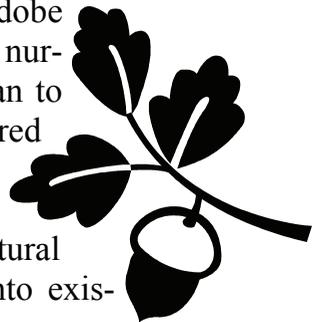




PRESIDENT'S NOTE - MATURATION

Pressures to develop open spaces have ebbed with the economy in the past couple of years, but land preservation in these times still requires dedication, energy, and planning. The ALPS Board has continued to provide those qualities, but like the land itself organizations need nurturance and direction. It's hard to believe, but I agreed to be president of the ALPS Board of Directors for a year in 2002. In the ensuing eight years, ALPS has begun to mature as an organization. As a child psychiatrist, I often talk about the "job description" of parents: to raise your children to be independent adults, which involves a certain degree of letting go and passing the baton to the next generation. Now at age 18, ALPS is entering its adulthood. We have enthusiastic new Board members, and I'll be passing the president's gavel to Bruce Bonifas. While Bruce isn't exactly a new generation, he has the energy of an 18-year-old, and he has retired from a really productive career of service in the California Conservation Corps, so he will have time to devote to ALPS.

ALPS is, as its name reflects, a land preservation organization. Its mission is to obtain and preserve open space in Atascadero for future generations. Our plans to purchase the largest acquisition in our history, the Davis/Atascadero Creek property off Highway 41, have followed a roller coaster course, and State budget woes have put that acquisition on temporary (we hope) hold. This has given your Board an opportunity to focus on stewardship of the land currently in the ALPS inventory. In 2010, we will be developing land management plans for our three holdings – Stadium Lane, Adobe Springs, and Atascadero Creek Reservation – that are designed to nurture those lands and to increase their value to the public. We plan to broaden our volunteer base and to develop schedules for required maintenance tasks. In the spirit of our deceased founder, Marj Mackey, Friends of Stadium Park has been formed as an ALPS committee "to work toward the environmental, historical and natural preservation" of the park, which was the reason ALPS came into existence.



(Continued on Back Page)

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
Jonalee Istenes
Doug Marks
Dan O'Grady
Bill Shepard
Debbie Skinner
Deborah Stafford
John Webster
- Board Member Emeritus: Marjorie Mackey

Place Stamp Here

(Continued from Front Page)

So, we've traveled from the infancy of ALPS in the early 90's, through developing years of additional land acquisitions, to our adolescence. Along the way, we've learned a lot of lessons and refined our definition of who we are, and we've arrived at our current state of early maturity and creation of a multi-generation legacy. It's been great for me to work with so many people who share my love of the land and who've been willing to work for its preservation. ALPS is a great organization!

Sincerely,

Dugald Chisholm

BOTANICAL TRAIL

By Bill Shepard

Last Spring ALPS planted 30 native plants along the lower part of our Botanical Trail in Stadium Lane. This was done in conjunction with Atascadero Native Tree Association (ANTA), and the California Conservation Corps (CCC). Most of the plants did quite well through the hot summer, although there were a few casualties. A drip irrigation system had been installed which was a necessity, especially for the new plants. We have replaced our losses. Plans are now underway to develop Phase 2 of our project, the next triangle between the switchbacks of our trail. Recent rain and cooler weather have made this an ideal time to put in our next group of plants, most of which will be characterized as "Chaparral" species.

Future plans include signage so that people can become familiar with the names of the plants, and development of a bulletin board at the Kiosk existing at the start of the Trail. We hope that these efforts will help people become more familiar with the native plants which do well in this area, and to utilize them in their gardens as attractive as well as water -saving landscaping.



CCC Crew Installing Plants

STORM & ALPS PROPERTY

By Bruce Bonifas

The big storm on October 13 was a dramatic reminder that the season is changing and winter is just around the corner. Six inches of rain brought some much needed relief to our drought conditions but the wind played havoc with trees and other plants. While most of our property "weathered the storm" just fine, many willow and some oak branches were broken and thrown about at our 5 acres at Adobe Springs. No property damage was done but it will require some work days to clean up the debris. If you are interested in helping to clean up the property, please contact me at 466-0526.

The storm also reinforced our important goals in establishing land management plans for all of our properties. Among other issues, these plans will address natural resource protection, exotic species removal, erosion control issues, annual weed abatement responsibilities, public access, fence maintenance, etc. ALPS is hoping to partner-up with selected Cal Poly students to assist in the development of these plans. These land management plans may be the perfect match a senior project required of Cal Poly students

Our goal at ALPS is to be good stewards of all of our land holdings. Land management plans as well as active on-site participation enable to us achieve that goal. Please consider helping out by contacting a Board member or visiting our website to view our Event Calendar. Not only is cleaning up our property satisfying and fun, you get the added benefits of working in a beautiful setting and becoming more acquainted with some of Atascadero's special places.

ALPS WELCOMES DOCENT COMMITTEE TO FOCUS ON CARE OF STADIUM PARK

MISSION STATEMENT

Friends of Stadium Park, formed at the request of Marjorie Mackey, will function as a committee to Atascadero Land Preservation Society (ALPS) to work toward the environmental, historical and natural preservation of the area known as "Stadium Park." Further, it will be our intention to advocate with ALPS to ensure that any utilization of Stadium Park and encourage public enjoyment of the park while preserving its natural environment.



Marjorie Mackey

In as much as Mrs. Mackey was instrumental in the formation of ALPS, so, too, it was her intention that Friends of Stadium Park work in conjunction with ALPS, as "docents" under the direction of the ALPS' board of directors. Officers of Friends of Stadium Park will sit on the ALPS board as ex-officio members and are also eligible for nomination to the ALPS Board of Directors.

COLONY DAYS-TENT CITY

By Deborah Stafford

Once again, on October 17th ALPS and ANTA shared our love of trees with our neighbors by participating in tent city (a reenactment of our city's beginning). We were so good we made the newspaper and received an award for "Best Representation of our Cities' History." We shared our love of trees to many of our guests. We once again displayed a detailed map drawn up during the conception of our city. The map indicated where best to plant what particular crop you were interested in. Many hundreds of hours and thousands of dollars (a lot back then) were put into this project. We concentrated on apples this year. We had stories about Jonny Appleseed, we had stories and biographies of local tree heroes. We even offered samples of apples grown by our founding father E.G. Lewis! Really! We reminded our neighbors that in the early days, Atascadero had a successful dehydrating plant. We had a great time sharing the dehydrating process with many young friends. Then there was the fresh pressed apples (possibly 100 were pressed) to offer fresh cider to the thirsty visitor. The expression of a child's delight when experiencing something delightful really warms the heart! Many a satisfied guest walked away from our tent. YES, A GOOD TIME WAS HAD BY ALL!



SAVE THIS DATE!

Please join us Sunday, December 6th

for our Annual Holiday Celebration.

From 2-4pm at Geri Brasher's house.

7109 San Gregorio Road in Atascadero (466-5461)

