



Atascadero Land Preservation Society

P. O. Box 940, Atascadero, CA 93423

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ALPS Newsletter

Atascadero Land Preservation Society

Summer 2023

THIS LAST WINTER IT RAINED . . . A LOT!

This last winter we all received a lot of much needed rain that helped fill up local reservoirs and replenish ground water supplies. Unfortunately it also caused damage to property that resided along steep hillsides and creeks.

The Three Bridges Oak Preserve trailhead was completely flooded during the downpour in early January causing a lot of damage. Vegetation and debris were deposited all over the trailhead and on the fences. The flooding ripped out much of the fence along the creek by the kiosk. The rushing water gouged out the creek bank by the kiosk while depositing large amounts of silt and sand in other areas. The ADA pathway from the parking lot to the kiosk was washed away along with many plants and trees.



We began the cleanup with a workday on January 28 and were elated when 58 volunteers showed up to help! The volunteers removed debris from the trailhead and off of the fences,

shoveled silt and sand off the pavement, and filled in large holes and the creek bank that had been eroded away. In total 40 yards of debris was removed and placed into a large dumpster!

In the following weeks the ALPS Trail Crew volunteers worked very hard to get the trailhead ready to open. They repaired the ADA path and removed additional debris. Next they replaced broken fence posts and filled in large holes where flood waters eroded the creek bank. The perimeter fence near the kiosk was washed away and had to be rebuilt. The path under the



Hwy 41 overpass had a large buildup of gravel that was removed and smoothed out. The path between the overpass and creek crossing was repaired. The trails were cleared of debris and drainages rebuilt. On April 20 the crew rebuilt the rock creek crossing and opened the gates!

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

The next monthly workday will be:

Sept. 30 - 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

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.

Colony Days - October 7

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

2023 GERI BRASHER SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT



John Goers presenting the scholarship to Audrey Little.

The 2023 recipient of the Geraldine Brasher Phemister Scholarship recipient is **Audrey Little**, a graduating senior at Atascadero High School. Audrey will be attending Cuesta College this fall and plans to be there for the next two years. After Cuesta College she plans to attend the University of California at Santa Barbara and major in Environmental Science.



ALPS Officers and Audrey Little with her scholarship check.

Audrey would like to become a teacher so she can provide students with knowledge about conservation and the environment. Besides academics, Audrey was very active in many organizations, activities and sports. She loves to hike and be out in nature whenever she can. Congratulations Audrey!

ADOBE SPRINGS INTERPRETIVE PROGRAM

Last April ALPS provided docent led field trips for 177 local 3rd grade students on topics covering subjects pertaining to their local history education. Students from San Benito Road Elementary, San Gabriel and Santa Margarita Elementary Schools attended.



Students learning about the native people that lived in the area.

Salinan Tribe taught about their culture and how they lived many centuries on this land. **Estrada Adobe** taught about the San Miguel Mission outpost built in 1812. **Morro Coast Audubon Society** taught about the different birds in the local area and how they live. **SLO Beaver Brigade** taught about beavers, their habitat and the benefits of beavers in our rivers and streams. **The Spring** taught about how a spring is created and how animals and humans need water to live.



Students learning how to make a beaver dam!

ARBOR DAY TREE PLANTING

Every year ALPS Native Tree Committee celebrates Arbor Day by finding a significant location to plant native trees. As the Colony Heri-



ALPS volunteers planting a Valley Oak Tree at the CHC!

tage Center becomes a reality we noticed that many of the surrounding Valley Oak trees on site are in their last stages of life. To ensure there will always be Valley Oaks to adorn the center ALPS planted three Valley Oak trees!

BILL SHEPARD NATIVE GARDEN

This June, ALPS volunteers worked hard to clean up the garden removing weeds, trimming plants, weed-whacking the entrance and ALPS Trail, and cleaning the entrance and kiosk signs. The garden looks great for all to enjoy, thanks to our fantastic volunteers!



ALPS volunteer hauling out a big load of weeds from the garden!

OTHER ACTIVITIES

SUDDEN OAK DEATH SURVEY

ALPS volunteers supported the county wide Sudden Oak Death (SOD) Blitz. The volunteers surveyed Bay Laurel trees located within 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 trees in coastal counties north of San Luis Obispo County.

PARTY FOR THE PLANET

ALPS participated in the annual "Party for the Planet" Earth Day event hosted by the City at the Charles paddock Zoo!

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 seedlings to take home and plant!



ALPS helping to pick out an oak seedling!

BECOME AN ALPS VOLUNTEER!

Help ALPS 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. Questions, email ALPS at: info@supportalps.org