



Altadena Foothills

www.altadenafoothills.org

CONSERVATOR

Newsletter of the Altadena Foothills Conservancy

Number 10 September 2006

On June 17th the Altadena Foothills Conservancy and the Altadena Watershed Committee hosted a groundbreaking ceremony at the site of the oak woodland urban park which will be constructed at the corner of Woodbury Road and Marengo Avenue in Altadena. The “pocket park” is being developed with funding from a City Makeover grant awarded to the Conservancy by the Metropolitan Water District and with additional support from numerous donors.

Groundbreaking Initiates Neighborhood Project

By Shari Asplund and Rick Carron

The park will transform an 8,000 square foot triangle of gravel into a mini-watershed using native and water-wise plantings to create a California sublime landscape. It will provide a place of beauty and respite while demonstrating how watersheds function.



PHOTO: SHARI ASPLUND

Several elected officials or their representatives, AFC board members, Watershed Committee members, Metropolitan Water District officials, donors and neighbors attended the ceremony. State Senator Jack Scott said, “I really applaud the Conservancy. It’s so vital for residents of urban areas to have natural spaces, a place to get away from it all.”

Local resident Rozell Woods said he was very excited when he heard about the park. He has worked with area kids for more than 20 years. He believes they need something to see and feel, then they’ll never

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Please join us to celebrate the new short film

Eaton's Water

Saturday ❖ October 7, 2006

Film Premier 7 pm

Panel Discussion 7:30 pm

Reception following

AHMANSON AUDITORIUM
ART CENTER COLLEGE OF DESIGN

1700 Lida Street
Pasadena, California



Suggested Donation \$50

RSVP to Altadena Foothills Conservancy

nsteele@altadenafoothills.org

626.791.8458

*Breaking the ground, from left:
Teresa Lamb Simpson, staff to
Congress member Adam Schiff;
Tim Brick, MWD Director;
Anthony Portantino, La Cañada
City Council member; State
Senator Jack Scott; Michele
Zack, Watershed Committee;
Rick Carron, AFC Board
Member and Pocket Park Project
Manager; LaDrena Dansby,
Foothill Municipal Water
District director; Nancy Steele,
AFC President; Rozelle Woods,
neighborhood liaison.*

This issue of our twice-a-year newsletter is all about achieving milestones. Over the last six months, it seemed as though our major projects would never come to fruition. At last, we have the permit to construct the Pocket Park and our film is in-hand. All of the work we do at the Conservancy is the product of many hands and happens because of your faith in us, as demonstrated by your donations. I want to extend my sincere thanks for your support for us while we worked on these two projects. But I want to use my President's column to thank two people, in particular, for these achievements.

Our success in getting the permit for the Pocket Park is directly attributable to Board member Rick Carron. Rick has brought to bear his considerable skills and knowledge about contracting and contract management when working with Los Angeles County on this permit. He has interrupted his own retirement and donated countless hours of volunteer work to spend what probably seemed like days at the permit counter in downtown Los Angeles. It may be hard to believe, but our first meeting with the County was in January 2005. The project languished for several months after that until Rick decided to reactivate brain cells long put into sleep-mode and become a volunteer contracts manager. In his work life, Rick was a contract manager for a large corporation, a fact that I did not know until he took on this project. I am in awe of his negotiation skills and I know that we would not have this permit without his work. I am eternally grateful to Rick for his hard work on the Pocket Park. He will continue to manage the construction of the Park, so he is not finished yet!

The second person we have to thank regarding the Pocket Park is Michele Zack. While serving as our educational and film consultant, Michele has also contributed many hours of unpaid time vol-

unteering for the Conservancy directly and indirectly in her role as chair of the Altadena Watershed Committee. Michele and the committee promoted the concept of the Altadena/Pasadena Pocket Park and convinced the Conservancy to apply for the Metropolitan Water District City Makeover Grant. The Conservancy hired Michele to write the grant, which we received, and since then she has contributed all of her time on this specific project for free.

Our second milestone is the completion of our film, Eaton's Water. We received the master tape from filmmaker Sally Levi and Art Center College of Design in July, and our Gala Premier will take place in October. For this film, we also thank Michele Zack. Michele consults for the Conservancy as the writer and advisor on the film and is our liaison with Art Center. The Conservancy first contracted with Michele in 2004 to develop our watershed education program. She wrote the story which became the basis for the film. Pasadena Unified School District will use the film in classes teaching local history and science. We are still raising the funds to write curriculum to accompany the film so that it will be even more useful to teachers than as a stand-alone story. Michele is truly an Altadena gem, and we greatly appreciate her hard work for watershed education and restoration.

Each and every one of you who support the Conservancy's work is also a gem. Your ongoing support makes our work possible, and perhaps more important, energizes us. When I find a donation in our mailbox, I get a real lift knowing that we will be able to continue operating and working to conserve natural lands, including the associated trails and historic structures. Your donation is much more than money—it is pure energy.

*Thank you!
Nancy L.C. Steele*

Moonlighting on Altadena Trails

By Robert L. Staehle

Too hot to go for a walk? My outside thermometer reads 94.9 F, and at 87.5, indoors isn't my idea of fun either. Who would go for a walk?

But wait! In a few hours, the Sun will go down, temperatures drop, and of course it will get dark. That's a great time to go for a walk.

Moonlight works best in my opinion, but there is nearly always enough light in our sky to see where I'm going on a well-worn trail. The key is to let one's eyes adjust so you can take in the countryside around you, not just that little 4-foot diameter spot of light projected from your flashlight. If you have reasonably good vision and turn off all lights around you (including your car's headlights and interior

lights, if you've driven to a trailhead) for about ten minutes, you won't need to use your flashlight except maybe to look at rough spots on the trail or an interesting insect. Keep the flashlight off when you start and the whole countryside will emerge from darkness and into view.

Nighttime walking is a lot like daytime walking, except without the heat of the Sun. Wear comfortable shoes,

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Dabney's Trails

Zorthian Legend Passes

"TRAILS ARE THE SOUL OF THE COMMUNITY,"

By Robert Staehle

Dabney told us. "Tell them, 'access is everything!'" she said, apologizing for not feeling up to going to the May 9 monthly Altadena Trails meeting. Lori Paul and I told Dabney Zorthian that she needn't apologize, and that the rest of the attendees would understand, as we departed for the meeting a few blocks from Dabney's temporary abode in the Scripps Home.

Dabney had greeted us with such zeal and courage. After we had talked perhaps half an hour, she suggested that we wheel her out to the garden patio. She insisted on us grabbing wine, cheese, nuts, French Effervé sparkling pink lemonade, and other snacks as she rolled herself out of her small room cluttered with gifts and mementos people had brought when they came to see her.

Our conversation wheeled across a dozen wide-ranging topics. Some music friends dropped by for forty minutes or so, adding their own spice to the conversation. Our discussion got back to Zorthian Ranch, and the trails Dabney wanted across it, connecting most of the "Skylane Gap" (roughly between Chaney Trail and Canon Road) in the Altadena Crest Trail. "Of course *you* can ride your mountain bike on my trails any time," she told me when the topic of responsible trail use and horses came up.

Too soon, it was time to go. Dabney wheeled herself back to her room, with Lori and me following with the rest of the snacks. She insisted that I keep the rest of the lemonade, noting that people were bringing her so many things. Then she stood up out of her wheelchair and turned to gracefully get herself back in bed. She had said a few days before she was not supposed to be able to stand up, but explained that today, she felt much better.

We went off to the Altadena Crest Trail Restoration Working Group meeting, where Lori reported on Dabney's



Dabney joined other equestrians to celebrate Trails Day in Altadena in October 2005.

"instructions" to the group and our community. Her son, Alan, visited her later, bringing Dabney her mail. After he left, she put on the best dress she had with her, stood in front of the mirror in the bathroom and put on modest makeup, and propped herself up in bed with dignity. Then she let Eternity take over...

You can imagine my disbelief the next morning when an email came stating that Dabney had passed on. I called Scripps, thinking the message must be mistaken. That's when I learned how she was found by the staff early that morning. I never saw someone with so much courage.

As she was to so many neighbors, Dabney Zorthian was a good friend of the Conservancy. My encounters, friendship, and discussions with Dabney over the last few years brought me many lessons I shall always carry. I didn't feel like I knew her that well. But her message was clear. I hope the rest of us in the community have the courage to act on it.

Farewell, Dabney!

Continued from page 2

clothing that suits the temperature, and, whether you intend to use it or not, bring a flashlight. Just like during the day, 'tis a good idea to look where you are putting your feet, not only for footing, but to avoid stepping on a snake. On all the nighttime hikes I have taken, I have yet to see a snake (I see them every few months in the daytime). My strongest advice is to walk on a trail or fire road you already know from the daytime, or be with someone who does. This makes it almost trivial to keep your bearings and know how to return, even if the Moon sets or goes behind some clouds.

Without the searing Sun, nighttime walking during Summer and Fall is often more comfortable than daytime walking. But the best part is what you SEE, and what you HEAR. Where you can see them, the city lights are often spectacular. Then you turn around, and see our mountains blanketed in soft moonlight. You can read a newspaper by the full Moon, and you can see things you never noticed by daylight. One of my favorites is the blooming yucca marching up the hillside, where the nearby stalks of white flowers seem to stand out even more than in daytime. My best surprise was seeing an odd bright greenish point of light on the ground up ahead of me; it turned out to be a glow-worm.

And the sounds...a rustle in the leaves over here, distant coyotes over that way, while you are surrounded by a symphony of crickets everywhere. The background noise from the city is much less at night, so you hear from a wider swath of the nearby foothills than during the day. With the right sounds, you can almost "see" with your hearing, as nocturnal animals go about their business. The most common nighttime sounds are

from insects (crickets, cicadas), and, if you are near water, frogs. Wood rats, mice and other rodents add a scurry here and a nibble there. And on some nights you can hear a hooting convention among several great horned owls sitting in trees and on utility poles. If you are really lucky, you might see one zero in on lunch, which owls do with incredible silence so as not to alert their prey.

Two favorite places for nighttime walking: 1) Chaney Trail. The vehicle gate at Alzada Road is closed most nights, so you can park below it and walk up the road without the cars, or take the Altadena Crest Trail feeder that zig-zags up the same ridge to connect with the Sunset Ridge fire road. You can go as far as you want from there. 2) Echo Mountain. Park at the top of Lake Avenue, and walk up via the "Cobb Estate" (see other article). It can be a little dark where the trail dips through Los Flores Canyon before heading up on the side of the ridge. What can seem like endless, hot switchbacks during the day afford a constantly-changing panorama of cityscapes and foothills at night. (Because most of the trail is on west-facing slopes, this walk, when taken shortly after sundown, works best near first quarter Moon, because the Moon is high in the sky at sunset, already illuminating most of the trail. When the Moon is full, it takes several hours after sunset to work its way to where the Echo Mountain trail is well illuminated.)

As with any walk, it's a good idea to take a partner. Check your flashlight before you leave, and carry an extra set of batteries if you're going far. If you've not gone walking at night before, your eyes and ears will astound you.

If you're not sure when the Moon will be out, you can look at many calendars that show the Moon's phase, or go to the Griffith Observatory web site, <http://www.griffithobs.org/Skyinfo.html>, look for "Moonrise/Moonset Times," and go to the entry "Chris Peat's Moon Data page (customized for Los Angeles)," and look to the bottom left for the illustration and dates of "Phases." If you enjoy walks before bedtime, the best part of the month begins a few days before first quarter, and ends a few days past full Moon. For early morning walks, the days past full Moon through last quarter are best, with the added bonus of sunrise if you are out long enough.

November Ballot Issues AFC Recommendation: YES on 84

Proposition 84 will give Californians an opportunity to preserve and protect our state's precious natural resources as current funding falls critically low. Past bond funds are running out as early as this year, and the state is spending less than 1% of the overall state budget on funding for resources and environmental protection. The lack of funding will cause significant and widespread problems for all Californians, ranging from vulnerability to destructive flooding to the basic conditions of our parks, bays and coastline.

Proposition 84, the Clean Water, Parks and Coastal Protection Bond, a \$5.4 billion bond measure slated for the November 2006 statewide ballot, would provide critically needed funds to ensure the availability of safe drinking water, improve local water supply reliability, strengthen flood protection, and preserve California's natural landscapes, including parks, forests, lakes, rivers, beaches, bays, ocean and coastline. Proposition 84 protects these natural resources, which are essential to our well being, our economy and our quality of life.

The Altadena Foothills Conservancy has several upcoming projects that would benefit from Prop 84 funding. In the past, we received Prop 40 funding as a match for our Andrea Wilson Triangle purchase. In the future, we hope to use Prop 84 funds to purchase additional parcels in our Conservation Plan. If this bond measure doesn't pass, then state conservancies, like the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, won't have funds to grant to smaller conservancies like us.

The measure will not raise taxes and includes fiscal safeguards such as yearly independent audits and a citizen's oversight committee. It is supported by a broad coalition of interests, including more than 250 water districts, conservation and environmental groups, local government entities, museum and park interests, bipartisan elected officials, and civic organizations.

Learn more at www.cleanwater2006.com. Please remember to vote YES on Proposition 84 on November 7th.



Bassariscus astutus

Ringtail Cat

By Lori Paul

As reported in the last AFC newsletter, the Ringtail Cat, a pretty little cousin of the raccoon, has been seen and photographed in the Altadena foothills for the first time in many years. It was thought that Ringtail Cats were no longer resident at lower elevations of the San Gabriel Mountains; however, the photo taken in Millard Canyon on December 5, 2005, and a second sighting in Rubio Canyon on August 5, 2006 confirms that Ringtail Cats are still among us!

The Ringtail Cat's scientific (Latin) name, *Bassariscus astutus*, comes from *bassar* (fox), *isc* (little), and *astut* (cunning). Though no relation to domestic cats or any other cats, this shy, yet inquisitive, creature is also known as the Miner's Cat because prospectors and other reclusive residents of remote areas sometimes shared their tents, cabins, and food scraps with friendly Ringtail Cats, who in turn provided companionship and hunted troublesome mice.

The secretive Ringtail Cat is nocturnal and seldom seen in daytime. It lives in rock strewn arid foothills and in forested canyon bottoms near streams. In fact, Ringtails are seldom found far from year round water. Ringtail Cats seldom venture to higher elevations where winter snows are severe. The range for this species includes foothills in California, Oregon, Arizona, New Mexico, Texas, Utah and parts of northern Mexico. The Ringtail Cat was selected as the state mammal of Arizona in 1986.

Ringtails are omnivores and occasional scavengers of carrion. Their diet tends to vary with the season: berries, ripe fruits, and other plant material are the dominant food sources in autumn; small mammals and birds are more commonly eaten during winter; while lizards, frogs, and young plant sprouts are consumed more in springtime; large insects, spiders, scorpions, centipedes and worms are favorite summer fare. Ringtail cats hunt small mammals, especially mice, voles, woodrats, squirrels, and rabbits. Great horned owls are their major predator, along with coyotes, cougars, and bobcats.

The Ringtail Cat's unusually flexible ankle joint is able to rotate over 180 degrees, making this animal an agile climber. It's small, rounded paws have partially retractable claws.

Individual Ringtail Cats weigh between 1 and 2 1/2 pounds. Ringtail Cats have a soft, grey ticked coat with reddish and yellowish highlights. They are lithe in body form with a fox-like winsome face, large ears, and a long, beautiful, raccoon-like tail, which is banded with 14–16 alternating black and white rings.

Adult Ringtails lead solitary lives. Males and females come together for a brief romance to mate in the spring. The female gives birth to 2 or 3 pups, often in a secluded nest located in a hollow tree or safe den among large boulders. The male Ringtail does not assist in raising young. Pup's eyes open and fur covers their bodies when they are about five to six weeks old. The pups are weaned by autumn and can mate near the end of their second year.

Seeing a Ringtail Cat is a rare and special treat. Now that we know this relatively uncommon species still lives in the Altadena foothills, keep a sharp lookout for our charming little furry neighbor!

The Conservancy wishes to thank Lone Pine Publishing and Nancy Foulds for their gracious permission to use Ian Sheldon's beautiful Ringtail Cat drawing from their excellent pocket field guide, *Animal Tracks of Southern California* as an inspirational logo for our organization's projects. If you do not have this tiny guide that includes species profiles and lovely illustrations, in addition to descriptions of animal tracks, it would make a useful addition to your daypack.

We also thank Lone Pine Publishing for donating numerous copies of *Mammals of California* and *Birds of Northern California* for use in our community programs and educational work. We highly recommend this publisher's field guides and encourage you to visit their website: www.lonepinepublishing.com/cat/nature

You can order their books directly from Lone Pine Publishing, through Amazon.Com, or from your local independent bookstore.



Preserving the Cobb Estate



Passion and Opportunity

By Anna A. Moore

The Cobb Estate—a large parcel of land at the top of Lake Avenue at the mouth of Las Flores Canyon—was signed over to the U.S. Forest Service on December 13, 1971. This is the story of its acquisition, as told by Eudorah Moore.

Estelle Schlueter and Eudorah Moore were the kind of women who know how to give good parties. And that's what the two Pasadena women were doing at Ms. Schlueter's house the night of September 30, 1971, where the guests included many members of Pasadena's art and design community, including Ms. Virginia Steele Scott, whose sizable art collection and estate would one day fund the construction of the Virginia Steele Scott Gallery of American Art at the Huntington.

As the party ended, Ms. Moore, curator of Design at the Pasadena Art Museum (now the Norton Simon) was talking to the daughter of one of the guests, the young Maggie Stratton, president of John Muir High School's Conservation Club. Ms. Stratton was disappointed because, after weeks of trying to raise money to buy the 107-acre Cobb Estate from Groucho and Gummo Marx, she and her fellow Club members remained far short of their goal, and the auction was to be held the following day.

Ms. Moore seized the opportunity to introduce Ms. Stratton to Ms. Scott, a small, mousy woman whose eyes lit immediately when she heard the students' plight. Intrigued with the idea of helping them save the Estate, Ms. Scott—a notorious night owl—led Ms. Stratton, Ms. Moore, and a few other guests to her house on Hillcrest Terrace. She might be able to help, she said, but had to get permission from her lawyer and accountant first. It was well after midnight, but the group repaired to the Scott's house and viewed their gallery while Ms. Scott roused her lawyer and accountant from bed (an event to which they had grown

accustomed, Ms. Scott said) and had them prepare a check for \$150,000.

The next morning, Ms. Moore and a few other guests from the previous night's party gathered in the auction house to

watch the students and their teacher, Bob Barnes, who bid on their behalf. Outside, in a long, chauffeured black limousine, Ms. Scott sat, waiting to hear the results.

Bidding reached \$170,000, and the students were panicked. They added the \$6,000 they had raised on their own, bringing their total to \$156,000. And then a remarkable thing happened. The crowd in the auction house followed Ms. Scott's example. Auctioneer Milton Wershow pledged \$1,000, the real estate agent donated her commission, and other audience members pitched

in until \$170,000 had been raised. The competing bidder—a developer who had been prepared to spend \$300,000 for the property—is reported to have been so impressed by the students' enthusiasm that he exclaimed, "I am with the people, I will bid no more!"¹

The next day, the *Los Angeles Times* and *Pasadena Star-News* jumped on the story. Ms. Scott had been inspired by the students' energy, she said, but her real passion was for Southern California's natural beauty. She had moved to the area at fourteen, she told the *Times*, and had been struck by "those marvelous clean San Gabriel mountains." The image had stayed with her over the years, and she just "couldn't bear to see the [mountains] piled up with houses."²

1. Michele Zack, *Altadena: Between Wilderness and City* (Altadena: Altadena Historical Society, 2004), 192.

2. "Why Woman Gave \$150,000 to Save Estate." *The Los Angeles Times*, October 7, 1971, p. SG1.



Donating to AFC

If you have read this far, we know you love the open space lands of the foothills and would like to see them preserved for hiking and sports. It takes work, but we can protect the beautiful vistas we have all come to know. Can you point to a scenic winding canyon, and say that you protected it? Does it remain wild because of you?

That's why people donate to AFC. The Conservancy puts your donations to work by protecting trails, buying and preserving important Altadena wild land that is in danger of overdevelopment, and preserving natural vistas and special places in the Altadena Foothills as much as possible.

Preserve Altadena as you remember it—the tranquil place between wilderness and city.

Easy Ways to Donate

Send a Check—using the form below.

Charge It—Go to www.altadenafoothills.org and charge your donation to AFC.

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

Donate Your Car—AFC has now received two donations from Cars for Causes because Friends donated their cars in our name. Call 1-800-766-CARE (1-800-766-2273) or visit www.cars4causes.net for info.

Donate Your Property—If your real estate is near the border of the wild lands, a donation will mean a lot to protecting the area. Even your real estate in the city can be transformed into mountain wild lands if AFC applies the proceeds to buying foothill wild areas.

Leave a Legacy—Some people think that protecting our natural canyons is a lovely legacy to leave behind. If you agree, please consider planning now to leave that legacy.

You can make a gift now that will spring to action later, by naming AFC in your will or living trust, or listing AFC as a beneficiary of a policy or retirement fund. Your attorney will have helpful suggestions. AFC has planning tools as well, and would welcome your call.

Experienced Retiree Position

Would you like to make an important difference conserving Altadena's foothills? If you have experience in project management, successful proposals, finance, land acquisition or any of a variety of other fields relevant to a growing organization, your time and expertise might be the most valuable contribution you can make. Altadena Foothills Conservancy is looking for an experienced project manager to apply his or her skills in land acquisition, conservation, education and related projects. The successful candidate will report to the Conservancy's Board, and be responsible for organizing and gaining Board approval of specific project objectives, developing, budgeting, and then executing a plan to achieve the approved objectives.

If you think you might qualify, contact Robert Staehle, Natural Resources Committee Chair and Treasurer, at 626-798-3235 or rob@altadenafoothills.org. Compensation in the form of satisfaction protecting Altadena's natural value and beauty commensurate with your success, i.e., this is an unpaid volunteer position, like that of all the Board members. Informal training available in local natural values and prior successful land conservation projects.

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forget it. He is envisioning ways local youth can become involved in the park's upkeep. Nearby resident Sonja Gomez agreed the park will make a big impact.

While construction has not yet commenced, the project is on schedule. Since the groundbreaking, the City of Pasadena Department of Water and Power installed water service at the site. Los Angeles County Public Works issued the encroachment and construction permit. Construction will begin once Public Works issues final approvals of technical modifications. The plan is to complete all construction during November 2006.

Rain Bird Corporation has made a large donation of irrigation equipment, which has been delivered. J. Harold Mitchell, has likewise committed to a large donation of irrigation pipe, connectors and other required parts. Mountain View Cemetery, which is located near the park site, has been very generous in their commitment to provide technical expertise, construction equipment and labor to install the irrigation equipment. They have also offered to pay the park's water bill for the first 5 years.

Please contact AFC Board member Rick Carron, 626-296-0330, should you have any questions, or interest in volunteering to work on this project.

Contributions to Altadena Foothills Conservancy

Please renew your membership as a Friend of the Altadena Foothills Conservancy or become a new Friend.

- I am renewing I am a new Friend
- \$10 \$30 \$50 \$100 Other \$ _____

Please contact me about a larger gift to AFC.

Watershed Education and the Eaton Documentary

DONOR CATEGORIES

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Thank you for your support.

The Altadena Foothills Conservancy is a tax-exempt 501(c)(3) organization; all donations are tax deductible to the fullest extent of the law.

Changes to our Board

In April, Nami Olgin resigned from the Board and her office as Secretary/Treasurer. Nami is not leaving us, however, but remains active as our volunteer Administrative Assistant. Nami took this step so she could spend more time on her other environmental interest, recycling and solid waste management. Shari Asplund agreed to serve as Board Secretary, and Robert Staehle is serving as Treasurer.

At our August Board meeting, we elected two new Board members: Michelle Markman and Lawren Markle.

Michelle Markman is a California native, born in Venice Beach, and a resident of Altadena for the past eight years. She prefers the wide-open spaces and the foothills to the beach. She is the project manager for Energy Efficiency Solar, a solar installation company, and co-owner of Hestia-Phytos, a real estate investment firm focused on developing sustainable housing. She has more than 25 years of experience in direct marketing, multi-cultural marketing and targeted publishing, and she gained national recognition as the

creator, developer and publisher of Nuestra Gente, the largest circulation Spanish-language magazine in the country. Michelle joined the Conservancy's board because she is dedicated to using her expertise and her experience in strategic planning and real estate investment to further our goals.

Lawren Markle moved to Altadena with his wife, Mary Cross, in 2006. Lawren works for Tech Image, where he concentrates on media relations and analyst relations for several clients. He is also a board member for TriFoundation, a non-profit foundation to help recently diagnosed people find thyroid research information. He has been camping, hiking and exploring the outdoors since childhood, and discovered the Altadena foothills while living in Pasadena in the 1990s. He is a Sierra Club member and has an interest in preserving wild, open lands. His other pastimes include playing guitar and gardening.

Join Our E-Mail List

To receive updates and occasional communications from the AFC, send an e-mail to: nsteele@altadenafoothills.org

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Altadena Foothills Conservator

Newsletter of the
Altadena Foothills Conservancy

Editor Shari Asplund

Design Adriane Jach

Thanks to the two dedicated volunteers who keep us on the Internet: Jeffrey George is our webmaster; he created our web site and provides the technical support necessary to maintain the site and keep it current. Bev Huntsberger volunteers to help with posting updates to the web site.

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