



Atascadero Land Preservation Society

P. O. Box 940, Atascadero, CA 93423

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ALPS Newsletter

Atascadero Land Preservation Society

Summer 2021

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

The last 12 months have been a challenge for everyone . . . ALPS included. The outbreak of COVID-19 required us to rethink how we would manage our society and our properties.

As social distancing and lock-downs went into effect in the Spring of 2020, we realized we could no longer host monthly workdays open to the general public. Fortunately, the volunteer Trail Crew that helped build Three Bridges Oak Preserve helped to fill the gap. The crew quickly learned how to work around each other while maintaining proper social distance.



We cancelled our board meetings and used monthly email notes to communicate our business. As restrictions were lifted, we began to hold board meetings outside during the warm months. We met at the Atascadero Lake Park where we could set up our chairs in a large circle. It was a welcome change to be able to get together to discuss business and catch up.

Another item to address was public access to our trails, mainly at Three Bridges Oak Preserve. We kept abreast of current restrictions and observed how the City, County, State and other organizations were handling their trail access. We decided it was best to keep our trails open while posting signs reminding users to social distance. We also put directional signs on the Oak Woodland loop trail to minimize interaction between users. All of these actions were well received by users who told us time and time again how much they appreciated having access to a safe outdoor activity during these trying times.

ALPS IS LOOKING FOR BOARD MEMBERS

ALPS is looking for candidates for our Board of Directors who will help with our mission to preserve environmentally significant open space and native trees in Atascadero.

A great way to learn more about the ALPS organization is to attend a workday or attend a board meeting. You can also attend a Native Tree Committee meeting to learn more about native trees and our planting and maintenance efforts. If you are interested or want more information, please email ALPS at: info@supportalps.org

Keep up-to-date on ALPS News, Visit our website at: www.supportalps.org

The next monthly workday will be:

Sept. 18 - Creek Cleanup Day

AMWC Yard, 6675 Sycamore Rd.

Workday is from 9:00 am to Noon

Oct. 9 - Trash Cleanup at

Stadium Park

Workday is from 9:00 am to Noon

For more information please email

ALPS at: info@supportalps.org

Visit our website:

www.supportalps.org

to learn more about ALPS and to
sign up on our email list to be notified of Workdays and Events.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

President

Mike Orvis

Vice-President

John Goers

Secretary

Meg Perry

Treasurer

Carol Collins

Members

Ellen Beraud

Bruce Bonifas

Bobby Jo Close

Deb Dight

Jonalee Istenes

Cory Meyer

Jim Patterson

Deborah Stafford

In Memoriam:

Marj Mackey

Geri Brasher Phemister

Bill Shepard

Joan O'Keefe

website: www.supportalps.org

Contact us at: info@supportalps.org

2021 GERI BRASHER SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT

The 2021 Geraldine Brasher Phemister Scholarship recipient is **Moselle Stieler**, a graduating senior at Atascadero High School. Moselle will attending UCLA this fall majoring in microbiology and plans to pursue a career as a medical doctor for small children.



Mike Orvis presenting ALPS scholarship to Moselle Stieler

ALPS selected Moselle based on her involvement and leadership in many high school groups including President of the Earth Club and other environmental causes outside of high school. As president of the Earth Club, Moselle and other members supported ALPS with the replanting of the high school median on Carmelita Avenue. The club helped plant two Valley Oak trees and two Toyon bushes and took on the task of maintaining and watering the new plants.



ALPS Board Members, Moselle, and her proud parents

WORKDAYS

ADOBE SPRINGS THISTLE CONTROL

ALPS volunteers invested a total of three workdays in an effort to control the growth of the invasive Italian Thistle which covers 10,000 square feet of the property.



The volunteers mowed close to the ground and then covered the area with butcher paper and four inches of wood chips. This combination inhibits thistle growth and germination of any underlying seed. As the mulch decomposes it also amends the soil.

CARMELITA OAK TREE REPLANTING

ALPS volunteers replanted the oak trees burned at the Carmelita Planting Site by the June 9, 2020 grass fire. Volunteers replaced 17 burned Live Oak trees and planted five Valley Oak trees and one Blue Oak tree. These small oak seedlings will one day become a beautiful oak woodland!



ALPS volunteer planting a Live Oak seedling at Carmelita site

WORKDAYS

NEW BENCH AT STADIUM LANE



Volunteers install a new bench above the Bill Shepard Native Garden

ADOBE SPRING TOURS

ALPS hosted a group of students interested in seeing and learning about the Estrada Adobe and the spring. The students are part of the Atascadero Choices in Education (ACE) home school program run by the school district. The students in the elementary ACE program increased this year from 24 to 180 students due to the at-home learning associated with the COVID epidemic. The students also learned about the flora and fauna located on the site. One student even caught a cricket!



ACE elementary level students, parents and teachers

ALPS also hosted a "virtual tour" for students attending Paloma Creek High School.

NATIVE TREE COMMITTEE



Members of the ALPS – Native Tree Committee spread mulch around the beautiful large Valley Oak located on Garbada Road at the entrance to the city sewer plant and the trailhead to the Anza North trails and the Heilmann Grove planting site.



New barrier logs and mulch around the big beautiful Valley Oak tree at the end of Garbada Road

At the request of the Native Tree Committee, the City Public Works department placed log barriers around the drip line of the tree and provided multiple loads of wood chip mulch. The barriers will prevent vehicles from driving and parking underneath the oak tree which compacts the soil. The mulch will help retain rain water and keep the soil moist. Compaction is one of the biggest health risks to trees and is caused by excessive traffic or activity on the soil around the root zone. This compaction or compression occurs because excessive weight presses the soil particles together very tightly reducing the pore space between them which holds vital air and water.

The Native Tree Committee meets almost every month on the 2nd Monday. If you are interested in joining, please email ALPS at: info@supportalps.org