



BEAUTIFY LUNADA BAY PROJECT

NEWSLETTER #8

August 2018



Panoramic photo of BLB Phase 1b site (photo by Cynthia Woo)

Life Returns to Pilot Area

As the photos below show, the new native, drought tolerant plants are bringing butterflies, birds and other wildlife to the newly restored area.



Left: Hummingbird sipping from California Fuchsia blossom; Right: Acmon blue butterfly on rattlepod (Photos by Barb Ailor, Cynthia Woo).



Future butterflies snacking (Caterpillar from Cucullia genus (a moth--no specific ID) on California aster, some type of moth caterpillar on California aster, white-lined Sphinx moth caterpillar on a willowherb (possibly a fringed willowherb) (photos courtesy Cynthia Woo)



Butterflies enjoying native plants (from left: Blue butterflies (possibly Acmon blue butterflies) on rattlepod (leaves were dried out/dead, but plant had new growth at base), gray hairstreak on seacliff buckwheat, checkered white butterfly on seacliff buckwheat)

Event Acknowledges Key Supporters

On July 15, the Lunada Bay Homeowners Association formally acknowledged and thanked key supporters and volunteers in the effort to plan, design and complete the Beautify Lunada Bay Pilot. These included Lunada Bay residents Bill Ailor, who originated and led the project, Peter Bena, who as former president of the LBHOA was a strong advocate for the project and helped guide the project and led the day-to-day implementation effort, and Marlene Breene, who designed the layout and helped select plants.

Other principals were Adrienne Mohan of the Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy, who orchestrated PVPLC support and provided technical assistance and project management skills; Finley's Tree and Landcare Company, who helped with the heavy tasks (site clearing, installing main water lines, and timely completion of Phase 1a); and the City of Palos Verdes Estates, whose elected officials, Parkland Committee members, and staff were all enthusiastic about the project. The city provided key support in another way: it provided the stones that line the trails, the occasional boulders that provide

seating, mulch to help keep weeds down, and water. No direct financial support was provided by the city.



Left: Kristin Pekarek, president of the Lunada Bay Homeowners Association, thanks volunteers for their efforts.

Key financial support was provided by the South Coast Chapter of the California Native Plant Society, the Palos Verdes Homes Association, Lunada Bay Elementary School’s Parent Teachers Association, and the National Geographic Society. Donations were received from over 70 local residents.

As the project evolved, it is estimated that over 100 individuals provided volunteer support, including elementary, intermediate, high school, and college students, residents of all four Peninsula Cities, San Pedro, Long Beach, several South Bay cities, and Los Angeles. Key volunteers included Barbara Ailor, Ed Barrios, Jane Biggel, Ed Deason, John Horne, Austin Nash, Connie Smith, and Cynthia Woo. It is important to note that for Phase 1b, volunteers built the stone borders for the trails, planted the plants, installed the drip lines, and covered the site with mulch.

Based on the success of these efforts, we hope volunteers and supporters will again rise to the occasion as we extend this restoration concept to other areas.

So, What’s Next?

We’ll continue to have periodic weeding and mulching events, which will be posted on the PVPLC’s Volunteer Hub web page. We’ll also send notices to our BLB email list. If you’re not on that list, you may sign up at blb.lbhoa.org.

The BLB Pilot Project demonstrates a concept for restoring deteriorated open space. With ongoing support, we will continue community discussions, prepare plans, obtain permissions, secure funding, provide volunteer opportunities, and Beautify Lunada Bay.

Please give us your thoughts on moving forward via the BLB web page: blb.lbhoa.org.

----- Background -----

The Lunada Bay Homeowners Association initiated the Beautify Lunada Bay (BLB) Project in 2014 to restore the habitat and improve the appearance of areas in Lunada Bay. The project will replace the seasonal weeds or bare dirt with drought tolerant native plants that will remain less

than three feet tall and be attractive year-round. The project will also upgrade existing walking paths by adding stone borders and decomposed granite.

After meetings with local residents, BLB planners developed plans for Phase 1 of the effort: a demonstration garden on a 1-acre site across from Lunada Bay Elementary School. Plans for the site were developed in concert with the Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy (PVPLC), a local nonprofit organization that grows native plants and restores open space on the Peninsula.

The City of Palos Verdes Estates gave its enthusiastic support and is providing boulders, stones to line the paths, mulch, and water for three years to assure the plants get a good start. Please see the LBHOA web page (blb.lbhoa.org) for more information.

----- **BLB Steering Committee** -----

Bill Ailor, Project Leader; VP, LBHOA Board
Barbara Ailor, Resident
Peter Bena, LBHOA Board, Project Management
Jane Biggeln, Resident
Marlene Breene, LBHOA Board, Landscape Design
Christi Carrillo, Palm Realty Boutique
Brittany Goldsmith, Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy

Karen Merickel, Resident
Adrienne Mohan, Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy
Austin Nash, PVHS Student (he just graduated!)
Connie Smith, Resident
Kristin Sweet-Pekarek, President, Lunada Bay Homeowners Association (LBHOA)
Robert Wynne, LBHOA Board