



LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

By Mike Orvis

It has been a busy time for ALPS since our last newsletter with lots of activity going on at all of our properties. We have been working hard to keep all of our properties in tip-top condition and to be responsible stewards.

Adobe Springs - we had a couple of workdays to weed and mulch around plant cages, perform fence repairs and remove downed trees and branches. We have been busy with the creation of an educational curriculum program for elementary school children. We also led a tour of the property as part of the Atascadero Mutual Water Company Watershed Hike program.

Atascadero Creek Reservation - we had a workday to clean up trash between the Lewis Avenue Bridge and the West Mall Bridge. As part of the Fall Creek Cleanup Day we concentrated on picking up trash near the Salinas River.

Stadium Lane - we continue to perform our weekly routines of emptying trash cans, refilling the dog poop bag dispensers, and tidying up the garden and trails. There has also been a lot of planting in the Bill Shepard Native Plant Garden. We had a workday to perform some concentrated weeding in the garden and another to support ANTA with mulching and weeding around the cages that protect their young oak tree plantings. We installed brochure dispensers at the kiosk to provide visitors with information about ALPS, plant lists for the Garden, information about drought tolerant plants that can tolerate the Atascadero climate, and trail maps. We have noticed an uptick in the number of visitors coming to look at the drought tolerant plantings in the garden and taking information to help them with selecting drought tolerant plants for their own gardens.

Three Bridges Oak Preserve - we led a tour of the property as part of the Atascadero Mutual Water Companies Watershed Hike program. We have made great progress on the trails and trailhead project. We plan to begin trail construction in June after receiving our final permits from various state agencies. The California Conservation Corp will be performing the bulk of the trail building along with ALPS members and volunteers. If you would like to become more involved in ALPS, please don't hesitate to contact us. With the planned trail work at Three Bridges Oak Preserve as well as stewardship of our other properties, there is always plenty to do! Thank you for your support, it is appreciated!



Installing new sign on Capistrano Ave. by Barbara Waheed

Mail to:

Atascadero Land Preservation Society
P. O. Box 940, Atascadero, CA 93423



BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

| | |
|-----------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| President | Mike Orvis |
| Vice-President | John Goers |
| Secretary | Dan O'Grady |
| Treasurer | Chuck Brogan |
| Members | Ellen Beraud Bruce Bonifas Bobby Jo Close Deb Dight Jonalee Istenes Cory Meyer Deborah Stafford Jim Patterson |
| In Memoriam: | Geri Brasher Phemister Marj Mackey Bill Shepard |

Contact us at: info@supportalps.org

Place
Stamp
Here

Join us
Saturday, **June 13th**
for our next **workday** at
Adobe Springs.

Workdays will resume in
September, the 2nd Saturday
of each month.
Visit our website
www.supportalps.org
for more details.

website: www.supportalps.org

SCHOLARSHIP FUND

By Jonalee Istenes

The ALPS Scholarship Fund, created in honor of Geraldine Brasher Phemiester, has so far supported three scholarships to Atascadero's college-bound students. Our last recipient, Lauren Giggy writes in February: "My first semester here at Fort Lewis College (Durango, CO) is going very well. I am really enjoying my classes, professors, and of course my gorgeous environment. Studying geology in the San Juan Mountains provides me with a surplus of inspiration and excitement. I still hope



Chuck Brogan presenting scholarship check to Lauren Giggy

to concentrate my studies towards hydrogeology and am planning on minoring in either chemistry or environmental policy or maybe even both! And I still feel very honored to have a community back home on the central coast that shares my vision and is supporting my education. So thanks a bunch! Hope you all have a great, wet winter!"

ALPS will continue to support young people with a desire to focus their studies on environmental or land management concerns as long as there are funds specifically designated for that purpose. If you wish to contribute to the Geraldine Brasher Phemeister Scholarship

Fund, please note that on your contribution. The future is in the hands of these young people!

THREE BRIDGES OAK PRESERVE APPROVED BY CITY COUNCIL

By John Goers

It's been a long journey from the initial concept of an ALPS oak woodland preserve on the west side of Atascadero to the approval of the Three Bridges Oak Preserve by the City of Atascadero! In 2008 ALPS explored options to purchase the "Davis property", 100+ acres along highway 41, but did not obtain funding until 2011 through California River Parkways grants and a Caltrans grant. After three additional years of planning with the City, the Atascadero City Council voted unanimously in January 2015 to support the creation of a trailhead and a trail system on 100+ acres of property on the west side of Atascadero; the Three Bridges Oak Preserve, or TBOP.

Included in the approval the Council certified a Mitigated Negative Declaration for minimal environmental impacts from the project as presented in a CEQA document prepared by the consulting firm Althouse and Meade of Paso Robles. The approval also directed the City to appropriate \$500,000 from City Open Space Acquisition funds to build a single multiuse trailhead at the southwestern end of Carmelita Avenue near highway 41, as well as enter into a use agreement which guarantees open space status and public access to the Preserve. The Preserve will be open seasonally, approximately from April through November during low or no flow in Atascadero Creek. Final documentation is expected to be complete by the summer of 2015 and public access to the Preserve by Spring of 2017. While this seems a long way off, there is much to do and limited periods allowed for trail construction!

The trailhead will be accessed via city streets off San Gabriel Road and will accommodate parking for hikers, bicyclists, and equestrians. The Preserve will be entered after passing under a highway 41 bridge and crossing Atascadero



Three Bridges Oak Preserve, Oak Forest, by John Goers

Creek. The trail continues from the shady creek riparian area and enters a "lower loop" trail which meanders through a savannah of predominately blue oaks. A "connector" trail departs from the lower loop through chaparral up to an observation area at 1250 feet. This is the turnaround point for equestrians and bicyclists due to unsuitable soils further on, but hikers may continue through the chaparral to enter a shaded mixed forest of live oaks, bay, California lilacs, and madrones up to 1620 feet elevation, a total gain of 670 feet from the trailhead. Here a rocky vista allows hikers to sit and enjoy a great view of northern San Luis Obispo County.

2014 TENT CITY

By Deborah Stafford

On October 17-18, 2014 ALPS/ANTA participated in the City's annual Tent City celebration. Our tent was visited by a multiple of visitors.... many more than in the

previous years. ALPS' activities were considered a great success, as reflected in receiving the award declaring our tent to be the most appropriate replication of the early era of Atascadero. Included in our tent's story of yesteryear were maps indicating the best planting plots as determined by soil type, water availability, and sun acclimation. The maps were drawn up and presented to early prospective citizens depending on what fruits and vegetables they were interested in farming: a great deal of time and money was spent in this endeavor in early Atascadero.

Beginning at 8:30 AM on Friday the 17th the entire 3rd grade population of the Atascadero school system came to share and learn what life was like in Atascadero in the year 1916. One by one the curious children were shown the simple technique of fresh apple juice preparation, the central feature of the tent. Apples were pared, quartered, crushed, and then pressed through a cider press. This process generated a lot of curiosity....with many children promising to return again Saturday to sample the fresh pressed cider. Also, the wonderful taste of crisp apple rings brought smiles and giggles to most all who attended. In addition, the history of the early colony's food production plant named CALADERO was explained. The telling of the history was supported by the many antique photos that lined the walls of our tent. For the finishing touch, all our visitors were offered organic fruit samples. Saturday was also a fun-filled and busy day for our tent. Our apple peeling production was ongoing....it seemed like hundreds of youngsters were kept busy taking turns making their own "apple rings". Overall, it is fair to say the visitors left our tent with a better appreciation of our early history and their tummies were happy for the fresh organic fruits! As always, "an apple a day keeps the doctors away".