



Elected officials and Bill Ailor place final rail in new fence surrounding White Point Nature Preserve. From left: RPV Councilman Larry Clark, State Senator Betty Karnette, LA City Councilwoman Janice Hahn, Bill Ailor, Assemblyman Alan Lowenthal.

White Point Nature Preserve Opened To the Public

The Grand Opening Ceremony on Saturday, September 20, brought dignitaries, local residents and guests together to formally open the 102-acre White Point Nature Preserve to the public.

"This is the first time the public has had unimpeded access to this site in more than 60 years," noted Conservancy President Bill Ailor. "Today's event is a demonstration of what people working together can do to make their community a better place."

The property, once the location of a guest house owned by Ramon Sepulveda, was a military installation from 1942 to 1975 and still has remnants of that use—an underground bunker for Nike missiles and batteries for large

guns that were part of the coastal defense system surrounding Los Angeles and the harbor. The property was deeded to the City of Los Angeles as a park site in 1978.

In 2000, accepting recommendations of the White Point Citizens Advisory Committee established to review possible uses, the Los Angeles City Council approved dedication of the property as a nature preserve and entered into a long-term contract with the Conservancy for its management. The property was dedicated as the White Point Nature Preserve on May 6, 2000 at a formal ceremony on the site.

The Grand Opening Ceremony culminated three years of effort to develop a long-range plan for the

property and obtain proper approvals. The chain link fence and "No Trespassing" signs have recently been removed and an inviting wood-rail fence now surrounds the property.

Literally thousands of LA City and Conservancy staff and volunteer hours have removed tons of debris, removed invasive non-native plants, installed watering systems, and planted over 40,000 locally native plants. "We have much more to do", said restoration manager Andrea Vona. "It's great that the public can finally come in to see what we're doing and enjoy the property."

Volunteer days will continue at the site--we have many more plants to plant. For more information, contact Andrea Vona at 541-7613, ext. 204.

Preservation of Open Spaces--

A Statement of Purpose

The Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy is a nonprofit, nonpolitical, 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: info@pvplc.org
 Home Page: www.pvplc.org

Ailor's Remarks Outline Conservancy History, Role In White Point Evolution

The following are Conservancy President Bill Ailor's remarks at the Grand Opening of the White Point Nature Preserve on Saturday, September 20,

History

For over 60 years, this property has been surrounded by chain link fence and closed to the public—for 40 years as a military base, and then for 20 years as the community worked to resolve its future. We are pleased to be here as part of the team that has been working for the last several years to make this day of celebration happen. Today's event is a demonstration of what people working together can do to make their community a better place. First, I want to tell you a bit about the Conservancy.

In early 1988, a group of local residents got together to share a concern that some of the great hiking and open space areas in our community were not publicly owned, but were zoned for development. In mid-1988, we established a nonprofit, nonpolitical organization—the Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy—to do just that. We would buy land (or take it in donation), but leave it undeveloped.

Basic Principles of Land Acquisition

We established some basic principles to guide the evolution of the organization:

- We would respect the rights of the landowners
- All of our transactions would be with willing sellers.
- We would need strong community involvement and support to be successful.
- We would maintain or increase the habitat value of preserved lands.
- We would help people appreciate and enjoy these lands by providing volunteer and educational opportunities
- Land preserved would be available for public use in perpetuity.

Goals for Uses

Our goal was to preserve the kinds of activities that were critical to our quality of life:

- The ability to take a hike or ride on a beautiful Southern California day
- The ability to enjoy the peaceful tranquility provided by isolated knolls overlooking the finest views in the world
- The opportunity to teach our children about nature without having to drive to the Santa Monica Mountains
- The opportunity to enjoy a bit of wilderness and wildlife near our homes.

At the time, some thought we were a bit nuts—land here is expensive. But since that time, we have played a key role in the purchase and preservation of over 300 acres of land on the Peninsula appraised at over \$20 Million.

Our involvement in the White Point Nature Preserve began when we proposed to the White Point Citizens' Advisory Committee that, if this land were preserved as natural open space, we would manage and restore it at no cost to the City.

We were very pleased with the City's decision in 2000 to create the White Point Nature Preserve, and when the City took us up on our offer to manage and restore the site.

Progress is made by people who are willing to work together to solve problems, and the City of Los Angeles, PVPLC, the White Point Steering Committee are excellent examples of what effective groups can do. In three short years, they have led the transformation of this property from a closed area with tons of debris and no workable plan for its future to an area that is open, clean of debris, and with a plan that will make it a major asset for San Pedro and the entire South Bay region. It is our honor and pleasure to be part of this team and to be a part of this historic effort.



Survey Shows Public Support for Open Space Preservation

The recently completed Rancho Palos Verdes “Parks & Recreation & Open Space Community Survey” shows strong support for preserving natural open space, with preserving open space in the Portuguese Bend area deemed most important. Survey results support results of a similar survey conducted in 1994.

A total of 500 statistically-selected Rancho Palos Verdes residents provided opinions during a 27-minute telephone interview conducted by the professional survey firm of Fairbank, Maslin, Maullin & Associates. Participants were asked their opinions on four topic areas: general views on the direction of the City and major concerns; City services and features; options for using City-owned land; and support for acquisition of open space in the Portuguese Bend area.

According to the final report of the survey’s results, “a sizable majority of residents support the acquisition of 750 acres in the Portuguese Bend area.” “Three-quarters of residents favor the City acquiring 750 acres of open space in the Portuguese Bend area, with 53 percent definitely favoring and 23 percent probably favoring. Only 11 percent of residents oppose the acquisition.”

The survey also found that of the nine possible actions the City could take to improve parks and recreational programs and opportunities, the most popular is the purchase of undeveloped land, preserving it for wildlife and natural habitat. When residents were asked to rate the importance of a relatively large list of individual land use options, residents favored (1) developing parks where recreational programs take place, (2) leaving undeveloped space in a complete

natural state or (3) setting aside undeveloped open space with hiking, horse and bike trails.

The 1994 survey found that 62% of the respondents rated preserving open space lands as very important, with another 25% rating it somewhat important. It also found that 56 % rated purchasing open space lands before they are lost to development as very important and an additional 29% rated it somewhat important.

Comparing the survey results, it is clear that Peninsula residents consistently and strongly support open space preservation. In fact, the results of the 1994 survey (in addition to the rapid growth in PVPLC membership) have played a most important role in demonstrating the support for open space preservation. The results of the most recent survey will be very helpful as our community works to acquire 750 acres of open space in Portuguese Bend and create the Portuguese Bend Nature Preserve.

Results of the most recent survey are available on the City’s web page, http://www.palosverdes.com/rpv/citycouncil/agendas/2003_Agendas/MeetingDate-2003-09-02/open_space_community_survey.pdf.

Copies of the 1994 survey are available in the Palos Verdes Library and in the Miraleste and Malaga Cove branches.



Honorees at the White Point Opening Ceremony. From left: Margaret Moilov, Rodger Paige, Allen Franz, Danna McDonough, Lea Marinkovich, Larry Vivian, Beth Sohngen, Veralee Bassler, Noel Park, June Burlingame Smith, Dennis Weyrauch, Andrea Vona, Loren DeRoy, Barbara Dye, Bruce Biesman-Simons, Gat Lum.

Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy

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SAVE THE DATE TO SAVE PORTUGUESE BEND!

Join the Mile Long Picnic Join the Mile Long Picnic

Sunday, November 9, 2003
11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Ladera Linda Community
Center Soccer Field
32201 Forrestal Drive
Rancho Palos Verdes

Featuring live music by
**The Rainwater
Bluegrass Band**

We'll provide the picnic tables, chairs, music and ocean views, you bring the picnic (or order it from the caterer) and people. Help us raise funds to support acquisition efforts to preserve Portuguese Bend as public open space. So, reserve a table, pack a gourmet picnic, bring your family and friends and join the fun.

*Table Decorating Contest • Annual Photo Contest Display
Guided Hikes • Fossil Hunt • Unique Raffle Prizes
Bike & Wagon Parade for Kids • Native Plant Sale • and more!*

Reserve your table today! \$100 per table for 8. Join with your family, friends, neighbors or community group to help us. For more information, call Debbie or Mary Ellen at the PVPLC office. 541-7613.

You can support PVPLC and the Portuguese Bend acquisition effort by buying tickets to the Picnic Raffle - with unusual travel and outdoor prizes. Tickets are \$5 each, 5 for \$20. You don't need to be present to win so send your entry fees to PVPLC, PO Box 3427, RHE 90274

Photo Contest Coming in November!

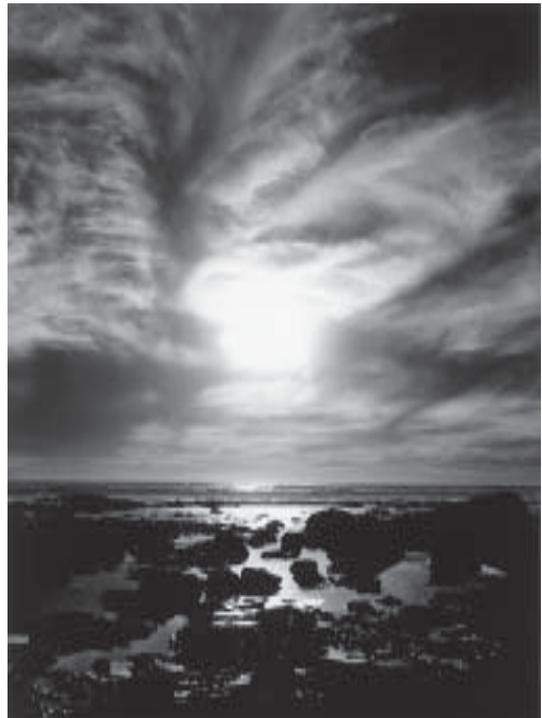
Get those cameras out! Snap that "winning" photo! The Conservancy's annual "Picture Palos Verdes" photo contest is coming.

Once again, the theme is the "Natural Beauty of the Palos Verdes Peninsula." Our goal is to get people out into our open spaces to capture the uniqueness and beauty of this area.

The contest will use the Internet, and photographs will be displayed at the Conservancy's photo contest web page, www.pvplc.org/photo03.htm.

Entries for the contest will be accepted via e-mail, or prints, slides, or negatives may be mailed to the Conservancy's office (PO Box 3427, PVP, CA 90274) between September 15 and October 30. Rules, entry fees and additional information are available at the photo contest web page

Winners will be announced at 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, November 9, at Ladera Linda Community Center, located at the north end (away from the ocean) of Forrestal Drive.



*"Point Fermin Seascape" by John R. Stinson.
Grand Prize Winner, 2002 Photo Contest.*

We would like to acknowledge the following memorial gifts:

In Memory of
Vivian Eddy
Given by
Carol Damico
Scotty & Debbie Bell
Don & Mary Lee Friesz
Chang Chang
Steven & Toni Bock

In Memory of
Roberta Kordich
Given by
Barbara Dye

In Memory of
Bob Hudson
Given by
Veronica Wyckaert

In Memory of
Leslie Corley Frederick
Given by
Ralph Semien

In Memory of
Harold Bowen
Given by
The Heller Family
Betty Strauss

In Memory of
John Vanderlip
Given by
Don Christy

We would like to acknowledge the following gifts:

In Celebration of the Marriage of
Jean Dodd *and* Stu McDonald
Given by
Ruth and Dick Lohrer

In Honor of
Mr. and Mrs. John Long
Celebrating their 25th Wedding Anniversary
Given by
Luis and Ana Chui

In Celebration of
the 50th Anniversary of
John and Conna Marin
Given by
Ron and Leah Marinkovich

In Honor of
Paul Thomas Daval
Paul Frederick Larue
Given by
Lois Knight Larue

In Celebration!



Remember your Family and Friends with a gift to the Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy



- Graduations
- Weddings
- Birthdays
- Anniversaries
- Achievements

Recipients and donors will be recognized in upcoming issues of

Open Spaces



Thanks to Martin Howard and Bob Ford, who donated cars to support our work. We receive 100%

of the net proceeds. Call the National Charity Support Foundation at 1-800.203.2940 to donate any vehicle.

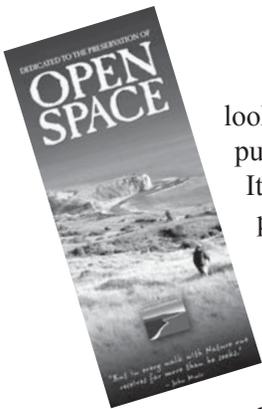
Thanks to Great Wines International for providing delicious sparkling white wine for the toast at the White Point Grand Opening!

A New Look for the Conservancy

With the help of a number of outstanding designers, we have come up with a new look for the Conservancy's materials and publications. You will soon be seeing the all-purpose brochure designed by Valerie and David Fowler of Curved Space Creative. It will be provided to new residents of the Peninsula, elected officials, nature walk participants and interested people to acquaint them with our programs and purposes. We really appreciate the Fowlers' help with this project (and they even arranged for a donation of printing by ColorGraphics, and production work by Automated Bindery).

The Conservancy is evolving and so is our logo. Several versions of our logo are pictured at right. The first was designed in 1988 by Joe Lanning; the second in 2001 by Bill Ailor, and the most recent, square logo designed in 2003 by Mia Van Eimerin. Mia is a nationally-known designer who donated her services to help us with this transition to a more functional logo that still conveys the Conservancy's message. We really appreciate her help.

Holly Gray has donated her expertise by creating drawings for our signs and materials. Holly is a long-time member of the PVPLC family. The daughter of Debbie and Tony Baker, she recently completed the Natural Science Illustration Program at the University of California at Santa Cruz. She drew our charming Dudley the Dudleya (left), along with illustrations for the Nature Notebook and our signs.



Make A Difference Day On October 25th At White Point

Plan to join the San Pedro Older Girl Scout Council, the Lions Club, the Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy and the 15th Council District for the 4th annual "Make a Difference Day," on October 25th at the newly dedicated White Point Nature Preserve, on Paseo del Mar across from Royal Palms Park in San Pedro.

Come and enjoy a pancake breakfast from 8 am to 10:30am with live music and a silent auction featuring gift baskets from local businesses and the Girl Scouts. Take part in native habitat restoration and cleanup activities for the Preserve any time between 8 am and noon.

The breakfast is \$5 per person in advance, \$10 at the door, and all proceeds will benefit the Nature Preserve, the Lions Club and the Girl Scouts. Girls on the committee include Cadets and Seniors from troop 370, 394, and 724 who form the Older Girls Council. This year the Girl Scouts are recognizing and honoring the contributions made by the three Neighborhood Councils in San Pedro—the Coastal, Central, and Northwest Boards—for their active volunteer commitment to the community.

For advance tickets call the Land Conservancy at (310) 541-7613 or mail request made out to San Pedro Girl Scouts 1536 W. 25th Street PMB#233 San Pedro, CA 90732. Donations of any size are welcomed.



PLANT OF THE MONTH

Dudleya virens

(Green Live-For-Ever)

This succulent native plant is rare, found only on the Palos Verdes Peninsula and Channel Islands. Its natural habitat is on steep rock slopes, in full sunshine with minimal water. *Dudleya virens* appear to be not of this world, but their survival is dependant on this peculiar look. The 3 to 6 inch long evergreen leaves store moisture and make it possible for the plant to withstand periods of little or no precipitation. The plant sends up low clumps of rosettes that bloom between April and June, forming delicate yellow or white flowers.

Dudleya virens is a member of the Stonecrop or Jade Plant Family. Their neat and orderly foliage makes them a popular group of plants for home gardens. It must be kept in mind, however, that *Dudleya virens* are rare and should be respected in the wild.

The PVPLC has native plants for sale at its office, including dudleya virens. Call or stop by for more information.



Facts About Plant Invasions

By Joseph K. Slap

The ecological repercussions of plant invasions by non-native species are often far-reaching, and a fuller understanding of the complexities of ecosystem relationships may provide methods for controlling invasive species.

Non-native, invasive plants can displace some native species through competition for nutrients, water, and space. They may also exert indirect pressure by competing for pollinators. For example, if a flowery weed has rich nectar, it can tempt bee pollinators away from the local native plants; and a sugar-rich flowery weed can attract a potential pollinating hummingbird. Despite some possible negative effects on existing plants, people continue to encourage certain flowers which can be ecologically disruptive.

Commercially available seed mixtures marketed as wildflowers are often non-native species, considered weeds to those knowledgeable about native flora. Among those types of weeds are the common poppy, the corncockle, and the white campion, all their seeds having been derived from local wild populations of such weeds.

The invasion of some plants, including shrubs, e.g., has been found to affect not only other plants, but also birds. For example, it's been found that nests of the American robin have been more vulnerable to predation when sited in the invading honeysuckle than in native trees and shrubs.

Studies of invasive plants often concentrate on the effects of the newcomers on the existing plant community, as well as on local wildlife, but the influence may be felt widely in the ecosystem. For example, the PVPLC has studied plants in many areas and has found that in numerous such areas the native plants have been lost due to the invasion of non-native plants. In efforts to protect biodiversity, the PVPLC is restoring habitat and re-introducing native plants throughout a number of preserved areas.

Education Program

Education Director John Nieto is working with our terrific docents to prepare for next year's program. The *Nature Notebook*, given to third grade students as a part of our education program, is undergoing review and revision to make it consistent with the newest state standards and curricula. The illustrations are also being revised to improve this already excellent resource.



One of the major equestrian trails on the north side of the Peninsula passes through the Chandler Preserve.

Linden H. Chandler Preserve

We have completed the work on the grant to restore habitat for the Palos Verdes blue butterfly. Although this past year wasn't great for the reintroduction of the endangered butterfly, we hope that spring of 2004 will bring lots of butterflies to the new habitat. Another Eagle Scout project will be planting willows in the canyons, and we will be working with the Rolling Hills Lions Club which is adopting an acre of habitat.

With the help of the Palos Verdes Horsemen's Association and the City of Rolling Hills Estates, we are designating official trails across the property. A sign will be installed this fall showing the trails, the life-cycle of the blue butterfly, and a photo and biography of Linden H. Chandler. Anyone who is interested in serving on the Chandler Advisory Board should contact our office.

Lunada Canyon Preserve

Our partnership with the Palos Verdes Peninsula High School Environmental Science AP class will continue this year. We expect the students to help us plant another half acre of habitat early in the school year. The restoration done last year has been very successful.

PVPLC PROGRESS

Updates on our Projects
(Made possible through the support of our members)



Portuguese Bend Nature Preserve

The effort to acquire the land and create the Portuguese Bend Nature Preserve is moving steadily forward. The Natural Communities Conservation Plan had its first public hearing before the RPV City Council in July, and the Environmental Impact Report will be out this fall. The NCCP is available both in its entirety and in summary on the Rancho Palos Verdes web page (www.rpv.com). The funding entities want to see a successful NCCP, so it is important that its review move forward quickly.

Secretary of Resources Mary Nichols visited the area in September as a guest of Assemblyman Alan Lowenthal. She knew of the project but hadn't seen the land before, and was very impressed by the view from Del Cerro Park. In an interview with the Daily Breeze, she commented "This one happens to be very high on the priority list because of its species diversity and because it's part of a larger area plan. I think this project will be funded. It's just a question of when."



Resources Secretary Mary Nichols, Bill Ailor, and Assemblyman Alan Lowenthal

White Point Nature Preserve

The fence is down!! After being fenced off from public access for most of the last century, the White Point Nature Preserve is now open to the public. Planting and volunteer days are on hold for now, but will resume in November. We will be working to get the trails installed and implementing the other grants that have been awarded to the project.

We are in need of a **landscape architect** to donate some time to help us design the demonstration garden. Please call the office if you'd like to help with this exciting, high-visibility project.



Defense Fuel Supply Point

We are growing 30,000 plants for next year's installation at White Point, and continuing to create habitat for the blue butterfly on the slopes. This past spring a pair of California gnatcatchers were observed on the site and we hope that they will make the newly-installed habitat a permanent home.

We invite volunteers to help us at the nursery. We can make special arrangements for clubs or groups; call Dan Ryan at the office for more information.

Forrestal Preserve

We are busy removing non-native plants from the canyon in the quarry bowl at Forrestal, thanks to a grant from the Coastal Conservancy and the Wetlands Recovery Network. We need help in carrying the bundles of vegetation down the slope. We may have help from the Los Angeles Conservation Corps to do some trail rebuilding in the canyon.

After more than a year of hard work, the Steering Committee is finalizing the proposed trail system and will be taking its recommendations to the RPV City Council in late fall.

George F Canyon

Call 541-0862 for information about the Nature Center's exciting programs.



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

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Permit No. 232

PVPLC Fall Calendar

Join us for these exciting events and volunteer opportunities!
Read the articles inside, visit our web page or call our office at 541-7613.

October 4 - 31
OFF THE WALL BOUTIQUE
10 A.M - 4 P.M.,
Tuesday-Sunday

In the Garden Village Shopping Center, on Western next to Blockbuster
Shop for the holidays at this super sale of art, collectables and more. A portion of the funds will benefit the White Point Nature Preserve.



October 11, November 1
VOLUNTEER DAY
Forrestal Nature Preserve
9 A.M - noon

Meet at the end of Forrestal Dr. Visit our latest restoration site and help carry a bundle of greenery back to the dumpster.

November 9
Join the Mile Long Picnic
Ladera Linda Soccer Fields
11 A.M. - 3 P.M.

Together we can Save Portuguese Bend!

Featuring Live Music by **The Rainwater Bluegrass Band**
Bring your family, friends and neighbors. Pack a picnic or order one from the caterer.

Table decorating contest,
Annual Photo Contest display,
Bike & wagon parade for kids
Kite flying, fossil hunt & more
Win unusual outdoor & travel raffle prizes!

Send an email to merichardson@pvplc.org or call the office for a reservation form or to purchase raffle tickets.

October 5
VOLUNTEER DAY
DFSP Plant Nursery
Sunday, 9 A.M. - noon

Join us at the Defense Fuel Supply Depot to help transplant seedlings. Enter at the gate on North Gaffey south of PVDN.



October 25
MAKE A DIFFERENCE DAY!
White Point Nature Preserve
Saturday, 9-11 A.M.

Join the Girl Scouts for a delicious pancake breakfast (\$5 in advance; \$10 day of event) to benefit the newly opened Preserve.



There will be a silent auction, children's games and much more. Stay and help weed the plantings!



October 11
NATURE WALK
Angels' Gate Park/Military Museum, 9-11:30 A.M.

Meet at the Marine Mammal Care Center in Upper Fort MacArthur for a fascinating hike that includes great views, lots of history and a visit to the Military Museum.

November 8
NATURE WALK
Sacred Cove, 2-4 P.M.

Meet at the Abalone Cove Parking lot on PVDS. Enjoy a visit to this secluded cove with its sea cave, tide pools, and coastal bluff habitat.



December 13th
NATURE WALK
Lunada Canyon
9-11:00 A.M.

Meet at the end of Posey Way, off King's Harbor Drive in RPV. Visit the Conservancy's first nature preserve and see the restoration work that's underway.