

OPEN SPACES

Volume 18, Number 4

Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy

Fourth Quarter 2006



Volunteers from American Honda Motor Company remove invasive Arundo plants at Abalone Cove.

2006 YEAR IN REVIEW

Taking Care of the Land



Members of Stanford Alumni Association enjoy a wildflower walk



Founding President Bill Ailor (left) with newly elected President Henry Jurgens.



Young California gnatcatcher at White Point Nature Preserve

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A YEAR OF TRANSITION

This was a milestone year for the Land Conservancy. We began management of the 1400-acre Portuguese Bend Nature Preserve with its many exciting new challenges and opportunities. After founding and leading the Conservancy for 17 years, Bill Ailor felt he had earned a rest and retired from the Presidency (while staying on the Board) and I feel privileged to follow in his footsteps to lead the Land Conservancy as we transition into a new era.

In January, we began working on the baseline documentation for the properties. This involved a detailed recording of the existing vegetation, land conditions and populations of birds and animals, and had some exciting results.

With this larger preserve and increased responsibilities we needed more volunteer help and the community has responded - overwhelmingly. We are now holding volunteer days every weekend and hundreds of individuals, families and groups pitch in to help with the restoration effort removing invasive plants, planting native habitat and improving trails.

In addition to Portuguese Bend, exciting things are happening on the other preserves as well. At the White Point Nature Preserve, the native habitat has been largely restored and we continue our weed abatement effort. We have laid the groundwork to complete the long awaited parking area, enhancements along the trails and begin the nature center building conversion.

At the Chandler Preserve and the Fuel Depot in San Pedro there have been increases in the acreage of host plants for the Palos Verdes blue butterfly, and we hope to reintroduce this endangered species on an additional preserve in the year ahead.

Environmental education and research is an important component of our service to the community. Now, thanks

to a unique partnership with the Alcoa Foundation, our older children from high school students to university doctoral candidates also have a chance to get involved.

We want our community to get to know and enjoy all of the preserved lands, so we invite you, your family and friends to join our nature walks, held the second Saturday of each month, to experience the diversity and beauty of this open space that you have helped to create.

We could not exist without the outstanding volunteer and financial support that we receive from the community. The Conservancy really is people – paid



Nature walk participants take in the view from the slopes of the Portuguese Bend Nature Preserve.

staff and volunteers who grow, plant, educate, write grants and do so much more. We invite you to **help us** make 2007 the most productive and successful year yet for the Land Conservancy!

2006 Summary of Revenue & Expenses

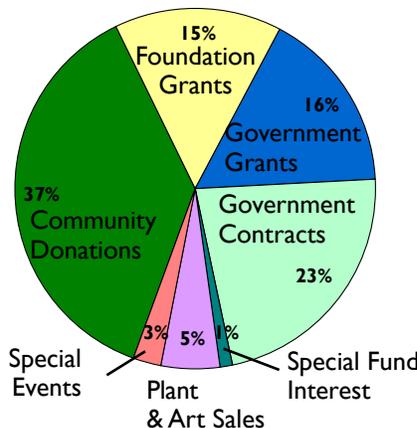
Income

Member Donations	\$520,825
Foundation Grants	\$205,665
Government Grants	\$228,047
Restoration & Nature Center Contracts	\$316,599
Special Events	\$12,626
Plant and Art Show Sales	\$73,227
Interest & Misc.	\$37,880
Total Operating Income	\$1,394,869

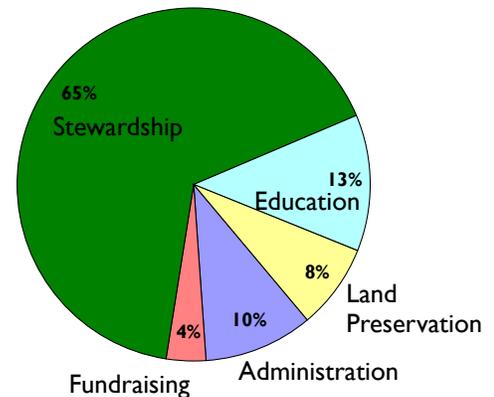
Expenses

Stewardship / Restoration	\$921,218
Education	\$175,490
Land Preservation	\$106,857
Management & Administration	\$137,604
Fundraising	\$53,700
Total Operating Expense	\$1,394,869
Other Restricted Income	
Grants for work in 2007	\$190,000
Land Acquisition Donations	\$135,000

2006 Operating Revenue



2006 Expenses by Category



HIGHLIGHTS OF 2006

LAND STEWARDSHIP

- Biological surveys of the Portuguese Bend Nature Preserve were completed in 2006, yielding exciting discoveries of the endangered El Segundo blue butterfly and Sea Dahlia, a rare plant. The survey found that the Preserve is home to 265 endangered California gnatcatchers and 89 coastal cactus wrens.
- The PUMP Committee began work on a plan for public use of the Portuguese Bend Nature Preserve, designating trails and overlooks and considering other passive uses of the Preserve.
- Trail systems were improved at the Linden H. Chandler, Forrestal, George F Canyon and Agua Amarga preserves by PVPLC staff with help from Eagle Scouts and other volunteers.
- Work began on the Targeted Exotic Plant Removal Program (TERP) required by the NCCP, which removed dangerous invasive non-native plants in the Portuguese Bend Nature Preserve.
- Final designs were approved for interpretive signage at the White Point Nature Preserve. Construction of a parking lot and building renovation to create a Nature Center are scheduled to begin in 2007.



Above, biological survey work at Alta Vicente Ecological Reserve.

Above, Alcoa volunteers build new trails at George F Canyon Preserve. At right, improved habitat at the White Point Preserve has lured new residents such as the burrowing owl, rock wren, and savannah sparrow.



At left, high school students learning to band lemonadeberry. Below, students from South High in Torrance planting at White Point Nature Preserve.



Below, Mira Catalina Elementary third grade students learn about native plants from a parent volunteer.



EDUCATION & OUTREACH

- The Third grade education program was expanded to reach 1560 students in 18 participating schools, with more than 350 parent volunteers.
- Our new corporate employee volunteer program attracted hundreds of participants from Alcoa, Honda and Xerox to help with planting and restoration efforts at local preserves.
- The Research, Education, and Community Involvement Program for the Environment (RECIPE) launched in June. By year end, participants included three summer interns, 12 high school students, three doctoral candidates, one undergraduate student, two professors, 6 universities and colleges, and four community-based researchers.
- Expanded hours and new programs such as Family Fun Days and Storytime brought new young families with children to the George F Canyon Nature Center.
- In 2006, volunteers donated 7,673 hours to Land Conservancy projects, including outdoor restoration work, helping at our native plant nursery, in the office and at special events.

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COMMUNITY SUPPORT

- The popularity of our docent-led nature walks continued with nearly 300 attending the walk at Long Point (below right).
- Both sales and attendance set records at the annual Art Exhibition and Sale with the Portuguese Bend Artist Colony.
- Many members increased their support by joining the Mariposa Circle and the new Legacy Circle multi-year giving programs.
- We thank the many local corporations, foundations and community businesses who provided support through grants, donations and sponsorships.
- And, we are most grateful to all those who chose to celebrate and recognize the lives of others by donating to the Land Conservancy.

At right, Richard and Melanie Lundquist received the 2006 Conservation Partner Award along with National Charity League Palos Verdes Chapter; PVPLC's Founding President Bill Ailor with Mike Cioria who generously provided matching funds for the year end appeal.



Above left, nature walk participants exploring a sea cave at Long Point. Above right, the first annual "Bark and Boo" at White Point Nature Preserve was a howling success that drew over 150 participants and their pooches.

HIGHLIGHTS OF 2006



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