



OPEN SPACES

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Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy

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Conservancy Offers Plan for White Point Park

Supporting an effort by local residents, the Conservancy has submitted a plan for preservation and management of White Point Park in San Pedro. The 130 acre park, a former military site, is presently a natural area with several fortifications, including shore defense gun batteries and a Nike missile base.

The park offers outstanding views of the Pacific and Catalina Island, with habitat areas which have been heavily disturbed over the past 50 years.

The Conservancy's plan calls for a joint effort with the local community and the City of Los Angeles to develop a management plan for the site. Development of the plan would include resolution of the future of the military buildings and facilities and development of goals for habitat restoration. The Conservancy recommends that the plan include historical markers and interpretive signs detail-

ing the history of the site.

Military history is of particular importance, and the site may provide the opportunity to give a historical perspective on the immediate area, as well. Particular focus would be on the military installations, the Sepulveda homesite on the southwest corner of the property, and any archeological resources which may have been identified in past surveys. Involvement of the San Pedro Bay Historical Society and local military historians in the development of this information would be essential.

An important first step in the development of a long term habitat restoration plan is a detailed survey of the plants and animals already on the site. The restoration plan will tell us what areas should be restored and which should be left alone.

We are excited about the possibilities for this special area. Restoration of habitat would provide great oppor-

tunities for volunteers. We could even work with local schools and youth groups to develop projects involving identifying, growing and planting locally native plants in assigned areas. The group could even conduct research projects on the evolution of these plots and the birds and animals that inhabit them over time. This type of educational experience is nearly impossible to find in LA and could help open children's minds to scientific research principles.

If the Conservancy's proposal is accepted, we would recommend that a formal dedication ceremony be held to dedicate the site as the "White Point Preserve." We would use this opportunity to solicit volunteers interested in helping us develop educational opportunities and assisting with maintenance and restoration.

The White Point plan is available on our web site, <http://www.pvplc.org>.

Preservation of Open Spaces--

A Statement of Purpose

The Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy is a nonprofit, nonpolitical, public-benefit corporation formed to preserve undeveloped land in perpetuity as open space for historical, educational, ecological, recreational and scenic purposes.

A diverse group of volunteers from the South Bay makes up the PVPLC's managing Board of Directors and its adjunct advisory board. These private citizens have been drawn together by their belief that open space is crucial to the well-being of our community.

Land acquisition by the PVPLC is through purchase and gift. In addition to the good will engendered by gift giving, landowners and others who donate land or funds to the PVPLC may realize significant tax benefits.



Andy Hammer Named Executive Director

Andy Hammer has joined the Conservancy as our new Executive Director. Hammer replaces Wendy Millet, who has served in this capacity for the last two years.

Hammer brings excellent qualifications to his new position. He is a graduate of Cornell University (B.S, Environmental Science), and received a J.D. and Masters of Environmental Law from the Vermont Law School. He has held positions with the Pacific Forest Trust in Boonville, California and the Peconic Land Trust in Southampton, New York.

Andy served as the California Conservation Projects manager for the Pacific Forest Trust, where he worked



cooperatively with Cooperative Extension agents, foresters, and tax advisors to present estate planning seminars designed to help landowners meet their conservation and tax planning goals. Hammer also worked directly with landowners, helping draft conservation easements covering thousands of acres of working Pacific Northwest ranch and timberland

We're very sorry to see Wendy Millet leave the Executive Director position, but we are excited to welcome Andy to the Conservancy's family. We believe that he brings financial, negotiating and legal skills which are essential to ensuring our continued growth and preserving additional open space lands on the Peninsula.

Conservancy Joins With UCLA on Habitat Restoration

The Conservancy has entered into contract with the U.S. Navy for habitat restoration at the Defense Fuel Supply Depot in San Pedro, joining with Dr. Rudi Mattoni of UCLA's Geography Department on this effort to preserve and enhance the habitat of the Palos Verdes Blue butterfly.

The Palos Verdes Blue was thought to be extinct when the last known population was eliminated in 1983, but a small population was found on the military reservation in 1994. Since that time, Mattoni has led a concerted effort to restore and enhance the PV Blue's habitat on the site and increase the population of butterflies.

Aided by volunteers from throughout the South Bay, the habitat at the Supply Depot has been substantially improved. Large areas of ice plant have

been removed and replaced with plants local to the area. Over the years, it is expected that the PV Blue population at the Depot will be strengthened as a result of the restoration effort.

We are excited about the opportunity to help continue Dr. Mattoni's excellent



PV Blue butterfly enjoys a deerweed lunch at the Fuel Supply Depot.

project. We will work to be sure that the butterflies on the site will prosper and lead to the eventual repopulation of other natural areas on the Peninsula.

Footprints to Measure Us By

The inspiring natural and scenic beauty of the Palos Verdes Peninsula is the root of an all-too-familiar problem nationwide: the conversion of open space and natural habitat areas to residential and commercial uses. Having been involved with organizations similar to the Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy in both Northern California and New York, I can report that unfortunately similar development pressures are threatening to transform equally-compelling landscapes nationwide. The last three decades have been marked by an unprecedented loss of productive resource land and natural habitat areas.

The changes that have taken place in our land base have not gone unnoticed. Local community groups, citizens and municipalities have responded to this conversion pressure in many ways. One popular vehicle used to proactively work to achieve conservation of sensitive areas, preservation of open space, and in some cases, compatible appropriate development, is the land trust. Today, there are over 1,200 land trusts operating nationwide which have collectively conserved 4.7 million acres of open space and habitat resources.

Despite the apparent success of the land trust movement, our nation is still losing open space at the rate of 7,000 acres a day!

As the saying goes: "Think globally, act locally." The Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy has already helped protect several key scenic and habitat-rich properties on the Peninsula. The challenge for the future will be to strike a balance between community needs, wildlife requirements, and development to insure that our generation leaves a significant natural legacy for future generations to study, appreciate and enjoy.

One of the keys to the current success of the Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy has been the interest and support of the local community. Our nature walks and environmental education programs have been received with overwhelming enthusiasm in the community and schools of Los Angeles County.

As we prepare to enter into a new millennium, I am excited to be involved in the challenge to begin the new century with a vision for the future. I have been impressed with the amount of energy and enthusiasm that residents of all ages have given, and given freely, to the Conservancy and its mission, and look forward to helping us step forward into the next century—but carefully and slowly—so we can all be proud of the footprints that future generations will measure us by.

Richard A. (Andy) Hammer

Grant to be Used for Habitat Restoration

At its March 2nd meeting, the California Wildlife Conservation Board approved a \$100,000 grant to the Conservancy for habitat restoration on the Peninsula. Money for the restoration work was included in Governor Wilson's 1998 Budget.

The funds will enable significant progress to be made on the restoration of the Linden H. Chandler Preserve in Rolling Hills Estates and the Lunada Canyon Preserve in Rancho Palos Verdes. We also hope to apply some of the funds to restoration of the Forrestal and Shoreline Park properties when a management agreement is finalized with Rancho Palos Verdes.

Discussions Begin on Forrestal Management

The RPV City Council forwarded the Conservancy's proposal for development of a management plan for the 160-acre Forrestal property to the City's Recreation and Parks Committee for consideration. Conservancy Board members Eric Randall and Jim Moore have agreed to represent the Conservancy in these discussions.

The Conservancy has developed a draft management plan for the Forrestal site, which contains some of the finest native habitat on the Peninsula. **A copy is available on our home page, www.pvplc.org.**

Art Show Postponed

The 1999 *Palos Verdes Peninsula: An Artistic Interpretation* art exhibition has been postponed to next year. One of the two contributing artists, Daniel Pinkam, has been rebuilding and remodeling his new home and did not have sufficient time to prepare paintings for the show—he's painting his house, instead.

Artist Rick Humphrey is taking this opportunity to add some new paintings to those he will exhibit at the show next year.

We wish Dan well on the remodel and look forward to next year's event.

Getting the Most Out of Your Highly Appreciated Assets: The Charitable Remainder Trust

By Linda P. Elliott*

Through a Charitable Remainder Trust (CRT), you can contribute highly appreciated assets to charity while you (or another non-charitable beneficiary) have the right to an income stream from those assets for a predetermined period—your lifetime, the combination of your lifetime and another person’s lifetime, or a period not to exceed 20 years. When the income obligation terminates, the remainder of the trust assets passes to charity.

Tax Benefits

Because a CRT is a tax-exempt entity, assets sold within the trust are not subject to capital gains tax at the time they are sold. While capital gains tax may be imposed at a later date on distributions from the trust, the ability to defer these taxes allows the full value of the assets to immediately work for your benefit. Thus, you are able to convert the full value of assets that may formerly have provided you with little or no income into a significant income stream.

When you contribute assets to a CRT during your lifetime, you may be entitled to a charitable income tax deduction, based upon the present value of the remainder interest which passes to charity after your income interest terminates. This deduction cannot exceed a certain percentage of your adjusted gross income, but may be carried forward five years after the initial year of your contribution. Therefore, you may receive the benefit of an income tax deduction for up to six years. Further, because of the gift tax charitable deduction, your lifetime transfer of an asset to charity is not subject to federal gift taxes.

Protecting Your Heirs

Suppose you are concerned about providing for your heirs as well as your favorite charity. You can replace all or part of the value of the property transferred to the CRT with an asset replacement strategy like this:

- Establish an irrevocable life insurance trust (ILIT).
- Have the trustee purchase life insurance on your life, or a second-to-die policy on you and your spouse, with the trustee as the policy’s owner and beneficiary.
- Make annual gifts to the trust to pay the insurance premiums. You can use some of the income stream from the CRT and the income tax savings from the charitable income tax deduction for this purpose. The gifts may qualify for the annual gift tax exclusion or may count toward one’s applicable exclusion amount (the total estate and gift tax exemption—\$625,000 in 1998).

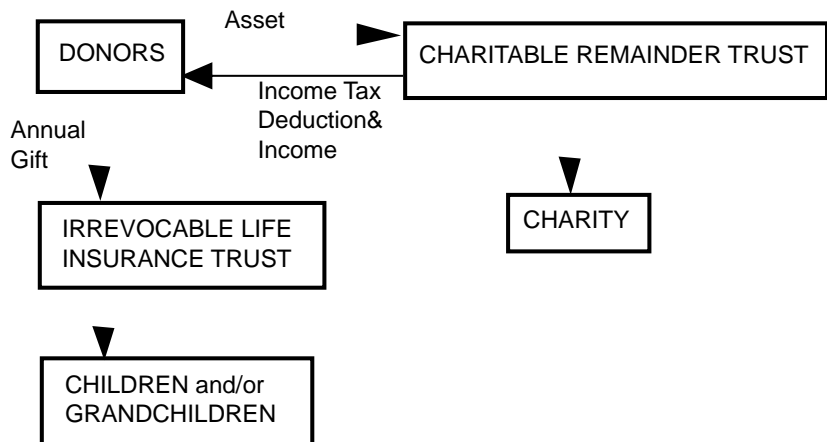
Life insurance proceeds received by the trustee on behalf of the trust’s beneficiaries are not subject to income taxes and are not included in

your gross estate at death. *By using the CRT and the ILIT, you may be able to contribute significantly greater assets to charity and actually pass on more of your wealth to your beneficiaries!*

The diagram below illustrates how a CRT established during your lifetime can work:

Estate planning can help you preserve the assets you have carefully accumulated. Bear in mind, however, that these strategies are subject to the complex laws and regulations governing estate and gift tax, income tax, and private foundations. To be effective, an estate plan should be designed and implemented by specialists. As with all such matters, you should consult with your attorney and tax advisor to help devise a plan appropriate for you.

**Financial Consultant, Salomon Smith Barney, (310) 544-3679. Salomon Smith Barney does not provide financial, tax, or legal advice. Please consult your tax and/or legal advisor for such guidance.*



Our 1998 Members

The individuals, families, corporations, and groups listed below contributed to the Conservancy in 1998 and have helped make our Nature Walks, Children's Walks, Education Program, and land acquisition and land stewardship activities possible. Their support has furthered the cause of open space preservation; the legacy of their generosity, and that of the individuals who wish their contributions to remain anonymous, will be remembered and celebrated for generations to come. We apologize for any names omitted in error.

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Rancho Palos Verdes
San Pedro
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Lawndale
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Palos Verdes Estates
Rancho Palos Verdes
Torrance
Rolling Hills Estates
Rancho Palos Verdes
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Rolling Hills Estates
Redondo Beach
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Torrance
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Irvine
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Hermosa Beach
Redondo Beach
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San Pedro
Palos Verdes Estates
Acampo
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Palos Verdes Estates
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Rancho Palos Verdes
Rancho Palos Verdes
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Rancho Palos Verdes
Rancho Palos Verdes
Hollywood Riviera
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Rancho Palos Verdes
Palos Verdes Estates
Rancho Palos Verdes
Rancho Palos Verdes
Rancho Palos Verdes
Redondo Beach
Rancho Palos Verdes

Steve Heyn Appointed Stewardship Director

Steve Heyn, a lifelong resident of Palos Verdes Estates, recently joined the Conservancy as our Land Stewardship Director. Steve had been involved with the Conservancy for several years as a stewardship volunteer and seasonal worker prior to assuming the duties of Alison Lipman, who is currently traveling in Central America. Alison's spirit will be missed, but our stewardship program will continue its tradition of excellence under Steve's watch.



Steve holds a B.S. degree from Santa Clara University with a minor in environmental studies. The stewardship program recently received substantial grant assistance

from California's Wildlife Conservation Board and Steve will have the opportunity to implement many of the plans that have been developed for the Lunada and Chandler properties in cooperation with local biologists, community members and restoration experts. "The Peninsula's natural habitat provided a unique laboratory to grow up in, and contributed to my interest in natural science," Steve reflected. "The Conservancy's native restoration efforts may provide similar opportunities to the next generation of naturalists. I'm pleased to be helping in such a critical area."

Photo Contest to Try Web Venue

Recent construction at the Shops at Palos Verdes has severely limited available space for our annual Picture Palos Verdes Photography Competition, so we're trying something a little different. At the suggestion of Max Schmid, a student representative from Chadwick School, we're going to have a web-based show.

As always, the theme for the contest will be "the natural beauty of the Palos Verdes Peninsula." But rather than hanging the pictures in a gallery, we'll post entries at a special location on our web page.

Rather than submitting a hard-copy picture or slide, applicants can e-mail or send their prizewinner on a floppy disk (format to be provided later). If you don't have a digital camera or a scanner, Palos Verdes On the Net will scan your entry from a slide or negative and e-mail it to us.

Awards will be presented at a reception and we'll project winners on a screen for viewing there.

Intrigued? We'll be providing more information in our next newsletter.

Bird Brain Benefits

Bird brains provide numerous benefits to those avian friends of ours. Here on our Peninsula, we enjoy seeing many birds, including the colorful scrub jay.

Lab tests of that bird show that it has a very good memory. A large number of caches, established as potential sites for food storage, were set into a big lab area. Then, one after another, a sequence of scrub jays and members of a number of other bird species (nutcrackers and magpies, for example) were individually tested in that cache-containing lab area.

I'll now tell you about the scrub

jays. Several stacks of food of different levels of enjoyment for a scrub jay (*Aphelocoma coerulescens*) were put into central parts of that area, and left as obvious. A bird was then observed as it took portions of each type of food to different caches for storage.

Then the non-stored food was removed, and several of the caches were moved to a different location in the lab area. When a scrub jay got hungry, it went first to a location where it had stored its favorite type of food, but when the favorite type was fully eaten, it then went to a cache where it had stored a less favorite type.

If a cache at any location had been moved, the disappointed bird that had

gone there then went to a different location where it had stored food, rather than looking for a moved cache or using food odor to find a moved cache. It thus became obvious that the acquisition of stored food was based on memory of the cache location rather than on seeing or smelling a cache.

Birds Remember Locations

Tests over a relatively long period of time demonstrated that some of the tested birds were able to remember the locations of more than a thousand caches in which they had stored food. The fact that the birds went first to caches where they had stored their favorite foods demonstrates that they not only remembered the cached sites, but that they also remembered what they had stored in each cache and how long ago they had stored each food type.

As an example, a wax worm is one of the favorite foods of a scrub jay. It is best when fresh and alive. So, when a bird cached a group of wax worms, it went to that cache first, but didn't go to that cache later than four hours after the storage because the bird apparently knew that the worms in the cache would have deteriorated by that time. The same was true of peanuts, but more than four hours, actually about five days, resulted in the deterioration of those unprotected legumes.

So, each of the tested birds notably remembered the where, what and when of each food item that it stored in a cache. That was true not only of scrub jays but also of black-capped chickadees and a few other species. If you have a bird feeder next to your home, you can see that birds remember that it's there, and that they return for the food that you provide.

by Joseph K. Slap

Slapisms:

- The bird that frequently cleans nests with a wet brush must be the scrub jay.
- The saddest bird here on our Peninsula must be the mourning dove.

The Conservancy's Wish List--Can You Help?

The Conservancy needs your stuff! If you have any of the items on our wish list, or other items that you have around the house and would be willing to donate to help run our community programs, please call the Conservancy's office:

- A chipper/mulcher;
- A laser printer;
- Office furniture (filing cabinets in particular);
- Garden tools.

Donations to the Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy are tax-deductible and greatly appreciated!

Muller Resigns, Millet Elected to Complete Term

Long-time Board member Hugh Muller has resigned from the Board because of his busy travel schedule. Muller joined the Board in 1992. Elected to the Board to complete Muller's term, which expires in October, is former executive director Wendy Millet.

During his seven-year tenure, Hugh brought his long experience in public service to the Board. A former Rolling Hills Estates City Councilman and Mayor, Hugh's advice was sound and his work to organize our planned giving program is most appreciated.



Wendy Millet resigned from her executive director position with the Conservancy late last year when she believed her husband's

job would keep him overseas. She planned to join him there. Recently, his position was moved back to Los Angeles, so she'll remain in the area.

We are happy that her husband's work will bring him home soon and are very happy to have Wendy rejoin us as a Board member. Millet has accepted a position at the

Nature Conservancy and the new contacts she meets will certainly be valuable to us in the future.

The True Costs Of Development

By Andy Hammer

Of the many contributions to our form of government made by Benjamin Franklin, it is quite ironic that he is perhaps best known for stating that the only certainties in life are death and taxes. There is certainly a compelling argument that death is certain.

However, the certainty and severity of taxes is a matter on which much discussion (and political rhetoric) is based. Property taxes (sometimes referred to as *ad valorem tax* – meaning simply that it is a tax based on a percentage of the assessed property’s value), sales tax and income tax revenues provide local, state and the Federal governments with the revenues needed to allow our society to function. Perhaps most significantly, on the local level these tax revenues provide many of the community services we take for granted, such as police and fire protection, administrative oversight, etc.

However, all too often, nationwide the argument for the development of revenue generating, tax producing, *productive* uses of land is used to justify the conversion of open space and natural habitat areas. The argument seems hard to debate--more uses, more revenue, more taxes.

In response to this seemingly simple analysis, many in the economic and conservation fields have reexamined the costs of development, and the results are surprising and contrary to what most County Assessor’s hold as true: Development Costs More!

The analysis of each development project is obviously unique, but the general finding that development costs more is based on several common factors. The most important factor is that the costs of development are usually underreported. These include projections for the provision of municipal services, such as police and

fire protection, as well as the long-term maintenance costs of roads, drainage structures and other improvements.

Further costs of development that are generally overlooked are the need to expand or improve school facilities to accommodate the new residents

and their children. Furthermore, conversion of open space can depreciate surrounding property values, increase traffic and congestion, as well as overwhelm community parking spaces, and reduce tourism revenues.

In short, the economic costs of ad-

Continued on page 11

Financial Status

January 1, 1998 through December 31, 1998

Our thanks to Christopher Strong, C.P.A. and the accounting firm of Brigante, Cameron, Watters & Strong for donating a year’s worth of tax services.

Income		
10th Anniversary	\$	9,775
Art Show	\$	11,046
Memberships & Donations	\$	90,762
Education Grants	\$	33,700
Grants	\$	2,000
Habitat Restoration	\$	32,520
Interest & Dividends	\$	8,535
Irvine Foundation Grant	\$	100,000
Misc	\$	3,541
Photo Contest	\$	640
RHE Contract Naturalist	\$	11,344
Telethon	\$	1,034
	TOTAL	\$ 304,897
Expenses		
10th Anniversary	\$	7,860
Art Show	\$	7,716
Chandler Preserve Maint & Taxes	\$	8,991
Education	\$	12,635
Habitat Restoration	\$	27,674
Insurance	\$	2,774
Land Acquisition	\$	11,569
Lunada Canyon Maint & Taxes	\$	6,073
Misc	\$	5,678
Nature Walks	\$	5,163
Office Expenses	\$	13,667
PCL Foundation	\$	5,000
Personnel Costs	\$	26,188
Photo Contest	\$	2,182
Printing & Mailing	\$	21,390
Public Relations	\$	3,019
RHE Contract Naturalist	\$	11,344
US Forest Capital Project	\$	82,500
	TOTAL	\$ 261,423
Bank Balances		
	1/1/98	12/31/98
Operating Funds	\$33,554	\$109,380
Land Stewardship Funds	\$134,916	\$116,489
	TOTAL	\$ 168,470
		\$225,869

Continued from page 10

ditional development are not internalized by the developer, but are externalized to the public. The frequent rise in tax rates, as well as the prolific amount of school and highway bond measures, are well known examples of this phenomena. If we could actually internalize these costs to each development (generally referred to as "exactions" or development fees) the incentive to develop property would be greatly reduced.

In addition to the economic costs of development, there are values that are often referred to as "community capital" that are impacted by development. For instance, my hometown of East Hampton, New York is no longer the agricultural community that I remember from my youth. With the loss of farmland and development of open space, the community's identity was somehow diluted and distorted. The impact of this development in traffic congestion and sprawl is palpable and upsetting to all the residents. Yet, as the saying goes, "asphalt is forever".

The Palos Verdes Peninsula, to date, has maintained the qualities that are rare and treasured by its residents. The beautiful open space and habitat areas remaining are important components of the identity of the Peninsula and the quality of life that is enjoyed here.

Haiku Corner: The Peninsula from Another Perspective

by Jorg Raue

Today I would like to share with you two fine descriptions of haiku that I have recently come across:

"A haiku is the expression of a moment of vision into the nature of the world, the world of nature," by R. Blyth (1949).

"A haiku is a record of a moment of emotion in which human nature is somehow linked to all nature," by G. Henderson (1965).

I like these definitions because of their similarity on one hand and yet their remarkable difference on the other. Both speak of capturing a moment in time of an event in nature; and while one focuses on "vision," the other speaks of emotion. Both appear quite profound and, taken together, they bring to life the purpose and meaning of haiku.

Our beautiful Palos Verdes Peninsula is a truly endless source of experiences of nature that strike all of our senses. Just look for them... listen to them... smell them... they are there...seemingly everywhere....

Down the empty beach
Gray fog hides the foot-marked sand.

Hissing sounds of surf...
by Catherine Ratner

steady canyon breeze
carries strong scent of fennel
Peninsula spring...
by Jorg Raue

a desert is here--
sand and scrub, cottontails hide
in seacoast lookouts
by Barbara Peirce

with rustles of silk
seafoam's sheer lace slips away
untouched sand laid bare
by Jess Morton

If you have composed a haiku about any element of our Peninsula, please feel free to submit it for possible publication in this corner. My E-mail address is: jraue@flash.net, or mail it to the PVPLC Office.

The decisions that will need to be made in the near future will impact not only today's environment but will continue to reverberate for generations. I would urge all Peninsula residents to consider future actions based on an accurate representation of the costs and benefits. And per-

haps not unlike many communities nationwide, you may decide that we can't afford **not** to make the effort to preserve our community identity.



Help save open space!

Your tax-deductible donation helps us save natural areas on the Peninsula.

Donors will receive *Open Spaces*, and be acknowledged therein, unless anonymity is requested.

- Patron (\$1000) Sustainer (\$500) Sponsor (\$100) Supporter (\$50) Regular (\$35)
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 Please send information on volunteer opportunities.

Name _____ Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____

Please mail to: PVPLC, 904 Silver Spur Rd., Suite 274, RHE, CA 90274



Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy
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Our mailing label contains useful information about your donation status. On the top line after your name is the date when your last donation was received by the Conservancy. If the top line contains no date, according to our records, you have not yet contributed. Please use the enclosed postage-paid envelop to make your 1999 commitment to preserving open space now--we need your help!

Aileen Bevan Honored by Audubon Society

Aileen Bevan, former Conservancy Board member and current Conservancy naturalist for the George F Canyon Nature Center in Rolling Hills Estates, will be honored on May 7 with the Conservation Education award from the Palos Verdes/South Bay Audubon Society.



Aileen's enthusiasm for our educational programs and contribution to the community has been inspirational to the Conservancy for years. She was awarded our highest honor, the President's Award, in 1994 for her excellent volunteer work.

Aileen became our first Land Stewardship Director in 1994 and spearheaded stewardship activities on the Linden H. Chandler Preserve. She was

appointed to the George F Canyon naturalist position when the Conservancy contracted with the city to provide these services. Under her leadership and with the strong support of the City of Rolling Hills Estates, the George F Canyon Nature Center has become an outstanding education resource for our community.

The George F Canyon Nature Center is located on the southwest corner of the Palos Verdes Drive East and Palos Verdes Drive North intersection. The Nature Center contains beautiful exhibits on the natural environment of George F Canyon and offers special activities and exhibits for children.

You can reach Aileen at the Center at (310) 547-0862 for more information about the Center and its resources.

Open Spaces

A Newsletter Published by the
Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy
904 Silver Spur Road, Suite 274
Rolling Hills Estates, CA 90274
Office Telephone: (310) 541-7613
Office Fax: (310) 541-7623
E-mail: PVPLC@aol.com
Home Page: www.pvplc.org

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