



November 2003

Vol. 2, No. 2



Purchase of Prime Beach Property

PLT Plays Key Role in Creek and Beach Restoration

The Pacifica Land Trust played a significant role in negotiating and obtaining nearly \$2 million in grants for the City of Pacifica's purchase of 2.2 acres of prime beachfront property on Linda Mar Beach (Pacific State Beach). The environmentally important property, which includes the mouth of San Pedro Creek and stretches north to near the Taco Bell, was purchased from Mr. Robert Mahoney with funds kindly provided by the Coastal Conservancy. Special thanks go to Prentiss Williams and Nadine Hitchcock of the Coastal Conservancy for their help on this project. The new addition to Linda Mar will enlarge the State Beach and provide increased access to the public. This is one of the few times when private beach property has been returned to public use.

The City of Pacifica recently removed the two houses on the property and is in the process of restoring the beach to its native state. This includes removal of all concrete and other material, and grading of the property to match the natural contours of the beach. Once completed, the beach project will help ensure the health of San Pedro Creek and our steelhead trout population. These are major accomplishments and represent the continuing efforts of the Pacifica Land Trust to preserve open space in Pacifica and along the San Mateo County coast.

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

“On nearly a daily basis, I marvel at the fact that significant areas, such as Mori Point, the Pedro Point Headlands and the Linda Mar Beach creek head area, have been preserved through our efforts”.

*Judy Johnson,
PLT President*

Pacifica was the sheer physical beauty of the town and the access to unspoiled natural areas. Over the years, I have been active in efforts to maintain the character of our community. I served on the school board and the planning commission and donated my time to various community projects while maintaining my law practice on the Peninsula. Seven years ago, I became a member of the PLT board of directors.

I have found great satisfaction through the achievements of the PLT. On nearly a daily basis, I marvel at the fact that significant areas, such as Mori Point, the Pedro Point Headlands and the Linda Mar Beach creek head area, have been preserved through our efforts, along with those of our partners, including the City of Pacifica, the California Coastal Conservancy and the Trust for Public Land.

Donations Needed

Your support keeps us strong

The Pacifica Land Trust is operated by an all-volunteer Board of Directors, with the help of one part-time staffperson, our Administrative Assistant, Michelle Rashleger. We are currently funded entirely by contributions from you, our supporters. The PLT greatly appreciates your donations because, without them, we would not be able to continue our work or pay our ongoing expenses. We are enclosing an envelope and hope that you will be able to send us any amount. Also, please indicate if you are able to assist us in non-monetary ways. If you work for a company that matches some or all of your charitable contributions, we would appreciate your consideration of the PLT as the source of such funds. Donations to the PLT qualify as charitable donations for tax purposes.

Often, when we look toward our hills and beaches, we assume that the open space we see will remain a public resource when, in reality, it is subject to development. The PLT identifies these types of parcels and contacts the property owners. If the owners are willing to sell, PLT purchases the property through private donations, public funding and/or private grants, and then contributes the property to a public overseer.

By focusing on our goal, we have made a significant contribution to Pacifica and the surrounding communities and have ensured that portions of the natural environment remain available as a public resource for everyone's enjoyment.

One of the main reasons my husband and I moved our family to

Sweeney Ridge Gateway Project

What You Can Do To Help

The Pacifica Land Trust has an option to purchase 9.2 acres of undeveloped land in San Bruno that is owned by the City of Pacifica. This parcel is located at the end of Sneath Lane, adjacent to the GGNRA Sweeney Ridge trail and overlooking San Andreas Lake in the San Francisco Water District watershed. PLT's current option term expires at the end of this year, and we need your help!

The California State Coastal Conservancy has expressed interest in providing significant acquisition funding for this project. However the Gateway project is competing for funds against many other worthy projects. To insure our project remains highly visible, we need letters of support sent to the Coastal Conservancy and San Francisco Public Utilities Commission.

We have provided a 'template letter of support' on our website for your convenience. However feel free to create your own letters should you wish to create your own letter; all of the pertinent information including names and address are provided. It is also very important that the City of Pacifica be sent copies of these support letters so that they are kept up to date of the strong local and regional support for the preservation of this project. Please address letters to the SFPUC, Attention Patricia Martel, 1155 Market St., 4th Floor, San Francisco CA 94103. Letters to Coastal Conservancy should be addressed to Sam Schuchat, California State Coastal Conservancy, 1330 Broadway, 11th Floor, Oakland Ca 94612-2530, and letters to Pacifica, attention Joseph Tanner, City of Pacifica, 170 Santa Maria Ave, Pacifica CA 94044. For more information on how to send these letters of support, please visit the PLT website at <http://www.pacificalandtrust.org/sweeneyridge/howtohelp.htm>.

The Pacifica Land Trust

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The Year in Review: Reflections on 2003

by Michael Vasey

Despite these challenging times, the PLT board has continued to mature and maintain its energy and focus while keeping our accounts in the black. It has been gratifying to see some of our projects come to fruition while making progress on other projects that are in the pipeline. All in all, the PLT continues to remain a viable force for our community, working to protect our precious coastal open space lands and unique ecological features.

One of the most exciting outcomes of our efforts was the recent "liberation" of the mouth of San Pedro Creek. Several years ago, PLT negotiated with Bob Mahoney, the owner of the old Fassler house and the pirate house properties on Linda Mar Beach for the City to acquire the land for wetland restoration, flood control, and beach enhancement. Recently, with PLT's continued assistance, the Coastal Conservancy provided additional funds to complete the transaction. Now, the new tidally influenced lagoon will provide great rearing habitat for juvenile steelhead trout while many marsh birds, such as salt marsh yellowthroats, will begin nesting in this great habitat.

We also made progress on our stewardship activities on Pedro Point Headland. We had secured a \$75,000 grant from Coastal Conservancy to control erosion, remove invasive species, and revegetate with native species. Dave Sands continued his excellent work, and a San Francisco State graduate student, Leslie Lazarotti, prepared a final report for this project. Leslie is also researching the dynamics of Monterey pine invasion. Thanks to Chris Kroll for his long time support for this project. Plans are still underway for the GGNRA to take over this property for future management.

I am excited to report that the Golden Gate Parks Conservancy has taken on Mori Point as a project. This will provide a proven leader in stewardship (the GGNPC's Site Stewardship Program) to eventually bring out the luster of this magnificent headland. I hope many Pacificans will join Sue Gardner and her team to engage in stewardship activities on Mori Point. This is a great opportunity for our community.

The City of Pacifica renewed our option to acquire surplus property adjacent to the trailhead for Sweeney Ridge at the end of Sneath Lane in San Bruno. This land provides an important service as watershed buffer, protecting the quality of our drinking water from San Andreas reservoir. It is also the staging area for the newly opened Crystal Springs trail link. This land is also the ideal property to run

a connecting trail over to the San Andreas Trail so that bicyclists and equestrians could do a round trip. We are working closely with the California Coastal Conservancy and San Francisco PUC to raise the funds to acquire this



property. This will bring in some badly needed revenue to the City of Pacifica while accomplishing an open space acquisition of regional significance.

Finally, I'd like to welcome Judy Johnson as the new president of the Pacifica Land Trust, as well as John Murphy back to our Board. Judy will make a great president. I have much enjoyed my three years as president and will continue to stay on the Board to help in any way I can. There's still a lot to be done and many challenges that lie ahead. I hope all of you will continue to support our efforts. We need your help more than ever.

Our Newest Board Member

John Murphy

I have lived in Pacifica for 17 years and am devoted to hiking and walking the trails and running on the roads of the area. I was a founding member of the Pacifica Land Trust and am now able to again participate in their work. The Land Trust movement is dedicated to honoring property rights and to finding ways to help to preserve the scenic, recreational and natural values of our area. I am a chemist and the director of an environmental laboratory in South San Francisco. My wife is a teacher, we have three children and two grandchildren.

Send check made payable to : Pacifica Land Trust
 P.O. Box 988, Pacifica, CA 94044 (650) 359-7034

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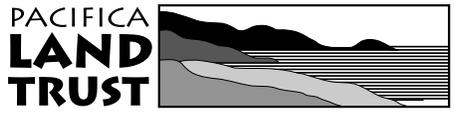
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Do more.
 Please use my donation below to continue the work of
 protecting our precious Pacifica resources.

Your generous donations allow us to continue working to preserve our open spaces and protect our lands for generations to come. Please be as generous as your budget allows so the Pacifica Land Trust can continue to serve our community.



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www.pacificalandtrust.org