

The ABCs of Habitat Restoration

This is the third in a series of four 25th-anniversary articles about habitat restoration. The first one, which focused on ecological principles, explored why we restore native habitat. The second described the behind-the-scenes work required to plan and initiate restoration projects. In this article we'll describe how we implement a restoration plan. The series' final installment will explain how we evaluate the results.

Part 3: Native Habitat Restoration: Transforming the Landscape

The dedicated and loyal nature lovers who undertake the heavy work of habitat restoration know that it is an essential part of the Conservancy's mission. In addition to the efforts of our trained and talented restoration staff, we get essential support from our dedicated and enthusiastic volunteers.

Removing invasive and non-native plants is the first step in restoration. Although we can choose from many different approaches, everyone's favorite weed eater is a goat! Goats graze on thick mats of weeds. Multiple "grow and kill" efforts follow the goats' work. Then we irrigate the site to encourage non-native plants, or weeds, to grow. The restoration team removes the weeds before they produce seeds to reduce the seeds that could germinate (the "seed bank") at the site.



Stewardship Technician Hugo Morales collecting seeds at Alta Vicente

Then we irrigate the site to encourage non-native plants, or weeds, to grow. The restoration team removes the weeds before they produce seeds to reduce the seeds that could germinate (the "seed bank") at the site.

It usually takes a year or more to remove a majority of the non-native plants from a de-



Narrow leaf milkweed (*Asclepias fascicularis*) in the 21-acre restoration site at Three Sisters Reserve

graded landscape. Large shrubs can be more easily removed from moist soil. The work team will often use shrubs they have removed to delineate trails. At Three Sisters, a team removed over 500 invasive Acacia shrubs in 2009, then chipped most of them for weed-suppressing mulch. They used the remaining larger branches along the trail sides, where you can still see them today. As those branches decompose, they feed the soil and the surrounding native growth.

At the Conservancy's nursery, staff and volunteers carefully and continuously nurture thousands of native plants grown from seeds collected from within the preserves. They clean the seeds and then store them in our seed room until planting time.

Weekend volunteers assist two full-time staff members in the

Continued on page 7

Conservancy Adds to Coastal Trail System Connecting Oregon to Mexico



When the Rancho Palos Verdes portion of the California Coastal Trail is completed this fall, it will bring the Oregon-to-Mexico route 7.5 miles closer to completion. The 1,200-mile trail is intended to foster appreciation and conservation of the Pacific Coast by promoting hiking and other forms of non-motorized transportation. In collaboration with the City of Rancho Palos Verdes, the Conservancy received a grant from the

State Coastal Conservancy to create a local portion of the trail that traverses public right-of-way areas, Terranea Resort, Trump

Continued on page 3

NEWS ITEMS

Message from the President	p.2
Birds Return to Three Sisters	p.4
Field Trip in Box Expands	p.5
Volunteer Recognition Picnic	p.6
Winter Calendar	p.8

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Open space has special meaning for each of us. It is personal. It often inspires reflection, thoughtfulness and a sense of wonder. It inspires hope, pleasure, art, and poetry. I'd like to share the quote I read at Palos Verdes Pastoral. It speaks to this special meaning and resonates deeply for me:

Something will have gone out of us as a people if we ever let the remaining wilderness be destroyed... We simply need that wild country available to us, even if we never do more than drive to its edge and look in. For it can be a means of reassuring ourselves of our sanity as creatures, a part of the geography of hope.

--Wallace Stegner, The Sound of Mountain Water

I believe this is what the Conservancy is really about. We may look over our shoulders at what we've accomplished over the last 25 years and celebrate those achievements together. But even more importantly, we need to remain vigilant and protect and nurture what has been started. Over generations to come, these open spaces will provide opportunities for those that follow to develop their own sense of wonder and become a part of their own geography of hope. That's a really worthwhile future to be working towards!

Sincerely,



Bruce Biesman-Simons
President

Barry Lopez Addresses Land Trust Rally

The Conservancy was honored to participate in this year's Land Trust Alliance Rally, a yearly national conference for land trust professionals. At the three-day September conference in New Orleans Bruce Biesman-Simons, Andrea Vona, Susan Wilcox and Adrienne Mohan collectively attended thirty workshops. Inspired by participants from around the country and motivated by the exchange of ideas, the three left with practical strategies for implementation. Barry Lopez, author of **Arctic Dreams**, delivered this year's keynote address. Lopez paid tribute to those who work for and/or give money to support land conservation.

His moving remarks received a standing ovation and captured his deep respect for land preservation. Here's a sampling: the closing lines of his wonderful speech.

One day a ten-year-old girl will walk into a stand of birch trees in Alaska or out into a meadow in the Sierra foothills or up a rise in the Sandhills of Nebraska and hear the voice of a raven or a sparrow or a meadowlark and feel a wind on the side of her face bearing the sense

of she knows not what. And an image will form in her mind of what she wants her life to mean. And we will gain benefits from her wisdom because you have done your work. You have her gratitude and mine, and I want to say your ancestors are proud of you for making a road where so many thought none could be built. Thank you for bringing me into your community, and please take care of each other.



Photo Credit: Evi Meyer

White Crowned Sparrow

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.

Remembering

Becky, Pat and George given by Brian Haig
Ann Bosma given by Virginia Williams
David Clum given by Marie Clum La Force
Sid Gilbert given by Miriam Gilbert
Gertrude Hesse given by George and Barbara Gleghorn
Regina Katz given by Irma Remstein
Audrey Murray given by "Her Del Cerro Friends"
Jim Oldendorph given by James Oldendorph Jr.
Diana Park given by Noel Park
John Rindge given by Virginia Williams
Martin Reiter given by Virginia Knauss
Virginia Robertson given by Bill and Jacky Mason
Paul Weismann given by Becky Cool, Donita Smith, Kathy Wilson and Karen White
Dick Williams given by Ann and Barry Dalkey, Bob and Kathy Ford, Frederick and Mary Jo Jackson, Mary Lopes, Dan and Judy Platus, Richard and Frances Yarber, and Diana Innes

Celebrating

Bruce Biesman-Simons' Presidency given by Rebecca and Charles Rannells
Mark Neat given by Ingrid Neat
Felix S. Duhovic given by Jerry and Rosanne Duhovic

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



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for the enjoyment and education of all

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You Make A Difference

The Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy's mission is to preserve open space and restore habitat for the enjoyment and education of all.

In the last two months of our 25th Anniversary Year, we encourage our friends and supporters to consider making a critical year-end gift. Your gifts are central to this vision and critical to the ongoing life and success of the Conservancy. Thank you for your commitment - we greatly appreciate your generous support.

* \$100 ensures our programs and restoration work continues throughout the year. Receive panoramic note cards of our beautiful nature preserves.

* \$250 provides new equipment for our volunteers working in the preserves. Receive the Wildflower Guidebook (see below)

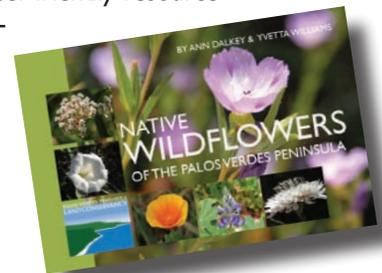
* 1,000 to become a member of the Mariposa Circle, listed separately in the Annual Report for the Silver & Save 25th anniversary issue

* 5,000 to become a Legacy Circle member and receive exclusive invitations and donor recognition.

We value all contributions. To make a gift of stock, CRTs and bequest, please contact Susan Wilcox at swilcox@pvplc.org or by calling (310) 541-7613 x 202.

Wildflower Guidebook

The Conservancy has just published a new native wildflower guidebook by Ann Dalkey and Yvetta Williams. Richly illustrated with full color photographs of 81 native plant species, this new guidebook is a wonderful user-friendly resource for anyone enjoying the preserves. Color search-and-find make it quick, easy, and enjoyable to use. The book includes habitat descriptions, plus fun botanical facts! This year's annual appeal provides a complimentary copy of the new guidebook to each donor who makes a gift of \$250. We hope you will love the book!



Coastal Trail continued from page 1

National Golf Club, and the Palos Verdes Nature Preserve. Ornamental and native landscaping along road medians and interpretive panels along the trail will enhance hikers' experience. Thanks to the Land Conservancy's volunteer trail crew for their labor and the California Trails and Greenways Foundation for funding native plant installation along the trail at Abalone Cove Reserve.



Birds Return to Restored Three Sisters Reserve

In a quest to learn how birds respond to a restoration project in our preserves, the Conservancy entered into a partnership with the Palos Verdes/South Bay Audubon Chapter. Together, we spent five years monitoring birds bi-monthly at the Three Sisters Reserve. The survey began in July 2008 and continued through September 2013. During the study, 58 participants recorded seeing a total of 7,627 birds representing 65 different species. Through the study, we learned that the newly restored area attracted birds two years after restoration began in 2010. The most valuable observations involved watching California gnatcatcher parents showing their fledglings how to forage in the new habitat. Another great outcome was that many participants became expert birders, including one novice, David Quadhamer, who went on to become President of the PV/South Bay Audubon Chapter!



(Standing L to R) Evi Meyer, Bill Cullen, Jess Morton, David Quadhamer and Lowell Wedemeyer. (Bottom L to R) Mai Lee, Bonnie Cohn, Linda Wedemeyer and Ann Dalkey

KEEPERS Gather at Alta Vicente

Participants in the Conservancy's KEEPERS program (Keeping an Extra Eye on the Preserves for Environmental Review and Stewardship) gathered in late September for



Agua Amarga KEEPERS Joan Friedman, Ann Koons and Jeff Naumann

a semi-annual meeting at Alta Vicente Reserve to discuss monitoring activities they had completed over the past six months. The KEEPERS discussed their activities to ensure consistent data collection, reviewed successes and learned about scheduled preserve events.

Twenty-seven volunteers are part of the Conservancy's KEEPERS program this year. These dedicated volunteers each monitor one of 20 designated locations to collect data on the preserves. The data helps the Conservancy's restoration staff determine trail needs, document changes in the preserves and help identify needed improvements such as graffiti removal and decal replacement on Carsonite signposts. Stewardship Associate for Research Ann Dalkey, who coordinates the KEEPERS program



Alta Vicente KEEPERS recently observed this young cactus wren. The missing tail will fortunately grow back.

sees the KEEPERS as "an amazing and enthusiastic group of people who take enormous pride in their role as preserve monitors."

Join the Trail Crew!

When exploring the nature preserve's trails, have you ever wondered who installs rock retaining walls or clears overhanging branches? The Conservancy's Volunteer Trail Crew works hard every month tackling trail repair projects, including erosion control, tread repairs and other maintenance activities.

Trail Crew training begins with the Introductory Class held twice each year. Five new trainees and six current members attended the most recent session on August 10 to learn trail terminology, theory, safety, and other concepts critical to sustainable trail maintenance that they practice during monthly field work. To learn how to get involved, please contact Stewardship Associate Adrienne Mohan at amohan@pvplc.org or 310.541.7613 ext 213.



Volunteers repairing the McCarrell Canyon Trail in Three Sisters Reserve

Field Trip in a Box Expands

The Science Students as Stewards Program (S³) has expanded to provide a new self-guided option, called Field Trip in a Box. This new nature education resource provides teachers a fully-prepared guide for their students to experience hands-on science lessons during a visit to either George F Canyon or White Point Nature Preserves. All of the teaching materials and lessons are provided in a portable box that they can check out and use free of charge. The lessons include science experiments and activities to conduct outdoors and on the trail.

During a field trip, students complete a Nature Notebook that both engages them in science concepts appropriate to their grade level and encourages them to care for the nature preserve. The experience culminates with a visit to the nature center. After successfully piloting this program last year with Peninsula Montessori and Park Avenue Elementary School, we are expanding this opportunity to make it available to other interested teachers. Please see our website for more information at www.pvplc.org/_education.



Naturalist Loretta Rose leading a field trip with Peninsula Montessori Students

Conservancy Wins a Second TogetherGreen Grant



Photo credit: Scott Varley/Palos Verdes Peninsula News

Peninsula High student Rachel Dokko spearheaded a two-year project for youth volunteers to help restore habitat for the endangered Palos Verdes blue butterfly.

In partnership with the South Bay/PV Chapter of the Audubon Society, the Conservancy was awarded a Toyota TogetherGreen Innovation Grant for a second consecutive year. The Audubon grant program is funded by Toyota to support innovative projects connecting diverse communities to the outdoors while achieving significant conservation results.

The grant will enable the Conservancy to expand education programs to underserved students at the Cindy and Bill Simon Technology Academy High School in Watts. The Conservancy will expose these students to the wonders of the Palos Verdes Peninsula through habitat restoration for endangered species and will also provide leadership training.

Plant Sale Partnerships



The Conservancy participated this fall in two community plant sales with partnering organizations. Both the South Coast Botanic Garden and South Coast Chapter of the Native Plant Society held fall plant sales that highlighted native plants from the peninsula. Sales from both events supported the Conservancy's mission of habitat restoration throughout the peninsula. If you missed either sale, you can still purchase a small selection of native plants throughout the year at the South Coast Botanic Garden gift shop at 26300 Crenshaw Blvd., Palos Verdes Peninsula.



Volunteer Recognition Picnic

The Conservancy honored its volunteers during an annual picnic with games, delicious food, and volunteer awards held at Point Vicente on July 27. Our volunteers, including education docents, walk leaders, team leaders, trail crew, scouts and many others, conduct important work to enhance the peninsula's beautiful open space and lead public programs to increase the community's awareness. The 2013 President's Award was presented to Sharon Ryan for her dedicated work on the Fundraising Committee and the Palos Verdes Pastoral event. Outstanding Volunteer Awards were presented this year to Diane Dobos, Rachel Dokko, Jenny Greer, Mike Jost, Ryan Muller, Sunnie Kim and Vickie Walker.



Holding volunteers awards (l to r) Jenny Greer, Vickie Walker, Sunnie Kim, Sharon Ryan and Rachel Dokko with first group of trained Volunteer Trail Watch leaders recognized at the picnic

Fall Activities



Participants enjoyed throwing seed balls up the steep bluffs

Whole Foods Kids' Day

Whole Foods Torrance joined the Conservancy for a Kids' Service Day on September 7. Children created seed balls (soil balls packed with native plant seeds) and threw them onto the steep bluffs at Pelican Cove. The seed balls are part of a unique Conservancy approach for planting native seeds at Vicente Bluffs Reserve. When the rain falls, the balls release seeds of plants that will grow to nourish endangered El Segundo blue butterflies.



Girl Scouts help to make seed balls for planting

Sing-Along Leads List of Recent Family Activities

On September 11th the White Point Nature Education Center held a nature sing-along with a dozen children. Guided by the Conservancy's naturalists, children sang and played with nature puppets and percussion instruments, learning songs inspired by all things wild. Check out this and other community activities for families at our nature centers. For a full list, visit www.pvplc.org/_activities/calendar.asp



Nature and music come together at Sing-along



Outdoor yoga session

Pelican Cove Yoga Warm-Up Celebrates 25th Anniversary

In celebration of the Conservancy's 25th Anniversary, Greville Henwood of Equinox Fitness in Palos Verdes provided a complimentary yoga warm-up session before the monthly nature walk at Pelican Cove on September 14. Ninth on our list of 25 Ways to Enjoy the Preserve, the free "relax and de-stress" yoga warm-up fit right into the tranquil, coastal bluff setting.

White Point Home Tour Raises Funds for Preserve



Glass patio creates a serene setting



Statuesque modern home with a view



Silent auction featured artistic creations

Over 200 guests enjoyed the 2013 Silver & Sage White Point Home Tour on September 15 and contributed to the ongoing preservation of open space at the White Point Nature Preserve. The self-guided tour of San Pedro homes and the National Watercolor Society was followed by a lively outdoor reception with music by the Bob Williams Group, food by Whale & Ale and Mishi's Strudel, and a selection of delicious wines donated by Leslie and Jim McShane and Susan and Craig Cooning. A silent auction featured unique jewelry, artwork, vacation homes and local excursions.

Thanks to everyone who supported this festive tour, we raised over \$30,000 for improvements at the White Point Nature Preserve. Sponsors included Capital Group, Wells Fargo, Hayward Baker, Biesman-Simons Architecture, Coastal San Pedro Neighborhood Council, Advanced Orthopaedic Solutions, Acorn Group, Geraghty Group, LA County Supervisor Don Knabe, Terry and John Miller, Plaza Automotive, SA Recycling, Wild Birds Unlimited and media sponsor Random Lengths News. The Office of Councilman Joe Buscaino, the City of LA Department of Parks and Recreation, the PV Chapter of the National Charity League, Beacon House and Blaine Beron-Rawdon provided additional support.

Special thanks to all the White Point Committee members who worked for months planning the event, including Diana Bailey, Susan Cooning, Madeleine Drake, Amy Friend, Heather Henderson, Judi Jones, Janet Leach, Susan McKenna, Leslie McShane, Terry Miller, Mary Ellen Richardson, Rori Roje, Beth Sohngen, Marcia Watanabe, Julie Winter and Candice Yokomizo. Next year's tour will occur earlier in the year, so please stay tuned through our newsletters!

Photos by Blaine Beron-Rawdon



White Point Committee Chair Amy Friend



Guests enjoying reception after the tour



White Point Committee member Terry Miller

ABCs of Habitat Restoration continued from page 1

nursery where flats of seedlings sprout under overhead shade cloths. As the seedlings grow, the volunteers transfer them to individual pots, where they continue to grow in the shade until they are large enough to be moved to full sun in preparation for planting at the field restoration site.

Planting takes place during the rainy season in fall and winter. If rainfall is scarce, supplemental irrigation is needed to stimulate root growth robust enough for plants to survive the dry summers. Supplemental irrigation continues into the spring months and is usually required into the second year after planting.



Restoration Technicians planting at Three Sisters Reserve

It is not quite time for celebration after the plants are in the ground. Because weeds grow throughout the rainy season, the restoration staff must continually remove them so that the native plants can succeed and thrive. You may see the restoration team and volunteers planting and weeding when you hike in the preserves. If you have time, let them know you appreciate their work. Restoring a non-native landscape into beautiful coastal sage scrub habitat requires time and dedication. The team will appreciate your acknowledgement of this laborious, but essential, process.



Conservancy Nursery Technician Neli Gonzalez prepares Baccharis cuttings for fall planting



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CALENDAR WINTER 2013 / 2014

NATURE WALKS

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.

NOV 9

Alta Vicente

9 am - Explore some of the Peninsula's military history as well as one of the Conservancy's newest and most visible habitat restoration efforts. Moderate. RPV

DEC 14

La Rotunda/Ocean Trails – East Reserve

9 am - Walk along the east bluff trail and continue to the eastern border of the Trump golf course and above Shoreline Park. Premier habitat for the threatened cactus wren. Moderate. RPV

JAN 11

White Point Nature Education Center and Preserve

9 am - Enjoy the trails at this preserve located across from Royal Palms Beach in San Pedro. Walk from the Nature Center to the historic military gun emplacements above to view spectacular ocean vistas. Easy. LA

GEORGE F CANYON

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

DEC 7, JAN 4

Bird Walk

8:30 am - Join our naturalist. Binoculars available.

DEC 7, JAN 4

First Saturday Hike

3 pm - Join an expert guide with different habitat, wildlife themes. \$5 per person.

NOV 15

Nature & Me Storytime

9:30 am - Enjoy an imaginative journey through stories, songs and rhymes led by the PV Library. Theme is thankful for mother earth.

NOV 17, DEC 15, JAN 17

Full Moon Hike

Limited to 20 people. Reservations required. Call (310) 547-0862 for times. \$10 per person. Ages 9+.

NOV 27, DEC 25, JAN 22

Birding With Wild Birds

8:30 am - Join Wild Birds Unlimited every fourth Wednesday. Meet in front of nature center.

WHITE POINT NATURE PRESERVE

Enjoy monthly guided walks for the family. Wear walking shoes and sun protection, and carry water.

NOV 9, DEC 14, JAN 11

Ranger Walk

10 am - Enjoy a free guided hike with a different theme through restored habitat with dramatic views.

NOV 23, JAN 25

Storytime with the Rangers

10 am - Bring your kids to a morning storytime with the Rangers, different themes!

NOV 20, DEC 18, JAN 15

Birding With Wild Birds

8:30 am - Join Wild Birds Unlimited every third Wednesday. Meet in front of nature center.

FAMILY NATURE & ART WORKSHOP

JAN 25

Cozy Critters

10 am - Children's hike and art workshop. \$25 per family. Meet at Pelican Cove parking area. (310) 541-7613 or email: info@pvplc.org

VOLUNTEER WORKDAYS

For more information and reservations, call (310) 541-7613 or email: info@pvplc.org

NOV 9

Abalone Cove Reserve

9 am - Let's bring the native plants back during this planting event.

NOV 16

Native Plant Nursery

9 am - Transplant seedlings and prepare plants for restoration projects. Reservations required by Wednesday before the event.

NOV 23

Alta Vicente Reserve

9 am - Help bring back the native plants!

DEC 7

Agua Amarga Reserve

9 am - Help with weeding and planting for restoration.

DEC 14

Portuguese Bend Reserve

9 am - Help plant habitat for the local wildlife.

JAN 20

MLK Day of Service – White Point

9 am - Volunteer to make a difference in your community by beautifying the Nature Center gardens.

Volunteer workday sponsor

