

## 2007 YEAR IN REVIEW

# A Special Place...20 Years Later



*It has now been twenty years since the Land Conservancy was formed “to create natural open space where visitors may enjoy peaceful solitude, where children and adults can learn about the natural environment, and where locally native plants and animals will exist in a secure environment.”*

*As we enter our third decade serving the community, the Conservancy is committed to taking excellent care of the open space that we have preserved together. We appreciate the many ways that you volunteer and support the Conservancy and we look forward to working together with you to keep the Peninsula a special place.*



*During their annual Month of Service, Alcoa employees planted at White Point Nature Preserve.*

### INSIDE

President's Message. . . . . p. 2  
Tribute to Barbara Dye. . . p. 3  
2007 Highlights . . . . . p. 4 & 5  
2007 Financial Summary . . p. 6

## A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

# PUBLIC USE OF THE PORTUGUESE BEND NATURE PRESERVE

Recreational use of the Portuguese Bend Nature Preserve by mountain bicyclists is a hotly debated topic. We want to clarify the PVPLC's position.

### 1. The primary purpose of the PVPLC is the conservation of open space and restoration of native habitat.

Conservation and restoration are the guiding principles for our organization.

- PVPLC Vision Statement: *"Our vision is the creation and management of large blocks of natural open space where visitors may enjoy peaceful solitude, where children and adults can learn about the natural environment, and where locally native plants and animals will exist in a secure environment."*
- PVPLC Mission Statement: *"Preserving land and restoring habitat for the education and enjoyment of all."*
- Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB), which provided \$10 million in funding for the Portuguese Bend Nature Preserve states in the grant deed that the purpose of the acquisition is to preserve open space and natural views, and to protect, restore and maintain natural vegetation and wildlife habitat *"so that sensitive, endangered and threatened plant and animal species will be able to thrive."*
- The purpose of the City of RPV's Natural Communities Conservation Plan (NCCP) is also to protect and perpetuate natural wildlife diversity in the region through management and conservation of multiple species.

### 2. The Rancho Palos Verdes City Council is responsible for making the decisions on the public use of the Preserve.

The City will base its decisions on the recommendations of a Public Use Master Plan (PUMP) Committee, chaired by a member of the City Planning Department. The PUMP Committee consists of 15 residents of the City. It is currently gathering public input, and will present its recommendations in February, 2008 to the RPV City Council.

The Council will present the recommendations at public workshops (the first one is scheduled for February 23, 2008) and obtain public comment before voting on final approval. Thereafter, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife must also approve the PUMP. No date has been set as yet for this approval.



### 3. The Conservancy is committed to keeping the land open to the public, but it must be used in ways that are consistent with our preservation objectives.

In November 2007, after finding that mountain bikes had caused visible destruction to certain habitat areas, the Board of Directors recommended the RPV City Council implement a temporary restriction of bicyclists on specific trails. The City Council then elected to temporarily restrict an even larger area until the PUMP Committee recommendations are approved and adopted.

### 4. The Land Conservancy will manage the Preserve and work with the City of RPV to implement its public use decisions.

The Land Conservancy is prepared to implement those policies the city chooses to adopt after completion of the public review process. We trust that an appropriate balance will be found that ensures habitat preservation while determining the appropriate level of public use. At the Forrester Preserve a trail use plan has been implemented that has been accepted by hikers, equestrians and bicyclists and is working with minimal on-going management concerns. We look forward to reaching a satisfactory conclusion for the Preserve.

A recent letter in the Peninsula News articulated a hopeful outlook for the Preserve: "Recreational uses within this preserve must be directed in a manner based on science, not emotion, and must protect the fragile native flora and fauna; not destroy it." The Preserve has miles of trails with magnificent ocean views and native wildlife for the education and enjoyment of all, young and old.

Henry Jurgens  
President

## MORE ABOUT PUMP MEETINGS

PUMP Committee meetings are open to the public. For a schedule of all meetings and the process for submitting comments, go to [www.palosverdes.com/rpv/planning/planning-zoning/](http://www.palosverdes.com/rpv/planning/planning-zoning/) and click on the link to Public Use Master Plan (PUMP) or call Ara Mihanian at (310) 544-5228.

## BARBARA DYE: A SPECIAL PERSON

Barbara Dye, our Executive Director for the past five years, resigned in November. Barbara ran the day-to-day operations of the organization.

When she assumed this role in 2002, Barbara was charged with continuing and formalizing some of the initiatives begun by her predecessor, and she did this and much more. Some of her major accomplishments include:



- Institutionalizing the budget and book-keeping overhaul;
- Expanding our funding from grants and foundations for habitat restoration and educational programs and staffing the organization with key employees to meet new and expanding responsibilities;
- Developing solid relationships with local, state and federal officials (and those relationships became critical as we completed the Portuguese Bend land acquisition);
- Representation of the Conservancy during the development of the innovative NCCP for RPV open space—a plan critical for securing funding for land acquisition.

But perhaps the major accomplishment of the organization under her tenure was the successful fundraising effort that led to the acquisition of 460 acres and creation of the 1200-acre Portuguese Bend Nature Preserve. In addition to her work to secure funding from government entities and the Annenberg Foundation, Barbara was prominent as a speaker and advocate during the outreach and fundraising efforts in the community.

Barbara knew the PVPLC well when she assumed the role of Executive Director. She had been a very active volunteer with the organization for many years, first joining our Board in 1989. She was a walk leader, started our 3rd grade education program, chaired our photo contest, and never failed to take on a tough task as the organization grew.

Barbara was our fourth Executive Director in the past ten years, and each has continued our evolution as a strong, community-based nonprofit focused on open space preservation and management.

Andrea Vona is now our Acting Executive Director. Like Barbara, Andrea joined our staff in 2002 and has great experience running critical projects, including the highly visible and very successful restoration effort at the White Point Nature Preserve. Andrea and candidates who will be identified from a nationwide search, will be considered for the permanent position. We have every expectation that our next Executive Director will continue our tradition of excellence.

Barbara and I have been great friends for nearly 20 years, and I know that she has a sincere love for open space and is dedicated to its preservation in our community. I've enjoyed her enthusiasm and am awed by her energy. I'll miss working with her, but I'm confident she will excel at whatever she chooses in the future.

Bill Ailor

Founder and President Emeritus

# Highlights of 2007



1

1. As one of her first efforts to expand youth programs, the Land Conservancy's first Director of Education Programs Kristina Darbari launched a new partnership with the LA Conservation Corp, designing an after-school wilderness experience program for middle school students from underserved South Bay communities. The program began at the George F Canyon Preserve.



2



3



5

## CONNECTING PEOPLE TO THE LAND

2. Wood Elementary School in Torrance joined the Conservancy's 3rd Grade Elementary Program, which served a total of 19 schools in 2007. Every school that joined over the past 10 years has continued with the program!

3. The White Point Nature Preserve was transformed in 2007 with new user-friendly features including engraved stone interpretive panels along the trails, picnic tables, benches, and trash receptacles. A new environmentally-friendly parking area opened just in time to accommodate the crowd for the annual *Bark & Boo Halloween Party*.

4. A grant from the Ibrahim El-Hefni Technical Training Foundation will fund interpretive design plans for a new nature center at White Point coming in 2008. The nature center will be housed in the former military Assembly Building which is being renovated for its new use.

5. Through a Girl Scout Gold Award project, two versions of self-guided nature walk brochures were produced for young people and adults with education information about the natural environment and history of the White Point Nature Preserve.

6. Legacy Circle donors were treated to a unique "Explore Your Legacy" tour of the Portuguese Bend Nature Preserve to learn more about the land they're helping to maintain.

7. Special events such as the Art Sale, Spring for White Point Home Tour, Bark & Boo Halloween Party, and Fun Days at George F Canyon attracted many friends and new faces to the Land Conservancy and Peninsula Preserves.



6



## PARTNERING IN CONSERVATION

**1.** PVPLC has been working with the nonprofit Urban Wildlands Group who run a captive breeding program for the Palos Verdes blue butterfly led by Biologist Jana Johnson. Based on the success of the

breeding program and PVPLC's habitat restoration work, the US Fish & Wildlife Service has approved a release of the butterfly at the Chandler Preserve in spring of 2008.

**2.** REI sponsored several volunteer workdays in 2007 and also provided a \$5000 grant for tools, equipment, and volunteer training. With their help, work to rebuild the trail that enters Alta Mira Canyon was completed just before the rainy season began.

**3.** More than 30 professors, professionals, and community experts have joined a Science Advisory Panel to support RECIPE students in their research.

**4.** More than 17,000 native plants were installed throughout the White Point Nature Preserve thanks to the joint efforts of restoration staff and volunteers from Alcoa, American Honda, the Japan Business Association, the Mayor's Day of Service, Peninsula High and the Red Cross group from CSULA.

**5.** The KEEPERS and Team Leader volunteer programs were initiated in 2007. To date, 14 KEEPERS and 20 Team Leaders are trained and now helping to monitor the preserves, assist with volunteer days and teach the public how to be good stewards of the land.



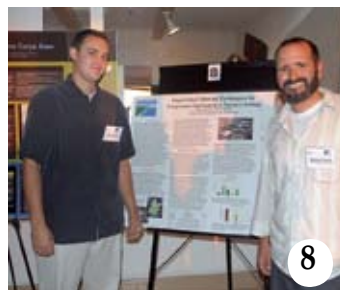
**6.** Eagle Scout Jeff Stiles and the PVPLC initiated an owl box project in an effort to control rodents on the preserves. In a joint effort with the South Bay Wildlife Rehab group, several young rescued barn owls were recently released at both the Chandler and George F Canyon Preserves where the boxes had been installed.

**7.** Many thanks to the growing number of school groups, scouts, corporate and nonprofit organizations and business associations who donated more than 4000 volunteer hours on the preserves to make a difference in their community.



## BRIDGING SCIENCE & PRACTICE

**8.** Summer Intern Ryan Falconer and Director of Restoration Programs Mike Yadrick received the President's Award at the 14th Annual SERCAL Conference (CA Society for Ecological Restoration) for their presentation of Ryan's experiments in growing ashy-leaved buckwheat. Results will help the Conservancy grow more of these plants for future restoration work.



**9.** Vegetation surveys and management plans developed by a restoration ecologist helped to guide the installation of over 15,000 native plants at the Linden H. Chandler and George F Canyon Preserves, covering almost 18 acres.



**10.** RECIPE (Research Education and Community Involvement Program for the Environment) has grown in 2007, engaging over 30 high school students, 9 college students, 8 universities, and 5 graduate students in the program. Their research provides both learning opportunities for students and scientists, and long-term value for PVPLC to better understand the local natural environment.

**11.** Graduate students initiated several long-term studies, exploring results using various supplemental irrigation treatments at White Point and a survey of arthropods at the Alta Vicente Reserve that will help to measure the success of restoration efforts in the future.

**PALOS VERDES  
PENINSULA LAND  
CONSERVANCY**

**2007 SUMMARY OF REVENUE & EXPENSES**

**Board of Directors**

Henry Jurgens, President  
 Jack Smith, Exec. Vice President  
 Bill Ailor, Secretary  
 Marc Crawford, Treasurer  
 Bruce Biesman-Simons  
 Jim Cheney  
 Allen Franz  
 Elizabeth Kennedy  
 Doane Liu  
 Mike Kilroy  
 Susan McKenna  
 Gina McLeod  
 Jess Morton  
 Anke Raue  
 Deena Sheridan  
 Jim Staes  
 Bill Swank  
 Ken Swenson

**Acting Executive Director**

Andrea Vona

**Office Administration**

Hazel Martinez, Administrative Director  
 Christen Baum, Administrative Assistant

**Science Program**

Ann Dalkey, Science Director

**Land Stewardship**

Michael Yadrick, Director of Restoration Programs  
 Rebecca Harper, Project Manager  
 Humberto Calderon, Restoration Technician  
 Baltazar Gonzalez, Restoration Technician  
 Nely Gonzalez, Nursery Technician  
 Jack Green, Restoration Technician  
 Bill Tilley, Construction Manager

**Development**

Robert Ford, Director of Development  
 Mary Ellen Richardson, Communications Director  
 Mary Lopes, Donor Relations

**Education Program**

Kristina Darbari, Director of Education Programs  
 John Nieto, Education Program Manager

**George F Canyon Nature Center**

Loretta Rose, Naturalist  
 Faith Bilyeu, Asst. Naturalist

**INCOME**

Member Donations	\$606,692
Organization / Foundation Grants	\$46,100
Government Grants	\$206,532
Contracts for Restoration & Nature Center	\$238,575
Special Events	\$32,755
Plant & Art Show Sales	\$172,957
Interest & Misc.	\$110,817
<b>Total Operating Income</b>	<b>\$1,414,428</b>

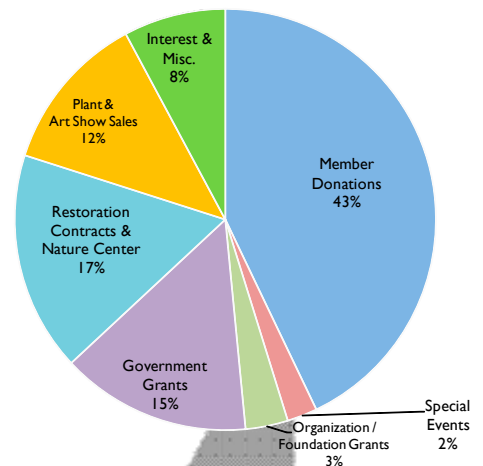
**OTHER RESTRICTED INCOME**

Grants for work in 2008	\$741,283
Land Acquisition Donations	\$45,076
Unrealized Gains - Investments	\$13,899
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$2,214,688</b>

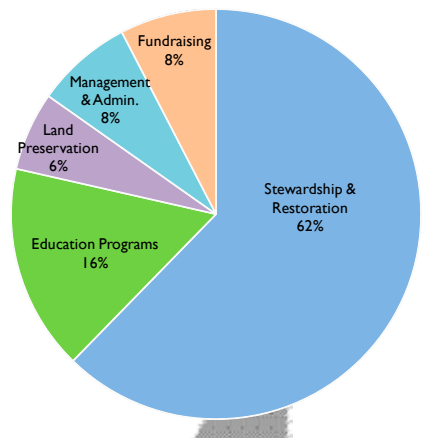
**EXPENSES**

Stewardship & Restoration	\$947,988
Education Programs	\$247,346
Land Preservation	\$94,488
Management & Administration	\$116,075
Fundraising	\$115,718
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$1,521,615</b>

**2007 OPERATING REVENUE**



**2007 EXPENSES**



Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy  
 PO Box 3427  
 Palos Verdes Peninsula, CA 90274  
 310/541-7613

NONPROFIT ORG.  
 U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
 Palos Verdes Pen.  
 CA 90274  
 Permit No. 232

**OPEN SPACES**

A newsletter published by the Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy  
 P.O. Box 3427  
 PV Peninsula, CA90274  
 Tel: (310)541-7613  
 Fax: (310)541-7623  
 E-mail: info@pvplc.org  
 Website: www.pvplc.org