



CHILDHOOD MEMORIES — Who says you can't go back!!

By Mike Orvis

I recently received a phone call from a gentleman named Bill Wilde from Shingle Springs near Placerville. He was going to be passing through the Atascadero area with his family and was asking for permission to go onto the Adobe Springs property.

Bill said he was a train buff and he occasionally travels by train throughout California. Not long ago he was travelling by train through Atascadero and “The Lakes” area and he began thinking about the spring he remembered seeing as a kid. He said he got out his laptop computer and began searching for information. To his delight he found ALPS owned the property and was preserving the area and spring.

He told me a story about when he was growing up and would spend part of the summer with his grandparents who lived on Carmelita Avenue. He recalled when he was nine or ten years old he rode in the car with his grandparents and Mr. Davis. They travelled to the east side of town on Traffic Way and stopped to look at the old Estrada Adobe. He remembered two of the walls were still standing but were very badly worn. He also remembered hiking up the hill a short distance and entering into the brush to see a spring. He said at that age he was fascinated to see the water bubbling from the ground.

On Sunday January 5th, I met Bill and his family for a tour of the property. When we arrived at the spring I asked him if it looked any different. He said he remembered a pool of water with many pipes. Remains of the broken concrete dam are visible just downstream of the spring. We all agreed it was still fascinating to watch the water bubbling out of the sand within the spring box. He was very appreciative to be able to show his wife and kids the spring and to bring to life his childhood memories.



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Atascadero Land Preservation Society



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ALPS Officers Chuck Brogan, John Goers, Mike Orvis and Dan O'Grady

Join us
Saturday, **March 8th**
for our next **workday**.
Visit our website
www.supportalps.org
for more details.

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STADIUM LANE UPDATE

By John Goers



Volunteers working at Stadium Lane.

The Bill Shepard Botanical Garden received a needed sprucing-up recently on an ALPS-sponsored workday. The approximately ten volunteers constructed a rock wall at a lower switchback to lessen trail degradation, dressed trails to bolster their edges, spread wood chips around plants, watered plants, and painted three wooden benches along the ALPS Trail leading into Stadium Park. If you haven't visited Stadium Park recently, take a hike starting at the Botanical Garden and continue into the park. The park hiking offers beautiful views of downtown Atascadero and the surrounding area, and it's just three blocks from the Atascadero city hall!

save these dates !

Workdays are scheduled for the second Saturday of each month from 9am to noon except for July and August:

March 8th

April 12th

May 10th

June 14th

September 13th

More information and the location of each workday will be posted on our website (www.supportalps.org). Please email or call if you have questions.

info@supportalps.org or 805.305.9412

Three Bridges Oak Preserve (TBOP) UPDATE

By Bruce Bonifas

Planning and design work on our TBOP project is progressing. A grant was obtained from the Rose Foundation to hire a professional trail consultant for a complete on-site evaluation and trail design. In consultation with ALPS representatives, a tentative final trail plan has been completed. The trail has been designed to be sustainable and evenly graded. When constructed, the trail will feature a 1.3 mile lower loop winding through a blue oak savannah. The loop will then connect with a one mile ascending trail that will go to the upper reaches of the property. We're calling this the Madrone Trail as there are several groves of madrone trees present. The end of this trail features a rocky vista point with views to Paso Robles and beyond. Total elevation gain will be over 600'.



Bruce Bonifas and Mike Orvis looking out across TBOP.

The preserve offers a range of habitats on the different trails. Starting from the lower elevation hikers will experience a riparian ecology along Atascadero Creek. The loop trail then proceeds through an oak savan-

nah, while the Madrone trail will continue through chaparral up into manzanitas and madrones. With the various seasonal changes and trail options, TBOP will offer users a range of changing experiences throughout the year.

ALPS volunteers continue to work with the City of Atascadero and other government agencies on obtaining all necessary permits for the project. Construction is predicted to begin this year and be completed by the summer of 2015.

BRASHER PHEMISTER SCHOLARSHIP

By Jonalee Istenes

Geri Brasher Phemister was a vital ALPS board member who passed away in 2011. It was her wish that ALPS create a scholarship fund to support environmentally-interested youth as part of her legacy. Our membership has donated to this cause and the first recipient of the scholarship in 2012 was the Atascadero High senior Haley Trengove. She has recently written to ALPS of her ensuing studies: she is attending Sonoma as an environmental studies major and wants to focus on sustainable agriculture. She has learned a lot while volunteering on an organic farm in Sebastopol, where she grows vegetables on a designated garden plot to sell in the new school cafeteria. Her goals include educating the public on sustainable agriculture and doing conservation work abroad.

Our 2013 recipient, Mikaela Raphael, was also an Atascadero High graduate,

and has filled us in on her experiences. The highlight in her short time at UC Berkeley has been participating in a national sustainability conference called "Powershift" in Pittsburg, PA. She worked as Powershift's Bay Area Coordinator for 250 students who listened to experts discuss fracking, tar sands, and other current environmental issues. Following the conference she worked with "Fossil Free Cal" an organization promoting divesting university money from fossil fuels.



Mike presenting Mikaela Raphael with her Scholarship Award.

Our 2014 scholarship selection process begins in April and we look forward to awarding our Geri Brasher Phemister Scholarship to another Atascadero High School student having a desire to pursue environmental studies. ALPS members who wish to specifically support the scholarship fund must denote that along with their donation. Geri was far-sighted in her scholarship goal in supporting the youth of today as the leaders of tomorrow's environmental consciousness.