



OPEN SPACES

Volume 12, Number 2

Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy

Second Quarter, 2000



Bill Ailor, left, is congratulated by Steve Soboroff, right, and Rudy Svorinich, Jr.

Youngster "paints a snake" at Conservancy booth.

White Point Nature Preserve Dedicated !

The 102-acre White Point Park property was formally dedicated as a nature preserve at an on-site ceremony on May 6. Approximately 500 local residents and officials attended the celebration. The Conservancy will manage the new preserve.

Leading the ceremony was Ellen Oppenheim, general manager of the Los Angeles Parks Department. Highlights included presentations by Steven Soboroff, president of the Los Angeles County Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners; LA City Councilman Rudy Svorinich, Jr.; Vern Hall, chairman of the White Point Citizens Advisory Committee; and President Bill Ailor representing the Conservancy.

Svorinich, who presented a certificate to the PVPLC recognizing our preservation efforts, was in turn congratulated for his office's leadership

on the project. In particular, Deputy Eric Moody's work was singled out for commendation.

Rancho Palos Verdes Mayor Lee Byrd presented proclamations from the City to the Conservancy, the City of Los Angeles, and the White Point Citizens Advisory Committee, thanking them for their efforts. Three additional members of the Rancho Palos Verdes City Council—John McTaggart, Marilyn Lyon, and Douglas Stern—also attended the dedication.

Members of a new White Point Nature Preserve Steering Committee, which will develop a master plan for the property's restoration under the direction of Conservancy Project Director Loren DeRoy, were also introduced.

Over the next year, this group will develop a plan for restoring native

plants, define a formal trail network, address public access issues, and determine how to highlight the site's historically significant aspects.

Special activities demonstrating the property's natural characteristics followed the Dedication. Included were a Conservancy-led nature walk exploring the property, pottery shaping and decoration with clay extracted from the property's soil, and "snake painting" for children.

We are excited by the opportunities presented by White Point. This former military site will provide an inviting open-space area for people to take quiet walks and share spectacular views of the Pacific. The conservation will also provide great educational opportunities for both children and adults for years to come. We invite you to join us in celebrating this significant acquisition.

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
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Keith Lenard New Executive Director

Keith Lenard, former director of land conservation for the Nature Conservancy in Wyoming, is our new executive director. Lenard will oversee all PVPLC activities and projects. Lenard holds a BS degree in environmental science from Rutgers University and an MS in land-use planning and resource policy from the University of Washington.

During his career, Lenard has worked with the National Park Service and the Bureau of Land Management. He also served as the execu-

tive director of The Access Fund, a national nonprofit organization specializing in conserving mountain-climbing environments.

While working for the Nature Conservancy, Lenard closed 25 private land projects totaling more than 85,000 acres. He also developed and implemented a statewide conservation agenda for the Wyoming field office.

Needless to say, we are pleased and excited to have Keith join us. He brings skills and experience suited perfectly for our needs. We look forward to his involvement and leadership.



Local Community Member Goes Above and Beyond

Brad Richard is an unsung hero for his work supporting the Palos Verdes blue butterfly restoration project. Brad first came to the Navy Fuel Depot in October of 1999, concerned about the population decline of a native plant on the Peninsula, locoweed (*Astragalus trichopodus*). He expressed an interest in propagating locoweed by cloning it in his personal lab and greenhouse. After his propagation methods proved successful, he donated over 200 locoweed plants to the project in January.

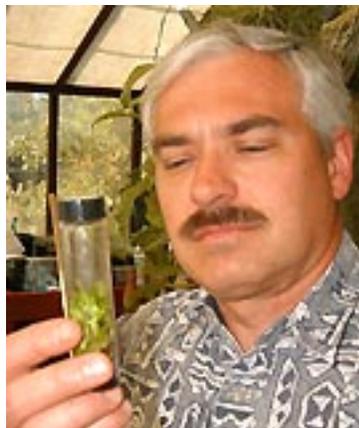
We are extremely pleased to have healthy, robust locoweed to use for breeding and reintroducing the endangered Palos Verdes blue butterfly. In the past, we experienced problems propagating the food plant, because lo-

coweed is a difficult species to grow.

Brad has continued to show enthusiasm in native plant and butterfly restoration this spring. Along with his wife, Debbie, and their two sons, Eric and Alex, he planted over 100 locoweed plants at the Chandler Preserve, where the Palos Verdes blue butterfly was reintroduced this spring. During a hectic captive-breeding season, Brad has been very generous with his time and resources.

Brad keeps a demanding schedule as an anesthesiologist at St. Mary's Hospital in Long Beach. However, he is quick to take time out from his many hobbies, such as propagating orchids and carnivorous plants, to support preservation efforts. We are extremely fortunate to have dedicated volunteers in our community like Brad Richard.

By Yvonne Marlin



From Our Executive Director..

It was with great anticipation that I packed up the car in Lander, Wyoming early in May and set my compass to the Palos Verdes Peninsula. After spending the last 25 years of my life tramping around our nation's wildernesses and remote corners, I've come to believe that there is something about heading into uncharted territory that calls out the very best in each of us.

As I think back on what has led me from the high, lonesome of Wyoming's sage brush steppe, montane woodlands, and alpine meadows to the racetrack

life of southern California, I am reminded that my earliest remembrances in life are of sunny California beaches in Del Mar. An area behind our little beach cottage where my father moved us when I was a strapping one-year old was known as Torrey Pines, and I recall an abundance of bird life and garter snakes. One day, while walking on the beach, my brother and I found a dead sea lion, scarier to two little boys that it likely would have been in life.

Today, I would otherwise know that same backyard as coastal sage scrub, the same habitat that the Conservancy is today trying to restore to the Palos Verdes Peninsula. Despite the enormous changes that have occurred to southern California in the last thirty-five years since my brother and I wandered the beaches and undeveloped coastal bluffs, there is a quality to the air and light in this corner of the world that resonates deeply for me.

Together we can ensure that memories like the ones I share with my brother—of two little boys romping in a field — don't become extinct.

Over the past ten years or so, I have traveled widely and worn a variety of different hats. From Seattle to Oregon, Colorado and Wyoming, I have attempted to apply my skills in the most effective manner possible to help our culture and economy balance its ambitions with a good solid dose of ecological temperance.

In Wyoming, where I was the director of land conservation for The Nature Conservancy, I learned that people will only undertake conserva-

tion when it is compatible with the economic activity of their community. This is a lesson that I think will find an apt pupil in the Palos Verdes community. After all, our way of life and the things we cherish are made up in no small part by the unique character of our surroundings.

It is a delight to return to southern California and to be in a position to help it meet its future. In many respects, that future is now, at least for the Palos Verdes Peninsula and the millions of people for whom our open space is the nearest. What we save for future generations today is all that we will have left tomorrow. Only a few significant large tracts of undeveloped land remain.

I look forward to working with our community to secure the future of these precious acres. Together we can ensure that memories like the ones I share with my brother—of two little boys romping in a field — don't become extinct.

By Keith Lenard

Summer Programs Begin at George F Canyon Nature Center

The George F Canyon Nature Center is offering the special summer programs listed below for children and families. Openings are limited, so sign up early. For more information, please contact the Nature Center at (310) 547-0862.

Junior Naturalist—Children have fun while getting to know the birds, insects and other wildlife and plants of the area. Nature-study skills include use of high-quality binoculars and microscopes. Program includes nature-related crafts and activities.

Target group: Age 8-11

Times: Monday–Friday, 9:00 to 12:00 noon

Dates: Starts June 26; sessions run through August

Preregistration required (enrollment limited)

Cost: \$90.00/child/session

Mysteries of the Night—Hike the trail in search of creatures of the night, with fun activities along the way.

Target group: Family (5 years +)

Times: 8:00 – 10:00 p.m.

Dates: Full moon nights of June 16, July 16, August 15, September 13

Preregistration required

Cost: Donation

Beginning Birding—Learn to find and identify our local feathered friends. Learn biology/natural history of many resident species.

Target group: Family

Times: 7:00 – 9:00 a.m.

Dates: Second and third Saturday of each month

Preregistration requested

Cost: Donation

“Campfire” Series—Special Evening Program

Target Group: Family

Dates: Starts July, 2000 (Call for dates)

Times: 7:30 – 9:30 p.m.

Cost: Donation

“Bats”—Learn about these interesting "creatures of the night" from special guest Diana Simons, bat biologist.

Dates: July (Call for date and time)

Preregistration requested

Cost: Donation

Congratulations Are In Order...



Conservancy President Bill Ailor received the Palos Verdes Peninsula Lions Club's Community Recognition Award for his active involvement in volunteer activities. The award was presented by John Letcher.



Rolling Hills Estates Mayor John Addleman presents former George F Canyon naturalist Aileen Bevan with a copy of a resolution from the City Council thanking Aileen for her work at the nature center and natural area. Bevan was the first naturalist at the Center and is responsible for many of the exhibits and programs currently in place.



PVPLC President Bill Ailor receives \$2000 grant from the Rotary Club of the Palos Verdes Peninsula. The grant, presented by Ron Stankey, will be used to support the Conservancy's 3rd Grade Education Program.



Conservancy secretary Shirley Borks, left, and Rolling Hills Estates City Councilwoman Susan Seamans were honored for their contributions to improving the quality of life in our community as part of the 54th Assembly District's woman of the year reception hosted by Assemblyman Alan Lowenthal, center. Borks was nominated for the award by Supervisor Don Knabe.



Max Schmid, PVPLC student representative from Chadwick School, was presented the PV Audubon Society's Youth Conservation Award by Martin Byhower.

Our Neighbors, The Raccoons

People aren't the only ones benefiting from PVPLC's efforts to preserve open space. Our success has also saved habitat for local wildlife, including raccoons. Though raccoons are a common sight for Peninsula residents and visitors, many people are unaware of just how enterprising these animals can be.

A raccoon's daily diet varies, depending on the season. But more than half of its diet consists of plant life, such as grasses, leaves and wild fruit. For most of the year, raccoons also enjoy eating insects, snails, earthworms and the young of small mammals. They can also crave seafood, preying on crustaceans, mussels, amphibians and some fish. Other favorites include some reptiles and their eggs.

To catch its prey, a raccoon relies on both its sense of smell and its sense of touch. Away from the water, raccoons use their sense of smell to

learn what's near enough to catch. But the prey isn't normally chased. Instead, a raccoon may grab its next meal by reaching into a land crevice or beneath rocks, for example. After picking up an organism, the raccoon sniffs the potential meal before deciding whether to take the first bite. If the organism passes that test, the raccoon will finally eat it, chewing the food completely rather than swallowing it whole or in large chunks.

Raccoons eat small crustaceans completely, but tend to press the larger ones into the ground to break off and eat the softer portions. In catching an aquatic prey, such as a fish, raccoons reach and grab with their paws, using paw parts as fingers.

The main raccoon species found in North America is *Procyon lotor*, which includes 25 subspecies. This species, also known as the "northern raccoon," is characterized by a black stripe across the forehead and eyes. It has a bushy

tail with ring-stripped fur. Raccoons are in the *Procyonidae* family, which also includes the red panda.

The raccoon mating season falls between early January and late March. During this time, males become a bit friskier than usual. It's also common for a male and female to spend considerable time together during mating season, sometimes even eating and sleeping together. During other times of the year, however, raccoons are rather solitary animals.

Raccoons typically move slowly, with the head lowered, back arched and tail dangling downwardly. But given the right motivation, they can run at a pace of nearly 15 miles per hour. Unfortunately, speeding cars occasionally kill raccoons crossing Peninsula roads. So remember, try to keep a watchful eye out for the safety of all your neighbors, including four-legged ones with black-striped foreheads and bushy tails.

By Joseph Slap

800 Complete 3rd Grade Education Program

More than 800 children in the Palos Verdes Peninsula Unified School District participated in the Conservancy's third-grade education program during the 1999-2000 school year. We estimate that over 4,000 children have participated in the program since it was founded in 1993.

Typically, a naturalist from the Land Conservancy makes four visits to each third-grade classroom to teach the children about our local Coastal Sage Scrub plant community, the fauna that depend on this community and the native Americans who made this area their home so long ago. The children then participate in a nature

walk organized by the naturalist and aided by parent volunteers.



These walks take place within walking distance of the school, eliminating the need for costly bus transportation. This program has been faithfully

funded, in part, each year by Las Candalistas, who raise money to support organizations such as ours through their famous Walk on the Wild Side fundraiser.

We want to thank the dedicated naturalists who do an outstanding job representing the Land Conservancy within the education community: Vicki Walker, Jill Shoemaker, Heather White, John Nieto, Deena Sheridan and Kathy McGowan (a.k.a. PVPLC education director).

By Kathy McGowan



“Seasons of the Day” Makes Spectacular Showing

The Conservancy’s Fine Art Show and Sale for the new century was launched on May 7, 2000 with a special reception for PVPLC sponsors and local dignitaries at the Palos Verdes offices of Malaga Bank. Community support continued throughout the month, with more than 1,000 people attending the opening reception on May 8 at the Malaga Cove Library in Palos Verdes Estates. The show was open during library hours from

May 7 through May 27.

This year’s show, titled “Seasons of the Day,” featured works by artists Richard Humphrey, Stephen Mirich and Daniel Pinkham. All are members of the recently established Portuguese Bend Artists Colony.

The paintings depicted the Peninsula’s natural beauty as it changes throughout the day. The exhibit was divided into six

time periods, depicting dawn, morning, midday, afternoon, twilight, and night, with each period having its own room.

The Portuguese Bend Artists Colony encourages local artists to capture and share some of the unique beauty around the Peninsula. The featured artists are donating a portion of their sale proceeds to the Conservancy. We thank them for their work and generosity.



Artists Steve Mirich, left, Rick Humphrey, and Daniel Pinkham.



Attendees at the opening reception enjoy refreshments.



Patrons enjoy one of the 47 paintings displayed at the show.



Exhibition director Joanne Lehmer, left, and her assistant Kathleen Schwallie.



Music for the opening reception was provided by the Palos Verdes Chamber Players.



Artist Rick Humphrey discusses painting with guest at the reception the night before the show's opening.

Haiku Corner: The Peninsula from Another Perspective

This time, our haiku focus will be exclusively on the ocean surrounding our beautiful peninsula.

The following three haiku are from the title piece for a book of poetry Jess Morton wrote on natural history subjects. Jess' exceptional insight into haiku give us an interesting perspective:

"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."

sun's glint at noontime
drifting in tidepool ripples
on oceans of stone *Jess Morton*

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

one pelican glides
wing tips touching the swell's skin
apt benediction *Jess Morton*

In composing a haiku, the writer attempts to convey a clear visual image of an experience that produced an emotion within him or her in such a way that the reader sees, feels, hears, smells what the writer has experienced and also shares the same emotion as the writer. Here are a couple more to think about:

fluffs of low fog mist
sliding into ocean bay
white frosting on cake *R. C. Ayers*

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

If you felt emotion in reading the above haiku, please let me know so I may pass your comments on, or if you have

composed a haiku about *any* element of our Peninsula, please feel free to submit it for possible publication in this corner. My E-mail address is: raue@home.com, or mail to the PVPLC office.

by Jorg Raue

Income and Expenses for 1999		
INCOME		
Administrative & Mgmt		1244
Memberships & Donations		74590
Education Grants		10499
Other Grants		75000
Habitat Restoration		70547
Interest & Dividends		2729
Photo Contest		590
RHE Contract Naturalist		11160
Sales		1839
Misc		10429
TOTAL		\$258627
EXPENSES		
Chandler Preserve Maint & Taxes	2402	
Education Program	14124	
Habitat Restoration	87891	
Insurance	2774	
Land Acquisition	940	
Lunada Canyon Maint & Taxes	1752	
Misc	8513	
Office Expenses	6781	
Personnel Costs	78989	
Photo Contest	1264	
Printing & Mailing	10259	
Public Relations	2105	
RHE Contract Naturalist	11160	
TOTAL	\$228954	
BANK BALANCES		
	1/1/99	12/31/99
Operating Funds	109380	130206
Land Stewardship Funds	116489	125336
TOTAL	\$225,869	\$255,542

Help save open space!

Your tax-deductible donation helps us save natural areas on the Peninsula.

Donors will receive *Open Spaces*, and be acknowledged therein, unless anonymity is requested.

- Patron (\$1000)
 Sustainer (\$500)
 Sponsor (\$100)
 Supporter (\$50)
 Regular (\$35)
 Student (\$10)
 Other donation _____
 Make checks payable to PVPLC.
 Please send information on volunteer opportunities.

Name _____ Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____

Please mail to: PVPLC, PO Box 3427, Palos Verdes Peninsula, CA 90274



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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 2000 commitment to preserving open space now--we need your help!

Internet-Based Photo Contest Coming

Building on last year's success, the PVPLC will hold our annual photo contest on the web again this year. That means that photographers need only provide us with a print (maximum size 4x6 inches), slide, or digital image for each photo they wish to enter—no worry about mounting or framing. We'll scan the photo and display entries on our web site (last year's entries are still posted--take a look at www.pvplc.org/photo99.htm).

Awards will be given for best photos in a number of categories and also for the photo which receives the most votes from Internet viewers. Here's how you can get you family and friends involved--maybe they'll vote for one of your photos. We'll announce the winners at a special reception.

As always, the theme will be "The Natural Beauty of the Palos Verdes Peninsula." Start shooting your favorite sites. We'll announce entry dates soon.

Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy

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- Bill Ailor, President
- Mike Kilroy, Vice President
- Ken Servis, Vice President
- Shirley Borks, Secretary
- Nell Mirels, Treasurer
- Robert Bothamley
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- Anke Raue
- June Schwarzmann
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Executive Director

Keith Lenard

Land Stewardship Director

Stephen Heyn

Student Representative

- Juewon Khwarg Chadwick
- Max Schmid Chadwick
- Fred Sanchez PVP High

Educators

- Kathy McGowan
- Linda Hagerty

George F Canyon Naturalists

- Mary Mitchell
- Diana Baker

New Position Available

As our responsibilities expand, so must the skills available to us. For this reason, we have created a new office manager position. A complete position description is available at our web site, www.pvplc.org, or give our office a call at (310) 541-7613.

Wish List

We moved to a new office and are looking to upgrade our furniture and equipment. Donations to the Conservancy are tax deductible. We need:

- Copier in good working order
- 2 or more matching, high quality desks or modular units
- 1 Small quality conference table
- 1 Plain paper fax machine
- 1 Dependable automobile