

Conservancy Celebrates Education Milestone

On May 26th, the Conservancy hosted “Getting Students to The Point,” a special celebration of reaching our 25,000th Student through our various environmental education programs. The event, brought together the local media (KCAL9, RPV-TV), current and potential education funding partners, Board members and staff of the Conservancy and Para Los Niños Charter Elementary – our inner-city school partner, and provided an opportunity for supporters to see first-hand 50 eager fourth graders enjoying their final on-site hands-on nature education experience at White Point Nature Preserve.

The event marked the major milestone in our environmental education programs which include the Third Grade Naturalist, Science Students as Stewards (S³), and Nature Center programs. Attendees heard keynote speaker Gisselle Acevedo, CEO of Para Los Niños and former executive of *The LA Times*, LA Times Foundation and *Hoy* (a major Spanish-language newspaper) speak about the importance of the nature

experiences for her students, and the need for on-going funding. They were also able to witness the students enjoying the S³ science laboratory before each student was handed a colorful mini field notebook as a “graduation” gift by Education Director Kristina Ellis and Para Los Niños Principal Judy Perlmutter.

The attendees were acknowledged for their support and interest in the Conservancy at a lunch inside the Nature Center. Guests included: Alcoa Foundation; Sempra Energy Foundation; Opus Bank Foundation; Crail-Johnson Foundation; and Water Replenishment District. Participants enjoyed a tour of the Center’s exhibitions and an overview of the history of the Conservancy’s education programs. Our two other major education funders, The Ibrahim El-Hefni Technical Training Foundation and The Kenneth T. and Eileen L. Norris Foundation, were also thanked in their absence.

Having reached this significant milestone, the Conservancy’s Education Programs



Students receiving a gift at the 25,000th celebration

will now undergo planning and restructuring that will consolidate some of its programming, integrate recent innovations in curriculum design and evaluation, and better use the White Point and George F Canyon Nature Centers in the delivery of programs.

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Research Partnerships Advance Restoration

As part of our education program, the Conservancy partners with students and universities on research projects designed to expand our understanding of the en-

vironmental conditions of the preserves. Three recent projects illustrate how these partnerships improve the success of our habitat restoration efforts:

- A team of student researchers from the Cal State Long Beach (CSULB) Environmental Science and Policy Department completed a vegetation and soil assessment at Upper Filiorum Reserve that mapped native vegetation and weeds on 66 acres in the Palos Verdes Nature Preserve. Half of the area

they examined consisted of non-native weeds (mustard, fennel, pines and acacia). When the team looked at historical land use patterns, it indicated that the weedy areas were the ones that had been plowed one to five times in the past. The Conservancy will use these findings to prioritize restoration locations and determine how much weeding may be required over time

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CSULB student conducting a vegetation assessment in the recently acquired Upper Filiorum Reserve

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A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Last fall I wrote in this column about the Conservancy's mission to protect and restore our open spaces to maximize their benefits as community and environmental resources. Just as importantly, the Conservancy is actively pursuing our long-term goal of connecting our community to the land through volunteerism, education, research and the enjoyment these open spaces offer. We believe that our preserved lands can be a model for the co-existence of conservation and public access, and we want our residents and the residents of our entire region to be a part of our work.

The Conservancy has put together a dedicated and experienced staff, bringing an expertise to our work that makes us uniquely suited to carry out our mission. Half of the staff is devoted to stewardship, while other staff members focus on our other important work in the schools, operating our two nature centers and collaborating with local cities and organizations.

Of course, we also have dedicated staff members who raise the funds to keep this important work going. Our funding comes from a variety of sources, including significant public and private grants and some government funding under management contracts, but a significant portion of our funding comes from community members like you.

As public lands, our local preserves belong to all of us. This means that it falls on all of us to protect and enhance these lands, to use them responsibly, to pitch in and to take pride in what we have accomplished. If you haven't already, I encourage you to join us as a volunteer. And invite your friends also--what better way to experience the preserves first hand.

I look forward to continuing to work with you and our community as we carry forward our vision for the future.

Sincerely,



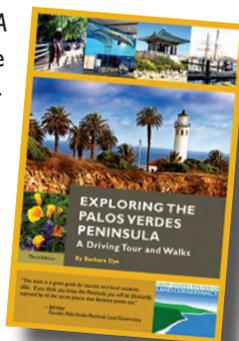
Ken Swenson
President, Board of Directors

CONSERVANCY PUBLISHES NEW "EXPLORING" EDITION

The latest edition of the *Exploring the Palos Verdes Peninsula: A Driving Tour and Walks* by Barbara Dye is now available from the Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy. The book is an excellent guide for both visitors and locals to discover the most scenic and historically significant locations around the area.

This edition is full of new stops, including six in San Pedro and others around the Peninsula. All of the proceeds from the sales of the book benefit the Conservancy.

The book is available for purchase for \$25 at the White Point and George F Canyon Nature Centers, the Conservancy Office on Silver Spur, at the Pt Vicente Interpretive Center, and at the PV Library. The book may also be purchased at the Conservancy's website with a \$5 shipping and handling charge at: WWW.PVPLC.ORG. Get your copy today!



WHITE POINT NATURE EDUCATION CENTER CELEBRATES 1ST ANNIVERSARY

Our community and Conservancy members helped us celebrate the 1st Anniversary of the White Point Nature Education Center's Grand Opening on May 21st. The occasion was enjoyed by over 100 visitors who were treated to a guided interpretive walk, educational shadow puppet show by Joyce Hutton and String & Things, kids' nature crafts and a "First Birthday" cake.

In Honor

Your celebration and remembrance gifts create a lasting tribute to friends and loved ones by helping to protect the beauty and character of the Palos Verdes Peninsula.

Celebrating

On Behalf of PVPHS HERO Club
given by Nigel Amstock
John Wessel's Birthday
given by Frankie Gelbwachs
In Honor of Outgoing Councilmembers Tom Long, Steve Wolowicz and Doug Stern given by Carolyn Lehr

Remembering

Diana Park
given by Noel Park
Paul Dreibelbis
given by John, Bill & Jo Woods
Ken Schuchard
given by Diane & Tony Cole

If you would like to make a donation in remembrance or celebration please call Mary Lopes, Donor Relations, at (310) 541-7613 x206.

Education continued from page 1

With funders now more able to assess the value of the Conservancy's innovative approach and see the impact of this inclusive effort, the Conservancy hopes to raise the bar yet higher and gain sufficient funds to enable even more students to access our invaluable hands-on nature programs.

To support the Conservancy's education efforts or for more information about how you or your child's school may be able to access these programs, go to our website: WWW.PVPLC.ORG, or email: info@pvplc.



OPEN SPACES

Preserving land and restoring habitat for the enjoyment and education of all

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EVENT CELEBRATES WRIGHT FAMILY'S NATURAL DESIGN LEGACY

The Conservancy thanked our Legacy Circle members at a special recognition event on May 22, 2011, at the home of Bill and Lynn Swank. Special guest Eric Lloyd Wright

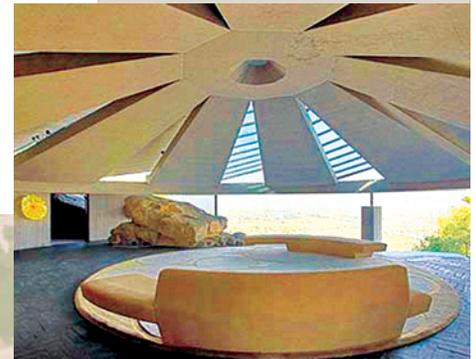


Pictured from left, Legacy Circle member Becky Cool, Mary and Eric Wright and guest Kathy Wilson

accepted our Conservation Partner Award for his contributions to green building and landscape design, as well as his family's legacy on the Palos Verdes Peninsula. Wright was joined by his wife Mary, an artist and former resident of Palos Verdes.

The Swank home, was designed by Aaron Green, the West Coast associate of Frank Lloyd Wright, and Eric Wright designed the pool overlooking Abalone Cove. Eric Wright received his award and spoke of the importance of maintaining legacies and preserving open space. Frank Lloyd Wright's philosophy of architectural design in nature inspired many generations of designers including Eric and his father Lloyd. The Wayfarer's Chapel and Visitors Center are fine examples of the family's iconic and celebrated legacy.

Legacy Circle members were also offered an exciting raffle for a three-night stay in the iconic and world famous Elrod House in Palm Springs, designed by John Lautner, another associate of Frank Lloyd Wright, and featured in the James Bond film, "Diamonds are Forever."



Modernist living room in The Elrod House

SHARE OUR VISION

The Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy needs member support to achieve our vision to preserve open space and restore habitat for the enjoyment and education of all.

When you make a donation you help turn this vision into reality. Please give a gift today that will enrich the quality of our lives now and for generations to come.

- \$100+ ensures our programs and restoration work continues throughout the year. **Also**, receive our new tour book: Exploring the Palos Verdes Peninsula, by Barbara Dye.

- \$1,000+ puts you in the Mariposa Circle - a giving level that ensures invitations to special member events and more

- \$5,000+ enters you into the Legacy Circle where you receive exclusive invitations, donor recognition and much more

We value all contributions and accept most giving options including gifts of stock, CRTs and bequests. Please contact Nancy Young at (310) 541-7613 x202 or email: nyoung@pvplc.org

Big Sunday Volunteers Care for Demonstration Gardens

In honor of Los Angeles' Day of Service called "Big Sunday," 63 volunteers converged on the White Point Nature Preserve on May 14th to help maintain the native plant demonstration gardens. The gardens are derived from local Tongva Native-American cultural heritage with pathways radiating outward to 3.7 miles of preserve hiking trails. They serve as a resource to teach visitors about the historical and ecological significance of native plants and the beauty of water-wise landscaping.



Cactus Wren Habitat Focus of Working Group

Cactus wren are listed as a California State Species of Special Concern and their populations have continued to decline in Southern California due to loss, degradation, and fragmentation of coastal sage scrub habitat. PVPLC Conservation Director Danielle LeFer participated in the Coastal Cactus Wren Conservation Network's June 3rd Annual Symposium (the Conservancy is a member of the network). At the event, members presented their research, monitoring and restoration results to determine future best practices for restoring cactus wren habitat.



*Cactus Wren at Alta Vicente Reserve
(photo by Evi Meyer)*

Danielle, along with Dan Cooper of Cooper Ornithological Consultants, presented data on 2009 cactus wren research that identified 211 active cactus wren territories in all of Los Angeles County: 28 on the Palos Verdes Peninsula, 6 on Big Tujunga Wash, and over 120 in the San Gabriel Valley. This shows that the PV Peninsula is an important refuge for this rare species. The findings show that cactus wrens occupy areas greater than 1 acre with 20% cactus cover, including some cactus larger than 1 meter (3 feet) tall. The importance of having large patches of cactus, and patches close enough to allow the wrens to disperse, is underscored by studies that have found small isolated populations were vulnerable to extinction.

Frequent wildfires have reduced or eliminated tall cactus (3 feet or greater), which is essential for the nesting, foraging and protection of the cactus wrens. Sharing these and other findings among Network members will increase the quality and effectiveness of restoration projects aimed at supporting cactus wren survival.

Restoration continued from page 1

to successfully restore the area.

- CSULB student researchers examined soil grain size, nutrients (organic nitrogen and organic carbon), and mineralogy at the Upper Filiorum Reserve. Soil samples were collected from several vegetation types in the Reserve to see if there was an association between soil characteristics and vegetation type. Soil grain size can be useful in determining how much water the soil can retain, which affects plant success or failure at a site. Grain size information can be used to determine which types of soil will support certain plants and to assure that plants are grown in the appropriate location to receive the correct amount of water to withstand hot, dry, or windy conditions. Their results found no association between soil characteristics and vegetation types. This finding will allow for greater flexibility in plant selection for the Upper Filiorum restoration site.

- A UCLA Senior Practicum Biology class looked at the effects of applying Arbuscular Mycorrhizae (AM) prior to restoration. AM fungi form a symbiotic relationship with some species of plants, particularly native species. AM attach to plant roots, and increase uptake of water and nutrients in these species, but with

some weed species, like Russian thistle and black mustard, the effect may be negative. The student researchers found that fewer sown thistle seeds grew in areas with AM than in areas without it, supporting the rationale to continue its use at restoration sites.

These and other applied research results directly inform our ongoing efforts to grow native plants and conduct habitat restoration. Consulting university researchers working with students helps determine the research focus and recommended protocols that enables the Conservancy to stay on the forefront of developments in restoration science.



*UCLA students (pictured above) at the
Three Sisters Reserve restoration site.*

Conservancy Findings Presented to Southern California Academy of Sciences

Two PVPLC researchers presented results of their research at the annual meeting of the Southern California Academy of Sciences (SCAS) held at the Cal Poly Pomona campus on May 6-7.

Stewardship Associate Adrienne Boller presented results from a master's research project on raptor perching preferences in urban salt marshes. She found ospreys, red-tailed hawks and American kestrels in great abundances utilizing anthropogenic structures for low-energy hunting. Peter Smolke, a Conservancy-mentored high school student researcher, presented his research poster on wild coyote and fox in the Palos Verdes Nature Preserve.

The annual meeting offers Southern California scientists the opportunity to interact with their peers about their research, focusing on ecology, molecular biology, physical and marine sciences. Stewardship Associate for Research, Ann Dalkey, is currently SCAS Vice President.

White Point Home Tour Set for September 25

Join us on Sunday, September 25th for the **2011 Fall for White Point Home Tour & Reception** benefitting the White Point Nature Preserve. This year features eight not-to-be-missed homes including:

- **Artist Loft** – a converted commercial space recently transformed into two 3000 sq. ft. live/work spaces by two designer/artists to facilitate and showcase their collections, art installations and fine art paintings.

- **Mi Amour House** – home of Los Angeles artist Candice Gawne, well known for her sculptural neon glass artworks and sensual paintings.

- **Casa de Mar** – inspired by local seascapes, this home was designed by its owners to capture the essence of the port and the local fishing community. Exposed natural wood rafters add warmth to balance steel and natural stone.

- **Wilbur Wood House** – a historic early 20th century home originally owned by Wilbur Wood that was moved by horse cart from PalosVerdes and 3rd Streets to its current location overlooking the harbor. Wood led efforts in the early 1900's to establish the canning and marketing of tuna in San Pedro.

- **Ranch House** – a traditional ranch home graced with touches of old world charm including beautiful stone and tile-work reflecting the owners' European backgrounds and love of entertaining.

- **Spanish Bungalow** - This 1924 home maintains much of its original structure, including the arched gate with the campanile bell. Inventive remodeling has served to make a small space seem larger and Saltillo tile throughout maintains the Spanish flavor.

- **Pt. Fermin Lighthouse** – We are excited to be partnering with the Point Fermin Lighthouse Society to offer a special tour of the historic Victorian home and museum constructed in 1874 as the first navigational light in the San Pedro Bay. For 50 years, the lighthouse was home to many lighthouse keepers and their families. Now listed in the National Register of Historic Places, the Point Fermin lighthouse was restored in 2002, opened to the public in 2003, and currently managed by the LA Department of Recreation and Parks.

- **Oceanfront Terranea Resort Casita** – an elegant blend of authentic Mediterranean design, coupled with the ecological and aesthetic characteristics of the natural habitat of this rare coastline location in Rancho PalosVerdes.



This year the Port Business Improvement District will provide a clean-fuel Red Trolley as an eco-friendly way to enjoy the home tour circuit. Following the tour, a reception at the White Point Nature Education Center will bring everyone together to enjoy a glass of wine and finger foods, listen to live music, and bid on exciting silent auction items. One lucky opportunity drawing winner will receive a **free one-night stay at Terranea Resort plus a round of golf for two** being raffled for just \$20 a ticket (or 6 for \$100) as part of this event!

To purchase tickets and learn more, please go to WWW.PVPLC.ORG. We look forward to seeing you at the Home Tour on September 25th!

Trail Crew Member Profile: Mike Jost

Mike Jost has volunteered with the Conservancy since 2006, using his talent in carpentry to help with such major projects as building a bridge on one of the preserves on behalf of the Conservancy. Mike had enjoyed the Forrestal Reserve as an avid bike rider for many years and through this developed an interest in keeping the trails maintained. Mike became more and more curious about proper trail construction to protect habitat, native plants, and endangered species. He joined the trail crew and was very interested to learn in class about water issues such as how to evalu-

ate an erosion problem and identify the most efficient way to slow down, or get water off the trail.

Mike and the class implemented the strategy by constructing a proper drain that is trail user-friendly and not damaging to nearby habitat. Mike says, "I rode my bike on the Flying Mane Trail to see how the drainage dips and stone check dams held up through the rains. Before I got to the trail restoration area, I came across a couple dozen Mariposa lilies. They poked their tulip-like purplish-white flowers

through purple sage and lemonade berry while others grew unimpeded by any other plants. Needless to say, it was a great trail experience that keeps me coming back."

If you wish to find out more about joining our trail crew, or other volunteer opportunity, please visit WWW.PVPLC.ORG.



FALL CALENDAR

George F Canyon

**OCT 1
NOV 5**

9 am
Bird Walk

We supply binoculars

**OCT 1
NOV 5**

1-3 pm

First Saturday Hikes

Join our expert guide. \$3 per person. Call 310-547-0862 for more information

**OCT 14
NOV 11**

Time to be arranged

Full Moon Hike

Limited to 20 people.

Call 310-547-0862 for time. Reservations required.

White Point Nature Preserve

**OCT 8
NOV 12**

2 pm

NEW! Tongva Walk

Explore the Tongva culture with a new interpretive walk. Ages 7+ welcome. \$5 person. Reservations Required. Call (310) 541-7613

OCT 22
10:30 am

NEW! Children's Storytime

Bring the kids to hear LA City Rangers read nature-theme stories to young people of all ages. Every 4th Saturday except holidays.

Every Saturday
10-12 noon
Ranger Walks

Enjoy a free guided family nature hike around the restored native coastline habitat with views of the Pacific and Catalina. Easy San Pedro.

PALOS VERDES PENINSULA
LAND CONSERVANCY



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or current resident

Join us for these exciting events and volunteer opportunities! Reservations are recommended for all Volunteer Workdays and are required for workdays at the Nursery. For information and reservations, call Jill Wittman at (310) 541-7613 x201. Directions and information can be found at WWW.PVPLC.ORG

SEP 25

**WHITE POINT
HOMETOUR**

1-5 pm Self-Guided Tour
4-7 pm Reception &
Silent Auction

OCT 1

9-12 noon

Team Training Workshop

Become a team leader!
Applications available on
www.pvplc.org

OCT 8

9-12 noon

Volunteer Workday
Nursery

Help transplant seedlings and
weed plant containers

OCT 8

9-11 am

Nature Walk
NEW! Frascati Canyon

Explore this beautiful canyon, one of three on the east side of the Peninsula, overlooking the harbor. Moderate to strenuous. RPV

OCT 15

9-12 noon

Volunteer Workday
Three Sisters Reserve

Plant natives for cactus wren
and gnatcatcher bird habitat

OCT 22

9-12 noon

Volunteer Workday
Agua Amarga Reserve

Help remove invasive plants

OCT 29

9-12 noon

Volunteer Workday
Portuguese Bend Reserve

Contribute habitat
restoration by planting natives

NOV 5

9-12 noon

Volunteer Workday
Nursery

Help transplant seedlings and
weed plant containers

Volunteer Workday Sponsors:



NOV 12

3-5 pm

Nature Walk
Sacred Cove

Discover Portuguese and
Inspiration Points, edged with
tidepools and a channel into
a seacave. Strenuous. RPV

NOV 12

9-12 noon

Volunteer Workday
Linden H. Chandler
Reserve

Plant natives to help the
restoration effort

NOV 19

9-12 noon

Volunteer Workday
Portuguese Bend Reserve

Contribute to habitat
restoration by
planting natives



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