



PRESIDENT'S NOTE - PROGRESS

During the past two years, the ALPS Board has been excited to add new property and new features to our portfolio; namely, the five acres at Adobe Springs and the botanical garden and trail at Stadium Lane. We are now facing the most substantial development in the history of ALPS.

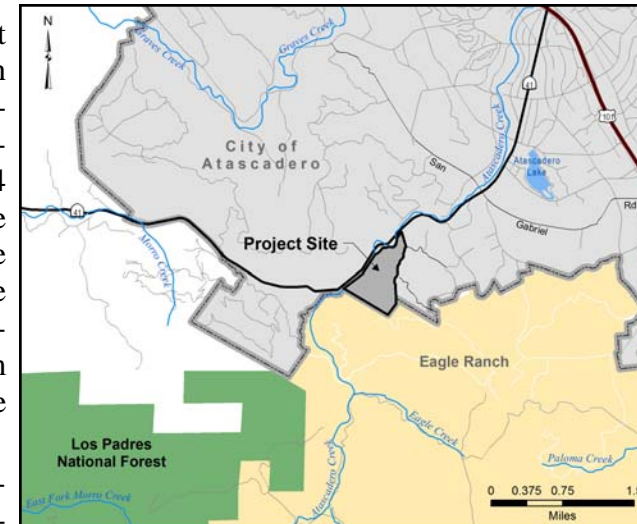
Recently, we were notified by the Resource Agency of California that our grant proposal under the River Parkways grant program was awarded. Nearly four years ago under the leadership of then President Dug Chisholm, ALPS submitted an acquisition project proposal in order to purchase 103 acres of oak woodland and creek frontage property on the west side of Atascadero. The objectives of the proposal were to protect Atascadero Creek watershed and oak woodland habitat, to protect habitat for the endangered California Steelhead Trout, and to provide public access through the development of a trail system. It is planned that ALPS will partner with other groups to design the trail to eventually provide access to the Los Padres National Forest.

Throughout this acquisition process, ALPS was assisted by The Trust for Public Land (TPL). TPL is a national conservation organization dedicated to protecting land for people to enjoy as parks, gardens and other natural places. Without TPL's assistance, the acquisition of this 103 acres would not have been possible.

On September 14th, the official announcement was made at a ceremony in Modesto. Dan O'Grady and I drove up for the day to participate in the presentation. It then became official: TPL and ALPS were awarded \$683,214 to complete the sale package to purchase the Atascadero Creek property. This is by far, the biggest grant ALPS has ever received! The funds from a separate grant from the Environmental Enhancement and Mitigation Program grant program will be combined to provide the necessary funds for the purchase.

The process to acquire ownership is not complete: additional red tape needs to be accomplished which may take up to 6 months. But the stage is set and ALPS is committed to continue

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Mail to:



Atascadero Land Preservation Society
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developing plans for the property while the last papers are reviewed and approved.

This is a great announcement for ALPS, our members and supporters and to the community of Atascadero. We envision this development as a great opportunity to both protect natural resources and to provide additional recreational experiences to our hiking, biking and equestrian partners. On the board, we are committed to not only seeing this project through, but also to keeping our members abreast of developments and opportunities to assist. When time permits, we will notify you of a planned "field day", when we can all meet on site for a visit. At that time, I believe you will agree that the land is a beautiful parcel and an exceptional addition to our local recreational opportunities.

Congratulations to us all!!

Bruce Bonifas

BOTANICAL TRAIL

By Bill Shepard

The 56 plants growing along the ALPS Botanical Trail appear to be thriving. Many of them have now shed their deer fencing and are facing the big world on their own.

As the plants continue to establish themselves, ALPS will consider developing a labeling system and officially opening the trail. The trail surface itself will need more work but, overall we are thinking about an official opening next Spring.

All the plants now have metal botanical tags for definite identification. ALPS is working to develop a small brochure for the use by those that "hit the trail".



SUMMER YOUTH CORPS

By Bruce Bonifas

Early this summer, APS benefited from 2 weeks of crew time from the Summer Youth Corps (SYC). The SYC is a summer youth employment program operated by the California Conservation Corps and Cuesta College. Local youth are hired for 6 weeks to train and work on projects for local agencies and non-profit groups. ALPS was fortunate to receive one week of crew time from both the Atascadero and the Paso Robles crews.

The Atascadero crew worked on ALPS property at the entrance to Stadium Park on Capistrano Ave. Project work included construction of a retaining wall around the kiosk, relocation of a bench to the top of the botanical trail, trimming of trees and coyote brush, removal of yellow star thistle, installation of 60 yards of wood chips and graffiti removal. The work was completed during one of the hottest weeks of the summer with temperatures over 100 degrees. The crew, along with ALPS volunteers, did a great job!

The second week of SYC work was completed at Adobe Springs by the crew from Paso Robles. Their work included fire hazard reduction, fence line maintenance, willow thinning, clean-up around the springs and litter removal. The crew was very productive and filled three 20 yard dumpsters with willow cuttings and dead wood greatly reducing the fuel load as well as creating a defensible zone around the perimeter of Adobe Springs.

The crew was assisted on their last morning of work by ALPS volunteer Barbara Rose. Thank you Barbara! This crew also spent one day cleaning out fallen trees from Atascadero Creek.

OLD GUYS RULE!

By Dan O'Grady

Board members Dave Graham and Dan O'Grady competed in a Labor Day weekend tennis tournament at Rozotti's Tennis Center in San Luis Obispo. The Graham/O'Grady Team won the men's "B" doubles championship winning three matches without dropping a set. Two of the matches were against high school and college players much younger than our senior board members. The defeated youngsters were last overheard mumbling something about "how fast those old guys could move." Old guys rule!



Photo by Ric Rossi

VOLUNTEER WITH US

By Jonalee Istenes

ALPS members have been working hard to protect, preserve and maintain some beautiful places for public use. Many of you may want to find out more about ALPS and connect with the land which we steward. ALPS will begin posting "Volunteer Days" on its web-site, and in the paper. These work days are lead by board members, and are generally not more than a couple hours. Please come and join us, lend a hand, and find out more about the land we are dedicated to protecting. Thank you in advance for your time. We look forward to seeing you.

COLONY DAYS-TENT CITY

By Deborah Stafford

The Colony Days parade and tent city are scheduled for Saturday October 16th this year. ALPS and ANTA have participated in the celebration for the past 5 years. Each year our entries have become bigger and better. In the past we have had parade entries but due to time constraints we will only participate in tent city this year. The visitors attending tent city (located near sunken gardens and the colony house) will be entertained by the complete recreation of our "Atascadero the Beautiful" when it was just beginning. A view of the tent provided by ALPS and ANTA will reveal what farming was like in those early times. Our guests can sample some fresh pressed apple juice (guaranteed to put a smile on your face and brighten your days outlook) while listening to stories about the history of Atascadero. For the curious onlookers, the tent is decorated from side to side and top to bottom with antique farm and kitchen equipment. Of course, for the fruit lovers, young and old alike, we will be teaching the technique of dehydrating and plenty of samples will be shared. We are proud to share the fact that last year we won first prize for being the tent most representing the early days of our city. This year we hope to out do last year and we hope our friends will drop by anytime

AMWC Garden Tour:

On Saturday, October 9th
ALPS will have a booth on
Orillas Way and will be showing
the Adobe Springs property to
anyone interested.