

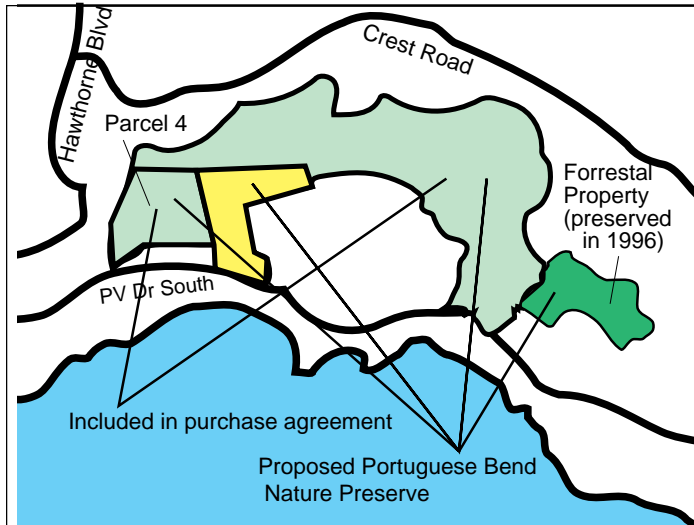


OPEN SPACES

Volume 13, Number 2

Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy

Second Quarter, 2001



RPV, Conservancy, and Landowners Reach Historic Agreement on Land Purchase

On May 24, the City of Rancho Palos Verdes and the Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy announced an agreement with two major landowners. If successful, this action will preserve 722 acres of open space for a purchase price of close to \$30 million.

Approximately 690 acres is located in the Portuguese Bend area, contiguous with the 160-acre Forrestal property preserved in 1996. The remaining 32 acres is Agua Armaga canyon, a superb coastal sage scrub habitat area located at the intersection of Crest Road and Hawthorne Blvd.

With this new purchase, a total of over 750 acres surrounding the Portuguese Bend area will be preserved, assuring that hikers and equestrians will enjoy its outstanding natural beauty in perpetuity.

The Conservancy is most pleased and excited to be working with Rancho Palos Verdes on this project. We applaud the leadership of Mayor Marilyn Lyon and the City Council in moving it forward.

The acquisition will preserve much of the area the Conservancy has named "The Portuguese Bend Nature Preserve," our highest priority for preservation since our founding in 1988. The only parcel missing is a 146-acre parcel known as "lower Filiorium." The owner expects to submit plans for development of this area. It remains a high priority for acquisition by the Conservancy, and we hope to add it to the Portuguese Bend Nature Preserve sometime in the future.

Now our challenge is to raise the funds required for the purchase. Fortunately, \$4 million in LA County

Measure A funds has already been committed, so we have a good start. The Conservancy has committed to raising \$6 million from local donors to encourage matching funds from agencies and trusts.

We believe that for the right individuals, the opportunity to play a critical part in the preservation of arguably the finest open space area in the region is an exciting one. What better way to leave a permanent and well appreciated legacy for the future? Give us a call for information on how to make this happen.

As we work to close this deal, we recognize that we have a unique opportunity to settle land use issues that have plagued our community for years and to create a preserve area that will be one of the finest in the Los Angeles area. Want to help? Call our office at (310) 541-7613.

Preservation of Open Spaces--

A Statement of Purpose

The Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy is a nonprofit, non-political, 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.

Open Spaces

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Portuguese Bend Nature Preserve: The Challenge

While we are proud of the accomplishment discussed on the first page of this newsletter, we recognize that an enormous funding challenge lies ahead. Our strategy for funding the acquisition has three components:

- The City has committed \$4 million in already-secured L.A. County Measure A funds;
- The Land Conservancy has pledged to raise \$6 million from our very active philanthropic community;
- We and the City are jointly working to raise the balance of the funds from public agencies.

The most critical component in our acquisition strategy is the \$6 million we need from our community. The commitment of significant private philanthropic dollars is the most powerful statement of our community's support and is the essential catalyst to trigger necessary approvals and matching funds from public agencies and foundations.

As we'll discuss more in coming months, there are many ways to contribute to this effort. Of course, our immediate concern is securing the funds to finalize the purchase, and gifts of cash and stock are the best way to help. But we will also need to build an operating endowment to assure that this land will be well cared for in perpetuity.

Deferred gifts are an excellent way to build an endowment for stewardship. Examples of deferred gifts are charitable gift annuities, gifts of real estate, estate gifts, and charitable remainder trusts. Many of these can provide income during the donor's lifetime and leave a gift of principal to the Land Conservancy later.

We will be providing additional information on gifting opportunities as our campaign continues, but please contact me at any time if you'd like to discuss how you might contribute to this historic effort.

Relative to the publicly-funded component, we have made considerable progress. We are working with the State of

California Department of Fish and Game and the State Coastal Conservancy to identify funding sources, and under the leadership of Marilyn Lyon, we have initiated contact with the County of Los Angeles. We are confident that each of these important funding partners will participate in the project to the extent of their capabilities.

The next twelve months will be critical if we are to achieve our goals of preserving this beautiful and unique area. We hope that all those who share our vision will consider a sizeable donation now. Thanks to the effort of many of our neighbors, the time is right. Please help us be successful.

By Keith Lenard

The most critical component is the \$6 million from our community

"Spring for White Point" Party Raises \$6,000

A party hosted at the home of San Pedro residents Bruce Biesman-Simons and Hale Field raised over \$6,000 to support activities at the new White Point Nature Preserve. The afternoon gathering was attended by approximately 120 individuals, who were treated to South African wine and complementary hors d'oeuvres donated by several generous San Pedro restaurants and food stores.

Said Bruce after the event: "I couldn't be more proud of the support of our community."



State Considers Grants for White Point Restoration

Three major grants are making their way through the approval process. If approved, these grants would bring over \$1 million to the Conservancy for habitat restoration and public access upgrades at the White Point Preserve.

The first is an \$810,000 grant from the Wildlife Conservation Board that would provide funding for a five-year habitat restoration effort covering 90 of the site's 102 acres.

The second is a \$301,000 grant from the Metropolitan Transit Authority for entryway improvements and interpretive signs. The third is \$260,000 in discretionary Proposition 12 funds set aside by LA City Councilman Rudi Svornich for use at White Point.

"If this funding is approved, we'll see rapid implementation of the White Point Plan, which calls for restoration of natural

habitat throughout the Preserve, nature trails, interpretive signs, a demonstration native plant garden, and the like," said project director Loren DeRoy. "We're very excited."

Loren noted that major work cannot begin until the Environmental Impact Report is completed, and this is "on schedule for completion in July," she says. Once the EIR is completed, it must be approved by the Board of Recreation and Parks Commissioners and the Los Angeles City Council.

The Conservancy is hosting work days at the White Point Preserve on the fourth Saturday of each month from 8:00 a.m. to noon. Individuals and groups who would like to help us clean up the property and plant native plants are invited to come and spend an hour or two in this beautiful area.



Volunteers plant native plants near the entry to the White Point Preserve at the March 17 volunteer day.

Conservancy President Bill Ailor Named 2001 "Citizen of the Year"

The Palos Verdes Peninsula Chamber of Commerce and the Palos Verdes Rotary Club at a celebration held in his honor on May 17 presented the Citizen of the Year award to Conservancy president Bill Ailor. Over 100 attendees celebrated the award. The award recognized Ailor for his volunteer activities on the Peninsula and his leadership of the Conservancy for the past 13 years.

Former Conservancy Board members Ken Servis (former Rolling Hills Estates city councilman), and Doug Stern (current Rancho Palos Verdes city councilman), and Loren DeRoy (project manager for the White Point Nature Preserve), introduced Ailor. DeRoy likened Ailor to Don Quixote, stating that he was steadfast in his resolve that the Conservancy's approach was "the right thing to do."

In accepting the award, Ailor



Bill Ailor, right receives Citizen of the Year Award from PV Chamber of Commerce President Marc Massari and Past President Debbie Richardson.

thanked his wife, Barbara, for her support and good counsel over the years. He noted that the success of the Conservancy can be attributed to the many good and talented people who have



Loren DeRoy presented Ailor with a "slightly modified" picture of Don Quixote.

contributed their time and support to the effort to preserve land and to help people understand the resource that natural open space provides.

Dedication Celebration Marks Forrestal Preservation



Ailor, second from left, joins RPV City Council members Lee Byrd (left), Marilyn Lyon, John McTaggart, Barbara Ferraro, and Doug Stern.



Bill Ailor and Marilyn Lyon sign management agreement for Forrestal Preserve.



The team that put the Forrestal acquisition together: from the left, Ken Servis, Mike Kilroy, Steve Kuykendall, Marilyn Lyon, Bill Ailor, Doug Stern.

Rancho Palos Verdes Mayor Marilyn Lyon led the June 16 ceremony dedicating the 160-acre Forrestal property in Rancho Palos Verdes as a nature preserve and cornerstone for the proposed Portuguese Bend Nature Preserve.

The City and Conservancy also signed an agreement assigning management and habitat restoration responsibilities for the property to the Conservancy.

The Forrestal property was acquired by the City in 1996 using LA County Measure A and State Wildlife Conservation Board funds. The Conservancy played a critical role in the acquisition, leading negotiations with the landowner and securing the required funding.

Conservancy president Bill Ailor congratulated the City for its actions leading to the preservation of the property and recognized Mayor Lyon for her support during her previous term as Mayor, when she served as the City's representative on the negotiating committee. Lyon championed the acquisition at the Council level and worked behind the scenes to assure State funding.

Ailor also recognized former California State Assemblyman Steve Kuykendall for his steadfast support of the acquisition and his efforts leading to securing over \$3 million on State funds for the transaction.

Ailor also recognized Conservancy Board members who participated on the negotiations committee: current RPV councilman Doug Stern, who, while a member of the Conservancy's land acquisition committee, provided pro bono legal assistance during the transaction, and Mike Kilroy, chair of the land acquisition committee and chief negotiator for the Forrestal acquisition. Ailor

thanked Mike for his "outstanding leadership on the Forrestal acquisition effort."

Ailor reminded attendees that this dedication, while significant in its own right, is just the beginning. "We must now work to acquire the rest of the land we need to create the Portuguese Bend Nature Preserve. The Conservancy is pleased to be working in partnership with the City of Rancho Palos Verdes to make this happen."

The event concluded with a ceremonial signing of the Forrestal Management Agreement.

Overview of Management Agreement

The management agreement signed by the Conservancy and the City of Rancho Palos Verdes specifies that the Forrestal Preserve shall be only for natural open space and passive recreational use. The agreement establishes a cooperative relationship between the City as the landowner and the Conservancy for the joint operation and maintenance of the 160 acre property.

The Conservancy is assigned several responsibilities. These include responsibility for:

- Trail maintenance, construction, and management
- Coastal sage scrub inventory, restoration, and preservation

The document also specifies that the Conservancy will assemble a steering committee that will be the formal advisory body for the Preserve. The committee will consist of no more than four local residents, three Conservancy staff persons, and two City staff persons.

For a Steering Committee volunteer application, please call Steve Heyn at 541-7613, ext. 203.



Plein Air Art Show Called “Best Ever”

Rick Humphrey, artist and creator of the “Palos Verdes Peninsula: An Artistic Interpretation” art show called this year’s Conservancy-sponsored event “the best ever.” He continued, “We had excellent attendance and sold 15 paintings.” A portion of

the sales price returns to the Conservancy to support its mission.

Seven artists from the Portuguese Bend Artist Colony participated, providing plein air paintings focused on the Abalone Cove and Portuguese Bend areas of the Peninsula.

Artists with paintings in the show: Stephen Mirich (left), Kevin Prince, Dan Pinkham, Rick Humphrey, Tom Redfield, Jr., Eva Matysek (left), and Vicki Pinkham.

The show was held from May 5 to May 26 at the Malaga Cove Library and was underwritten by Malaga Bank and Toyota Motor Sales, U.S.A.

2001 Education Program Reaches 900 Local Students

The Conservancy’s education program was presented to third grade classrooms at eleven elementary schools on the Peninsula in the 2001



school year, reaching over 900 children. This year’s activities concluded at a new school for our program—White Point Elementary School in San Pedro.

The program consists of four in-class sessions that cover geology, plants, birds, mammals, insects, reptiles, native history, and early settler history. The in-class session is followed by a nature walk at a site near the school.

For White Point Elementary School, the walk was held at the new White Point Nature Preserve, which is within easy walking distance from the school.

The program is presented by Conservancy-trained volunteers and volunteer-parents of students in the class. “We have 15 to 20 parents who volunteer each time,” said education program manager John Nieto. “The parents help by manning the seven to eight stations on the nature walk, where they tell the kids about plants and geology. Everyone has a great time.”

Nieto conducts a monthly training walk for volunteers who want to help with the program. “Our goal is to expand the program to include South Shores Elementary School next year,” said Nieto, “and we’ll need some new volunteers to help.”

Individuals interested in volunteering with the education program should call the Conservancy’s office, (310) 541-6713, ext. 206.

Cetacean Relatives and Other Tidbits

By Joseph K. Slap

Cetaceans include whales, dolphins and porpoises. We often see whales and other cetaceans in the Pacific Ocean along the California coast.

Recent studies of fossils and of living animals have helped answer the question “Which mammals are the closest relatives to cetaceans?”

It is known from those studies that whales descended from land-dwelling mammals. In addition, it is now known that cetaceans have a close affinity (in this case, meaning a family relationship) to the artiodactyl mammals, which are the hoofed mammals having an even number of toes (a mammal having hoofs is called an ungulate).

Well, studies including molecular and genome analyses have recently indicated that hippopotami and cetaceans are more closely related to each other than either of those two groups is to other living artiodactyls.

For example, the ear region of the skull shows a close relationship between current cetaceans and ungulates. Thus, there is now a strong belief that hippos are closer to whales than they are to their fellow ungulates such as pigs.

A few other interesting tidbits.

Continued on page 7

Las Candalistas Contributes \$5000 to 2002 Education Program

The funding for this generous contribution came from this year's "Walk on the Wild Side" proceeds. Las Candalistas was the first major contributor to this program, and we thank them for their continuing support.

Deena Sheridan Goes Extra Mile(s) to Support Education Program

Several years ago, Deena Sheridan developed our education program from an unfocused dream to a clear reality. This year, she ran her first



marathon and used the opportunity to raise money to support the program she built.

Back in 1993, Barbara Dye and Aileen Bevan began our elementary

school education program with a simple in-class discussion on rocks, plants and animals of the Peninsula. They wanted to be sure that children had an opportunity to learn about the natural features in their community.

Deena Sheridan built upon that concept to create our current program, which consists of in-class sessions followed by parent-assisted nature walks near the schools. Over

3,000 third-graders have participated so far, and the program is now in every elementary school in the Palos Verdes Unified School District and is being expanded into San Pedro.

Deena left her position as education director to become president of her local PTA, but she has remained active, volunteer-teaching the education program at Silver Spur Elementary School.

Prior to the marathon, Deena asked her friends and family to “celebrate” her first marathon by donating to the Conservancy’s education program. She raised over \$3,300.

Deena finished her first marathon in about 4 hours and 13 minutes—not bad for her first run. “I ran the best race I could have run. I was hoping for less than 4.5 hours, so I’m happy,” said Deena. “Eight family members were spread along the route, and that helped a lot.” We hope her sore feet recover quickly.

We sincerely appreciate all that Deena has done for the education program and are most grateful for her thoughtfulness in using the opportunity to raise funds. Thank you Deena!

2001 Record Year for Habitat, Butterfly Restoration

The Conservancy made record progress in its habitat restoration efforts this year, planting about 20,000 native plants on a total of 18 acres during the winter and spring months. More than 75,000 plants have been grown for all of our restoration needs.

In another important milestone, PV Blue Butterflies were sighted at the Linden H. Chandler Preserve, indicating that efforts last year to transplant a population of this endangered species to the Chandler site was initially successful.

The Chandler butterflies are an important part of the overall strategy to assure the survival of the quarter-sized insect, providing an insurance policy against its loss at the DFSP, the only known site of the butterfly.

The habitat restoration efforts were centered on the Defense Fuel Supply

Point (DFSP) in San Pedro, where 12 acres were restored, and the Chandler Preserve in Rolling Hills Estates, where an additional 6 acres were upgraded. New habitat includes the



Rhapsody in Green volunteers working at the Linden H. Chandler Preserve.

food plant of the Blue butterfly, commonly known as deer weed and loco-weed.

The Chandler site has also been a

popular spot for volunteers, where one Eagle Scout project planted 500 new plants and Rhapsody in Green, a group which provides volunteers for such projects, assisted at the monthly volunteer day.

The Conservancy is providing plants to Ocean Trails for planting at Shoreline Park. So far, 5,000 native plants have been delivered for their restoration efforts.

“We’re always looking for volunteers who would like to help,” noted Steve Heyn, our Land Stewardship Director. “We’re making real progress, and volunteers coming back after a year or two are amazed at the difference.”

Volunteers hours are between 9:00 AM and noon on the first Sunday of the month at the DFSP. Please call the office at (310) 541-7613, ext. 203 for more information.

Haiku Corner: The Peninsula from Another Perspective

For the next issues, we will look at some structural as well as historical aspects of haiku. Some of the following is from an essay by Dietrich Krusche that appeared in the book "Haiku, Japanische Gedichte", published in Germany in 1994.

In addition to the limitation to 17 syllables, there are 3 general "rules" governing haiku:

1. A haiku must mention an object of nature — even if it is only very marginally.

2. A haiku is to describe a one-time event or happening.

3. The event or happening is to be described in the present tense and not in the past.

Also, in conjunction with the element of nature the time of season should be mentioned or at least hinted at.

All these rules have the same ultimate objective: the haiku must be specific.

By way of including an object *outside* the human realm the haiku becomes visual, and its focus on an event, happening or situation prevents drifting off into generalities. Restricting the haiku to the present tense results in the reader's instant confrontation with the event. In this way, the writer's distance to the event is minimized, as is any opportunity for the inclusion of "self-consciousness" and personal interpretation by the

writer. The reader's or listener's confrontation with the object or event is thus immediate, and anything else, such as forming of a deep understanding or making a connection to larger elements or events, rests with him.

Just how specific a haiku really is, can be seen from the fact that the person originating the haiku is not mentioned, but must still be regarded as being present at the event described if the haiku is to be understood by the reader. The following is a haiku by the great Basho, considered the grand master of haiku (1644-1694):

this path
no one walks
on this evening

At first glance he appears to be saying very little: a path is seen that is not used by anyone this evening. However, a little thought allows the reader to see the "specific" in the haiku: the path that the poet sees, that "no one uses" is in fact used by the poet, who knows "this is MY path" and it is the ONLY path for me that leads into the evening. Thus this haiku reflects his knowledge of where this path actually leads, and it formulates his life's experience and fate as well as his recognition of the necessity to walk this path.

Another great Basho haiku can lead the reader to discover deeper meaning:

the last snow in the yard
the broom forgets
what it sweeps

By the way, the 5-7-5 syllable rule is obviously absent — this is because an accurate translation from the Japanese original is the most important issue here. As is usual in translations of haiku, if the meaning and content are to be accurately conveyed, the 5-7-5 rule clearly is not meaningful for the translation.

I am happy to share with you some Peninsula based haiku recently submitted:

all sleep in hot sun
save kelp flies in the wave's wrack
black motes still dancing
by Jess Morton

a small gray lizard
rustles through sun-bleached
grasses
hunting or hiding?
copyright@m.brown2001

There still is time to vote for your favorite haiku. A list of the best 21 haiku published here during the past two years appeared in the last issue. I'd be happy to send you the list.

If you have composed a haiku about *any* nature aspect of our Peninsula, please feel free to submit it for possible publication in this corner. My E-mail address is: raue@home.com, or mail to Haiku, PO Box 3427, PVP, CA 90274.

by Jorg Raue

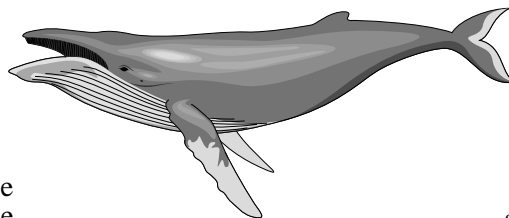
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- Crocodiles are more closely related to birds than they are to turtles. Analyses of that set of relationships are continuing—maybe we'll see whether a sparrow can be thought of as a feathered reptile!

- Measurements of oxygen absorption by various animals of equal mass have shown that the energy used by a land mammal to run one kilometer (62 percent of a mile) is the energy equivalent for a bird to fly twice as far, or for a fish to swim up to 10 kilometers.

- For just mammals, a study has shown that the same amount of en-

ergy is required for a seal swim a kilometer as a horse of equal weight does for running a kilometer. Also, a fruit bat uses only slightly less energy



to fly a kilometer than a mongoose of the same weight uses in running a kilometer.

- Swimming of semi-aquatic mammals has been found to use high

energy in comparison to fully aquatic mammals. For example, a sea otter swimming on the ocean's surface has been shown to use five times as much energy per kilometer as a sea lion of the same weight swimming under the ocean. For this reason, plus their shapes, semi-aquatic mammals are limited to slower speeds than fully aquatic mammals.

- Dolphins have been found to swim distances more than 50 yards five times faster than world-record holding male swimmers. Actually, dolphins can swim as fast as any human can run.



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Dates Set for 2001 Photo Contest

The 11th annual "Picture Palos Verdes" Photography Contest begins on August 1 and concludes at the awards ceremony on September 28. As in the last two years, the contest will be held on the Internet.

As in previous years, the theme of the contest is the "Natural Beauty of the Palos Verdes Peninsula," and categories include Seascapes, Landscapes, Plants & Flowers, Wildlife, Native Plants, and Digitally-Enhanced images.

Individuals may enter as many as three photographs. Contest rules and details are posted on the web site and will be mailed to our mailing list. Entries will be accepted beginning August 1 and may be submitted by mail and e-mail.

The contest has been very well received and a number of outstanding photographs have been entered. Photos from the 1999 and 2000 contests are posted at the Conservancy's web site, www.pvplc.org.

Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy

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