

## UNDERSTANDING THE LIFE OF POINT LOMA

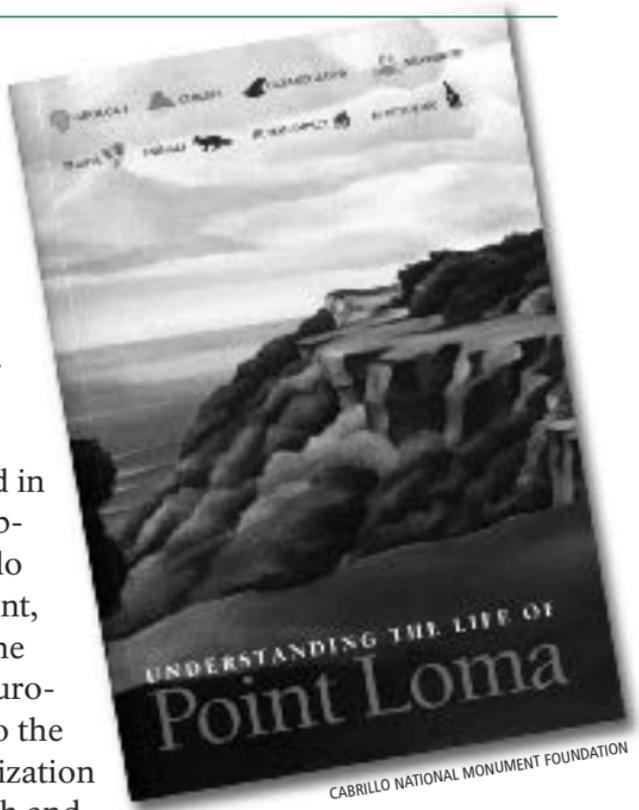
### The Point

Loma peninsula has 75 million years of history leading up to Juan Rodriquez Cabrillo's landing at San Diego Bay in 1542. The explorer's accomplishments were memorialized in 1913 with the establishment of Cabrillo National Monument, California. Since the time of this first European expedition to the West Coast, colonization followed by growth and development have altered the landscape. The native coastal sage scrub, rocky coastline, tide pools, and kelp forests of the monument are remnant habitats for myriad terrestrial and marine plants and animals.

In order to educate people about Point Loma, the Cabrillo National Monument Foundation published *Understanding the Life of Point Loma*. It is the first book written specifically about the natural resources of Point Loma. The seven-chapter publication provides information about Point Loma's geologic history, climate and oceanography, nearshore environment, plant communities, animals, and history of human impacts. The final chapter, "Taking the Vital Signs: Monitoring and Management," details ongoing NPS and collaborator efforts to preserve the natural systems of the peninsula. Authors of the book include geology professors from San Diego State University, a California state government oceanographer, biologists of the U.S. Geological Survey and Scripps Institution of Oceanography, and present and past park staff.

Readers of this book will gain insights into the workings of the plant and animal communities on an interesting island-like peninsula within California's second-largest city. The 184-page book is available for \$16.95 from the Cabrillo National Monument bookstore or by calling 619-222-4747.

Additionally in fall 2005, park staff will provide an opportunity for visitors to view a portion of the monument that they do not normally get to see when they visit: the intertidal zone. A new 22-minute film about the tide pools highlights underwater creatures and microscopic



inhabitants of this biologically diverse coastal environment. The film addresses the causes of tides and intertidal zonation; it introduces viewers to the nearshore environment in the Point Loma kelp forest and the relationship between the kelp forest and the intertidal zone. The movie also discusses human impacts and NPS efforts to study, understand, protect, and educate visitors about the intertidal zone. After the movie premier, park staff plans to have it available to local schools and for sale through the Cabrillo National Monument Foundation. Local PBS and cable outlets may also provide access.

## **Reference**

Houk, R., editor. 2004. Understanding the life of Point Loma. Cabrillo National Monument Foundation, San Diego, California.