

Mountain Echo

THE NEWSLETTER OF SEMPERVIRENS FUND



Filice Ranch: The 320-acre property is one of Sempervirens Fund's latest acquisitions, thanks to your generous contributions. Photo by Teddy Miller.



The Harris family (Bill is seated).

One Family's Redwood Legacy

Spotlight on Bill Harris, Sempervirens Fund Board Member

“When I was about 12 years old, my grandfather took me for a hike in a beautiful redwood forest. His company, Pacific Lumber, had decided that they were not going to log this parcel and instead transfer it to California

State Parks. As a teen, I worked for the company during the summer mostly out in the forests and learning about the trees. That really started my interest in redwood conservation.” So begins Bill Harris, member of the Board of Directors at Sempervirens Fund. Like many supporters, visiting the trees at a young age instilled in him a sense of awe and a desire to protect these magnificent trees. That parcel he visited with his grandfather? That became part of Butano State Park and some 60 years later, the Harris Family Grove was dedicated nearby. More recently, the Harris family supported the new entrance at Castle Rock State Park by making a generous gift and dedicating the fire pit in honor of Bill, “whose decades of service and generosity to Sempervirens Fund is preserving majestic redwood forests for generations to come.” A fitting tribute for Bill from a family that loves the great outdoors, family time around the campfire, and redwood forests. 🌲

If you would like to honor a loved one by dedicating a tree, grove, or picnic table at Castle Rock call us at (650) 949-1453 Ext. 1.



FALL 2019



FILICE RANCH

SIZE
320 Acres

SALE PRICE
\$3.85 Million

DATE PROTECTED
May 6, 2019

PROJECT PARTNERS
Sempervirens Fund (Co-owner)

Peninsula Open Space Trust
(Co-owner)

The Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation provided \$1 million for the purchase and \$185,000 for initial stewardship activities.

Generous supporters like you.

SUCCESS STORY

Your Latest Impact.

The tranquil beauty of Filice Ranch is impossible to ignore. With its rolling hills, thick redwoods, babbling brooks, freshwater ponds, and ocean views, it takes your breath away.

We knew the property well. It was one of two private inholdings within the immense San Vicente Redwoods preserve. To secure a future for coast redwoods, we need to protect entire blocks of their habitat, which means filling in gaps like Filice Ranch. One look at the map will tell you why we said “yes” to former property owner Jan Filice, who wanted the property protected.

Filice Ranch is now a protected habitat for at least four endangered species. It is a wild place where hawks nest, frogs chorus and, once in a while, pumas glide through the undergrowth. Just ask Jan, who ran into two of them. “I always figured it was more theirs than mine,” she said,

smiling. “My son, Anthony, and his family lived here and cared for the property.” Jan put proceeds from the sale into a trust for Anthony’s children.

The property has seen its share of history: native Californians inhabited the area for thousands of years. In 1917, silent film star Mary Pickford stayed here and filmed scenes of *A Romance in the Redwoods* on site with Cecil B. DeMille. Rumors of its role as a whistle stop during the Prohibition Era are legendary. Before the Filice family bought the property in the 1950s, it was known as Warrenella Ranch.

Protecting Filice Ranch is something you can be truly proud of. But the conservation work isn’t done. The property needs additional healing and restoration efforts. Sempervirens Fund is responsible for the long-term care of Filice Ranch, and will need your help now and in the future. 🌲



Previous: A large pond on the property, used by wildlife. Above: The large meadow on the property. Anthony Filice lived here and cared for the property throughout his life, thinning the forest to promote strong redwood growth and clearing debris to prevent fires.

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419 South San Antonio Road, Suite 211
Los Altos, CA 94022-3640
650-949-1453 Ext. 1



**Sempervirens
Fund**



www.sempervirens.org



UPDATE

BLM Drilling Plan

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has finalized its plan to make available new leases for oil and gas development across a large swath of Central California, including a portion of the Santa Cruz Mountains. The final plan is unchanged from an earlier version that was objected to by Sempervirens Fund and other conservation organizations, as well as by California Governor Gavin Newsom.

Our redwood forests in the Santa Cruz Mountains already face substantial threats from development pressure and the harmful impacts of climate change. New oil and gas development would add to their vulnerability.

While this plan allows new leases to be sold, any new wells would have to undergo additional environmental review before actual drilling could occur. Sempervirens Fund will continue to monitor this issue closely. You can read more about the BLM's new plan for expanded oil and gas leasing, and any updates on our website.

Photo by 7RootsCreative

New Look

As a conservation organization, caring for our natural resources is critical in all we do. We're looking at several different options for printing the *Mountain Echo* in the most cost-effective and environmentally responsible way. What do you think of this format? Take our three-minute survey. Go online and let us know:

www.sempervirens.org/survey

Paper and Printing

This edition of Mountain Echo was printed by DOME Printing in Sacramento, California on Candese paper, a Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certified paper that is fully recyclable.



Photo by A.P. Hill