



OPEN SPACES

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Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy

First Quarter, 2002



LA City Council Approval Activates White Point Grants

At its December 12, 2001 meeting, the Los Angeles City Council unanimously approved the Master Plan and Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the White Point Nature Preserve. The action included approval of a 25 year agreement with the Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy for implementation of the Master Plan and overall management of the site.

The City Council meeting was held in Wilmington, a first, which made a great venue for the hearing on White Point. Many members of the local community testified in favor of the project, which was highlighted by the persuasive testimony of Bria Biesman-Simons, 12 year old daughter of PVPLC board member Bruce. White Point project leader Loren DeRoy thanked

councilwoman Janice Hahn for her steady support and actions leading to the day's hearing.

The approvals by the City Council activated an \$810,000 grant from the Wildlife Conservation Board for habitat restoration on the site. This grant will fund a four-year project to revegetate the site with coastal sage scrub and native grassland habitat. We hope to begin site preparation work by early February, but will be somewhat limited in our activities until we receive approval from the State Coastal Commission.

We have also received approvals for a \$301,000 grant from the Metropolitan Transit Authority for entryway and public access improvements. We are awaiting notice to proceed with these improvements from CalTrans, and ex-

pect to begin this part of the project in May.

In cooperation with the California Conservation Corps, we have been approved by the State for a trails grant that will provide 2.5 miles of trail improvements, including a 0.5 mile trail accessible the handicapped.

We have also submitted grant requests for an additional \$445,000 to cover on-site restroom facilities, educational exhibits, trail markers, and other enhancements.

We are excited that upgrades to the White Point Nature Preserve are about to begin in earnest. There will be numerous opportunities for volunteer help. If you are interested, please contact our office at (310) 541-7613 or watch our web page, www.pvplc.org, for a posting of upcoming volunteer events.

Preservation of Open Spaces--

A Statement of Purpose

The Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy is a nonprofit, non-political, public-benefit corporation formed to preserve undeveloped land in perpetuity as open space for historical, educational, ecological, recreational and scenic purposes.

A diverse group of volunteers from the South Bay makes up the PVPLC's managing Board of Directors and its adjunct advisory board. These private citizens have been drawn together by their belief that open space is crucial to the well-being of our community.

Land acquisition by the PVPLC is through purchase and gift. In addition to the good will engendered by gift giving, landowners and others who donate land or funds to the PVPLC may realize significant tax benefits.

Open Spaces

A Newsletter Published by the
**Palos Verdes Peninsula
Land Conservancy**

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Vote for Prop 40 and Preserve Peninsula's "Crown Jewel"

For the past thirteen years, the Conservancy's top priority has been the preservation of land in the Portuguese Bend area of the Peninsula. Thanks to work from key individuals, we have a real chance of achieving a major part of our goal if Prop 40 (see below) passes.

Many of us know this property well. We've walked it alone, with a significant other, with our family, with visitors, and as a participant on Conservancy nature walks. It towers over us as we drive along PV Drive South. It fills our view as we look down from Del Cerro Park.

We know we have something special when the hillside turns a beautiful green in the spring or a golden brown in the summer and fall. We know that this is an area where we can go and be alone or share a quiet time with family and friends. Preservation is the last, best hope of assuring that this spectacular area remain forever a part of our Peninsula heritage.

This open space area is one of the unique features of Palos Verdes, and our goal is to make it permanent—the "crown jewel" of the Peninsula.

Thanks to the work of our executive director, Keith Lenard, the strong leadership and support of the Rancho Palos Verdes City Council, and work at the State level by Assemblyman Alan Lowenthal and State Senator Betty Karnette, preservation of property in this area is on the "A list" of projects to be considered when Proposition 40 passes in March.

Of course, passage of Prop 40 doesn't end our work. We hope to receive a substantial portion of the purchase price from this measure, but it won't be enough to complete the transaction—we'll need to raise an additional \$6 million from our community. We believe we'll receive strong support for this unique opportunity.

If Prop 40 doesn't pass, will it end our preservation efforts? Of course not. But these opportunities come rarely, and thanks to much work by many people, our community is well positioned to benefit now.

It's taken us thirteen years to get to this point. We hope our community will show its support for creating the Portuguese Bend Nature Preserve by strongly supporting Prop 40. Make us proud.

Bill Ailor, president

Proposition 40 Critical to Preserving Peninsula Open Space

In March, California voters will have the opportunity to vote on Proposition 40, the California Clean Water, Clean Air, Safe Neighborhood Parks, and Coastal Protection Act of 2002. Passage of this bill is critical to Conservancy and community efforts to preserve the last critical block of open space on the Peninsula.

Proposition 40 will provide \$1.275 billion for land conservation and improved air and water quality, and \$1.325 billion dedicated to California's State and local parks, recreation, and historic and cultural resources. Of specific interest locally, Proposition 40 will allocate \$300 million to the Wildlife Conservation Board for the acquisition, development, restoration, and rehabilita-

tion of habitat that promotes the recovery of threatened and endangered species and \$445 million to several other entities for land acquisition, particularly with a focus on land and water resources.

Our community is working hard to assure that some of this funding will be available to help us acquire land to complete the Portuguese Bend Nature Preserve. If we are successful, the Preserve will be the largest natural coastal open space area between Malibu on the north and Laguna Beach on the south, and the closest such resource to over 2 million individuals.

Help us assure the future of this beautiful area by supporting Proposition 40 in the March vote. Please see <http://voteyeson40.org> for more information.

Forrestal Steering Committee Initiates Planning

The Forrestal Steering Committee, with members from communities adjacent to the 160-acre Forrestal Nature Preserve, the City of Rancho Palos Verdes, native plant and equestrian groups, and the Conservancy, has initiated deliberations to refine plans for the new preserve.

Using the Forrestal Management Plan developed by the City and Conservancy with input from various community representatives as a guide, recent meetings of the group have focused on trail work and trail maintenance, habitat restoration, equestrian issues, and on public works concerns. The Management Plan was approved by the Rancho Palos Verdes City Council in 2001.

The steering committee format is similar to that which has been instrumental in guiding enhancements at the Linden H.



Work party removes trash and invasive plants from the Forrestal property on recent volunteer day.

Chandler Preserve in Rolling Hills Estates and the Lunada Canyon Preserve in Rancho Palos Verdes.

Members of the committee are: Steve Heyn, Keith Lenard, and John Nieto from the Conservancy; RPV representatives Les Evans, City Manager, Dean Alison, Director of Public Works, and Holly Starr, Recreation and Parks Department; plus Kurt Loheit, resident and trails expert; Madeline Ryan, PV Horseman's Association Member; Barbara Sattler, California Native Plant Society; and Richard D. Stark, president of the Ladera Linda Homeowners' Association.

The Forrestal property was acquired by Rancho Palos Verdes in 1996 using funds from LA County Measure A passed by voters in 1992 and from the State Wildlife Conservation Board.

Conservancy Board Holds Planning Session

Conservancy Board and staff members attended a two-day annual retreat and planning session in November to discuss our current status and plans. The meeting, held at Rolling Hills Estates City Hall, was highlighted by presentations from Jennie Gerard of Rails to Trails Conservancy, Mark Sanderson from The Nature Conservancy, and Esther Feldman, president of Community Conservancy International.

One of the meeting's goals was the drafting of a new strategic plan for the organization. The resulting plan focuses on seven areas: governance (how the organization will operate), land acquisition, education, stewardship of natural open space, outreach, fund raising, and administration.

Highlights include:

- Preserving the remaining 700 acres in the Portuguese Bend Nature Preserve
- Establishing a science advisory



board to provide broad oversight of our restoration activities

- Expanding our education program in local schools
- Increasing our membership base to include 10% of Peninsula households (approximately 6% are now

members)

The meeting provided a welcome opportunity for the board to discuss the future of the organization and allowed new board members to learn about the organization and provide their insights to the planning process.

Membership for 2001 Exceeds 1,100

As the list given below shows, over 1,100 individuals and families from throughout the South Bay demonstrated their commitment to preserving open space by providing donations of dollars to the Conservancy. Many of these individuals also donated their time. The success of our education, habitat restoration, and land acquisition programs is due in large measure to the support of these individuals. Our organization and our community are grateful.

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San Pedro Girl Scouts and Lion's Club Cook for White Point



Bill Ailor, left, and several members of White Point Steering Committee: Larry Vivian, Loren DeRoy (chair), June Burlingame-Smith, Beth Sohngen, Noel Park, Danna McDonough, Leah Marinkovich, Bruce Biesman-Simons.



Girl Scouts serve breakfast.

Members of San Pedro Neighbor Girls Scouts were aided by volunteers from the San Pedro Lion's Club in a special "Make a Difference Day" White Point fundraising event in October. The event included a pancake breakfast benefiting the new White Point Nature Preserve, a silent auction, and music provided by a jazz band.

A highlight of the breakfast was the introduction of members of the White Point Advisory Committee. The committee, led by Loren DeRoy, was chartered by the Conservancy to develop the Master Plan for the creation of a

nature preserve on the 102-acre site.

After months of hearings and deliberations, the committee created the plan which was recently approved by the Board of Recreation and Parks Commissioners for Los Angeles, leading to the approval of the EIR by the Los Angeles City Council (see story on page 1). Conservancy president Bill Ailor presented a certificate of appreciation to each member for his or her community involvement and work on the advisory body.

The event, part of Community

Awareness Day activities, was coordinated by Margaret Moilov.

The breakfast, held at the Angel's Gate complex in San Pedro, was attended by several hundred individuals.

After the breakfast event, the girls adjourned to the White Point site and helped prepare the area for habitat restoration planned for later this year.

Insects Outnumber Humans 200,000 to 1

by Joseph K. Slap

Here on the Palos Verdes Peninsula, just as about everywhere on our planet's land masses, humans share their existence with insects. Many of these aid the growth of plants, and many are food for our beautiful birds and other wildlife.

In fact, about 75% of all animals in the world are insects, giving them a ratio of approximately 200,000

insects for each person. Because of their variety, insects live in more environments than do any other animals.

Not only do some occupy small and large plants, but some exist below the ground and under rocks, or on the ground's surface, or next to a body of water, or on the water's surface, and a few even live under the water. In addition, insects are in climate areas from quite cold to quite hot.

It's known that insects, rather than birds, were the first organisms to have wings and to fly. Of course, there are insects such as ants and beetles that do not fly.



Spiders also do not fly, but spiders are not insects but arachnids, with eight legs and no wings or antennae.

Of all animals, insects are the only ones to have six legs and/or four wings. So, a millipede and a centipede are not insects because of their large number of legs. However, a grasshopper does have 4 wings, six legs, and antennae, so it is indeed an insect.

Another fact about an insect's body is that it consists of a head, a thorax, and an abdomen. On the head are its two eyes, two antennae, and mouth. The eating features of insect mouths differ: some mouths take up liquids as a sponge does by absorbing, some suck-up liquids, some have sharp aspects that pierce, and many chew and thus crush what is being eaten.

Because insects do not have teeth, those that chew have relatively strong and sharp jaws for that function, and the chewing in

some insects is an up and down jaw motion, whereas in other insects, such as tiger beetles, the chewing motion of the jaws is sideways.

Moths and butterflies suck nectar from a flower in a manner similar to the way a person sucks liquid through a straw. Insects such as mosquitoes (e.g., with the sharp, piercing attribute) often suck a liquid after piercing an animal's skin or puncturing a moist leaf.

People's skeletons are within our bodies but the external skeleton (exoskeleton) of an insect gives some protection to the insect, and covers and helps support its inner muscles.



One insect that's harder for a predator to see and identify as potential prey is the one called a walking stick. When that insect is in a collection of leaves or twigs, it is indeed camouflaged.

I hope you've enjoyed this brief discussion of our insect friends. Support the Land Conservancy and help preserve the open spaces many of these call home.

“Use it or Lose it” Flyer Adds Members

The new color “Use it or Lose it” mailer has received excellent reviews and is bringing in new members. The highlight of the mailer is a color aerial photograph of the south side of the Peninsula by photographer Bill Alnes.

Alnes, a regular at “Whale of a Day” and similar Peninsula events

has taken many similar aerial photographs, but this one “captures the beauty and three dimensional nature of the Portuguese Bend area,” says Lisa Lenard, Director for Development and wife of executive director Keith Lenard.

The mailer, the first to bring attention to community efforts to preserve

a major portion of the remaining Portuguese Bend natural area, was sent to over 21,000 homes in the 90274 and 90275 zip code areas. The response has been very good.

Our thanks to those of you who have used this opportunity to join or renew your membership.

Add Your Email Address to Our List

Many of our members have asked to be kept informed of our efforts to preserve the Portuguese Bend Nature Preserve. We will be providing information via e-mail at critical points in this effort. If you'd like to be on our email list, please send an e-mail to bill.ailor@pvplc.org, and your address will be added.

Haiku Corner: The Peninsula from Another Perspective

by Jorg Raue

Last year we published in this corner a collection of 21 haiku that were selected from all the haiku submitted during the previous two years. You were asked to vote for your favorite. Here are the results of your vote:

Jess Morton is the clear winner—nearly all of his submittals received votes, but these three, all embracing the sea shore, garnered the most votes:

*evening flicks her tongue
across this shore's lip of sand
to caress my ear*

Jess Morton

*murmuring wavelet
bends to a strand of beached kelp
fingering its beads*

Jess Morton

*with rustles of silk
seafoam's sheer lace slips away
untouched sand laid bare*

Jess Morton

There was a tie for second place,

*little hummingbird
lightly dancing in the air
red flower waiting*

Charlene Dolim

*low tide, Rocky Point —
waves flood giant blackened rocks
countless mussels huddle*

Jorg Raue

The winners should stop by the office of the Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy and pick up their prize--a nature book or a PVPLC coffee mug.

Clearly, the sea surrounding our Peninsula provides a sense of peace and tranquillity, and to many of us it also provides an endless source of inspiration for the writing of haiku.

Along with about a dozen haiku, Jess Morton sent the following illuminating and instructive comments:

"Besides being restricted to three lines with a fixed 5-7-5 syllable count, a haiku should also contain two contrasting but related images. I think the ideal in haiku was to create a third line that was completely unexpected in its imagery, but managed to resolve the dramatic tension created in the first two lines."

Here is a selection of Jess' haiku:

*bubbles on wet sand
where the hungry godwits probe
a dark paradise*

Jess Morton

*swirling at wave's rush
among boulders of sunlight
go eddies of birds*

Jess Morton

*tall breakers, squall lashed
race up the ashen-faced beach
beating their bare breasts*

Jess Morton

And here are some additional haiku:

*the ocean's movement
of swells, dips, whitecaps and waves
comes in all colors*

Barbara Peirce

*sparkle and shimmer
afternoon sunlight streaming
sun and sea rejoice*

Charlene Dolim

If you have composed one or more haiku about any natural aspect of our Peninsula, please feel free to submit them for possible publication in this corner. My E-mail address is: raue@cox.net, or mail to Haiku, PO Box 3427, PVP, CA 90274

Programs Available for Young and Old at George F Canyon

The George F Canyon Nature Center in Rolling Hills Estates (southwest corner of the Palos Verdes Drive North and PV Drive East intersection) offers programs for all ages. These include:

- 1st Saturday Nature Walk, a 10:00 am guided tour of the canyon
- Practically Backyard Birding, offered at 5:00 pm on the last Thursday of the month
- Canyon Night Hikes, 7:00 pm on the first full moon of each month
- Senior Stroll Through the Canyon, a leisurely, naturalist-led walk through the beautiful canyon held at 9:00 am on the second Friday of each month.

More details are available at the Nature Center's web site, www.pvplc.org/georgef or by calling (310) 547-0862. The programs are free, but a \$2 per person donation is suggested to support the Nature Center. The Conservancy operates the George F Canyon Nature Center under contract with the City of Rolling Hills Estates.



George F Canyon Nature Center director Loretta Rose and friend.



Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy
PO Box 3427
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Before you vote...
Important info on Prop 40 inside!

Our mailing label contains useful information about your donation status. On the top line after your name is the date when your last donation was received by the Conservancy. If the top line contains the word "List," according to our records, you have not yet contributed. Please make your 2002 commitment to preserving open space now--we need your help!

Dust Off Those Cameras...

Our Picture Palos Verdes Photography Contest is coming. Later this year, this popular event will encourage photographers to submit their best works to be hosted on the Conservancy's web page, www.pvplc.org, where you can see entries and winners for the last several years. Remember, the theme of the contest is "the natural beauty of the Peninsula." Categories include sunsets, plants and flowers, landscapes, and seascapes. Spring is an excellent time to snap some good pictures, so keep that camera handy.



Wish List

We need the following items. If you may be able to help, please call Joann Lehmer at our office, (310) 541-7613, extension 201.

- A light utility truck for our nursery and land stewardship operations
Miscellaneous office furniture
Volunteers to represent the Conser-

vancy at upcoming street fairs and public events.

- Professional Rolatape measuring wheel
Light duty tool kit
Most recent edition of Peachtree accounting software
Windows 2000 software

Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy

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