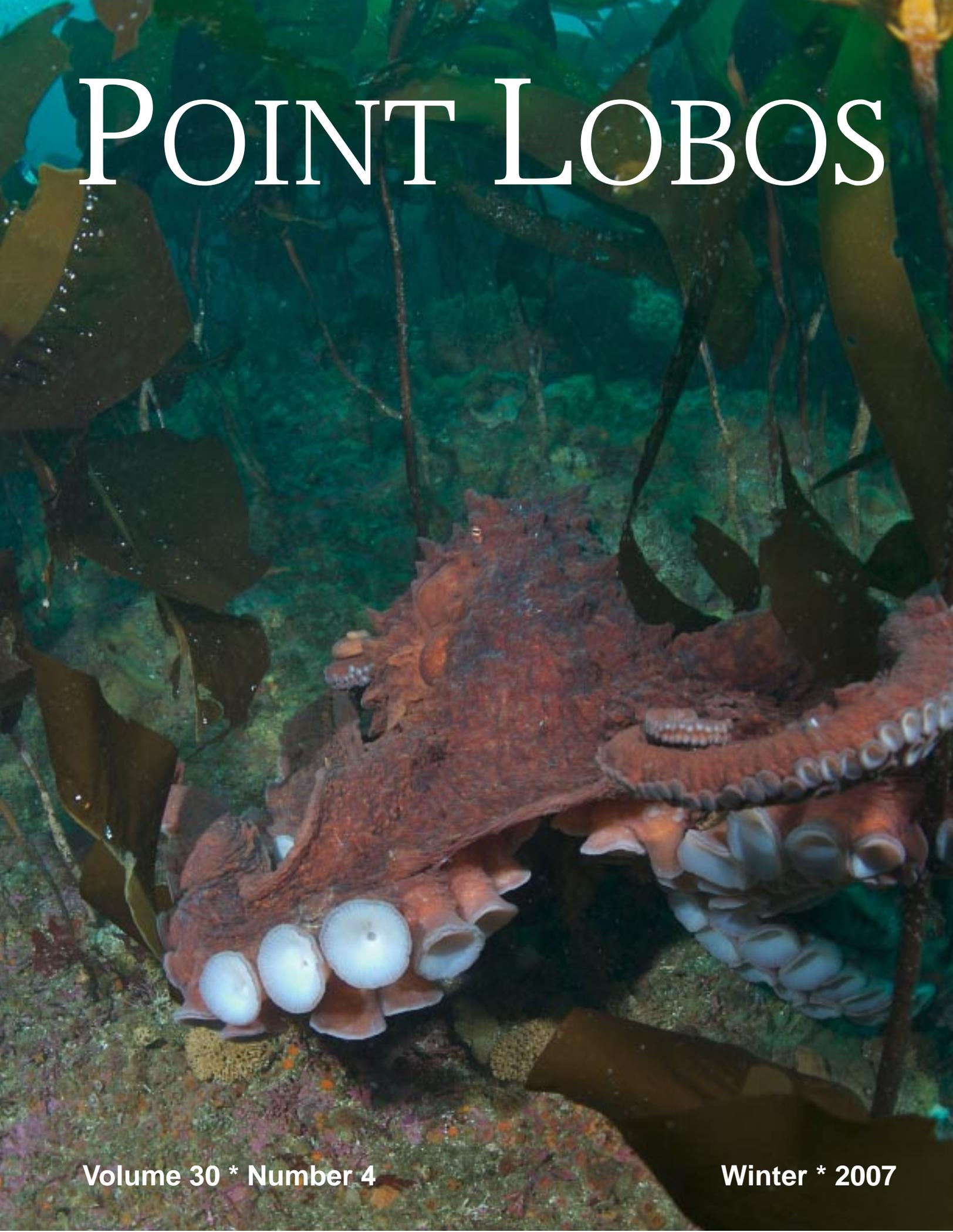


POINT LOBOS

An underwater photograph of a large, reddish-brown sea slug, likely a nudibranch, resting on a rocky seabed. The slug has prominent, white, circular structures on its back, which are likely its gills. The background is filled with green seaweed and other marine life, creating a vibrant underwater scene.

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Point Lobos Association

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The mission of the Point Lobos Association is to support interpretive and educational programs that enhance the visitor's experience, and to assist California State Parks in preserving Point Lobos State Reserve.

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Message from the President

Judd Perry



As we prepare for our 2008 Annual Membership Meeting (details on page 4), I would like to report to you on the state of our membership. This is a very important issue, because membership dues represent about 20 percent of the Association's annual revenue, which goes to support the Point Lobos Docent Program and to assist California State Parks in maintaining and improving the Reserve and its interpretive and educational resources. The Association currently has about 740 members. This is a 10 percent increase from a year ago, but we believe we can and should do better. As part of that effort, you will see that we have begun to include a Membership Application in each copy of POINT LOBOS. The magazine is provided free at the Reserve to visitors from all over the world, and it is our belief that, after enjoying the majesty of the Reserve and benefiting from the knowledge and dedication of our volunteer Docent group, many of the visitors will wish to aid us in the work we do by joining the Association, and in so doing, maintaining a continuing attachment to Point Lobos through the quarterly POINT LOBOS magazine that they will receive as members.

If you are currently a member, you may ask yourself why you are receiving a Membership Applica-

tion in your copy of POINT LOBOS. The answer is very simple. What better gift could you give for the holidays or the birthday of a loved one than a membership in the Point Lobos Association? Talk about a gift that goes on giving; this is it. Recipients will begin receiving their own quarterly issue of POINT LOBOS and will be kept informed of all of the great happenings at the Reserve year-in and year-out, while at the same time knowing that their membership contributes to the work of maintaining the Reserve.

And speaking of great happenings, I had the pleasure on Halloween Day of attending the dedication of the Whalers Cabin as a site listed on the National Register of Historic Places (details on page 7). This was the culmination of a long and dedicated effort by many people, but I want to single out one person for special recognition. Without the many years of effort by long-time Docent Kurt Loesch, the Whalers Cabin Museum would not exist today, and it was Kurt who spearheaded the effort to bring this recognition by the Federal government to it. Thanks Kurt! We all owe you a great debt of gratitude.

Among the speakers at the dedication was Gerry Low-Sabado, the great-granddaughter of Quock Mui (also known as "Spanish Mary" for her multi-

lingual abilities), who was the first child born in the Chinese village at Whalers Cove in the mid-nineteenth century. Ms. Low-Sabado will also be our special guest speaker at the Annual Membership Meeting, so please put the date (January 5, 2008) on your calendar and join us at the meeting.

Finally, I want to report that by the time this issue reaches you, the new Docent Office will be completed at the Reserve, replacing the old office which is now the home of our new California State Parks Sector Supervisor, Dana Jones, and her family. The new office will serve the Docent Program well for many years to come, and I want to publicly thank all who were involved in this very ambitious and important project.

Best wishes for the holidays from your Board of Directors.

Event News

PLA ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING: Saturday, January 5, 2008, 9:00 a.m., Asilomar Conference Center Chapel

The 2008 Annual Membership Meeting of the Point Lobos Association will be held on Saturday, January 5, 2008, in the Chapel at the Asilomar Conference Center, 800 Asilomar Blvd., Pacific Grove.

The Special Guest Speaker will be Gerry Low-Sabado, the great-granddaughter of Quock Mui (also known as “Spanish Mary”). Quock Mui was born at the Chinese village at Point Lobos of parents who sailed from China and were among the first settlers of Whalers Cove. Ms. Low-Sabado will show the CSUMB—produced movie “By Light of Lanterns: An Untold Story of Monterey’s Chinese Fishermen,” and will speak on the historical impact the early Chinese settlers had on society and their contributions and accomplishments.



The meeting will begin at 9:00 a.m. with a social period, with refreshments provided. The business meeting will begin at 9:30 a.m. and will include a report on the Association’s activities during the past year and the election of directors to the Association’s Board of Directors.

Moonlight Buffet and Walk September 12

About 70 members showed up after a rainy day to enjoy home-made chili, other good eats, and the rare chance to enjoy Point Lobos’ splendor under moonlight.

Under My Brim

Ranger Chuck Bancroft

Seventeen years ago Glen McGowan, Jerry Loomis, Jim Carpenter (now retired super rangers of Point Lobos), and myself started working with the third grade teachers at the Carmel River School. The teachers had applied for and received a grant to improve the social studies curriculum for their students so the kids could learn more about their community. Glen began a dialogue with the teachers about the varied programs the rangers at Point Lobos could provide.

The River School Program expanded three years ago to include work at the former "Odello" artichoke fields, now a part of Carmel River State Beach. During the El Niño rains of 1995

the state, decided to stop growing artichokes. The process to restore the area to a natural habitat then began.

Former Supervising Ranger Dave Dixon started working with the Carmel Middle school science teachers to encourage their students to get involved in the restoration project and involved in their own project, "The Hilton Bialek Biological Sciences Habitat." (See www.carmelhabitat.org)

We then met with Jay Marden, the principal at the River School, to set up a program for his students. The project, eventually involving 52 students, was such a success that in May 2005, then Secretary of the Interior Gale Norton, joined by actor and

national spokesman for *Take Pride in America*, Clint Eastwood, hosted a gathering at the River School and announced the Carmel River School as the first *Take Pride in America School*.

During the past three years we have worked with Carmel River School's fourth and fifth graders to continue the project. Students arrived at the restoration area on November 5th and 6th to plant native species and perform "competition elimination." They will come back in the spring to see the changes that took place over the winter months. They will see changes in the lagoon's water level, plant growth, and the influx of more bird species as the habitat improves. And they can take pride



and 1998 the fields were devastated by flood waters. The Odello family, who had leased the property from



in the work they have accomplished to help restore these old fields to an improved riparian community.

Observations

Sparky Starkweather, State Park Squirrel

Rutting season is upon us. Watch out for over-zealous male black-tailed mule deer! I was foraging for delectable pine cones and came across a large group of black-tailed mule deer grazing in the meadow. Several does were oblivious to the males around them. The young bucks, each with racks of two points to a side, were jousting. The does would occasionally look up to see the action. Several very large bucks with four points to a side were browsing and just watched the younger bucks at work.

The fall season is the time when the large bucks come out of the mountains to find the does in estrus. This reproductive cycle has evolved so that fawns are born in the spring, a time of year that

coincides with favorable weather and abundant food supply. Many does are in estrus and bucks will be on their trail, often traveling far afield in pursuit of them. Does are likely wandering beyond their most familiar home range as well. Bucks will step up their efforts to advertise their dominance with new rubs.

Though some does have already bred, others will be receptive during this time period and beyond. And then in the spring we'll keep our eyes and cameras ready for the appearance of the spotted fawns.



image by Nelson D. Jones, Jr.



Whalers Cabin Makes History

Carol Bloner

For over 150 years the small structure built by Chinese fishermen has stood on the edge of a protected cove within what is now known as Point Lobos State Reserve. On May 7, 2007, Whalers Cabin was added to the National Register of Historic Places in recognition of the Cabin's unique role in our area's past. A bronze plaque appropriately mounted on a rock of locally quarried granodiorite and placed along the Cabin entryway announces this prestigious event.

Whalers Cabin was officially dedicated on October 31, 2007 at a ceremony that included keynote speaker Gerry Sabato-Low, great granddaughter of Quock Mui, the first child born at the Chinese village, and representatives from all the agencies that helped attain the Historic listing. This listing would not have happened without the tireless efforts of Kurt Loesch, Whalers Cabin progenitor and ongoing guardian angel, spearheading the collaboration of several entities. The long process began in 2004

when Kurt joined forces with Nancy Runyon of AMAP, the Association of Monterey Preservationists. Together they completed the lengthy and complicated application to have the Cabin listed in the California Register of Historic Places. After three re-writes, innumerable photographs developed in solutions and printed on paper that would ensure perpetuity, letters of support that stacked three times as high as the bulky form itself, and backing from State Parks, the Point Lobos Association, and local political offices, on February 2, 2007, the Cabin was accepted into the California Register of Historic Places. Kurt and State Parks pressed on and gained National Historic status for Whalers Cabin. The Cabin is one of only 99 buildings among all California State Park holdings to be so honored, and it is thought to be the oldest surviving wooden Chinese-built structure in California.

The cabin housed many people and enterprises but not whalers, so its name is an entrenched misnomer. After the Chinese departed,

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Gennosuke Kodani, the Japanese marine biologist who partnered with A. M. Allan in the abalone business, occupied the Cabin with his family. Later, Pop Ernest Doelter used the Cabin for two years to prepare abalone for his and other local restaurants. When the State acquired the land in 1933, George Vaughan, a landscape architect who designed roads and paths at Point Lobos, was in residence for two years, and during WWII a military platoon called the Cabin home. Ranger Chuck Bancroft was the last occupant of Whalers Cabin, living there 1981 through 1983. Whalers Cabin opened as a cul-



tural museum in 1989.

In recognition of Kurt Loesch's dedication to preserving Whalers Cabin, AMAP has honored Kurt with its 2007 Preservationist of the Year award.

Point Lobos Underwater

Dida Kutz

A portion of what is now known as Point Lobos State Marine Reserve (SMR) was the nation's first fully protected marine area. It came about as a result of concerns the Point Lobos League had in 1959 about the dwindling numbers of organisms along the shores of Point Lobos. Prior to then, tidepoolers, scientists, and scuba divers had been harvesting specimens from the intertidal zone and deeper waters.

Francis Whittaker, then Point Lobos League president, announced in early May 1959, that he was working on a legislative bill along with Senator Fred Farr to create an underwater reserve off Point Lobos. Six months later, the State Park and Recreation Commission resolved to set aside this area as a buffer zone for the land portion of Point Lobos State

Reserve. On April 15, 1960, the Department of Parks and Recreation received title to 775 acres (1.21 sq. miles) of tidal and submerged lands adjacent to Point Lobos, giving protection to a significant portion of the underwater component of the area (some invertebrate species could be taken both recreationally and commercially). In 1973, the California Fish and Game Commission established an Ecological Reserve within the same boundaries, giving the marine area full protection (no-take).

In 2003, Point Lobos Ecological Reserve was renamed Point Lobos State Marine Reserve under the Marine Managed Areas Improvement Act, which established a simplified classification system for California's Marine Managed Areas.

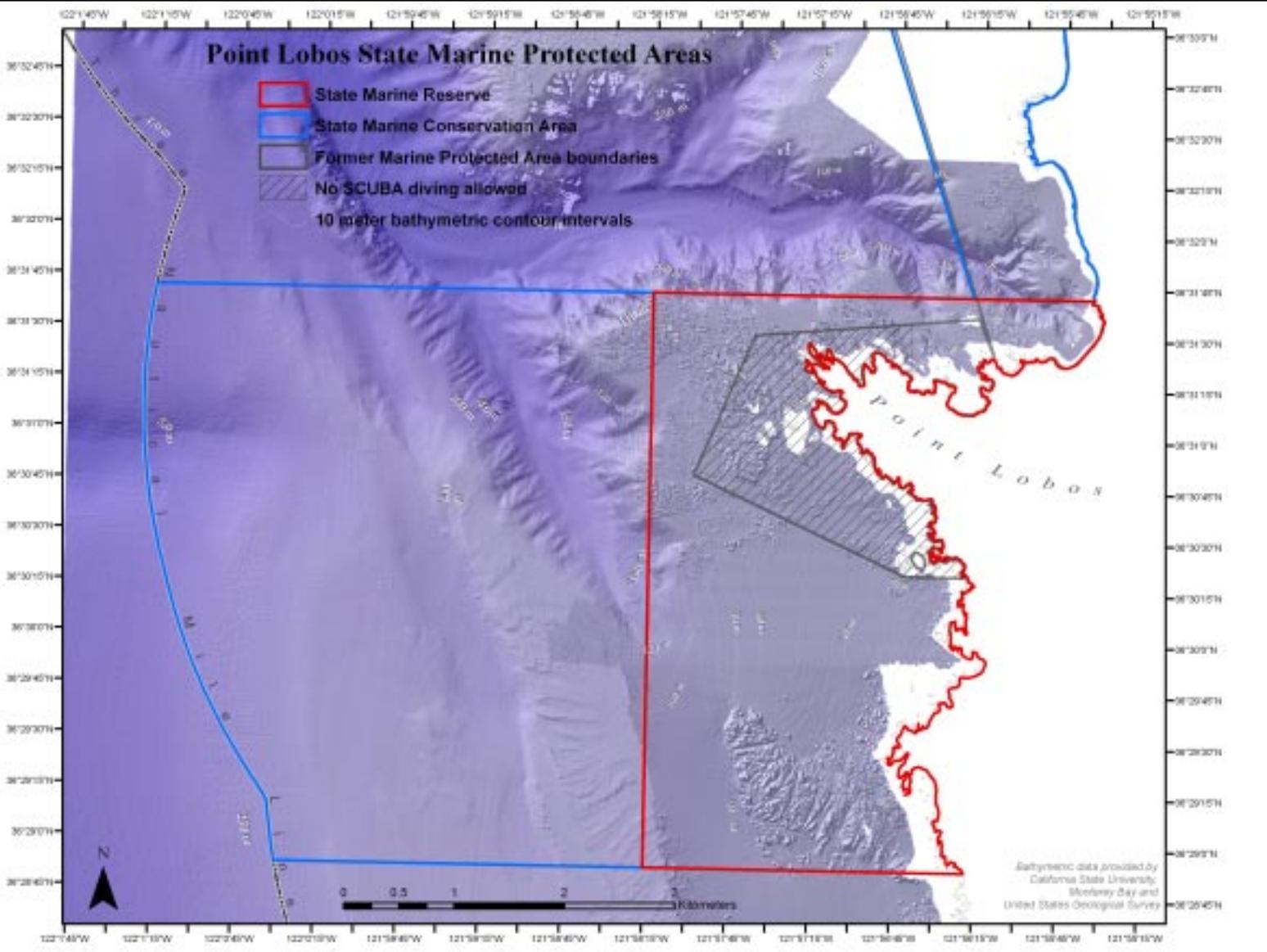
In September 2007, a new network component of 29 Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) was implemented by the Department of Fish and Game (DFG) along the central coast of California (Point Conception to Pigeon Point) as a result of the passage of the Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA) in 1999. This network component was established by the Fish and Game Commission in April 2007, and represents the first of five MLPA study regions identified by DFG along the coast of California, including the

San Francisco Bay estuarine complex. This, and the network component of MPAs established around the Santa Barbara Channel Islands in 2003 (not part of the MLPA process), are the first pieces of a statewide MPA network identified as a goal of the MLPA.

As a result of the MLPA process, Point Lobos SMR was expanded, and Point Lobos State Marine Conservation Area (SMCA) was created adjacent to it. The new SMR, at 2,349 acres (3.67 square miles) is triple the size of the previous SMR, and the new SMCA is 7,558 acres (11.81 square miles). The expanded SMR continues to be an entirely no-take zone, while the new SMCA allows some sustainable recreational and commercial harvest of living marine resources. The depth range of this new MPA complex is from shore to 1,858 ft.

The new MPA complex at Point Lobos boasts a rich species composition, and the area is actively studied. The Partnership for Interdisciplinary Studies (PISCO), an academic research diving program based at UC Santa Cruz, has been monitoring Point Lobos since 1999. DFG has been involved in a number of studies for decades. Reef Check California, a community-based research diving program, has been conducting its own set of surveys since 2006. Data gleaned from these efforts provides invaluable





information about species density and composition within a complex rocky reef ecosystem.

As a finger of the Carmel underwater canyon, Point Lobos is a delight to dive at any experience level, either on scuba or as a free diver. Underwater visibility can rival that of the tropics, sometimes reaching 100 feet in the outer reaches of the diving area, although it is usually in the 25-30 ft. range. Whalers Cove depths reach about 50 ft at the mouth of the cove.

Within the diving area (map available at entrance kiosk and

online at www.pointlobos.org), colorful life engulfs every square inch of available rocky substrate. While adjusting your field of gaze to take in the multitude of smaller life forms such as light bulb tunicates, orange cup corals, red volcano sponges, strawberry anemones, and Spanish shawls (a flamboyant sea slug), a playful harbor seal might sneak up from behind, tug your fins, or give you a pat on the head. Large mature rockfish are plentiful in this protected area. Rare hydrocorals can be seen in deeper and more exposed areas where they thrive in cold nutrient-rich water. Massive

stands of giant kelp (*Macrocystis pyrifera*) provide divers the heady feeling of flying through a forest. A lucky few I know have had the peak experience of seeing a gray whale underwater here. (Once, while in Whalers Cove, I gazed at a pretty sea slug, clueless in the five-ft. visibility, while my dive buddy peered into the eye of a juvenile gray whale about 30 ft. away from me.) After 14 years of diving Point Lobos, I have yet to be bored with the place.

Thanks to Dave Osorio, Paul Reilly, and the GIS department at DFG for their help with this article.

Devil's Cauldron

Steve Ligas



eroding the rock underlying the stairs.

The viewpoint facing the largest of the Sea Lion Rocks provides a sensory assault. Waves thud into the rocks below spewing salt spray on the visitors above. Offshore winds numb exposed hands quickly. Across the turbulent channel, nature plays her version of

Point Lobos State Reserve offers many great places from which to observe the fury of pounding waves assaulting rocky shores. Devil's Cauldron, a basin carved by churning waters in the soft sedimentary rock of the Carmelo formation, is a visitor favorite.

From the wheel chair accessible Sand Hill Point trail, one can observe waves racing across the cauldron often intersecting with each other. As they approach Sea Lion Rocks, the waves travel faster in the deeper water on either side of the granodiorite islands, formed

from rocks more resistant to the erosive power of the Pacific. This causes the oncoming waves to bend around the rocks such that a single wave will converge at right angles to itself.

For the more adventurous, a descent down to Sea Lion Point provides an opportunity to experience the natural forces more intimately. One staircase leading to the point is blocked off after some lower steps were washed away during a major storm a few years back. A near-continuous procession of waves swept from north to south across normally dry land

“king of the hill” as the tumultuous sea tries to dislodge sea lions from their rocky perches. The waters of Devil's Cauldron agitate continually.

Be careful during stormy conditions. Wet rocks and gusty winds make for tricky footing. Large sleeper waves can strike at any time. Never turn your back to the ocean.

Special thanks to Ed Clifton, our resident sedimentologist and past PLA president, for his explanations of the geology and wave mechanics on display at Devil's Cauldron.

A.M. Allan - PRESERVATIONIST : 1859-1930

Carol Bloner

A new exhibit in Whalers Cabin honors Alexander MacMillan Allan, the man who preserved Point Lobos. Allan was born in 1859 in Pittston, Pennsylvania. Through hard work and perseverance, he steered away from a life in the bowels of a Pittston coal mine to become an architect and builder, head of abalone and sardine fisheries, and president of a bank. Along the way he remained an active member of the Presbyterian Church, married twice, fathered four children, and preserved Point Lobos.

Despite working in a coal mine at age 10 and as a carpenter's apprentice at 14, Allan completed his education and earned a degree in engineering. His forte was building racetracks, and he built the first racetrack in California. In 1897 the Carmelo Land and Coal Company hired Allan to revamp

their Mal Paso coal mine and to sell and develop lots in the newly created town of Carmelito. One year later Allan bought Carmelito, the 649 acres that today comprise Point Lobos State Reserve.

Allan appreciated the unique beauty of Point Lobos and strove



to protect it. He erected a tollgate through which all visitors entered, limited travel routes for their carriages and cars, and prohibited fires. Point Lobos remains beautiful today because Allan looked after it well.

Still, Allan was a businessman. At various times he used land around Whalers Cove as a loading

dock for coal from his mine, quarries for gravel and granite, and sites for a vegetable farm, a dairy, and an abalone cannery. Outside Point Lobos, Allan ran a salvage operation on the many ships that wrecked along the coast; started the Monterey Canning Company, one of the first sardine canneries on Cannery Row; built the only respite site for female cannery workers and made it available to workers from all the canneries; and

led seven other prominent local men in opening the first bank in Monterey, becoming in 1928 its first president.

Allan died in 1930. He was lauded as a man who improved his community, helped those less fortunate than himself, and was always honorable, charitable, and hard working.



A Conversation with Jerry Loomis, Ex- Underwater Ranger

Doug VanOmmeran

I can almost guarantee that every scuba diver has thought about what it would be like to have had the life of Jacques Cousteau. Not, perhaps, for the fame and notoriety, but for the chance to spend your workday underwater exploring. Retired State Park Ranger Jerry Loomis was one such lucky person as he called the waters of Point Lobos Marine Reserve his office. “I was blessed,” recounted Jerry during our conversation. As one of twenty or so State Park Rangers and lifeguards who were also scuba divers, Jerry transferred to an open position at Point Lobos in 1980. Having performed similar duties at Lake Oroville State Recreation Area, a less lush man-made reservoir, Jerry jumped at the chance to work at Point Lobos. “Knowing it was a marine reserve was the real appeal. There are more fish and they’re a lot bigger.”

While the current diving boundaries were already in place when Jerry came to Point Lobos, his responsibilities called for more extensive diving. “Nobody had ever interpreted the underwater reserve before,” he noted, “and I became addicted to taking photographs underwater.” Armed with

his own underwater camera equipment, Jerry dove throughout the preserve documenting and photographing the extensive marine life. Over the course of more than one thousand dives, Jerry developed an extensive portfolio that was used in community educational programs and park literature. The kiosk at Whalers Cove, the only launching point for scuba divers in the reserve, still bears his handiwork in showing visitors what lies below. One unique aspect of Point Lobos, according to Jerry, is finding four different colors of hydrocoral -- pink, orange, blue, and purple. “I’ve never seen that anywhere else in California . . . it’s pretty amazing.”

While I envisioned this diver’s dream job, Jerry did remind me that he was still a park ranger and peace officer, too. Besides diving, Jerry had other duties such as responding to marine violations, as well as responding to emergencies on the water. There was also work alongside other agencies such as the CA Department of Fish & Game, assisting with tagging otters, and monitoring an underwater area to measure the effects of otter foraging on other marine plants and animals.

Jerry’s diving knowledge led to other contributions to the State Park system. “There were not many rangers who were scuba divers,” so Jerry’s expertise was called upon as a member of a committee that oversaw diving activity in the state parks and developed a program to train others in responding to marine incidents. But despite these above-water job responsibilities, I am still envious. “We were required to dive at least once a month, but I probably dove at least twice a week on average.” Jerry recounted one memorable dive when he and his buddy were surprised by the presence of a rather large creature approaching from the outer cove. “We were a little nervous at first, but once it was close enough to recognize as a grey whale we felt a little more comfortable. It came to within ten feet of us before turning and heading back out the cove.” I can only imagine the other scenery Jerry witnessed in areas off-limits to visiting divers. And, yes, I did ask him where to find the best dive in all of the Reserve, but he would only divulge its location if I agreed to keep it out of print. It’s still in my notes . . . so maybe someday.

Quotes from the Docent Log

edited by Stan Dryden

August 11: Joy Osborne

There were reports of a large marine mammal off of the Sea Lion Point Trail, with no definitive identification. A very large number, 3848, was marked on its side. Many observers offered an abundance of opinions about it: fur seal, Steller's sea lion, California sea lion, Guadalupe fur seal, and "I dunno" – the last undoubtedly being accurate. *(Some time later, the Marine Mammal Center identified this animal as an aging California sea lion. Its gray head was a stumper. Ed.)*

August 11: Carol Rychener

A descendant of a Portuguese whaler from the Azores visited Whalers Cabin today. He believes that his great-grandfather, Manuel Machado Medina from Pico Azores, might have whaled in the Monterey area.

August 12: Bev Williams

Perhaps I am not very observant, but I've never noticed large numbers of pelicans on the visible side of Pinnacle Rock before. There were approximately 100 there today, and more settled in as I watched, some on the other side of the rock. Perhaps a pelican political caucus to decide who will be King Pelican?

August 14: Dione Dawson

The otter count for August was 34 adults and 1 pup. It should be easy to direct visitors as to where to find otters (of course

they move every other minute), but our two groupings were the large one near Sea Lion Rocks (28) and five seen in Moss Cove. It was a glorious day with blue sky and blue waters, lots of great blue herons, and many harbor seals congregated on the rocks off of Cannery Point, not their usual haunt.

August 18: Louise Stuart

A visitor asked for information on spiders, but we had at the Information Station nothing that would help. She took me out to see a beautiful web on the Cypress Grove Trail. There, high in a tree, was one of the larger webs I have ever seen, with long threads three to four inches long attaching it to nearby shrubs.

August 21: Ruth Zirker

As I walked into the Whalers Cabin for my 11 a.m. duty, a black-footed ferret ran around the museum, along the south wall, and out the door. It might have come from one of the storage rooms. It was beautiful little animal, bright red-orange, long and slim, with a fur-covered tail as long as its body and a black mask over its eyes. I cannot explain its being there.

August 26: Rosemary Foster

There was a harbor seal hauled out on a rock on the north side of the Cypress Grove Trail. A young sea lion

was swimming around, then swam up to the seal. The seal bared its teeth, and I heard a hiss. A while later the sea lion climbed to the top of the next rock for its snooze.

August 30: Sharon Hoffman

A visitor to Whalers Cabin asked if there were a web cam on the roof. He said it would be great if there were one. Then people could go online and see what the weather was like before coming to Point Lobos.

August 31: Jacolyn Harmer

An ecstatic family reported seeing a bobcat mom and kit crossing the trail at they were going out the Cypress Grove Trail. Sorry I missed them. There were loads of turkey vultures soaring over Headland Cove, but no obvious dead bodies for them to lunch on.



brown pelicans photo courtesy Chuck Bancroft

September 2: Stan Dryden

Where have all the blue whales been this summer? A visitor to Whalers Cabin may have the answer. He lives in Southern California and loves to sail, and says that on some of his sails he has had to dodge several large pods of blues. Apparently the smorgasbord has been abundant in SoCal waters, and there has been no reason for the blues to make the extra effort to come up our way. Let's hope that the krill don't make a habit of this so that our magnificent guests will return next year.

September 4: Carol Bloner

I was picking up trash on trail watch today when a visitor stopped me. She was here yesterday and enjoyed herself so much that she returned for another visit. She thanked me for all that we volunteers do to make the Reserve enjoyable for visitors. So, Docents, give yourselves a well-earned pat on the back. And you visitors give yourselves a pat as well; there was very little trash to collect. Thanks for caring.

September 9: Larry Rychener

A visitor told me he had photographed a bobcat in the brush along the road near Whalers Cabin this afternoon.

September 11: Dione Dawson

A disappointing count for September resulted in 22 adults and 2 pups. The day was cloudy

with high overcast, but good visibility for counting except that there just wasn't much to count! The usual raft off of Sea Lion Point was not to be seen.

The North Shore was overflowing with *Macrosystis* (giant kelp) as was most of the Reserve. For a time we haven't had enough of it for the otters to wrap themselves in, and now we have too much! A few egrets and great blue herons were fishing on the kelp, but there seemed to be a shortage of harbor seals and wildlife in general.

September 20: Milt Jines

The bat (reported in the last issue) revisited Whalers Cabin today. It flew around inside and settled up in the rafters of the "movie/military" room. He and I didn't disturb each other. I thought he was quite interesting (and cute) -- I didn't ask him what he thought of me!

September 26: Jacolyn Harmer

Two women saw a bobcat catch lunch (or dinner). One described it as glaring at her from a distance, then moving in a bit closer toward a bush, and finally looking up at her with its mouth full of fur and tail. It wasn't able to talk much.

October 3: Sharon Hoffman

Busy day at Whalers Cabin. A visitor told me that we have an eggbutt snaffle on the wall (a bit for a horse). The ringbutt snaffle

was used earlier. It pinched the horse's mouth, and was replaced by the eggbutt. (*You can learn more than you probably want to know about these bits by looking up "snaffle" on Wikipedia. Ed.*)

The woman's husband worked for the Forest Service and was an expert on wildlife, especially owls. He helped identify a butterfly for another visitor.

Another visitor from Hawaii had been in the Korean War. His mother had sent him dried abalone as a supplement for C Rations. He said the cans of abalone were pink, not green like our display. However, I pointed to the label displayed on the wall, which is pink, and he recognized it as the one he remembered.

Fun day!

October 9: Dione Dawson

The otter count for October was dismal to say the least, with a grand total of 15 adults and 1 pup. We haven't had such a low count since 2003, and only one other in over eight years. Where do they all go? On the North Shore we had the pleasure of watching an otter devour an abalone right from the shell. He licked the shell completely to make sure he didn't miss anything -- it was quite wonderful to behold!

Moon jellies were observed off of Guillemot Island, herons and egrets were everywhere, and our

biggest treat was seeing many, many Risso's dolphins charge into Carmel Bay at a very fast pace. It would seem they were after schools of fish, but they changed direction several times and eventually went back out to sea. At the end of their visit they were followed by a group of sea lions -- it was easy to spot the more rounded head and lack of a dorsal fin on these creatures that had appeared out of the blue. It was exciting to see such activity of great splashing as the dolphins plowed through the water -- there were so many of them!

At the beginning of our morning count we saw a buck with lovely antlers race past us in the parking area toward Sea Lion Point trail. Within minutes a second buck came along looking exactly the same also heading in the same direction. We couldn't decide whether it was the same buck going around in circles, or another. Being rutting season, most anything can happen!

October 12: Jon Dungan

I opened the cabin and whaling museum at 1 this afternoon after a rainy morning. Few visitors appeared for the first hour, and then several people visited. The first was a photographer who was thrilled at the cloudy/rainy weather for the way it enhanced the colors of the trees, rocks and foliage. He left happy to have

some guidance for great opportunities. Next came a breathless couple who had just seen four dolphins in Whaler's Cove. They viewed them from Coal Chute Point. The pod circled the cove, and left along the south side. From the description I thought they might be Risso's dolphins due to the tall sharp dorsal fins. Lastly, a tour bus pulled up and disgorged a dozen people who excitedly explored the museum and asked a lot of questions about the people who lived and worked here. All in all an unusually rewarding day.

October 16: Ruth Zirker

A visitor to Whalers Cabin saw my Docent Newsletter on the desk and pointed to the picture of A. M. Allan holding a baby in the article by Carol Bloner. He said that it was his grandfather and the baby was his father, and that he was A. M. Allan III. He explained that he had lived with his family across Highway 1, up the hill above the stone house. He spoke with nostalgia about his former home and said that he walked over every bit of the Point Lobos property on both sides of the highway. He now lives in Australia. He was so pleased with the article about his grandfather that I gave it to him.

November 6: Dione Dawson The November otter count



was a big improvement over last month's, with a total of 39 adults and 2 pups. Perhaps the winter season is beginning with the shifting of more otters to the North Shore, as we had incredible luck in finding two rafts, a smaller one off of Cypress Cove and the larger one at the northern boundary. The otters were more strung out along the South Shore rather than the usual large rafts of summertime. As for observing nature, deer were all over the place, with three does right by the Information Station and more to be found in the field below Hudson House. And birds were very special: a peregrine falcon was seen on Bird Island, great blue herons were everywhere, a kestrel was hovering in its usual fluttering fashion, and the biggest treat was an osprey that zoomed back and forth so that we had many good views of him. It was rewarding to see such a variety of creatures and made up for the miserably cold, cold foggy day where the visibility was fortunately good, but so many "otter kelps" (bull kelp heads) to sift out!

Eradicating *Ehrharta erecta*

Mary K. Paul



Docent Wayne Cipperly standing in a field of *Ehrharta* grass.
Photo by Mary K. Paul

Eight Monterey Institute of International Studies (MIIS) students joined Point Lobos volunteers for an event on October 28 to tackle the field of *Ehrharta erecta* (an invasive grass from South Africa) in the Allan Memorial Grove. The students

accompanied long-time regular volunteers Carl Voss and Wayne Cipperly. They were led by Marina Resources Aides Mary K. Paul and Josh Williams.

The field of *Ehrharta erecta* encompasses about 15 acres in the Allan Memorial Grove area. It is a perennial grass that encroaches on wildland areas, and has the tendency to convert mixed chaparral and oak woodland habitats to grassland areas.

The students from MIIS came with Point Lobos Docent Dave Neidel, who is a professor at the school and a regular weed abatement volunteer. The group

came on the regularly scheduled event held every fourth Sunday of the month from 1 p.m. until 4 p.m. to restore areas in Point Lobos to their natural habitats.

Below: The MIIS Students with their professor Dave Neidel on the right.
Photo by Mary K. Paul



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