



LAND NEWS

Fall 2004

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San Pedro Creek Restoration

Dream Becomes Reality

In the late '90's, the Pacifica Land Trust began negotiations with Mr. Robert Mahoney to purchase 2.2 acres of beachfront property stretching from San Pedro Creek north to the existing Taco Bell. Two houses were on the Mahoney property: Mr. Mahoney's residence (yellow house near the creek) and an old two story building known affectionately by many as the "Pirate House".



photo by Stephen Johnson.

Recognizing the environmental and recreational importance of this property, the PLT raised 1.1 million dollars from the Coastal Conservancy through the generous support of Prentiss Williams and her colleagues at the Conservancy. With the continuing support of the PLT, the City of Pacifica provided the remaining 1.1 million dollars to meet the purchase price of 2.2 million dollars.

Since its purchase, the land has been restored to its native state. New wetlands were constructed to provide habitat for birds and other aquatic animals, as well as to encourage and support steelhead trout and other fish migration. The creek is now free to wander and assume a more natural state.

If you haven't been to the creekmouth recently, check it out! The purchase of this property and its restoration marks one of the milestones of Pacifica's history.

*With the help of the **Pedro Point Surf Club**, the **Beach Coalition**, the **San Pedro Creek Watershed Coalition**, local residents and other **generous contributors**, the PLT is proud to have played the principal role in the acquisition of this property and continues to support the City in its preservation efforts.*

From our New President

Bernard Halloran

I must begin by thanking our outgoing officers, Judy Johnson, our past president and Margaret Goodale, our past secretary, for their invaluable contributions to the PLT. They have helped enormously to maintain the vitality and spirit of the PLT. I also welcome Dinah Verby, our new vice president and Tim Cowan, our new secretary.

I approach the presidency with great anticipation and some trepidation. To be the president of the Land Trust is an honor. I hope I can meet the standards set by my predecessors. In my "day job", I'm a basic research scientist in the Department of Medicine at UCSF. Science is my life, and my work has been very satisfying. I've been graced with the opportunity to work with other scientists, to contribute to our understanding of nature and to improve healthcare. However, equally satisfying, and in some ways more so, has been my work with the PLT. The Land Trust is one of the foundations of our community. One of the only mechanisms to protect open space in Pacifica, the Trust works to preserve our environment, make open space accessible and ensure the beauty of our coast. The Trust has played key roles in the preservation of the Pedro Point Headlands, Mori Point and Pacifica State Beach. We have done much and have much to do.

My goals for the next year are to: 1) expand and preserve our open space through purchase of land and stewardship programs, 2) partner with other land trusts to increase our effectiveness, 3) increase community participation, 4) begin an active program of education and outreach involving our schools and community, 5) increase our fund raising efforts to ensure continuation of our work, and finally 6) maintain the vitality of the Trust.

It has been, and continues to be, a privilege to work with the Pacifica Land Trust. We are always seeking community support and welcome your ideas. I would like very much to know your thoughts on preservation of open space, land stewardship programs, fundraising, and education/outreach. With your help, I hope to develop these in the coming year.

Update on the Sweeney Project

We continue to work on this worthy project

The Pacifica Land Trust has been active for over 3 years trying to preserve a 9.2 acre parcel of land near San Andreas Lake, located at the Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GGNRA) Trailhead at Sweeney Ridge. The PLT had an Option Agreement with the City of Pacifica to purchase this property. Although the option expired on December 31, 2003, we have continued to work on this worthy project and as a result a promising new opportunity has arisen.

PG&E has been given permission by the State Public Utilities Commission to construct a high voltage power line from Redwood City to San Francisco. This power line will partially run through the San Francisco Watershed. The GGNRA has substantial recreational and scenic easements throughout the watershed. As mitigation for the environmental impacts which will be imposed on the watershed land, the GGNRA has asked PG&E to purchase the 9 acre Sweeney parcel. Although this is not a "slam dunk" the GGNRA and PG&E are negotiating the details of this potential purchase, and we are hopeful that PG&E will recognize the huge contribution it can make to the environment by completing this purchase. The PLT will continue to monitor the situation and remain an active participant.

Ernie Gomes

Got Email?

We'll keep you up-to-date, electronically!

From time to time issues arise that require a speedy response. Public hearings, land development proposals, and restoration projects (to name a few) are often up for review with relatively short notice. A growing list of concerned Pacificans' emails will help us keep you informed, and enable you to respond if you are inclined.

Interested? Email us at info@pacificalandtrust.org. We will not share your email or bother you needlessly.

Our Beautiful Commemorative Poster is available for you to purchase today!



GREAT BLUE HERON
STEPHEN JOHNSON
SAN PEDRO CREEK RESTORED
PACIFICA LAND TRUST

One day last March, PLT board member and Pacifica photographer Stephen Johnson, saw this Great Blue Heron feeding in the mouth of San Pedro Creek, near the beach. In honor of this heron and the countless other waterfowl who now have their "watering-rights" restored, we've produced this handsome commemorative poster. It is available from us, or you can purchase it from Stephen at his studio. The 18x24 inch full color poster is \$20 (plus tax and shipping of \$7.65), proceeds to benefit the Land Trust and our continuing projects.

Purchase from: **Pacifica Land Trust**, P.O. Box 988, Pacifica, CA 94044, www.pacificalandtrust.org or **Stephen Johnson Photography**, 580 Crespi Drive, Suite 580, Pacifica, CA, www.sjphoto.com, 650 355-7507.

Pedro Point Headlands Update

Multi-use Trail Construction

The Pedro Point Headlands area, 256 acres of primitive open space between Highway 1 and the ocean, with dramatic cliffs, hidden forests and coastal scrub grasslands now has a new trail in construction.

The Devil's Slide Tunnel project, just moved into its final phase by Governor Schwarzenegger's signature to Senator Sher's bill, includes funding for the completion of the multi-use trail from Pacifica south through the Pedro Point Headlands. This trail, partially funded by the Coastal Conservancy, leaves from the area behind the Linda Mar Hardware site on Pedro Point and winds through the eucalyptus forest west of highway one in a quiet area up to the gate at the parking lot on Highway One at Devil's Slide. It will be smooth, paved, safe and convenient for bike riders (NOT motorcyclists), strollers, hikers and runners. This is a great addition to the natural area and at last opens to public use this great resource.

It has been almost ten years since the Land Trust was successful in obtaining funds, along with the California Coastal Conservancy and the City of Pacifica, to acquire this property. The property had been slated for development and closure to the public. Federal and State funds of over \$2,500,000 were obtained in two grants to make this unique area a public asset. The property is now owned by the State of California, by the City of Pacifica and by several private parties. The Land Trust has been involved for many years in the restoration of the areas of erosion caused during the years of motorcycle use and in replanting and protecting the natural features of this remote part of Pacifica.

Recently, several of the Directors were instrumental in bringing the attention of the City to problems caused by the partial construction of the trail. After Land Trust notification of the City and the Coastal Conservancy of the incursion of many motorcycles into the area on the new trail, the City built new gates, placed barriers to motor vehicle entrance and posted several signs noting the closure of the entire area to motor vehicles. This effort has mostly stopped the offroad use. During the upcoming construction phases, it is vital that any offroad use be reported to the City of Pacifica. The police are committed to the proper enforcement of these laws. Many thousands of dollars have been spent on restoration, and offroad use threatens this good work.

The final phases of the multi-use trail will be beautiful! Kudos to the City of Pacifica and to Scott Holmes for creative use of the opportunity to build a trail using the right of way of the new pipeline for fire fighting water for the tunnel. The North Coast Counties Water District pipeline will run under the trail, which is to be hard surfaced and

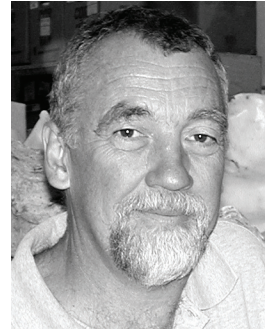
wide enough for many uses. It is slated to join up with the Highway 1 abandonment by Cal-Trans at Devil's Slide, and be part of the final coastal trail. Now comes planning for side trails over to the cliffs from the main trail. Take a walk now and get to know this new resource! Wind up the hill on the new trail leaving from the gate between Ristorante Mare and the Castle Kitchen buildings. Travel uphill about 1.3 miles through the forest leaving the highway and the sounds of the City behind. When you get to the old parking area, take the graded road up the ridge top and loop back through the valley. Beware of the poison oak! Also view the location of the tunnel bores to the south from the highway. Enjoy a picnic on the viewpoints at the top of the 1000-foot cliffs. The hike is not steep and the felled trees are now cleaned up so that an easy walk is available.

John Murphy

PLT welcomes New Board Member

Dr. Robert J. Van Syoc

Department of Invertebrate Zoology and Geology and Osher Laboratory for Molecular Systematics, California Academy of Sciences, San Francisco



Californians enjoy the greatest diversity of natural areas in the world. Our access to these natural wonders exists primarily due to great effort by people of previous generations who recognized their value as places of refuge.

I have been a California Academy of Sciences scientist since 1979, having studied topics in marine ecology and invertebrate zoology. I often travel to remote areas in order to gather new specimens for my work and discover how they fit into the local environment.

My desire to prevent the overdevelopment of our planet also stems from my childhood in Michigan. Summers spent romping on sand dunes, creeks and small ponds gave me a love of wild places. When I return to Michigan, most of the wild places I enjoyed are gone, victims of human development. Many of the lakeshore sand dunes I walked as a child have been leveled, the creeks culvertized and the ponds filled. Children today are missing something we all need. We all deserve a few wild places near where we live to experience the real world, filled with native animals and plants.

Pacifica Land Trust is "walking the talk", conserving open space as a refuge for people to see, hear and feel the natural world. I am honored to join the Board of Directors of PLT, and assist in this worthy endeavor.

Dr. Robert J. Van Syoc

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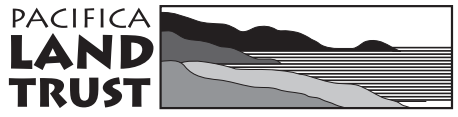
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www.pacificalandtrust.org

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 keep serving our community.

I support PLT!

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

\$25 \$50 \$75 \$100 Other \$ _____

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