

# Nature Notes

By Patricia Clark-Gray



Today Ken and I had the pleasure of attending the Point Lobos Docent Program Anniversary celebration at Rancho Canada. The Point Lobos Foundation provided a sit-down breakfast to honor all 150 docent involved in the program and the current Volunteer Coordinator Melissa Gobell coordinated the event with the help of the docents.

and happiness. Each of the docents mentioned the longtime Rangers Glen McGowan, Jerry Loomis and Chuck Bancroft and you could tell that was another reason they volunteered. They enjoyed spending time with these high caliber people who willingly shared their knowledge of the park with each of the docents.

## Point Lobos Docent Program Turns 30 Years Old.

Each of the five docents received a Poppy Award from California State Parks and a beautiful framed photo taken by Ranger Chuck.

Station. The station contains animal pelts such as sea otters and educational books which help visitors learn about the natural history of the reserve. They can also learn about the amazing cultural history of the Whalers Cabin where their are displays about the early Chinese, Japanese abalone divers and the whaling industry. I hope if you know a Point Lobos Docent that you thank them and congratulate them on the 30 year Anniversary of the Docent Program.



## Mayor

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track so I am hoping to find interested partners to work with City Hall and Council to build a sports village in Marina for youth and adult leagues and be available for state-wide tournaments. We all know that good sports and academics go together and that sports can motivate kids to do well in school and their personal lives. There are wonderful youth and adult sports advocates in town that deserve a lot of thanks such as Mike Graham, Sam Hallback, Mike Mast, Tom Moore, Steve Aday and many others. Thank you all! At this weekend's priority session City Council heard public comment from Peter Andrews who wants to bring to Marina a 2500 seat sports arena as well as a sports academy with many new ball fields. We'll see where this goes but my hopes are high that it can work out. What a boost this would be for Marina! Happy February! Your Mayor, Bruce Carlos Delgado (call me anytime at 277-7690!)



After the breakfast, five docents who were in the first Docent Class were involved in a panel and they shared their early park experiences. I want to share a few of my favorite stories. Reid told us that he witnessed the birth of a sea otter on land and he told Ranger Jerry about it. Jerry told him that it was very rare to see this and

young blond women skinny dipping at Whaler's Cove and that when she went back to tell the Rangers, Ranger Chuck who was single at the time, eagerly volunteered to go investigate. Ranger Chuck is also celebrating his 30th year at Point Lobos so the story was very appropriate. As each of the five docent talked you could tell that volunteering at Point Lobos provided their lives with meaning

They all received the newly crafted 30 year pin which has a sea lion in the center and Point Lobos on the outside. I am sure that all the docents will aspire to get one of these treasured pins.

We are very fortunate on the peninsula to have docents willing to spend their time giving nature walks, conducting school walks, and working at the Information

## COMING SOON TO MARINA!



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## Re-education

Diane Ravitch lectures at CSUMB Feb. 23

The President's Speaker Series at CSU Monterey Bay resumes Feb. 23 when prominent education scholar Diane Ravitch visits campus. Her talk will start at 7 p.m. in the World Theater on Sixth Avenue.

Her topic: Will Education Reform Improve Our Schools? She will use her best-selling book, *The Death and Life of the Great American School System: How Testing and Choice are Undermining Education*, as the foundation for a discussion on the critical state of education reform in our nation.

Dr. Ravitch is research professor of education at New York University; a senior fellow at the Brookings Institution; and a senior fellow at the Hoover Institution at Stanford. From 1991 through 1993, she was assistant secretary of education in the administration of President

George H.W. Bush, where she led the federal effort to promote the creation of state and national academic standards.

A former proponent of the No Child Left Behind Act, Dr. Ravitch later became disillusioned by the test score-based philosophy and has become one of its most vocal critics. "We are judging students by these test scores. They are not telling us how much students are learning. They are telling us how much students have been prepped," Ravitch has said.

In the book, she critiques the punitive uses of accountability to fire teachers and close schools, as well as replacing public schools with charter schools and relying on superstar teachers.

"We should have a long-term plan in which we improve the quality of the teaching force, have higher educa-

tional expectations for those who come into teaching. We should begin to think about an improved profession, better assessments and insisting on this vision of education in which kids get a broad, rich and coherent curriculum, rather than basic skills only," she said in her latest book.

Dr. Ravitch shares a blog called *Bridging Differences* with Deborah Meier, hosted by Education Week. She also blogs for politico.com/arena and the Huffington Post. Her articles have appeared in many newspapers and magazines.

The lecture is free. Reservations are recommended and can be made online at [csumb.edu/speakers](http://csumb.edu/speakers). For more information, or to request disability accommodations, call (831) 582-4580. For driving directions and a campus map, visit [csumb.edu/map](http://csumb.edu/map).

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