



OPEN SPACES

Volume 14, Number 2

Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy

Second Quarter, 2002



Major Effort to Create South Bay Preserve Begins

The passage of Proposition 40 means that State funding is available for acquisition of open space areas. Now the effort begins to bring some of those funds to the Peninsula to help create the Portuguese Bend Regional Open Space Park.

Over 57% of California voters approved Proposition 40, the California Clean Air, Clean Water, Safe Neighborhood Parks, and Coastal Protection Act of 2002. This act provides over \$2.6 billion for open space and coastal protection, clean water and neighborhood parks. Our thanks to all of you who voted for this Act.

Now the work begins. Competition for these funds is fierce. Voters approved the act in March, and already requests for funds exceed three times the available amount.

Our job is to convince legislators and agencies that open space in the South Bay is a priority for preservation, and since the Portuguese Bend acreage is the largest contiguous natural area remaining in the South Bay, that its acquisition is critical. We've begun that effort. Specifically,

- We've prepared presentation materials showing that the proposed Portuguese Bend Park will be the larg-

est open space area in the South Bay and will be the most significant hiking and natural area between the Santa Monica Mountains and Laguna Beach—an 80 mile stretch of the most urbanized coastline on the West Coast.

- We've shown that the number of people within the service area of the Portuguese Bend Park, defined by a maximum 30 minute drive, exceeds 2 million. The largest area of preserved open space available to these individuals and families is in the Santa Monica Mountains—at least a 45 minute drive through heavy traffic.

- We've found that within the greater Los Angeles region, less than half the per capita open space and park acres recommended by the National Park Service currently exist.

- We've shown that the area is a significant resource for both human and non-human life forms. And it will become even more significant to both groups with habitat restoration, development of formal trails, and other upgrades.

- We've hired an expert, former California Director of Finance Craig Brown (see next page), to help us work effectively at the state level. Mr. Brown's assistance may afford us our

best chance to preserve this land.

Our community is well positioned to make this a success: The City of Rancho Palos Verdes and the Conservancy share a common goal and are working closely; the City has preserved the City Hall property and is preparing an Natural Communities Conservation Project plan which meets the needs of the State agencies; landowners are receptive to selling if the price is right; and our representatives, Senator Betty Karnette and Assemblyman Alan Lowenthal, are actively supporting the acquisition.

To be successful, we must prepare maps and other background materials, we must fly to Sacramento to make our case to legislators and agency heads, and we must we have the financial resources to proceed aggressively.

We need your help. Please consider making a supplemental donation to support these efforts. And if you're not a member, what better time to begin supporting this historic open space campaign--join us now.

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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Expert Hired to Help Secure Funding

We have hired Craig L. Brown of Richard Robinson & Associates, Inc., to help us work with the various State agencies and the State government. Brown will help us pursue an aggressive course toward State funding for acquisition of Peninsula open space

Brown served as California's Director of Finance during the Wilson administration, where he was responsible for developing and managing California's \$76 billion budget.



He served on over 60 authorities, boards and commissions that deal with virtually every aspect of State finance.

Before joining the Executive Branch, Brown served the California Legislature as a staff member and supervisor in the non-partisan Legislative Analyst's office.

We are pleased to have Craig working with us and believe his help will be critical to the success of our

acquisition efforts.

Dye Named Associate Director, Leads White Point Restoration

Former PVPLC board member Barbara Dye has re-joined the Conservancy in a new capacity—as associate director. Her primary responsibility will be the White Point habitat restoration project, although she will be spending significant time helping with the Portuguese Bend acquisition, as well.

Dye assumes a leadership role of the White Point project from Loren DeRoy, who shepherded the project through the plan development and grant application processes. Our thanks to Loren for her excellent work on the White Point project!

Dye served on our board from 1989 to 1997 and departed to assume responsibility for habitat restoration at Ocean Trails. Dur-

ing her previous Board tenure, she was our first Nature Walk leader and chaired the committee which initiated development of our Third Grade Nature Walk program. Today, this program is in all PVUSD elementary schools and two schools in San Pedro.



At White Point, Dye will be responsible for restoring habitat to 90 acres of the 102 acre site over the next five years. Also during this period, major access and trail improvements are planned, and the educational value of the site will be substantially enhanced with a native plant garden and interpretive signage.

Dye has an excellent background to assist us during this critical time and to lead habitat restoration work at White Point. We are most pleased to have her back with us.

Save The Date:

Portuguese Bend Acquisition Kick-Off August 25

The Conservancy is hosting a kick-off event for the community's effort to permanently preserve the largest remaining Peninsula open space on **Sunday afternoon, August 25**. We'll be sending more information as we get closer to the date. Come, get acquainted with Conservancy and elected officials, share refreshments, hear about preservation efforts, and take a guided walk through this outstanding natural area.

This unique will permanently preserve a part of the Peninsula's heritage. Join us at the beginning—let's make history together.

If you'd like to volunteer to help plan this event or to help that day, please call Lisa Lenard at (310) 541-7613, ext. 202.

Major Wildlife Habitat Restoration Project Set to Begin at White Point

Pending approval by the Coastal Commission, we are ready to begin major wildlife habitat restoration work at White Point Nature Preserve. Approval by the full Coastal Commission is expected in August. Once this is in hand, we'll begin a three-year effort to restore habitat to all but 10 acres of the 102-acre site.

While we await final approval, we have been authorized to proceed with planting in a buffer zone along Paseo del Mar, including placing boulders to limit vehicular access once the chain link fence is removed. Volunteers continue to remove invasive plants and prepare the area as part of this entry-way beautification project.

If you'd like to help with this restoration work, please contact the Conservancy's office at (310) 541-7613.



A recent volunteer day saw dozens of volunteers, including lots of Girl Scouts, weeding and removing mustard plants.

Event Raises over \$11,000 for White Point Nature Preserve

The second annual "Spring for White Point" event held at the ocean-view San Pedro home of Conservancy Board member Bruce Biesman-Simons and his wife Hale Field raised over \$11,000 for the restoration and management of the new White Point Nature Preserve in San Pedro.

The event was attended by more than 200 community leaders and supporters. Guests enjoyed award-winning South African wines donated by Great Wines International of San Pedro. Other donors included: The Country Store, HawaiianResources.com (flowers imported from Hawaii), San Pedro Surf & Sport, State Fish Co., Zayna's Massage, Hair's the Limit, A-1



Imported Groceries, Hope Depot, Billy Bakers, Chicago Ribs, Fantastic Cafe, Francesco's, Lighthouse Deli, Pina's Mexican Food, Poly Ann Bakery, Ramona's Bakery, San Pedro Fish Market, Slavko's, Tashiro Restaurant, Tasty Siam, The

Dress'er, Think Bistro, South Shores Hardware, Von's, Sorrento's, and The Whals & Ale. Corporate support was provided by: Biesman-Simons Architecture, Instant Print King, South Shores Chiropractic Center, Alva's Dancewear, Bennett Landscape, Peninsula Security, Ship 'N Mail, Natural Landscapes, Tally Ho Marine, San Pedro Travel, Pacific View Cleaners and Best 1-Hour Photo. Live music was provided by the Jeanette Wraite Quartet.

"Once again, the event far exceeded our expectations," host Bruce Biesman-Simons said. "The tremendous response is yet another indication of how important White Point Preserve is to our community."

Audubon Honors Yanamadala, Marinkovich

Vijay Yanamadala, who represents Palos Verdes Peninsula High School on the Conservancy's Board, was awarded a Youth Conservation Award and an Audubon YES! (Youth Environmental Service) Award for his service to the community at the Palos Verdes/South Bay Audubon Society's 2002 Awards Banquet. Ron Marinkovich, representative of San Pedro High on our Board, received an Audubon YES! Award.



Vijay Yanamadala with Debbie Baker and Jess Morton of Audubon.



Ron Marinkovich with parents Leah and Ron.

Plant Characteristics

by Joseph K. Slap

People have interesting characteristics, and so do plants. Here on our Peninsula we are fortunate to have a large variety of plants.

Unlike animals that are potential prey, plants can't run away from predators. However, plants have other defense techniques. For example, when a particular plant is being eaten by a caterpillar, it emits a chemical compound that attracts a parasitic wasp which deposits eggs in the caterpillar. The resulting wasp larvae devour the caterpillar from within.

In response to chemicals in the plant pest's saliva, the wasp has the interesting feature of associating the chemical compound with the presence of desirable prey. Other plants have defensive genes which make them disease resistant and provide a defense against fungi, bacteria, viruses, and more.

Favorite features of numerous plants are their flowers. In addition to their visible beauty, flowers are the reproductive part of a plant and lead ultimately to the formation of seeds. A typical flower has four parts: sepals, petals, stamens, and pistil.

The sepals are the outermost floral leaves. They protect the enclosed

inner parts before the flower bud has opened. The sepals of some flowers are greenish or even green in color, but in flowers like iris, gladiola, and tulip, they are colored brightly and look quite similar to the petals.

Right inside of the sepals are the petals—the second group of floral leaves. The petal's colors often attract birds, such as hummingbirds, and insects such as bees and butterflies, to the flowers. Mostly the petals are separated and attached individually as in roses, buttercups, and magnolias; but in some flowers such as petunias and snapdragons, they are united, forming a tube-like structure.

The stamen consists of a stalk plus an anther which has two sacs of formed pollens and releases the pollens which are male plant cells. The stamen is considered to be the flower's male organ. In different flowers there are often different numbers of stamens, and in a hibiscus the stamen's stalks join together forming a tube around the pistil.

The pistil is considered to be the female organ of the flower. It receives pollen from the stamen and seeds are created after fertilization.

Butterflies attracted by a flower's

scent do pollinate some flowers. They select flowers that are sufficiently large to hold them for resting while they feed on nectar. A butterfly's proboscis, or mouth organ, probes deeply into the flower to absorb nectar. Because of its closeness and probing, some pollen often attaches to the probing organ and/or sticks onto the body, rubbing off and pollinating another flower during the butterfly's trek.

Unlike the butterfly, a moth usually hovers rather than landing on the flower as it probes for nectar. Even without landing, the moth often picks up pollen for pollinating flowery plants like gardenias.

Unlike most flower-attracted insects, hummingbirds have an inefficient sense of smell and are attracted to flowers by colors. Like the butterfly, moth and bee, the hummingbird is an important pollinator.

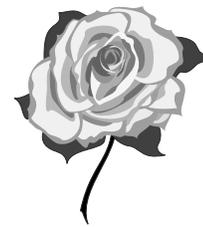


Photo Contest Set for September

The Conservancy's popular "Picture Palos Verdes" photography competition will be held from September 1 through September 25, with winners to be announced at the award ceremony on September 27. Once again, the contest will be web-based—we'll display all entries on the Conservancy's web page, www.pvplc.org. Visitors to the page to vote for their favorite.

The contest focuses on the "natural beauty of the Peninsula," and awards are given in several categories, including seascapes, sunsets, landscapes, native plants, digitally enhanced and others. Rules and the official category list will be posted at the web site and mailed to our mail list as we get nearer to the contest dates.

Photographs submitted over the last several years along with contest winners are currently available for viewing at our web page.

With the beautiful weather we're having, it's a great time to be outdoors, photographing the beauty of the Peninsula.



So break out those cameras. And don't worry if you don't have a scanner—we will scan them for you.

Haiku Corner: The Peninsula from Another Perspective

by Jorg Raue

Only by taking a closer look at the society in which haiku evolved can we understand its continuity, endurance and tradition. So today we will take a look at the very beginning of haiku.

Haiku evolved in Japan during the 16th and 17th century from the so-called Renga. Renga is a sequence of poetic verses of varying length, the verses alternating in length between 5-7-5 and 7-7 syllables. What is intriguing is that the creation of a Renga poem usually was a “group effort”—a number of individuals present at a gathering or celebration each contributed one line, the result usually lacking sophistication and depth. The thread between lines was loose and was usually limited to some sort of connection to the line just preceding. Nature already was the dominant

theme of Renga, and a Renga poem typically was the sequencing of somewhat connected views or entities of nature, filled with vague feelings.

Although there were earlier signs of a different direction, it was Basho, the greatest of all haiku poets (1644-1694) who not only significantly increased the connectivity between the lines, but also greatly expanded the subject matter. Basho moved beyond cherry blossoms, phases of the moon and other “beautiful things” to include such subjects as “running children” and even “cow dung.” Once this stage of enhanced realism was reached, it proved rewarding for an *individual* to form a stand-alone poem of just 17 syllables in the five-seven-five format—the beginning of haiku.

Here is a sampling of haiku submitted to this corner:

dawn dove’s call comes from
hidden direction: low, or
high — none can tell where

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wings flashing black, white
two willets take flight, wheeling
warning waves black, white

Jess Morton

Thirty pelicans
sensing updrafts, reading wind:
gliding, drifting, joy...

Jorg Raue

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.

George F Nature Center Offers Special Programs

The George F Canyon Nature Center in Rolling Hills Estates offers great programs for young and old. Call (310) 547-0862 for reservations. A \$2 per person donation is requested.

- 1st Saturday Nature Walks—These 10:00 am walks are guided by naturalists and offer the opportunity to smell the sage, taste the lemonade berry, and observe and identify the wildlife.

- Practically Backyard Birding (last Thursday of each month, 5:00 pm)—Ever wonder about the name of the bird that skimmed your pool? Having trouble telling a crow from a raven? Know the difference between a hawk and a kestrel? Join us on a casual walk to observe the birds of George F Canyon. Meet at the south parking lot, just up the hill from the Nature Center on Palos Verdes Drive East. Binoculars are supplied.

- Canyon Night Hikes (held on

the full-moon Friday of each month, 7:00 pm)—Venture into the darkness, look for nocturnal animal life, and test your nighttime senses.. Pre-registration required five days in advance.

- Senior Stroll Through the Canyon (second Friday of each month, 9:00 am)—Join other seniors on a leisurely walk through a beautiful canyon led by naturalist and walker Lee Kazelsks. Good company, breathtaking surroundings, and a greater understanding of the Coastal Sage Scrub habitat await. Meet at the south parking lot. Bring water, a hat and walking shoes. Pre-registration is required.

And while you’re there, visit the George F Canyon Nature Center, located at the southwest corner of Palos Verdes Drive East and Palos Verdes Drive North.

The Nature Center also offers a “Birthday Safari”—a unique way for kids to celebrate their special

day. For more information, call (310) 547-0862 and leave a message, or contact Rolling Hills Estates City Hall at (310) 377-1577.

The George F Canyon Nature Center is operated by the Conservancy for the City of Rolling Hills Estates.

Wish List

- Frequent Flyer Miles to help cover our Sacramento trips
- Volunteer in the office 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., Tuesday through Friday.
- Four surge protector strips for our office computers
- Small dorm-type refrigerator
- Tape measures: 12 ft, 25 ft, 50 ft.
- Cash card from Staples in any amount
- Pick-up truck or van.



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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 2002 commitment to preserving open space now--we need your help!

Plein Air Art Show Set for May, 2003

The Conservancy's next fine art exhibition and sale is set for May 3 through May 31, 2003. This event, held in the exhibition room at the Malaga Cove Library, has become one of the Peninsula's premier events for viewing and purchasing



some of the finest paintings of local scenes. This event will feature paintings by plein air artists Rick Humphrey, Steve Mirich, Kevin Prince, and David Gallup. These artists, all members of the Portuguese Bend

Artists Colony, have been seen painting in the fields, made prominent by the large, white umbrellas used to shield themselves and their art work.

"Painting out of doors is truly a fine experience," relates Rick Humphrey, "and the Peninsula offers some of the most spectacular scenery anywhere. That's one reason why we want to help the Conservancy preserve these areas." The artists make a substantial donation to the Conservancy based on the sales of the paintings at the show.

Humphrey founded the show in 1997 as a benefit for the Conservancy, and it has become an excellent fund raiser for the organization—and a lot of fun, also. The event will be highlighted by an afternoon reception on May 3.

Several of the paintings to be exhibited are posted on the Conservancy's web page, www.pvplc.org. Watch the page for more information. We'll be sending invitations to our mailing list when we get closer to the date of the event.

Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy

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