



*Atascadero Land Preservation Society*

*P. O. Box 940, Atascadero, CA 93423*

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# *ALPS Newsletter*

## *Atascadero Land Preservation Society*

Fall 2022

*Keep up-to-date on ALPS News, Visit our website at: [www.supportalps.org](http://www.supportalps.org)*

The next monthly workday will be:

### **Sept. 17 - Creek Cleanup Day**

**AMWC Yard, 6675 Sycamore Rd.**

**Signup at 8:30 am**

**Workday from 9:00 am to Noon**

For more information please email

ALPS at: [info@supportalps.org](mailto:info@supportalps.org)

Visit our website:

**[www.supportalps.org](http://www.supportalps.org)**

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

**Colony Days - October 1st**

### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS:**

**President**  
**Vice-President**  
**Secretary**  
**Treasurer**  
**Members**

Mike Orvis  
John Goers  
Meg Perry  
Carol Collins  
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](http://www.supportalps.org)

Contact us at: [info@supportalps.org](mailto:info@supportalps.org)

### **ACORNS ARE STARTING TO FALL!**

Fall is just around the corner and some of the oak trees are beginning to shed their leaves and drop acorns. If you are thinking of trying your hand at growing some oak seedlings, now is the time to begin collecting acorns from the local trees.

ALPS has posted information on our website about gathering, sorting, planting and caring for oak seedlings at: [www.supportalps.org/native-tree/native-tree-resources/](http://www.supportalps.org/native-tree/native-tree-resources/).

You can also email questions to: [info@supportalps.org](mailto:info@supportalps.org) We are happy to provide local tips.



### **CARING FOR OAK TREES AT OUR PLANTING SITES**

Planting oak trees is satisfying and a lot of fun!

But the fun (and work) doesn't stop there. The small oaks need plenty of attention in the first three to five years of growth until they become established and can live on their own. This includes weeding and mulching around the trees, ensuring the browse protection cage is in place and capable of repelling nibbling animals such as deer, and most important watering during the dry months.



ALPS acquired a 350 gallon water tote and a 12 volt water pump to aid with watering the small oak trees at the Carmelita, Three Bridges Oak Preserve, Adobe Springs, Chico Road and AHS Median planting sites. During the hot summer months all of the young trees (about 70) must be watered every three to four weeks to ensure they

stay healthy. Depending on the size of each tree or plant, anywhere from five to fifty gallons of water are placed on each tree. It takes about six hours to complete the watering.



## 2022 GERI BRASHER SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT

The 2022 Geraldine Brasher Phemister Scholarship recipient is **Lysette “Dani” Bloomer**, a graduating senior at Atascadero High School. Dani is currently attending Cuesta studying Agricultural Plant Science and plans to pursue a career that will focus on conservation and climate change. Lysette got her love for growing food and flowers from her grandparents.



Mike Orvis presenting ALPS scholarship to Lysette “Dani” Bloomer  
In the foreground are two examples of her art work.

Dani is also a very talented artist and plans to continue this passion by incorporating her interest in environmental science and conservation into her art. She won first place in the Wonders of the Oak Woodland youth art show and her drawing was auctioned off to help support the Land Conservancy of San Luis Obispo. Congratulations Lysette “Dani” Bloomer!



## ADOBE SPRINGS INTERPRETIVE PROGRAM

After a two year delay ALPS hosted 130 local 3rd grade students at Adobe Springs for docent led field trips covering subjects required for their local history education. In 2022 the non-profit educational group Earth Inspired helped coordinate the field trips. San Gabriel Elementary attended on April 6 and San Benito Elementary on April 7.



Students learning how a spring provides water

## STEWARDS GROVE

Madrone Landscape employees planted five large Valley Oak trees and created a log circle sitting area by the Three Bridges Oak Preserve trailhead turn around. ALPS appreciates the volunteers that created this beautiful grove that will be enjoyed by users for many year to come!



## WORKDAY HIGHLIGHTS



VFW and ALPS volunteers at the end of a great workday!

Volunteers from VFW Post 2814 were a great help at the October 9, 2021 workday and they generously provided the snacks and drinks!



The ALPS Trail Crew spent one morning last January improving the rock crossing that connects the Three Bridges Oak Preserve trailhead to the trail system. The key to a good creek crossing is large stable rocks with gaps that allow the creek water to flow between the rocks. The Trail Crew workdays are usually on Thursday mornings a couple of times each month. If you are interested in helping, email ALPS at: [info@supportalps.org](mailto:info@supportalps.org)

## OTHER ACTIVITIES

### SUDDEN OAK DEATH SURVEY

In April, ALPS volunteers supported the county wide Sudden Oak Death (SOD) Blitz. The volunteers surveyed various Bay Laurel trees located at Three Bridges Oak Preserve. The California Bay Laurel tree is a vector for the pathogen which can be transmitted to nearby Live Oak trees. SOD is a fungus-like tree disease that has killed millions of oak and tanoak trees in all coastal counties north of San Luis Obispo County.

### PARTY FOR THE PLANET

ALPS volunteers were happy to participate in the annual “Party for the Planet” event hosted by the City at the Charles paddock Zoo in celebration of Earth Day!



The event attracts both local and out of county families providing us a great opportunity to showcase our work and share our passion at this educational event. We also gave away oak tree seedlings!

## BECOME A BOARD MEMBER

ALPS is looking for candidates 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, a board meeting or a Native Tree Committee meeting.