

## Tehachapi Ag Futures Alliance

The success of the Ag workshop in January spawned an Ag Expo on April 14. It was an informal walk-in event where people could learn about growing their own food or produce for the farmers market, Woodward West or other markets such as local restaurants. AFA member Paul Hall set up a petting zoo in the parking lot with a calf, two black lambs, pink and black and white piglets, a pygmy goat and baby rabbits. Kids and adults had a wonderful time with the animals.

Anthony McDemas designed and hosted the event which drew many interested folks. The purpose of the Expo was to encourage locals to engage in sustainable local agriculture for their own and the community's benefit. A prominent feature was nutrition and healthy eating.



## Bus Tour June 2

Our popular history and nature appreciation bus tour of Cummings and Brite Valleys will visit four historic ranches - one with the first commercial vineyard in the Tehachapi area - with narrative on history, nature and geology along the way.

Holly Palance has graciously agreed to let us visit Holly Brooke Ranch, a place her late father, Jack, loved to be. Although we will not be able to go in any of the buildings because of activities to catalog many of the belongings, we will feel the allure of the ranch and why Jack loved it so. This will probably be our last chance to visit it.

Also on the itinerary is the Courtland Gross stone house designed by famous architect, Donald Parkinson, and now home of Bruce and Shannon Lockwood.

Another stop at Spring Oaks Ranch of the Wiggins family early settlers and now home of the Schultz family will give us a look at the pioneer cemetery and the extraordinary barn built by Lockheed President, Mr. Chapelier.

Depending on time available, we will stop at or drive by the historic Stowell Ranch - now the Souza Ranch and vineyard.

The full sized air conditioned bus will depart for the first tour from the Stallion Springs Realty parking lot at 9:00 AM and return at noon. The second tour will leave at 12:30 and return at 3:30.

With rising fuel costs for the bus we have raised the cost to **\$20 per person** this year. Early reservations are recommended, as the tours will be announced in papers soon and usually sell out quickly. Call the tour status hotline at 822-1887 to determine availability, and send names, **choice of morning or afternoon tour** and payment of \$20 per person to CVPA, P. O. Box 1020, Tehachapi, CA 93581.

## June Annual Meeting

How many know the real history of Stallion Springs? For sure, few know it as well as Betty Ramirez, owner of Stallion Springs Properties, who has been here from early in the development. Betty has agreed to be the speaker at the **June 7, 2007** meeting which will be at **7:30 PM** at the usual Stallion Springs CSD building. Come learn about the early ranchers, the beginning of development, the boom and bust years, and what Stallion Springs is like today.

## Stallion Springs to Annex Lands in the Heart of Cummings Valley to Enable Development??

Many were shocked to read in the Stallion Springs Bridge that "the Board instructed the General Manager to continue to investigate annexing a portion of Cummings Valley with regard to future development". This is their response to a proposal by Superior Sod owner, Dick Considine, to have Stallion Springs annex his, and we believe other owners' properties to enable him to go ahead with

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development he has been planning for several years. We have heard the number of houses in the plans to be from 2500 to 3200 and commercial development to go along with them.

CVPA immediately distributed flyers to all Stallion Springs newspaper receptacles alerting residents to what is going on and including a pre paid postcard petition people could sign to request that the Stallion Springs CSD discontinue any consideration of annexing lands outside current District boundaries. Petitions have also been made available to some residents of nearby communities.

The next edition of the Bridge announced that because of all the inquiries received in response to our flyer, there will be a town hall meeting to present information and find out what residents want. The date of the town hall meeting has not been announced.

To date 527 Stallion Springs residents and 72 residents of other communities have signed our petitions.

In the mean time we have communicated CVPA's position in a letter to the Stallion Springs Directors and another to Dick Considine with the suggestion that donation of a conservation easement on his properties could have very significant tax benefits, and could let him avoid a lot of grief. Both letters along with a beautifully written letter by Craig and Sally Fox were sent and/or copied to Supervisor, Don Maben, Dick Considine, the five SSCSD Directors and the SS General Manager. For the full text of the letters as well as the flyer we distributed visit our web site [www.cvpainc.org](http://www.cvpainc.org).

If you have not signed one of our petitions, and would like to make your voice heard, sign and return the petition included in this newsletter.

## The Cummings Valley Wine Growing Region

With their excellent Primitivo Zinfandel being widely acclaimed, Bob and Patty Souza have set the stage for an exciting new act in the drama of agriculture in Cummings Valley. An application for a Cummings Valley appellation (a Federal designation of a unique wine growing region) is nearly ready to send to Washington D.C.

Following in Bob's and Patty's footsteps, CVPA President, Chuck McCollough, has purchased 14.45 acres on the northwest corner of Hwy 202 and Cummings Valley Road, and is preparing to plant about seven acres of wine grapes to begin with. There will be 3.1 acres of Primitivo Zinfandel, 2.8 acres of Viognier (Vee -Ohn - Yay), and 1.1 acre of Syrah.

An ironic twist is that this very land was proposed for conversion from agriculture to commercial zoning in 1990. It was the fledgling CVPA's first big effort to prevent re zoning. An all-out campaign was mounted with talks to various groups, petition signings, flyers handed out at the Bear Valley Springs gate and an eight-minute video for showing at the Supervisors' hearing. It was a partial victory with the number of re zoned acres reduced from 35.5 to 6.5.

With his geological background, Chuck hopes to capitalize on the fact that the soils on this alluvial fan are derived from an isolated ridge of 220-million year old rocks of Triassic geologic age, and will impart unique qualities to the wines. In recognition of this, the vineyard name and wine label are expected to be "Triassic Legacy".

The hope is that many others will be encouraged to grow wine to make it a destination for tourists to come for wine tasting and other things the Tehachapi area has to offer - to spend their money and then go home! Agri-tourism has become a significant economic boost to places with wine and other agricultural products to offer.

### April Meeting Revisited

At our April 5 meeting Anthony McDemas, a young man with boundless ideas, energy and enthusiasm, described the exciting project he is developing called "Taste of Tehachapi". The project

sponsored by the Tehachapi Chamber of Commerce and other entities will provide information to old timers, newcomers and out-of-towners about all the opportunities to experience our restaurants (Did you know there are 54?), the farmers market, future wine tasting, the Indian Point ostrich ranch and other attractions.

Anthony is a cartographer for Design Maps Inc. and has already produced a beautiful color map of the greater Tehachapi area for the Chamber, highlighting points of interest. Part of the project will be a little fold-out brochure to go with the key cards of the main motels that will let travelers know that there is much of interest here worth staying a day or two extra for.

## TC Land Trust

The Tehachapi Cummings Land Trust is waiting for its non-profit 501c3 approval from the IRS. It appears that Chuck McCollough will be their first donor, with a conservation easement on his vineyard property. This will ensure that no change from agricultural use can ever occur and will hopefully act as a buffer between the 2 ½- acre residential zoning to the east and south (as well as the 6.5 acre commercial site) and the agricultural zoning to the north and west. If Chuck's vineyard is successful, there is great potential for wine growing on the sloping land up toward the Bear Valley Springs gate.

## PETITION

The undersigned request that the Stallion Springs CSD terminate any consideration of annexing property or any other activity that could facilitate non-agricultural development in Cummings Valley. It is our belief that such development would lead to the demise of Cummings Valley as an irreplaceable agricultural resource and would negatively affect the quality of life of area residents.

Signature(s) - all adults may sign

Place of residence (eg. Cummings Valley)

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Please, if your signature is undecipherable, print your name as well. If you have already signed a petition, do not repeat here.

Return to CVPA, P. O. Box 1020, Tehachapi, CA 93581