

Altadena Foothills



www.altadenafoothills.org

C O N S E R V A T O R

Newsletter of the Altadena Foothills Conservancy

Number 5 October 2003

Land, Watershed, Wildlife Habitat, Trail and Viewshed Preserved

Altadena Foothills Conservancy purchased the 1.5 acre "Andrea Wilson Triangle" along Chaney Trail through a special appeal to neighbors. AFC received donations ranging from \$5 to \$3,000 covering half the cost of this important parcel. Subsequently, volunteers gathered multiple times to clear brush on the land,

which is adjacent to the 15 acres that Trust for Public Land (TPL) protected with AFC's help last year. This year the 15 acres became a part of Angeles National Forest. Both parcels straddle popular segments of the historic Altadena Crest Trail.

Among the "brush party" volunteers was Ching Lee, a Rio

Hondo student who has produced maps of the Altadena foothills for AFC, and Heinz Ellersieck, AFC's newest board member. Jennifer Kutner, who lives in Hollywood, qualified as the volunteer from farthest a field. They joined 20 other local volunteers to carefully clear dry brush for the protection of nearby homes during the fire season. California poppies, mariposa lilies, white sage, Merriam's chipmunks, California quail, bobcats, and numerous other species live on these newly protected parcels along the Chaney Trail Corridor.



Benefit AFC

Shop Macy's Pasadena Oct. 30th

AFC is one of the charities participating in Macy's Benefit Shopping Day on October 30th and we need your support! Here's how it works. Contact Rick Carron at 626.398.3191, or any other Board member, to make a \$10 donation to AFC for a discount coupon. Then bring the coupon to Macy's Pasadena on South Lake on October 30th. You will receive discounts of 10–20% off almost everything and you can enter a drawing to win a \$1000 shopping spree. You cannot

combine coupons for greater discounts—it's one coupon per person—but you can purchase multiple coupons from AFC and give them as gifts to your friends and family. Every coupon that is turned in at the store on October 30th will earn AFC a donation from Macy's.

To qualify for the event, AFC has to provide volunteers to work in the store for a couple of hours on October 30th. We need you! If you would like to help by volunteering, please contact Rick Carron right away. Thank you!

Conservation News

Project Reports

Owen Brown Grave Site Update

Shari Asplund, Project Leader

Board member Shari Asplund has assumed the responsibility of project manager for this AFC project area. She has been in contact with Mike Cichy, the owner since January 2002, regarding our desire to purchase the property. Shari sent a proposal to Mr. Cichy during the summer but we have not yet received a response from him.

As of this time, Mr. Cichy has been away from the area for nearly a year, and his property remains littered with debris and garbage. AFC has contacted Los Angeles County about the abandonment of the property and the potential hazards to hikers and animals from the scattered debris, but we've received no response. The County inspector who took over for Carmen Sainz in April, William Cross, has not answered e-mails about these concerns.

Chaney Trail Corridor Update

Robert L. Staehle, Project Area Leader

Thanks to our supporters, Altadena Foothills Conservancy's first project, to protect approximately 15 acres that straddle Chaney Trail above the gate, was completed April 1, 2003. On that day, the Trust for Public Land (TPL) conveyed the land to the Angeles

National Forest. Trust for Public Land had purchased the land, at the request of Altadenans, at the end of 2001, but it took almost over year to finalize the deal. We warmly thank the original owners Bill West and Werner Mueller, and their families; our neighbors and friends; U.S. Representatives David Dreier and Adam Schiff, numerous U. S. Forest Service employees, and especially Jennifer Hranilovich and Trust for Public Land. All worked hard, put their trust in our goals, put money on the line, and made it happen.

With the purchase by AFC of the Wilson Triangle (see photos on the first page), we are on our way towards protecting all of the open space lands comprising Chaney Trail Corridor. Meanwhile, the quail, owls, chipmunks, rabbits, bobcats, lizards, beetles, carpenter bees, numerous songbirds, and all the other denizens of this land continue their lives. Our activities are beyond their comprehension, but the impact of a housing development would have been all too clear to the wildlife. Rather than devastation, this year we witnessed an outstanding wildflower bloom. The hills were covered with the best display of scarlet larkspur, mariposa lilies, and California poppies we've seen in years.

All the local plants help slow runoff and maintain our water supply, clean our air, brighten our lives, and provide food and habitat for wildlife. What goes around comes around. Thank you!

Millard Canyon Project Area

Lori L. Paul, Project Leader

You may recall that in 2002 the land in Millard Canyon north of Canyon Crest Road was sold in a probate auction to a private party that outbid the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy. Early this summer, unpermitted building and grading activity was discovered on the property and land adjacent to Millard Creek. This was reported to Sussy Nemer, field representative for Supervisor Michael Antonovich. After inspections by multiple agencies, the County issued a stop work order to the owner, Mr. Aaron Corbett. Eventually Mr. Corbett received a notice of violation and order to correct the violations. Local residents and AFC members continue to monitor the situation. AFC remains interested in purchasing the property if Mr. Corbett is unable to obtain required building permits.

Rubio Canyon Project Area
Nancy Steele and Heinz Ellersieck,
Project Co-Leaders

For the past six months, most of our activity in Rubio Canyon has consisted of working with the Altadena Crest Trail Restoration Working Group (ACTRWG) to locate a new trail that would fix the break in the trail in the vicinity of Rubio Canyon. Mr. Sameer Etman, through whose land the trail connection would run, has worked tirelessly with the ACTRWG, scouting possible trail locations. In July, several of us walked the proposed trail and pronounced it workable. We are excited about the possibility of being able to hike the Altadena Crest Trail through this area.

AFC Given Awards

Rededication of the Loma Alta Park Equestrian Center

The rededication of the Loma Alta Park Equestrian Center on September 6 was a rousing success. AFC was there for the parade and fair, and we received awards for our support for the project from the U.S. House of Representatives, California Assembly, and California Senate, and the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors. Altadena Equestrian Resources, which spear-headed the renovation of the Equestrian Center, also thanked AFC for its support. The final piece of this project will be the opening, expected in December 2003, of a trailhead and connecting trail from Loma Alta Street to the Sunset Ridge portion of the Altadena Crest Trail. This new trail segment will allow trail users to avoid the current trail exit on paved Sunset Ridge Road, which is particularly unsafe for equestrians because of conflicts with traffic and the steep road grade, which does not provide safe footing for horses.



FROM THE PRESIDENT

AFC Receives grants

Dear Friends,

AFC received its largest grants to date in 2003. First, in March the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy (SMMC) awarded AFC a matching grant to purchase the "Andrea Wilson Triangle" on Chaney Trail. This 1.5 acre triangle of land fronts on Chaney Trail and is located just north of Nuccio's Nursery. The "Andrea Wilson Triangle" is the second property we have protected in our Chaney Trail Project Area.

AFC entered escrow in October 2002, and closed escrow in late December, with partial payment of the total and the owner carrying back a loan. In early 2003 AFC learned that the SMMC planned to award matching grants to nonprofits to purchase land out of the Proposition 40 funds. We applied, and were awarded \$25,575 at their March meeting, which is 50% of the purchase price plus fees. AFC friends donations provided the matching funds. Because of the budget crisis, the State has not yet disbursed the funds to AFC, so we are still paying interest on our loan, but we have been assured it won't be too much longer.

Our second grant comes from the Metropolitan Water District's (MWD) Community Partnering Program. AFC applied for a grant to begin a watershed education program and in June we were awarded \$15,000, the second highest amount awarded by MWD. Friends of AFC who are interested in developing a watershed education program, with eventual expansion to an environmental education program, have begun helping AFC to fine-tune its program. Our first goal is to affirm the objectives and develop the one-year tasks. Our long-term objective is to hire a full-time education coordinator for AFC. Contact me (nsteele@altadenafoothills.org) if you want to help.

In addition to these two grants, AFC has also received \$3,000 in grants from Environment Now for computer equipment and to attend the Land Trust Alliance annual conference in October in Sacramento. We are encouraged by the confidence in AFC shown by these organizations. Even more encouraging was the response to our call last year for donations to purchase the Andrea Wilson Triangle. Through January 2003 we raised about \$37,500, 60% of that specifically for the Andrea Wilson Triangle purchase. Your donations enabled us to qualify for the SMMC grant, which required a 50% match. Based on this experience, we are confident that the next time we call with a request for donations to purchase land you will come through. Thank you!

Nancy L.C. Steele, D.Env., President

AFC Financials 2002–03

We would
like to thank
the individuals
and businesses
who made
contributions
to AFC in
the past year.

Donations

GIFTS *in* MEMORY of **ASTRID ELLERSEICK**

Marie + Donald Adamson
Lori King + Donald Heller,
Arroyo-Style
Pasadena-Foothill
Association of Realtors
Kerri Bodmer
Sara Carnahan
Rick Carron +
George Widman
Barbara + Ivan Cury
Lloyd + Rebecca DeCosta
Heinz Ellersieck
Jacquie Fennessy
Anita + Michael Gray
Timothy Gregory
Diane Bennett Hardie
Rosa Johnson
Barry Jones
Tracy King
Erin Lindsay
Gary + Jan Lockwood
Marge Mellody
Monica Ohlin-Burness
Nami + Kirk Olgin
Robert Peace +
Maggie Gillham
Lani Poderick +
Tom Jerman
Stephen Glasser +
Sara Robinson-Glasser
Judy Rubin
Arnold Siegel +
Susan Futterman
Carla Slepak
Edna Smith

Nancy Steele
Robert Truman + C. Jake
Gail Emiko Tsuji
David + Darby Walker
Paula Walker
Lisa, Marjorie +
Michael Weiner
Jay Whitacre +
Catherine Augustine
Sonya Barba

2002 **APPEAL** NOV 02–MAR 03

\$1000 or more
Anonymous (2)
Joselyn Borys
Tom Borys
Carolyn + Stuart Clark
Joe + Maria DiMassa
Susan + Paul Dimotakis
The Estate of
David Green
Greta Johnson
Kelly Kimball
Robert Knox
Peter + Doreen Mason
Fran + Rick Neuman
Robert Staehle + Lori Paul
Nancy + Bruce Steele
Kevin + Kathy Young
Thomas Weatherly

\$100 to <\$1000
Tom + Jane Apostol
Sara Carnahan
Robert Chave
Mary Copperud
Charles + Evelyn Davis
Andrea Davis-Griffin
Jeanette Dillinger

Dave Doody
Erann Gat
Elliot + Shirley Gold
Eleanor + Ron Helin
Debbie Hemela +
Bob Payne
Jennifer Herstein
Bonny Hidas +
Delight Thompson
Rod Holcomb +
Jane Brackman
Ann Holland + John Hall
Eric + Karen Hovanitz
Frana Hurley
Joyce Kohl
Tim Koch
Jennifer Kutner
Linda Larson + Charles
Greaves
Jeanne + Patrick Lejeune
Leslie Lowes
Peter + Irmi Maunu
Susan Maunu + Tim North
Ninarose Mayer
Herb + Karin Meiselman
Ralph Miles
Brenda + Mario Miralles
Nami + Kirk Olgin
Julia Pauloo
Hank Parks
Pamela Rogers
Laura + Robert Sandiford
Mark Saltzman +
Walter Hubert
Carolyn Seitz
Carla Slepak
Andy + Amy Stone
Volker + Jane Traub
Alice + Randii Wessen

\$10 to \$100

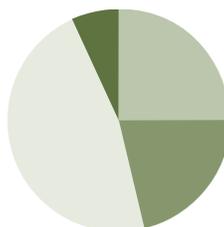
Marie + Donald Adamson
Roland Andres
Paul Ayers
Barbara Bair
Lee Brainerd + Ned Racine
Felix + Ruth Boehm
Carole + Jim Bradley
Gerrie + Thomas Bunn
Michael Choban
Gerald Cichlar +
William Peer
Steve + Bernadette Cole
Joe Dean
Amanda Freeman
John + Melanie Hamilton
Jeannette Huber
Carolynn + Douglas Lerner
Sharon Laubach
Rex Mayreis + Joan Kaplan
Cherilyn McLaughlin
Howard McNeil
Kenneth Meyer
Mary Noell
Diane O'Toole
Arline Pace
John + Celinda Pearson
Marianna Rivinus
George + Sherry Saudi
Teresa Lamb Simpson
Edna Smith
John Steinmetz
Audrey Vaughn
Wiep de Vries
Harriett Whelan

BUSINESSES

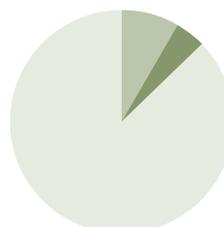
*who PROVIDED
SERVICES GRATIS
or at a DISCOUNT*
Mara Escrow, Pasadena
Safe and Beautiful
Tree Company
Kyle Kemp, Realtor
Don Clary, Holland and
Knight, Los Angeles
Webster's of Altadena

Income and Expense

Summary by Fund



Donations



Expenses

I N M E M O R I U M

Altadena Foothills Conservancy board member Astrid Ellerseick passed away on Tuesday, December 3, 2002. Astrid was a founding member of AFC, a stalwart champion for the protection of Rubio Canyon, a respected authority on Altadena history and architecture, a successful realtor, and beloved resident of Altadena. Astrid served AFC as Treasurer, Secretary, and Publicist. Astrid was the spark that started AFC—her attitude about forming AFC was simple: “Let’s do it!”

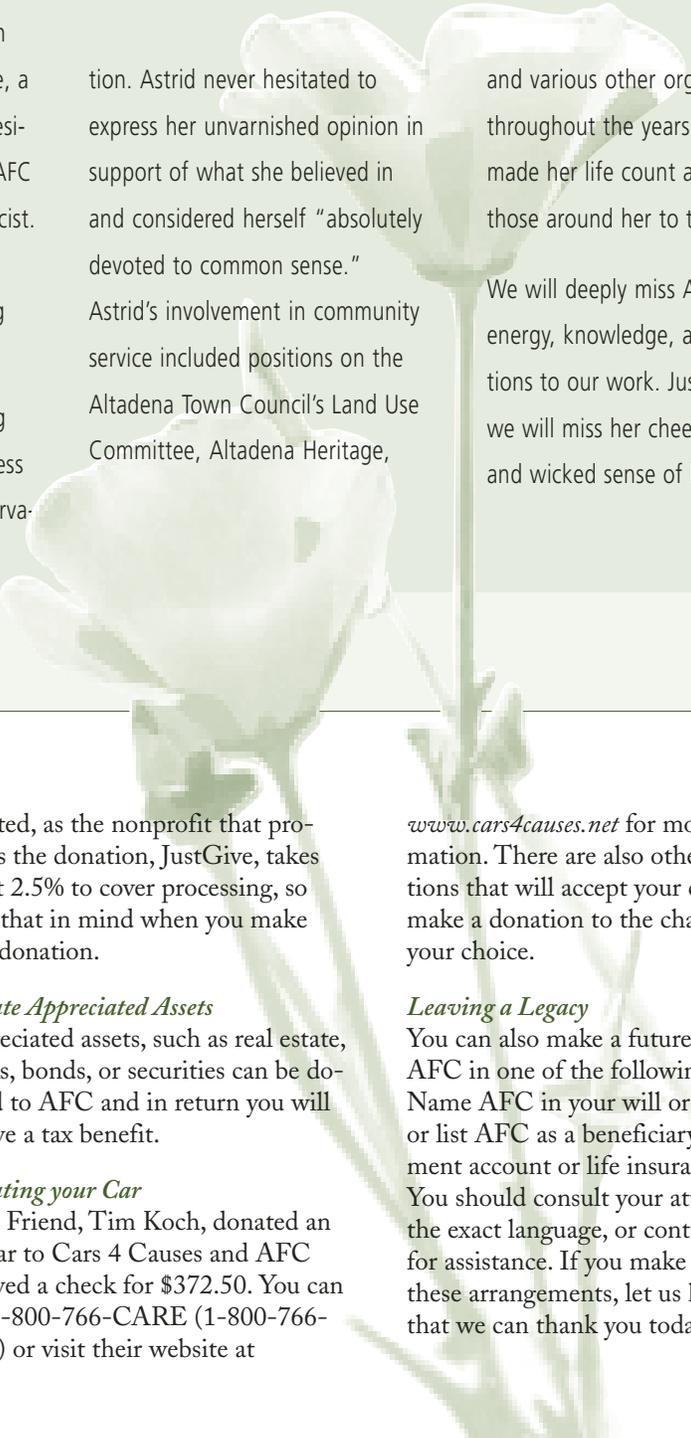
In spite of her age and increasing physical frailty, Astrid was a tireless dynamo on behalf of local conserva-

ASTRID ELLERSEICK
FOUNDING BOARD MEMBER



tion. Astrid never hesitated to express her unvarnished opinion in support of what she believed in and considered herself “absolutely devoted to common sense.” Astrid’s involvement in community service included positions on the Altadena Town Council’s Land Use Committee, Altadena Heritage,

and various other organizations throughout the years. Astrid made her life count and inspired those around her to take action. We will deeply miss Astrid’s energy, knowledge, and contributions to our work. Just as much, we will miss her cheerful smile and wicked sense of humor.



Donating to AFC

Most of you send us a check when you want to make a donation. Checks are good, but there are also other ways you can advance the goal of preserving open space lands in Altadena:

Charge it

If you have an American Express card, you can charge your donation to AFC. Go to <http://home3.americanexpress.com/cards/charities/donateonline.asp>, click on the link to “contribute to your favorite charities,” enter Altadena Foothills Conservancy in the non-profit name line to search, then follow the directions for donating. AFC will receive slightly less than you’ve

donated, as the nonprofit that processes the donation, JustGive, takes about 2.5% to cover processing, so keep that in mind when you make your donation.

Donate Appreciated Assets

Appreciated assets, such as real estate, stocks, bonds, or securities can be donated to AFC and in return you will receive a tax benefit.

Donating your Car

AFC Friend, Tim Koch, donated an old car to Cars 4 Causes and AFC received a check for \$372.50. You can call 1-800-766-CARE (1-800-766-2273) or visit their website at

www.cars4causes.net for more information. There are also other organizations that will accept your car and make a donation to the charity of your choice.

Leaving a Legacy

You can also make a future gift to AFC in one of the following ways. Name AFC in your will or living trust or list AFC as a beneficiary of a retirement account or life insurance policy. You should consult your attorney for the exact language, or contact AFC for assistance. If you make one of these arrangements, let us know so that we can thank you today.

