

FRIENDS OF THE FISCALINI RANCH PRESERVE

2022 ANNUAL REPORT



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August's Gathering in the Garden fundraiser at Cambria Nursery.

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MISSION

Our mission is to protect the beauty of the Fiscalini Ranch Preserve and sustain its diversity of life for everyone to enjoy.

VISION

Our vision is a thriving, everlasting coastal habitat that nurtures wonder and appreciation for generations to come.



Friends of the
Fiscalini Ranch
Preserve



Sea thrift (*Armeria maritima*)

MESSAGE FROM JOHN NIXON, BOARD CHAIRPERSON



For the Friends of the Fiscalini Ranch Preserve (FFRP) Board of Directors, I commend and thank our members, staff, volunteers, donors, and community partners for another year of significant accomplishments in maintaining, protecting, and improving the natural beauty and bounty of the Fiscalini Ranch Preserve. Emerging from two years of pandemic induced limitations, you will see FFRP's new energy and enthusiasm reflected in this report.

The beauty and bounty of the Ranch are for all to enjoy, and FFRP has responsibility for protecting and sustaining its natural wonders in perpetuity. FFRP depends on the generosity of members and friends who love the Ranch to support the ongoing work of maintaining and improving the scenic splendor of the magnificent nature preserve.

This year saw the loss of two long-time members and supporters who epitomize the love and commitment necessary to sustain the work of FFRP. Russ Wiggins and Father Mark Stetz were two exemplary volunteers whose legacy gifts to FFRP will have lasting impact on the Ranch and on the organization.

Russ Wiggins was a dedicated volunteer who supported the Ranch and FFRP at many community and fundraising events through the years. His favorite was the annual tree planting.

Mark Stetz served on the Board of FFRP and represented the organization tirelessly. Father Mark was fond of saying that it was an epiphany he experienced while walking on the Ranch that directed him to become a Catholic priest.

When it came time to plan their legacies, both Russ and Mark considered the importance of the Ranch in their lives. I encourage everyone to follow their lead and let us know your plans so we can thank you.



Russ Wiggins with
Jo Ellen Butler.



Father Mark Stetz leading a walk on the
Bluff Trail.

MESSAGE FROM KITTY CONNOLLY, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



2022 was a year of welcome change for the Fiscalini Ranch Preserve: a transition away from COVID-19 protocols, the return of robust school and docent programs, and – finally – an in-person fundraising event, our first since 2019 which was led by Becky Kincaid, Cindy Pierson, and Board Member Dianne Anderson. A highlight of the year was the Volunteer Appreciation Party in May when old and new friends gathered to celebrate their impact on the Ranch.

It was also a year when we made great leaps in restoration. After 2021's big push for eradication of South African ice plant from the bluffs, we tripled our impact in 2022 by removing six semi-truckloads of invasives. Native plants began coming back as soon as the ice plant was gone. Generous donations and a rising stock market supported that effort.

With grant funds, and a great deal of volunteer labor, we also built a restoration nursery and started a crop of Monterey pine (*Pinus radiata*) seedlings for Ranch reforestation. A centralized nursery allows us to minimize the risk of introducing disease to the forest.

Altogether Friends of the Fiscalini Ranch Preserve (FFRP)'s members provided Ranch operations with a record \$125,954 of direct support. From paying contractors to control invasive plants to cutting fire breaks, from building the nursery to removing dead trees, FFRP is proud to contribute to the management of the preserve.

Building on our work in 2022, we look forward to construction of a companion boardwalk to the Bluff Trail. This new route will link the Bluff Trail with the Marine Terrace Trail, our two most popular paths. Support from Richard Lee, Shirley Paulson-Lee, Lorrie Parral, and Walt Andrus has seen us through the planning phase. Support from you and the estate of Russ Wiggins will see us through construction. Dedications along the boardwalk will create an endowment for its maintenance and public access across the Ranch.

The Ranch belongs to each of us, and I thank you for supporting it. Your care makes the Ranch thrive.

RESTORATION ACHIEVEMENTS

More than 5,000 monarchs overwintered on the Ranch during the Thanksgiving weekend count, bringing their population back up to levels not seen since 2016. This widespread return was welcome news about a beloved species. The Ranch is a rare location where monarchs can still cluster on native Monterey pine trees.



Butterflies clustering near the large monarch grove on the Ranch.



The Wednesday Weeders, under the direction of Michael Thomas, were tireless in attacking invasive plants on Fiscalini Ranch Preserve. Volunteers put in more than 2,000 hours in habitat enhancement projects during 2022.

Marvin Josephson holding a ginormous poison hemlock he pulled along the Santa Rosa Creek Trail.

RESTORATION ACHIEVEMENTS

The annual Thanksgiving Weekend Tree Planting brought out a record number of community members and visitors who planted around 350 seedlings in two hours. Volunteers included Friends of the Fiscalini Ranch Preserve stalwarts and multi-generational groups of first timers.



Larger seedlings got a good start during the wet winter.

A graduate student at CSU Bakersfield did her thesis research on the Ranch's South African ice plant. She found that ice plant reduced plant species diversity on the bluff and continued to reduce diversity for around 18 months after its removal. After 18 months, though, no legacy effects were detected as native plants returned.



Native plants spread where South African ice plant was removed.

FOCUS ON RESTORATION

In 2022, we were able to make great strides in removing South African ice plant from the coastal bluffs. Cambria Community Services District hired West Coast Tree Service, who ultimately removed six semi-truckloads of the invasive weed from the Ranch. Friends of the Fiscalini Ranch Preserve (FFRP) was delighted to pay for this work.

Habitat restoration is a long-standing priority of Fiscalini Ranch Preserve's management plan and a constant effort by FFRP. Initial studies of the Ranch cited ice plant removal as a key step in restoration because it crowds out the native coastal bluff vegetation.

If left untouched, a monoculture of ice plant would eventually cover untold acres of the Ranch as it has in many areas along California's coast.



West Coast Tree Service at work.



Before ice plant removal along the Bluff Trail.



After ice plant removal along the Bluff Trail.

FOCUS ON RESTORATION

In 2022 the Friends of the Fiscalini Ranch Preserve (FFRP) completed construction of a nursery to grow plants for habitat restoration on the Ranch. The 10'x24' house has 150 square feet of bench space, enough for 450 Monterey pine (*Pinus radiata*) seedlings. California native plants do not need the extra warmth provided by glass or plastic, so the frame is covered with screen to exclude the birds and mice that love to eat seeds.

FFRP has been reforesting the Ranch for many years. Since 2003, the forest has expanded approximately 25% due to replanting and forest management. This new nursery will allow us to build on these efforts.

Constructing the restoration nursery was possible because of generous support from the Arthur L. & Elaine V. Johnson Foundation, Orange County Community Foundation, and Reid Fund of the Ernest Lieblich Foundation (California Community Foundation). Tree dedications will continue to support the restoration program.

Volunteers devoted five days to constructing the nursery, a project that took much effort and ingenuity. Who knew there would be so many pieces?



The restoration nursery with two crops of Monterey pine.

Walt Andrus, Gil Eastman, Marvin Josephson, Tom Loganbill, Mark Meeks, Mike Mollohan, Brian Morgan, John Nixon, Mark Larsen, and Michael Thomas, as well as Cambria Community Services District Resources & Facilities staff Carlos Mendoza, Berto Novas, and Martin Garcia completed this complex structure.

EDUCATION & OUTREACH ACHIEVEMENTS

Board Member Sheryll Ebbs continued to expand school programs to include repeat visits and volunteer days. Volunteers Stephen Beck, Brian Morgan, Gil Eastman, Duffy Burns, Suzanne Fielder, and John Menke led or supported the walks.



Leffingwell High School field trip in fall 2022.

Board Member Ellie Etter and volunteer Jon Martinez launched a video history program, Our Stories, to capture the history of and enthusiasm for the Ranch. These short videos will be posted to Friends of the Fiscalini Ranch Preserve's web site in 2023.



Ellie Etter and Jon Martinez interviewing Jo Ellen Butler.

FOCUS ON OUTREACH

Friends of the Fiscalini Ranch Preserve (FFRP) was honored to win the Sweepstakes Award at Cambria's Pinedorado Days Parade. A highlight of the annual Labor Day festival, organized by the Cambria Lion's Club, is Saturday's parade along Main Street. Under the leadership of volunteer Brian Morgan, FFRP teamed with the Cambria Community Services District to create a lively entry. The group touched on the preserve's ranching history to its restoration future, ending with a choreographed presentation for the judges. A rodeo clown and tiny "bucking bronco" added to the atmosphere.



The winning entry heading down Main Street.



Martin Garcia driving.



Brian Morgan as rodeo clown.



Our little bucking bronco.

RECREATION & ACCESS ACHIEVEMENTS

To ensure public safety, Friends of the Fiscalini Ranch Preserve requested that Cambria Community Services District (CCSD) strengthen the regulation covering off-leash dogs on the preserve. CCSD amended the District's Municipal Code so that all dogs on the Ranch and outside of the dog park must be kept on leashes.



New leash law sign on the Bluff Trail.

Fiscalini Ranch Preserve was honored to be inducted into the Old-Growth Forest Network (OGFN). The mission of OGFN is to connect people with nature by creating a national network of protected, mature, publicly accessible native forests. Membership lets more people know about the Ranch and its remarkable forest.



Noelle Collins and Hugh Manoli, Jr., Old-Growth Forest Network, presented a plaque to Kitty Connolly, Executive Director of FFRP.

FOCUS ON ACCESS

To improve accessibility for all visitors, Friends of the Fiscalini Ranch Preserve (FFRP) and the Cambria Community Services District are planning a new boardwalk to replace the existing dirt path between the Bluff and Marine Terrace trails. The current path is steep and can be quite muddy. This linking boardwalk will close the loop between these two accessible trails at the south end of the preserve.

As part of the planning process for the new boardwalk, FFRP surveyed Ranch users about their preferences and practices. More than 420 people responded to the online survey.

- 52% reported visiting the Ranch at least a few times a month.
- 85% were likely or very likely to bring visitors to the Ranch.
- 91% thought it was very or extremely important to keep the Ranch as natural looking as possible.

You can support public access on the Fiscalini Ranch Preserve by dedicating a plaque on the new linking boardwalk in memory of or to honor someone – a favorite relative, beloved friend, or valued neighbor. Make donations online through fiscaliniranchpreserve.org



Engineers surveying the new boardwalk alignment.



Fiscalini Ranch Preserve's values include ... "the scenic beauty of the Property and its undeveloped open space, which is important to the spiritual sustenance, well being, and fullest human experience of people young and old, both in the present and [for] future generations."

– Conservation Easement Agreement, 2003

BY THE NUMBERS: January 1 – December 31, 2022

VOLUNTEERS

5,100 hours
contributed by 180
volunteers



DOCENTS

305 people on 35
educational walks



MEMBERSHIPS

282 members, a 6%
increase over the year
before



REFORESTATION

350 seedlings planted
in 2 hours by 75
volunteers

DEDICATIONS

50 tree dedications
and 20 boardwalk
dedications



SHOP

1,962 visitors
engaged by shop
docents



MESSAGE FROM MARY MAHER, TREASURER



Friends of the Fiscalini Ranch Preserve (FFRP) received two significant bequests in 2022 which increased the total donations to \$365,000. Other sources of income in 2022 included \$42,000 in membership dues, \$5,000 in grants, \$10,000 from fundraising events, and \$19,000 of other revenue. FFRP also withdrew from its investment income to support the organization's mission.

Operating expenses in 2022 were \$300,000 which resulted in a net income of \$141,000, driven by the large increase in donations. The organization's financials are reported on a cash basis, and a large portion of the net income will be used for projects in the upcoming years.

FFRP maintains two years of spending in cash and reserves to protect against negative markets and related revenue impacts. The organization ended the

year with \$762,000 in cash and short-term reserves. This cash reserve, which includes one of the large bequests, will help support funding of the planned linking boardwalk project.

The market's negative performance in 2022 resulted in an investment income loss of \$900,000. The organization ended 2022 with almost \$4 million in long-term investments. Market conditions are affected by economic and political situations around the world and can change quickly. However, FFRP's long-term investments will support current operations with judicious financial management.

FFRP complies with all relevant federal and state laws governing nonprofit financial management. The organization is also guided by internal policies associated with spending, investing, endowment, reserve, and operating cash.

2022 FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

Revenues and Support

Donations	364,632
Fundraising	10,031
Grants	5,000
Membership Dues	42,425
Interest and Dividend Income	93,517
Net Realized & Unrealized Gains on Investments	(903,459)
Other	18,748
Total Revenues and Support	<u>(369,106)</u>

Expenses

Programs	178,037
General & Administrative	89,654
Expenses Related to Investing	17,215
Fundraising	15,191
Total Expenses	<u>300,096</u>
Change in Net Assets	<u>(669,202)</u>
Net Assets - Beginning of Year	<u>5,436,050</u>
Net Assets - End of Year	4,766,847

Assets

Current Assets	
Cash & Cash Equivalents	761,987
Inventories	9,318
Total Current Assets	<u>771,305</u>
Property & Equipment Net of Accumulated Depreciation	13,462
Long-Term Investments	
Endowment	785,269
Quasi-Endowment	2,889,435
Other	308,958
Total Long-Term Investments	<u>3,983,661</u>
Total Assets	4,768,428

Liabilities and Net Assets

Liabilities	
Payroll Tax Liabilities	--
Sales Tax Liabilities	1,581
Long-Term Liabilities	--
Total Liabilities	<u>1,581</u>
Net Assets	<u>4,766,847</u>
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	4,768,428

Financial statements are unaudited.

DONORS

\$15,000 and above

Russ Wiggins
Father Mark Stetz

\$5,000 to \$10,000

Nancy Catherman
Peter Tuck

\$1,000 to \$4,999

Christopher Nixon
Ellie Etter & Henry Showell
Eugene Duncan
Dianne & Scott Anderson
Kitty Connolly & Terry Young
Sheryll & Brian Ebbs
Mary Maher & Madelynn
Rigopoulos
Ted & Suzy Siegler
Adelina Y Alva-Padilla
Edy Fowler Highfield
Bob & Susan Detweiler
Peter & Jackie McDougall
Catherine Ryan Hyde
Janet Beaton

Patricia Bunyard
Teresa D Brown
Mary Anne & Ken Donnell
Susan Hershenson & Marvin
Lieberman
Mark & Cathy Larsen
Richard Lee & Shirley Paulson-
Lee
Michael & Kim Ridder
The Haslam & Rollins Family
Benjamin Sandler
Karen Whittlesey

\$500 to \$999

Klinedinst Family Fund
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Elyse & Dan Pardoe
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Sigurdson
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Cheryl Stauffer
Thomas Trout
Laura & Scott Van Dellen

\$100 to \$499

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Stephen Beck & Avril Allen
Margaret Levy
Mitchell Sonners
Linda Melendy
Sherrillee Waters & Joseph
Burdullis

John Howell
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David Schulze
Jacqueline Diamond
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Anonymous Donors
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Lizabeth Maynard
Carole & Phil Adams
Elizabeth Bettenhausen
Anita Espinoza
Sally Herald & Michael
Yraceburn
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Gail Mintz
Elaine Ng
Cynthia Stengel
Ted & Marti Stude
Mary Combs
Jeff Hawthorne
Donna & Dave Heinze
Ron & Liane Lemos
James & Kris Luxon
Megg McNamee
Judith Pratt
Dennis Ready

DONORS

\$100 to \$499 continued

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David & Cynthia Stiles
Vincent Wong
Mary & Randy Schwalbe
Ginny & Greg Aitkens
Rupert Chowins
Chris & Dougie Colten
The Eason & Hammerschmidt
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Susan Sall
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Jo Ellen Butler
Jerry & Susan Glenn
Kathy apRoberts
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Mitchell Berg
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Mark Weber
Beth Welch
Ginger Wesner
Patrice Wyse
Joanna Yu
Mary Beth Yudovin
+ 78 donors under \$100

Corporate Matches

Chevron Corporation
Varian Medical Systems
Apple Inc.
The Walt Disney Company
The Boeing Company

Bike Bell Sponsor

West End Bar & Grill

Foundation Grants

Orange County Community
Foundation
Reid Fund of the Ernest Lieblich
Foundation

TRIBUTES: IN HONOR OF

◆ Boardwalk dedication ▲ Tree dedication

Bolinger, Pak & York Families ◆
Howard Bolinger
Friends of the Fiscalini Ranch
Preserve Board Members ▲
Kitty Connolly & Terry Young
Friends of the Fiscalini Ranch
Preserve Volunteers ◆
*Louise & Richard Mazerov,
Ted & Kat McConnell*
Kim & Alphonse Anderson ▲
Karen Chrisman
Sage apRoberts ▲
Kathy apRoberts
Ruth & Peter Frey
Ted Stude

Jennifer Gann ▲
Judith Pratt
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Holly & David Ludwigson ▲
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Rigopoulos ◆
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Bonnie Molinari

Dana Morris ▲
Eden Peterson
Hayden Moseanko ▲
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Karen Chrisman
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Karen Whittlesey
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Karen Chrisman
Beth & Josh Schuler ▲
Karen Chrisman
Martha & Michael Schuler ▲
Karen Chrisman
Chloe Siegler ◆
Suzy & Ted Siegler



Sea thrift (*Armeria maritima*) and sky lupines (*Lupinus nana*)

TRIBUTES: IN MEMORY OF

◆ Boardwalk dedication ▲ Tree dedication

Taylor Scott Anderson ◆
Scott & Dianne Anderson
Irma Jean Bell ▲
Allison & John Laughton
Nalani Bell ▲
Barbara & Alan Wann
Jo Anne Berlin ▲
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Susan Bernatz
Margaret Levy
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May Ushijima ▲
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View of the Santa Lucia Mountains from the Ridge Trail.

MEMBERS



Seacliff buckwheat (*Eriogonum parvifolium*)

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Monterey pine (*Pinus radiata*)

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\$25 Advocate

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Diane Kosarko
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Judy & Jon Martinez
James McConnell
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Victor Mitchell
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Melissa Mooney
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Mushrooms on the Ranch.



Marvin and Debbie Josephson, Mary Nixon, and Tom Loganbill working on the Marine Terrace Trail

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