



OPEN SPACES

Volume 13, Number 3

Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy

Third Quarter, 2001

\$1.8 Million in Upgrades Planned for White Point Nature Preserve

Grants totaling nearly \$1.8 million that will substantially improve the environmental and visitor-serving aspects of the new White Point Nature Preserve are working their way through the approval process. The first major upgrades are scheduled to begin early next year.

At its August 30 meeting, the State Wildlife Conservation Board approved an \$810,000 grant to the Conservancy for native plant restoration on the 102 acre White Point Nature Preserve. The Los Angeles City Council approved the commitment on September 7, leaving approval of the final plan for the property and the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) as the last hurdles before initiation of major work on the property.

This is the first large grant approved for the restoration of coastal sage habitat anywhere in the State, and we are most pleased that the work will be done here on the Peninsula. "I think that these actions show that the plan developed by the community and the Conservancy is held in high regard by these agencies," noted White Point project leader Loren DeRoy.

The Master Plan for the White Point Nature Preserve was prepared by the Conservancy-led White Point Steering Committee (the plan draft is available on the Conservancy's web site,

www.pvplc.org). The committee has representatives from LA Department of Recreation and Parks and Councilwoman Janice Hahn's office, as well as several homeowner's associations adjacent to the property, San Pedro residents, and local environmental groups. The committee will remain active throughout the restoration process.



"Working with so many high-level agencies has been quite a challenge," said DeRoy, "but I have been impressed with the support of the community's vision for this property."

In her statement before the vote by the LA City Council, Councilwoman Janice Hahn stated that "This grant ... provides for the restoration and preservation of beautiful (coastal) land in Los Angeles, and is critical for the vitality of this project." The council unanimously supported the project.

Once the EIR and Master Plan have received final approval by the City

Council, the funding will be made available for the Conservancy-led restoration of the property. "Our goal is to begin a 3.5 year habitat restoration effort in January 2002," said DeRoy. "We expect to complete restoration of 90 acres by June 2005."

The restoration will be accomplished using a combination of PVPLC crews, Conservation Corps labor, and

volunteers. Individuals interested in volunteering should attend one of our monthly cleanup activities at the site (see our web page for particulars).

Other funding in the works include:

- A \$445,000 state grant to enhance the educational aspects of the Preserve (Senator Betty Karnette has nominated the Conservancy). These include a demonstration garden, interpretive signage,

and bathroom facilities (required to accommodate school groups at the site).

- \$260,000 in discretionary funding for public access improvements set aside by LA City Councilwoman Janice Hahn.

- A grant for \$301,000 from the Metropolitan Transit Authority for installation of a parking area at the site.

All of this funding and initiation of the specified activities await final approval of the EIR and Master Plan, which is scheduled to occur before the end of October.

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**
 PO Box 3427
 Palos Verdes Peninsula, CA
 90274
 Office Telephone:
 (310) 541-7613
 Office Fax: (310) 541-7623
 E-mail: PVPLC@aol.com
 Home Page: www.pvplc.org

Conservancy, Community Reach Preservation Crossroad

By Keith Lenard, Executive Director

Thirteen years ago, a group of farsighted citizens led by Bill Ailor assembled for the purpose of saving open space—a simple proposition, but one that came in complex times. A few donations and a little legal work later and our board of directors convened as the Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy.

In that first year, we had an operating budget of less than \$30,000 and high hopes. We started our nature walk program to raise awareness of Peninsula open space and began printing this newsletter to keep you informed.

At that time, few would have foreseen that saving land would evolve into running an education program for our third-grade children so that new families would have a connection to open space. Or that it would include hiring science and stewardship staff charged with restoring lost wildlife habitat. Or that we would one day be communicating with 1,200 members annually. At our October meeting, the Board approved an annual operating budget of just over \$800,000 in order to sustain this remarkable array of activities.

This impressive increase over our history is not unique. The Nature Conservancy (TNC), a national land trust that started almost 50 years ago, raised over \$750,000,000 last year, making it the 12th largest charity in our country. Observing an organization like TNC confirms that saving land is limited only by the funds one can raise.

With our growth has also come some soul searching. This November, our Board will gather for a two-

day strategic retreat to map out our future. On the top of our list are key questions that address our capacity to achieve mission success.

- How can we make our work more visible and valuable to the community we serve?
- How can we assure the success of our efforts to raise \$6 million in private donations as part of the effort to save Portuguese Bend?
- What kind of board and staff do we need to help us attract the necessary level of support?
- What will our organization look like in five years?

But the Land Conservancy is not the only group at a crossroad. Our community faces its last significant land use decisions (see related article), decisions that will forever mark our Peninsula and determine our land legacy.

It is clear is that the interests of open space and the interests of our community are joined at this crossroad. The Land Conservancy has arrived here after 13 years of mounting successes and now faces questions that will define our organization into the future

The community, too, has arrived here for exactly the same reason: Our Peninsula is a special place and has remained so because of the skill and leadership that precedes us. But it also is confronted with choices that will permanently determine its future character.

These challenges are blessings and speak to the special qualities that define this community. But let's not allow our good fortune to make us complacent. In this time of national trouble, let us not be distracted from the obligation to take decisive and farsighted action in preparation for the future.

Conservancy Receives Largest Individual Donation

Michael and Virginia Cicoria of Rancho Palos Verdes have donated \$50,000 to the Conservancy, our largest donation from an individual or family. We sincerely thank the Cicorias for their generosity.

Nell Mirels Retires from Board

Veteran Conservancy member Nell Mirels has retired from the Board after serving for more than eleven years, ten of those as Treasurer.

Mirels joined the Board when she retired from the Rolling Hills Estates City Council in 1990, and has played an important role in the development of the organization. As treasurer, she shepherded our finances as they grew from a yearly budget of less than \$30,000 in 1990 to over \$800,000 today.

Throughout those years, Nell's husband Hal has provided technical assistance, managing the organization's books on his home computer.

We are extremely grateful that Nell and Hal have donated eleven years to our organization. Those eleven years were critical to the evolution of the Conservancy and their able and dedicated support helped make us what we are today. Please join us in thanking them for their service to our community.



Bill Ailor thanks retiring Board member and treasurer Nell Mirels and her husband and assistant treasurer, Hal.

Board Elects Scharffenberger, Selects Officers for 2002

Long-time Peninsula resident Dr. Jim Scharffenberger was elected to the Conservancy's Board at our October meeting. The Board also selected a slate of officers for the 2002 fiscal year.

Jim has seen many changes to the Peninsula—his family moved here when he was eight years old.

As a Torrance physician with an active practice in obstetrics, gynecology, and infertility practice, Jim has been Chairman of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at Little Company of Mary Hospital. He has held a number of Board posts, including trustee of the UCLA Harbor Medical Center Research and Education Institute, the Little Company of Mary Foundation, and as Chair-

man of the Medical Staff, Committee for Campaign 2000 for Little Company.

Jim and his wife Tracy live in Rolling Hills and have two young children: Nelson, age nine, and Joseph, age six.

The Board also selected new officers for the 2002 fiscal year: Bill Ailor, president; Mike Kilroy vice president, Bob Bothamley, who replaced Nell Mirels as treasurer; and Bruce Biesman-Simons, secretary. Biesman-Simons replaced Shirley Borks as secretary. Borks has served in that post for the past eight years and will remain on the Board.



Dr. Jim Scharffenberger

Board Thanks Volunteers at Annual Dinner

At its annual dinner, the PVPLC's Board of Directors thanked Shirley Borks for her service as Secretary for the last eight years and attorney Bonnie Mosher for providing many hours of pro bono legal assistance during negotiations with the City of Los Angeles related to the White Point Nature Preserve. The dinner is an informal gathering where Board members, staff, and their families say thanks for major volunteer efforts and welcome newcomers.



PVPLC President Bill Ailor and White Point Project Leader Loren DeRoy present certificate of appreciation to Bonnie Mosher.



Bill Ailor presents certificate of appreciation to Shirley Borks.

Photo Contest Winners Announced at Award Ceremony

The 11th annual Picture Palos Verdes Photography Contest concluded at a September 28 award ceremony held at the main Palos Verdes Library in Rolling Hills Estates. Over 80 individuals attended the event where prizes were awarded in five categories.

Prizes were also awarded to the “people’s choice” winner and the photograph deemed best-of-show by the judges. The people’s choice selection was the photograph which received the most votes in the last week of the contest. Voting was done over the internet and at the award ceremony.

All entries and prize winning photos are available for viewing at the Conservancy’s web site, www.pvplc.org. Winners are listed below.

Wildlife

Third Prize, Wildlife

“Anna’s Hummingbird Stretcherises,” Pat Mack

Second Prize, Wildlife

“Jumping Beauty,” Robert Day

First Prize, Wildlife

“Mariposa,” Diana Whelan

Seascapes

Third Prize, Seascapes

“Sunset Over Santa Monica Bay,” Roger Zapor

Second Prize, Seascapes

“Pelican Fly-By,” Jim Mack

First Prize, Seascapes

“Sunset Off Rocky Point,” Jeff Hauser

Landscapes

Third Prize, Landscapes

“Storm Clouds Over Malibu,” Trish McCoy

Second Prize, Landscapes

“Friendly View of Catalina,” Pat Mack

First Prize, Landscapes

“Golden Light After the Storm,” Phyllis Knopke



Photo contest winners. Bottom row, from the left: Bill Ailor (PVPLC president), Judy Scallon, Julie Hill, Jeff Hauser, Phyllis Knopke. Back row: Robert Day, Ed Shea, Diana Whelan, Assemblyman Alan Lowenthal (Alan helped with the award ceremony), Brent Johnson.

Plants & Flowers

Third Prize, Plants & Flowers

“California Poppy,” Judy Philen O’Connell

Second Prize, Plants & Flowers

“Golden,” Brent Johnson

First Prize, Plants & Flowers

“Cactus Blossom,” Jim Mack

Digitally Enhanced

Third Prize, Digitally Enhanced

“Center of Beauty,” Robert Day

Second Prize, Digitally Enhanced

“Nightmare on Palos Verdes Drive South,” Ed Shea

First Prize, Digitally Enhanced

“Wayfarer’s View,” Julie Hill

People’s Choice

“Two,” Brent Johnson

Grand Prize

“Sunset Over The Bay,” Jewel “Judy” Scallon

Rounding Second Base: Portuguese Bend Funding Takes a Stride

By Keith Lenard

Local land use decisions now before the City Council of Rancho Palos Verdes (RPV) continue to have a big impact on our efforts to save Portuguese Bend. There are two principle factors that have the most impact on a successful outcome in this effort: 1) the likelihood of winning public money to fund the purchase; and 2) granting exceptions to the building moratorium in the Portuguese Bend community.

Availability of Public Funds:

Grant money from the state’s Wildlife Conservation Board is the most important source of funds for the project. To secure these, projects re-

quire the endorsement of the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG).

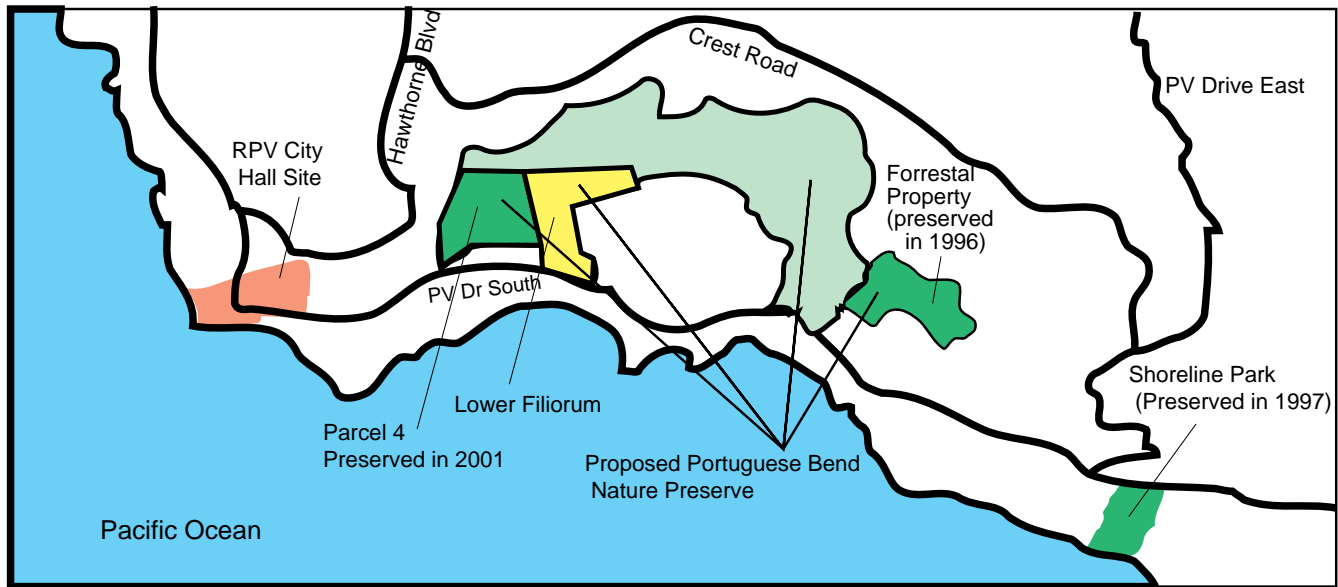
In 1996, the CDFG initiated a Natural Communities Conservation Plan process. This process, while not yet completed, has articulated conservation goals for the Peninsula and included two key geographical areas: the Upper Point Vicente property (a.k.a. the RPV City Hall parcel), and a wildlife corridor through the lower portions of Portuguese Bend (the York property connecting to Abalone Cove).

The CDFG has stated that they will not endorse new investments in Pen-

insula open space unless all significant outstanding conservation issues are resolved. They have requested that a 50-acre (out of 73 acres) habitat unit be permanently set aside on the City Hall property. They have also required that an adequate wildlife corridor be established through lower Filiorum.

A resort development group, Destination Resorts, had requested use of portions of the City Hall property for a golf course. The acreage requested did not leave an adequate habitat reserve, as articulated by the CDFG.

Continued on page 5



Continued from page 4

On October 16, the RPV City Council denied any use of the City Hall property for this development proposal. This creates the possibility of permanently designating a major portion of this area as an open space reserve and also clears a major concern that CDFG had about their potential investment in Peninsula open space.

Currently, discussions are under way with the landowner to establish a wildlife corridor through lower

Filiorum that is acceptable to CDFG. The outlook is very positive that by the time this newsletter reaches your mailbox, a conceptual agreement that clears this hurdle will have been reached.

Exceptions to Moratorium: The current push to grant exceptions to the building moratorium within the Portuguese Bend community may also adversely impact our ability to assemble a successful conservation transaction. This is because any granted exceptions would suggest

increased development potential and would likely result in upward pressure on price, a reduced time frame and a reduction in the quantity of acreage that could be realistically funded.

As of press time, the RPV City Council has temporarily delayed the issue of exceptions within Portuguese Bend pending additional information on the geology and stability of the area. We are hopeful that we will successfully conclude our acquisition prior to this issue reemerging.

Not All Insects Bug Us, And Many Are Interesting

by Joseph K. Slap

About 75% of the world's animals are insects, but some of those insects do us a favor rather than just bug us.

Certain insects are helpful to many plants by aiding in pollination, such as a bee does, or by loosening the soil to ease the growth of the plant's roots, such as a digging mole cricket does.

Some insects get rid of less desirable ones. For example, dragonflies eat mosquitoes. A number of insects clear the ground by eating dead animals. Bees produce honey which

people enjoy.

Now, some more interesting information about insects. Mammals have ears on their heads but, for example, katydids have ears on their legs and certain butterflies such as hedyliids, which are Neotropical ones, have ears on their wings. Ears of many butterflies are sensitive to ultrasound (high frequency, over 20,000 vibrations per second, and not heard by humans), and thus are able to sense the approach of a bat and flee from its predation.

Unlike most other butterflies, the

hedyliids are nighttime (nocturnal) insects, whereas most other ones are daytime (diurnal) insects, and those latter ones use an effective visual system for communication and for predator detection and for food site sight. Moths, however, are nocturnal and most do have ears that detect echolocation calls of insectivorous bats which hunt nocturnally and which use those calls to locate and track their prey. Being diurnal for almost all butterflies gives them an anti-bat strategy because of the nocturnal bat hunting.

People do see leaf-cutting ants re-



Continued on page 8

Habitat Restoration Efforts Await Winter Rains

As the year ends, a new planting season begins. We'll have major habitat restoration projects on all of our major parcels, and this year the rainy season will play a very large role in our habitat restoration activities.

At our Lunada Canyon preserve, we have no irrigation water available, so we must rely on rainfall to keep the ground moist for young plants. Using funding provided by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, we will plant about 3,000 young plants on about two acres of the canyon.

The planting will come after the first significant rainfall, but before the main, heavy rains begin. All plants will be typical of coastal sage scrub habitat, but will include a large percentage of cactus typical of this southwest-facing area.

A major part of the Lunada effort will be a periodic inventory of the new plants to determine the survival rate using this natural rainwater ap-

proach. There are other areas of the Peninsula where use of irrigation wa-



ter is not desirable because of the danger of landslide, and the Lunada effort will help us develop and test techniques that may be applied to these areas.

Fortunately, we have irrigation water available at our Linden H. Chandler Preserve in Rolling Hills Estates, where we plan to plant about 20,000 plants. Some of these plants will be used to add diversity to about eight acres that have been previously

planted. The remainder will be used to cover four acres that are being revegetated for the first time.

Previously-planted plants at the Chandler Preserve are generally doing very well, and the site is the home to a colony of Palos Verdes Blue Butterflies transplanted from the Defense Fuel Supply Depot (DFSP) several years ago.

At the DFSP, we will be installing 10,000 new plants to about five acres of previously restored land. These new plants will add diversity and enhance the habitat value of the area.

And of course, assuming necessary approvals are in place, we will begin major restoration work at the new White Point Nature Preserve early in 2002 (see article on page 1).

Individuals or groups interested in volunteer opportunities related to this restoration work should review the work schedule on our web page or contact Steve Heyn at (310) 541-7613, extension 203.

Education Program Continues Growth in 2002

The Conservancy's education program will be presented to over 1,020 3rd graders this year, up from about 900 students in 2001. Much of the growth comes from the planned addition of 3rd grade classes at South Shores Elementary School in San Pedro to the program.

"We are most pleased that all of the schools want us back again in the 2002 school year," said program director John Nieto. "We now have a dozen docents who volunteer their time to this program, and they're doing a great job."

Perhaps our greatest accomplishment in 2001 was the addition of White Point Elementary School to the program. About 80 children in four classes participated, with local resident and docent Beth Songren

leading the effort.

The program consisted of four 45-minute in-class sessions followed by a field trip to a local natural area. At White Point School, the field trip



visited the new White Point Nature Preserve.

Parents participate on the two-hour

field trip, helping students identify local plants. "We had as many as 18 parents helping us," said Nieto. "This is a great experience for all."

At the present time, the growth of the program is limited by transportation—we hold the program in schools where there is a suitable field trip location within walking distance. We've managed to meet this requirement for all elementary schools in the PV Unified School District and the two San Pedro Schools.

Adding additional schools will require busing at about \$200/bus, with two buses required per session. Individuals who might be interested in donating to make this outstanding educational program available to children in other areas should contact John Nieto at (310) 541-7613.

Haiku Corner: The Peninsula from Another Perspective

By Jorg Raue

In this issue we will continue with some historical aspects of Japanese haiku, specifically looking at subject matter and language.

The 17 syllables of a Japanese haiku are — on average — contained in about seven words: seven words containing the humanity of the world. Clearly, every word weighs heavily. Seven words—one might erroneously think: what flexibility for genius, what a playground for banalities, purposeful garbage, and meaningless prose. Clearly not so, for haiku writing in Japan was governed by persistence, discipline and strict adherence to the rules.

During the course of three centuries all great haiku poets, as well as the not so great, and even the very insignificant, have found and described the haiku constellations in their lives, have absorbed haiku experience, and have written haiku syllables and poems. Haiku was an art form as well as religion, sport and entertainment. Haiku became an institution in Japan.

As haiku evolved, it was found that certain objects, elements or events are particularly fit for haiku. These included situations of life (the isolation in winter, spring’s melancholy, glowing in the summer heat, thoughts of death in fall), as well as the spe-

cific atmospheric occurrences connected with these situations (for example, blowing snow, spring rain, summer haze, fall storm). It also included specific plants (such as chamomile, plum tree, cherry tree, and chrysanthemum), as well as certain animals (frog, sparrow, crow, cicada, butterfly, cuckoo, nightingale...).

In order to represent these “things,” no long or artificially attractive word descriptions were allowed, since they would only serve to distance the object from the reader and prevent a direct confrontation with the “things” as they are. Instead one needed to rely on fundamental and thus very limited vocabulary. This led to stereotyping in the choice of words.

The desire then to avoid repetition led to describing ever more specific constellations of man and things. From the latter the danger arose that the haiku becomes arbitrary and difficult to understand. It is the realm between these two extremes that the ideal, the perfect haiku occupies. But the ideal haiku is as rare as superlative poetry is rare in the rest of the world.

Basho, the greatest of all haiku poets, skeptical and modest as only the truly great ones can af-

ford to be, said that a haiku poet should be satisfied if only a very few of his haiku were truly succeeding, even while individuals wrote thousands if not tens of thousands of haiku in a lifetime.

One of Basho’s haiku, published in 1686, has become the best known poem in the Japanese language and is considered a model haiku:

furuike ya old pond
kawazu tobikomu a frog leaps in
mizu no oto water’s sound

What was unique here is the fact that the frog is mentioned for the splashing sound it makes rather than for its “singing.”

Here are two of the Peninsula related haiku submitted:

A scent on the breeze
Pungent and sweet in the sun
Drying coastal sage
Catherine Ratner

smoke in the distance
summer weeds desiccate now
powdering to dust
M. Brown

If you have composed a haiku about any natural aspect 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 Haiku, c/o PVPLC, PO Box 3427, PVP, CA 90274.

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



Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy
PO Box 3427
Palos Verdes Peninsula, CA 90274

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
Palos Verdes Pen. CA 90274
Permit No. 232



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 2001 commitment to preserving open space now--we need your help!

Continued from page 5

move vegetation and carry it to their nests. However, those ants do not eat the vegetation, but they allow fungi to grow on it and they eat the fungi. Ant nests have been found to have up to eight million residents, and to have separate chambers for cultivating fungi, so they must bring a lot of fungi-growing vegetation to those chambers.

By the way, comparing running speed to animal size, ants are among the fastest in that ratio. The female house spider, though, can run 330 times its body length in ten seconds, and our fastest mammal, the cheetah (which runs somewhat faster than 70 m.p.h.) would have to run 115 mph to match that spider's speed-to-size ratio.

As for high jumping, the common flea is the greatest of all animals—it can jump a height of 200 times its body height, and can jump as many as

10,000 times per hour. And for distance jumping, a jumping spider can leap 40 times its body length, equivalent to a 6-foot human leaping 240 feet.

Now, to end this article, here are some additional insect statistics

- A honey bee can fly almost as fast as a champion human runs.
- Also, that flying bee's wings flap 15,000 times per minute.
- The world's heaviest insect is the Goliath Beetle, which has been found to weigh over three and one-half ounces, about 200 times more than a house fly.
- Many queen termites have been seen laying eggs for over 50 years, but many insect specialists have estimated her lifespan at more than 100 years.

So, remember that saving open space also helps our insect friends. Let's keep 'em buzzin and hopping and...

Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy

Board of Directors

- Bill Ailor, President
- Mike Kilroy, Vice President
- Bruce Biesman-Simons, Secretary
- Bob Bothamley, Treasurer
- Shirley Borks
- Don Crocker
- Allen Franz
- Leah Marinkovich
- Wendy Millet
- Jim Moore
- Anke Raue
- James Scharffenberger
- June Schwarzmann
- Bill Swank
- Warren Sweetnam

Executive Director

Keith Lenard

Operations Manager

Noelle Collins

Land Stewardship

- Stephen Heyn, Director
- Arthur Bonner
- Rudi Mattoni, Ph.D.

Student Representative

- Ron Marinkovich San Pedro High
- Max Schmid Chadwick
- Vijay Yanamadala PVP High

Educators

John Nieto, Program Manager

George F Canyon Naturalist

Loretta Rose