



## LOS TRANCOS WOODS & VISTA VERDE Newsletter – April/May 2015

### Pulling Their Weight

When we bought a house in the Woods in 1989, **June Bilisoly**, an old-timer up here and the LTW Treasurer at the time, introduced me to the idea of tending our open space. Open space was to be admired, enjoyed, and taken care of by pulling invasive plants. She may have started slowly educating me, showing me her native plants in her yard, pointing out the invasive species in other yards, asking if I had gotten rid of the broom in my backyard yet. Then it was phone calls, “Linda, there is a new invasive in the Woods. I’ll be right over to show it to you.” She was quite a persuasive woman.

Over the years I discovered that June was not just words but action also. June and **Annaloy Nickum**, a long-time president of LTWCA, were two master pullers. My education now went “on the road.” I would be hiking one of the trails on our open space and would come upon Annaloy, bent over, busily pulling, listening to her music, relishing the fact that she was vanquishing some nasty invasive. Before you knew it, I was in there pulling away too. I came to find out that this was quite a quiet, but very effective, group that I was being “pulled” into.

I was joining a diligent, not boastful, patient, ever vigilant, unpublicized group of people. **Anne and Buzz Baldwin and Toni Markley** preceded me by years. **John Nightingale** has been the latest addition, but he has been pulling with a vengeance ever since he started. As we are hiking, he will leap off the trail, head out to some yellow flowers that I did not even see, and come back with a mitt full of flowering broom that he gleefully ripped up. The thistles have exploded in their populations since dead trees have created a lot of new openings in the canopy to sunlight. We have pulled thousands of thistles. But we are winning. I cannot imagine how many times all these people have pulled their weight in invasives.

I know there are many of you out there that pull a broom or thistle and quietly go on your way. Thank you to all who diligently work on tending our open space to enhance the native flora and fauna and keep the ecosystem dynamic!



French Broom



Italian Thistle



Bull Thistle

If you see any of these invasives pictured above, banish them to the pulled weed heap.

*Submitted by Linda Drey-Nightingale*

### Los Trancos County Water District News

Recently, LTCWD Board of Directors has distributed information about the proposed plan for dissolution and the formation of a County Maintenance District (CMD). Some time in mid-April you will be receiving an e-mail from Godbe Research asking you to participate in an e-mail survey about the District’s future. Please participate in the survey. Afterwards, Godbe will be presenting its findings at the May 7 regular Board Meeting, and the Board will discuss its next steps. Please use our website, [www.ltcwd.org](http://www.ltcwd.org), as a resource for learning more about the District’s change plans. Thank you.

*Submitted by Claudia Mazzetti, LTCWD Board Member*

## **Water We Thinking?**

**Think water!** Although everyone has done something to conserve water, we are still in a water bind.

1. Think water leaks. Get out those toilet tank dye pills or food coloring, check all those irrigation hoses and emitters, watch the water meter when you think all water use is turned off.
2. Think water every time you turn on a hose, or an irrigation system, or a faucet. When washing hands or vegetables, why do a blast when a minimal flow will do? How much water do you **really** need to use inside and out?

By all working together, we can make a difference.

### **On a 3<sup>rd</sup> Note:**

It is time to take a serious look at our gardens and watering methods. Professional help is available in a limited time program from the Los Trancos County Water District. Each residence can get an expert landscaper or irrigation specialist to help them change their garden to make it more water efficient AND look at your irrigation system to make recommendations. Even if you have a smart (ET) water controller, do you know if it is programmed correctly?

You can set up an appointment. Here is a link to the web page with the phone numbers and bio's of the experts we have retained for this program. The first hour of consulting is paid for by this program, so you only have to pay for any improvements. <http://lrcwd.org/waterconservation.html> Please note that Lori Palmquist has been replaced by Seth Wright, 510-830-8852. Call soon before this program expires!

*Submitted by Mike Ward & Linda Drey-Nightingale from the Water Conservation Committee*

## **Neighborhood Notes**

- Some people have noticed **sprinklers** going during the hot part of the day, and **water running** down the street from overwatering. Let's all think about watering at night when the water soaks in instead of evaporating, and checking our irrigation systems carefully to avoid overwatering or watering impervious surfaces. Thanks to our water watchers who are helping us conserve!
- **Styrofoam recycling** is now happening at Portola Valley Town Center! You can take in your clean, dry, white block Styrofoam anytime during business hours, Monday-Friday 8-12 & 1-5. They do not accept peanuts or packing material that bends. Styrofoam breaks. You can take your peanuts to the UPS Store in Ladera Shopping Center for reuse.
- **Our illustrious rainfall recorder**, Gene Hunner, reports our very local figures: February – 6.8", March – .8", and season-to-date – 28.0".

### **Community Associations' Web Sites**

The web site addresses are:  
<http://lostrancoswoods.org/>  
<http://www.vistaverdepv.org>

The group e-mail list is:  
[VistaVerdeLTW@yahoogroups.com](mailto:VistaVerdeLTW@yahoogroups.com)  
[VistaVerdeCommunityAssoc-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:VistaVerdeCommunityAssoc-subscribe@yahoogroups.com).

*Thank you, Jerry Jensen & Rob Kalman for maintaining web sites*