

Moving Forward on the Palos Verdes Nature Preserve

The Rancho Palos Verdes City Council recently took several actions related to the newly-created nature preserve in RPV, but decided not to lift the temporary trail closures in the Portuguese Bend area that were put in place in November 2007 until certain conditions were met. The Conservancy, as manager for the property, is currently developing the trail signage and educational materials required by the Council.

Current trail closure rules were put in place in response to Conservancy concerns that habitat in the Portuguese Bend area was being compromised by creation of new trails through sensitive areas and uncontrolled use by the public. Temporary restrictions limit public use to the main fire roads.

A bit of history: After community acquisition of 430 acres in Portuguese Bend in 2005, the City Council created the Public Use Master Plan (PUMP) Committee to begin the challenging task of developing recommendations for public use of a preserve complex that, with the addition of these 430 acres, now consists of nine individual properties totaling nearly 1200 acres in RPV. (The City owns the land in the preserve complex and makes decisions on the public use of this land; the Conservancy manages the preserves and works with the City to implement its public use decisions.)

Continued on Page 2

Map showing all the Reserves in the Palos Verdes Nature Preserve.



Andrea Vona Appointed Executive Director



Andrea Vona has been appointed the new Executive Director of the Conservancy. Vona had been acting Executive Director after the resignation of Barbara Dye late last year.

“We conducted a nationwide search for this key position,” said Henry Jurgens, President of the Conservancy, “and although there were other outstanding candidates, it became clear to us that Andrea stood out as the leader in the group. She was the perfect candidate to lead the Conservancy as we enter the twentieth year of our existence.”

Continued on page 3

INSIDE

Moving Forward	p. 2
Andrea Vona	p. 3
Before and After	p. 4
Weather Stations	p. 5
Blue Butterfly	p. 5
Ways to Give	p. 6
Mark Your Calendars.	p. 7
Spring Calendar.	p. 8

Moving Forward

Continued from page 1

On Saturday, February 23 and Tuesday, March 18, 2008, the City Council held meetings to review the PUMP Committee's Trails Network Plan. This plan includes recommendations on trail locations, names, and uses. The Plan also recommended a name for the overall preserve and each of the individual properties within the preserve.

Based on the PUMP Committee's recommendations and on extensive testimony from the public, the Council took the following actions:

- The overall nature preserve complex was named the "Palos Verdes Nature Preserve".
- Each Preserve area is to be known as a "Reserve".
- The Reserve located at the end of Crenshaw Blvd, which consists mainly of the land acquired in the 2005 Capital Campaign, will now be called the Portuguese Bend Reserve.
- The Trails Network Plan was approved for the Agua Amarga, Alta Vicente, Vista del Norte, Vicente Bluffs, Portuguese Bend, and Forrestal Reserves.

The Council also decided not to lift the temporary trail closures until the property has been properly marked, materials are available for public education, and the City's enforcement program has been developed. Additional PUMP committee recommendations will be reviewed at future City Council meetings.

The Conservancy is working with RPV city staff to satisfy the City Council's requirements for reopening the trail system in the Portuguese Bend Reserve as quickly as possible. Specific actions include:

- Educational materials with maps will be placed at trailheads to identify the trail systems and provide usage guidelines for some of the more heavily used reserves (e.g., Forrestal and Portuguese Bend).
- Signage has been developed and is being fabricated.
- RPV city staff is developing a workable enforcement program.

We hope to meet the City's requirements for reopening the Portuguese Bend Reserve as quickly as possible. In the meantime, it is clear that cooperation by the public is critical as we work to preserve and enhance the habitat value of these special areas while also maintaining approved public access and usage. We urge the various user groups to respect one another and to respect the fragile nature of the native habitat as we move forward.



A view at Portuguese Bend Reserve in spring.

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OPEN SPACES

A newsletter published by the Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy

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Andrea Vona

Continued from page 1

Andrea, who grew up in Southern California, is as native to the area as the coastal sage scrub she has spent the past nine years of her career nurturing and restoring. She has undergraduate and graduate degrees in environmental studies and has led the major planning and restoration projects at the Conservancy for the past six years.

As the manager of the White Point Nature Preserve, she chaired the Advisory Board and managed the implementation of the master plan that has transformed a trash strewn, weedy site into a thriving haven for native plants and animals (see story on page 4).

With the help of 8,000 volunteer hours from the San Pedro community and beyond, and the assistance of the City of Los Angeles, she led the implementation of the White Point master plan and managed a \$500,000 annual operational budget.

"It's been a joy to work with the both the community and the city of Los Angeles to see White Point come to fruition," Vona said.



Andrea Vona, PVPLC Executive Director, received the South Bay Audubon Society's Restoration Award for her work at the White Point Nature Preserve.

Prior to joining the Conservancy, Andrea was an ecologist for Jones & Stokes Associates of Irvine and a habitat manager for the Ocean Trails Golf Club.

Vona, a resident of San Pedro, received the PV/South Bay Audubon Society's 2007 Restoration Award for her leadership of habitat restoration efforts at White Point.

Andrea said, "It is a great privilege to be able to participate professionally and serve my community in support of the vision and work of the Land Conservancy.

As the leader of the Land Conservancy, I will work to continue to preserve land on the Peninsula in support of a contiguous and thriving nature preserve, continue our science based habitat restoration programs to enhance the conservation values of our natural areas, and continue to expand

the breadth and depth of our education program so that more people can become connected to the landscapes that we have all worked so hard to preserve."

Please join us in welcoming Andrea as Executive Director of the Land Conservancy.

AMBER HEIDT NAMED NEW MANAGER OF MARKETING COMMUNICATIONS

Amber Heidt is the new Manager of Marketing Communications for the Conservancy and has been busy transitioning into the position previously held by Mary Ellen Richardson.

Amber has over five years of experience in marketing communications, event planning, and fund raising in both the non-profit and corporate sectors. She has arranged a variety of gatherings (including annual activities for over 2,000 people), supervised and trained staff for events, written press releases and newsletters, and assisted in creating and designing web sites.

Amber has a BA in Communications – Advertising and Public Relations. She and her husband Philip live in Redondo Beach.

Mary Ellen Richardson, who many of you know first as the friendly voice that answered the phones, and more recently as the person who managed our events and communications activities, decided to join her husband Don in "active retirement" last month. For her that means skiing and camping trips, brushing up on her French, and taking extended vacations around the world.

Mary Ellen's set of skills in marketing, writing, design, information technology, and accounting were critical to the growth of the Conservancy over the last five years. The long hours at the office and her dedication to the Conservancy's mission of preserving open space was recognized and appreciated by all who worked with her.

The good news is that we aren't saying goodbye to Mary Ellen, because she will continue to support the Conservancy as a volunteer in many areas, including events which she initiated and managed like the Home Tour in San Pedro and the Halloween Bark and Boo at White Point.

We wish Mary Ellen and Don all the best in this new chapter of their lives.

Volunteer Picnic 2008

We honored our outstanding volunteers this year on March 9th at the Point Vicente Interpretive Center. Volunteer opportunities include our Keepers Program that helps us monitor the Preserves, helping in our office, and planting native shrubs on volunteer days. Pictured below are the Outstanding Volunteers for 2007. Anke Raue received the President's Award for her leadership in our Nature Walks.



Pictured from Left to Right: John Miller, accepting for his wife Terry Miller, Leslie and Stephanie Gavinsky, accepting on behalf of The National Charity League- Palos Verdes Chapter, Anke Raue- Presidents Award, Mark Edwards accepting on behalf of HERO Club. Not pictured: Ed Beall

STEWARDSHIP, RESTORATION AND EDUCATION UPDATES

Before and After – White Point Nature Preserve



The once barren landscape has been lovingly replaced with beautiful poppies and sage scrub.

What happens when the Conservancy restores habitat? An excellent example can be seen at the 102 acre White Point Nature Preserve.

As a former military base sporting Nike missiles, this preserve was a derelict, tumbleweed covered site when the Conservancy began its restoration in 2003. Over 10,000 volunteer hours and 100,000 new plants have dramatically transformed the White Point Nature Preserve into a coastal sage scrub and grasslands habitat.

Wildlife quickly took advantage of the new refuge and now the Preserve is teeming with diverse populations of butterflies, birds, and animals. Visitors to the Preserve can hear California gnatcatchers hopping about in the sagebrush, see meadowlarks in the grasslands, and red tail hawks soaring above looking for errant ground squirrels, and even spot a burrowing owl in winter. By taking a closer look, visitors can find pygmy blue butterflies flitting about in the quail bush, colorful bumble bees feeding on California bush sunflowers, and a host of other interesting insects whose presence tell us that the habitat is healthy.

The work is not done and the Conservancy continues to improve the quality of the coastal sage scrub. Tumbleweeds and other non-native plants that continue to sprout from the seedbank must be removed. As the plants mature and the non-natives are more firmly eradicated, burrowing owls and meadowlarks may take up year-round residency. New species, such as the cactus wren and California quail may also return, signaling the return to a more complete Coastal Sage scrub community.

CONSERVANCY STARTS NATURE CENTER WITHOUT WALLS PROGRAM

Come join us for an inside look at the White Point Nature Preserve. Led by an experienced naturalist, you will be taken on a moderate hike through the Preserve and introduced to many of the secrets and treasures of White Point. There will be a fun nature craft for the kids and an information booth on the exciting projects happening at the preserve. The hikes will be May 17th and June 21st, beginning at 9 am in the White Point parking lot. The information booth will be available until 1 pm.

Spring is in Bloom



Lupine

The winter rains have delivered a spectacular spring this year. A myriad of wildflowers such as lupine, mariposa lily, and wild hyacinth grace the hillsides. The bush sunflower is peaking with bright yellow blooms everywhere on the Preserves.

Because most plants are in bloom, spring is the perfect time to conduct vegetation surveys of the preserves. Thanks to a grant from the Department of Fish and Game, the Conservancy will survey all of the land in the Palos Verdes Nature Preserve to classify and map the various vegetation communities.

This comprehensive project will produce accurate and detailed vegetation maps that will help the Conservancy to better prioritize restoration sites, monitor vegetation communities, and survey for rare species.

Conservancy stewardship staff is also busy with native habitat restoration work at White Point Nature Preserve, Friendship Park, Forrestal Reserve, and Linden H. Chandler Preserve. At the Alta Vicente Reserve (below RPV City Hall), staff is preparing the site for five acres of habitat restoration.

This preparation work includes weed removal, seed collection, and installing irrigation equipment. All of these restoration projects will add diversity to the landscapes and ultimately support rare bird and butterfly populations. Look for more beautiful blooms in the years to come.

Weather Stations for the Preserve

With a generous grant from Pete Major, our RECIPE program (Research, Education, and Community Involvement Program for the Environment) will be installing automated weather station arrays throughout the Peninsula. Eight units will be located at intermediate schools and on our preserves.

Given the variety of micro climates throughout the Peninsula, each weather station will be invaluable by measuring temperature, rainfall, and wind speed at the sites. Data will be automatically collected and transmitted in real time to the Conservancy's office and made available to the public via our web page, www.pvplc.org.

Our stewardship staff will use this data to help manage their restoration activities at our preserves, letting them know the right time for planting and also when we can turn the watering systems on and off. Students at intermediate schools will use weather data as part of their earth sciences curriculum.

As an added feature, we'll include historical weather data collected by retired meteorologist and former PVPLC Board member Don Gales on the web page, as well as water conservation tips.

Watch www.pvplc.org for announcements on the new weather information.

Automated weather station in use.



STEWARDSHIP, RESTORATION AND EDUCATION UPDATES

Revival of the Blue Butterfly



The Palos Verdes blue butterfly (*Glaucopsyche lygdamus palosverdesensis*) was identified in the late 1970's as a unique species found only on the Palos Verdes Peninsula. By the early 80's, the butterfly was thought to have been pushed to extinction by habitat loss. However, in 1994 a team of researchers rediscovered the butterfly at the Defense Fuel Supply Point in San Pedro.

The Land Conservancy, U.S. Fish and Wildlife, Defense Logistics Agency, and the Navy

are teaming with The Urban Wildlands Group for the recovery and monitoring effort. Jana Johnson, a biologist working for The Urban Wildlands Group, manages the captive breeding program in collaboration with Moorpark College.

The captive breeding program has been more successful than anticipated in increasing the captive population numbers. While the wild butterfly population in San Pedro remains at several hundred butterflies, the captive rearing program produced thousands of pupae in 2007. In 2008, the rate of butterflies emerging from the chrysalis (dormancy period) were at an all time high, with up to 700 butterflies emerging per day.

The rearing program is made possible by a small group of dedicated scientists and students who care for butterflies as they emerge from their dormancy period and enter into each of their life phases. The butterfly lay their eggs on host plants, deerweed (*Lotus scoparius*) and rattlepod (*Astragalus trichopodus*) which are grown by the Conservancy nursery. The caterpillars eat those plants as they grow.

Rearing butterflies is only part of the process to recover the species. The Conservancy is working to restore wildland habitat for the butterfly by growing and planting native plants and removing non-native invasive species.

Conservancy staff members Ann Dalkey and Becky Harper are in the process of becoming certified by US Fish & Wildlife to conduct official field surveys of wild Palos Verdes blue butterflies. This permitting will allow Conservancy staff to accurately account for the presence of the butterfly in the wild and track progress of future reintroductions.

The success of this year's captive rearing program and the continued habitat restoration efforts are necessary steps towards successful species recovery. We all look forward to the day when we may spot a PV blue in the wild on an early spring hike through the Preserves.



Rattlepod is one of the host plants on which butterfly lay eggs on.

MAKE THE MOST OF YOUR GIFT

A gift of appreciated securities can offer an even larger savings on your taxes than writing a check. In the example below, a donation of stock now worth \$20,000 which was purchased years ago for \$5,000, will save you \$7,850 in taxes versus \$5,600 if you write a check - an additional savings of \$2,250!

The example assumes a marginal federal income tax rate of 28 percent and no state or local income taxes.

Cash vs. Stock Gifts	Cash	Stock
Value of desired gift	\$20,000	\$20,000
Marginal income tax rate	X .28	X .28
Tax savings from deduction	\$5,600	\$5,600
Capital gain if sold (\$20,000 - \$5,000)		\$15,000
Capital gains tax rate		X .15
Capital gains tax avoided		\$2,250
Net cost of gift	\$14,400	\$12,150

Please call Bob Ford, Director of Development, for additional information at (310) 541-7613.

OTHER WAYS TO GIVE

Donate Online Now



Donating to the Conservancy has never been easier thanks to a new capability that allows us to accept online donations. Now you can visit our website at www.pvplc.org, click on the "Donate Now" button and make your donation by credit card on a secure web site in one easy step.

Through "Donate Now", the Conservancy is able to accept credit card payments from Visa, Mastercard, and American Express. Donors also have the option of making regular monthly or quarterly recurring gifts.

In the very near future, you will also be able to purchase tickets to events such as the Spring for White Point Home Tour. Questions or comments? Please contact Amber Heidt at (310)541-7613 X 210.

Contribute While You Shop

You can also help the Conservancy's many education programs by shopping at your local Ralphs and Albertsons. When you register your preferred savings card to the Conservancy, we receive a rebate with each purchase you make! It's that easy. Directions To Register:

Ralphs- Call: 1-800-443-4438, or go to www.ralphs.com, click on "site map", click on "community contribution", click on "participant". Our NPO # is 84849.

Albertsons- Call: 1-877-932-7948, or go to www.albertsons.com, click on "about albertsons", click on "in the community", click on "Albertsons' Community Partners". Our organization # is 49000116048.

Questions or comments? Please contact Amber Heidt at (310)541-7613 X 210.

We Remember

Eric Allan given by Cynthia Allan

Judge and Jeanne Anderson given by Meri Swafford

Mae Marsh Arms given by Meri Swafford

Juliana Baratti given by John Baratti

Jack Bauman given by Joyce Bauman

Linda Bloom given by Michael and Bernice Green

Richard Brauer M.D. given by Rodney and Kyle Boone

David Clum given by Judy and Carlisle George

Robert Coors given by Enid Coors

Jack Curley given by Diane Trudell

Leo J. Denham given by Janice Denham

Bernard Edwards given by Dianne Trudell

Carol Erickson given by Patricia Bastien, Jeffrey and Akiko Bontems, Vicki and Mark Dickerson, Richard Dobson, Veronica Johnson, Robert and Ruth Mc Millen, Michael and Tam Oleszczak, and Friends at the Friedkin Companies.

Edna and Frank given by Susannah Garcia

Bill Frazier given by Diane Trudell

Jerry Glass given by Jacqueline M. Glass

Antoni Glowacki given by James and Antonia Colton

John Ireland given by Marion Hanchett and Jagan Mehta

Dorothy Jungkind given by Renae Roberts

Yvonne Diane Lloyd given by Jan Govaerts

Bill Millar given by Rosellen Trunnell

Marion McArthur given by Becky Cool

Dr. Neil McPhail given by Irma and Herbert Remstein

Bruno Michetti given by Jo Ann Michetti

John T. Neth given by Marguerite and Jim Wilkie

David Peng given by Richard and Gail Effros

Brittnay Reed given by Bill Tilley

Midori and Kazue Seo given by Dan and Sumi Seki

Robert Touseley given by Joyce Huppert

Helen Hensinger Tuttle given by Henry Tuttle

Norman Ullrich given by Jean Wong

Dr. Stanley Walsh given by Audrey Murray

Jennifer Winkelspecht given by Brian and Lisa Winkelspecht

Frances Yarber given by Diana Innes

We Celebrate

Anne and Patrick given by Jose and Sabine De Chastonay

Michael and Virginia Cicoria given by John and Lore Peck

Richard Davis' birthday given by Richard and Gail Davis

Bill Magee's 70th Birthday given by Marilyn Edwards

Aley and Adam Mc Phail's Birthday given by Irma and Herbert Remstein

Dr. and Mrs. John Montgomerie's 50th Wedding Anniversary given by Elaine and Bernie Mendes

John Wessel's Birthday given by Brenda and Michael McNamara

Mark Your Calendars!

Sunday, June 1, 2008



SELF-GUIDED HOME TOUR
1:00PM TO 5:00PM

CELEBRATION RECEPTION
4:30PM TO 7:00PM
Plaza at Cabrillo Marina, 224 Whalers Walk,
San Pedro

Silent Art Auction • Music by The
Howard Ellis Quartet • Wine &
Appetizers • Home & Garden Raffle

TICKETS: \$50 PER PERSON IN ADVANCE
\$55 PER PERSON DAY OF TOUR

Purchase online at www.pvplc.org or call
(310) 541-7613.
Purchase tickets on day of tour at White Point
Nature Preserve, 1600 Paseo del Mar, San Pedro.
Subject to availability. Homes are not handicapped-
accessible.
*All proceeds will go to the Palos Verdes Peninsula Land
Conservancy for continuing site improvements and
habitat restoration at the White Point Nature Preserve.*

OPENING RECEPTION

Saturday, June 28, 2008
12PM TO 4PM

Malaga Cove Plaza Library Gallery
\$20 per person donation accepted at the door

HIGHLIGHT LECTURES *

Saturday, June 28
10:30AM TO 12:00PM
1:30PM TO 3:00PM

Beauty of the California Coast
Jean Stern, Executive Director of
The Irvine Museum
Malaga Cove Plaza Community Room

EXHIBITION AND SALE

June 30- July 25
Mon-Sat 10AM TO 5PM
Malaga Cove Plaza Library Gallery

Portuguese Bend Artist Colony Members

Rick Humphrey • Stephen Mirich • Daniel Pinkham
Vicki Pinkham • Kevin Prince
Tom Redfield • Amy Sidrane

*Lectures are limited to 50 guests.
\$20 per person. Reservations are required.
For reservations and more information, call Mary Lopes
at (310)541-7613 x206 or e-mail mlopes@pvplc.org.

Portraits of Preservation Fine Art Exhibition & Sale



"The Spirit of Portuguese Bend" by Dan Pinkham.

MAY 3

**Volunteer Workday
White Point
Nature Preserve
9am - Noon**

Pitch in to help celebrate the Mayor's Day of Service at White Point Nature Preserve.

MAY 10

**Nature Walk
Sacred Cove Trail
9am - 11am**

Situated between Portuguese Point and Inspiration Point, this small cove features unusual rock formations edged with tide pools and a deep water channel into a sea cave. Moderate to strenuous. RPV.

MAY 10

**Volunteer Workday
Forrestal Reserve
9am - Noon**

Help us with trail maintenance.

MAY 17

**Volunteer Workday
Nursery
9am - Noon**

Help transplant native seedlings.
Call for reservations.

MAY 17

**Nature Center without Walls and Walk the White Point Nature Preserve
9am - 1pm**

Come join us for an inside look at the White Point Nature Preserve.

MAY 18

**Night Hike
George F Canyon
Time to be arranged**

This hike will bring you to the top of the canyon for a fantastic view of the city lights below. Limited to 20 people. Call 310.547.0862 for reservations.

SPRING CALENDAR

Join us for these exciting events and volunteer opportunities! Reservations are recommended for all Volunteer Workdays and they are required for workdays at the DFSP.

For information and reservations, call Christen Baum at 310/541-7613, ext. 201. Directions and information about our nature walks can be found at www.pvplc.org/naturewalks.

JUNE 1

**Spring for White Point Home Tour
Home Tour: 1- 4 pm
Reception: 4:30pm - 7pm**

Come see an interesting assortment of creative homes in San Pedro and cap the night with a spectacular party with a silent auction. Tickets are \$50 and can be purchased at www.pvplc.org or 310.541.7613.

JUNE 7

**Volunteer Workday
Portuguese Bend Reserve
9am - Noon**

Celebrate National Trails Day at Portuguese Bend Reserve by helping maintain the trails. (Sponsored by REI.)

JUNE 14

**Nature Walk
Lemonade Berry Trail
9am - 11am**

Walk down old Crenshaw through an area of beautiful coastal sage scrub habitat and on to Ailor Cliff to see pillow lava and rare flowers. Strenuous. RPV.
(Please note that you will park at Del Cerro for this hike.)

JUNE 14

**Volunteer Workday
Nursery
9am - Noon**
Help transplant native seedlings.
Call for reservations.

JUNE 20

**Night Hike
George F Canyon
Time to be arranged**

This hike will bring you to the top of the canyon for a fantastic view of the city lights below. Limited to 20 people. Call 310.547.0862 for reservations.

JUNE 21

**Nature Center without Walls and Walk the White Point Nature Preserve
9am - 1pm**

Come join us for an inside look at the White Point Nature Preserve.

JUNE 28

**Annual Art Exhibition
Opening Reception
12 pm - 4 pm**

\$20 per person donation accepted at the door.
Malaga Cove Plaza Library.

JUNE 30 - JULY 25

**Annual Art Exhibition and Sale
June 30 - July 25
Mon - Sat 10am - 5pm
Malaga Cove Plaza Library.**



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