

Students Begin RECIPE Research

Thanks to a grant from Alcoa Foundation for the Research, Education and Community Involvement Program for the Environment (RECIPE), five interns from local universities are conducting research this summer to make our restoration and management activities more efficient and more grounded



Dr. Dessie Underwood (at right) of Cal State University assists students setting up traps for cursorial arthropods.

in real science. The following is a brief description of their projects.

Comparing Plant Communities

Lara DeManuel, a Junior from Cal State Dominguez Hills, is doing a historical review of the flora from the Peninsula, Catalina Island, the Channel Islands and nearby areas to show the relationships between the Peninsula and other localities. The results will be presented at the Jepson Herbarium Workshop proposed for spring 2008.

Developing Procedures for Soil Sampling

The Conservancy has its first soil laboratory thanks to Brian Pauley, a Senior from Cal State Long Beach, who recommended equipment for purchase, set up the laboratory, and developed procedures for operating the lab. This will allow soil sampling at current and prospective restoration sites to improve restoration success. There are many unanswered questions about the relationship of soil quality to the types of habitat that succeed in a given location, and Brian's work will help the Conservancy match plants to the soil type.

Measuring Success of Restoration

One of the questions about habitat restoration has been whether restored habitat provides the same benefits as existing habitat to the creatures that live within it. Wendy Willis, a Senior at Cal State University Long Beach, is conducting an individual project entitled "The Use of Cursorial Arthropods as Indicators of Restoration Success". Under the direction of Dr. Dessie Underwood, Wendy is sampling for arthropods (insects and spiders)

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PROGRESS AT WHITE POINT

Construction is underway on the parking area at White Point Nature Preserve. On site parking is an essential element of the community-developed Master Plan for the Preserve, since it will allow improved access to the site.

The parking area will be constructed of a permeable surface called GravelPave, which will help to safeguard the natural water cycle by allowing rainwater to percolate through the surface and into the

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Funded by a grant from the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority, the new parking area will provide space for 44 vehicles and 2 school buses along with bicycle racks.

NEW NATURE WALKS

Guided nature walks will be held on the third Friday of every month at 4pm at the White Point Preserve. Naturalists will talk about the progress toward implementing the Master Plan, and will point out the unique plants, animals and birds that now make White Point their home. The walks will be easy. Until the parking lot is completed, those interested should meet on the former Nike Site located on the property. Once the parking lot is open, we will meet there.

A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

PUTTING YOUR DONATIONS TO WORK

The Land Conservancy has three main sources of income: donations from the community, contracts to do restoration, and grants for specific purposes. As I start preparing the budget for 2008, I'd like to share with you some of the decisions and choices to be made as to how our resources are allocated.

First, I have to look at our ongoing contracts. We have an agreement with the City of Rolling Hills Estates to manage the George F Canyon Nature Center, and a contract with Rancho Palos Verdes to manage the Portuguese Bend Nature Preserve. Neither contract covers the full costs of performing the task - they just give us base funding and we need your donations to supplement them. We also have a contract with the Navy to grow plants and restore habitat for the blue butterfly at the Fuel Depot in San Pedro.

Second, we receive grant funding. A grant from the Alcoa Foundation (see article on page 1) has provided an extraordinary opportunity for local students to do science research with university mentors on the preserves, and we hope that the program will be continued. Our third-grade program has been helped by funding from the Norris Foundation, Las Candelistas, and several PTAs, but your donations are essential for this program to continue.

We have some outstanding grants for the White Point Preserve, many of which will be implemented this year. We also put to good use the funds raised by Spring for White Point, a community effort to support the Preserve. What isn't really visible is the enormous amount of staff time that has been required

to bring the various projects for the property to fruition.

The third and most important part of our funding comes from you, the community.

Your donations, big and small, pay the rent on our office, pay for people to grow the plants, organize volunteer days and run education programs, pay for signs, topsoil and even toner for the printers. One of the things we are proudest of is the way we leverage the support from our community to make every dollar work as hard as possible.



Peninsula high school student Amy Choi sorting arthropods into groups for Wendy Willis' project.



Volunteers transplant seedlings at the Conservancy's native plant nursery.

We have an excellent reputation with the state agencies because we do a thorough, professional job of everything we do, and this really helps our efforts to preserve additional land. A staffer from the California Department of Fish and Game recently commented, "We love working with PVPLC because you do what you say you'll do and you do it well."

So back to the budget - if we can count on your donations, we can expand our education program, continue to have successful volunteer days, and keep the outstanding reputation we are developing around the state. We want you to know how much we appreciate your contributions, and we pledge to make every dollar work hard to "preserve land and restore habitat for the education and enjoyment of all."

Thank you!

YOUR GIFT IS IMPORTANT

Every donation we receive is put to work taking care of the land. You have many ways to donate to the Land Conservancy:

- Volunteer time is critical to our success.
- Our Mariposa Circle is for donors giving \$1,000 or more annually, with special thank-you events and benefits.
- Our Legacy Circle is for donors giving \$5,000 or more for three years, with signature thank-you events and special benefits.
- The Conservancy offers many planned giving options.

For more information, call our office at 541-7613 or e-mail rford@pvplc.org.

Barbara Dye
Executive Director



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OPEN SPACES

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STEWARDSHIP, RESTORATION AND EDUCATION UPDATES

Students Begin RECIPE Research

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before, during, and after restoration efforts at the Alta Vicente Ecological Reserve. The results of this project will show the changes in the community resulting from the restoration.

Improving Our Plant Database

Aya Obara, a Junior at UCLA, is improving the database of plant species, integrating photographs of native plants that we've taken during the past few years, and helping to develop a wildflower guidebook.

Improving Propagation Techniques

Ryan Falconer, California State University Long Beach graduate student, is working with Mike Yadrick as a Restoration Assistant. Ryan has started a culturing experiment with ashy-leaved buckwheat (an important plant the Conservancy has had difficulty propagating) and also a soil amendment mixture experiment at the nursery. The Conservancy hopes his work will improve its success rate with this important locally native plant.



Ryan Falconer prepares a flat for the ashy-leaved buckwheat culturing experiment.

Progress at White Point

Continued from page 1

ground. The use of this material at White Point is a pilot program for the City of Los Angeles Recreation and Parks.

With an expected completion date of this September, the parking area will be open, without a fee, during regular Preserve hours (dawn to dusk).

New Amenities Welcome Visitors

Interpretive stone panels will be installed throughout the site in July. These panels tell the story of White Point through time and relay the theme of the site: "White Point Nature Preserve comes full circle. Once an unbroken wilderness and later altered by human use and occupation, the coastal habitats of the preserve are being restored for the benefit of wildlife and people."

Thanks to a Community Beautification Grant from the City of Los Angeles, two new picnic tables have been installed under the historic pepper trees and three benches will be placed on the slopes overlooking the Preserve.



Visitors to the White Point Nature Preserve will enjoy the two new picnic tables.

STEWARDSHIP, RESTORATION AND EDUCATION UPDATES

George F Canyon Preserve

Visitors to the George F Canyon Nature Preserve in Rolling Hills Estates can see a colorful display of wildflowers and other California native plants around the Nature Center and Community Center.

More restoration plantings are also growing on the sloping hillside in the canyon that will eventually border the future native demonstration garden. Those who venture up the Stein-Hale Trail will encounter newly planted natives along the way, even on some of the steeper canyon hillsides. Infill plantings of small shrubs next season will round out the restoration efforts under the current State grant.



At The Nature Center

After 15 years of great events and fun times, the Nature Center may be ready for a bit of a face-lift. The Conservancy is looking into some new designs and programming that will compliment the already successful activities going on there. Naturalist Loretta Rose, will continue her great work with the popular programs happening at the Center.

Don't forget to visit the website at www.pvplc.org for a list of fun adventures like Family Fun Days and the Full Moon and First Saturday hikes.

Portuguese Bend Nature Preserve

Managing the new Preserve involves many different activities including habitat restoration, invasive plant removal, maintaining clearances for fire safety and improving trails. As part of a multi-year restoration program required under the NCCP (Natural Communities Conservation Plan), Conservancy staff recently began to clear weeds and debris from the first five-acre site in the Alta Vicente Ecological Reserve below Rancho Palos Verdes City Hall.

Removing Invasive Species

The Targeted Exotic Removal Program for Plants (the TERPP) results in the removal of some of the most invasive plant species on the Peninsula. Twenty sites are annually prioritized for eradication, which this year includes Pistache trees in the Forrestal and Canyons ER, Euphorbia terracina in sporadic

patches throughout the Preserve, and pampas grass in the Vicente Bluffs Ecological Reserve.

Supported by the TERPP and grants, the Conservancy hopes to totally eradicate the invasive species that threaten native plant communities.

Fire Safety

The increased fire danger due to the drought and the increased scrutiny of the natural areas as they have come under local management has expanded the amount of clearing required along the boundaries of the Preserve for fire safety. The Conservancy has been working with the City and the County to create a map that shows exactly what the City must clear for fire safety. Although it is difficult to see native habitat removed, all involved agree that fire safety must be the highest priority.

Trail Improvements

Summer is also a time to complete trail projects. Staff recently completed a re-route of the Dauntless Trail to correct the dangerous conditions of this steeply-graded trail. (The result is a more enjoyable experience for hikers and one that keeps much of the habitat intact.)

Expanding Blue Butterfly Habitat

Recent success in propagating the Palos Verdes blue butterfly has resulted in a growing interest in locating potential reintroduction sites. The many agencies and individuals involved with restoring the butterfly met in late May to discuss the possibility of bringing the endangered butterfly to several new locations.

With a grant from the Fish and Wildlife Service, the Conservancy will continue to develop butterfly habitat at the Chandler Preserve.

Another potential reintroduction area is Friendship Park in San Pedro. The Conservancy has been working with LA County to clear non-native plants in the current restoration areas, including Euphorbia terracina. Conservancy staff will help to enhance the habitat for the PV blue with a new round of planting next season.



Visitors to Forrestal ER will notice newly installed posts along the Dauntless Trail.



STEWARDSHIP, RESTORATION AND EDUCATION UPDATES

White Point Nature Preserve

The drought hit many natural areas hard this year, but White Point continues to thrive due to supplemental irrigation that nourishes more than 20,000 newly installed native plants and the maturing coastal sage scrub and grasslands. Visitors who walk along the hillside trails will find diverse new shrub plantings growing in the gaps.

Showy flowers and shrubs added to the grasslands have been flowering throughout the season. Here and there, as appropriate for the bluff setting, oaks planted several years ago and new elderberries are beginning to take hold. Because of the diverse habitat, White Point remains a stopover for migratory birds and new resident gnatcatchers alike.



Bird watchers at the White Point Nature Preserve have seen Ash-throated Flycatchers, Blue Grosbeaks, Cooper's Hawks, kestrels and Orange-crowned Warblers.



BARN OWL BOXES

As part of his Eagle Scout project, Jeff Stiles with other Scouts and family members installed 11 barn owl boxes at White Point, George F Canyon, and Chandler Nature Preserves in May and June. The boxes are mounted about 15 feet above the ground, so that they resemble a tree hollow or cavity.

Barn owl families reportedly eat close to 2,000 rodents a year; individual barn owls can eat three rodents per night. This is good news for newly planted native plants, since rodents love to munch on the succulent roots of young plants right out of the nursery.

The owl box project is great for creating needed owl habitat, and an alternative to expensive pest control and plant protection measures. Creating the boxes is relatively easy. The biggest question is, "how will the owls find the owl homes?" Hopefully, this will be a case of "if you build it, they will come."

Bird Surveys Continue

The monthly bird surveys by naturalist David Moody continue and the Conservancy is delighted by the presence of over 60 species of birds this season. The nest-building activities of the California Gnatcatcher are especially welcome.



Third grade students from Wood Elementary on a nature walk at George F Canyon Preserve.

Education Programs

A big thanks and congratulations to the 3rd grade docent team for providing the program to 1600 students in 19 schools. After completing 12 successful years, John Nieto and the outstanding team of docents will meet in July for their annual "Lessons Learned" luncheon to review the past year's successes and challenges.

THANK YOU TO THE QUADRA FOUNDATION

A big thank you to Arline and Joel Epstein and the Quadra Foundation who have agreed to fund the printing of preserve guides for three years. We are very grateful for their support and confidence in the work of the Conservancy.

WHAT A DIFFERENCE A FENCE MAKES!

Volunteer Barry Bonnicksen and friends from the Sierra Club Carl Herman, Jacques Monier, Jerry Pupa, Judy Johnson and Jeanne Floro, have been working to remove the old chain link fence from the Forrester Ecological Reserve. The view is certainly improved, as shown by the before and after photos below.



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Volunteer Families Leave A Lasting Impact



Becky Harper, PVPLC Outreach Director, (center) and Bob Ford, PVPLC Director of Development (far right) with members of Japan Business Association.

On Saturday, June 10, the White Point Nature Preserve received a huge helping hand from the Japan Business Association, thanks to some pioneering work by their social director Ayaka Sakurai and Becky Harper, Outreach Director for the Conservancy.

“They helped us fill in the bare spots with native plants across a large swath of the land” said Mike Yadrick, PVPLC’s Director of Restoration Programs. Becky pointed out, “The whole operation ran very smoothly thanks to the eleven volunteer Team Leaders who we’ve trained to manage conservation and trail building activities”.

“We were very happy that so many families and young children came out to help”, said Ayaka Sakurai. “We enjoyed planting the oak tree saplings and hope that these children will come back to this country when they are grown up and bring their own children to see how big these trees have grown.”

Many corporations and associations who want to do their part in contributing to environmental causes see the benefits of bringing their employees together for a volunteer day. Recently, employees from Alcoa, Honda and Xerox have chosen to help out at the Portuguese Bend Nature Preserve. “It’s a win/win situation”, Bob Ford, Director of Development remarked. “The Conservancy benefits from the work and the employees and their families get to bond together in a beautiful outdoor setting.”



Over a hundred Japanese business people who work in the Los Angeles area brought their families to a morning of volunteer work on the Preserve.

Become A Team Leader!

Would you like to learn new skills and work in a fun outdoor environment? You can learn skills to lead groups of volunteers on outdoor workdays by attending a one-day training workshop and committing to help at four volunteer days during the year ahead. You must be at least 16 years old to participate. An application and interview is required.

- Learn skills in leadership, habitat restoration, and trail repair
- Locations in Rancho Palos Verdes, Rolling Hills Estates, and San Pedro
- Demonstrates leadership on your college applications
- Your time will be recognized by the Land Conservancy and by Audubon YES
- Lunch and tee-shirts are provided

The next Training Workshops are 9am-3pm on September 22nd and October 20th. To register, call Becky Harper at (310) 541-7613 X 207 or e-mail bharper@pvplc.org.



Mother and daughter plant an oak sapling.

In Celebration!

Remember family and friends with your gift to the Land Conservancy. Recipients and donors will be specially recognized in upcoming issues of Open Spaces. Please contact Bob Ford at (310) 541-7613, ext. 202 or rford@pvplc.org.

WE REMEMBER

Goldie Ailor (the dog) given by Cassie Jones & Lewis Enstedt

Eric Allan given by Cynthia Allan

Karrie Lynn Bendalin given by Michael & Bernice Green

Julie Foster given by Meri Swafford & Robyn Merino

Lenny Hornreich given by Mark and Sylvia Tieman

Fon C. Johnson given by Jim & Eileen Joyce

Lucille Knight given by John & Barbara Dye, Robert & Kathy Ford, Melissa S. Komaroff, Gary & Mary Lopes, Don & Mary Ellen Richardson, Wai On & Michelle Seto, and Bernice Slotnick

Claire Dion given by Stanley and Grace Leonard

Stanley I. Marcus given by Karen Marcus

Bill Miller given by Rosellen Trunnell

Bernard James 'Obie' O'Brien given by Stuart & Janis Thomson

Martin Reiter given by Ray & Virginia Knauss

Carole Schachter given by Harriet Hart

Bruce Wade given by George & Barbara Gleghorn

Charles Zarsky given by Irene Zarsky

WE CELEBRATE

Bob Ford given by Jean & Tom Parsons, Greg & Jennifer Ford

Mother's Day given by Diana Armand

50th Wedding Anniversary given by Bill & Jacky Mason

In Honor of Jean Stern, Executive Director of the Irvine Museum given by Dan & Vicki Pinkham

Ed and Pat Weisenheimer's 50th Wedding Anniversary given by Bob & Phyllis Trujillo

MEMBERSHIP NEWS AND SPECIAL EVENTS

THE VISION TO PRESERVE

Conservancy members and art collectors attended a special Preview Dinner on Friday evening, June 22nd to view and purchase from the latest collection of exceptional plein air landscapes from the Portuguese Bend Artist Colony. Celebrating the 10th anniversary of the Art Exhibition and Sale, the show runs through July 27 at the Malaga Cove Library Gallery. A portion of the proceeds benefit both the Land Conservancy and the Library District.

Many thanks to underwriter Toyota Motor Sales USA and sponsors Terranea Resort, Malaga Bank and Virginia Butler and Les Fishman with Coldwell Banker.



Clockwise from top right: Tim Richardson and Joan Favre with artist Rick Humphrey admire the painting purchased for the Terranea Resort; Dennis and Claire Towle dining by the fountain with Bob and Victoria Link; Jim and Tracy Scharffenberger with artist Tom Redfield; Debbie and Mike Richardson tour the gallery; dinner guests Becky Cool and Donita Smith and Joe and Kathy Platnick (top left).

WHITE POINT HOME TOUR IS A HIT

On Sunday, May 20, ten San Pedro residents opened their homes for a public tour as part of the Land Conservancy's Spring for White Point fundraiser to benefit the White Point Nature Preserve. Following the tour, participants enjoyed a celebration reception with wine tasting, live music and a silent auction that featured donated items from local artists and many business supporters.



Upper left: Fundraising Committee Chair Susan McKenna celebrates after the tour; Lower left: Claire McShane and Isabel Hegge helped out at the silent auction. Above, tour participants at the reception home of Karena Massengill and Graham Robertson. At left, Susan Cooning and Amy Miller enjoy selected wines offered by Great Wines International in San Pedro.

JULY 28

Volunteer Workday
 Agua Amarga Ecological Reserve 9am - Noon

Help us with habitat restoration and trail maintenance.

AUG. 4 & SEPT. 1

Nature Walk
 George F Canyon 9am & 1pm

See the canyon and learn fascinating facts about local plant and animal communities. \$3 per person donation suggested.

AUGUST 11

NEW Nature Walk
 Friendship Park 9am - 11:00am

Enjoy some of the best views of the harbor and Catalina Island from the east side of the peninsula. See habitat restoration in progress. Moderate.

AUG. 17, SEPT. 21 & OCT. 19

Nature Walk
 White Point Nature Preserve 4pm - 5pm

Learn about the ongoing restoration work and the plants and wildlife that now make the Preserve their home. Easy

AUG. 27 & SEPT. 25

Night Hike
 George F Canyon

At the top of the canyon, see a fantastic city lights view. Easy. Bring a flashlight. \$5 per person donation suggested. Reservations required, call 547-0862.

AUG. 30 & SEPT. 27

Bird Walks
 George F Canyon 4pm - 5pm

Watch birds come in to roost for the evening. Easy. Meet naturalist Loretta Rose at the Nature Center sign. Bring your own binoculars.

SUMMER CALENDAR

Join us for these exciting events and volunteer opportunities! Reservations are recommended for all Volunteer Workdays and they are required for workdays at the DFSP.

For information and reservations, call Christen Baum at 310/541-7613, ext. 201. Directions and information about our nature walks can be found at www.pvplc.org/naturewalks.



SEPT. 8

Nature Walk
 Upper Malaga Dunes 9am - Noon

Enjoy unobstructed views of the Beach Cities coastline and Los Angeles, and learn about the unique habitat of this area. Return downhill through lovely PVE neighborhood streets. Strenuous

SEPT. 8 & OCT. 6

Volunteer Workday at DFSP 9am - Noon

Help transplant seedlings at our native plant nursery on Gaffey St. in San Pedro. Your contact information is required before entering the base.

SEPT. 15

Volunteer Workday
 Beach Cleanup at Abalone Cove 9am - Noon

Help us clean up the beach. Co-sponsored by Heal the Bay, City of RPV and Los Serenos.

SEPT. 22 & OCT. 20

Volunteer Team Leader
 Training Workshop 9am - 3pm

Attend a one day workshop to learn new skills and become a team leader. Help us lead groups of volunteers on outdoor workdays. Must commit to help at four volunteer days during the year. Application and interview required. Open to ages 16 years or older. Call Becky at 541-7613 X 207.

Missed a Nature Walk? Land Conservancy Nature Walks are broadcast on local RPVTV Channel 35 Friday evenings at 6pm.

SEPT. 29

Volunteer Workday
 Canyons Ecological Reserve 9am - Noon

Help us with trail maintenance and cleanup.

OCT. 27

Volunteer Workday
 Forrestal Ecological Reserve 9am - Noon

Help us with trail maintenance and cleanup.

Family Fun Day
 George F Canyon Nature Center 2pm - 4pm

For more information, call the Center at 310-547-0862 or Kristina Darbari at 310-541-7613 ext. 207.

OCT. 28

BARK & BOO!
 White Point Nature Preserve 3pm - 5pm

Celebrate Halloween at a party on the Preserve with a costume parade and special costume contest for dogs.



PALOS VERDES PENINSULA LAND CONSERVANCY



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