



Fall 2008

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PLT Ventures into New Terrain:

Pedro Point Headland Stewardship Project

Michael C. Vasey

Pedro Point Headland has been called Pacifica's "Diamondhead." Standing over six hundred feet high, its bold features punctuate Pacifica's southern boundary, rising steeply above the long sweep of Linda Mar Beach and looming over Shelter Cove and San Pedro Rock. Pedro Point Headland contains some of the last, best native bunchgrass prairie along California's coast and hosts diverse wildlife such as grey fox, bobcats, deer, peregrine falcons, and even mountain lions. It is also rich in historical significance as part of the old Ocean Shore Railroad and a site for "rum-running" during prohibition days.

In 1992, the Pacifica Land Trust (PLT) was instrumental in preserving the Pedro Point Headland with the support of the California Coastal Conservancy, Cal-Trans, and the City of Pacifica. The Headland now serves as a premier part of Pacifica's open space network. Over the years, the PLT has obtained grants of approximately \$185,000 to conduct erosion control, weed removal, and re-vegetation efforts to improve the value of this open space gem. We also have worked diligently to ensure that this property is eventually transferred to a public land manager. Within the past few years, the Golden Gate National Recreation Area committed to add Pedro Point Headland to its other major San Mateo County units such as Sweeney Ridge, Milagra Ridge, Mori Point, and—most recently—Rancho Corral de Tierra. Meanwhile, visitation to Pedro Point Headland has begun to increase and as the Devil's Slide Tunnel nears completion, it is clear there will be increasing public activity on this site—which delights us, except that the site currently has no active management.

The PLT was instrumental in preserving the Pedro Point Headland with the support of the California Coastal Conservancy, Cal-Trans, and the City of Pacifica.

A Community Partnership with the PPCA

In light of these developments, the PLT applied to the California Coastal Conservancy to obtain funds to begin a volunteer-based stewardship program on Pedro Point Headland. We are proud to announce that we were awarded \$98,700 for a three-year project. Special thanks are due to Janet Diehl at Coastal Conservancy for her help in finalizing this grant

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and Ernie Gomes, the PLT president, whose efforts were indispensable in working out the final details. Past-president John Murphy was also instrumental in the success of our original application.

The community stewardship program will rely extensively on a new partnership between the PLT and the Pedro Point Community Association (PPCA) which has agreed to contribute the old Pedro Point Firehouse for meetings and logistical support. PPCA members will form the core of volunteer help to support the community stewardship project. Most of the funds will be used to fund a project coordinator to work with the PLT, PPCA, and other parties to carry out the stewardship project. The goals of the stewardship project are: (1) to identify ways to make the visitor experience to Pedro Point Headland safe and enjoyable, (2) to continue to improve the natural integrity of the Headland by conducting stewardship activities, and (3) to build a community base of support for stewardship activities on Pedro Point Headland during an interim period until the land is transferred to a permanent manager.

On October 19, 2008, the PLT and PPCA hosted a joint kick-off event to introduce the Pedro Point Headland Stewardship Project to the public. During the day, over 80 members of the public participated in three hikes led by John Murphy, Sheila Harmon, Paul Jones, and Mike Vasey to learn about the natural and cultural history of Pedro Point Headland. Dave Colt, Ted Tronoff, and Dianne Seaborg all graciously gave permission to access Pedro Point Headland through their private property. Sam Rigling of Castle Kitchen and Bath gave us permission to use his parking area as a staging site. Sam Casillas, a new PLT board member and past president of the PPCA, as well as member of the GGNRA Liaison Committee, was also a great asset. Ernie Gomes, the PLT president, and Breck Hitz of the PPCA, were particularly helpful in organizing the hikes. Many of the hike participants had never been on Pedro Point Headland before. Collectively, these hikes raised \$886 in voluntary donations.

Later that day, the PPCA hosted a great dinner at the Firehouse, organized by Marcia Settle of the PPCA, among

others. City Council member and former PLT board-member Julie Lancelle gave opening remarks acknowledging the value of this new project. After additional comments by Mike Vasey, including a question and answer session, Cynthia Kaufman, (newly elected school board member and spouse of PLT board member Carlos Davidson), conducted a raffle for posters and an original print of Mori Point and Pedro Point Headland donated by the prominent artist Stephen Johnson (also a PLT board member). This was a lively event much enjoyed by all. In the end, the PLT and PPCA raised \$1465 at the dinner (after expenses). Thanks to everyone involved for making this kick-off event such a resounding success!

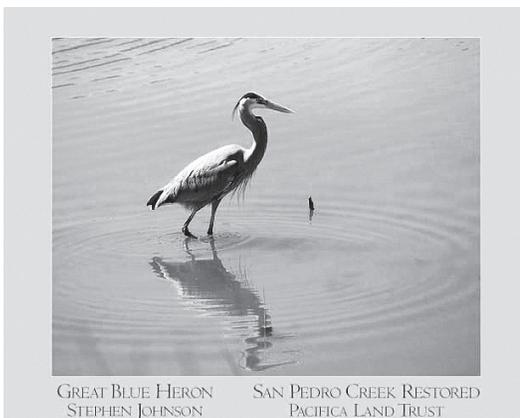
New Project Coordinator and Future Activities

After a thorough search, we are pleased to announce that one of Pacifica's most prominent community activists, Lynn Adams, has agreed to take on the part-time Project Coordinator role. People who have worked with Lynn rave about her energy, enthusiasm, expertise, and community-building skills. Most people know of Lynn through her efforts as part of the Pacifica Beach Coalition and her organization of this past year's successful Earth Day (for which she was honored by Jackie Speier). We are very excited to have Lynn accept this position.

At the kick-off event, we identified many residents who expressed interest in participating in the Pedro Point Headland Stewardship Project. We also obtained good feedback for developing an interim draft management plan which will be open to further comment once formalized. Stay tuned! We intend to conduct a workshop early next year to train and orient stewardship volunteers. Then, we'll be heading out to the slopes in 2009 to enjoy the fabulous vistas and elegant wildflowers while working to make Pedro Point Headland a safer, more attractive, and better quality natural area for visitors to enjoy. Hope to see you there! For further information, check in at our website.

http://www.pacificalandtrust.org/pedro_pt-stewardship.html

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



One day in March 2005, 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

Stephen Johnson Photography, 1220-C Linda Mar Blvd., Suites 5-7, Pacifica, CA 94044, 650 355-7507
www.sjphoto.com

From our President

Ernie Gomes, President

As the incoming President of the Pacifica Land Trust, I am filled with pride for all of the PLT's wonderful achievements during the past decade, including the restoration of San Pedro Creek, the acquisition of Mori Point, and the preservation of the Sweeney Ridge Gateway property. Your generous support has made all of this possible. The PLT exists due to the financial support from the community.

I am also filled with hope and enthusiasm as we gear up for our newest project, the Pedro Point Headland Stewardship Project. We will be working very closely with the Pedro Point Community Association, and hopefully each of you, as we embark on this exciting project. Environmental stewardship will provide the community with an opportunity to participate in hands-on restoration activities to protect the ecological values, improve trail safety, and improve the overall visitor experience of the Headland. This project became a reality due to the hard efforts of our outgoing President, Bernie Halloran, whose leadership provided critical guidance to the PLT directors, and the efforts of Board members John Murphy and Mike Vasey who became the driving force in finalizing a Grant Agreement between the PLT and our sponsor, the California Coastal Conservancy.

The Pacifica Land Trust is operated by an all-volunteer Board of Directors. Our operational expenses such as insurance, website maintenance, and printing costs are funded entirely by contributions from you, our supporters. In order for us to continue with the great successes we have enjoyed in the past, at this time we are asking for your financial support. I realize that with the economic issues America is currently facing, this may not be the best time for us to be seeking donations. However, the reality is that without this support, we risk falling short of meeting our goals.

I urge you to continue your generous support to the PLT, and I extend a personal invitation to all of you, to join us and "get your hands dirty" as environmental stewards, and help shape the future of the Pedro Point Headland. I would like to borrow a famous quote from John Muir that perhaps you can take along with you as you join us in the coming three years with site stewardship activities, or simply sauntering through the Headland. "Climb the mountains and get their good tidings. Nature's peace will flow into you as sunshine flows into trees. The winds will blow their own freshness into you, and the storms their energy, while cares will drop off like autumn leaves."

San Pedro Creek Update

Bernie Halloran

The beach front property and the mouth of San Pedro Creek, once owned by Mr. Robert Mahoney, was purchased by the City of Pacifica and continues to be a priceless addition to Pacifica State Beach. The 2.2 acre parcel just north of San Pedro Creek hosts crowds of beach goers and surfers on the weekends from all over San Mateo and San Francisco counties and from as far away as Santa Rosa and Sacramento. Pacifica

State Beach is one of the best and safest beaches along the Central Coast offering shallow and protected waters for family recreation and great waves for both novice and experienced surfers. The property is now permanently protected from any form of development. Its acquisition and the addition of the wetlands near the mouth has helped ensure the vitality of the Steelhead fishery and has provided valuable habitat for birds and aquatic animals such as the California red-legged frog.

Purchase of the land was made possible through the efforts of the Pacifica Land Trust, the City of Pacifica, the cooperation of Mr. Mahoney, the generous support of Prentice Williams and Nadine Hitchcock of the Coastal Conservancy and -- most importantly -- by you and your continued support of the Land Trust. Visit your beach and take advantage of its rare beauty, its stunning views and its remarkable recreational opportunities.

PLT Welcomes New Board Member

Samuel Casillas

Director of Corporate Relations for University of California

Sam became a PLT Director in September 2008 and is currently the Director of Corporate Relations for the University of California, San Francisco, where he is a Member of the University Development and Foundation Department. Sam is responsible for developing strategic corporate partnerships and tactical plans for sponsorships and campaign fundraising for the university Mission Bay hospitals project and more than 75 medical departments.



Sam moved to Pacifica because of its dynamic open space environment. He believes that the preservation and expansion of Pacifica serves as a model for the state and also the future economic engine for the city. He is now a volunteer with many environmental groups and is focused on the future integration of Pacifica's open space with other parks and public lands.

He has worked as a marketing manager for both Genentech and Eli Lilly, where he launched critically needed therapies for multiple diseases. He also served with the Peace Corps in Guinea-Bissau, West Africa.

Sam holds a business degree from the University of California, Riverside and an MBA from the Kenan-Flagler Business School at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill.

His volunteer services include board memberships for the Pacifica Library Foundation, Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GGNRA) Liaison Committee and the Pedro Point Community Association.

A Special Thanks to Jim Nozger at Custom Binding in Pacifica for printing our newsletters.

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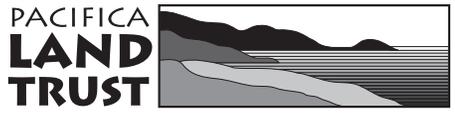
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\$25 \$50 \$75 \$100 Other \$ _____

I support PLT!
Keep up the good work!

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 keep serving our community.



Pacifica Land Trust
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