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# Friends of the Fiscalini Ranch Preserve



Visit us [online](#) to discover your next adventure!



## ***Thank you!***

Your financial support of FFRP during these unprecedented and uncertain times has been remarkable. More than 65 people responded to our appeal with tax-deductible donations or memberships, providing crucial funding to ensure that FFRP's programs in preservation, restoration, and education continue.

Like the rare compact cobwebby thistle above, the Ranch needs help to thrive. Your generosity is sincerely appreciated as we work to keep the Ranch open for all and rich with native plants.

If you are able, please consider [making a tax-deductible contribution today](#). Your support keeps the Ranch alive and flourishing!

With gratitude,

*Kitty*

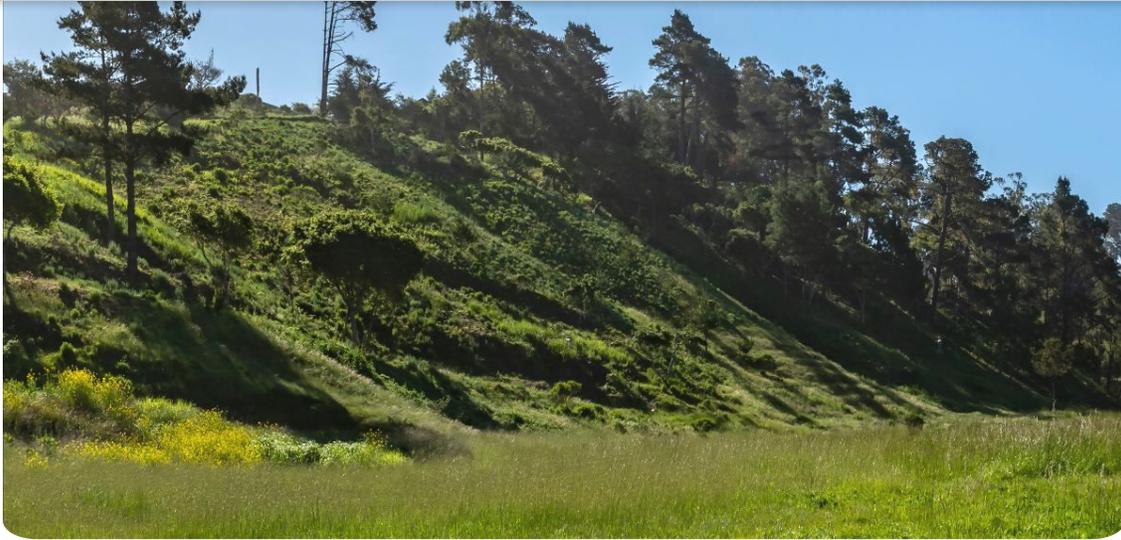
P.S. If you are planning a walk on the Ranch, please check out [our temporary route map](#) before setting out.

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## Regeneration on the Ranch

One of FFPR's primary responsibilities is monitoring the Ranch for impacts to its conservation value. One of the ways we do that is through an annual survey of key locations to assess year-to-year change. This year we were struck by the regeneration on the East Ranch. Lush coastal sage scrub has rebounded eight months after fire abatement treatment by the San Luis Obispo Fire Safe Council.

**Top August 6, 2019:** showing thick growth of invasive, highly-flammable French broom (*Genista monspessulana*)

**Middle August 8, 2019:** showing removal of broom and pruning of overgrown coastal sage scrub

**Bottom April 23, 2020:** showing strong regrowth of native coastal sage scrub species, including California sagebrush (*Artemisia californica*), coyote brush (*Baccharis pilularis*), and sticky monkey flower (*Mimulus aurantiacus*)

These native plants are adapted to respond to disturbance with vigorous regrowth and, boy, have they come through! The area is now rich with habitat that supports local biodiversity. Areas of the West Ranch are also starting to regrow. When you are out, take note of the ferns around the start of the Santa Rosa Creek Trail.

With regular attention, the invasive plants are coming under control, native plants are thriving, and the Ranch's conservation value continues to improve.

Join us as we celebrate 20 years of achievements since the Ranch passed into public

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of visitors. [Renew your membership](#) and [donate](#) to support FFRP today.

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## Great Kitchen of Cambria: 2021

FFRP's annual Kitchen Tour is a much-loved event that gives you special access to special kitchens: you'll see a variety of styles, learn about the designers and builders, ask about the materials, check out the appliances! Then have a beverage and a small plate, all in the company of friends and colleagues.

Like with so many events these days, we'll have to defer our enjoyment this year. Although we are unable to hold the 2020 Great Kitchens of Cambria, we are looking forward to a wonderful tour in July 2021.

[Learn more about the Great Kitchens of Cambria and our past sponsors.](#)

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## Wildflowers on the Ranch

It's a fantastic year for coastal bush lupines (*Lupinus arboreus*)! If complying with the stay-at-home order is keeping you from visiting the Ranch, here's a floral update. This year's wildflowers have been wonderful. After a winter on the dry side, late spring showers really did bring us flowers. The sky lupines (top of the newsletter) were adorable, although they are beginning to fade now. The sea pinks made a tiny forest of their own while California gold fields and tidy tips graced the edges of the Bluff Trail. Sun cups edged the upper trails, along with a few of the tiny lily blue-eyed grass. Seaside daisies just keep flowering as do the coastal California poppies.

But bush lupines are going to beat the band! Four years ago, it looked as if the bush lupines had succumb to drought and were lost, but nature is full of surprises. This year's bloom is one of the lushest seen on Fiscalini Ranch Preserve. Next up: we are keeping an eye on lizard tail or seaside woolly sunflower (*Eriophyllum staechadifolium*).

Check out FFRP's [Instagram](#) and [Facebook](#) posts starting in March to see pictures of all these flowers on the Ranch. Please like us on social media!

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