

FRIENDS OF THE FISCALINI RANCH PRESERVE

2021 ANNUAL REPORT



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MISSION

Our mission is to protect the beauty of the Fiscalini Ranch Preserve and sustain the 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.



MESSAGE FROM JOHN NIXON, BOARD CHAIRPERSON



On behalf of the Friends of the Fiscalini Ranch Preserve (FFRP) Board of Directors, I congratulate and thank our members, staff, volunteers, donors, and community partners for a stellar year of accomplishments in support of maintaining, protecting, and improving the natural beauty and bounty of the Fiscalini Ranch Preserve. A second year of the COVID-19 pandemic did not deter FFRP from increasing volunteer workers, donations, and members. Work parties grooming and rebuilding trails, removing invasive plant species, and watering Monterey pine saplings drew new volunteers who have become regulars. Without live fundraising events, FFRP saw 2021 donations exceed most previous years, and direct and online outreach efforts added new members.

FFRP welcomed five new Board members in 2021, enhancing capacity and leadership for development, education, and Ranch projects. FFRP collaborated through funding with the Ranch owner, Cambria Community Services District, and other County and State agencies in a major, successful fire prevention

project, removing dozens of dead trees and other vegetation that posed a high fire risk. FFRP volunteers used the chipped remains of the trees to augment trails through the forest. Docent-led educational walks returned, along with educational programs for local school kids. Indeed, 2021 brought new energy and engagement to fulfilling FFRP's mission and vision, including two new initiatives that received funding for planning and design – a boardwalk extension that will connect the Bluff and Marine Terrace Trails, and a native plant nursery that will serve as an educational venue and as a source of native plants and trees for repropagating the Ranch.

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 wonder and splendor of the Ranch. Please join and contribute to the fulfillment of the mission and vision of the Friends of the Fiscalini Ranch Preserve.

MESSAGE FROM KITTY CONNOLLY, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Thanks to you, 2021 was exceptional. Friends of the Fiscalini Ranch Preserve has rarely seen a more productive year. From cleaning up after January's deluge – more than 10" of rain fell in little over a day – to rebooting the docent walks, it has been a mix of continuing adjustments to the COVID-19 pandemic along with a welcome return to some long-awaited activities. It was almost as if we fit two years into one, to make up for lost time.

Here are a few of the highlights: 3,550 hours of work donated by 125 volunteers; school and public walks restarted; a self-guided field trip developed; access restored to the Wallbridge Trail; a bike bell program launched; native trees planted around the East Ranch Dog Park; our first online auction held; the forest surveyed for understory vegetation; 300 Monterey pine seedlings grown; 4 acres of gall rust removed; 11 acres of intensive storm recovery; miles of trails groomed; and a dozen bench dedications made.

2021 was a year of impressive generosity, too. Donations and memberships continued to grow, reaching all-time highs. We put your support to work enabling more activities than ever before. FFRP underwrote more than \$75,000 in Ranch projects. Of course, there were 96,000 Mutt Mitts in there, too!

Perhaps most important is how the Ranch continues to play such an important role in peoples' lives. Thank you for sharing your stories with us.

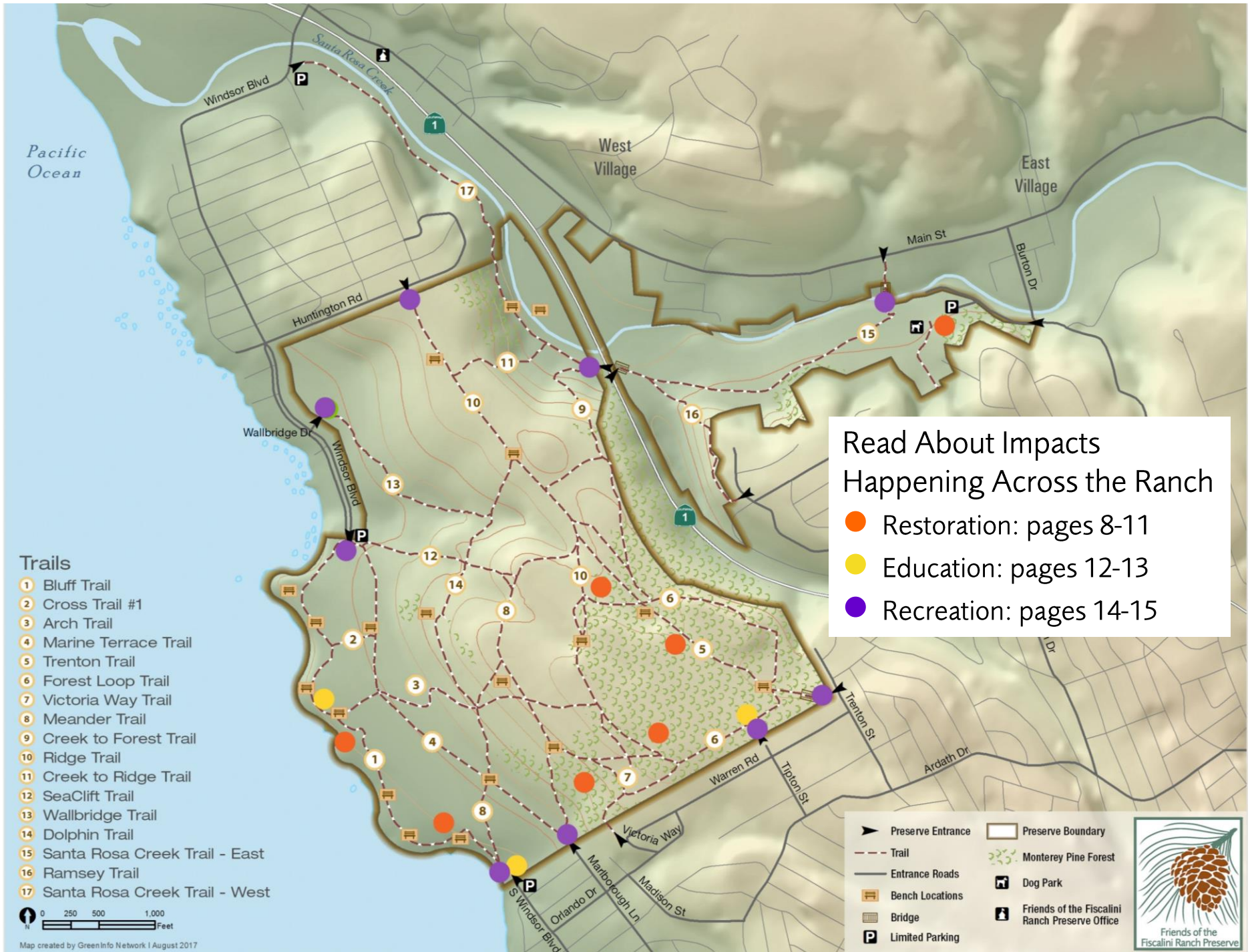
More projects are in the works for 2022. With your help we want to upgrade the route between the Bluff and Marine Terrace Trails, launch a nursery to grow plants for habitat restoration, and return to having in-person events.

The Ranch and FFRP are lucky to have friends like you who care about one of the most beautiful spots on the Central Coast. Thank you.



Fiscalini Ranch Preserve
is the open space that
lets you do what most
conserved land doesn't:

Enjoy it!



RESTORATION ACHIEVEMENTS

We were delighted that the Thanksgiving monarch count, conducted in coordination with the Xerces Society, revealed five times more butterflies than in recent years. We will continue to enhance and protect their essential winter habitat by planting trees and nectar plants.



With the support of a grant from the San Luis Obispo County Board of Supervisors, FFRP and CCSD planted 20 native trees on the East Ranch. In time these trees will beautify the Cambria Dog Park. Pictured: Carlos Mendoza and Tom Loganbill.



RESTORATION ACHIEVEMENTS

Volunteers spent more than 2,000 hours on invasive plant removal and restoration projects, including weeding the boardwalk (see cover page). They seem to have had a good time, too!



2021 was a banner year for removing invasive South African ice plant. Removing ice plant allows native plants to return (pictured), improves habitat, and removes a heavy burden on cliff tops. Volunteers pulled tons of ice plant by hand, but FFRP also underwrote the cost to have it hauled away.



FOCUS ON RESTORATION

In January 2021, high winds and more than 10" of rain hit Cambria in little over a day, felling trees and flooding streets and trails. Between FFRP's volunteers and the Cambria Community Services District (CCSD), Ranch trails were reopened within days, but it took until September to finish all the cleanup in the forest.

Hardest hit was the Little Ravine area near Lodge Hill, where dozens of trees fell or were damaged. Carlos Mendoza, CCSD Ranch Manager, consulted a Xerces Society expert whose suggestions minimized the impact of recovery work on the monarch butterfly habitat.

Overall, around 11 acres of forest were dramatically changed by the storm. Fortunately, Monterey pine forest is adapted to disturbance, and new seedlings are already coming up where the tree canopy was opened.

Thanks to Ranch supporters like you, FFRP was able to provide substantial financial support for these storm recovery efforts.



Above Little Ravine July 2020. Below November 2020.



FOCUS ON RESTORATION

One challenge in restoration projects is knowing where to start. Without a clear idea of what grows on the Ranch – the species and their abundance – it is hard to know what to plant. Baseline information is needed to guide restoration and monitoring of the forest.

To build that information, FFRP secured support from the Orange County Community Foundation for a study on Fiscalini Ranch Preserve. The goal of the project was to examine the plants that grow beneath the canopy of Monterey pine (*Pinus radiata*) and coast live oak (*Quercus agrifolia* var. *agrifolia*).

Natalie Németh, a master's student in Environmental Sciences & Management at Cal Poly selected this project for her thesis. In June, Natalie surveyed 38 one-tenth-acre plots with help from FFRP volunteers who put in more than 220 hours on the project. Their contribution was essential to the survey's success, and survey results will guide forest restoration efforts.



Volunteers Walt Andrus, Charlie Price, Brian Morgan, Duffy Burns, John Nixon, Mike Mollohan, Gil Eastman, and Teresa Borstelmann surround Cal Poly graduate student Natalie Németh (holding flags).

EDUCATION & OUTREACH ACHIEVEMENTS

Public tours were back at last in 2021. Frank Widman led astronomy walks (below). Docents Brian Morgan, Duffy Burns, and Gil Eastman led walks on the forest and bluff while Stephen Beck led family hikes. Docent programs are advertised on fiscaliniranchpreserve.org



Pop-up events are a great opportunity for our board, staff, and volunteers to interact with Ranch visitors. Keep an eye out for many more planned for 2022. Pictured: Hank Friedman, Ann Wride, and Diane Hood.



FOCUS ON EDUCATION

Most organized school field trips were still on hold in 2021, so FFRP developed self-guided tour packets of the Bluff Trail for teachers and parents. The packets included a map of the tour stops, information and images for each stop, and an illustrated guide of common flowers. Topics included how to tell sea otters from kelp, the value of native plants, and the history of human occupation of the land.

The guide was a collaborative effort by board members Sheryll Ebbs and Rusty Burns, docent Duffy Burns, former board member Susan Loganbill, and executive director Kitty Connolly. Sheryll and Rusty are on FFRP's Education Committee.

The tour got rave reviews from Paso Robles parents:

"We had the very best time today at Fiscalini Ranch. We saw all kinds of wildlife, which made the boys very happy, including baby sea lions and sea otters. The guide they provided was fabulous! Next time, we are going to do the forest trail. Thank you so much. Made for a fun day!"



Pictured: Home schoolers on a self-guided field trip, April 2021.

RECREATION ACHIEVEMENTS

It was a happy day in May when COVID-19 restrictions were no longer needed. While they were in place, FFRP volunteers greeted visitors and acquainted them in the one-way route. Pictured: Carlos Mendoza. CCSD, with removed signs.



Do you hear ringing on the Ranch? Most trails are multiuser: pedestrians, bicyclists, and some equestrians. To make trail use safer for everyone, FFRP instituted a bell-lending system. A grant from the Cambria Community Council helped to launch this popular program.



BORROW A BELL

A ringing bell makes sharing the trail easy.

Put it on your handlebars, belt, or saddle.

When done, return it for the next person.

Bells are provided by Friends of the Fiscalini Ranch Preserve and our generous sponsors.

FOCUS ON RECREATION

Preserving public access is a main driver for Friends of the Fiscalini Ranch Preserve. In 2021, FFRP was able to restore access because of a partnership with our supporters.

Fiscalini Ranch Preserve has more than eight miles of maintained trails, including the Wallbridge Trail. Starting at Wallbridge Drive, off North Windsor Boulevard in Seaclift Estates, this path travels uphill to join the Dolphin Trail. As a route to the upper trails, it is very handy access, especially when the Ranch is busy. Unfortunately, a few years ago the footbridge connecting the trail to Wallbridge Drive became so unsafe that FFRP removed it. That effectively closed the trail.

Cambrians Chris and Mark Landgreen saw this problem and wanted to help, so they donated their own funds plus arranged a matching grant from The Coca-Cola Company for this project. Trail Leader Brian Morgan set to work designing a new bridge. With the cooperation of CCSD and a crew of talented volunteers, the bridge was reinstalled, and access restored. Working together, we reopened this 20-year-old trail.



Newly opened bridge built by Brian Morgan, Mike Mollohan, Tom Loganbill, Michael Thomas, Mike Gonzales, John Nixon, Jim David, and Mark Meeks.

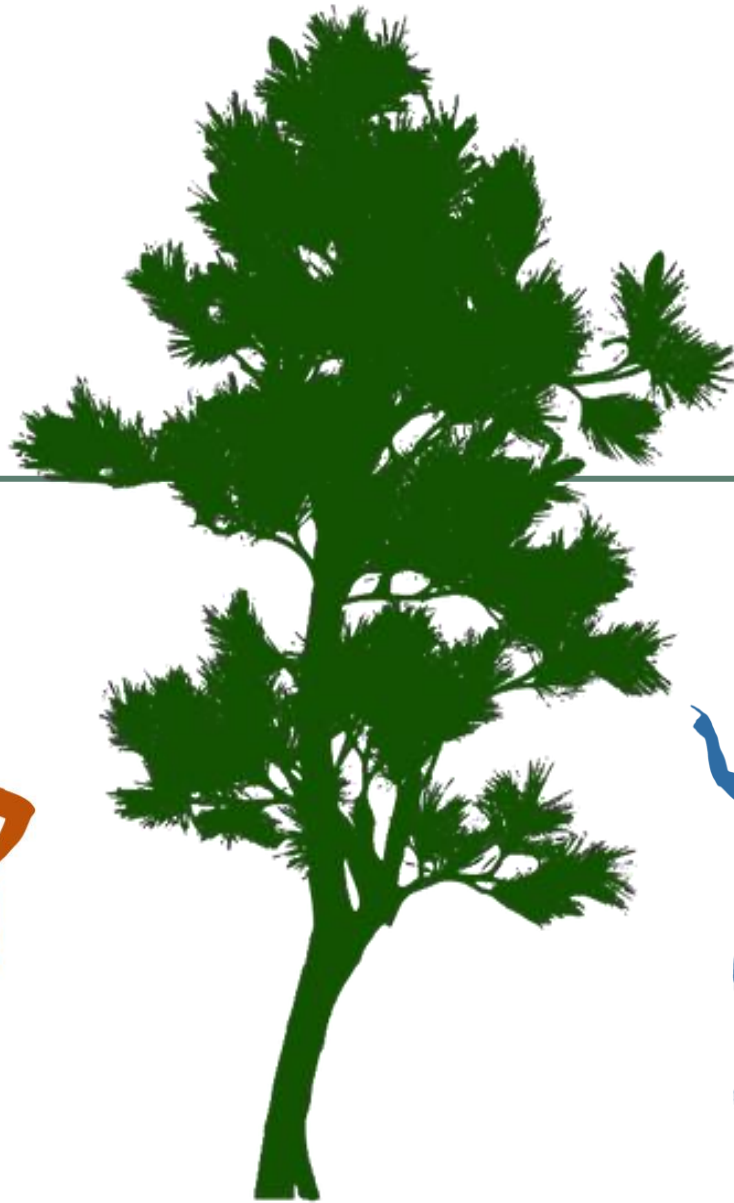
2021 BY THE NUMBERS



3,550 hours by 125 volunteers = \$101,000 in labor contributed to Ranch protection & restoration



Two semi-truck loads of South African ice plant removed with FFRP volunteer & financial support



15 acres of forest restored to health by CCSD with the financial support of FFRP, and 300 seedlings grown



151 first time donors & 160 new members joined in supporting the Ranch

WHAT TO LOOK FOR IN 2022

Plans are underway to upgrade the route between the Bluff and Marine Terrace trails with an accessible boardwalk. Richard Lee & Shirley Paulson-Lee and Loree Parral & Walt Andrus (pictured) contributed generous seed funds to get this project off the ground.



Habitat restoration will take a leap forward thanks to a nursery established with grants from the Orange County Community Foundation, Arthur & Elaine Johnson Foundation, and Reid Fund of the Ernest Lieblich Foundation. We will grow Monterey pine and plants for the forest floor.



MESSAGE FROM MARY MAHER, TREASURER



From a financial perspective 2021 was a very good year for the Friends of the Fiscalini Ranch Preserve (FFRP). Donations of \$198,000 were nearly three times more than those of previous years, with one-third of the contributions part of the Bench Donor Recognition program. Other sources of income in 2021 included \$36,000 in membership dues, \$30,000 in grants, \$5,000 from fundraising events and \$30,000 of other revenue. FFRP also withdrew from its endowment to support the organization's mission.

Operating expenses in 2021 were \$253,000, which resulted in a net income of \$114,000 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. In addition, due to the investment growth in the endowment, quasi-endowment and expendable funds, the organization allocated \$70,000 to the special project fund, bringing the fund total to almost \$200,000.

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 \$531,000 in cash and short-term reserves.

The markets continued a strong performance in 2021, and the organization ended 2021 with almost \$4.9 million in long-term investments. This represents investment income of \$521,000. As seen in early 2022, 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.

2021 FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

Revenues and Support

Donations	197,852
Fundraising	4,747
Grants	30,200
Membership Dues	36,350
Interest and Dividend Income	102,44s
Net Realized & Unrealized Gains on Investments	419,172
Other	30,235
Total Revenues and Support	820,999

Expenses

Programs	136,410
General & Administrative	74,852
Expenses Related to Investing	17,570
Fundraising	23,940
Total Expenses	252,772
Change in Net Assets	568,227
Net Assets - Beginning of Year	4,867,823
Net Assets - End of Year	5,436,050

Assets

Current Assets	
Cash & Cash Equivalents	530,921
Inventories	6,874
Total Current Assets	537,795
Property & Equipment Net of Accumulated Depreciation	13,462
Long-Term Investments	
Endowment	960,156
Quasi-Endowment	3,538,640
Other	389,349
Total Long-Term Investments	4,888,145
Total Assets	5,439,403

Liabilities and Net Assets

Liabilities	
Payroll Tax Liabilities	1,974
Sales Tax Liabilities	1,379
Long-Term Liabilities	--
Total Liabilities	3,353
Net Assets	5,436,050
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	5,439,403

Financial statements are unaudited.

DONORS

Gifts from our donors support and protect the Ranch.

\$25,000 and up

Richard Lee & Shirley
Paulson-Lee
Walt Andrus & Loree Parral

\$5,000 to \$10,000

Doug Clarke
Linda Evans
Natasha McCarthy
Eric Jensen
Nancy Catherman
Heidi Snow Delf
Geoffrey Kamantigue
Ashley Kerns
Kerry Klinger
Coral Law
Carol Vera

Foundation Grants

Arthur L. & Elaine V.
Johnson Foundation
Orange County Community
Foundation
Reid Fund of the Ernest
Lieblich Foundation

\$1,000 to \$4,999

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Marylyn Villeneuve
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Carl Cornils
Sheryll & Brian Ebbs
Catherine Ryan Hyde
Eugene Duncan
Adelina Y Alva-Padilla
Ellen Aronson
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Peter & Jackie McDougall
Bob & Elaine Reynolds
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Hope Schneider
Robert & Linda Short
Ted & Suzy Siegler

\$500 to \$999

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Maria Rowe
Susan Schultz
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Michael Armstrong
David Beringer
Steve & Susan Betz
Carol Chubb
Michael & Renee Dernburg
Ken Donnell
Craig Dorval
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Barbara Fox
Robert Graves
Kurt & Diane Johnston
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Audrey & Tom Killick
David Lacey
Kimberly & Robert Maston
Jodi Moriguchi
Guy Newman
Helen Pekny
Cynthia Stengel
James TenBrink
Scott Van Dellen
Stephen Wall

\$100 to \$499

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Jo Ellen Butler
Joseph Auricchio
Jacqueline Diamond
Tamara Donohoe
Tom Trout
Karen Chrisman
Laura Hanson
Marcia Hilger
Home Arts
Mary Maher & Madelyn
Rigopoulos
James O'Grady
John Pierce
Jane & Pete Urbelz
Steve Sandke
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Pierce Chamberlain III
Rupert Chowins
Leilani Duke
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Barnaby Finch
Sally Herald
Shelley Holden
Paula Hook

Luanne & Robert Kittle
Charlotte Kresl
Catherine Littman
Thomas & Susan Loganbill
Tom & Ruth Ann Long
David McAuliffe
Mark Meeks
Margie Miranda
Becky Moshier
Pamela Nichter
Charlotte Prather
Judith Pratt



DONORS

Gifts from our donors support and protect the Ranch.

\$100 to \$499 continued

Anonymous
Ellen Cohn
Connie Edwards
Caris Giampietro
Donna Heinze
Mark & Yvonne Kantor
Karl Kohler
Kimberly Olson
Kathryn Price
John Russell
David Schulze
Dean & Beverley Selck
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Catherine Armstrong
Kathleen apRoberts
Claire Butler
Jeanae DuBois
Christine Greek
Gail Hammerschmidt
Ruth Hooper
Jennifer Hooper
Richard Kidd
Regina Kirakozova
Cathy & Mark Larsen
Patty Martin
Michael Neubauer

Ron Northrop
Howard Stern
Marjorie Zlotowitz
Teri Lord
Jack Scilley
Dean Williams

\$100

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Carol Bean
Pat Beckstrom
Lorna Belman
Elizabeth Blakely
Howard Bolinger
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Frank Cardea
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Julian Crocker
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Society
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John Toth
Eugenia Tsao
Mark Tsujimoto
Ginger Wesner
Russ Wiggins
Janann Winburn
David Winkle
Patrice Wyse

And 99 additional
generous donors

Corporate Matches

AbbVie Inc.
Apple Inc.
The Boeing Company
Walt Disney Corporation
Pacific Gas & Electric
Company
The Wonderful Company
Varian Medical Systems



DONOR DEDICATIONS & TRIBUTES

The Ranch is a beautiful place to honor and remember loved ones.

◆ Bench dedications

* [Tree dedications](#)

Alexandria *

▷ Eugenia Tsao

David & Janet Apostolo ◆

▷ Kerry Klinger

Elizabeth Barnes

▷ Amanda Keith

James William Bennett *

▷ Judith Pratt

Susan Berry *

▷ Dan & Elyse Pardoe

Nick Bordagaray

▷ Jane & Pete Urbelz

Dick Border

▷ Jane & Pete Urbelz

Karena Kosco & Chris Brew *

▷ Jennifer Hooper

Sage Cassidy *

▷ Kathleen apRoberts

Doug & Sally Clarke ◆

▷ Doug Clarke

Adele Cornils ◆

▷ Adam Cornils

▷ Carl Cornils

Robb Evans

▷ Tom & Ruth Ann Long

▷ Lesley Hawes

▷ Gary Caris

▷ Linda Evans ◆

▷ Stephen Wall

▷ James Degnan

Mari Fedrow *

▷ Judith Pratt

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Young

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▷ Robert & Linda Short

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▷ Tamara Donohoe

Michael Hole

▷ Clifton Justice

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▷ Paula Hook

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▷ Eric Jensen

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▷ Ashley Kerns

Bob Kuhlken *

▷ Kitty Connolly & Terry

Young

Holly & David Ludwigson

▷ Sean Grier

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▷ Eugenia Tsao

Cameron Paige McCarthy ◆

▷ Brendan & Natasha

McCarthy

Kat McConnell

▷ Ruth Hooper

Dan McDonald

▷ Ann Rogers

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▷ Charlotte Kresl

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▷ Judith Pratt

Chuck Peterson

▷ Barbara Fox

TJ Phillips

▷ Ellen Cohn

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▷ Ann Picker

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▷ Douglas Stewart

Wylie Rose *

▷ Kathleen apRoberts

Wayne Ryburn

▷ Dean Simpson

Martha & Michael Schuler *

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▷ Geoffrey Kamantigue

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▷ Alexander Rose

Hank Vera ◆

▷ Carol Vera

Don Villeneuve ◆

▷ Marylyn Villeneuve

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Mary Kay Voytilla *

Sue Wallace *

▷ Judith Pratt

Abigail Weiner

▷ Stephen Weiner

Keone Wilkes ◆

▷ Coral Law & Natalie Wilkes

MEMBERS

Members help to protect and enhance the Ranch. Please [join or renew today](#).



\$1,000 Conservator

Tom Alexander
Lyn Baker
Sheryll & Brian Ebbs
James Kranzthor
Richard Lee & Shirley Paulson-
Lee
Kat McConnell
Ted McConnell
Carole & Randolph Rice
Liz Haslam & Judy Rollins
Cathleen Campe & Jon P Scott

\$500 Protector

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Keith & Debbie Bergthold
Steve & Susan Betz
Daniel Bresnan
Laverne Caldeira
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Michael Granville
David Holzborn
Mary Humphrey
Becky Kincaid
Susan & Tom Loganbill
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John & Mary Nixon
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Sally Herald
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Brian Morgan
Carmen Peterson
Cindy & David Pierson
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Carson Smith
Colleen Stern
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Danny Sullivan
Michael & Gail Thomas
Dennis Frahmman & Robert
Tieman
Murray Tragish
Barbara Wellington
Patricia & Cort Willmott
Tina Zipper-Willcox

MEMBERS

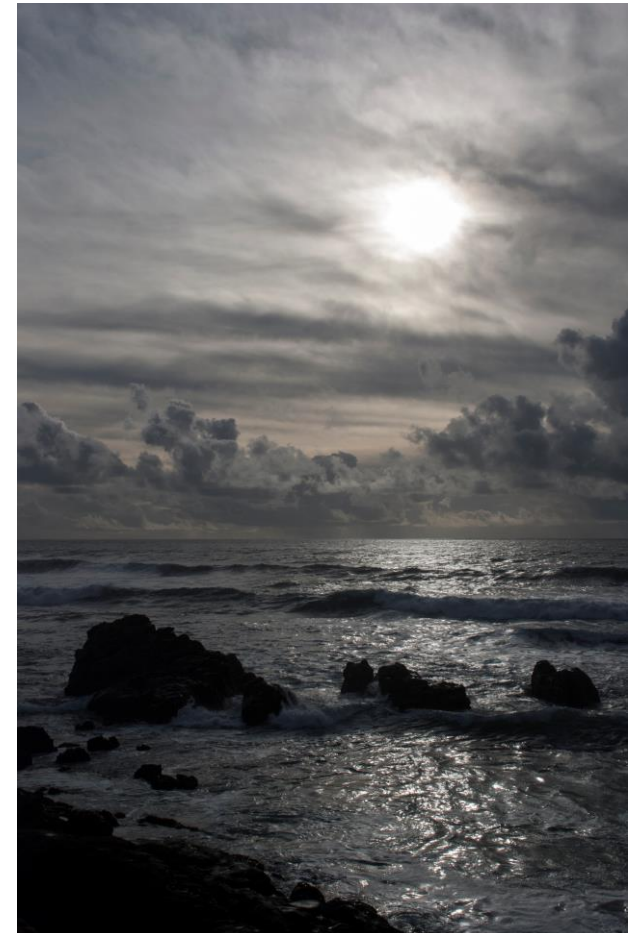
Members help to protect and enhance the Ranch. Please [join or renew today](#).

\$100 Steward

Stephen Beck & Avril Allan
 Francisco & Laree Alonso
 Susan & Adolph Atencio
 Chris Beagle
 Teresa Borstelmann
 Todd & Karen Bria
 Steve Brody
 Edward Buntz
 Russell Burns
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 Peter & Jackie McDougall
 Stephen Miller
 Marie Mouser
 Allen Notowitz
 Don Sather & Lee Oliphant

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 Craig Penner
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 Larry Rhoades
 Robert & Gloria Rico
 Gail Robinette
 Rodney Martin-Sakaguchi
 Barbara Schoenike
 Carolyn Shepherd
 Curtis Snow
 Cathy Spargo
 Doug Spicher
 Mark Sternberg
 Cedricka Tracy
 Dixie Walker
 Barry Weaver
 Ginger Wesner
 Russ Wiggins
 Robert Wilkinson
 Mary Fay-Zenk



MEMBERS

Members help to protect and enhance the Ranch. Please [join or renew today](#).

\$50 Advocate

Kathleen apRoberts
 Amy Auricchio
 Judy Bass
 Catherine & David Bedell
 Gregory Beroldi
 Patricia Bunyard
 Jo Ellen Butler
 Lucia Capacchione
 David Chipping
 Bill Clark
 Marvin Corne
 Toni Courtin
 Janis Crowley
 Michael Eacock
 Ruth Frey
 Judith & Hank Friedman
 Mark Garman
 Teresa Ghione
 James Harris
 Rachel Heaney
 Anne Helmreich
 Diane & John Hood
 Clifton Justice
 Beth Kerns

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 Susan Simon
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 Marni Stanfield
 Deborah Stevens

John Stolle
 Richard Strahl
 Mark & Polly Suarez
 Nancy Taber
 Mike Uhl
 Barbara & Steve Wilson
 Wendy Wright
 Diane Young



AUCTION

Our online auction raised more than \$5,000 thanks to our generous donors and bidders.

In-Kind Donors

Dianne & Scott Anderson
 Loree Parral & Walt Andrus
 Artifacts Gallery
 Jan Bahringer
 Rusty & Natasha Burns
 Chamber of Commerce
 Cambria Coffee Roasting Co.
 Karen Chrisman
 Bob & Susan Detweiler
 Sheryll & Brian Ebbs
 Ellie Etter
 Becky Kincaid
 Mark & Cathy Larsen
 Tom & Susan Loganbill
 Mary Maher
 Carlos Mendoza
 Monarch Gallery
 Steve & Marsha Nathanson
 John & Mary Nixon
 Ocean Heir
 Ann Picker
 Cindy Pierson

re-Create Thrift Store
 Henry Showell
 Suzy & Ted Siegler
 Cindy Steidel
 Michael Thomas
 Pat Willmott
 Ann & Evan Wride

Auction Donors

Jane Boylan
 Catherine Littman

Auction Winners

Katrina Alexy
 Dianne Anderson
 Don Anderson
 Karen Chrisman
 Lainie DeMicco
 Brian & Sheryll Ebbs
 Ellie Etter
 William Gerlach
 Mary Humphrey
 Esther Katzman

Anne Kennard
 Chris Killingsworth
 Rebecca Kincaid
 Nancy Lacie
 Mary Maher
 Leslie Manning
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 Ken Mora
 Joyce Renshaw
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 Anna Robins
 Elisabeth Wolf



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Tom Loganbill, Vice Chairperson
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Mary Maher, Treasurer
Dianne Anderson
Rusty Burns
Bob Detweiler
Sheryll Ebbs
Ellie Etter
Joyce Renshaw
Ted Siegler
Michael Thomas

Kitty Connolly, Executive Director
Barbara Beuche, Assistant to the E.D.

BOARD MEMBERS EMERITI

Walt Andrus
Susan Loganbill
Carmen Peterson
Ann Wride





Pictured: A field trip to the Ranch during COVID-19.

Friends of the Fiscalini Ranch Preserve is a 501(c)(3) public benefit corporation supported by donors, members, and volunteers.
EIN: 91-2161009

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