



# ALPS Newsletter

Atascadero Land Preservation Society

November 2008

Volume 6, Number 1

## NOTE FROM DUG

Wow! It seems like just a month ago when I last wrote to our loyal ALPS supporters, but it's actually been a year since our last newsletter. At that time, we felt a bit deflated after having made a major push to purchase 103 acres along Atascadero Creek, only to have the deal fall through at the eleventh hour. We regrouped, however, and your Board of Directors has been busy ever since. Let me give you a quick update. Have you been to Stadium Park lately? ALPS has supported four Eagle Scout projects on Stadium Lane (the ALPS property at the lower entrance) and in the Park itself. As a result, there is new trail signage throughout the park, a new information kiosk, and four really nice handmade benches along the lower trails. **Bill Shepard** has put his botanical knowledge to use to design a native plant trail, easily accessible from Capistrano Avenue. **Bruce Bonifas** is working on an irrigation plan for the site, and the CCC has carved out the rudiments of the trail. We anticipate that the trail will ultimately become a great spot for contemplation and education. Other stewardship activities include periodic weed abatement "parties." You, too, can join in on the fun! (We're aiming to improve the organization of our volunteer database, and we'll be looking for more manpower.) ALPS continues to be an enthusiastic and visible participant in Colony Days and Tent City, thanks to the energy and organization of **Deborah Stafford**. **Marj Mackey** spearheaded a fun day in Stadium Park for about 150 people, complete with live music. ALPS continues to provide and decorate the Christmas tree for the Lake Pavilion. **Fred Frank** of Hidden Springs Tree Farm provides the tree; **Rob and Geri Phemister** organize the decorating. **Bobby Jo Close** has spruced up the website; pay a visit! **Dave Graham** has our financials in good order, and we have started the stewardship endowment fund, looking ahead to maintaining our holdings for future generations to enjoy. Look for your membership statement in the mail soon. Last, but definitely not least, we've continued to work behind the scenes with The Trust for Public Land to re-open the possibility of purchasing the 103 acre Atascadero Creek property. We're hopeful, but cautiously so. The Board of Directors is a fun group that works hard for you and all of our citizens. Thanks to them and to all of you for your ongoing support for land preservation in Atascadero.



Mail to:



## BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

- President: Dugald Chisholm
- Vice-President: Bruce Bonifas
- Secretary: Geri (Brasher) Phemister
- Treasurer: David Graham
- Members: Bobby Jo Close  
Fred Frank  
Val Houdyshell  
Jonalee Istenes  
Marj Mackey  
Rob Phemister  
Bill Shepard  
Deborah Stafford



Place Stamp Here

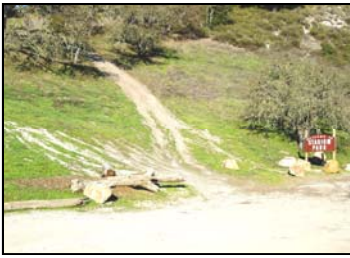
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farming equipment and information detaining dehydrating food and planting trees. The main feature was centered on discussion and explanation of land issues. Extensive planning was employed from the beginning; experts in land use were engaged. The process took two years and a quarter million dollars to complete. The laying out of the orchards, the soils tests, the determination of adaptability and water availability was considered vitally important information for the prospective buyers of land. A map was finalized and provided suggestions showing where to plant each fruit or nut type. The final step after land selection would be to go to the land trust office for purchase price. Thus, our founding father had the potential land purchaser's best interest in mind. For further information about Colony Days and Tent City visit [www.colonydays.com](http://www.colonydays.com).

## STADIUM PARK

By Bill Shepard

Plans for a Botanical Trail on our property at the entrance to Stadium Park continue to be viable. Through considerable effort from Board member Bruce Boniface, an irrigation plan has been developed. The plan is to run a water line to the trail switch backs already in place on our property. Once established, we can then proceed with the planting of native plants along the trail. A partnership with ANTA (Atascadero Native Tree Association) is likely, which will provide us with a source for plant material and general co-operation. We hope that this trail will serve to attract people to Stadium Park and will enhance their appreciation of nature and the natural world, so evident in the Park itself.



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## URSULA LUNA

By Geri Brasher-Phemister



One of our founding members, Ursula Luna, has resigned from the Board of Directors of ALPS. She will be sorely missed. During her tenure, we were instrumental in assisting the City of Atascadero in acquiring Stadium Park and we also acquired the 4 1/2 acre property adjacent to the park that we have named Stadium Lane. In fact, Ursula was our most productive fundraiser for the Stadium Lane property which, with your generous donations, we acquired in 2003.

To acknowledge Ursula's significant contributions to ALPS, the Board will dedicate a blue oak in her honor. The blue oak will be planted in Stadium Lane, and the dedication will occur in the near future.



*To keep up-to-date on ALPS events and accomplishments, Visit our website at: [www.supportalps.org](http://www.supportalps.org)*

## LAND ACQUISITION

By Bruce Bonifas

Over the past year, ALPS has been busy in planning and negotiating details for significant additions to our land management portfolio. While it is premature to make any announcements today, we are anticipating that 2009 will be a banner year for us. In addition to our current restoration project at the entrance to Stadium Park, there will be other sites requiring management activities such as erosion control, exotic species removal, weed abatement, as well as potential for trail construction and development of land management policies.

ALPS is also interested in developing a conservation management plan to act as our guide for the future stewardship of all of our land holdings. This plan may address a variety of issues from developing trail systems, to natural resource protection and management, to public accessibility issues. With the growth ALPS is expecting over the next few years, it will be imperative to have a plan which directs our energies effectively and efficiently. This growth will also offer many opportunities for more citizens to get involved in: land management plan development, natural resource restoration, trail planning and construction, on-going land stewardship. With the "retirement" of 2 of our board members, ALPS is also looking for candidates to join our board, to assist us with the shape and direction ALPS will take in the years to come. If you have any experience in any of these areas or would like to gain experience, please contact me at 466-0526. Come join the ALPS team and make meaningful contributions to our community!

## COLONY DAYS

By Deborah Stafford

The Founding Father of Atascadero, EG Lewis beheld a vision of beauty . . . a vision to create the best place in America to live. It is safe to say that we share his vision. Behold the beauty that surrounds us! ALPS and ANTA celebrated the beginning of Atascadero by participating in the Colony Days Parade and Tent City on October 18th. Each year increasingly more people participate and enjoy the events. We hope you will feel free to come join us next year. The parade entry included two miniature horses and carriage, ALPS,



ANTA and Earth Club members, all dressed to this year's theme, "Hillbilly Hoedown."

To top off the entry we were escorted by a talented duo of guitar players strummin' and singing "In Constant Sorrow." It was truly an impressive event. For the last two years our entry received an award.

Our main street tent was quite the show and a good time was had by all. We were frequented by many friends, neighbors and passersby. We provided an outstanding re-enactment of life as it was in 1916, complete to the tiniest detail. The features provided included: organic fruit and vegetable seeds from local sources, samples of locally grown produce, free oak trees, free pumpkin cookies and local canned and dehydrated foods. The decorative theme included antique

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### SAVE THIS DATE!

*Please join us Sunday, December 14<sup>th</sup> for a Holiday*

*Social at the Atascadero Lake Pavilion from 3-5 PM*

*RSVP to [bjclose@charter.net](mailto:bjclose@charter.net) or 805.461.0300 by December 5<sup>th</sup>*