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Restoration and Regrowth

Restoration is central to our mission. Along with protecting public access, Friends of the Fiscalini Ranch Preserves works to restore coastal habitats, and sensitive species. The goal is to bring back the beauty and diversity of native plants that support native animals and delight visitors.

Removing Invasive Weeds

Along the coast, volunteers remove invasive plants like mustard, radish, thistle, and ice plant to make room for native growth. Through weekly workdays, community events, and targeted herbicide use, native wildflowers and shrubs are returning — coastal bush lupine, seaside fiddleneck, and vibrant California poppies among them.

These efforts highlight the power of community stewardship. From seed collection to planting and habitat care, restoration continues to strengthen biodiversity across the Ranch.



Volunteers carefully remove invasive plants while protecting native poppies.

Replanting

The rare Monterey pine forest is a top restoration priority. Over the past 20+ years, locally grown Monterey pines have expanded the forest by

about 25%.

Recent efforts also include planting native shrubs — such as toyon, flowering currant, monkey flower, and coffeeberry — to boost habitat diversity for wildlife and pollinators. Cal Poly students (below), partners from the Upper Salinas-Las Tablas Resource Conservation District, and FFRP volunteers recently helped plant more than 400 native plants across the Ranch.



Two landscape architecture classes from Cal Poly toured the Ranch in February and helped with restoration planting.

Looking ahead, volunteers will collect and spread native seeds, restore areas once overtaken by ice plant, and expand coastal prairie habitat.

[Read More](#)

New Crossings Protect Stream Courses

Two new dry crossings, completed by Cambria Community Services District with donor support, improve trail safety, protect sensitive habitats, and allow year-round maintenance access across the Ranch. Now if it would only rain!

[Read More](#)



Spring's Tax Smart Giving Focus: Qualified Charitable Distributions

What is a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD)?

A QCD is a direct transfer from your IRA to a qualified nonprofit that isn't counted as taxable income. You can give up to \$111,000 per year (or \$222,000 for married couples).

Who can use it?

Anyone age 70½ or older with a Traditional IRA.

Why it matters

- **Lowers taxes:** The distribution isn't included in your income.
- **Meets RMDs:** Counts toward Required Minimum Distributions (starting at age 73), helping avoid penalties.
- **Maximizes impact:** Charities receive the full, tax-free amount.

How to start

To give, ask your IRA administrator to send your gift directly to Friends of the Fiscalini Ranch Preserve. If the money goes to you first, it won't be tax-free.

Our information

Legal Name: Friends of the Fiscalini Ranch Preserve

Federal Tax ID Number: 91-2161009

Street Address: 604D Main Street, Cambria, CA 93428

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 1664, Cambria, CA 93428

Ways to Give





Annual Cambria Wildflower Show

When: Saturday, April 25 | 12–5pm & Sunday, April 26 | 10am–4pm

Where: Veterans Memorial Hall, 1000 Main St, Cambria

Celebrate spring at the Cambria Wildflower Show, a vibrant weekend blending science, beauty, and community passion.

Explore more than 500 species of wild plants, beautifully displayed and organized by botanical family with both common and scientific names.

Arranged in antique glass bottles and vases, the display is both a scientific exhibit and a visual delight. Plant experts will be on hand to answer questions, and visitors can pick up recommended field guides to continue learning.

Enjoy refreshments at the Wildflower Café and browse nature-inspired items from Friends of the Fiscalini Ranch Preserve and the California Native Plant Society. This beloved event represents over 800 volunteer hours dedicated to celebrating and protecting the Central Coast's natural beauty.

Admission: \$5 | Students free

[Event Updates](#)



Spring Flowers

Despite a dry spell and unseasonably warm spring, the Ranch is bursting into color. Along the Bluff Trail, wildflowers are putting on a vibrant show for those who take the time to look. Clockwise from top left, California poppy, blue-eyed grass, tidy tips, and seaside daisy enliven the trail. Toward the south end, seaside fiddleneck is thriving, painting the hills golden. Together, these wild blooms transform the Ranch into a living tapestry full of springtime magic.

Friends of the Fiscalini Ranch Preserve Events

Cambria Community Fair

When: Saturday, April 11, 2026 | 11am–2pm

Where: Pinedorado Grounds (940 Main St., Cambria)

Visit with FFRP volunteers and learn about opportunities to get involved at this showcase for local nonprofit organizations.

Spring Wildflower Walk - Docent Walk

When: Sunday, April 12, 2026 | 10am–12pm

Where: Bluff Trail - **learn more & register**

Learn about the beautiful spring flowers blooming on the Ranch.

Earth Day Festival

When: Sunday, April 19, 2026 | 11am–3pm

Where: Creekside Reserve (2264 Center St., Cambria)

This family-friendly event brings together a coalition of environmental organizations for a lovely afternoon. (No dogs allowed.)

Cambria Wildflower Show

When: Saturday, April 25 | 12–5pm & Sunday, April 26 | 10am–4pm

Where: Veterans Memorial Hall (1000 Main St., Cambria)

Visit with FFRP volunteers and learn about opportunities to get involved at this showcase for local nonprofit organizations.

Memorial Weekend Pop-up Sale

When: Saturday, May 23, 2026 | 9am–1pm

Where: South entrance to the Bluff Trail

Join one of our occasional Ranch-adjacent sales. We will have FFRP gear, educational items, and great gifts. You can also visit our store at 604D Main St., Thursdays to Saturdays, 11am-2pm.

Nature's Incredible Bounty - Docent Walk

When: Sunday, May 31, 2026 | 10am–12pm

Where: Bluff Trail - **learn more & register**

Spring has profound effects on the sea as well as on land. Learn about both in a short stroll along the ocean bluffs.

Fun Facts of El Osito - Docent Walk

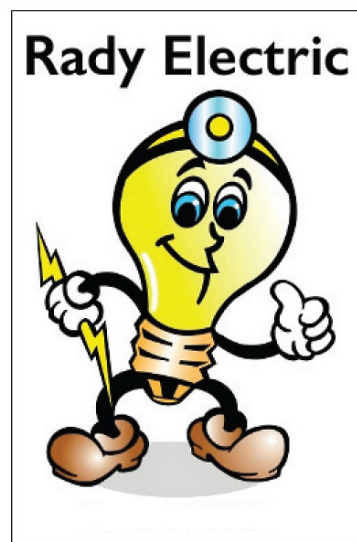
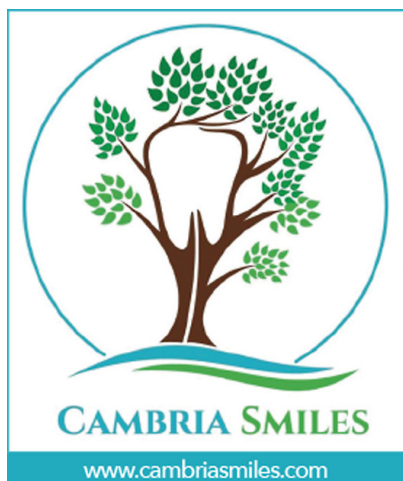
When: Saturday, June 27, 2026 | 10am–12pm

Where: Bluff Trail - [learn more & register](#)

Ranch Docents can get interested in some pretty odd topics. On this walk you will learn things you never knew or even imagined that anyone knew!

Thank You to Our Corporate Sponsors

Corporate sponsors help to protect a local treasure—and show commitment to community and conservation. We are grateful for our 2025/2026 Corporate Sponsors:





Big News from the Preserve: Soaring Into the Future!

In an effort to connect the next generation with the wonders of the natural world, we are thrilled to announce an exciting new addition to the preserve: a state-of-the-art zipline experience, launching this summer!

Stretching from the ridge line to the coastal bluff, this eco-friendly aerial route will give visitors a bird's-eye view of the landscape: no hiking boots required. Riders will glide above native plants, spot wildlife from a whole new perspective, and enjoy interpretive audio messages played mid-flight (helmets included, of course).

This initiative is part of our broader mission to make nature more accessible, engaging, and — dare we say — thrilling for younger

audiences. Early plans even include themed rides like “The Hawk’s Descent” and “Squirrel Sprint,” as well as glow-in-the-dark twilight tours.

We know what you’re thinking: “A zipline? In a protected nature preserve?”

Exactly.

April Fools! 🎉

While we’re always exploring creative ways to engage visitors of all ages, rest assured that the preserve will remain just as it should be: peaceful, protected, and zipline free. For now, the only way to experience the canopy is the old-fashioned way: by looking up.

Thanks for being part of our community, and for keeping your sense of humor as sharp as your love for nature!



Photos courtesy of Marvin Josephson, Ronan Furuta, Kelly Sikkema, and FFRP.

Friends of the Fiscalini Ranch Preserve

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