

Conservancy Dedicates New Public Sculpture

Local philanthropists Dr. Allen and Charlotte Ginsburg were joined by a lively crowd gathered to see them unveil a life-size, bronze California brown pelican sculpture dedicated in their honor. The unveiling was a highlight of the special September 2 dedication event to honor the couple for their significant donation to the Conservancy's campaign to complete the 1,200-acre Palos Verdes Nature Preserve. Guests included Ginsburg family members and friends, Conservancy members and supporters, and VIPs, including, Rancho Palos Verdes Mayor Tom Long and Terranea Resort Executive Vice President and Managing Director Terri Haack.



Allen & Charlotte Ginsburg, Ken Swenson, Terri Haack and Andrea Vona at the dedication.

The pelican sculpture by artist David Clemmons was installed at the newly named Pelican Cove on the grounds of Terranea, near Discovery Trail. In his dedication speech, Dr. Allen Ginsburg called the California brown pelican, "a symbol of recovery." Driven to the brink of extinction by the widespread use of DDT, flocks of brown pelicans now commonly frequent Southern California's coastline. The pesticide's devastating effect on the hatching rates of all bird species led to its ban by the federal government in 1972.

The Ginsburg Foundation has provided significant funds over many years to support numerous nonprofits promoting environmental conservation, arts and culture, and assisting the blind.

Said an enthusiastic Charlotte Ginsburg, "The PVPLC is a noble organization, with a large impact on this community. It's thrilling to think this land on the ocean's edge will be unchanged and undeveloped for many genera-



Photo credits: Michael Baxter

tions – we hope forever."

The Conservancy is grateful to Terranea Resort, which cosponsored the dedication event; Bennett Landscape for assistance in building the base, installing the bronze plaque and supplying the boulders for mounting; and Paul Christianson of Palos Verdes Engineering Inc. for his pro bono assistance in the structural analysis and design of the concrete base.

A Nature Walk Through the Portuguese Bend Landslide— by Dr. Robert Douglas

The Portuguese Landslide is an area that most people on the Peninsula have heard about but few have visited. As you drive across it on Palos Verdes Drive South it is visible, but when I led a walking tour in September for the Conservancy, participants got a first-hand, close-up view of the active forces of nature.

The Portuguese Bend landslide is a unique geological feature with the dubious distinction of being the largest continuously moving landslide in the United States, possibly in North America. Since its reactivation in 1956, the landslide has never stopped moving. The seaward and eastern parts have moved the most, from between 700 to 900 feet, while the western and inland sections have moved

about 500 feet in the last 50 years. More than 130 houses and the Portuguese Bend Club and pier were so damaged by the movement that they had to be destroyed.

Visitors are often surprised to learn that the landslide was set into motion 55 years ago by human activities: the placement of road-fill on the ancient landslide when LA County built an ex-

Continued on page 2



On Portuguese Point cliff the strata dips dramatically toward the ocean.

NEWS ITEMS

Message from the Executive Director.....	p.2
Home Tour Raises Record Support.....	p.3
Restoration Update.....	p.4
New Conservation Scholarship.....	p.5
Winter Calendar.....	p.6

A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Did you know that there are more than 150 land trusts hard at work to preserve additional acreage, restore, study and maintain protected wilderness, and educate the public in communities throughout California? The Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy takes pride in carrying out our mission of preserving land and restoring habitat for the education and enjoyment of all. We recognize that by stewarding this precious land in the Palos Verdes Peninsula, we benefit not only the local community, but all Californians. Wild lands provide all people with natural, clean, scenic refuges to explore and experience. These lands provide many benefits that are not only helpful, but critical, to our well being, including our quality of life, our children's future, and our state's environmental health.



While fall color is not a hallmark of our Southern California autumn, we can still celebrate and appreciate the subtle changing light and landscapes that signal summer's passage. The cheery sight of goldenbush, a California native with bright yellow flowers, is one of my favorite signs of fall on our local hillsides. As you explore our wilderness on your own or on one of our upcoming docent-led tours, I hope you will take a minute to breathe the fresh, fall air, notice the sun's weakening strength, and admire goldenbush and other autumn-blooming natives.

In this bountiful harvest season, we thank you for helping the Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy carry out its continuing work in preservation, restoration, and education. We hope that you will continue to support us as we join the rest of California's land trusts to ensure a healthy future for all. Please help us now by making a year-end donation at WWW.PVPLC.ORG or mailing in the enclosed postage-paid envelope today.

Have a wonderful Thanksgiving,

Sincerely,

Andrea Vona
Executive Director

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

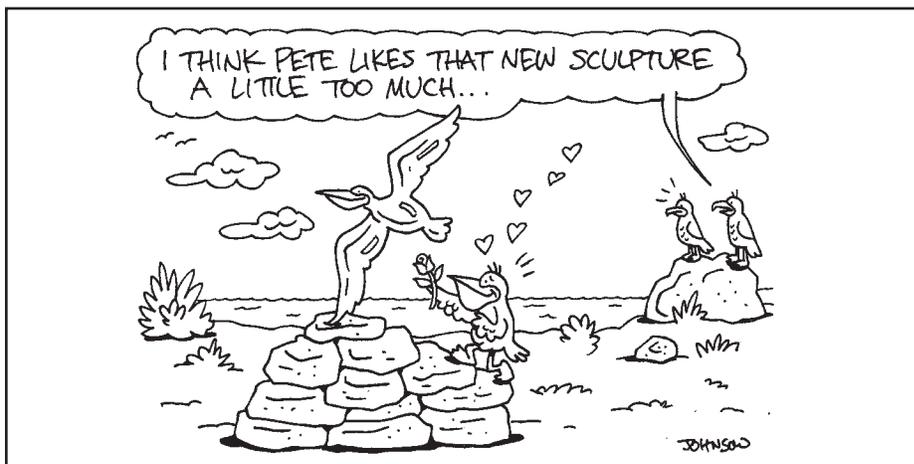
We value all contributions and accept most giving options including gifts of stock, CRTs and bequests. Please contact Nancy Young at (310) 541-7613 x202 or email: NYOUNG@PVPLC.ORG

continued from page 1

tension of Crenshaw Blvd. and the build-up of groundwater from houses on septic tank systems. Once the landslide was reactivated, it quickly expanded. Within weeks the entire Portuguese Bend landslide was moving. Numerous remediation attempts by the City of RPV have included re-grading the landslide and moving over 10 million cubic yards of material to the toe; placing rock gabions at the sea cliff to reduce erosion; dewatering wells to lower the groundwater; installing caissons to pin the landslide; and conducting experiments to alter the strength of the bentonite clay upon which the landslide moves.

A PVPLC Science Advisory Panel Member and volunteer nature walk leader, Dr. Robert Douglas is currently Chairman of the Board of Directors for the Abalone Cove Landslide

Abatement District and Professor Emeritus in Earth Sciences at USC. Visit WWW.PVPLC.ORG for a schedule of upcoming nature walks and other free public programs.



Cartoon depicting the new pelican sculpture in the Peninsula News, Thursday, September 15, 2011.



OPEN SPACES

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

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Ken Swenson, President
Bruce Biesman-Simons, Exec. Vice President
Susan McKenna, Secretary
Marc Crawford, Treasurer
Bill Ailor, Founder
Allen Franz
Cassie Jones
Henry Jurgens
Elizabeth Kennedy
Mike Kilroy
Leslie McShane
Jess Morton
Joseph Platnick
Anke Raue
Jack Smith
John Spielman
Bill Swank
Grace Wallace
Pam Westhoff

STAFF

Andrea Vona, Executive Director

Administration

Jill Wittman, Administrative Assistant

Land Stewardship

Danielle LeFer, Conservation Director
Cris Sarabia, Stewardship Manager
Adrienne Bosler, Stewardship Associate
Ann Dalkey, Stewardship Assoc. Research
Holly Gray, Restoration Naturalist
Humberto Calderon, Stewardship Technician
Damian Morando, Stewardship Technician
Hugo Morales, Stewardship Technician
Nely Gonzalez, Nursery Technician

Development

Nancy Young, Development Director
Louise Olfarnes, Communications Manager
Mary Lopes, Donor Relations

Education Program

Siegrun Storer, Education Associate
John Nieto, Education Manager

George F Canyon Nature Center

Loretta Rose, Manager/Naturalist
Joshua West, Assistant Naturalist

White Point Nature Education Center

Laurie Morgan, Naturalist
Daniel Feldman, Assistant Naturalist

PALOS VERDES PENINSULA
LAND CONSERVANCY
P.O. Box 3427

Palos Verdes Peninsula, CA 90274
Tel: (310)541-7613 Fax: (310)541-7623
Email: info@pvplc.org
Website: WWW.PVPLC.ORG

2011 HOME TOUR RAISES RECORD SUPPORT



Photo: Blaine Beron-Rawdon

Organizers of the White Point Home Tour were pleased to welcome a record number of guests this year. The event raised more than \$32,000 to support habitat restoration, education activities, and site improvements at the White Point Nature Education Center and Preserve. Visitors viewed six amazing homes and a local landmark – from the historic Wilbur Wood House, which was moved by horse cart to its current location on the San Pedro harbor; to an eclectic neon-light bedecked cottage and the working art-gallery home of two artists. Those who hopped on the open-air Red Trolley provided by the San Pedro Business Improvement District enjoyed hassle-free touring.

The event owes its unprecedented success to homeowners, business sponsors, media partners, in-kind donors, the organizing committee, and volunteers, including:

- Sponsors: Coastal San Pedro Neighborhood Council, ConocoPhillips, SA Recycling, Advanced Orthopaedic Solutions, Malaga Bank, Nakae & Associates, Opus Community Foundation, Wild Birds Unlimited, and Fusion Systems
- Homeowners: Julian and Lisa Jimenez, Michele and Gabrielle Vuoso, Lida and Austin Lawrey, Sheri McHale, Candace Gawne and Lou Mannick, Laura Leaney, and the Pt. Fermin Lighthouse
- White Point Home Tour Committee: Susan Cooning, Madeleine Drake, Amy Friend, Jewell Jones, Susan McKenna (Co-Chair), Leslie McShane, Terry Miller, Mary Ellen Richardson (Co-Chair), Roxanne Roberts, Beth Sohngen, and Julie Winter
- Media partner: Random Lengths News; Raffle Donation: Terranea Real Estate
- In-kind contributors and volunteers: The City of LA Department of Recreation and Parks, Eberle and OneHope Wineries, the Beacon House, PV Chapter of NCL, Council District 15, and Michael Baxter and Blaine Beron-Rawdon for photography

Don't miss our benefit's repeat performance next year! For information about sponsorships, donations or volunteer support, please contact: INFO@PVPLC.ORG

Conservancy Welcomes New Staff

In August the Conservancy welcomed several new staff members, including Assistant Naturalists Joshua West and Daniel Feldman and Restoration Naturalist Holly Gray.

- Joshua will be assisting at the George F Canyon Nature Center, where he will provide insight into regional wildlife. He is currently studying exotic animal husbandry and management at Moorpark College.
- Daniel will work at the White Point Nature Education Center, sharing his knowledge of restoration and native plants, which he gained over the past two years working on the Conservancy's stewardship crew. He has experience with El Dorado National Forest and Olympic National Park.
- Holly will help coordinate our outdoor volunteer days. She has a M.S. in Biology from the University of Nebraska and experience working with Algalita Marine Research Foundation, the National Audubon Society, and the Cabrillo Marine Aquarium.

WE GOT FANMAIL!

Extracted from a George F Canyon visitor email: "I would just like to comment on how outstanding we found the docent in the center, who was very generous with his time talking to us and the four children we had with us. He entertained and educated them, had an impressive knowledge of the animals, insects and local area, and a passion for the subject. Thank you for having such an outstanding person at your center and for making our visit so enjoyable."



Photo: R. Eshuis

Restoration Focuses on Habitat Lost in the 2009 Wildfire

The Conservancy focused significant effort over the summer and fall to restore Portuguese Bend Reserve habitat lost in the August 2009 fire. A U.S. Department of Fish and Game Local Assistance Grant allowed us to focus on cactus restoration, removing competing weeds and adding cactus pads to increase the size of remaining patches. In all, we planted over 1,000 prickly pear and cholla cactus in three separate areas. By restoring cactus patches to areas large enough to keep predators at bay, these enhancement efforts will increase the likelihood of cactus wrens returning to nest there.

Since goats finished their initial weed control work last spring at Peacock Flats, we have continued removing invasive plants before they seed. Volunteers cleared huge swathes of the “fennel forest” near Ailor Trail, exposing the native vegetation underneath. This work will help reduce non-native seed deposits before we plant natives next fall. Fortunately, the Conservancy will only have to remove a few unsafe, fire-damaged pine trees, leaving the majority standing to continue providing much-needed habitat for local wildlife.



Volunteer clearing large stalks of fennel in a restoration area.

Survey Determines Threatened Birds Remain at Portuguese Bend After the Fire



Gnatcatcher on a cactus.

On August 27, 2009, a 165-acre wildfire burned through the Portuguese Bend Reserve, in known nesting sites of the threatened coastal California gnatcatcher (*Polioptila californica californica*) and the special-status coastal cactus wren (*Campylorhynchus brunneicapillus*). To determine how the fire affected these two bird species, the Conservancy conducted post-fire surveys in 2010 and 2011 during their breeding season (February - August).

The surveys found that both species are still nesting at Portuguese Bend, possibly in numbers similar to pre-fire populations. Although the fire destroyed one of two cactus wren territories known to be active in 2009, this cactus patch continues to support significant numbers of both the cactus wren and the California gnatcatcher. Surveys in 2011 found that populations of both species had increased slightly over populations in 2010, suggesting that each may be attempting to recolonize (or at least travel through) burned areas. The positive findings are especially significant in light of the Conservancy's recent cactus restoration efforts, pointing to the possibility of continued increases in subsequent surveys.

Conservancy Teams Up with Coastal Commission for Restoration Training

Community-based habitat restoration is a relatively new and growing field that gives concerned citizens the opportunity to get their hands dirty and help repair damaged and threatened ecosystems. As part of its ongoing volunteer-based restoration program, the Conservancy was honored to join the California Coastal Commission in hosting “Digging In,” a program for educators and practitioners focusing on environmental restoration. The September 1 workshop described successful strategies for volunteer restoration projects, best practices for volunteer management, and current restoration theories and practices. The Conservancy hosted participants on field tours of ongoing volunteer restoration projects at White Point and the San Pedro native plant nursery. A link to the guide book is available at WWW.PVPLC.ORG/_EDUCATION/RESOURCES.ASP.



PVPLC Stewardship Associate Adrienne Bosler training the workshop group in restoration planning strategies.



Water-Wise Techniques for Gardeners

Creating water efficient gardens and landscapes was the focus of a free Eco-Gardener Workshop on August 27th at White Point. The Conservancy and the Water Replenishment District (WRD) of Southern California hosted the presentation by WaterWise Consulting on how to design a beautiful sustainable landscape with creativity and water-saving tips, including planting drought-tolerant native plants and installing water-efficient residential irrigation systems. We are grateful to WRD for sponsoring this event as part of our educational activities. Watch our calendar for another Eco-Gardener workshop in Spring 2012.

Pictured Left: PVPLC Naturalist Roxanne Roberts and the WRD's Tracey Burke with gift garden buckets.

Conservancy Trains Youth in Water Conservation Careers

Generation Water, a nonprofit workforce development organization dedicated to training youth in conservation careers has invited the Conservancy to provide expertise in sustainable land restoration and help train its members. The Conservancy worked with 10 trainees, who provided over 90 volunteer hours in the demonstration gardens at White Point as preparation for their own habitat restoration project in Baldwin Hills. The Conservancy trained the group in identifying native coastal sage scrub plants and non-native plant species and on weed removal strategies in native habitats.



Trainee learning restoration techniques for a career in conservation.

According to Generation Water, Southern California's demand for water far exceeds its supply. To meet this demand, Los Angeles must import up to 90% of its water. Retail water suppliers must decrease water usage 20% by the

year 2020 to meet restrictions set in place by the state's Water Conservation Act of 2009. Generation Water trainees will go on to conservation careers that will help California its future water supply challenges.

New Scholarship Encourages Conservation

The Conservancy and the Long Family Foundation announced a new scholarship to encourage undergraduate students to contribute to local conservation. The \$1,500 scholarship will support research on a nature preserve. Priorities include research into cactus wren nesting and foraging habitats and important or rare native plants such as deerweed, rattlegod and saltbush. South Bay residents and upper-division students enrolled at UCLA, CSUs Long Beach or Dominguez Hills, or Harbor or El Camino junior colleges are eligible. The scholarship will be awarded in early December.

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

George, Millie, Mary and David Griffith given by Bruce Biesman-Simons and Hale Field
Judy Cranham's Birthday given by Greg Cranham
Mark and Shelley Hardy given by Carolyn Lizdenis
Barbara and George Gleghorn's Anniversary given by Betty Strauss

Remembering

Ken Schuchard given by Diane and Tony Cole
Tom Malmin given by Becky Cool
David Lopes given by Becky Cool, Louise Olfarnes, Andrea Vona, Jill Wittman and the PVPLC Staff
Diana Park given by Noel Park
Becky Thompson given by Brian Haig
Jim Joyce given by Eileen Joyce, Misty, and Theclah Krasombi

For a celebration or remembrance gift, please call Mary Lopes, Donor Relations, at (310) 541-7613x206

Local Eagle Scouts Make Big Improvements with Service Projects

Boy Scouts Kyle Salzman, Jack Dulzo and Brian Kim have completed their Eagle Scout volunteer projects with the Conservancy. A member of Troop 849, Kyle built 13 new tables for our nursery and replaced broken fences at Lunada Canyon. Jack Dulzo of Troop 257 worked with 30 scouts to build six beautiful tables and fill 1,000 pots with deerweed and other host plants for the Palos Verdes blue butterfly at our San Pedro nursery. Brian Lee of Troop 191 created the Deena Sheridan Memorial Garden at Palos Verdes Peninsula High School using native plants grown in the Conservancy's nursery. Brian designed the beautiful garden with boulder-bench landscaping, a decomposed granite trail, and a commemorative plaque in honor of the Conservancy's late education program cofounder and board member Deena Sheridan.



The Deena Sheridan Memorial Garden at Peninsula High School pictured left during construction and completed at right



Trump Wine & Beer Festival Benefits Conservancy

Trump National Golf Club's 3rd Annual Wine & Beer Festival benefitted the Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy. The sold-out event on August 28 featured forty eight wineries and twenty four breweries providing tastings for the 2,000 guests, who also enjoyed the spectacular Pacific Ocean and Catalina Island backdrop. Special thanks to Trump General Manager Lili Amini and Director of Food & Beverage Mark Bertolacini for their assistance.

Pictured from left Executive Director Andrea Vona and Board member Susan McKenna at the Festival outreach booth.

CONSERVANCY WINS 2011 BEST OF SOUTH BAY

It's official: Hiking with the Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy was voted Best Outdoor Activity in Southbay Magazine's first annual Best of the SouthBay competition. The magazine asked readers and followers to select their favorites from nearly 200 nominees in over 40 categories, and 17,000 voters picked the winners, including the Conservancy. Visit WWW.PVPLC.ORG for our list of recommended hikes to see the best sunsets, tidepools, wildflowers and more.



Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy
PO Box 3427
Palos Verdes Peninsula, CA 90274
T: (310)541-7613 E: info@pvplc.org
www.pvplc.org

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

or current resident



Follow us on at www.facebook.com/pvplc.org

CALENDAR WINTER 2011

NATURE WALKS

Enjoy monthly family outdoor walks led by volunteer naturalists, historians, and geologists. Wear walking shoes and bring sun protection and water. No reservations required. Cancelled in case of rain.

SACRED COVE NOV 12, 3-5pm

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

OCEAN FRONT ESTATES DEC 10, 9-11am

Take a delightful walk from Pt. Vicente along the bluff to discover California gnatcatchers and other birds flourishing in the native habitat. Moderate. RPV.

MADRONA MARSH JAN 14, 2012, 9-11am

Visit an oasis for birds and other wildlife. Easy. TOR.

GEORGE F CANYON

Enjoy the monthly series of guided hikes, bird walks, and full moon walks through this unique riparian canyon habitat.

BIRD WALK NOV 5, DEC 3, 9am

Join our naturalist to look for hooded orioles, Western tanager and more. Binoculars available. Beginners welcome. Free. No reservations required.

FIRST SATURDAY HIKE NOV 5, DEC 3, 1-3pm

Join an expert guide to discover habitat, wildlife and more. \$3 per person. No reservations required.

FULL MOON HIKE NOV 11, DEC 10

Limited to 20 people. Call 310-547-0862 for time and reservations. \$10 per person. Ages 9+.

WHITE POINT NATURE PRESERVE

RANGER WALKS NOV 12, DEC 10, 10:30am

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

TONGVA WALKS NOV 13, DEC 11, 2:00pm

Explore the Tongva culture with a new interpretive walk. Ages 7+ welcome. \$5 person. Reservations required: INFO@PVPLC.ORG or call (310) 541-7613

FAMILY NATURE & ART WORKSHOP

AUTUMN IMPRESSIONS NOV 5, 10:00am

Join a guided family coastal nature hike followed by a children's art workshop at Terranea Resort. \$25 per family. Ages 3+ welcome. Reservations required: INFO@PVPLC.ORG or call (310) 541-7613.

VOLUNTEER WORKDAYS

Join us for a fun volunteer outdoor workday. Reservations required for the Nursery. For information and reservations, please call (310) 541-7613 or email: INFO@PVPLC.ORG

NATIVE PLANT NURSERY/DFSP NOV 5, 9-12pm

Help transplant seedlings and weed plant containers.

LINDEN H. CHANDLER RESERVE NOV 12, 9-12pm

Plant natives to help the restoration effort.

PORTUGUESE BEND RESERVE NOV 19, 9-12pm

Contribute to habitat restoration by planting natives.

WHITE POINT NATURE PRESERVE DEC 3

Plant natives and beautify the demonstration garden.

NATIVE PLANT NURSERY/DFSP DEC 10, 9-12pm

Help transplant seedlings and weed plant containers. Reservations required.

GEORGE F CANYON DEC 17, 9-12pm

Help enhance the demonstration garden with planting.