

## *The Opportunity is Now!*

The Community Campaign to Preserve Portuguese Bend is receiving overwhelming community support. Approximately \$100,000 per week is being donated by community members who want to be part of this historic effort to purchase most of the remaining open space on the south side of the Peninsula and create the Portuguese Bend Nature Preserve.

All of the funding sources are in place for the first acquisition.

- ✓ The Wildlife Conservation Board will vote \$10 million from Proposition 50 at its August 25<sup>th</sup> meeting;
- ✓ Thanks to the support of Supervisor Don Knabe, Los Angeles County has committed \$1 million in funds from Prop 50 per capita funds that can only be used for this kind of project;
- ✓ The Coastal Conservancy will approve its funding in early September;
- ✓ Cal State Dominguez Hills provided \$120,000 toward the acquisition and another \$120,000 toward grasslands restoration in the new Preserve and at the White Point Nature Preserve as mitigation for a parking lot.

Now it's up to the Peninsula to raise the \$4 million in private funds to complete the transaction. With less than two months left before the purchase agreement with Barry Hon expires, the campaign team is working hard to get the word out about the challenge we face. We invite you to be part of this historic effort. Join us for an informational meeting, visit our web page, or call the office for more information.



Ed & Susie Beall and Reed & Nan Harmon hosted a party for the Preserve and added some fun by offering "hors d'oeuvre" paintings by members of the Portuguese Bend Artist Colony.



Campaign Co-Chair Jim Scharffenberger (right) introduced Tracy Austin as the keynote speaker at a special event for Mariposa Circle members to launch the Community Campaign to Preserve Portuguese Bend.

## **Fundraising Campaign Kicks Into High Gear**

by Judy Herman

Peacock Flats is an odd name for a hill. Rising from the russet, green and gold slopes of Portuguese Bend, crowned with a row of dark pines silhouetted against the blue ocean and sky, Peacock Flats is a favorite of painters and photographers, hikers and horseback riders. It's not flat now, but it could soon be leveled if the Land Conservancy fails to meet its goal of raising \$4 million to complete the purchase of 425 acres of undeveloped land by Sept. 15.

Since its founding in 1988 the Land Conservancy has been working to save open space in Palos Verdes and has dreamed of creating a 1500-acre Portuguese Bend Nature Preserve. With government help it has acquired hundreds of acres from San Pedro to Palos Verdes Estates, including areas at the eastern and western ends of the proposed preserve. Two landowners hold the remaining 700 acres. One of them, Barry Hon, whose property includes Peacock Flats, has agreed to sell, if the deal is completed by Sept. 15.

### **WE'RE SPREADING THE WORD!**

*Area residents are spreading the word through neighborhood parties; banners and counter displays are placed throughout the Peninsula; and mailers have been sent to every household. On August 14, Bill Ailor will conduct an informational meeting at the PV Library Community Room from 3 to 5pm. Please invite your friends and neighbors.*

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# PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

## Such a Party We'll Have!

This is the last newsletter before completion of a goal we've worked toward for more than seventeen years: the creation of the Portuguese Bend Nature Preserve—a place where people can walk and enjoy nature, confident that this special area is a permanent public resource.

When we began in 1988, there were only a few who believed our community could make it happen. Today, thousands have joined the effort, adding their time and financial support. They and many more will celebrate this fall when we purchase more than 420 acres and create the Preserve—an event of historic proportions for the Peninsula and South Bay.

Combined with previously-protected land, we will have preserved almost 900 acres of this magnificent area. The acquisition will also trigger conservation easements over an additional 300 acres of land, assuring that more than 1200 acres will remain as you see them today.

True, there's a bit more to do to finish the Preserve. We would like to acquire all of the



*Hazy Afternoon by Rick Humphrey*

Filiorum area (just west of the Portuguese Bend community). The creation of the Preserve includes acquisition of the upper 218 acres of the property, which would be an outstanding first step. The landowner is proposing development for the lower portion of that property, which is not included in the current acquisition proposal. We hope to complete a purchase agreement with him for the upper portion in the near future.

All we need between now and September is to raise the final \$2 million required to reach our \$4 million goal. Those funds will trigger the release of more than \$13 million in public funds,

and the 1200 acres will be forever preserved. \$2 million seems like such a small amount when you consider how far we've come and what we'll have forever, but it's critical to our success.

We can all look forward to celebrating a major event in our community later this year, an event made possible by people who had a vision and a community that gave its strong support. If you haven't made your contribution to the acquisition, show your support and do it now. And let's have a party for the Preserve!

Bill Ailor

## 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.*

## PALOS VERDES PENINSULA LAND CONSERVANCY

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### George F Canyon Naturalist

Loretta Rose

## Open Spaces

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# CAPITAL CAMPAIGN NEWS

## Portuguese Bend Fundraising Kicks into High Gear

Continued from Page 1

Mike Walker, project manager for Hon, said, "Everyone freaks out when they hear about landslides, but the active slide is not on all [425] acres. The city's geotechnical experts said Peacock Flats is stable."

If the deal falls through Hon may build 40 homes in Peacock Flats and a golf course on the less stable land. Walker said he and Hon have supported the Conservancy's goals, but "[w]e have been patient a long time...[If the opportunity is missed] I doubt the state will be able to get another bond measure. This is the last best chance."

If the purchase from Hon is completed it will trigger the creation of the preserve in accordance with the Natural Communities Conservation Planning (NCCP) strategy reached worked out by the city of Rancho Palos Verdes. The Conservancy will then restore native habitat to help safeguard endangered species.

NCCP is an innovative program developed by the California Dept. of Fish and Game to conserve entire ecosystems, rather than single species, while accommodating compatible land use. The city's NCCP plan is what persuaded the state and federal governments to contribute funds for the preserve. Aided by a state bond measure, government agencies are committed to provide 75 per cent of the purchase price, with the remainder to come from the community. But if the fundraising goal is not met by the September deadline the dream of a nature preserve may be lost forever.

Some Conservancy literature mentions a \$6 million fundraising target, because besides Hon the PVPLC is negotiating with another property owner, Jim York, to acquire a parcel for the preserve. But the Hon deal is key. The government agencies are poised to place their funds in escrow if the community raises \$4 million to complete that purchase by his deadline.

The purchase would trigger the creation of the preserve, which includes conservation easements on city property at Abalone Cove and City Hall. Although a proposal to use land around City Hall as part of a golf course provoked a negative reaction in the community, the Conservancy recognizes that there is a demand for sports fields. The easement lines were

carefully drawn to preserve habitat on slopes and leave flat areas available for sports.

Four million dollars is a large amount to raise in a few months, but the PVPLC is optimistic. The Conservancy is offering lasting recognition to peninsula families able to make substantial donations. Major contributors can put themselves on the map, in the form of their names on several wilderness areas within the preserve, the Gateway Park or the entire preserve.

But even small contributors can have big leverage. Some major foundations are waiting to see whether the preserve has broad community support, as measured by the number of contributors, before committing substantial funds. Therefore, PVPLC officials say, every donation counts.

Although Conservancy officials are confident that there is enough community support to establish the preserve, they reassure donors that if the deal fails their donations will be returned.

Executive Vice President Henry Jurgens said, "People should give as generously as they can because this is a one-time deal. There won't be another chance to save Portuguese Bend."



*Poetic Essentials Portuguese Bend by Daniel W. Pinkham*

### THANK YOU!

*So many members of the community have donated their time and energy to helping with the Capital Campaign. We wouldn't be where we are today without your help!*

#### **Capital Campaign Committee:**

*Jim Scharffenberger, Wayne Sharp, Edward Carson Beall, Christopher Burke, James Cheney & Carolyn Nelson, Becky Clark, Marc Crawford, Loren DeRoy, Bob Ford, Barbara & George Gleghorn, Karen Logan, Don Mehlig, Sharon Nolan, Ellen Perkins, Pamela Reis.*

*Many have hosted gatherings to share information about the Campaign. Space doesn't permit us to list all of the co-hosts, but the events were organized by Ed & Susie Beall, Alan & Jody Browning, Debbie & Gary Fournier, Maude Landon, Nan & Reed Harman, Henry Jurgens, Sharon Nolan, Jack & Anne Smith, Barbara & Dick Trakas, Betty Zappas ... and many more.*



*Chris Burke with fiancée Ramona Rose. Chris produced the well-received DVD about the Capital Campaign.*

# PRESERVES & PROGRAMS

## Education Program

Another successful year brought our education program to all of the third grades in Palos Verdes, one school in Lomita, and five schools in San Pedro (a total of 17). This season has reached more than 1500 children bringing the ten-year total to 12,000+ participants. Over 350 parent volunteers were trained this year as trailside docents, helping the children interpret their surroundings during the nature walk that concludes each school session. The Program could not function at the high standards that it does without the attention to detail of the 13 dedicated classroom docents who present the four classroom sessions and the nature walk at each school. This program has been praised by each school's staff, and other area schools are waiting to be included when funding permits. We appreciate recent grants from National Charity League and Las Candalistas which help make the program possible. If you would like to learn more about the docent training or other volunteer opportunities please call the PVPLC office.

## Chandler Preserve

The City of Rolling Hills Estates installed automobile barriers to prevent further incursions into the Preserve. With our new sign and the boulder with the plaque thanking the Ginsburgs, the Preserve entry area now has a whole new look. We appreciate the students from Torrance High School who devoted many hours of work to remove a giant acacia tree from the Preserve.



*New barriers have been installed to prevent motor vehicle damage at the Chandler Preserve.*

## DFSP / Native Plant Nursery

The butterfly habitat areas are being weeded, and plants are being propagated for next year's planting season. An outstanding work day brought dozens of volunteers to help with transplanting and weeding.

## Forrestal Preserve

The new Forrestal Advisory Board has been appointed (see box) and has been busy reviewing future trail repair projects. The project list will be forwarded to the City for environmental and public review. Once the City Council has approved the projects, we will be ready to start trail improvements in the Preserve.



*Forrestal Advisory Board members at the site of the equestrian turnaround.*

We have many volunteers to thank for their help at Forrestal. First, the 50 people who came out to work on National Trails Day, cosponsored by REI. They removed invasive plants and repaired trails. REI provided food and t-shirts, and we thank them very much. We also thank students from Palos Verdes High School who spent an afternoon pulling out the invasive pea plants that have recently begun infesting the preserve. They made a real dent in the numbers of this non-native plant that smothers everything it covers.

Forrestal Advisory Board	
Richard Bara	equestrian
Barry Bonnickson	hiker
Troy Braswell	bicyclist
Kurt Loheit	trail expert
Jess Morton	naturalist
Bob Mucha	neighbor
John Nieto	educator

## George F Canyon Preserve

The City of Rolling Hills Estates and PVPLC will be working together this fall to implement a habitat restoration grant in the canyon. Non-natives will be removed, and native plants added to the habitat areas. We are looking for volunteers to serve on an Advisory Board for the canyon and center. It will involve three to five meetings a year, and provide an opportunity for the community to know what's going on at this major community resource. Call the PVPLC office if you'd like to help.

On June 4th and 5th, we were pleased to have prospective Eagle Scout Travis Shannon lead his Troop (#210), family and friends on a project that included trail widening, removal of non-native vegetation, and sanding and painting railings, benches, and sign posts. We appreciate their help.

# PRESERVES & PROGRAMS

## Lunada Canyon

The plantings in the upper riparian area of the canyon that were installed with funds from the Wetlands Recovery Project grant are coming in beautifully. Third grade students from Vista Grande Elementary enjoyed visiting the upper section for the first time as part of the nature walk that ends our Third Grade Education Program. The Lunada Canyon Advisory Board has met, fire prevention work has been completed, and we have finished monitoring work in the preserve for the year.

## White Point Preserve

This spring we've been busy implementing plans for a trail network, interpretive exhibits and a parking lot in the Preserve, all funded by grants. The California Conservation Corps (CCC) has begun work on the trails and thanks to their efforts, an ADA accessible trail segment will soon traverse the Preserve. The CCC will be working through August and the trails will be dedicated at the August 11<sup>th</sup> Youth Fun Day.

Another grant from the State of California will enable us to develop and implement an interpretive plan for the Preserve. Joining the project team as interpretive consultants, Acorn Naturalists will begin work in July and we can expect wayside exhibits along the trails by early 2006.

We were also awarded a grant from the Metropolitan Transportation Authority to provide a parking area for the Preserve. This will allow school buses and youth groups to bring field trips to the Preserve, and the gates will be open daily. Work will begin in early 2006 according to the LA Recreation and Parks Department.



*The California Conservation Corps will be busy through most of August improving and adding trail segments. This work is supported in full by a grant from the State of California Trails Program.*

## Fires in Portuguese Bend

The recent fires in Portuguese Bend were a spectacular reminder of the need for yearly mowing and maintenance of open space areas in the vicinity of homes. The Plan for the Portuguese Bend Nature Preserve clearly states that the need for brush clearing for fire protection is paramount. In fact, having the open space owned by the City and managed by PVPLC will provide an additional measure of local control and make it easier to do required clearing.



Speaking before the RPV City Council, John Todd, Assistant Chief of the Forestry Division, L.A. County Fire Department, stated that he spoke with [RPV] staff and reviewed the plan. He advised them that the Fire Department is comfortable with the direction the City is going since the Fire Department will have a chance to review the proposed reserves and if the Fire Department believes the brush clearance zones are not large enough now, then the Fire Department will have a chance to extend them.

As steward of the properties it owns, the Land Conservancy has always maintained its properties consistent with Fire Department requirements. We consider it one of our stewardship responsibilities for the Lunada Canyon and George F Canyon Preserves. We work with the property owners of the preserves we manage, the City of RPV for the Forrestal Preserve and

the City of Los Angeles for White Point Nature Preserve, to make sure that the required fuel modification is done annually on those properties.

*Fuel modification at the Chandler Preserve (left) and Lunada Canyon.*



# MEMBERSHIP NEWS

## Summer Brings New Faces to PVPLC Staff

### New Staff Members and Promotions

In June, we welcomed **Mary Lopes** to our staff as Volunteer Coordinator and Development Associate. Mary has been a long-time volunteer on our Special Events Committee



Susanna Klein and new Volunteer Coordinator Mary Lopes

who lent her organizing skills and decorative talents to our Mile Long Picnic and many other events over the past few years. She is taking over for Susanna Klein who is moving at the end of July to a new home in Arcadia.

**Nely Gonzalez** joined us in November as a permanent staff-member in our native plant nursery after helping us on a temporary basis for several seasons. She recently earned a promotion to Nursery Technician and will now be responsible for maintaining our nursery facility, helping with the seed collection and supervising volunteer groups at the nursery.

**Severino Mandujano Huerta** also became a full-time permanent staffmember as a Restoration Technician in our nursery, where he assists with native plant propagation and field restoration work at the DFSP and other properties.

### New Summer Interns

Peninsula and PV High School students, Paige Maehara, Gena Craemer and Golnaz Esfahani (pictured below) have joined our office staff this summer as interns volunteering their time on a variety of projects ranging from special events to creating a historical "scrapbook" to collecting and organizing data for biological monitoring on Conservancy properties. The girls have brought great initiative, enthusiasm and thoughtfulness to their work and we are thrilled to have their help.



## In Celebration!

### Graduations Weddings Birthdays Anniversaries Achievements

Remember family and friends with a gift to The Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy. Recipients and donors will be specially recognized in upcoming issues of *Open Spaces*. If you have any questions, please contact Debbie DiBiase at 541-7613, ext. 202 or [ddbibase@pvplc.org](mailto:ddbibase@pvplc.org)

### WE CELEBRATE

**Becket's birthday** given by Jon & Tishya Wren  
**Alex Bayer's graduation** given by Dr. & Mrs. Arnold Bayer  
**Engagement of Matthew Broder and Cristine Petracek** given by Martin and Linda Herman  
**Dr. and Mrs. Bill Foltz' 45<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary** given by Bill and Robbie Foltz  
**Paul and Patty Faust's 64<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary** given by Dr. Sharon Faust  
**Martha Bjerke "For The Good Years"** given by Hugh Pendleton  
**Our grandchildren and Future Generations** given by Lorraine and Robert Kasse  
**40 Years on the Peninsula** given by Jacky & Bill Mason  
**This Great Opportunity for ourselves, our children, and our children's children** given by Carolyn Cahill Asher

### WE REMEMBER

**Bill Douglas** given by Fritz Albershardt  
**David Rydingsword** given by Dr. Carl Rydingsword  
**Edna Maese** given by Susannah Garcia

**Nancy Dau Yewell** given by Susan Yewell  
**Joe & Cary Sheridan** given by Deena Sheridan & John Spielman  
**Robin Stevenson** given by Barbara Stevenson and Cynthia & Richard West  
**Nelle Tobias** given by Ruth Kueser  
**Tina Pupa** given by Jerry Pupa  
**Franklin Alexander** given by Jeanne Carr  
**Robert, Billy, John and Rose Burnside** given by Sharon Burke  
**Kerry Evers** given by Sharon Burke  
**Betty Hesse** given by Trudy Park  
**Richard Kenny** given by Constance Kenny  
**Martha Tatum** given by Betty & Ken Riedman  
**Lillian S. McClendon** given by Betty & Ken Riedman  
**Sally Sawyer** given by Michael and Bernice Green  
**Mitch Dazey** given by Virginia Hicks and by Lowell Parode  
**A beloved friend** given by George and Barbara Gleghorn  
**Martin Reiter** given by Ray and Virginia Knauss  
**Oscar E. Streeter, Sr.** given by Sandra Jo Streeter  
**Sandy Forman** given by Ruth Commanday

# SPECIAL EVENTS



## Photography Workshop

The PVPLC Education staff offered a photo workshop this spring to benefit the Third Grade Natural History Program. Under the tutelage of Mark Comon, owner of Paul's Photo in Torrance, ten amateur photographers took advantage of the early morning light to catch spring wild flowers at their best in the Fossil Hill area of Forrestal Preserve. PVPLC Education Director John Nieto led natural history discussions and provided expertise on the native sage scrub habitat. Because we had such an enthusiastic response, a second workshop has been scheduled this fall at Abalone Cove on October 22. See the enclosed flyer for more details.

Sales were brisk at the preview reception for the Portuguese Bend Artist Colony annual art exhibition held in the Gallery of Malaga Cove Plaza Library. Guests enjoyed wine and hors d'oeuvre while viewing this exceptional show of plein air oil paintings showcasing the beauty of Peninsula open space. A portion of all proceeds benefit the Land Conservancy and we thank the artists for their ongoing support.



## Annual Art Exhibition & Sale

*Clockwise from top left: Marianne Hunter, Cassie Jones and Joan Kelly; volunteers Golnaz Esfahani, Alison Davis and Ann O'Brien greeted guests at the opening reception; Ed and Susie Beall with artist Rick Humphrey; art show sponsor Bill Tallichet of Tallichet's Restaurant donated appetizers for the crowd; pianist Joe Valenti entertained guests; David Buxton and Ann Thaxton with artist Vicki Pinkham.*



## A Record Year for White Point Community Event!



Susan McKenna (l.) and Terry Miller (r.) with Master of Ceremonies Kirin Moss.

The fifth annual "Spring for White Point" raised over \$31,000 to benefit White Point Nature Preserve. Proceeds from this annual community event will be used for additional planting and weeding, and to assist with a fun youth event in August consisting of an Environmental Career Fair, trail dedication, scavenger hunt, tree planting, and craft activities for kids. We welcome the Port of Los Angeles as a new sponsor, and greatly appreciate our many returning sponsors including Great Wines International and the many restaurants of the South Bay.



A primary draw at "Spring for White Point" is the one-of-a-kind artwork available for auction. Thanks to all the local artists who donated such fabulous pieces to the fundraiser: MC Armstrong, Sam Arno, Phoebe Barnum, Veralee Bassler, Valerie Bechtol, Carrie Burkle, Bob Dougherty, Beth Elliot, Frank Espiritu, Patrick Gillogly, Emilie Golding, Jan Govaerts, Harold Green, Butcher John Henry, Kim Kohler, Diana Kos, Carolyn La Liberte, Doug Larson, Roy Mafune, Gil Mares, Karena Massengill, Frank Minuto, Carol Miura, Sarah Nehama, Lowell Nickel, Muriel Olguin, Peggy Reavey, Julie Schneider Ljubenkov, Carol Shaw-Sutton, Kit Stavros, John Stinson, Karl Tani, Heide Ulbrich, Nancy Webber, and Penny Young.

**AUGUST 11**

**Environmental Career Fair & Youth Fun Day**  
**White Point Preserve**  
**9am - 3:30pm**

Bring your children and teens to this great summer event, pack a lunch and enjoy a full day of fun, education, and entertainment with the scenic coastal preserve as a backdrop. For more information please contact Andrea Vona at 310-541-7613 ex. 204.



**AUGUST 12**

**Senior Stroll**  
**George F Canyon**  
**4:30pm**

Join other seniors for a delightful walk through the willows and sage. Led by assistant naturalist Lee Kazelskis. FREE! Meet at the Nature Center.



**AUGUST 13**

**Nature Walk**  
**West Bluff Preserve**  
**9am-11am**

See restored habitat on the bluffs of Trump National Golf Course in RPV and walk down to the beach. Moderate.

# Summer Calendar

Join us for these exciting events and volunteer opportunities! For more information call Volunteer Coordinator Mary Lopes, 541-7613, ext. 206, or e-mail her at mlopes@pvplc.org.



**SAVE THE DATE!**  
**SUNDAY,**  
**OCTOBER 9**  
**NOON TO 3PM**

**Mile Long Picnic Fundraiser & Photo Contest**

Bring your own picnic, enjoy the views, listen to live music and show your support for the Portuguese Bend Nature Preserve. An invitation with all the details will be mailed before Labor Day.

**AUGUST 14**

**Portuguese Bend Informational Meeting**  
**3pm-5pm**

Attend an informational meeting about the Portuguese Bend Nature Preserve and the acquisition effort. Conservancy leaders will be available to answer questions about the Preserve. Peninsula Center Library Community Room.

**AUGUST 19**

**Canyon Night Hike**  
**George F Canyon**  
**7pm-8pm**

Walk to the top of the canyon for a fantastic city lights view. Bring your flashlight. \$5/person donation requested. Reservations required, Call 547-0862.

**AUG. 25 & SEPT. 29**

**Bird Walks**  
**George F Canyon**  
**4pm-6pm**

Watch birds come in to roost for the evening. Meet naturalist Loretta Rose at the Nature Center sign. FREE. Bring your own binoculars.

**SEPTEMBER 24**

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

Get your hands dirty and help keep your public lands beautiful on National Public Lands Day. Enjoy the ocean views while you help weed and restore native habitat at this coastal resource. Park at the Preserve, 1600 Paseo del Mar in San Pedro.

**SEPTEMBER 10**

**Nature Walk**  
**Wilder Annex**  
**9am-11am**

Descend the bluffs along Paseo del Mar in San Pedro and look for pygmy blue butterflies, the smallest in the Western Hemisphere. Moderate.

**OCTOBER 8**

**Nature Walk**  
**Bluff Cove 3pm-5pm**

See coastal bluff habitat and explore shoreline tide pools in one of the Peninsula's most beautiful coves. Moderate.

**OCTOBER 22**

**Photography Workshop**  
**Abalone Cove**  
**5pm-7pm**



Learn techniques for shooting seascapes and wildlife. Join Mark Comon of Paul's Photo and PVPLC Education Director John Nieto. Advance registration required. Class is limited to 20 participants. \$25 fee.

**PALOS VERDES PENINSULA LAND CONSERVANCY**



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*For more information or directions visit the PVPLC web page at: [pvplc.org](http://pvplc.org) or call the office at 541-7613.*