

Conservancy Announces \$30 Million “Go Wild for the Peninsula” Campaign to Create 96-Acre Coastal Wildlife Corridor and Restore the Natural Lands of the Peninsula



Photo Credit: Erik Jay

(L to R) John Donnelly, CA Wildlife Conservation Board, Ed Pert, CA Dept. of Fish & Wildlife, Christina Angeles, LA County Regional Park and Open Space District, Adrienne Mohan, Executive Director PVP Land Conservancy, Jonathan Snyder, US Fish & Wildlife Service and David Bradley, Mayor, City of RPV.

The Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy and the City of Rancho Palos Verdes announced their partnership in the creation of a 96-acre Wildlife Corridor on August 26, 2022. The 96-acre coastal wildlife corridor connects coastal land to the existing 1,000-acre contiguous Palos Verdes Nature Preserve above.

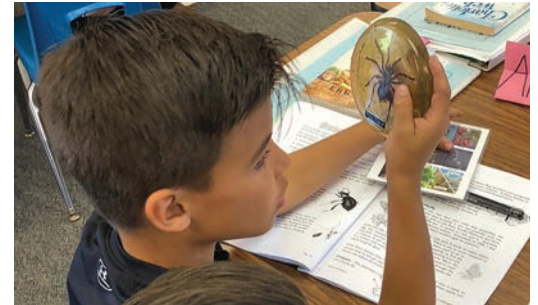
The announcement was made on the site overlooking Rancho Palos Verdes’ beautiful coastline with Adrienne Mohan, Executive Director, Rob Kautz, President, Board of Directors, David Bradley, City of Rancho Palos Verdes (RPV) Mayor. Dignitaries included Christina Angeles, District Administrator for LA County Regional Park & Open Space District and representatives from Sacramento and Carlsbad for US Fish & Wildlife Service and California’s Department of Fish & Wildlife.



CA gnatcatcher

“We have a once-in-a-lifetime chance to protect and restore undeveloped coastal California land on the Peninsula,” said Executive Director Adrienne Mohan. “Precious coastal natural lands have all but disappeared

Classrooms are Welcomed Back Outdoors



Students engaged in one of a series of four classroom lesson plans that inspire lively, interactive and artifact-rich experiences followed by a hands-on experiential field trip in nature.

The school bus doors swing open and eager 3rd graders flood out, forming a line that snakes up the entrance trail and into the White Point Nature Preserve. The air buzzes with excited conversation, “Look at the flowers, was that a butterfly?” “Yikes, watch the cactus, that wasn’t a snake was it?” “Shhhh, it’s a bird!” Conversation

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Conservancy Elects New Board President and Two Members to the Board of Directors

The Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy is pleased to announce the election of two new members to the Board of Directors: Cindy Akiyama and Bruce Ross, and a new president of the board, Rob Kautz.

Cindy Akiyama is a former partner of a management consulting firm and prior to that held vice president of operations and operations management roles in telecom equipment and computer companies. Cindy's involvement with the PVP Land Conservancy began nearly 25 years ago when she attended the Conservancy's guided nature walks with her young daughter. Over the years since, Cindy has become a supporter and has volunteered her time as an Education Docent and member of the Volunteer Trail Watch. More recently, she has become a leader for the nature walks and a member of the Conservancy's Stewardship Committee. For Cindy, *"I have seen the benefits of the Conservancy's work since moving to the South Bay in 1990. As I've been educated about our natural environment, native and invasive flora and fauna, geology, the human history and its impact on our region,*



(L to R) Cindy Akiyama, President Rob Kautz, and Bruce Ross. Photo by John Dickinson

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President's Message



Dear Friends,

It is an honor for me to extend a warm thank you to the volunteers and staff members that make the Land Conservancy such a vibrant and successful organization, to my predecessor, Carolyn Petru, who led our board through the challenges of the pandemic, and to our city partners across the Peninsula.

As supporters of the Land Conservancy, we are all on a journey together across generations to protect the natural beauty of our open space and preserve the unique biodiversity of the Peninsula.

It has taken great persistence and dedication over the first 35 years to secure the 1,700 acres that make up our preserves, including the 96-acre Wildlife Corridor, the last large parcel of undeveloped space on the Peninsula.

Now we must seize a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to deliver on our vision of a true nature preserve, for current and future generations, where people of all ages can understand and appreciate the tranquil beauty of a natural environment with abundant wildlife. A challenge to this vision has emerged as drought and other factors have brought the native plants and wildlife on our Peninsula under siege. The answer to this challenge is to accelerate both restoration in the pre-

serves and replacement of invasive, non-native plants in surrounding public and private landscapes to create an environment compatible with the native Peninsula ecosystem.

This is a goal that every resident on the Peninsula should support, because we all benefit from native plant restoration in three ways: immediate reduction in fire risks from removing fire-prone invasive plants; ongoing enjoyment in perpetuity of the natural beauty of unique coastal and inland preserves; and preservation of wildlife species whose survival represents the survival for the present and future of an ecosystem that is less water intensive and less fire-prone.

This is a journey across generations to preserve and restore the natural environment. Right now we are in a critical period in which we need your support. I invite you to GO WILD with us: visit GoWildPV.org to learn more about how to volunteer, participate in your own gardens, and please donate generously within your means.

Thank you very much.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rob Kautz".

Rob Kautz
President, Board of Directors

Earth Day Brought Volunteers to Outdoors and Others to Enjoy Special Film Presentation Events with an Online Auction



Kimberly Morales Johnson from the film *Saging the World*

The Conservancy hosted three special events to celebrate Earth Day. On Friday, April 22, the Conservancy co-sponsored a special presentation by the California Native Plant Society with a world premiere screening of *Saging the World*. The film examines how generations of indigenous communities have used “white sage” plants in celebrations that has now been popularized, thus harming the available plants due to saging or burning sage bundles in the hope of purifying space and clearing bad energy. White sage (*Salvia apiana*) only occurs in southern California and northern Baja California, Mexico.

Today, poachers steal metric tons of this plant from the wild to supply international demand. Following the film,



A team of volunteers from Scout Troop #183 helped remove about 100 pounds of invasive weeds

indigenous advocates and allies presented a panel discussion and gave away complimentary white sage plants for each participant to plant at home to begin reversing some of the damage.

An outdoor volunteer Earth Day Celebration took place at the White Point Nature Preserve on Saturday, April 23, with 130 volunteers caring for a native plant demonstration garden and expanding habitat for local wildlife through mulching, planting, watering and weeding. Harbor Commissioner Diane Middleton welcomed and thanked all participants. Guided nature walks, refreshments by Starbucks, composting information booth and a raffle provided an informative and fun morning for the whole family.



Volunteers helped to mulch 1/8 of an acre in just one day, watered hundreds of plants, repaired trails and processed thousands of seeds.

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AmeriCorps Returns to Conservancy to Help Accomplish Restoration Goals



For the tenth consecutive year, the Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy was pleased to be selected to host a team from AmeriCorps National Civilian Community Corps (NCCC) between March 1 and April 9, 2022. The 2022 AmeriCorps team consisted of six ambitious, service-oriented young adults who worked alongside the Conservancy Stewardship staff, crew and volunteers on priority restoration projects. AmeriCorps is a team-based national service program with members between the ages of 18-26, coming from all around the country to use their talent and considerable energy and learn new skills to help organizations around the nation. Blue 2 Team members came from New York, New Hampshire, Michigan, Pennsylvania and Texas.

Blue 2 Team's work involved removing invasive plants such as mustard at the 13-acre Abalone Cove Reserve restoration area. They worked hard on the difficult task of clearing areas and planting native flora such as California Sagebrush, Lupines, Blue Bonnets, Purple and Black sage, Prickly pear cacti and more. The fauna that benefits from this work includes the Coastal Cactus Wren, the Palos Verdes and El Segundo blue butterflies, and the CA Gnatcatcher. The team continued to perform similar work in the White Point Nature Preserve to create Coastal Sage Scrub habitat on the 102-acre Preserve.

The Conservancy and Blue 2 Team members were grateful to Marty Hunt for supplying furnishings for an apartment provided anonymously during their stay and to Becky Cool for hosting a much-appreciated dinner. Executive Director Adrienne Mohan believes, *"Having a group of young, talented and committed AmeriCorps assigned here is a win-win. The team gains experience in environmental service that could lead them to a future that includes conservation and biology and they accomplish a lot of with their energy and enthusiasm to gain deep understanding of the importance of the restoration process."* Team member Lourde Widlunch said, *"Being able to protect the earth with the Conservancy brought me an entirely new perspective on what matters in life."*

Go Wild for the Peninsula Supporters Pose with PV Blue Butterfly Mural



Celebrating Butterflies, Birds and other Pollinators at the 2022 Palos Verdes Pastoral Garden-to-Table Dining Experience

Hosted by the Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy in partnership with Terranea Resort, the “Palos Verdes Pastoral: Garden-to-Table Dining Experience” was held Sunday, May 1, 2022. The evening was dedicated to highlighting the importance of butterflies, birds and other pollinators and the ways in which we can reverse the dramatic decline in their populations by creating waystations with native plants and wildflowers. *“From the signature cocktail, menu and décor to the displays and special tastings, the evening is an immersive experience for guests that will inspire them long after the event,”* explains Pastoral Chair Diana Heffernan-Schrader.

Sustainable food proponent, Terranea Chef Andrew Vaughan, presented the event’s garden-to-table menu using local Santa Monica Seafood sustainable Pacifico Sea Bass, Eel River Organic Grass-fed beef, Weiser Farm produce, fresh organic ingredients from Whole Foods Torrance to create a delicious and thoughtful Low Carbon Footprint feast. The courses were paired with



(L to R) Stephanie Seitz, Becky Cicoria and Silver and Sage Steward Sponsor Becky Cool

an inspired selection of wines from Cambria Estates, DAOU and Catalina View Gardens. Honest Abe Cider House & Meadery provided tastings of fruit and local honey flavors; Palos Verdes School Gardens created a beautiful display of local blooming plants, flowers and produce needed by pollinators;

and Honey Girl Grows presented a hive and bee education display with Honey Pacifica Wildflower Honey as gifts for guests to enjoy.

“The intimate setting dining al fresco on the Ocean Terrance Lawn on a lovely blossom-scented spring evening is the perfect location to offer a rich experience for guests, one that fosters meaningful conversation over a meal celebrating nature.” says Conservancy Executive Director Adrienne Mohan. *“We are grateful to Terranea Resort for joining us to present this amazing culinary experience and for making the preservation of the natural landscape of the Peninsula an essential part of Terranea’s ethos.”*

We wish to also thank the following business sponsors and community supporters including: Becky Cool - RM Cool Company, Bruce Biesman-Simons and Carolyn Hadley Colburn, John and Lynn Taber, Jacqueline M. Glass Family, David Pilon and Ann Stone, William and Phyllis Glantz, Jim and Diane Staes, Larry and Nancy Pasquali, Cassie Jones and Lewis Enstedt, Carolynn and Andy Petru, Chuck Miller, Phillips 66. Special thanks to Palos Verdes School Gardens, Encore, Room & Board, Southbay Magazine and Whole Foods.



(L to R) Guests Sharon Ryan, Ann and Hale Field, David Buxton and Diane and Jim Staes



(L to R) Terranea President Ralph Grippo, Lisa Beach and Conservancy President Rob Kautz



Event Chair Diana Heffernan-Schrader makes a welcome toast with signature cocktail, The Purple Pollinator, made with *Gray Whale Gin*



Silver and Sage Steward Sponsor William Hadley (center) and his friends (L to R) Debbie and Tony Droubay, William Hadley, Andrew and Alison DeCristofaro and Dan Thomas

All photos: Erik Jay

Conservancy Elects New Board President and Two Members to the Board of Directors

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I've developed a conviction for responsible stewardship of the land."

Bruce Ross is the President of Bruce L. Ross & Company, a forensic accounting and consulting firm located in Rancho Palos Verdes. After working for years in aerospace and public accounting, Bruce founded his own firm in 1992 that specializes in damage calculations, fraud investigation, business valuation and large data analysis. He and his wife, Randy Ellen Ross, have three adult sons. Bruce currently also serves on the Board of the Center Theatre Group, where he is former Chair of the Finance Committee. *"Looking over the McBride Trail with magnificent views of the coast and Portuguese Point from my home for the last 26 years helps me appreciate the unique landscape that I want to help protect using my professional expertise as the new Chair of the Finance Committee on the Land Conservancy's Board of Directors."*

Rob Kautz has been elected the new President of the Board of Directors. Rob moved to Rancho Palos Verdes in 2011 and joined the Conservancy's Finance Committee in 2012 and its Board of Directors in 2013. He has worked to help the organization develop its strategic plan and ensure its financial sustainability and has served as Executive Vice President, Treasurer, and as a member of the Audit and Investment Committees. Rob

is a Principal of HollowayKautz Investments LLC with extensive experience in finance, information technology, strategic planning, branding, real estate and construction. He was EVP, CFO and CIO for 99c Only Stores from 2005-2012 and previously was CEO for Wolfgang Puck Worldwide, Inc. He volunteered on the board of the Los Angeles Police Foundation from 2003-2012, including as Treasurer and Vice Chair, and previously served as an advisory board member of GE Capital's Restaurant Leadership Forum and Board member of the Harvard Business School Association SoCal. He resides in Rancho Palos Verdes with his wife Danise and has two adult children.

Rob commented on his experience as a board member, *"It has been my honor to work with the Land Conservancy board and staff for the last ten years. During this time, passionate volunteers performed over 190,000 hours of work and the staff developed conservation and education programs that reached over 30,000 children through the 3rd Grade Naturalist program. This level of volunteer work and community involvement is a remarkable feat of dedication and talented leadership by a small staff and volunteer board of directors."*

The Conservancy is thrilled to welcome these talented and dedicated Board members to their new roles.



Photos: Erik Jay

(L to R) Executive Director Adrienne Mohan, Senator Ben Allen, Allen Lay, Richard Lundquist, Board members Bill Ailor and Dave Pilon

On October 12th, Senator Ben Allen announced a grant of \$5 million from the State for the *Go Wild for the Peninsula* project to create a 96-acre Wildlife Corridor, wildfire prevention and drought resilience on the Peninsula.



Whale Tail Grant Supports New Student Field Trips

Students participating in the Conservancy's Student Naturalists Program from LAUSD schools are having a special immersive experience this year through a new collaboration with San Pedro's Cabrillo Marine Aquarium. Thanks to a Whale Tail grant from the California Coastal Commission, the Conservancy is able to bring participating classes from LAUSD schools on a special, new component to their nature field trip. First, students visit the White Point Nature Preserve for a hiking program to explore the land's local habitats first-hand and to participate in habitat conservation. The students will then head over to Cabrillo Beach to hatch baby grunion fish and get their feet wet as they explore the ocean habitat at the Cabrillo Marine Aquarium. The partnership provides a perfect opportunity for local students and their families to experience diverse natural habitats and learn how to access these resources so they may build an ongoing appreciation for our coastal land and sea life.



Conservancy Announces \$30 Million "Go Wild for the Peninsula" Campaign *continued from page 1*



Ed Pert, CA Department of Fish & Wildlife

beneath bulldozers and concrete, but this campaign, Go Wild for the Peninsula, will benefit our communities, support threatened and endangered species, reduce fire risk and contribute to California's 30x30 goal of conserving 30% of our lands and coastal waters by 2030."

CA Department of Fish & Wildlife and CA Wildlife

Conservation Board awarded \$4.8 million in matching funds towards the wildlife corridor. Senator Ben Allen secured a discretionary state budget award of \$5 million, the City of Rancho Palos Verdes contributed \$1.3 million and the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District has awarded the Land Conservancy a competitive grant for \$1 million from Measure A. To date, \$24.7 million in public funds have been raised.

The City of Rancho Palos Verdes will own the parcel and the Land Conservancy will hold a conservation easement in perpetuity as Habitat Manager. *"For over 35 years, the City of RPV and the Conservancy have collaborated to acquire and conserve approximately 1,500 acres of land within our city. These beautiful lands can now be protected forever,"* said RPV Mayor David Bradley. *"This is a dream fulfilled for the founders of RPV and residents throughout the Peninsula. This success is the product of a long and strong partnership between the City and the Land Conservancy."*

The Land Conservancy has a proven history of success-

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Earth Day Brought Volunteers to Outdoors and Others to Enjoy Special Film *continued from page 3*



The weekend culminated with the film presentation of *My Garden of a Thousand Bees* on April 24 at the Warner Grand Theatre. The film was the “best of the fest” from the Wild & Scenic Film Festival, a beautiful and enchanting film about a famous Attenborough wildlife cinematographer who decided during the coronavirus pandemic lockdown to film the bees in his urban garden. Audience and cinematogra-

pher both marvel to discover the intricacies of the world of bees and the surprisingly diverse species and personalities that exist in this insect family. Please save the date for a returning Wild & Scenic Film Festival in April 2023.

A VIP Pre-film Wine Reception for Earth Day Sponsors was held in the Arcade Building. Sponsors making these Earth Day activities possible include Cox Communications, Athens Services, Bruce Biesman-Simons and Hale Field, Amy Morris, Event Chairs David Pilon and Ann Stone, Carolyn and Andy Petru, Sean Bender, Steven Snow and Diana Bailey.

The White Point Community Group presented an Online Auction as part of the activities to raise funds for restoration and educational activities at the 102-acre Preserve which fulfills a critical need for open space and urban parkland in our community. At the Preserve, the Conservancy offers educational programs for the community and field trips for local and inner city school children. The Preserve features restored coastal grasslands, handicap-accessible trails, a native plant demonstration garden with interpretive signage and magnificent views overlooking the Pacific Ocean. A Nature Education Center offers monthly guided walks, presentations, volunteer opportunities and a third-grade naturalist program.

The auction raised an amazing \$15,000 with items including fabulous vacation homes from Maine to Catalina Island, plein air and other paintings, restaurant vouchers, jewelry and much more. Executive Director Adrienne Mohan says, “*Earth Day is a wonderful way to do something locally and join conservationists around the entire globe in celebrating the important contributions each person can make to protect our precious natural lands.*”



(L to R) Board members Allen Franz and Cindy Akiyama on Earth Day

REMEMBERING & CELEBRATING

Your celebration and remembrance gifts create a lasting tribute to friends and loved ones by helping to protect the beauty and character of the Palos Verdes Peninsula. List includes gifts donated from December 1, 2021 - December 23, 2022.

Sammy Acosta and David Ortega given by Janet Esposito
 Bill Ailor given by Missie Ailor Dusett
 Asher and Zander given by Shira Danielle Hatton
 George Babikan given by Eugene Wilson
 Kay Bara given by Melody Colbert
 Donald and Janine Batchelder given by Philip Batchelder
 Barbara Beall given by Dr. Gildon Beall
 Dave Bean given by Kelly Anne Martin
 Natasha Benner given by Diane Brydl
 Belyna Bentlage given by Craig Moody
 Sharon, CJ and Tommy Beshke given by Cheryl Beshke
 Bruce Biesman-Simons and Hale Field given by Charles Rannells
 Bruce Forster Bond given by Gabrielle
 Christopher Cashon given by Renae Roberts
 Kathy Christie given by Vanessa Porter
 Becky Cicoria given by Stephanie Seitz
 Barbara Cluke given by Laurel Curtis
 Dennis Collins given by Kelly Collins
 Linda Compian given by Adela Barnett
 Sean and Becky Conlon given by Terrence Conlon
 Becky Cool given by Delin Finley, Sara Ann Jennings, Matt and Emma, Monica Land Ojeda, Donita Smith, Allan, Karen and Kassie White and Kathleen Wilson
 Wendy Cooper given by Wendy Warner Lee
 Allen Curtis given by Richard Leib and Sharon
 Rosen Leib, Antoinette Perpall, John Terre
 Family and Richard and Susan Ulin
 Ann Dalkey given by South Bay Bird Society
 Bob and Joyce Daniels given by Judith Daniels
 Keith Davidson given by Kay Wardell
 Alan Debraal given by Kay Wardell
 Domino given by Maria Sutherland
 Stephen Duke given by Barbara Sue Ramsey-Duke
 Edward given by Cecelia Barrett
 Tracy Farman given by Nichelle Wileman
 William “Tiger” Finney given by Susan D. Finney
 Christine and Jonathan Floyd given by Darrell Floyd
 Jillian Force given by Charley Force
 Mary Franz given by Cynthia Rustanuis
 Barbara and George Gleghorn given by Linda Hanson
 Sarah Gonzalez and Jeff Cook given by Jess and Diane
 Yvonne Goppert given by Kristine McGuire
 Kennedy Kelly Gottschalk given by Diana Cahill
 Joseph Goulet given by Gail Goulet
 Joey Grieco given by C. Rae Grieco
 Enrique Guerrero given by Annette Guerrero
 Larry W Gunsalus given by Joyce Carol Watanabe
 Dee Gustavson given by Deborah Magaldi
 Reed Harman given by Nan Harman
 Linda Hernandez given by Susan Garcia
 Joe Himmelfarb given by David Presser and Michelle Finkel
 David Thomas Hodder given by Geoff and Enrica Cook
 Jill Hollingshead given by Robyn Hollingshead
 Kory Hunter given by Anna Pinto
 John and Helen Ireland given by Victoria Leo
 Mark C Johnson given by Susan Oudiz Johnson
 David Jones given by Jean Jones
 Alfred Kalunian given by Carrie Kelley and Joanne Stasio
 Kansha Creamery given by Amelia Ishii
 Charlie and Timmy Keese given by Dee Cook Keese

Conservancy Announces \$30 Million “Go Wild for the Peninsula” Campaign continued from page 7

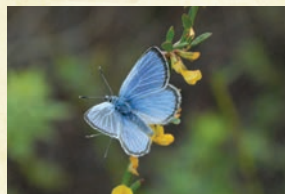
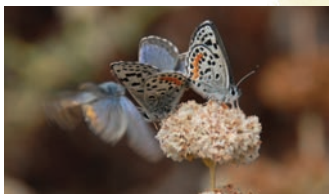


(L to R) Adrienne Mohan, Executive Director, Bill Ailor, Board member, Rob Kautz, Board President, Ara Mihranian, RPV City Manager, Susan Brooks former RPV City Council, David Bradley, RPV City Mayor and RPV City Council members Barbara Ferraro and John Cruikshank

fully conserving natural land with beautiful views for people to enjoy while restoring healthy ecosystems with native plants for beauty and for wildlife. Establishing the wildlife corridor will require extensive habitat restoration and fire risk mitigation work to help an array of endangered and threatened species like the Palos Verdes blue butterfly, the El Segundo blue butterfly, the monarch butterfly, songbirds such as the coastal California gnatcatcher, and rare local species like the cactus wren, raptors and owls, along with countless other birds and land mammals such as the gray fox. Restoration will include the removal of invasive plants—through the help of volunteers and goats—and the addition of drought-tolerant native plants local to the area. These plants provide food and habitat for native birds and butterflies, connecting the coast and the land above in a wildlife corridor.

Land Conservancy Founder and Board Member Bill Ailor urged “residents throughout the Peninsula and South Bay to join us and contribute to this extraordinary vision of a Wildlife Corridor.” Rob Kautz, President of the Conservancy’s Board said, “We’re on our way to our \$30 million goal and we ask community members and businesses to Go Wild for the Peninsula and contribute to help us restore this iconic coastal land.”

Please join us and “Go Wild for the Peninsula” at: GOWILDPV.ORG



(L to R) Burrowing Owl, CA Gnatcatcher, El Segundo Butterfly and PV Blue butterfly

Dr. Earl William Kendrick given by Jeffrey Galowich and Elizabeth Kendrick Galowich
 Wendy Knoph Cooper given by Kathy and Ben Austin
 Kuno Kids – Ayumi, Kenji and Kiyoshi given by Merrietta Fong
 Debbie Lahs given by Kimberly Lahs
 Glenn and Kristin Leidig-Sears given by Ann Wonder Dempsey
 Erin Levy given by Elliott Levy
 Stephanie D. Lewis given by Richard Steven Lewis, Jr.
 Laura Livingston given by Suzanne Henderson
 Davin Looney given by Sue Soldoff
 Franklin Low given by Howard Darvey, Janet Baptist Nozaki, Richard and Grace Wallace
 Carol Manchester given by Tom Manchester
 Mike Mangano given by Gloria Mangano
 Ronald Marinkovich given by Leah Marinkovich
 Pete Marsh given by Megan Marsh
 Charles May given by Betsy Anthony
 McHugh-Marine Family given by David Presser and Michelle Finkel
 Florence Meeker given by Leslie Kinney
 Gerard Melling given by Mary Melling
 Michael and Anna given by John Spencer
 Michelle given by Nikki Ridley
 Mick Miguez given by Mark and Barb Lurie
 Lorraine Mone given by Catherine Mone
 Corne Moody given by Kirk Moody
 James Morrison given by Elisabeth and James Meikle, Emily Morrison, Katie Morrison and Mary Katherine Morrison
 Regina O’Melveny given by Irene Rafael
 Charlotte and Kate Owens given by Dorothy Owens
 Diana Park given by Noel Park
 Carolyn and Andrew Petru given by Alexis Petru
 Phippen given by Betsy Anthony
 Sharon Polack given by Berta Seltzer
 Joyce Ann Randolph given by Shawn Randolph
 Anke Raue given by Barbara Knight Dye
 Dr. Jorg and Anke Raue given by Christopher and Bree Quigley
 David Robertson given by Karena Michelle Massengill
 Faith and Scott Rouse given by Ryan Chalman
 Jennifer Ryan given by Anne and Ray Destabelle
 Marion Scharffenberger given by Dr. Peter Barrett
 Raynae Schmeiser given by the team at REI Manhattan Beach
 David Scott, MD given by Barbara Demming Lurie and Mark Lurie
 Dr. Gilia Cobb Smith given by June Smith
 William Spencer given by Susan Spencer
 Loa Ruth Sprung given by Lowri Lee Sprung
 John Taber given by Joan Friedman, Marilou Lieman and Margaret Thelen
 Daryl Teshima given by Jill Perry
 Bill Tierney given by Ann Chaffey
 Alfred Valero given by Becky Cool
 Danielle Vona given by Andrea Vona
 Francesca Weaver given by Jeanne Kipp
 Nancy Wileman given by Nichelle Wileman

If you would like to make a donation in remembrance or celebration of someone, please note the information on the online giving form, mail us or email: info@pvplc.org.

Conservancy Brings Expertise and Assistance to the City of Rolling Hills for Fuel Load Reduction



Equipment used to remove acacia and other invasive large shrubs

Since 2019, the Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy has been offering technical expertise to aid the City of Rolling Hills in reducing fuel load vegetation by targeting the removal of invasive plants such as mustard and other non-native plants. This involves bringing in special teams to cut, chip or load out large branches. To date, the Conservancy has overseen the removal of over 30 acres of dry grasses, mustard, and other non-native plants as well as over three acres of non-native, invasive acacia. This year, the Conservancy will remove an additional 5.5 acres of non-native vegetation and one acre of acacia trees on behalf of Rolling Hills. According to Conservation Director Cris Sarabia, *"Partnering with Rolling Hills enables the Conservancy to reduce hazardous vegetation for the benefit of local residents; the land can then become home to native plants and wildlife."*



Parcel of land cleared of invasives

Classrooms are Welcomed Back Outdoors *continued from page 1*

pauses and the line halts as an Allen's hummingbird swoops back and forth in display flight directly over the students' heads. The little bird ascends towards the clouds then drops with a dramatic dive. "Oooh, WOW!" This is a welcome sight after the past two years of remote learning during the pandemic. This group of students from Bonita Street Elementary School participated in the Conservancy's Student Naturalist Program virtually during fall and is now meeting in-person for the first time – an exciting reunion in nature.

According to Education Director Holly Gray, *"We are thrilled that we have been able to transition the Student Naturalist Program from virtual back onto school campuses and that all of our 2022 field trips have been outdoors in nature."* Today the 8- and 9-year-olds will explore four different beautiful natural habitats during their tour of the preserves. They will visit various hands-on learning stations and experience habitat restoration by helping to plant native wildflower seeds. The Education Team and 21 volunteer education docents are grateful for the connections we have made with students despite the last two challenging years, but nothing beats getting students out on the trail where they learn by directly experiencing the natural world.



Photo Credit John Dickinson



Photo Credit John Dickinson

Volunteer Profile: Sue Scholton

Sue Scholton is one of the Conservancy's hard-working volunteers, assisting with both the stewardship and education programs. Sue has been a docent for many years, educating the public about White Point and its rich history. She has a professional background in education and is a skilled teacher. Her enthusiasm brings to life the science and nature-based topics of the Conservancy's Student Naturalist Program in the classroom, on student field trips, with visitors to the nature centers as well as out on the trail with hikers. Sue works passionately to support White Point Nature Preserve and helps to guide its future through her role as a member of the White Point Community Group.

According to Education Director Holly Gray, *"Sue's boundless enthusiasm and vigilant eye on the White Point Nature Preserve motivate all around her to prioritize conservation of this special place, and her talent as a teacher motivates the next generation of environmental stewards."* Sue's knowledge of and love for the native flora inspires everyone she meets. Sue has also taken all of her knowledge and applied it in the stewardship program where she leads volunteer Weed Warriors in the hard task of removing Russian thistle among other invasive weeds. According to Volunteer Coordinator Megan Wolff, *"Sue's ability to train other volunteers is a great asset to the team and she has become an essential leader with a long list of accomplishments."* Thank you Sue!

Volunteer Program Manager: Lynn Rotunno



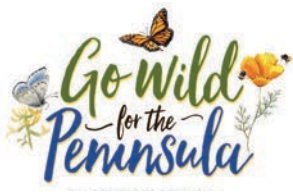
Greetings friends! My name is Lynn Rotunno and I am the Volunteer Program Manager at the Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy. I'm excited to work with our wonderful team of staff and volunteers!

I am from the Chicago region but I previously lived in Long Beach and always enjoy taking friends and family to the Peninsula. In my free time, I like hiking, biking and traveling. My love of nature and world travels have made me passionate about land conservation!

I have volunteered for many environmental organizations and enjoy helping people to connect with nature. The Volunteer Program at the Land Conservancy provides many opportunities for you to experience the beauty of the Peninsula preserves, enjoy outdoor activities with friends and family, learn more about local plants and animals, meet others who care about nature and help make a difference.

If you are interested in volunteering with the Land Conservancy, please visit pvplc.org/volunteer. If you have any questions or want to learn more about our programs, please contact me at (310) 541-7613, x 215 or lrotunno@pvplc.org any time.





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preserving land and restoring habitat for the education and enjoyment of all

SPECIAL EVENTS January through April 2023

Jan 14 | Nature Walk

[Agua Amarga Reserve 9am](#)

Walk the trail, enjoy the view and appreciate the results of many volunteers' trail and habitat restoration efforts in this quiet neighborhood canyon. Moderate. RPV

Jan 16 | MLK, Jr. Day of Service

[White Point Nature Preserve 9am](#)

Please join us and help restore the natural land to functional habitat, benefiting local wildlife and our community.

Jan 29 | Virtual Event with Award-winning Filmmakers of *Chesley Bonestell - A Brush with the Future*

[Virtual Zoom + DVD/Streaming](#)

Live Zoom Q&A with filmmakers about Bonestell's dazzling visions of our solar system credited with inspiring the creation of the American space program. \$30 donation per family includes Zoom link, DVD home delivery to view in advance at pvplc.org/calendar.

Feb 11 | Trail Crew Intro Class

[Hesse Park, 9am](#)

Learn about trail building and maintenance from a nationally-recognized trail expert on various techniques for erosion repair, building rock walls, proper pruning and more! No experience required. Age 18 and over. Sign up at: pvplc.org/calendar-for-volunteers.

Mar 4 | Cactus Wren Monitor Training

[Alta Vicente, 9am](#)

Be a Citizen Scientist monitoring the charismatic and rare cactus wrens to track the birds, their nests, and their success in rearing babies. Age 16 and over. Sign up at: pvplc.org/calendar-for-volunteers.

Mar 9 | Docent Orientation

[Virtual, 9 - 10:30am](#)

Share your love of nature with students and nature center visitors! No experience required, training provided. Age 18 and over. Sign up at: pvplc.org/calendar-for-volunteers.

Apr 22 | Earth Day Celebration

[White Point Nature Preserve, 9am-12pm](#)

Please join us and help restore the natural land to functional habitat, benefiting local wildlife and our community.

Apr 23 | Wild & Scenic Film Festival

[Warner Grand Theatre, 4pm](#)

An exciting selection of adventurous and inspirational films about nature. You'll be moved, transfixed and energized to make a difference in our world. Tickets \$15 advance purchase; \$20 at the door. Visit pvplc.org/calendar.



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SPECIAL ISSUE