



# OPEN SPACES

Volume 18, Number 2

*Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy*

Second Quarter, 2006

## Alcoa Funds RECIPE For Success

On June 7, with pelicans swooping past a crowd of over a hundred people gathered at Abalone Cove Shoreline Park, the Land Conservancy accepted a \$240,000 grant from the Alcoa Foundation to establish the Conservancy's Research Education and Community Involvement Program for the Environment (RECIPE).

The grant will enable the Land Conservancy to develop a scientific research program to gather and manage information regarding restoring and sustaining native habitats, while documenting ongoing changes as the habitat improves. The educational component of the program will increase volunteer opportunities for middle school students and involve high school students in meaningful research projects about local habitat and wildlife.

"This program enables Alcoa Foundation to reach into the communities where Alcoa operates and lend a helping hand through its grant-making," said Olivier M. Jarrault, President, Alcoa Fastening Systems. "The strong and continuing community support for the Conservancy made the decision to invest in this program so much easier for us." Headquartered in nearby Torrance, this Alcoa branch has nearly 3000 employees working in the South Bay.



*L to R: Dr. Paul Laris, CSULB Geography Department and PVPLC Science Director Ann Dalkey, with Olivier Jarrault, President of Alcoa Fastening Systems and PVPLC Executive Director Barbara Dye.*

"We're pleased and honored by the trust that the Alcoa Foundation has put in our organization" said Barbara Dye, Executive Director, PVPLC. "Our community's commitment and contributions have made it possible for us to build the professional organization and track record that allows an internationally renowned corporation like Alcoa to invest in us with confidence."

The Land Conservancy has hired Ann Dalkey as the new Science Director (see page 3). Ann brings a wealth

of experience to the job and is already hard at work putting together the RECIPE for success. She is assessing the data that has already been accumulated, and using it to develop the program structure and prioritize projects.

"We have college interns helping us now and we want to encourage both high school and university students to pursue their research projects on the Peninsula," said Dalkey. "They will not only be contributing to their community but also gaining valuable research experience that will help them in their college careers." The local high schools and a number of universities in the area including UCLA, USC, CSULB and CSUDH have shown interest in having students participate in research activity as part of the program.



# Executive Director's Message



## TAKING CARE OF THE LAND WE PRESERVE

The mission of the PVPLC is “preserving land and restoring habitat for the education and enjoyment of all.” As our mission statement says, one of our major tasks is habitat restoration. But what does habitat restoration mean? How do we go about doing it? What will we remove, and what will we plant? We want the community to understand how we go about habitat restoration, and we want the community to be a part of everything we do.

Our first step is planning. We commission our Restoration Ecologist, Angelika Busi, to create restoration plans for each of the properties we manage. She identifies locations where non-native, invasive plants are displacing the natives, and writes reports, maps and plant lists for each project. These are the basis for our restoration work. We are now writing the plan to do five acres of restoration per year in the new Preserve.

The next step is making the land ready for restoration by eliminating the invasive plants (and their seeds) that drive out other types of vegetation. In unrestored areas you will see fields of thick fennel, nasty milk thistle, or pampas grass, which have very little value for the local insects, birds and other creatures. We mow, disc, spray and weed to create a blank canvas on which we can grow a palette of locally native plants.

This point is important: we grow all of our own plants using local seed, a four to six month process, at our plant nursery. Coastal sage, wildflower grassland and other local habitats consist of many types of plants growing together, so we work hard to create restored areas with significant species diversity.

Although native plants are drought tolerant, they need help during the transition from the nursery to the ground. We can plant at the beginning of the rainy season, but that’s risky for a big project. We can install an irrigation system, which is expensive and requires a lot of maintenance but has very good results. Or we can use DriWater, a gel that is inserted next to the plant to slowly release water to the roots. Every project has its own solution.



Seedlings at the native plant nursery.

Once the land is prepared, the water problem is solved, and the plants are grown, it’s time to put the plants in the ground. Planting is fun, and a busy Saturday’s volunteer effort can plant a very large area. It’s very satisfying to see plants scattered across a hillside, promising a fragrant slope of native vegetation for the future.

The final ingredient – patience! It takes several years before the plants are mature. We need to keep weeding to give the natives the space they need, but eventually our hillsides will once again provide comfortable habitat for the birds, bugs, reptiles, mammals and other species that belong on this island of habitat we call our home.

We welcome your help with our habitat restoration work. We have volunteer days almost every Saturday. Please join us and make a difference in our community.

### PRESERVATION OF OPEN SPACES MISSION & VISION

*The mission of the Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy is the preservation of open space and restoration of habitat on the greater Palos Verdes Peninsula for the education and enjoyment of all.*

*Our vision is to create and manage large blocks of natural open space where visitors may enjoy peaceful solitude, where children and adults can learn about the natural environment, and where locally native plants and animals will exist in a secure environment.*

### YOUR HELP MAKES OUR WORK POSSIBLE

Donations from the community are what support our restoration and preservation efforts. Please continue your support, so we can continue our work. We appreciate all that you contribute.

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Land Conservancy**

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**OPEN SPACES**

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**People In The News**

**PVPLC WELCOMES STAFF CHANGES**

To help us meet new challenges, we have four new staff members, Mike Yadrick, Director of Restoration Programs; Ann Dalkey, Science Director; Hazel Martinez, Office Manager; and Diana Davis, Bookkeeper. In addition, Mary Ellen Richardson has been promoted to Director of Communications.

Mike attended Evergreen College in Washington State, obtaining a degree in forest ecology. He worked for Americorps as a volunteer coordinator, and then spent two years in Peace Corps Bolivia, running a tree nursery. He returned to the U.S. to obtain joint Master's Degrees from American University and the United Nations University for Peace in Costa Rica.

Ann Dalkey is directing the RECIPE Program (see p. 1). She is also co-chair of the Beach Bluffs Restoration Project, a group working to restore native habitat to the beach bluffs of Santa Monica Bay. "Having seen Ann in action over the past few years, I can think of no one better suited for the Science Director position at the Land Conservancy," said Redondo Beach Mayor Mike Gin.

Ann has a B. S. in Marine Biology and M. S. in Biology from California State University, Long Beach. She has spent the last twenty years with the City of Los Angeles' Environmental Monitoring Division, where she conducted marine monitoring including field sampling and regional marine surveys, and supervised the marine biology staff, boat crew, and microbiology laboratory.

Hazel Martinez is a self-described "Pedro girl" who has worked for several South Bay companies. She brings experience in management, graphic design and administrative efficiency to the job.

Diana Davis has come on board as our part-time bookkeeper, and will continue as a local Realtor. She has been a long-time volunteer for the Land Conservancy, and has been active with community groups such as the Chamber of Commerce.

Mary Ellen Richardson, our Office Manager for the past four years, will now use her skills from previous positions in marketing and as an account director with a major advertising firm to focus on keeping the community informed and involved with our work and special events. Watch for an improved web page and more materials in the near future.



*New PVPLC Staff Members (left to right): Diana Davis, Bookkeeper, Mike Yadrick, Director of Restoration Programs, Ann Dalkey, Science Director, Amanda Peterson, Intern, and Hazel Martinez, Office Manager.*

**NEW FALL PHOTO WORKSHOP ON SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 4**

Join our special two-hour workshop focusing on sunset photography on Saturday, November 4 from 4pm until 6pm. Led by Mark Comon of Paul's Photo in Torrance, the workshop will be held at the Abalone Cove Shoreline Park in Rancho Palos Verdes. Open to 20 participants for a fee of \$25 each. Pre-registration is required. To enroll, call the PVPLC office at 310/541-7613 Ext. 210.

# Progress on the Preserves

## Chandler Preserve

An acre of grassland restoration was completed at Chandler this past year, using native grasses with graceful, thin stalks. We added to the butterfly plants that were installed last year, and we have been weeding all of the habitat areas.

## George F Canyon Nature Preserve

The willows in the canyon are filling in the empty space left by palms that were removed. The monkey flower and wild penstemon were very colorful this spring, and we expect that next year's habitat restoration will bring more bright wildflowers to the canyon walls.

## Portuguese Bend Nature Preserve

We are busy developing the restoration plan for the Preserve. Biologists are visiting each property within the Preserve to count the endangered gnatcatchers and cactus wrens, to look for rare wildflowers, and to check for the El Segundo blue butterfly along the coast. This data will help us plan the first habitat restoration work in the Preserve.



*Birdwatching at Peacock Flat in the Portuguese Bend Nature Preserve.*

The process to develop the Public Use Master Plan (PUMP) for the Preserve is underway. A committee has been appointed (see box) and will begin meeting in July. Among the committee's tasks are to recommend an official trail system (routes and uses) within the Preserve, to review permitted uses and to propose locations for overlooks and trailheads. The committee's final recommendations will be reviewed and approved by the Land Conservancy Board, the RPV City Council, the California Department of Fish and Game and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.



*Recently improved trail at Forrestal Preserve.*

In Forrestal Canyon, the willows planted in 2003 are flourishing, providing excellent habitat for migrating birds and shade for hikers around the quarry bowl. Trail repairs completed last fall now provide new and safer trail routes. Along the southern and eastern edges of the Preserve, we are removing vegetation by order of the Fire Department.

At Lunada Canyon, two Eagle Scout projects are underway to improve the Preserve by removing the castor bean field and repairing the trail.

At Abalone Cove, a very busy volunteer day in June made trail repairs and removed many invasive plants, including

*Euphorbia terracina* (see box on next page), which is spreading rapidly across the Peninsula.

## White Point Nature Preserve

The coastal sage scrub on the hillsides is maturing and filling in the slopes very nicely. Interns are measuring all of the trees, and a progress report on the more than 200 trees that have been planted will be available this fall. The wildflower grasslands wave gently in the winds, surrounding the new trails that have been constructed.

Plans for a nature center are complete and will go out to bid this fall. If you are or know of a contractor who might be interested in bidding on this wonderful community project, please let us know. Interpretive signage has been approved for the site and will be installed this fall.



## UPDATE ON RPV'S VISION PLAN

The first meeting for the RPV Vision Plan was held on June 3rd. More than 75 people attended to begin the process for planning for the City's open spaces. There will be many more public meetings for this effort, which is led by the City of RPV. For more information, please check the City's web page at palosverdes.com. Click on the PUMP/Vision Plan link under current topics.

## MEMBERS OF THE PUMP COMMITTEE

- Don Bell
- Arlene Block
- Barry Bonnicksen
- Troy Braswell
- Eva Cicoria
- Al Edgerton
- Marc Jacobowitz
- Cassie Jones
- Gordon Leon
- Vic Quirarte
- Ann Shaw
- John Stevens
- Paul Tetrault
- John Wessell
- Special Members:*
- Bill James
- Kurt Loheit

# Progress on the Preserves

A terrific volunteer, Dave Moody, has been doing bird counts on the site all year, and the list of birds observed at White Point continues to grow. It has been a good year for birds such as the Lazuli Bunting, Blue Grosbeak, Bullock's Oriole, Townsend's Warbler, Whimbrel, and the Northern Rough-Winged Swallow.

July has brought a boom in butterflies including the west coast lady, checkered white, white skipper, gray skipper, gray hairstreak, western pygmy blue, fiery skipper, and common checkered skipper.

## RECIPE

The Research, Education and Community Involvement Program for the Environment (RECIPE) is off to a great start. Ann Dalkey started May 1st as Science Director. She is working to coordinate with area schools regarding research and volunteer opportunities. She is also supervising three interns who have joined us for the summer.

## Education Program

The eleventh year of the Third Grade Natural History Program served more than 1500 children. Our 14 classroom docents visited 78 classrooms at 18 schools to delight the children and their teachers with artifacts and stories of the natural habitat. 350 parents were trained to become trailside docents, sharing each child's excitement at discovering the wonders of the natural habitat. The Program added a new school from Carson this year and the children, parents and teachers enjoyed their first nature walk at George F Canyon, with the assistance of members of the Alcoa Corporation's employee outreach group. The program this year brought out many enthusiastic comments from teachers such as:

"I think this program is wonderful! It's hard to believe nature is so close to home."

"This was very educational and added a lot to our science/social science programs."

"The nature walk was an experience my students will always remember!"



*PVPLC President Emeritus Bill Ailor introduces the RECIPE Program and explains the need for research to an attentive crowd at Abalone Cove Shoreline Park.*



## A VERY NASTY INVASIVE

California Weed Management Area staff sent the following message to environmental organizations:

"We have noted a near exponential expansion in the coverage of *Euphorbia terracina* in the past several years. This plant should be public enemy number one for many reasons as follows:

- It has toxic sap which causes temporary blindness
- It forms monotypic stands within openings in coastal sage scrub
- No native insects or animals have been found feeding on it
- It has explosive seed dispersal
- It is a huge pest in Australia
- It is on the noxious weed list for 45 states

- It threatens habitat for endangered species including steelhead trout

I know we have all seen a lot of this weed and you may be feeling hopeless about our chances to stop this species. Considering how rapidly this species is expanding and its ecological breadth in Australia, we are at the beginning of this problem, not the end. NOW is the time to give everything we have to stopping this species. "

This plant grows up to 24 inches tall with small yellow/green cup-like flowers. It is beginning to appear on the southern slopes of Palos Verdes, including the Switchbacks parcel, on the open space near Marymount College, and in Friendship Park. The Land Conservancy has worked to eradicate it on the Switchbacks and in isolated other locations.

# Volunteer News

## JOIN OUR VOLUNTEER CREW ON SEPTEMBER 16

### CALIFORNIA COASTAL CLEANUP DAY AT ABALONE COVE

California Coastal Cleanup Day is Sept 16 from 9am to Noon. Come spend a Saturday morning at Abalone Cove helping keep our preserve beautiful and trash free. PVPLC is co-sponsoring a beach clean-up with the City of Rancho Palos Verdes and its docent organization, Los Serenos de Point Vicente, along with Heal The Bay in LA County. There will be food, refreshments, trash bags and gloves provided. For more information, please contact Becky Harper at (310)541-7613 Ext. 207.

## Honda Volunteer Day Thank You

Ninety-one employees from American Honda Motor Company joined other volunteers at Abalone Cove Shoreline Park on National Trails Day, June 7th. They repaired entrances to Altamira Canyon, cleared trails, provided beach



*Honda employees cleanup the coastline.*

clean-up, helped remove non-native weedy plants, and provided lunch for over 100 people. Thank you so much to Honda for all the hard work!

## Waste Management Helps to Clean Up Portuguese Bend Preserve

Waste Management is working with the Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy and the city of Rancho Palos Verdes to help restore the Portuguese Bend Nature Preserve. Waste Management is providing and servicing roll-off containers for the ongoing clean-ups and habitat restoration. Positioning the roll-offs at the trailheads allows volunteers to easily dispose of the litter and debris and enhance visitors' enjoyment of the natural splendor and spectacular ocean views of the Preserve. We are very grateful for Waste Management's assistance with our clean-up efforts.

## *In Celebration!*

Remember family and friends with a gift to the Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy.  
**Graduations Weddings Birthdays**  
**Anniversaries Achievements**

Recipients and donors will be specially recognized in upcoming issues of *Open Spaces*. Please contact Bob Ford at (310) 541-7613, ext. 202 or rford@pvplc.org

### *WE CELEBRATE*

- Mikey Cohen's Wedding**, given by Joy and Adam Toal
- 50th Wedding Anniversary for Carol and Mike Friedman**, given by Ruth and Dick Lohrer
- Alex and Adam McPhail's Birthday**, given by Irma and Herbert Remstein
- Open Space**, given by Estelle and William McArthur

### *WE REMEMBER*

- Tsuyoshi Akazawa and Yoshio Wakayama**, given by Sally Akazawa
- Frank Danielson**, given by Jo Ann and Bruno Michetti
- Ann Davis**, given by George & Mary Ellen Babbe
- Wendell Gayman Phd.**, given by Richard and Jennifer Sittel
- Laura Herwick**, given by Jeannine Etcheverry
- Nancy Holland**, given by David Holland
- Peter Jacobelly**, given by Virginia Cummings
- Consuelo Rivera**, given by Lisa Petrich
- Charles and Marilyn Rutherford and their forty-five years in Rolling Hills**, given by Diane Rutherford Wilkinson
- Lee Strauss, Teacher Extraordinaire**, given by Robert and June Bacon, Judith Webb, John and Barbara Dye
- Marion Yoklavich**, given by Catherine Betty Yoklavich, Brian and Misty Yoklavich, Rudolph DeLeon, Jim and Peggy Ryder, Marie and David Clum, Deborah and Steven Muth, Bob and Bernadette Ramer, John and Doris Rowe and from Friends of Teresa Hall.



## Great Job, Jack Green!

The PVPLC would like to give special thanks to employee Jack Green (on the job at left). Jack currently works for the Land Conservancy clearing brush in the Forrestal Preserve as part of the required fuel modification. In addition to this very labor intensive job, he has still managed to find the time to volunteer at our outdoor workdays nearly every weekend since he began. So, thanks Jack, you're doing a great job!

# Thanks Bill!

# Special Events

## SPECIAL CELEBRATION FOR BILL AILOR ON AUGUST 27

Bill Ailor is the founder of the Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy and has served as its leader for the past eighteen years. Now as the President Emeritus and active board member, he continues to nurture the organization that is fulfilling his dream of acquiring and maintaining open space on the Peninsula. To celebrate his historical contribution to the community, a "Thank You Bill!" party will be held at the home of Loren and Craig DeRoy on Sunday, August 27, 2006.



Bill's vision, courage, integrity, perseverance and the dream that we all share.

The event is being organized by long-time supporters of the Land Conservancy and will feature a dinner catered by Chef Michael Shafer. Tickets for the event are available at \$85 per person to cover the cost of the celebration and seating is limited. For information on ticket reservations, call Mary Ellen at the PVPLC office at

(310)541-7613 Ext. 210.

Enjoy an evening with old and new friends, with dinner served on the lawn at this beautiful residence, to celebrate

## Plein Air Art Show Delivers Big Benefits for the Land Conservancy

A preview reception with cocktails and dinner served on the fountain courtyard by the Malaga Cove Library launched the opening of "A Day in our Countryside" Fine Art Exhibition & Sale mounted by the Portuguese Bend Artist Colony.



*Barbara and George Gleghorn enjoy dinner by the fountain.*

This year's exhibition of exceptional plein air oil paintings brought strong praise for the quality of the work and record sales of more than 50 paintings.

We sincerely thank the artists for their creative efforts and financial support. We also thank the many show sponsors who make this event possible including Toyota Motor Sales, Malaga Bank, Restaurant Christine, Palos Verdes Florist, Tallichet's Restaurant, Virginia Butler and Les Fishman of Coldwell Banker, and Vini's Party Rentals.



*Artists Steve Mirich and Vicki Pinkham with Margaret Missman (far left) and Joanne and Charlie Peterson (center and right).*

Long-time supporters of open space preservation, the artists generously donate a portion of the sale proceeds to the Land Conservancy and the Palos Verdes Library District.



*(L to R: Dan Pinkham, Tom Redfield, Vicki Pinkham, Rick Humphrey and Kevin Prince. Members not pictured include Steve Mirich and Amy Sidrane.)*

SAVE THE DATE! SUNDAY, OCTOBER 22

## Mile Long Picnic & Photo Contest

NOON TO 3PM

Bring your own picnic, enjoy the views, listen to live music and show your support for our peninsula open space. Look for your invitation with all the details in September.

**Aug. 31, Sept. 28 & Oct. 26**

**Bird Walks**  
**George F Canyon**  
**4pm - 5pm**

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

**Aug. 19**

**Volunteer Workday**  
**Portuguese Bend**  
**Nature Preserve**  
**9am - Noon**

Help restore habitat and maintain trails in this beautiful location. Park at Preserve on PV Drive South. Enter through gate next to Preserve sign.

**Family Fun Day**  
**George F Canyon**  
**Nature Center**  
**5pm - 7pm**

Enter contests for the most interesting and highest flying kites. Free ice cold drinks, watermelon, and a demonstration on the canyon's local snakes. View exhibits at the Center and take a guided tour. For more information, call the Center 310-547-0862 or Becky Harper at 310-541-7613 ext. 207.

**Sept. 2 & Oct. 7**

**Nature Walk**  
**George F Canyon**  
**9am & 1pm**

See the canyon and learn fascinating facts about local plant and animal communities. \$3 per person donation suggested.

**Sept. 8**

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

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

# Summer Calendar

Join us for these exciting events and volunteer opportunities! For information about Volunteer Workdays, call Stewardship Associate Becky Harper at 310/541-7613 ext. 207. For information on other volunteer opportunities, call Volunteer Coordinator Mary Lopes at 541-7613, ext. 206, or send an e-mail to [mlopes@pvplc.org](mailto:mlopes@pvplc.org).

**Sept. 9, Oct. 7, Nov. 4**

**Volunteer Workday**  
**DFSP 9am - Noon**

Help us with plant propagation in our nursery on Gaffey St. in San Pedro. Due to security concerns, your contact information is required before entering the base. Call Becky at 541-7613 X207.



**Sept. 9**

**Nature Walk**  
**South Coast Botanic Garden 9am - 11am**

Tour this 87-acre garden, formerly a landfill and now home to over 2000 different species of plants and diverse wildlife. Easy.

**Sept. 16**

**Volunteer Beach Cleanup at Abalone Cove 9am - Noon**

Come join us for beach clean-up and trail maintenance. Meet in the parking lot at Abalone Cove Shoreline Park.

**Sept. 23**

**Volunteer Workday**  
**Lunada Canyon**  
**9am - Noon**

Help an Eagle Scout with his trail project in our first dedicated preserve. Meet at the end of Rock Park Dr.

**Oct. 14**

**Volunteer Workday**  
**George F Canyon**  
**9am - Noon**

Help restore the riparian and coastal sage scrub habitat in the canyon. Meet in the gravel parking lot on Palos Verdes Dr. East.

**Oct. 14**

**Nature Walk**  
**Cabrillo Beach**  
**Shoreline**  
**2pm - 4pm**

Visit the restored salt marsh, see the coastal native plant garden and learn about the history of this quiet corner of San Pedro. Moderate.

**Oct. 21**

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

Help us restore habitat and maintain trails. Meet at end of Forrestal Dr. in RPV.

**Oct. 22**

**Mile Long Picnic**  
**Upper Point Vicente Park Noon to 3pm**

Bring your own picnic, enjoy the views, listen to live music and show support for our peninsula open space.

**Oct. 28 & Nov. 18**

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

Help us plant and weed last year's plantings. Park at the preserve, 1600 Paseo del Mar in San Pedro.



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