



Frank Egger and members of the FOSC in the Frank Egger Redwood Preserve with the final check, surrounded by trees saved with this purchase. L to R: Terry Goyan, Frank Egger, Helen Fauss, Mimi Newton, Ted Bright, Denise Ferry, Jane Richardson-Mack, and Niccolo Caldararo

Dec. 1, 2007

Fairfax Open Space Committee

Land Stewardship for Future Generations

Vol 1 No. 2

MISSION STATEMENT

Fairfax Open Space Committee exists to preserve the visual and environmental values of our community through the purchase of undeveloped land in and around Fairfax. Our goal is to provide sanctuary for indigenous flora and fauna for future generations.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Mimi Newton, Chair
 Terry Goyan, Co-Chair
 Ruth Horn, Secretary
 Ted Bright, Treasurer
 Nicolo Caldararo
 Helen Fauss
 Denise Ferry
 Jack Judkins
 Pam Meigs
 Ryan O'Neil
 Jane Richardson-Mack

Paying off the Melvin Property Loan

Renaming it The Frank Egger Redwood Preserve

In 2003, a loan of \$29,000 from the Fairfax Town Council, combined with generous funding support brought together by Marin Supervisor Hal Brown and the Marin County Open Space District, enabled the Fairfax Open Space Committee (FOSC) to purchase a pristine nine acre redwood grove next to Cascade Canyon Creek known as The Melvin Property. This lovely grove, which is now part of Fairfax Open Space, has been named The Frank Egger Redwood Preserve.

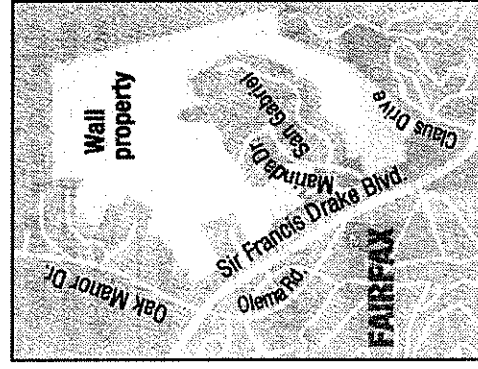
Over the last three years the Open Space Committee has hosted annual benefits and other events to repay the generous loan from the Town Council. Thanks to overwhelming community support during these fundraisers, we have moved quickly toward our repayment goal. Our most recent event, an organic pancake breakfast, put us over the top and enabled us to present this big, final repayment check to the Fairfax Town Council. This year we were also able to honor Gloria Duncan's contributions to preserving the beauty of our Town by naming another open space property, located along Olema Road, the Gloria Duncan Creekside Preserve.

We are so grateful to all the volunteers who have helped make these fundraising events possible. Our wonderful merchants generously supported us with the food donations; artists and small businesses have given their time, money and musical talents, and the residents of Fairfax and our other friends in Marin County have come to our benefits to have fun, build community and help us raise funds.

Wall Property: Fairfax Hillside that is Currently for Sale

So often we assume the beautiful, pristine hills surrounding our town are already protected lands in open space. Sometimes that is true, sometimes it is not. As you stand in downtown Fairfax and look up at the unspoiled ridge line that stretches from behind Good Earth Natural Foods all the way west to Oak Manor Drive, you are looking at a huge piece of our visual corridor that is currently on the market. This beautiful, meandering property, approximately 99 acres, was bought in the 1950s by Dr. Alan Wall and is currently zoned for housing.

On April 4, 2007, the Fairfax Town Council designated the Wall property as a priority for acquisition as Open Space. The Staff Report for the Council's consideration stated, in part, "By having the Council's designation of the Wall property as a priority for acquisition as open space, the Fairfax Open Space Committee would be able to approach various agencies and individuals with a greater sense of urgency and legitimacy for fundraising opportunities." With contiguous properties, such as San Anselmo's 21 acre Hawthorne Canyon, the Wall property and surrounding open space comprise over 160 acres of undeveloped Fairfax landscape.



We ask you to join us in the important work of preserving the environmental values of Fairfax. Today, more than ever, your generous tax-deductible contribution is essential to these projects.



Photo by Terry Goyen



Fairfax Open Space Committee
142 Bolinas Road, Fairfax, California 94930

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What Open Space Means to Me and My Family

by Jack Judkins, FOSC

When I consider the beauty of the open space surrounding Fairfax, I am deeply moved. For me, my wife and two sons, these undeveloped, natural areas near our house are a great source of joy, and indeed, what landed us in Fairfax twenty years ago. From that start, all the way through raising our children, the open space areas have been a central factor in our lives. When our two boys were young, they came with us for walks into the hills, although we had to refer to hikes as "adventures". Biking with the boys started with rides on fire roads with one or both on the back of my or my wife's bike, often sleeping with head falling onto our backs.

My favorite way to experience the open spaces has been running the many miles of Mt. Tam, MAMWD lands, Loma Alta, White Hill and most everywhere in between. I started bringing the boys with me in a jogging stroller when they were very young. I crashed only once, which my younger son still views as a positive life experience. Several year later, both boys began running with me. My older son, soon college-bound, still likes to go for runs in the hills. Sometimes, he will agree to run slowly enough so that I can go with him. My wife and I continue to hike and bike the open space lands and expect to do so for years to come.

Thank You for Responding:

We want to thank all of you who responded to last years newsletter. Our work has only just begun! There are still beautiful, as yet undeveloped properties which we would like to assist the Town in purchasing, especially those connected to other dedicated open space land. Fairfax is special, largely due to the natural spaces that surround and hold us. We are researching new ways to raise the large funds necessary to preserve these natural wonders for present and future generations. There is much for our community to accomplish together.

Photo by Ryan O'Neill



FOSC Member, Ryan O'Neill, and family enjoy one of their "Backyard Vacations" in the open space behind their home.

You Can Help Us Do More:

Join Us: The FOSC meets the 4th Tuesday of every month at 7:30 at the Community/Youth Center at 16 Park St. in Fairfax. We welcome your ideas and participation.

Your Tax-deductible Gift will help preserve our precious open space for future generations.

Please make your contribution payable to
Fairfax Open Space Committee

Town of Fairfax
142 Bolinas Rd., Fairfax, CA 94930
Website: [www.town-of-fairfax.org/BoardsandCommissions/
OpenspaceCommittee/](http://www.town-of-fairfax.org/BoardsandCommissions/OpenspaceCommittee/)