



Andrea Vona, Executive Director

Andrea Vona is the Executive Director of the Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy. Andrea oversees the organization's staff and programs. She manages various projects, implements and updates the Strategic Plan, and prepares and monitors the annual budget.

Background and qualifications:

- M.S. in Environmental Science from Cal State University Fullerton
- B.A. in Environmental Studies from the University of California at Santa Barbara
- Over nine years of experience in management and habitat restoration including numerous restoration projects such as coastal sage scrub, riparian, freshwater marsh, and grassland habitats.
- For the Land Conservancy she has managed the White Point Nature Preserve master plan implementation project in San Pedro, in partnership with the City of Los Angeles. She chaired the White Point Advisory Board and organized and led volunteer days in support of this project. She also managed the requirements of the NCCP for the Palos Verdes Nature Preserve such as coordinating rare plant and sensitive wildlife surveys and writing a three-year restoration plan.
- Experienced in delineating wetlands and waters of the United States. Involved with project compliance of permits and stipulations as related to waters of the United States.
- Recipient of the PV/South Bay Audubon Society's 2007 Restoration Award.
- She has been a Land Conservancy staffmember since 2002.
- Prior to joining the PVPLC, she managed the habitat department at Ocean Trails Golf Course and aided in the compliance with the Habitat Conservation Plan of the 100-acre coastal sage scrub restoration project. She also served as an ecologist for a consulting firm in Irvine.



Hazel Martinez, Office Administrator

Hazel Martinez is responsible for managing the general office, administrative needs, and bookkeeping for the organization. Her responsibilities include human resources, organization-wide Injury and Illness Prevention Program, acting as liaison to insurance entities, assists with the science program and communication efforts for the Nature Walk program, as well as A/R and A/P duties.

Background and qualifications:

- Hazel has a background in office management. Over the years she has served as the assistant to owners of several South Bay businesses.
- Her educational studies have focused on Administration of Justice.
- She was born and raised in San Pedro and enjoys spending time with her family.
- Hazel joined the Land Conservancy staff in June, 2006.



Jill Wittman, Administrative Assistant

Jill Wittman is responsible for managing the general office and administrative needs for the organization. Her responsibilities include support for the entire office. She is the primary telephone contact for incoming calls, handles general administrative responsibilities, maintains the PVPLC website, assists with maintenance of records and files, and keeps employee records.

Background and qualifications:

- Jill has a background in general office management and human resources.
- AA degree in Apparel Manufacturing Management from the Fashion Institute of Design and Merchandising
- Jill spent the past 15 years working in the fashion industry in Los Angeles and the South Bay Area.
- She was born and raised in Torrance, where she currently resides.
- Jill joined the Land Conservancy staff in September 2009.

LAND STEWARDSHIP



Danielle LeFer, Conservation Director

Danielle LeFer is the Conservation Director of the Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy. Danielle oversees the Stewardship Program staff.

Background and qualifications:

- Ph.D. in Fisheries and Wildlife Science from Virginia Tech University
- M.S. in Ecology and Systematic Biology from San Francisco State University
- B.A. in Environmental Science from Barnard College
- Research and monitoring experience in grasslands, chaparral, riparian forests, oak woodland, streams, marshes, coastal and ocean systems.
- Conducted habitat assessments, wildlife reconnaissance surveys, monitoring and reporting.
- Over 10 years of experience designing and implementing projects with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Forest Service, universities, and non-profit organizations. This included: a study of the effect of seasonality of burn, soil moisture, and temperature on seed germination in chaparral; research comparing piping plover reproductive success under different water management regimes on the Missouri River.
- Developed conservation strategies for natural communities and species recovery for HCP/NCCPs.
- Danielle joined the Land Conservancy staff in October 2010.



Ann Dalkey, Stewardship Associate in Research

Ann Dalkey is the Stewardship Associate in Research for the Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy. Ann developed the science research for the Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy in 2006, where she oversaw the scientific activities including applied, educational, and academic studies for promoting better understanding of the natural processes within the preserve. More recently, Ann is working closely with the Stewardship staff in research, monitoring, and habitat restoration efforts.

Background and qualifications:

- B. S. in Marine Biology and M. S. in Biology from California State University, Long Beach
- Southern California Academy of Sciences, member of the Board of Directors, 2009 – Present
- Co-chair of the Beach Bluffs Restoration Project, 2001 – Present, an ad hoc steering committee with the common vision to restore native habitat to the beach bluffs of Santa Monica Bay from Malaga Cove to Ballona Creek.
- Marine Biologist, City of Los Angeles' Environmental Monitoring Division, 1984 – 2006. Conducted routine marine monitoring ranging from field sampling to analyses to reporting to publishing articles in peer-reviewed journals, participated in regional marine surveys, represented the organization at meetings and conferences, and supervised the marine biology staff, boat crew, and microbiology laboratory during the last five years of employment.
- Marine Biologist, Orange County Sanitation Districts, 1974 – 1984. Duties were similar to those conducted at the City of Los Angeles regarding conducting routine marine monitoring that also included involvement in the process control, metals, and organics laboratories.
- Officer of the Southern California Association of Marine Invertebrate Taxonomists, 1982 – 2002
- Ann joined the Land Conservancy staff in June, 2006



Cris Sarabia, Stewardship Manager

Cris Sarabia is the Stewardship Manager for the Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy. Cris is responsible for implementation of land stewardship activities on nature preserves on the Palos Verdes Peninsula.

Background and qualifications:

- B.A in Environmental Science and Policy from California State University, Long Beach
- Specialized in the management and restoration of coastal sage scrub habitat, coastal salt marshes, coastal dunes and marine habitats for over the past four years.

- Experience in developing naturalist education programs, California native plant propagation and community based restorations within the non-profit sector.
- Cris joined the Land Conservancy staff in February 2009.



Adrienne Bosler, Stewardship Associate

Adrienne Bosler is the Stewardship Associate for the Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy. Adrienne coordinates the outdoor volunteer programs including weekend volunteer work days, the Team Leaders program, the KEEPERs citizen-based monitoring program, and the Trail Skills training program. She also works on GIS mapping, monitoring, and reporting for stewardship activities.

Background and qualifications:

- B.A in Geography from California State University, Long Beach
- M.A. in Geography from CSULB studying raptors in southern California salt marsh ecosystems.
- Specializes in the restoration of salt marsh, coastal dune, coastal sage scrub, riparian and marine habitats since 2006.
- Experience coordinating volunteer habitat restoration and plant propagation projects for non-profits at the Upper Newport Bay, Colorado Lagoon and Los Cerritos Wetlands in Long Beach.
- Adrienne joined the Land Conservancy staff in March 2010.



Damian Morando, Stewardship Technician

Damian Morando is a one of two field supervisors. He is responsible for overseeing our stewardship technicians in plant installation, removal of exotic invasive plants, and trail maintenance.

Background and qualifications:

- 7 years with the SEA LAB in Redondo Beach, a program of the Los Angeles Conservation Corps, 3 years spent on the native plant restoration project for the El Segundo Blue Butterfly.
- Worked with the Catalina Island Conservancy on the control and eradication of invasive species utilizing integrated pest management approach.
- Conducted trail work for one season with the California Conservation Corps Backcountry program in the interior of Yosemite National Park.
- Damian joined the Land Conservancy in March 2008



Humberto Calderon, Stewardship Technician

Humberto works on all PVPLC-managed properties.

Background and qualifications:

- Humberto helped with the initial installation and maintenance of White Point and the habitat areas of Oceanfront Estates
- Skilled in the identification of Southern California native plants
- Humberto joined the Land Conservancy in October 2006



Hugo Morales, Stewardship Technician

Hugo works on all PVPLC-managed properties.

Background and qualifications:

- Hugo is training in trail installation and maintenance for PVPLC preserves
- Skilled in the identification of Southern California native plants
- Hugo has been working with the PVPLC since spring 2008



Daniel Feldman, Stewardship Technician/Assistant Naturalist

Daniel works on all PVPLC-managed properties as a Stewardship Technician. In addition, he is also an Assistant Naturalist for White Point Nature Education Center.

Background and qualifications:

- Daniel has a degree from Humboldt State University in Studio Art
- He has previous experience in trail construction and maintenance with El Dorado National Forest and experience in plant restoration at Olympic National Park
- Daniel is learning native plant and animal identification

- Daniel has worked on the PVPLC stewardship crew since October 2009 and as Assistant Naturalist since August 2011



Nely Gonzalez, Lead Nursery Technician

Nely Gonzalez assists in the plant nursery, with plant propagation, seed preparation and general upkeep.

Background and qualifications:

- Nely has acquired an extensive knowledge of native plant propagation, seed collection, and nursery maintenance during her time with the PVPLC.
- Nely is an aspiring graphic artist, attending college in pursuit of this goal.
- Nely has been working with the PVPLC for more than three years.

DEVELOPMENT



Nancy Young, Director of Development

Nancy is responsible for the overall marketing and fundraising activities for the organization. She manages all aspects of our member and volunteer programs, grant applications and special events. She works with individual donors, foundations and corporations who are interested in supporting and partnering with the Land Conservancy.

Background and qualifications:

- M.A. in Int'l & Public Affairs (Economic Development) from Columbia University
- B.A. in English Literature from University of California, Berkeley
- Nancy worked as Development Director of several nonprofit arts organizations and as Program Officer of a major foundation in Northern California.
- Raised significant funds for facilities, programs and endowments, and managed corporate sponsorships both in the U.S. and in Australia where she spent 13 years as a cultural planning and policy consultant to local, state and federal governments.
- Nancy was the Foundations Manager for Marymount College before joining the Conservancy staff in July 2010.



Louise Olfarnes, Manager of Marketing Communications

Louise Olfarnes provides marketing support for the organization in the area of marketing communications, event planning, and database management. She is responsible for producing the newsletter and other publicity materials and supervises outreach activities.

Background and qualifications:

- M.A. in International Affairs from the American University (1989)
- B.A. in Political Science from the University of California at Santa Barbara (1986)
- Fifteen years professional experience in non-profit development, fundraising and communications most recently for the Executive Service Corps of Southern California.
- Louise was previously the development officer for the Women's Commission for Refugee Women and Children (affiliate of the IRC), Global Kids, Inc. and Doctors of the World-USA, in New York. She was also a former foreign policy staff assistant in the U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C.
- Louise grew up in San Pedro, CA and has lived and worked in Washington, D.C., New York City, Cambridge, Geneva, Oslo, Montevideo and, most recently, Mexico City, where she was Vice President of Communications for the Newcomers' Organization (2006-2007).
- Louise joined the Land Conservancy staff in January 2009.



Mary Lopes, Donor Relations

Mary is responsible for recruiting and placing volunteers for projects and activities for the PVPLC. She also assists the Development and Communications departments by supporting fundraising and special events. Mary enjoys working with the community and is a “people person” with a passion for the elderly.

Background and qualifications:

- Graduate of Cerritos College
- Worked many years in the South Bay as an office manager in Oral Surgery
- She was a volunteer with the Conservancy for several years helping in the office and with special events.
- She joined the Land Conservancy staff in 2005

EDUCATION



John Nieto, Education Program Manager

John Nieto manages the Third Grade Education Program for the Land Conservancy and oversees 15 classroom docents. John has been a PVPLC volunteer for 13 years and has managed the Third Grade Education Program for the past 10 years.

Background and qualifications:

- Certified Interpretive Guide
- Retired Aerospace Production Manager
- President & Programs Chair Palos Verdes/South Bay Audubon Society
- Senior Naturalist for the Los Serenos de Point Vicente Docents
- Docent & Vice-President of the Friends of Seal Beach National Wildlife Refuge for the United States Fish And Wildlife Service at the Seal Beach National Wildlife Refuge
- 14 Year Member of the American Cetacean Society's Gray Whale Census And Behavioral Study Program



Siegrun Storer, Education Director

Siegrun Storer is the Education Director for the Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy. At the Conservancy, Siegrun is refining field trip curriculum, hosting field trips on the preserves around the peninsula, and is in collaboration with the Lead Naturalist Manager in developing effective public outreach for the two Nature Centers. Siegrun is enthusiastic about sharing her passion for the natural environment and is committed to fostering that same excitement with the community.

Background and qualifications:

- B.A. in Environmental Science and Policy with a focus in local environmental issues and ecosystems from California State University, Long Beach.
- M.A. in Geography in progress at CSULB, studying local restoration organization's public outreach strategies, along with their surrounding communities' environmental imagery.
- National Association for Interpretation, Certified Interpretive Guide (March 2011)
American Red Cross Authorized Provider for teaching and certifying CPR and First Aid.
- Volunteered at the Colorado Lagoon since 2008, developing and teaching hands-on curriculum for elementary school groups, based on California Science Standards, and hosted outreach tables at public events.

- Experience developing and implementing outdoor curriculum for high school students via the Geoscience Diversity Enhancement Program (GDEP) and Intelligence Community Center of Academic Excellence (ICCAE) through CSULB.
- Siegrun joined the Land Conservancy staff in September 2010.

George F Canyon Nature Center



Loretta K. Rose, Naturalist and Manager

Loretta has been the Naturalist at the George F Canyon Nature Center since 2001, taking over the duties of the original and founding Naturalist Aileen Bevan. Her job includes tasks such as keeping the center open and staffed, leading hikes, parties and events, maintaining the live animal displays and management of the 36 acre preserve. She is originally from Panama and now makes her home in Torrance.

Background and qualifications:

- AA degree in Psychology from El Camino College
- Small Business Management Certificate from Harbor College
- BA in Geography from CSU Long Beach
- Certified Interpretive Manager from the National Institute of Interpretation
- MA in Geography, near completion, from CSU Long Beach



Joshua West, Assistant Naturalist

Joshua West is an Assistant Naturalist for the Land Conservancy.

Background and qualifications:

- Joshua has had experience working at vets and pet stores as well as having a collection of exotic animals since he was 10.
- Joshua is working on his degree for Exotic Animal Husbandry and Management from Moor Park College.
- Joshua has worked with a wildlife rehabilitation group, South Bay Wildlife Rehab., for over 6 years and has worked with many of the local wildlife.
- Joshua was born in San Pedro and has lived in Palos Verdes all his life.
- Joshua joined the Land Conservancy staff in August 2011.

White Point Nature Education Center



Laurie Morgan, Assistant Naturalist

Laurie Morgan is an Assistant Naturalist for the Land Conservancy. She is part of our naturalist staff at both George F Canyon and White Point Nature Centers, where she leads hikes and shares her local environmental knowledge with visitors. Laurie is a lifelong enthusiast of the outdoors and wildlife and loves children and working with people of all ages. Laurie has volunteered at several non-profit animal rescues including the International Bird Rescue Research Center, and both the Carson and San Pedro animal shelters. Laurie truly loves being a naturalist, as she is able to incorporate both her enthusiasm for interacting with people and her devotion to animals and nature!

Background and qualifications:

- Laurie has her BA in Sociology with a Human Studies minor from Cal State Dominguez Hills on a full-ride scholarship from the Watson Land Company.
- Laurie holds her National Association for Interpretation certification as a Certified Interpretive Guide.
- Laurie joined the Land Conservancy in August 2008