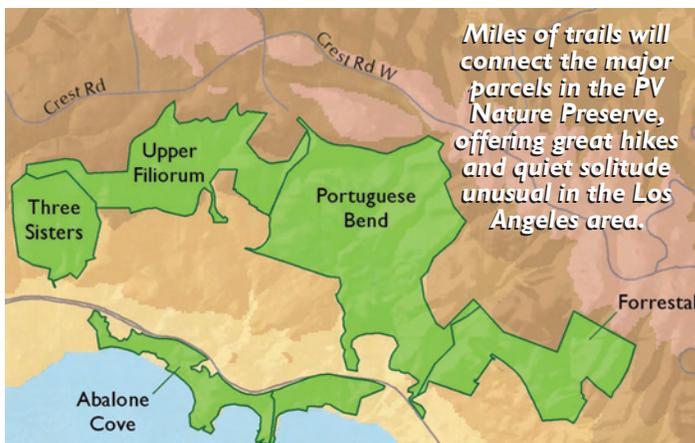


Community Preserves Upper Filiorum!

Thanks to the contributions of over 700 supporters, the Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy and the City of Rancho Palos Verdes met the December 31, 2009 escrow deadline and acquired the 191-acre Upper Filiorum property. The successful campaign also raised funds to cover the incorporation of the new land into the Palos Verdes Nature Preserve and restoration of the burned areas caused by the recent fire.

The acquisition of this strategically important parcel connects existing open space reserves into a contiguous 950-acre nature preserve with the largest network of open trails between Laguna Beach and the Santa Monica Mountains. The property, with some of the most breathtaking views in all of California, also provides important linkages for wildlife and valuable native habitat for sensitive species. The property increases the open



space managed by the Land Conservancy on the Peninsula to 1600 acres.

The acquisition is the culmination of a complex 21-year effort to preserve open space on the Peninsula. Negotiations for the Land Conservancy were successfully led by long time board members Mike Kilroy, Bill Swank, founder Bill Ailor and President Henry Jurgens. The property purchased from York Long Point Associates for \$6.5 million included a \$5.5 million grant from the California State Coastal Conservancy earmarked in a voter approved open space bond and \$600,000 from the City of Rancho Palos Verdes. Major contributions were made by Sandy Barnett, Virginia Cicoria, Becky Cool, Allen and Charlotte Ginsburg, and the Major Family.

The land is owned by the City of Rancho Palos Verdes which provided a conservation easement to the Land Conservancy. Initially, the incorporation process will require a survey of the new land to document baseline conditions of the habitat at the time of acquisition. This is necessary for the conservation easement, which is an important tool for protecting the public values of land and the cornerstone of effective conservation.

The Land Conservancy will work with the City of Rancho Palos Verdes to finalize a trail plan, install signage and create a new trail map to guide users, who will now have contiguous access from the Forrestal Reserve on the East to the Three Sisters Reserve on the West.

NATIVE HABITAT IS KEY TO FIRE RECOVERY

The August 2009 fire within the Portuguese Bend Reserve impacted both native and non-native vegetation and known nesting sites of the threatened coastal California gnatcatcher (*Polioptila californica*) and the special status cactus wren (*Campylorhynchus brunneicapillus*). Recovery measures focus on native habitat restoration, non-native plant control and removal, supplemental native planting in areas of historic cactus scrub, and post-fire mapping and monitoring.

During the first phase of the program, the Conservancy is currently assessing the severity

Continued on page 3



Following the December rains, the burn area is already witnessing a natural crown sprouting and regrowth of native plants damaged by the fire.

NEWS ITEMS

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OPEN SPACES

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A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

I have been privileged and honored to serve as the President of the PVPLC Board of Directors for the past four years. In January 2006 we had just completed the acquisition of the 400-acre Portuguese Bend property and faced the challenge of managing 1200 acres of preserved land. This involved documenting, in detail, the existing vegetation and wildlife populations and developing and implementing restoration plans. With these increased responsibilities we needed more volunteer and financial help, and the community responded - overwhelmingly - which has helped us implement a very effective science-based restoration program. Last year, the release of hundreds of the endangered Palos Verdes blue butterfly into habitat managed by the Conservancy was a dramatic symbol of our progress.

Another area where we have seen very rewarding growth is in environmental education. The Third Grade Education program has been expanded from serving just Palos Verdes elementary schools to include youngsters from schools in underprivileged areas. Now 1800 students a year from 23 schools benefit from an introduction to the sciences and acquire an appreciation for the natural world. Dozens of our older children from high school students to university doctoral candidates have conducted environmental research projects on our preserves. Our monthly Nature Walks allow hundreds of residents and visitors to appreciate open space.

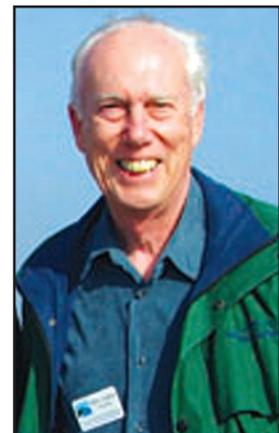
It hasn't always been smooth sailing. Recreational use of the Palos Verdes Nature Preserve and decisions by the PUMP Committee and the RPV City Council on trail usage was a hotly debated topic. The process to acquire the Upper Filiorum property was a long roller coaster ride which has finally come to a successful conclusion.

The acquisition of the last major block of available open space on the

the Peninsula also signals that the Conservancy is about to begin a new chapter in its life. It promises to be an exciting time that will also have its share of challenges such as the uncertain economic conditions and the need for even greater stewardship efforts with the expanded preserves.

This seems to be the right time to bring fresh leadership to the Conservancy and I am delighted to welcome Ken Swenson as the new President of the PVPLC. Ken has the attributes to lead the Conservancy to continued success in the future. As a current Board and Executive Committee member, Ken has demonstrated a passion for the Conservancy's work, developed a broad knowledge of land trusts and has led key projects of strategic importance.

As I say hail to Ken and farewell to the Presidency, I would like to thank the PVPLC Board of Directors for their dedication, the professional and hardworking staff of the Conservancy, the Council and staff of the City of RPV, and the community who made our accomplishments over the last four years possible. I am looking forward to help with the transition to the new leadership and assisting the Conservancy and the Community as an active supporter in the future.



Henry Jurgens
Henry Jurgens, President

Our Thanks to Henry Jurgens

by Bill Ailor,
President Emeritus and Board Member

The Conservancy was in a state of transition in 2005. I resigned as president that year after 18 years in that capacity and the Board was looking for someone to take over, someone who could step in and assure that the organization would continue on the path set by the Board since its founding, who would lead us through some coming challenges and transitions, and could represent us well with our members and the public. We found that person in Henry Jurgens.

We've come a long way under Henry's leadership. Some major accomplishments include: strong growth of our non-land acquisition activities including our land stewardship and education programs, formalization and evolution of our stewardship activities at the Palos Verdes Nature Preserve, and leadership of the negotiation and fundraising effort that led to the late 2009 acquisition of the 191-acre Upper Filiorum parcel.

One of Henry's most notable accomplishments is the professional manner in which he led and represented our organization. A retired banker, Henry brought our accounting practices up to current standards. He also oversaw the significant growth in our staff and yearly budget and gave numerous talks and presentations to individuals, local elected officials and even our Governor, Arnold Schwarzenegger.

And he's not done yet. Henry will remain on our Board and will assist our new president Ken Swenson as Ken continues to move us forward. On behalf of our Board I want to thank Henry for his outstanding leadership as our President for the last four years.

Ken Swenson Elected President of PVPLC Board

The Conservancy's Board of Directors elected Rancho Palos Verdes resident Ken Swenson as its third president at its January meeting. Swenson replaces Henry Jurgens, who served in that position for four years.

Ken Swenson joined the Board of the Conservancy in 2007 after deciding he wanted to become more involved in charitable and environmental activities directly serving his community. The following year, he was named Chair of the Land Preservation Committee, leading discussions with the Navy about the possible donation of land as habitat for the endangered PV blue butterfly.

Ken was then asked to become a member of the Executive Committee in 2008 and has since played an integral advisory role in management decisions critical to the organization's growth. Most recently, Ken served as the Board's principal representative for the on-going negotiations of a new Preserve management agreement with the City of Rancho Palos Verdes.

Ken believes, "my involvement in so many aspects of our present operations and future commitments has given me a firm understanding of our near and long term goals and challenges and I'm looking forward to leading our effort to meet them."



Ken has been an integral part of the Los Angeles real estate and environmental legal community in Southern California for over 20 years. He is currently with Bank of America as division counsel for all legal aspects of the real estate banking business.

Ken is involved in many educational, community and professional activities. Among his many volunteer activities, he has served as an editorial board member of the *Los Angeles Lawyer* magazine, on the executive committees for several subsections of the LA County Bar Association, and as a coach for the Palos Verdes Basketball Association.

Continued from page 1
of the vegetation burn and soil seed banks using pre-fire vegetation maps; identifying areas of sensitive plant and wildlife species; developing restoration and monitoring plans for wildlife recovery; and assessing the need for native seeding in areas dominated by exotic species and along unauthorized trails.

The Conservancy will replant native vegetation in combination with native seeding to promote long term soil stabilization and erosion control. The Conservancy will utilize an aggressive invasive species control

program within the burn area. Planting will be supplemental, along disturbed trails and in known listed species habitat to allow for passive recovery in the area. The work will follow the Conservancy's Targeted Exotic Removal Plant Program Guidelines based on the ranking systems of the California Invasive Plant Council and the California Department of Food and Agriculture.

In addition to habitat management, the plan calls for educational and trail signage. Signs will also be used to increase awareness

Continued on page 4

STEWARDSHIP, RESTORATION, AND EDUCATION UPDATES

LECTURE HIGHLIGHTS WILDFIRE HAZARDS

Research Geologist Dr. Jon Keeley with the U.S. Geologic Survey discussed adapting to wildfire hazards in an urban setting at a Conservancy-sponsored lecture on November 17, 2009 generously hosted by the Terranea Resort. Dr. Keeley discussed what homeowners can do to minimize their risk and Executive Director Andrea Vona discussed PVPLC's plans for restoring habitat burned in the August 2009 wildfire.

Dr. Keeley advised homeowners to reduce high concentrations of flammable fuels like unpruned trees around homes. He cautioned that wildfires create uncontrollable hazards such as stray embers that can be blown large distances by high winds and while proper landscaping and landscape maintenance around homes are important, even complete brush clearance will not totally eliminate the threat to homes.

Andrea Vona explained that much of the area that was burned had been farmed or grazed in the past, so that highly flammable non-native plants covered 65 percent of the land. She noted that the organizations' recovery plan will emphasize diversifying the site with less flammable native species. Over the next year and half, the Conservancy will provide all the necessary planting, seeding, and weeding along with the monitoring, vegetation mapping, trail realignment and enhancement measures required for the Reserve's recovery (see article on page 1).

Ron Durbin, from the County of Los Angeles Fire Department was also on hand for the evening and he joined Dr. Keeley and Ms. Vona in answering questions from residents. The event was attended by over 170 people.



The August '09 wildfire nearly reached this home on Cinchring Road in Rolling Hills. (Photo: Gary Lopes)

Continued from page 3

and educate users on Peninsula fire history, fire ecology, and about living in a fire-prone landscape.

The Conservancy is also mapping community and stand level vegetation and conducting bird surveys based on the California Native Plant Society's Rapid Vegetation Mapping Protocol. These mapping and monitoring efforts are supported with a grant from the California Department of Fish and Game. The information will build on previously collected Conservancy research data and will help guide future restoration and management efforts. The Alcoa Foundation is providing additional support for recovery efforts.

The Conservancy's goal is to establish native habitat in the burn area that will be self-sustaining in the long-term, encouraging conditions that allow natural processes to proceed, increasing soil development, nutrient cycling, plant succession, natural regeneration and building resistance to biological disturbances.

Park Ranger to Patrol PV Nature Preserve

The Rancho Palos Verdes City Council has assigned park rangers to the Palos Verdes Nature Preserve. The Rangers started patrols on December 14th in Portuguese Bend, with the fire area as a focus and expand patrols to additional areas in the Preserve.

Rangers have been asked to educate patrons on proper Preserve and parkland use and provide minor trail maintenance/obstruction clearing and minor fire fighting services, to notify other authorities/agencies when necessary, to abate graffiti and vandalism, and to make minor repairs to signage and park/open space structures. The Rangers will have a presence of about 30 hours a week during this initial contract, primarily walking and on bikes.

The Rangers are being provided by the Mountains Recreation & Conservation Authority (MRCA) and possess knowledge of open space, parkland, and recreation in general, and will act as a resource to patrons providing information on City parks and open space, flora, fauna, and safety procedures. The initial contract between Rancho Palos Verdes and the MRCA for this service is for a trial period of 120 days.



Park Rangers report to the new RPV Parks Open Space and Trails Manager, Tom Odom (right).

STEWARDSHIP, RESTORATION, AND EDUCATION UPDATES

NURSERY PLANTS SEEDS OF RESTORATION

The Conservancy raises over 60,000 locally native plants per year to support our habitat restoration efforts, and since October 2009, over 18,000 seedlings have been planted in Three Sisters and Alta Vicente Restoration projects alone. We also grow food plants for the endangered PV blue butterflies, and approximately 5,000 new seedlings will be ready in time for the butterfly's flight season which begins Feb. 15th.

The Conservancy's plant propagation process begins when staff prepare a restoration plan which contains a list of appropriate site specific plant species. Depending on the project, we collaborate with various state and federal wildlife agencies as well as local biologists on the restoration plans.

Field staff and volunteers then collect the appropriate seed and cuttings, and these are cleaned, dried and stored at the nursery until the correct time for germination. Next, seeds are planted in germination flats until they have rooted, and then transferred into larger pots where they can mature until planted at the restoration sites.



The Conservancy's nursery is located in San Pedro on the Navy Defense Fuel Supply Point (DFSP).

White Point Center to Bring History to Life

The design plan for the White Point Nature Education Center has moved from conceptual phase to a solid storyline, and is on its final phase of design and development. The project team, including the design groups, staff and several board members, has been meeting regularly on the development of text and graphics, building and exhibit materials, along with a host of other logistical tasks. The project's completion is planned for spring 2010.

The Center's exhibits will help visitors understand that in addition to human impacts, there are also natural cycles of change in climate and landscape that take place over thousands of years. Exhibits will directly address the question of how human habitation and exploitation of local resources has affected the native habitat at White Point and what physiological changes have occurred as a result.

With its location and close proximity to the Harbor 110 freeway, this center is poised to reach many of the communities and schools throughout Los Angeles county with outdoor and nature education, connecting hundreds of families and school children to this wonderful natural resource at the edge of the Pacific.

Once open, this building will serve as a center for learning and exploration as well as a gathering place for community members and groups hosting small events and meetings.



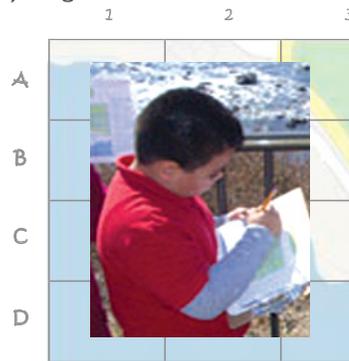
Outdoor Experience Puts Science in Children's Hands

Building on the success of Science Students as Stewards (S³) which began in the 2008 academic year, the program has grown to include an exciting new partnership with Para los Niños. The school is a charter elementary school for underserved families in downtown Los Angeles for grades kindergarten through five. With five hands-on science field trips already completed this year, the reactions of teachers and students have been overwhelming enthusiasm for the program, which complements the school's focus on conceptual understanding in the science subject area.

The field trips allow students to apply their understanding of science processes and skills in a meaningful and relevant way. In addition, opportunities to interact and be exposed to the natural environment are powerful experiences for these students, who are accustomed to their urban surroundings. Reactions to the crisp ocean air, views of the sea and Catalina Island, and animal sightings are clear indications of the remarkable effect that nature can have on young minds.



Field trips transport students from downtown LA to the coastal bluffs along the Pacific.



A recent 5th grade trip focused on weather and the water cycle. Students donned their meteorologist hats and worked in teams to build dew tarps and anemometers at White Point Nature Preserve. Using a map, they navigated the trails to data collection sites and recorded temperature and wind speed. The day ended with students using their data to determine the local climate. A highlight of the trip occurred when students made the connection between the anemometers they built and the one mounted on the roof of the soon to be completed Nature Education Center. The hands-on application, and the fun of role play help to reinforce the science concepts being taught on the trail and in the classroom.

Student Researcher Assists with RECIPE Projects

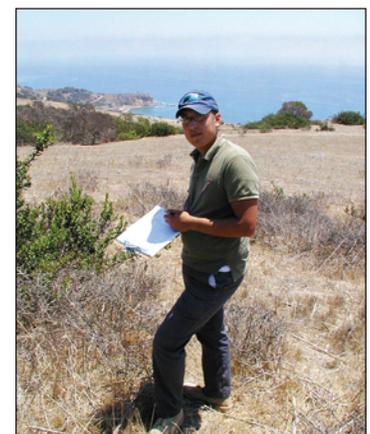
Years from now, when we look back on the role that the Conservancy has played in working with the youth in our community, we'll point to the success of Alfred Fernandez. It will be several years along on a journey that has just begun for this talented young man, who has been an intern since July 2009.

Alfred is a student at Los Angeles Harbor City College and works as an Emergency Medical Technician when he isn't at school. We didn't find him, he found us.

Alfred is interested in science and knew that research experience was important to meet his goal of transferring to California State University Dominguez Hills in the Fall of 2010, where he plans to major in pre-med on his way to becoming a doctor. And, since research opportunities in community colleges are virtually impossible to come by – he reached out, found us and joined our research efforts.

During the summer, Alfred assisted with the endangered El Segundo blue butterfly surveys at Vicente Bluffs. He provided significant assistance helping with a project to measure carbon uptake of plant species by stripping and weighing hundreds of Lemonade berry leaves. Now, Alfred is working with another student on a project that will help provide a better understanding of the behavior and diet of wildlife on the Preserves. He is learning the basics of primary research, which is an important aspect of advancing in the sciences, and gaining valuable experience to add to his resume.

We are so fortunate to have talented and motivated young people like Alfred to inspire and energize the Conservancy. And remember that name, Alfred Fernandez, tomorrow he may assist you in case of an accident and years later he may be your physician.

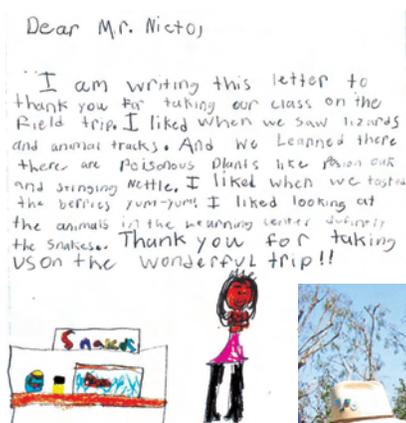


John Nieto: Dedicated Leader of our Third Grade Education Program

John Nieto has been working and volunteering with the Conservancy for over ten years and his dedication to the Third Grade program is making an enormous impact on thousands of children. John spends hours out on the trail, making it a personal goal to be present at each and every field trip. John trains each of the 19 field docents for both in school and field instruction. The program has reached over 15,000 students from 19 schools with 45 percent of them Title I schools.

According to John, "I continue year after year because I want to leave something behind that will grow exponentially. If just one child a year at each school goes away with an appreciation for the environment or a fondness for birds or plants or insects or rocks, or a curiosity of Indian lore, then he or she will affect other people and they others and on and on." The numbers of kids we have taught in this program is huge. With those numbers, many will do something great, and we helped. Just imagine the impact!

Parents tell me all the time that they have heard their child talk about the classes and how much they were both looking forward to the field trip! I will see a child I taught and they will be with their folks and with just a nod and a smile from their child a thousand words are exchanged."



John's third grade students learn about the many uses of California sagebrush including its role as a body deodorant for cowboys out on the range, appropriately named "cowboy cologne."



YOUR GIFT IS IMPORTANT

Your donation will be put to good work by the Conservancy on a variety of programs. There are many ways to donate to the Land Conservancy:

- Join the *Mariposa Circle* by giving \$1,000 or more, with special thank-you events and benefits.
- Join the *Legacy Circle* by giving \$5,000 or more with thank-you events, additional benefits and permanent recognition.
- We also offer many giving options for tax advantaged gifts.

For more information, call Bob Ford at 310.541.7613 x202 or email: rford@pvplc.org

In Honor

Your remembrance and celebration gifts to PVPLC create a lasting tribute to friends and loved ones by helping to protect the beauty and character of the Palos Verdes Peninsula. If you would like to make a donation in remembrance or celebration please call Mary Lopes, Donor Relations, at 310.541.7613x206.

We Remember

James Brogdon
given by V'Etta and Robert Virtue
David Clum
given by Alisa Clum
Joe and Elise Gorman
given by Christine Campbell
Marc Miller
given by Barbara and Mark Lurie
Mrs. Bernice Minesci
given by Rollin and Pauline Sturgeon
John McTaggart
given by Betty Strauss and Marguerite Wilkie
Betty Ridder
given by Betty Strauss

We Celebrate

Pat and George Ackerman
given by Chris, Janie and Colin Ackerman
Barb Dancy given by Bill and Robbie Foltz
Grandaughter Teagan Bell Nash
given by Don and Sue Bell
Marc and Philip
given by Janine Batchelder
Kathleen McGowan
given by Robert and Lorraine Eaton
John Moody given by Bill and Robbie Foltz
Mr. and Mrs. Pretz given by Arnold Pretz
Mr. and Mrs. Michael Spencer
given by John and Isabel Hansen
Martine Tocco given by Cynthia Johnson
Doug Virtue given by V'Etta and Robert Virtue
Mark, Natalie and Saskia Whitson
given by John and Linda Whitson

Thank you

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2010 Nature Walk Flyer

**GEORGE F
CANYON EVENTS**

**MARCH 6
APRIL 3
MAY 1**

**Bird Walk
George F Canyon
9AM**

Meet naturalist Loretta Rose at the Nature Center. We supply binoculars.

**MARCH 6
APRIL 3
MAY 1**

**Hike at
George F Canyon
1PM- 3PM**

Join our expert guide for a lovely hike. \$3 per person will bring you into a wonderful world of discovery. Please call 310.547.0862 for more information.

**FEB 27
MARCH 27**

**Night Hike
George F Canyon
Time to be arranged**
This hike will bring you to the top of the canyon for a fantastic view of the city lights below. Limited to 20 people. Call 310.547.0862 for reservations.

**FEB 13
Anniversary Nature
Walk McBride Trail
9AM - 11PM**

Join us for a dedication ceremony to celebrate the December 2009 acquisition of the 191-acre Upper Filiorum property which now connects existing reserves to form the contiguous 950 acre Palos Verdes Nature Preserve. Easy. RPV.



Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy
PO Box 3427
Palos Verdes Peninsula, CA 90274
310/541-7613

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WINTER/SPRING 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 Nursery. For information and reservations, call Jill Wittman at 310.541.7613 X 201. Directions and information about our nature walks and updated volunteer day schedule can be found at www.pvplc.org.

FEBRUARY 20
Volunteer Workday
George F. Canyon
9AM - 12PM

Help with weeding the demonstration garden.

FEBRUARY 27
Team Leader Training
9AM - 3PM

MARCH 6
Volunteer Workday
Three Sisters Reserve
9AM - 12PM

Help with habitat restoration by weeding and planting.

MARCH 13
Team Leader Training
9AM - 3PM

MARCH 13
Nature Walk
Portuguese Bend Reserve
9AM - 12PM

Follow the Ishibashi Trail after the rainy season to witness the changes in habitat following the August fire with a chance to view rare wildflowers, many not seen in decades. Moderate. RPV.

MARCH 20
Volunteer
Workday Nursery
9AM - 12PM

Transplant native seedlings at our Nursery

MARCH 27
Volunteer Workday
White Point Preserve
9AM - 12PM

Help with weeding and planting a demonstration garden.

APRIL 10
Nature Walk Forrestal
Reserve
9AM - 12PM

Encounter some of the best remaining coastal sage scrub on the Peninsula. Enjoy local wildflowers such as the scarlet paintbrush and mariposa lily and see extraordinary geology in the dramatic cliffs where crystal and fossils are visible. Moderate. RPV.

MAY 8
Nature Walk Linden
H. Chandler Preserve
9AM - 12PM

Experience three distinct habitat types – restored riparian vegetation, slopes with coastal sage scrub and grasslands. View the successful habitat restoration by the Conservancy to help reintroduce the endangered PV blue butterfly. Moderate. RHE.

**Save the Date
JUNE 13**



**2010 Home Tour
Self-Guided Tour
and Reception**

Distinctive San Pedro Homes
Wine, Appetizers and
Live Music