



LAND NEWS

Spring 2010

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Pedro Point Headland Stewardship Project is Underway

Michael C. Vasey

The first official workshop for the Pedro Point Headlands Stewardship Project took place on Saturday November 7, 2009. Sponsored by the California Coastal Conservancy in cooperation with the City of Pacifica and the Golden Gate National Recreational Area (GGNRA), this project has been two years in the making. Coordinator for the project, Lynn Adams, organized the meeting and facilitated the workshop. The Pedro Point Community Association (PPCA) donated the Firehouse for the event. About 25 people attended from the neighborhood and other parts of Pacifica's broader community. Special guests included Price Sheppy from the Golden Gate Parks Conservancy and Mayor Julie Lancelle.

Lynn began by reviewing the goals of the project and emphasizing that we hope to grow this partnership between the community, PLT and the PPCA in a "bottoms up" manner. In that spirit, we identified working groups that provide opportunities for all participants to contribute their particular talents. The four basic groups include: habitat restoration, signage, trails, and site monitoring. While we talked, two other ideas emerged: one for a group that would focus on developing the history of the site and one that would use contemporary communications technologies (e.g., website, blogs, etc.) to strengthen the ability for all participants to coordinate and document.

After the preliminary discussion, people divided into groups of interest. The groups were facilitated by members of PLT and Lynn. Dinah Verby and Michael Black worked with the signage group. Mike Vasey and former PLT Board Member, Julie Lancelle, worked with the habitat stewardship group. Lynn organized the site monitoring group. Price joined the habitat restoration group and was a great help in outlining the basics of a successful habitat restoration program. Price has extensive experience with the National Parks Conservancy's Site Stewardship Program habitat restoration and management programs, one of the model volunteer stewardship programs in the nation.

The four groups reconvened after these breakout sessions and shared their plans and visions. The site monitoring group will develop a site visitation program where members will walk the headland trails on a frequent basis and log their observations as to erosion, hazardous conditions, and inappropriate uses of the property. In particular, they will develop a protocol for reporting motorcycle activity to the authorities and this activity will be documented. The signage group will create signs that help orient visitors, identify open and closed trails, and mark property boundaries. They also will consider implementing a sign-in log at different trail heads. The trails group contacted Keith Stegall and Steve Griswold of GGNRA and held a site visit in late 2009. Based on input from these experts, the trail group will try to identify routes that should be reinforced and those that should



Headlands Stewardship
Coordinator Lynn Adams

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be closed to allow habitat to recover. The habitat restoration group was advised to start small, identify key resources, and work outward to control invasive species and restore habitat.

After the meeting, a small group headed up to the headland. We focused on one of the most sensitive natural habitats on the headland – the Pacific reedgrass prairie. Just on the basis of this walk, some excellent stewardship projects became apparent at the north end of the property. The habitat restoration group convened in December to get the ball rolling on plans for the first work day.

Although the group was small, we envision that it will become the nucleus of a growing community devoted to enhancing the values of Pedro Point Headland for the community. During our short visit, we noted six other people and two leashed dogs visiting the site. Clearly, Pedro Point Headland has been discovered and we will do our best to make that visitor experience safe and enjoyable while protecting the intrinsic values of this open space gem.

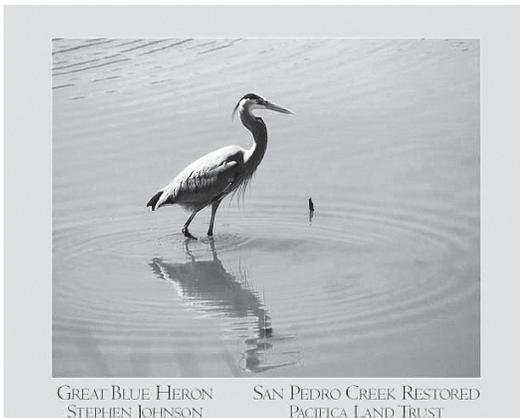


Fine Art Pacifica Photograph

Donation from Board Member Stephen Johnson

Most of you in Pacifica have received this year's Pacifica directory with Stephen Johnson's photograph of Pedro Point on the cover. Steve is donating 10 original 11x14 prints to raise funds for the PLT. Steve's 11x14 prints sell for \$800 each, they are available here for \$195 each. Email info@sphoto.com.

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.

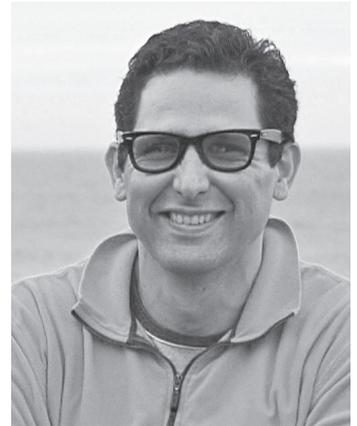
Purchase from: **Pacifica Land Trust:** PO Box 988, Pacifica, CA 94044
www.pacifica-land-trust.org

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

From our President

Sam Casillas, President

It is with great pride that I get to serve as President of the Pacifica Land Trust (PLT). When I first moved to Pacifica over six years ago, I knew I had found a real gem of a city with such a beautiful open coastline surrounded by majestic rolling hills. I soon realized that the beauty of Pacifica had been preserved with the help of key volunteer organizations throughout the city. I learned that the restoration of San Pedro Creek, the acquisition of Mori Point, and the preservation of Sweeney Ridge were made possible with the collaboration and support of many throughout our community with the efforts led by the Pacifica Land Trust.



We recently kicked off our latest project for the Stewardship of the Pedro Point Headland made possible with a Grant Agreement between PLT and our sponsor, the California Coastal Conservancy. We look forward to someday integrating this magnificent property into our park system, but until then we will work very closely with the Pedro Point Community Association—and hopefully many of you—as we embark on this exciting project. This environmental stewardship project 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.

These projects are made possible due to the great leadership we have had over the past years including the tireless efforts of the PLT Board, the dedication of our current past president Ernie Gomes—we are deeply indebted to him for his efforts in leading our wonderful organization—and most importantly your generous support. The Land Trust's existence is due only

to the financial support from the community. It is operated by an all-volunteer Board of Directors. Our operational expenses are funded entirely by contributions from you, our supporters. If we are to continue our work to preserve our open space in Pacifica it will require your financial support.

During these difficult times we realize it is hard to make a donation, but I urge you to continue your generous support to the Pacifica Land Trust through your contributions and volunteer efforts. I look forward to our continued partnership with the openhearted citizens of Pacifica and the preservation of our beautiful open space.

Land Trust Funding

We reside within a stone's throw of some of the most beautiful property in the world. Although much of the Bay Area's landscape has been developed, there still remain significant areas of pristine open space that provide a visual escape from urban sprawl.

Land trusts, such as the Pacifica Land Trust, work tirelessly to preserve and protect scenic coastal lands such as San Pedro Mountain, Mori Point, and Sweeney Ridge, to name a few. Our continued success depends upon your generosity and your desire to preserve our quality of life.

Public contributions may take many forms, the most obvious being lump sums or scheduled cash gifts. Inter vivos gifts of land or other assets may qualify for federal and/or state deductions, thereby saving donors from capital gain or other taxes to which they would otherwise be subjected. Further, by using various types of trusts, including charitable trusts that qualify for beneficial tax treatment, an estate plan can be tailored to provide one with tax incentives to reward commitment and generosity. We recommend that you consult with your financial advisors about making charitable gifts and welcome outright bequests and other estate plans that provide a source of funds to continue the mission of the PLT. Additionally, we invite you to contact us if you have questions. PLT is a 501(c) (3) nonprofit corporation and all donations are tax deductible.

In Memory of Brian O'Neill (1941-2009)

Dinah Verby

There were sad tidings in 2009 when Brian O'Neill, the late Superintendent of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GGNRA), unexpectedly passed away in May of 2009.

I recall the first time I met Brian O'Neill when I had recently become a member of the Pacifica Land Trust Board of Directors. I was incredibly impressed by his personality and charisma, and by the question he posed to me: "What should we do next in Pacifica?" That was Brian – always planning ahead.



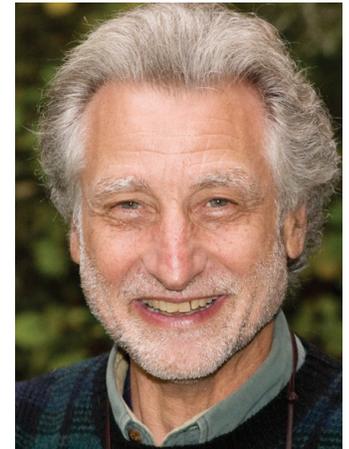
Brian was a steadfast friend to the Pacifica Land Trust and open space advocates in San Mateo County. Without his solid leadership, key coastal parklands and endangered species habitats such as Milagra Ridge, Pedro Point Headlands, and Mori Point—the crown jewel of the Pacifica coastline—might have been lost to development. Brian had a rare combination of talents – he was both a visionary and a pragmatist. He could see the dream and figure out how to make it happen politically and financially. He was particularly adept at “deal-making,” such as the way he engaged the City of Pacifica and PG&E to help preserve a small but important parcel of land in the Crystal Springs Reservoir known as the Gateway to Sweeney Ridge. With the help of the Pacifica Land Trust and Friends of Sweeney Ridge, that part of the watershed is now preserved and permanently protected.

The examples go on and on throughout the Bay Area. We lost Brian way too soon, but his legacy will also go on and on, as we enjoy the incredible beauty that is the GGNRA.

PLT Welcomes New Board Member

Michael Black

The Pacifica Land Trust's most recent board member is Michael Black, an arch-Druidic writer, occasional teacher and policy analyst. He currently lives with his 13-year old son, Walker, in what he calls the “Rockback Beach” neighborhood.



Michael likes doing projects, large and small. In 2005, he proposed creating a worldwide “Ecological Council on Truth and Reconciliation” that would do for the global environment what South Africa's “Truth and Reconciliation Commission” accomplished in the wake of its Apartheid regime. He still seeks project funding which is being virtually-sponsored by the Washington D.C. based Loka Institute.

Michael most recently taught environment, science and technology policy as a visiting lecturer at Claremont's Pomona College (2006-2007). While there, he taught courses on the “Politics of Community Design” and a seminar on what was required to establish a non-governmental organization called the “Council on Ecological Truth & Reconciliation.”

Michael's more traditional scholarly writing appears in a range of journals including “Conservation Biology,” “Pacific Historical Review” and “World Policy Journal.” His work on Pacific salmon restoration has also been published by the State of California.

Got Email?

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

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

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

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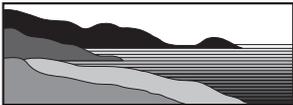
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I support PLT!
Keep up the good work!

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.

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