



OPEN SPACES

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Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy

Third Quarter, 1999



In anticipation of City approval, volunteers remove debris from the White Point property. Over 45 tons (yes, tons) were removed after the first cleanup day.

White Point Preservation Progresses

The Board of Recreation and Parks Commissioners of the City of Los Angeles extended the review process for the final use of the 102-acre White Point property at their November 17th meeting.

Rather than approve the property's use as a natural area as the White Point Advisory Committee and staff had recommended, the Board asked to see how needs in the community for soccer fields and a dog park would be addressed.

Authorization to proceed with the development of a management agreement with the Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy for a natural preserve on the site awaits Board approval of the open space use.

The Conservancy has been making plans in anticipation of the approval. Loren DeRoy, former Conservancy Board member and founder of the George F Canyon Nature Cen-

ter, has agreed to lead the effort to develop a plan for the evolution of the White Point property. DeRoy led a similar planning effort for the well-regarded George F Canyon facility.

Several members of the White Point Advisory Committee, which recommended the preservation option, have offered to be part of the White Point steering committee. This body will play a critical role in the development of the plan for the preserve and overseeing the implementation of that plan.

Representatives of local community groups and homeowners associations are encouraged to get involved in this process. We will send out a letter of invitation to such organizations after final approval by the City.

We are excited by the opportunity the White Point property presents. We have already seen large numbers

of volunteers helping with removal of trash and debris. Teachers at local schools want to have their classes help with growing and replanting native plants. Boy Scouts and volunteer groups will help with building trails. It is clear that the community wants to be involved.

A formal celebration dedicating the property as a nature preserve will be held once the decision has been made by the Board of Recreation and Parks Commissioners. Conservancy members will receive a special invitation to come and share the excitement about the preservation of this beautiful area.

If you have an opinion on the use of White Point which you would like to share with the Board of Recreation and Parks Commissioners, please write them at the Department of Recreation and Parks, 200 N Main St, Room 1330, Los Angeles, CA 90012.

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, land-owners 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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Tony Baker Receives Volunteer Award

The Conservancy's highest honor, the President's Award, was presented to Tony Baker for his many hours of volunteer work and for his outstanding support of and involvement in our habitat restoration efforts.

Baker and volunteer Dick Rankin organized and ran a multi-session walk leader training class—probably the most thorough ever conducted on Peninsula geology, history, plants & animals, butterflies, and the like. We videotaped the classes, and have copies available for checkout at the office.

An expert on native plants, Baker led the effort to raise over 10,000 plants for the habitat restoration effort at Ocean Trails. This project was a key one for us and has led to a major expansion of our habitat restoration role on the Peninsula.

Baker has also provided guidance and assistance as we have expanded our role at the Defense Energy Office-LA. Once again, this has been an important project in our evolution.

Finally, Baker has been a key player in our habitat restoration activities at the Chandler Preserve, providing advice, counsel, and leadership as we have moved along on this project. He has also provided several articles on native plants and Peninsula his-



Baker (left) is presented with President's Award by Bill Ailor.

tory for our newsletter.

He continues to help with our Nature Walks, both as a trainer during the practice walks and as a walk leader on the day of the walk.

Baker joins 21 other President's Award recipients who have been recognized for their extraordinary efforts.

Educational Program Supported By Boeing Employees

The Employees Community Fund of Boeing California has contributed to PVPLC's educational program with a grant of \$2,000. The funds will be used by PVPLC to continue its natural science educational programs on the Peninsula.

The Employees Community Fund of Boeing contributes to many local educational programs and we are pleased that the Fund administrators considered our programs worthy of its support.



Kathryn Castrey, flanked by future educational program participants, presents a check for \$2000 to the Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy.

Winners of First Internet Photo Contest Announced

The following winners were announced at the September 24 ceremony at the Palos Verdes Peninsula Library. Winning photographs (and all entries) are displayed at the Conservancy's web site, www.pvplc.org. The winner of the People's Choice Award was selected by votes submitted through e-mail.

Grand Prize: "Through the Trees," Jewel "Judy" Scallon

People's Choice: "Lighthouse in the Fall," Dori Friedman

Landscapes

1st Place: "Pampas," Ellen November

2nd Place: "Two Friends Enjoying Palos Verdes," Carrie Cahill-Asher

3rd Place: "Lighthouse in the Fall," Dori Friedman

Seascapes

1st Place: "Fog Set," Trish McCoy

2nd Place: "Ripple," Dori Friedman

3rd Place: "Sticky Fingers," Christopher Saxer

Plants & Flowers

1st Place: "World Full of Flowers," Marilyn Forsythe

2nd Place: "Patterns of Nature," Eric R. Wiswell

3rd Place: "The Vanderlip Garden," Jessica Humphrey

Native Plants

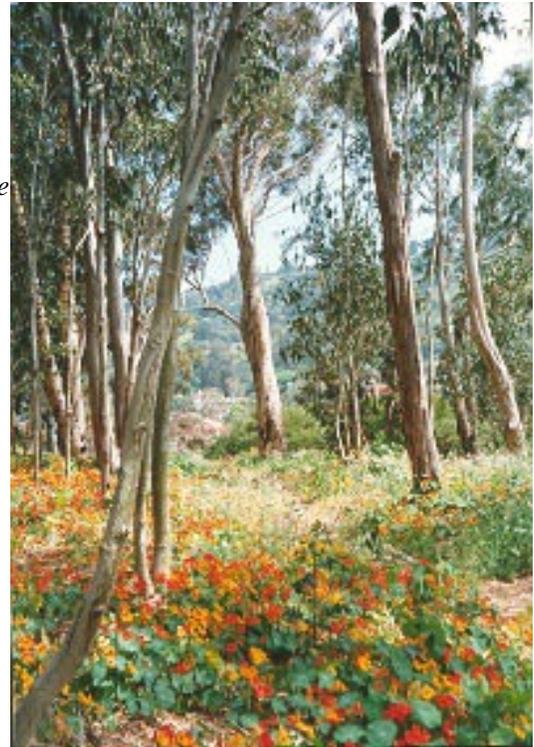
1st Place: "Eye of the Tree," Phyllis Knopke

Wildlife

1st Place: "Dining in Beauty," Robert Day

2nd Place: "Swallowtail Heaven," Dave Nesheim

3rd Place: "Stalking Beauty," Robert Day



Grand Prize winner "Through the Trees" by Jewel "Judy" Scallon. Visit our web page, www.pvplc.org, for the color version of this and all entries.



First Prize winners Dori Friedman (left), Marilyn Forsythe, Bob Day, and Phyllis Knopke receive congratulations.



Attendees look at printed versions of the photographs which are also posted on the Internet.

It's Planting Season at the Lunada and Chandler Preserves!

Visitors to the Lunada Canyon Preserve and the Linden H. Chandler Preserve will notice some dramatic changes underway. Conservancy Stewardship Director Steve Heyn, along with Conservancy volunteer labor, has been preparing the Conservancy properties for the coming fall season.

The shorter, cooler days of Fall lower soil temperatures to conditions that are ideal for planting the native shrubs, grasses and plants that have been nurtured all summer long. The Conservancy plans to plant as many as 15,000 native plants on the Linden H. Chandler Preserve and Lunada Canyon this season, along with thousands of additional plants scheduled to be planted in the Fall of next year.

As a result, we've significantly expanded our fall volunteer day schedule. Dates, locations, and details are given below:

November 14	Lunada Canyon
November 28	Chandler Preserve**
December 12	Chandler Preserve**
December 19	Lunada Canyon
January 16	Chandler Preserve
February 20	Chandler Preserve
March 19	Lunada Canyon
April 16	Chandler Preserve
May 21	Lunada Canyon
June 18	Chandler Preserve

**Special planting day.

HOURS: 9:00 am to noon

TYPE OF WORK: The work will primarily involve weed pulling and removal of invasive nonnative plants. On occasion, we will be planting, seeding, and seed collecting—as season and our needs require.

WHAT TO WEAR: Please wear work clothes and boots. It is also a good idea to bring a hat, sun block, and water.

DIRECTIONS TO LUNADA CANYON: From the intersection of Crest Road and Hawthorne Blvd, go north on Hawthorne. Turn left on Verde Ridge Road (just past Hesse Park), head downhill and turn right at El Rodeo. Turn left onto Kings Harbor, drive downhill to Rock Park Drive—a cul de sac to the right. Park on Rock Park or on Kings Harbor. We will meet on Rock Park Drive.

DIRECTIONS TO CHANDLER PRESERVE: Off Palos Verdes Drive North, turn north onto Rolling Hills Road and take a right onto Empty Saddle Road. Drive straight up and into the Empty Saddle Club—we can park just off to the left past the gate. We will meet here and then walk down the horse trail to the right of the entry gate into the preserve.

QUESTIONS: Call our office at (310) 541-7613.



Volunteer plants a native plant.



A whole lot of digging going on...



Volunteers at the end of the day. This group was assisted by others working on a different part of the Preserve.

Boy Scouts Blaze New Trail At Lunada Canyon

Thanks to the efforts of Torrance Boy Scout Troop 586, visitors to Lunada Canyon have a new trail to enjoy. Scott Decker, a troop member, helped design and build the trail as a requirement for his Eagle Scout badge. However, the task could not have been accomplished without the volunteer efforts of the entire Troop (and their parents!).

The trail begins at Rock Park Drive and winds down to the bottom of the canyon. Future efforts will extend this trail within the property to provide access to identified restoration sites.

The resourceful Boy Scouts were able to utilize existing rock and concrete on the site to fortify the trail and protect the site from erosion. Special thanks from the Conservancy to all who helped in this effort. The improvements made to Lunada Canyon are a welcome addition to the site.



Boy Scouts and their fathers work on trail in the Lunada Canyon preserve..

Conservancy Hosts Monthly Native Plant Sale

We're growing plants for our Peninsula-wide restoration activities, and we have more than we need at the present time. So, we're hosting a monthly native plant sale to encourage the use of native plants in local landscaping and to support Conservancy restoration activities.

If you're looking for some locally native plants, please come to the "Defense Energy Office—Los Angeles" site located at 3171 Gaffey (just south of the five-points intersection on PV Drive North) on the first Sunday of every month from 9 am to 2 pm.

In addition to the plants, you'll get a chance to talk with volunteers who are helping with our restoration activities and who know native plants. You'll also see the headquarters for the habitat restoration activities at the Defense Energy Office site, home of the last remaining population of Palos Verdes Blue Butterfly.



Nature Walks Then and Now

Ten years ago, our Board came up with the idea of monthly nature walks as a way to share some of the Peninsula's special natural areas with others, to help them understand why we felt so strongly that these areas should be preserved.

We didn't know whether anyone would come to our first walk, but to our great amazement, we had over

300 participants. Since that time, over 12,000 participants have joined us on these walks, and we regularly have attendance exceeding 150 adults and children.

Our nature walks are always on the second Saturday of the month and we look forward to seeing you on our next walk. Schedules are available at

all libraries, city halls, and the Farmer's Market on Sunday at Peninsula Center. The schedule is also posted on our web page, www.pvplc.org.

If you miss a walk, you can watch the videotape on Public Access channel 3 on Fridays at 6:00 pm.

**By Anke Raue,
Nature Walk Coordinator**

Long Point Developer Responds to Newsletter Article

The following letter was received from Michael A. Mohler, Vice President of Destination Development Corporation:

The purpose of my writing you is to correct certain inaccuracies in the article "Public Land for Golf? Issues coming to the Fore."

First and foremost, the Long Point project application does not propose to use 120 acres of public land in order to build a portion of the golf course. The total acreage of City lands in and adjacent to the golf course is approximately 120 acres. The proposal is to use approximately 70 acres for golf course purposes and approximately 50 acres for trails, parks and undeveloped open space (including native habitat restoration and conservation).

Second, the current residential plan (which we are now in the process of scaling back) proposes less residential villas than you describe (i.e., 15-20 detached, 40 attached and 6 affordable).

Third, the plan proposes six holes of golf (we're trying to get seven) on the Long Point site and 12 holes on public land (we're trying for eleven).

Finally, the 200-acre Upper Filiorum area referred to in the third column of your article is not entirely within the landslide moratorium area. Approximately 75 acres are outside of the moratorium area, some of which are zoned R-1 and R-2.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. In keeping with your long-term policy of keeping members informed, please clarify these matters with them.

We appreciate Mr. Mohler's letter clarifying information about the proposed development.

"Bioregionalism" - An Evolving Paradigm For The Next Millennium

By Andy Hammer

One of the most interesting individuals I met while attending the Land Trust Alliance Rally in Colorado was a "bioregionalist" from New York. Although I have been familiar with the term "bioregional" for some time, the development and evolution of this movement occurred quickly and quietly.

Simply stated, bioregionalism is a philosophy and social movement grounded in ecologically sustainable communities. Strictly speaking, bioregionalists do not live in cities or towns- they live in bioregions- literally life territories defined by natural features such as climate, fauna, soils and human culture. The term bioregion was coined by a Canadian bio-

Continued on page 7

Characteristics Of Snakes

Here on the Peninsula we have rattlesnakes. Those and other snakes have some interesting characteristics. Even though pythons haven't been seen on our Peninsula, studies of those snakes give us ideas about certain likely features of PVP snakes.

Paleontologists have determined that snakes have developed from lizards that indeed had forelimbs and hindlimbs and have thus been named tetrapods. Pythons have more than 300 vertebrae, and some other snakes have as many as 500, compared to the human number of 32-33.

Forward of what might have been the hindlimb portion of the body, almost every python vertebra has a rib. There's no present indication that forelimbs develop on pythons and other snakes. However, to the rear of the rib-bearing vertebrae, there is still evidence of development from lizards that had hindlimbs.

For example, in such snakes there's a pelvic girdle which is, in hindlimbed and finned creatures, the inner struc-

ture to which those components are attached. There also is a very shortened femur protruding slightly from the body of a python and of a boa, for instance. In human and other mammalian bodies, the femur is a long bone in the leg. So, the pelvic girdle and the shortened femur do show the snakes' ancestry of lizards with hindlimbs.



The types of genes that influence the location of limbs are Hox genes. Analyses of Hox genes in tetrapods and fish have shown that those genes truly affect the location of limb positions, shoulder formation, and fin positions and structures.

Approximately eight weeks after a python's eggs are fertilized, they are laid. The resulting embryos have been found to have segments of inner

tissue, called somites, which lead to the growth of such body parts as bones, tendons, and other strong tissues. The embryos also contain hindlimb buds which, in snakes, won't fully develop into hindlimbs as they would in tetrapod lizards. Genes in a frog's body are known to stimulate the frog's limbs.

In contrast to the lack of outer limbs, snakes rank very high among taxonomic taxa in the ratio of muscle weight to body weight. The various movements of snakes are thus quite effective.

If you see a snake here on our Peninsula be careful, but if you can safely watch it from a protective site, you'll be able to observe its unique characteristics of body format and of movement. Those are fascinating phenomena. The open spaces of the Peninsula have very many other fascinating phenomena, so they are surely worth preserving!

by Joseph K. Slap

Continued from page 6

geographer less than 20 years ago, and has evolved along with the movement to represent a school of ecological thought.

The movement struck me as a natural extension of many of the thoughts and ideas we have shared for centuries. The Conservancy, through its educational and stewardship programs, seeks to educate and stimulate interest in the environment, history and culture of the South Bay bioregion. As we approach the millennium, our thoughts and plans for the future will determine the fate of our natural regions. Bioregionalism would urge us to consider ourselves as co-inhabitants of our natural regions, rather than consumers of our natural resources.

If you are interested in learning more about bioregionalism, I would suggest searching the web. There are over 100 bioregionalist organizations nationwide, many of whom support and manage informational websites.

One modern bioregionalist, Dayton Saltsman, Jr., has said, "And eventually we must come to realize that if we value what we can take from nature, but not nature itself, we will end up with nothing." Perhaps these are words to live by as we enter a new millennium.

Haiku Corner: The Peninsula from Another Perspective

And for this issue... something completely different!

Last month Andy Hammer forwarded an announcement by Sony of Japan that I thought warrants being quoted in part in this corner. In its new portable PC operating system Sony has replaced the impersonal and often cryptic error messages Microsoft's Windows and DOS systems dish out with haiku poetry.

As Sony's chairman Asai Tawara says, "the haiku messages are just as informative as Microsoft's and they make you pause just long enough that you're able to fight the impulse to put a fist through the screen."

Here are a few examples of Sony's "high-tech" computer error messages, all following the 5-7-5 ancient haiku tradition:

A file that big?
It might be very useful
But now it is gone.

You seek a Web site.
It cannot be located.
Countless more exist.

Chaos reigns within.
Stop, reflect, reboot.
Order shall return.

Yesterday it worked.
Today it is not working.
Windows is like that.

A crash reduces
Your expensive computer
To a simple stone.

Three things are certain:
Death, taxes and lost data.
Guess which has occurred.

Out of memory.
We wish to hold the whole sky,
But we never will.

Having been erased,
The document you are seeking
Must now be retyped.

Serious error.
All shortcuts have disappeared.
Screen. Mind. Both are blank.

In the next issue we will once again focus on our Peninsula. 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

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.

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National Rally Provides Insight And Inspiration

By Andy Hammer

I attended the three-day Land Trust Alliance (LTA) Rally held this year in Snowmass, Colorado, and brought back many new ideas and perspectives that will help me fulfill my role as Executive Director.

The annual gathering provides a forum for over 1,200 conservationists from all 50 states to come together to exchange ideas and information. The conference provides hundreds of valuable workshops and seminars on land conservation, and is an invaluable educational resource for attendees.

What I enjoy most about the Rally is the ability to meet people with similar backgrounds and interests. In addition to a shared love of the land, there is a high degree of pride and professionalism about the accomplishments of the movement.

The PVPLC is certainly not alone in our mission; there are more than 1,000 local organizations like ours, and the opportunity to learn from others engaged in this type of work is invaluable.

The land trust movement represents the largest voluntary land conservation movement in history. Over 4.7 million acres of open space, productive resource lands and habitat preserves have been protected by land trusts nationwide, and the numbers continue to climb.

Next year's Rally will be held in Portland, Oregon and is expected to be the largest ever. If you are interested in attending the Rally or finding out more about the Land Trust Alliance, please visit their web site at www.lta.org.

Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy

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