

The Explorers Club

Northern California Chapter

June 2010

In color at our web site: <http://www.explorersnorca.org>

Note venues and dates with care.
San Francisco, CA
Our next meeting is at 6:30 on
July 1, a THURSDAY evening,
at the University Club.

San Francisco
July 1, 2010

The International Dendrology Society meets The Explorers Club Prof. Marcel Robischon FI08

More than 30 people from 10 different countries will gather in San Francisco on July 1st. They are dendrologists, people who enjoy and study trees and other woody plants.

The International Dendrology Society, or IDS, will start a grand 17-day tour with a joint meeting with the Northern California Chapter of The Explorer's Club.

"We're here for the opportunity to look at the marvelous range of flora in California" said John Palmer, a retired forestry professor and organizer of the tour.

Prof. Dr. Marcel Robischon, a forestry professor from Germany and a member of the IDS and TEC will present the program before the Explorers & Dendrologists.

The balance of the trip will be spent traveling throughout Northern California observing the native forests and arboreta. The tour

route has the group staying in San Francisco, Sonoma, Mendocino, Eureka, Crescent City, Mt. Shasta, Tahoe City, Bishop, and Yosemite.

"The highlights will be the coastal redwoods, the ancient bristlecone pines, and the giant sequoias, plus presenting 14 gift trees to our hosts along the way", Palmer continued.

The forestry professors at Humboldt State University and William McNamara, the director of Quarryhill Botanical Garden in Sonoma, will be instrumental in hosting the dendrologists.

The idea of a Society to bring together dendrologists from all around the world originated in Belgium in 1952. The group is based in England, but there are 1,500 members in over 50 different countries.

Both the Chairman of the IDS, Sir Richard Storey (from England) and the Vice

Chairman, The Vicomte Philippe de Spoelberch (from Belgium) will be on the Northern California tour.

The IDS organizes many tours each year all around the world. In 2009 they sponsored tours to: Malaysia, Morocco, Southwest Turkey, Gloucestershire, the Rhineland, the Swiss Canton Valais, Poland, New Zealand, and Bhutan. Along with the California tour in 2010 there will be tours to Southwest Ireland, Sikkim in the Himalayan Mountains, and the Kamchatka Peninsula, to name just a few.

The Northern California tour will be a highlight for many of the well traveled dendrologists. "I've been all around the world," concluded Palmer, "but California has the finest trees there are, yeah, **Tree-mendous California!**"



The IDS'ers on their last tour in California in 2000. They are in Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Park.



After a catered outside supper, the Left Bank/Rive Gauche Trio performed during their interactive lecture/concert in the Geology Lecture Hall at Stanford. Julianne Stafford (accordion), Alan Cooper (violin), Larry Schemel (guitar).

Music and Exploration in the Cold

Stanford University

The Explorers Club meeting at Stanford, on May 21, was, indeed, a special one. The theme was “*Music as a Vital Part of Exploration*”, and the presenters were the Left Bank / Rive Gauche trio (earth scientist/musicians Alan Cooper, Larry Schemel and Julianne Stafford—reachable at www.leftbanktrio.com.) The focus was on the exploration of Antarctica; the music was prepared by the trio for performance at the December 2009, 50th anniversary celebration of the Antarctic Treaty. An extra and welcome addition to the evening was the attendance of about 15 students, members of the organizing Stanford Student Branch of the chapter.

After an introduction by Dr. Cooper, the program consisted of an exploration-related musical accompaniment to a presentation of photos, maps and sketches tracing the exploration history of the Antarctic. It began with Captain Cook’s trips to the south seas, beginning in 1772, and comparisons of Tahitian music with that of Mozart; it extended through to the compositions of Soviet meteo-

rologist Oscar Krichak, written in Antarctica before he died there in 1960.

The songs were both melodic and contained words that described the hardships and the pleasures of exploration, and several explorers in the audience could be heard quietly singing along. It was interesting to see how the national anthems of the various countries were played during the “claiming” of the land visited by the early explorers for their own country, which makes the Antarctic treaty all the more significant. Shackleton, in 1917, reports that both *God Save the Queen* and the *Marseillaise* were played during a joint expedition with France.

Of special note were the following: *Antarctic Mariner Song* and *The Old Peacock*, 1843, by J.D. Dana, and the *Song Book* of Dana and Palmer, that was never published; songs promoting teamwork and National Unity such as *O, the Roast Beef of Old England* (1731); and songs that provided entertainment to provide “escape from the agonies of one’s hard isolated Antarctic life.” “Music

was the glue that bonded them, and kept their minds and spirits alive for yet another day.” Entertainment such as *Little Brown Jug* also provided “Mental Medicine” for explorers.

Music showed up in various ways in Antarctica. The rigors of life appeared in classical music such as *Solveig’s Song* from Grieg’s *Pyr Gynt* (1875) which captured the loneliness and longing of the explorer far from home. The efforts to provide music to the indigenous population were represented by the photos of Scots playing the bagpipes for the penguins. And, of course, the activity of expressing one’s beliefs and shared values involved music at Sunday services via hymns such as *Lead Kindly Light*, 1857, also memorializing explorers who did not come home.

Certain songs were quite specific. Shackleton’s team wrote *Our Home on Elephant Island* during the course of their four-and-a-half months while waiting to be rescued. The Japanese team wrote about the amazing recovery of their two dogs, *Song of Taro and Jiro*, after they had been left behind alone in the Antarctic for a year; it became very popular in Japan. Finally, the *Antarctic Waltz* was written by Oscar Krichak during two Soviet expeditions in 1958-60; as noted he did not return.

So, we were led from the past into the future, with a recap of expeditions to the tune of *Que Sera Sera*, with a picture of Admiral Byrd and the plane of the same name being first to land at the South Pole. The program ended with the message “Antarctic is the heart of it all”, with music as its universal language, shared by all of the countries that have explored the area and participated in the Antarctic Treaty.

The explorers came away from the evening humming and singing with high praise for an extraordinary evening just off the Quad. —Anders Jepsen FN03



Gracious Hospitality—Once again the home of Dede and Harry Hicks was opened to their fellow explorers on the weekend of May 8 & 9 which enhanced the field trip manifold. Not only is the home, filled with treasures from Harry’s long stays in Asia which are there for all to enjoy—each with a new story— but our hosts treated us to a scrumptious repast. The welcome home overlooks Garrapata ravine and the photogenic highway bridge of the same name, second only to Bixby, just down the road. This creek and beach was a favorite of Carmel’s famous photographer Edward Weston, whose family home is just across the highway. A warm gregarious spot to while away a stay between adventures. Thank you Harry & Dede!



NorCA Chapter Contributors

Susan Anderson
 Guitty Azarpay
 Mort Beebe
 Barbara Berg
 Don Bessey
 Marion Blumberg
 Barry Boothe
 Joan Boothe
 Eugene Boudreau
 Cheryl Ione Brown
 Jay Cassell
 H. Keith Chase
 Nonna Cheatham
 Norden "Dan" Cheatham
 A. Roy Cleghorn
 Nicholas Clinch
 Graham Creasey
 Wendy Crowder
 Don Dana
 Mike Diggles
 David Dolan
 Susan Dutcher
 Palmer Dyal
 Gerry Elkus
 Sue Estey
 Lesley Ewing
 Art Ford
 Anna Freitas
 Paul Freitas
 Charles Geraci
 Tom Hall
 William Heydorn
 Don Heyneman
 Louise Heyneman
 Laura Lee Holmes
 Judd Howell
 James Hurson
 Yvonne Hurson
 Alan Hutchison
 Ann Hutchison
 Bill Isherwood
 John Jackson
 Kaye Jackson
 Krist Jake
 Anders Jepsen
 Kathy Jepsen
 Jean Kenyon
 Margot Komarmy
 Bill Kruse
 Dida (Candida) Kutz
 Keith Kvenvolden
 Lee Langan
 Leo LeBon
 Dan Leibowitz
 Elgen Long
 Scot Macbeth
 Milton Matter
 George & Karen McCown
 Brian McPhail
 Charles Merdinger
 Elizabeth Murphy
 Nancy Nenow
 Lisa Marie Newman
 Alan Nichols
 Max Nichols
 Diana Pickworth
 Jim Prigoff
 Elsa Roscoe
 Colonel John Roush
 Becky (Nichols) Rygh
 Charlotte Rygh
 Rick Saber
 Bob Schmieder
 Sara Shoemaker
 Richard Sideman
 Hank Skade
 Mark A. Smith
 Stephen Smith
 Eric Stackpole
 Zach Stewart
 Alan Wayne Tamarelli
 Jennifer Tuck
 Joel Tuttle
 Edward Von der Porten
 Don Walsh
 James Weil

The Corner Chair—As many know our fearless Chair is on a Flag Expedition with his grandson Max—in Mongolia. Here is a portion of his emailed report just after arrival in Ulan Bator:

Our cancelled train tickets forced us to fly MAIT (Mongolia Air). Clean, smiling stewardesses, even an edible chicken and mayonnaise salad, and a good landing at Mongolia's "International Airport" (reminds me of our Pocatello, Idaho airport in the 1930's) with one gate, three rooms and no visa required.

Mongolia Hospitality—Talk about hospitality: A friendly, middle-aged Mongolian offers us a ride 20 miles to Ulaanbataar. As we're loading our bags in his Land Cruiser, he says it will cost 40,000 togrog (about \$35). It's thanks but no thanks. We pay 20,000 for a cab ride to the "newest luxury" hotel, The Evergreen Hotel, across from the train station, elevatorless (we're on the 4th floor), viewless, soapless, internetless, serviceless, deteriorating fast but with a free breakfast—stale bread, jam, tea and a brown omelet.

Two weeks before we leave, chatting with a cab driver in San Francisco, we find out he is a Mongolian lawyer from Ulaanbataar. That leads us to meeting his friend here on our first day, a ride in a Mercedes SUV, a dinner in his friend's restaurant, on us (\$100) with true Los Angeles decor and food—maroon fake-leather booths, dark wood, short-skirt waitresses, a huge pizza oven (purchased in Santa Rosa, CA) followed by a visit to a *ger* resort, an invitation to go hunting (cost not revealed), a warning that we will be robbed camping out if we don't go armed (a rifle offered for \$1000) and advice that an old man (me) will be rattled to death on the Mongolian dirt roads in our Russian Purgon (\$80 a day with driver)... but the last problem can be solved with a Toyota Land Cruiser driven by his brother-in-law (\$160 a day).

Andrews Still Lives—In two days, we meet our driver, Ogy, visit the National History Museum with a room full of *Andrewski proceratops* dinosaurs (discovered by Roy Chapman), and Meg, a friend of our driver (she's in *Lonely Planet*) introduces us to a paleontologist of 25 years who was on Novacek's first expedition (American Museum of Natural History). We meet and have lunch with Lama Chuluumkhan at Gandgen Monastery (the headquarters of Tibetan Buddhism in Mongolia, Mongolia's dominant religion and the home of a more than 50 foot high golden statue of a standing Buddha). Our lunch, at a Chinese fast food joint, reveals he came from a nomad family in a village a thousand miles west of UB and is now on R&R from his job building a temple in India.

Ulaanbataarians—The people here (seemingly mostly young), dress, eat and listen to the same music as San Franciscans. We even see Ozomatli, a ska band from LA, perform in the main square (free). They don't live in gers, herd sheep, ride horses or move with the grass seasons. Half the population of Mongolia (one million people) live in this town - small, smoggy, traffic-jammed, dirty, poor, almost treeless, crumbling, bustling with new construction and pick-pockets, at least 50 westernized restaurants and a few big "luxury" hotels.

Like Chinggis Khan (who never entered a building in his entire life), we seek the open spaces and blue skies of the *countryside*, as they refer to anything not Ulaanbataar. As Chinggis said:

*"I am a child of the sky
 So there is no reason why
 I should ever try
 to live like a mole inside"*

—Max & Alan Nichols FN84



NorCA Explorers in Monterey—The Explorers took a trip to the Monterey Peninsula on May 8 & 9. We met at Point Lobos State Reserve on Saturday morning where we gathered around our guide, Ed Clifton, a semi-retired USGS geologist and a docent at Pt. Lobos. He showed us maps of the general rock types in the reserve and talked about what we would see. The now uplifted area was once thousands of feet underwater. As we walked toward Whaler's Cove, through the pine woods, the view of the cove was spectacular—glassy calm water, harbor seals on the rocks, a great blue heron perched on a snag. Ed pointed out smooth sandstone and rough conglomerate that look like concrete had been poured. Indian paintbrush bloomed orange among the poison oak. Later, we walked over to Weston Beach, past a swarm of bees in the woods. The tilted slabs of sandstone showed ripples from the prehistoric sea floor.

Too soon, it was time to leave for and Harry and Dede Hicks' place by Garapata Bridge toward Big Sur. Dede was making garlic bread, and it smelled heavenly to my hungry nose. She served a huge pot of cioppino, full to the brim, with salad. Outside in the cool breeze, an array of wine, old rum, margaritas and plenty of non-alcoholic drinks, plus chips and salsa and one lone little dish of sushi, reflecting the Asian treasures in their home.

Scott Macbeth brought a bottle of Islay scotch that he received for his 80th birthday. It had been 16 years old when it went along on his 1981 Everest expedition in 1981—so by now is it 45 years old? Jim Morrissay, who accompanied Scott on that east Kangshung Face attempt, gave him this last remaining bottle. We were told it must be poured by a friend—fortunately, that was no problem in this group. Now it too is history..



After lunch, many of us, led by Peter Hemming giving photographic advice, headed down the long stairs to the canyon floor, along the creek to the little beach. The ocean showed off incredibly blue and aquamarine colors before it broke on the sand and crashed into the rocks. We all learned a few picture hints and were reminded of some basics that we sometimes forget. When we returned, we enjoyed Rick Saber's famed homemade rum cake. Many participants had dinner together at Tarpy's roadhouse, on the road to Salinas.

On Sunday, some were headed to the Monterey Aquarium, while Tom and I joined Deda Kutz, Barbara Berg and Peter Hemming at the entrance to Pt. Lobos where we joined Phil Sammett, an expert diver and dive-boat captain. He brought his boat on a trailer and took us diving. The sea was still quite calm, and the sun was playing hide and seek with the clouds. We made two dives, and he brought us back to shore in between, for a lunch break. I found, when I reviewed my Dive Log, it was Tom and my first dive there since August 2006. The water was COLD—my dive computer recorded 48 degrees on our second dive; the first was 50 degrees. Visibility was very good for Monterey, perhaps 50 feet or so, though I heard someone claim 80 feet. We enjoyed the fish and the colorful and prolific anemones, snails, cowries, nudibranchs. Phil was very helpful with our gear and showed the ladder he had recently welded to help divers get back into the boat. It was a very gentle re-introduction to northern California diving.

Another enjoyable field trip! —Sue J. Estey FN92



Barb Berg MN08 diving off Point Lobos

June 2010



Chair: Alan Nichols
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Webmaster: Mike Diggles
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Dendrology Society
1 July — University Club

Northern California
Calendar of Events

(Venues will be identified as soon as known.)

Our Next Event

July 1 . Joint Meeting with Dendrology Society
Marcel RobischonUniversity Club

Future Events

- September 17 . . . Lucy and Our African Origins
Don Johanson.University Club
October 29. Expeditions and the Media
Josh BernsteinUniversity Club
November 19. planning
December 5 Alan & Becky Nichols
Chair's Member Reception Nichols home, Tiburon
January Expedition Tales
member storiesUniversity Club
Earlier Events (2009-10)
September 25 Jim Sano
Retracing Shakleton, GGYC
October 30 Diana Pickworth
Yemen Archaeology, GGYC
November 20, Nathaniel J Dominy
Tsavo Lions of yore, Dana home, Tiburon
December 5 Fofo Gonzales
Cave Field Expedition
December 12, Alan & Becky Nichols
Chair's Member Reception Nichols home, Tiburon
January 29, 2010.several
Story NightUniversity Club
February 26Reginald Barrett
The Elusive Fisher.University Club
March 26Bob Richards
Odyssey MoonUniversity Club
April 30Seth Shostak
Are We Alone in Space?University Club
May 8-9 Seashore Field Trip/lunch
Point Lobos, Monterey Peninsula, Hick's home
May 21 Left Bank/Rive Gauche
Music of the Antarctic Expeditions Stanford
June 5 Angel Island Picnic

USE PAYPAL!

July 1: University Club, San Francisco

Date Thursday, July 1, 2010
Place: University Club
Powell & California, San Francisco
Time: 6:30 - reception
7:15 - dinner
8:00 - talk
Cost: \$49 in advance; \$60 on the 1st
Students: \$33. (Dues still \$25!)
Please mail information to Dr. Sue Estey,
216 Carmel Avenue, El Cerrito, CA 94530
or email sestey@earthlink.net
or call (510) 526-2216

Reserve ___ spaces for
July 1, 2010
Dendrology Society
Joint Meeting
Cost: is \$49 (for members and sirdars)
\$33 for card-carrying students

Name: _____
Address (if changed): _____
Companion: _____

Please reserve by June 28!

We have established a PayPal account.

For those of you who have these accounts, you can sign up and remit dinner costs to the
NorCA Chapter by transferring money to:

explorersnorca@gmail.com

There is also a PAYPAL BUTTON on our website (www.explorersnorca.org): easy to use!



University Club,
Atop Nob Hill
where the cable
cars cross

Send address changes and
corrections by email to Steve at
nauticos@oceaneearth.org

The University Club has Valet Parking for \$20; the Brocklebank Garage on Sacramento is only \$10!
Other nearby garages are expensive. Some street parking. Muni (cable cars OR Sacramento #1) is very
near; BART & CalTrans connections are easy. Car pool! The University Club is wheel-chair accessible.