

RPV City Approves Management Agreement for Preserves

Conservancy supporters turned out in force for the Rancho Palos Verdes City Council Meeting on November 1 to witness the long-awaited approval of the Conservancy's preserve management agreement. The Natural Communities Conservation Plan establishes a 50-year management agreement for the 1,400-acre Palos Verdes Nature Preserve, formalizing both parties' responsibilities for its maintenance.



Echoing the sentiments of the many community members who spoke at the meeting, longtime supporter Betty Field Strauss said, "I'm sure the City's founders would be proud of the Conservancy."

The Conservancy has shared in the preserve's acquisition and management beginning in 1996 with the purchase of the 160-acre Forestal parcel, continuing with the 2005 purchase of the Hon property (tripling the preserve's acreage), through the 2009 acquisition of the 191-acre Upper Filiorum parcel. Citing the Conservancy's long and successful cooperation with the City, RPV Director of Community Development Joel Rojas said, "The Conservancy's expertise in preserve management best serves our open space."

According to the agreement, the Conservancy will be responsible for restoring habitat for a minimum of five acres per year, including invasive plant removal, management, monitoring, some signage and fuel modification on Conservancy-owned Lunada Canyon. When possible, the Conservancy will also maintain the unimproved trails. The City will be responsible for waste management, public safety, maintaining Burma Road, and fuel modification on city-owned lands. Under the agreement, the Conservancy will provide financial and volunteer support to help the City manage the preserve.

Landslide Reshapes White Point Preserve

On November 20 about 420 feet of earth and roadway of Paseo del Mar and a small portion of the White Point Nature Preserve slid southward toward the ocean below, moving about 53 feet. This area had been under investigation by the City's Bureau of Engineering since July, due to observed tension cracks and distressed pavement.

White Point Nature Preserve is an exemplary model for what can be accomplished with a public-private partnership working in collaboration with the community. Over the past decade, it has been the Conservancy's privilege and responsibility to implement the community-based Master Plan for the preserve. To fulfill this commitment, we successfully raised over \$2 million in grants and through community led fundraising events to restore the habitat, trails, and create a new nature

education center. Over 14,000 thousands of hours of volunteer time have gone into creating and caring for the preserve over the past decade.

Following the collapse of Paseo del Mar, the City of Los Angeles hired a private geotechnical firm, Shannon & Wilson, Inc. to study the groundwater levels and movement of the area around the landslide. Their December investigative report states they did not observe any new cracks outside of the fenced landslide area. Groundwater in the borings were observed at depths greater than 50 feet and existing ground cracks in the landslide have widened by up to two inches.

The preserve remains open with the following modifications:

- Sewer Connection: Prior to the slide, the sewer line under Paseo del Mar was



capped, cutting off the sewer tie for the restrooms in the Nature Education Center. The LA Department of Recreation and Parks has provided temporary restrooms

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A Message from the President

In our continuing work to make the Conservancy sustainable for many decades to come, our Board decided in 2009 that the President would have a two-year term limit. Effective leadership that stands for our principles is important, but it is just as important to benefit from the unique strengths and perspectives that different leaders bring over time.

I was the first Board President to serve under the Conservancy's term limits. I have been proud to do so, and am equally proud to turn over the reins in January to our incoming president, Bruce Biesman-Simons. Bruce has been a board member for many years and brings a wealth of experience to the position.

We have made significant progress during my term. Our achievements include finalizing the Conservancy's conservation easements over the Palos Verdes Nature Preserve and completing the Preserve management agreement with the City of Rancho Palos Verdes. We have made changes in our board governance that set the stage to focus on strategy and funding, the most important tasks for any established nonprofit. We have established ourselves as a part of the community, responsible for stewarding our important open space lands and connecting our community to that land.



SHARE OUR VISION

Help make preserving open space a 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.
- \$250+ get all of the above plus receive a set of art notecards featuring paintings by the Portuguese Bend Artist Colony.
- \$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

Thank you to all the contributors to our successful Annual Appeal 2011

YOU make the *difference!*

Sincerely,

Ken Swenson
President, Board of Directors

Support the Conservancy!

5% Contribution
Give Back Day at



2655 Pacific Coast Hwy

Wednesday, Feb. 15th
Store Hours: 8:00 am - 9:00 pm

Benefitting the
Palos Verdes Peninsula
Land Conservancy

Every purchase counts!

Save the Date

Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy
& Portuguese Bend Artist Colony
- present -



R. Humphrey's "Afternoon on the Bridle Trail" is part of a new set of art notecards benefitting the Conservancy

FINE ART EXHIBITION AND SALE

Malaga Cove Library
June 30-July 15, 2012



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
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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

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DeRoys Honored as Citizens of the Year



Citizens of the Year Craig and Loren DeRoy flanked by Conservancy Executive Director Andrea Vona (left) and Development Director Nancy Young (right)

The Palos Verdes Peninsula Chamber of Commerce and the Palos Verdes Peninsula Rotary Club named longtime Conservancy volunteers Loren and Craig DeRoy the 2011 Citizens of the Year at an October 21 gala. The Chamber recognized the DeRoys for their philanthropic work and outstanding dedication to the Conservancy and three other local organizations.

Said Conservancy Founder Bill Ailor, "A number of years ago, I heard people raving about a local resident who was leading the community charge to convert a small building at the corner of PV Drive North and East into a nature center. I subsequently invited her to join our

board in 1993, and appreciated her dedication as a board member over several terms.

Later, when the Conservancy was planning the nature preserve at White Point, I contacted Loren to help the community reach a consensus to move forward on the project. She did a fabulous job, as the finished nature preserve attests.

Loren has never hesitated to take on any challenge. She is successful because she treats everyone with respect, understands differences and is patient and forward-looking. We are blessed both Loren and Craig have dedicated time to Conservancy causes and congratulate them on this honor."

Landslide cont'd from page 1

on the site as we work with them to determine an appropriate new connection point.

- Fence: The City of Los Angeles installed chain link fencing along the preserve's southern trail, immediately north of the slide boundary.
- Power Poles: To maintain power for a sanitation pump station the Department of Water and Power (DWP) installed nine power poles through the preserve. The DWP has confirmed that the installation is temporary and that they will explore appropriate alternatives for the poles' permanent routing once the slide has stabilized.
- Trail Access: During rain events, Recreation and Parks will close the southern trail which runs from the parking area to the Weymouth/Paseo del Mar entrance to the Preserve. To maintain clear access, there will be detour signage in place to direct people to the next closest entry/exit to the preserve.

We look forward to working creatively with the community to find longterm solutions to these temporary measures. Although the land-



Executive Director Andrea Vona met with the Mayor Villaraigosa following the landslide

slide created many issues that now must be addressed, the publicity surrounding the closure and loss of a portion of the sidewalk on Paseo del Mar has raised public awareness of the White Point Nature Preserve and has led many people to explore it for the first time. The Conservancy is dedicated to maintaining public access to the preserve throughout the evaluation process. We welcome all visitors and wish everyone an enjoyable visit.

The nature center is open Wednesdays, Saturdays and Sundays from 10 am-4 pm. LA City Rangers offer walk the second Saturday of each month at 10 a.m. and children's storytime the fourth Saturdays at 10:30 am.

Stewardship Update

Fall and Winter is a very busy time for restoration efforts and 2011 was no exception. More than 120 cubic yards (54,000 pounds) of invasive acacia trees were removed from Vicente Bluffs and McCarrell's Canyon, and truck loads of fennel removed by volunteers at Portuguese Bend and Lunada Canyon. Staff and volunteers planted over 12,000 container plants to restore 3 acres of coastal bluffs, 1 acre of riparian, 10 acres of coastal sage scrub, 3 acres of cactus scrub, and 1 acre of Palos Verdes blue butterfly habitat.



Restoration technicians planting coastal bluff habitat at Pelican Cove

Land Trusts Report Encouraging Gains in Voluntary Land Conservation

In the first National Land Trust Census in five years, the Land Trust Alliance reported that individual land trusts across the nation have collectively conserved 10 million acres, outpacing the federal government's land acquisition program. The census shows that voluntarily protected land increased 27% between 2005 and 2010. In the same time period, the Land and Water Conservation Fund, a major federal conservation

program, added just over 500,000 acres and experienced a 38% funding cut.

A total of 47 million acres—an area over twice the size of all the national parks in the contiguous United States—is now protected by land trusts. The greatest percentage of the newly preserved land was set aside through local and state land trusts like the Conservancy. In the last five years, the Conservancy has preserved over 600 acres of coastal open space. Volunteers have donated nearly 46,000 hours to this important conservation work.

Land trusts across California conserved over 2.3-million acres between 2005 and 2010, a 34% increase. "California residents value their land, and we are demonstrating this by working to conserve it at the com-

munity level," said Conservancy Executive Director Andrea Vona. "Californians are actively investing in their future with land trusts that promote clean water and open space for our children and for generations to come."

Findings from the Census

- California land trusts saw a 94% increase in volunteer involvement.
- Nationally, operating budgets for land trusts rose 36% between 2005 and 2010.
- National operating endowments nearly tripled, ensuring the long-term protection of preserved lands.
- Urban parks, gardens and open spaces are now a priority for 27% of trusts, a threefold increase over 2005.



Staff and Board Attend Land Trust Alliance National Conference

The Conservancy was well-represented by two staff and three board members who traveled in October to attend the annual Land Trust Alliance national conference in Milwaukee. A scholarship for first-time attendees was awarded to Conservation Director Danielle Lefer. Lefer was joined by Development Director Nancy Young, incoming Board President Bruce Biesman-Simons and board members Susan McKenna and Leslie McShane.

The conference, which attracts over 1,400 conservation leaders, provides a vehicle for exchanging ideas, learning and collaborating with conservationists from across the country. Said Biesman-Simons:

"The Rally helped me realize why and how the Conservancy is

unique, robust, and has a compelling longterm vision. Most of the other conservancies are working to preserve land from development but they often stop there. By contrast, we have reached our primary goal of saving the land and we are now working on restoring crucial native habitat, maintaining public access, and improving and expanding our education and interpretive programs.

It is these kinds of activities that demonstrate our collective long-term vision. The idea of the 'audacity of perpetuity,' a phrase used by renowned land trust consultant Marc Smiley, is as challenging as it is exciting. Together with our community, we are well-equipped to take on the challenge. We have the ability to make the dream of 'perpetuity' real."

Conservancy Wins Boeing's Crystal Vision Award

On December 1, the Boeing Employees Community Fund honored the Conservancy with its prestigious annual Crystal Vision Award. This year's award, the company's 22nd, supported nonprofit organizations providing innovative environmental education programs. Since 1990, Boeing has awarded nearly \$6 million to 167 charitable agencies focused on mentoring youth; providing services to senior citizens, children and the homeless; and improving teacher effectiveness.

In bestowing this honor, Boeing selected the Conservancy as a winner of a \$40,000 grant. The funding will allow us to continue our partnership with Para Los Niños Charter Elementary School in downtown Los Angeles and to expand the web-accessibility and portability of our environmental education programs at the George F Canyon and White Point nature centers for regional schools. We thank Boeing employees for their generous support and seal of approval for our conservation and educational efforts.



White Point Naturalists Daniel Feldman and Laurie Morgan with 2nd graders from Para Los Niños Elementary School

Conservancy/Sierra Club Partnership Benefits Bell Students



A City of LA Public Works Inspector showing students an aerial map of the landslide area

Fifty-five sixth-grade students from Ellen Ochoa Learning Center in Bell gathered at White Point and Royal Palms in October for a geology field trip hosted by the Conservancy. The event was coordinated as one of the Sierra Club's Inner City Outings by Becky Niemiec, a former Conservancy intern and Education Director Siegrun Storer.

The Inner City Outings program seeks to create safe and enjoyable outdoor experiences for youth and to promote individual growth through environmental and outdoor skills development. The students were able to view the active landslide on the bluffs of Paseo del Mar and observe other evidence of land movement in the local area. The Conservancy's education program developed the field trip curriculum based on California Content Standards for the Science Students as Stewards Program.

Becky said, "My experience with the Conservancy helped make me passionate about science-based solutions to environmental problems. It also made me believe that every student should have the opportunity to see

how science pertains directly to environmental issues that affect our daily lives. The experience inspired me to work with Inner City Outings for a term to design and implement outdoor science curriculum for K-8th grade students to ensure that every one has the opportunity to be part of outdoor, hands-on experiments like the ones I had with the Conservancy, the kind that reveal how science can explain the natural world around us and how it can be used to solve environmental problems."

Long Scholarship Open for Applications

The application deadline for the \$1,500 Conservation Research Scholarship has been set for March 31. Sponsored by the Long Family Foundation, the scholarship is designed to inspire undergraduates to contribute to environmental conservation through scholarly research. We encourage applications from all qualified students majoring in science or environmental studies at a local college or university and undertaking or planning research on a nature preserve on the Palos Verdes Peninsula.

For forms and additional information please visit: www.pvplc.org



Student sampling for plant carbon uptake on the Palos Verdes Nature Preserve

Conservancy Partners with Audubon for Leadership Program

In partnership with the Conservancy, PV/South Bay Audubon Society received a 2011 TogetherGreen Innovation Grant to launch the Youth Environmental Stewards (YES) Program nationwide. The YES partners will create a guidebook and youth leadership training program to be used in starting YES programs across the country. Similar community partnerships with Audubon chapters, centers and sanctuaries will inspire teens to become leaders who can meet the environmental challenges of their communities.

The partnership was launched on December 3 with a volunteer day at Portuguese Bend Reserve, where YES members joined Conservancy volunteers in removing fennel from a restoration area burned in the 2009 fire, followed by an enjoyable meet-and-greet lunch. At the event, a board member for both the Conservancy and the Audubon Society Jess Morton said, "TogetherGreen is a joint venture of Audubon and Toyota to promote large-scale conservation. The Conservancy-Audubon partnership is a fine example of what TogetherGreen Innovation Grants are meant to achieve."



PV/South Bay Audubon coordinator Marcos Trinidad, and Adrienne Bosler address the crowd of youth participants at YES Launch

To find out more about this program, contact Conservancy Stewardship Associate Adrienne Bosler at (310) 541-7613, x213 or email: abosler@pvplc.org.



Stewardship Associate Adrienne Bosler trains new team leaders

19 Complete Team Leader Training

Conservancy Team Leaders, easy to spot on the preserves in their blue shirts, provide motivation during Saturday Outdoor Volunteer Days. A group of 19 participants completed the latest training workshop in October at the White Point Nature Preserve.

The training now uses an interactive format to teach new team leaders techniques for providing safe, fun and productive experiences for outdoor volunteers. One of our newest Team Leaders, John Lee, said, "I had fun at the Team Leader workshop. This program will help many people with their leadership skills and knowledge about the environment. It was a good decision on my part to join and I thank you [the Conservancy] for offering such an experience."

Over 85 Team Leaders have completed our training workshops to date, and we look forward to increasing participation over the coming year through our new partnership with the PV/South Bay Audubon Society Youth Environmental Stewards (YES) Program.

Some gifts last a lifetime. Others, longer.

**Preservation is forever.
Consider a lasting gift to conservation.**

Make the preservation of our precious natural environment part of your legacy with a planned gift to the Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy. All the money we receive from our planned giving program is used locally to preserve the scenic beauty, open spaces, native habitat and natural resources on the Peninsula.

The planned giving program will gather a very special group of Conservancy supporters who make a lasting commitment to land protection through a variety of estate-planning tools, including bequests in a will or trust, charitable gift annuities, charitable remainder trusts, IRA designations or gifts of life insurance. Please consider joining this dedicated group of conservationists today.

For more information on planned giving call Nancy Young, Director of Development at (310) 541-7613, ext. 202, or email: nyoung@pvplc.org.



Photo: Michael J. Baxter

Conservancy Celebrates 2011 Volunteers

Volunteers drive the Conservancy's mission to preserve, restore and educate the public about the wonders of our open space. As represented by our dedicated Board, nature education docents, office volunteers, interns and weed warriors, our volunteers contributed over 12,000 hours last year. We had the opportunity to personally thank the 65 of them who attended the annual volunteer picnic on October 23 at Point Vicente Interpretive Center Park.

This year the President's Award was given to Allen Lay (third from left) for his longtime commitment and dedication to the organization as a member of our Finance Committee. The Outstanding Volunteer Awards went (left to right) to Steve Pedersen, Stacy Herman, Mike Baxter, George and Barbara Gleghorn, and (not pictured) Bob Douglas and Emmy Reeves. We are proud and thankful for our honorees and all of our volunteers. You make our mission possible!



2011 Outstanding Volunteer recipients



Local Color: Scouts Spruce Up Nursery

Last November, Eagle Scout Sam Pond of Troop 134 added a much-needed coat of paint to the Native Plant Nursery building, while Kyle Salzman of Troop 849 and Jack Dulzo of Troop 257 built new benches for growing restoration plants. The Conservancy congratulates all three on completing their Eagle Scout Awards and thanks them for sprucing up our space.

Rehabilitated Owl Released at White Point

On October 9, Conservancy Assistant Naturalist Joshua West released two female barn owls onto the White Point Nature Preserve in San Pedro. The owls were cared for by South Bay Wildlife Rehab prior to release. Some 20 Conservancy supporters gathered to see these beautiful birds soar back into the wild (pictured right).



“Armchair Traveler”

New programs featuring the Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy will air bi-monthly starting in February 2012



Cox Cable Channel 33
Verizon FIOS 38

For program schedule visit:
www.palosverdes.com/rpv/ch33



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

Eileen Joyce given by James and Arlene Joyce
Betty Strauss given by Trudy Park

Remembering

Janet Cornyn given by Bill Cornyn
Thomas P. Coynes given by Barbara Coynes
Gene Evers given by Grace Leonard
Marjorie Ellen Hill given by Donald and Joyce Pekich
Eugenio Gutierrez given by Eugene and Ana Gutierrez
Neil Kurit given by Barbara and Mark Lurie
David Lopes given by Jack and Margaret Hourigan
Linda Modisett given by Noah Modisett
Goldie Otters given by June Burlingame Smith
Diana Park given by Noel Park
Herbert J. Remstein given by Irma Remstein
Greg Smith given by June Burlingame Smith

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

CONSERVANCY NAMED BEST NONPROFIT

The Conservancy has been named "**Best Non-Profit Organization**" in the Palos Verdes Chamber of Commerce's 2011 Salute to Business Awards. The Conservancy is honored to be among Chamber members recognized for demonstrating "active involvement with the community, excellent customer service, innovation and/or a unique product or offering."

Supporters are welcome to join us in celebrating this honor at the Awards Dinner on February 3, 2012. To purchase dinner tickets please to go: www.palosverdeschamber.com.

 www.facebook.com/pvplc.org



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Shop at **Whole Foods** on Wednesday, February 15, 2012 - 5% Give Back Day to the Conservancy!

CALENDAR WINTER/SPRING 2012

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.

CABRILLO BEACH FEB 11, 9-11am

Visit the restored salt marsh, see the coastal native plant garden and learn about this historic area, Cabrillo Aquarium and beachfront adjacent to LA Harbor. Moderate. LA

ABALONE COVE MAR 10, 3-5pm

Enjoy this afternoon hike at beach level to see lava intrusions and explore the tidepools at low tide. Rocky terrain - wear shoes with good traction. Moderate. RPV.

CHANDLER PRESERVE APR 14, 9-11am

Admire this flourishing 28-acre preserve featuring restored grasslands habitat for the endangered PV blue butterfly and look for special native wildflowers including the star-shaped golden seal. Easy to moderate. RHE

GEORGE F CANYON

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

BIRD WALK FEB 4, MAR 3, APR 7, 9am

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

FIRST SATURDAY HIKE FEB 4, MAR 3, APR 7, 1-3pm

Join an expert guide to discover habitat, wildlife and more. \$5 per person. No reservations required.

FULL MOON HIKE To be announced. Visit: www.pvplc.org

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

WHITE POINT NATURE PRESERVE

Enjoy guided monthly family outdoor walks. Wear walking shoes and bring sun protection and water.

RANGER WALKS FEB 11, MAR 10, APR 14, 10:30am

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

FAMILY NATURE & ART WORKSHOP

WINTER IMPRESSIONS FEB 4 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. All events are 9-12pm unless specified. Reservations required for the Nursery. For information and reservations, please call (310) 541-7613 or email: info@pvplc.org

THREE SISTERS RESERVE, FEB 4 Plant natives to improve habitat.

NATIVE PLANT NURSERY, FEB 11 Transplant seedlings and weed plant containers. Reservations required.

PORTUGUESE BEND, FEB 18 Be a weed warrior against fennel invaders.

AGUA AMARGA, MAR 3 Restore the canyon by removing fennel.

PORTUGUESE BEND, MAR 10 Be a weed warrior against fennel invaders.

NATIVE PLANT NURSERY/DFSP, MAR 17 Transplant seedlings and weed plant containers. Reservations required.

AGUA AMARGA, MAR 24 Restore the canyon by removing fennel.

PORTUGUESE BEND, MAR 31 Be a weed warrior against fennel invaders.

Volunteer workday
sponsor

