

News from the Ranch, Spring 2023

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NEWS FROM THE RANCH: SPRING 2023



Winter Weather Update

Like much of California, Cambria has been having an exceptionally wet winter. As of March 22, more than 38" of rain has fallen. That is 175% of average.

Although welcome refreshment for the drought-stressed vegetation, the wind and precipitation have caused many problems, too. More than

100 trees have fallen on the Ranch, trails are swamped, the East Ranch flooded, and Santa Rosa Creek Trail West washed out, again.

Cambria Community District's Facilities and Resources Department, which is responsible for most of the Ranch upkeep, was hit especially hard. Santa Rosa Creek inundated the facilities yard, office, shop, and storage buildings. It overturned a shed and nearly carried off the propane tank. Damage is still being assessed while recovery is underway.



Friends of the Fiscalini Ranch Preserve's restoration nursery was largely underwater at the peak of the flood. The nursery's frame held, but the screening was ripped free and some tables overturned. A storage shed holding pots and trays was swept away by the rushing water. Fortunately, all the Monterey pine seedlings were moved to higher ground in time to avoid danger.

To facilitate recovery, Friends of the Fiscalini Ranch volunteers and CCSD's fencing contractors moved the remains of the restoration nursery away from its stream-side location. The team that helped

disassemble and move the nursery was the same one that helped build it only a few months ago.



See a short video flood and read more about the damage here: [FFRP News](#) and this article in [New Times SLO](#).

Wildflower Show Returns to Cambria

Just in time for a great bloom year, see hundreds of fresh wildflowers in all their diversity under one roof.





This is shaping up to be a great year for wildflowers! The combination of ample rain and warm weather is bringing out the blooms and with them, the return of the beloved Annual Cambria Wildflower Show. Get a head start on appreciating this spring's amazing flora show – or just enjoy seeing it all under one roof – at the 15th Annual Cambria Wildflower Show.

When: Saturday, April 29 from noon to 5 pm, and Sunday, April 30 from 10 am to 4 pm

Where: Cambria Veteran's Memorial Hall, 1000 Main Street, Cambria, CA 93428

Admission: \$5 donation for adults; free for students under 18

The show is a comprehensive tour of the flora diversity of northern San Luis Obispo County from the Monterey County line to the Morro Bay Estuary and from the coastal bluffs to the ridge of the Santa Lucia Mountains. It showcases the remarkable range of floral colors, scents, and sizes found right here in SLO County.



Buy Flashcards

Let **Native Plants for Southern California Gardens** flashcards assist you in creating an inviting, beautiful garden. Cards include pictures, names, and characteristics for more than 70 natives.

Buy Tea Towels

Grow a wildflower garden in your kitchen with our absorbent 100% cotton **tea towels**. These custom designs feature illustrations by Elisabeth Hallowell Saunders' 1905 "California Wild Flowers".

Education Highlights



February was a busy month for fields trips, especially for schools from inland locations.

On Feb 14, 57 students from Fresno's Jefferson Elementary School went on a Bluff Trail walk with docents (pictured left, above) Gil Eastman, Brian Morgan, Stephen Beck, Duffy Burns, Tom Loganbill, and Susan Loganbill. Not pictured is Education Committee Chair Sheryll Ebbs and volunteer Suzanne Fielder. The 4th graders had a wonderful time learning about the sea and coastal life.

On Feb 16, 42 students and chaperones (above right) from Brush High School in Brush, Colorado, included Fiscalini Ranch Preserve in their tour of agricultural landscapes of California. Kitty Connolly was happy to show them the Ranch and discuss the ranching history of the preserve.

Many students from both groups had their first sight of the ocean on Fiscalini Ranch Preserve.

Linking Boardwalk Update



Replacing the slippery, steep path between the Bluff Trail and Marine Terrace Trail is one of Friends of the Fiscalini Ranch Preserve's goals for 2023.

Test drilling along the boardwalk alignment revealed the size of footings needed for the site. Once construction documents are final, we will submit them to San Luis Obispo County for a construction permit. Hopefully, construction can take place in late summer.

Boardwalk Dedications: For a \$500 donation, you can dedicate a 3"x7" bronze plaque to be placed along the boardwalk. Use up to three lines of text to honor a loved one or preserve a memory. Net funds support an endowment for trails & public access.

Dedicate a Plaque on the Linking Boardwalk

Docent Walks



With Earth Day Approaching, Let's Explore the Forest and Look for Its Treasures!: with docent Brian Morgan; Saturday, April 8, 10 am-12:30 pm

Take a stroll along the forest trails while you enjoy spring wildflowers, the chattering grey squirrels, and an occasional monarch butterfly.



Wildflower Walk: Saturday, May 6, 10 am-12 pm

Come learn about the bursts of wildflowers on the Fiscalini Ranch Preserve!



Use All of Your Senses to Discover the Wonder of the Fiscalini Ranch Forest: with docent Brian Morgan; Saturday, May 20, 10 am-12:30 pm

Learn how to use your five senses to enrich your exploration of the wonders of the Fiscalini Ranch Preserve forest with your naturalist leader.



Looking for Mama & Calf: with docent Duffy Burns; Saturday, May 27, 10 am-12 pm

Join this gentle walk to enjoy the preserve's beautiful coast and its diverse ecology. Expect to see



marine mammals, including mother & calf grey whales, as they make the longest migration of any marine mammal.



What is Forest Bathing?: with docent Joanne Freemire; Saturday, June 10, 10 am-12 pm

Forest bathing is the practice of soaking up the sights, sounds, and feel of our natural environment. On a leisurely 2-mile walk, you will learn how to practice this increasingly popular method of “meditation”.

Upcoming Events

Earth Day Festival: Saturday, April 22, 11 am-3 pm; Greenspace Cambria's Creekside Reserve; 2264 Center St, Cambria

Wildflower Show: Saturday, April 29, 12-5 pm; Sunday, April 30, 11 am-5 pm; Veterans' Memorial Hall, 1000 Main Street, Cambria

Pop-Up Sale: Saturday, July 1, 9 am-1 pm; south entrance to the Bluff Trail, Fiscalini Ranch Preserve, Cambria

Volunteer Opportunities



Tired of seeing invasive plants along the bluff? Want to help with restoration? Join a Saturday **Ice Plant Pulling Party!** Have fun while making room for native plants and animals. **Volunteer today.**

Dates are: April 15, May 20,



Sept 16, and Oct 21.

June 17, July 15, Aug 19,

Seven Ways to Support the Ranch

Donate Online Today

You can donate online today, or make a dedication in memory of or to honor someone – a favorite relative, beloved friend, or valued neighbor. We will publish the names of those so honored and send a notice of dedication as directed by you. Your support helps to protect and restore the Ranch.

- You can support restoration of the Monterey pine forest on the Fiscalini Ranch Preserve by dedicating a pair of seedlings for a \$50 donation.
- You can support public access by dedicating a plaque for a \$500 donation on the new linking boardwalk (to be constructed in 2023).

Make a Qualified Charitable Transfer from Your IRA

If you are at least 70½ (pre-2020) or 72 (2020 and later), you can direct your IRA administrator to distribute a gift from your IRA to Friends of the Fiscalini Ranch Preserve. Any amount you transfer may count against your required minimum distribution (RMD). You can direct up to \$100,000 to your favorite causes this year.

Donate Appreciated Assets

Appreciated non-cash assets — such as publicly traded securities, real estate, or private business interests — held more than one year and

donated directly to a charity can eliminate your capital gains tax and you can still claim a fair market value charitable deduction in the year you donate.

Make Your Donation Automatically Recurring

Renew Your Membership Automatically

Consider making a longer-term commitment to Fiscalini Ranch Preserve with a monthly or annual gift or membership. Auto renewal gives you one less thing to remember and helps FFRP plan for the future.

Include the Ranch in Your Legacy Planning

Stipulate Friends of the Fiscalini Ranch Preserve as a beneficiary in your will. Ask your estate planner for advice and please do let us know so we can thank you.

Become a Force for Nature: Volunteer

Volunteer to help care for the Ranch. From monthly work days to weekly weeding, from trails to events, Friends of the Fiscalini Ranch Preserve relies on volunteers.

Non-Profit Status

Friends of the Fiscalini Ranch Preserve is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization: EIN 91-2161009. Donations are tax deductible to the full extent of the law.



Photos courtesy of Helmut Kuhn, Walt Andrus, Henry Stowell, Carlos Mendoza, and FFRP.

Friends of the Fiscalini Ranch Preserve

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