

Peninsula Open Space Trust

# LANDSCAPES

PROTECTING VISTAS



**THE SAN MATEO COAST'S** open space supports an incredible diversity of wildlife, and it also supports us. The beauty of the sun rolling back the fog on a mist shrouded ridge or a dewy blanket of wildflowers growing on a coastal bluff top inspires and draws us to this special place again and again. These and other natural wonders are an important part of what makes these precious lands worth protecting.

As we enter a new year, POST is looking toward the challenges we face in the next phase of our *Saving the Endangered Coast* campaign. We have raised \$170,013,511 and protected more than 10,800 acres. We have accomplished a great deal but still have much to do to reach our \$200 million goal and protect 20,000 acres. If we are successful, we will have saved the beauty and breathtaking views of the rural San Mateo Coast for current and future generations.



# THE COAST'S MAGNIFICENT VISTAS

*We can protect this scenic beauty together, or lose it forever*

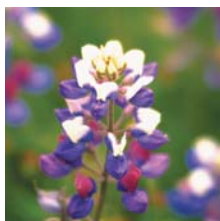
**O**ur two most recent campaign purchases — Seaside School Ridge and Portola Lookout — are beautiful to look at and offer extraordinary sweeping views of surrounding lands.

## SEASIDE SCHOOL RIDGE

The 151-acre Seaside School Ridge rises magnificently above the San Gregorio Valley. Views from the land are among the most beautiful on the Coast — the ocean unfolds before you, with the pastoral San Gregorio Valley to the north and hills as far as the eye can see to the south and east. The open landscape makes the site visible throughout the area. Up to three estate residences could have been built on the site, but POST's action will preserve the natural beauty of this land.

## PORTOLA LOOKOUT

Similarly, grand views from Portola Lookout's prominent grassy knoll made it a desirable site for a large estate home. The 50-acre property is located just west of Skyline Boulevard near Page Mill Road. It is highly



visible from surrounding open space areas, and development would have spoiled a spectacular viewshed that stretches from Skyline's tree covered hills to the ocean.

In addition to safeguarding views, these acquisitions will link the properties with other open space lands and in the future offer enhanced public recreational opportunities.

These awe-inspiring vistas of the San Mateo County coast and hills are just part of what makes this area unique — and why it's so important that we continue working with you to save endangered land. Your contributions will help us to ensure permanent protection of Seaside School Ridge, Portola Lookout and other key coastal properties. ■

*Standing atop Seaside School Ridge looking north you see picturesque farms nestled in the rural San Gregorio Valley.*



Robert Buckleman



**ARE FOUND NOWHERE ELSE**





# SEASIDE SCHOOL RIDGE

*POST's purchase of the stunning Seaside School Ridge above the scenic San Gregorio Valley marks one of our most visible victories to date*



*Seaside School Ridge's knoll is visible for miles. The hay and oat crops planted this winter by the Arata family have turned the property bright green, making it even more prominent.*

**L**ike the prow of a great ship, the majestic property seems to carry the rolling hills above the San Gregorio Valley forward as they tumble toward the sea. Standing atop the 151-acre parcel, you are offered commanding views of the creek-threaded valley below and the nearby Pacific Ocean.

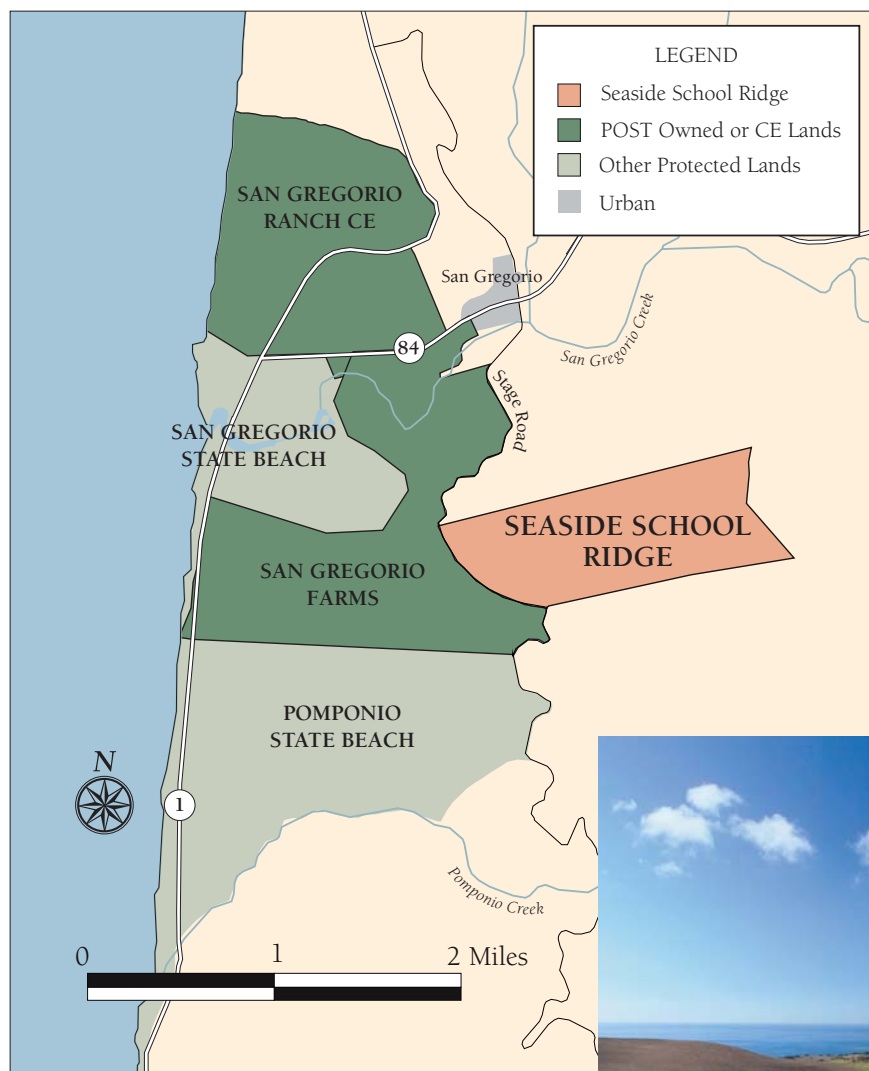
Because of its prominent location, it's also readily viewed

from many vantage points. As you top southbound Highway 1 and drop into the San Gregorio Valley, the knoll's rolling cattle pasture and coastal scrub offer a glimpse of what makes the San Mateo Coast so beautiful. From winter to spring, the property becomes even more prominent as bright green hay carpets the site. From the popular San Gregorio State Beach, the prop-

erty looms above as you look east. Heading into San Gregorio on Highway 84, it's visible for miles.

Named after a 129-year-old schoolhouse located on adjacent private property, Seaside School Ridge has historically been used for cattle grazing. The Arata family, which has been farming in the San Gregorio Valley for generations and owns adjacent

**Development would have marred this scenic landscape forever.**



Robert Buelteman

land, has leased the property for hay, oat and barley farming and cattle grazing for the last 30 years. POST will continue to lease the land to the family.

Before POST purchased the property in December for \$1.3 million, it was promoted as a site for luxury estates, an executive retreat or a winery. It could have supported the construction of up to three houses, development that would have dramatically altered the area's scenic beauty.

The property had originally been priced at \$3.5 million in mid-2001, but the price dropped

to \$1.6 million before POST negotiated its purchase for \$1.3 million. Although Seaside School Ridge had been on the market for more than two years with no buyer, the price reduction made the property an attractive option for a buyer interested in developing it.

A home built atop Seaside School Ridge would have marred

this remarkable landscape, but POST's purchase preserves these stunning views and adds a key property to our *Saving the Endangered Coast* campaign.

Not only does POST's action protect these vistas, the property potentially offers future recreation opportunities because of its proximity to state park land and POST's 267-acre



San Gregorio Farms. Once the property is transferred to a public agency to manage for public recreation, visitors will be able to hike from the beach to the ridge and take in the stunning views from sea to Skyline.

Your gifts ensured POST was able to act quickly to save this spectacular land. But it's contributions to the campaign that will guarantee Seaside School Ridge and other key

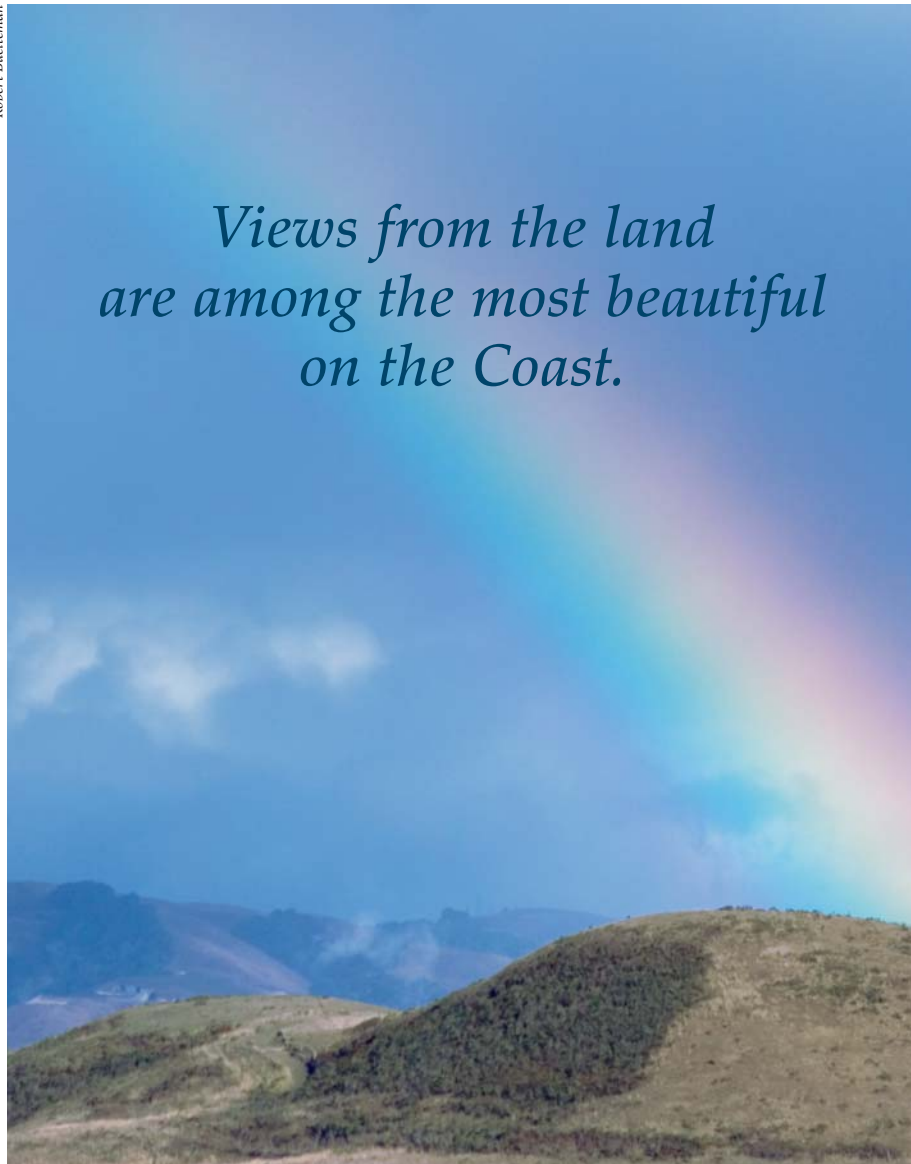
campaign properties receive permanent protection.

Raising the \$32 million needed to complete the campaign will assure that this property and others that create our rich coastal landscape will be safeguarded forever. Gifts of all amounts from individual donors are critical to meeting campaign goals and ensuring significant properties receive permanent protection. ■

# Seaside

Robert Bultman

*Views from the land  
are among the most beautiful  
on the Coast.*



*The view of a private ranch southeast of Seaside School Ridge after a winter storm.*





# School



Robert Budleman



Robert Budleman

*The historic Seaside School, Seaside School Ridge's namesake, is located just north of the property.*

## SEASIDE SCHOOL RIDGE

takes its name from a 129-year-old weathered, one-room schoolhouse located just north of the property at the corner of Stage Road and Seaside School Road.

The school was originally built on a different site in 1872 and the school district that owned it either moved or rebuilt it on the current site off Stage Road in 1875.

San Mateo resident Sara Armstrong owns the property now and knows the school well. Her grandparents bought the family farm on which the school is located in 1890, and she attended first and second grade at the school before moving to San Mateo.

The school's teacher taught first through eighth grade and divided

that a neighboring woman would come in each morning and stoke the fire before the students arrived. "You could get the stove really good and warm," she said.

Mrs. Armstrong's mother Mary Sequerra, who later married Henry Arnold, went to the school through to the eighth grade. When her mother graduated from eighth grade, the teacher asked her and two other students if they'd be interested in a ninth grade education. The trio agreed and stayed on to be schooled in algebra, literature and other subjects.

"When I graduated from high school I knew less than she did going to a one-room school," said Mrs. Armstrong. "That school offered a very good education."

The school closed in the mid-

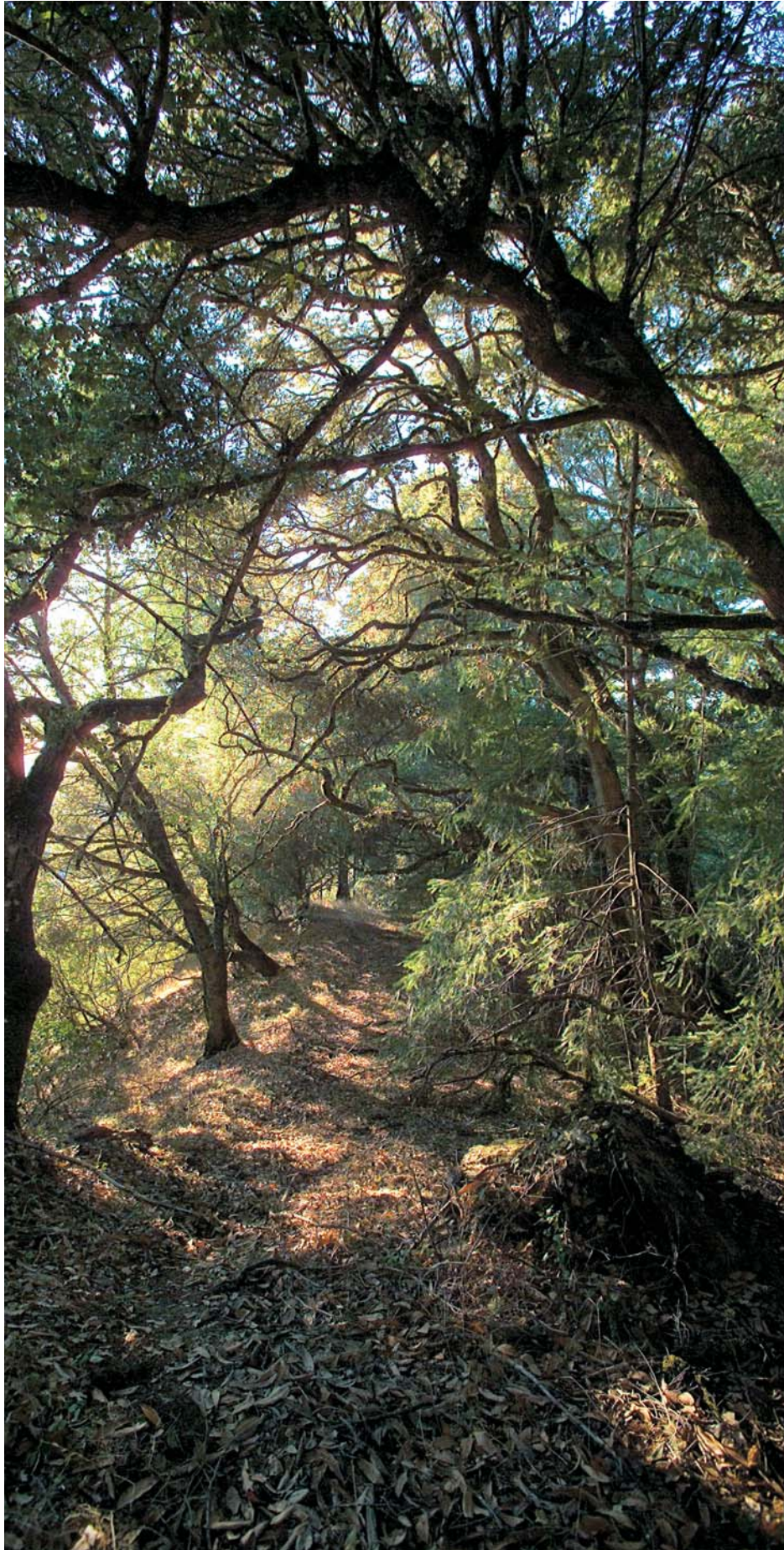
1950s. Mrs. Armstrong and her husband purchased the building from the school district during a

public auction in the late 1960s. She said she plans to maintain the school house in order to retain its historic character. ■

## San Gregorio's historic school house

the students into rows based on their grade level, Mrs. Armstrong recalled. Heat was provided by a sturdy cast iron stove. She remembers





# PORTOLA

## *Protecting this open land*

The natural beauty of POST's recently acquired Portola Lookout property is plain to see. It's this beauty, however, that put the Lookout at risk.

From the 50-acre site off Skyline Boulevard between Page Mill Road and Highway 9, the mid-peninsula's singular landscape of redwood, madrone and Douglas fir forests, oak woodlands and grassy meadows lie at your feet. The ocean and sky provide a magnificent blue backdrop.

The Lookout is highly visible from surrounding parks. The land affords breathtaking views of Skyline Preserve, Portola State Park, Butano Ridge, Big Basin State Park, and Pescadero County Park — more than 7,000 acres of parkland. Privately owned Mindego Hill, San Mateo

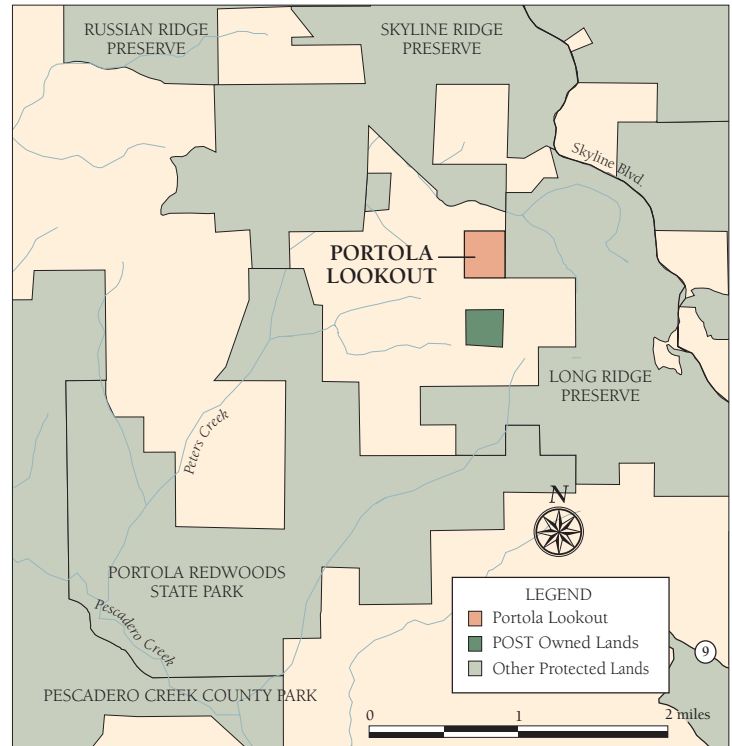
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*Once added to Long Ridge Preserve, hiking trails will be open to the public.*



# LOOKOUT

*property ensures this  
scape will remain scenic*



County's only volcano, now extinct, is clearly visible from the property's knoll, with views of the Pacific Ocean in the distance. To the east the property abuts the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District's Long Ridge Preserve.

It was only through your support making possible POST's quick action that we were able to protect the site. The Lookout's 2,200-foot high mountain knoll made it attractive for estate development. Two houses were recently built on similar

although less visible knolls nearby in a subdivision that is already the site of a dozen large homes.

But unlike some of the homes in the subdivision, an estate constructed at the Lookout would have been



Robert Buelteman

*Portola Lookout affords stunning views of Skyline Preserve, Portola State Park, Butano Ridge, Big Basin State Park, and Pescadero County Park — more than 7,000 acres of parkland.*

*Mindego Hill, San Mateo County's only extinct volcano, is seen clearly from the property's knoll, with views of the Pacific Ocean in the distance.*





*Development on Portola Lookout's tree-ringed grassy knoll, pictured in the center of this photograph in the distance, would have been visible from Skyline Boulevard, Alpine Road and surrounding open space preserves.*

visible from surrounding open space preserves, as well as from Skyline Boulevard and Alpine Road because of the prominence of the site's open grassy knoll.

Protecting this property ensures this open space area will remain scenic and its tree-ringed meadow will give hikers and visitors a restful place to take in awe-inspiring natural lands. We hope that one day this land will be linked with the Long Ridge Preserve enabling the creation of a trail loop. The \$599,000 purchase

is an exciting addition to POST's *Saving the Endangered Coast* campaign. POST's action ensured this land will be free from inappropriate development that would have marred the area's scenic beauty.

The acquisition will also help protect nearby Peters Creek, which is within the Pescadero watershed. The watershed provides critical habitat for threatened steelhead trout. The construction of a house could have sent silt runoff into the

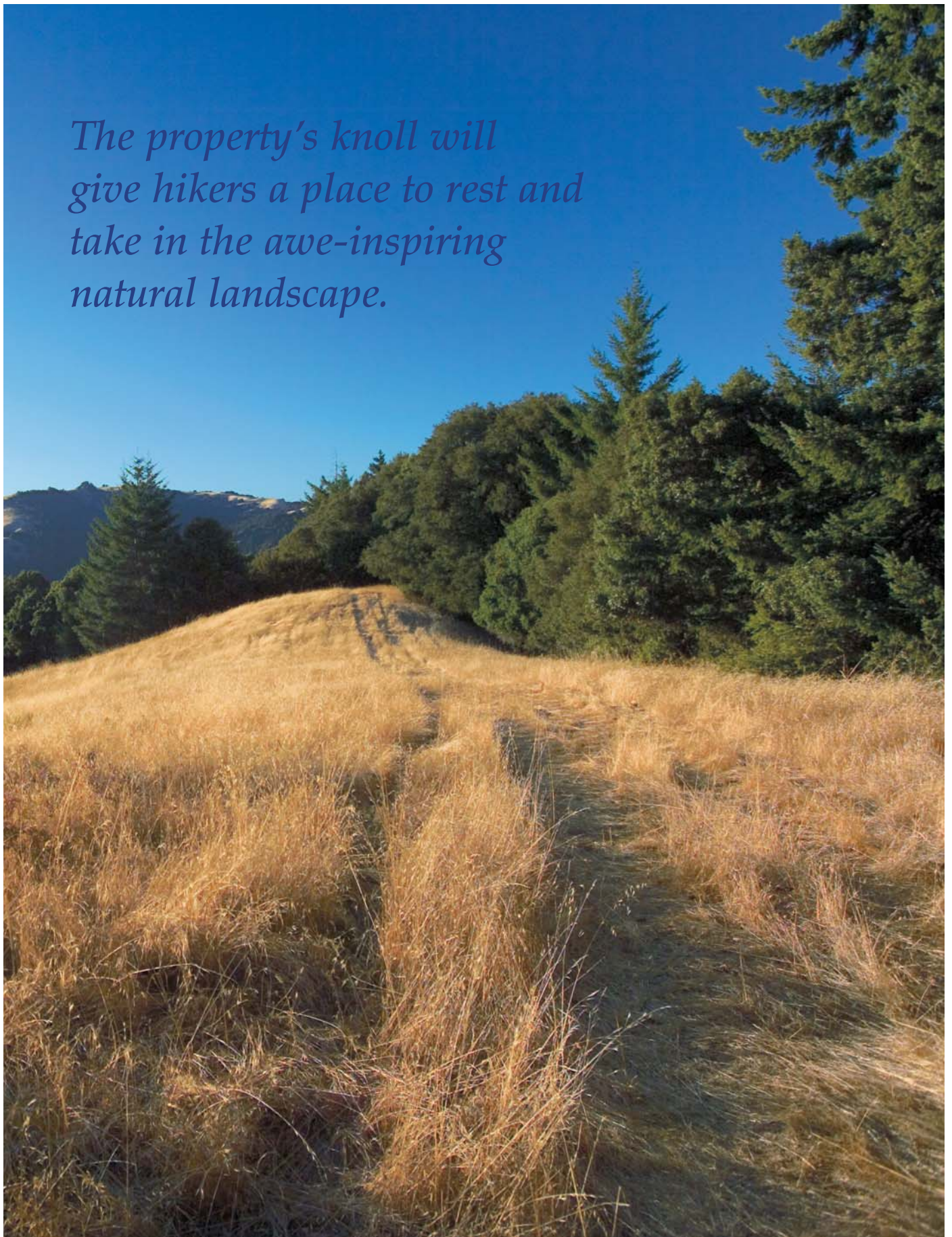
creek, potentially harming water quality and wildlife habitat.

To help complete the purchase of the property, POST is seeking contributions from private donors like you. A significant gift toward the *Saving the Endangered Coast* campaign would afford the donor the opportunity to name the property or a feature of the land. ■

**FOR MORE INFORMATION,** contact POST Vice President Kathryn Morelli at (650) 854-7696.



*The property's knoll will  
give hikers a place to rest and  
take in the awe-inspiring  
natural landscape.*







# OUR THANKS TO FRED KAMPHOEFNER

**BAY AREA NATIVE** Fred Kamphoefner loved the natural beauty of the San Francisco Peninsula. In a tremendous act of generosity, the late Atherton resident bequeathed the majority of his estate to POST. His \$3 million gift will help POST continue to protect the lands he enjoyed so much for future generations. POST is deeply grateful to Fred for his generous bequest.

## COMMITTED CONSERVATIONIST

Mr. Kamphoefner was a longtime supporter of POST and a committed conservationist. Like many of us, his main assets were his home and retirement accounts. While he didn't consider himself a wealthy man, the value of his estate made an extremely generous gift to POST. His bequest makes a significant difference in ensuring the lands he loved are protected.

After retiring in 1991 from his 42-year career at the Stanford Research Institute, he continued to lead an active life enjoying the outdoors, playing the harpsichord and other musical instruments, spending many hours hiking local trails, gardening, bee keeping, and taming local blue jays to eat peanuts out of his hand.

"He was an extraordinary person, so interesting and intelligent. I never met anyone like him," said his niece, Barbara Burnett of Marin County. "I'm so delighted his bequest to POST will help to secure land for all of us to enjoy."

## FRED KAMPHOEFNER LAND FUND

With Mr. Kamphoefner's bequest, POST will create the Fred. J. Kamphoefner Land Fund. The funds will first be used to purchase an important conservation property on the San Mateo Coast, to cover all or a portion of the cost. When we recover

the funds through sale to a public agency, such as the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District or California State Parks, these funds will be returned to the Kamphoefner Fund to be used on one or more additional properties.

Mr. Kamphoefner's contribution will be acknowledged on signs placed on the properties his bequest helped acquire and protect.

**"...HIS BEQUEST TO POST WILL  
SECURE LAND FOR**





## COUNCIL CIRCLE

In further recognition of Mr. Kamphoefner's generosity, he will be acknowledged at POST's Council Circle. This ring of stone benches will be nestled in the bluff above Whaler's Cove, just in front of the Pigeon Point Light Station. Shaped to recall the meeting places of Native Americans, the Council Circle will provide a place where hikers and visitors walking the nearby Coastal Trail can rest and reflect on the area's natural beauty and what we here today have done to protect it. Distinctive engraved plaques will be placed in the stone ring to provide a permanent record of those who have made significant contributions to protect our endangered coast. ■

For more information about the Council Circle and how to make a bequest, contact POST Vice President Kathryn Morelli at (650) 854-7696.

HELP TO  
ALL OF US TO ENJOY."



Robert Buellman

## HONORARY GIFTS

NOVEMBER 1, 2003 – JANUARY 31, 2004

*In each quarterly issue of Landscapes, POST will list those gifts that have been given in honor and in memory of individuals, friends and families.*

### GIFTS IN MEMORY OF

DR. THOMAS BALL  
DOTTIE CONDON  
DAVID DANIELS  
LEWIS DAVIS  
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ROBERT DURYEA  
ALBERT EINSTEIN  
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CARL SCHOOF  
ALISON SHEN  
GLEN T. SIMPSON  
FLORENCE SMITH  
WILLIAM WILBURN  
CHARLES WYATT  
FRANK AND IDA YELONEK

### GIFTS IN HONOR OF

MR. AND MRS.  
GEORGE ANDREINI  
DR. AND MRS. WM J. ARONSON  
KATHLEEN BENNETT  
ANNE AND DAVE BERNSTEIN  
RUBY LEE BLACK  
CHRIS BROUSSEAU AND  
MARYLOU CRONIN  
SARA BUNTING  
RENE CORTINEZ AND  
PETER FENERIN  
DAILEY CHRISTMAS GANG  
STEPHANIE DEPASCAL  
JIM DINSE AND BILL ADAMS

GIANTS AND A'S BEATING THE  
METS AND YANKEES

TIM, JANET, NATHAN  
AND JOSH GILLESPIE  
ANNA GISKE, ERIK AND CAMI  
GISKE, GRANT GISKE,  
INGA GISKE,  
TOM AND FLO GISKE

STEVE HALPRIN  
WADE HOVER'S BIRTHDAY  
LES JUNGE  
ANNA GISKE KUMAR  
AND MODAN KUMAR  
SUZANNE LEGALLET  
WENDELL LEHR AND  
DORIS ARENSBERG-LEHR  
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WENDY WILCOX AND  
HARRY SMITH  
MR. AND MRS. R.A. WILLIAMS



# Djerassi Art Tours

For 25 years painters, writers, sculptors, and other artists have drawn inspiration from the spectacular 580-acre Djerassi property near Woodside and the surrounding views of coastal San Mateo County. Since 2000, the Djerassi Resident Artist's Program has opened its private preserve to the public through a series of hikes.

The public tours are offered as the result of a conservation easement purchased by POST in 1999. The easement protects the natural splendor of the Djerassi property by preventing development and harvesting of the redwood forest. Funding from POST's purchase of the easement also created an endowment fund for the artist-in-residence program.

## ■ Two Mile Tour dates:

Thursday, April 1  
Sunday, May 2  
Thursday, May 13  
Sunday, June 6  
Sunday, June 20  
Thursday, July 8  
Sunday, July 18  
Thursday, August 19  
Sunday, August 29  
Sunday, September 26  
Thursday, October 7  
Thursday, October 28

## ■ Director's Tour dates:

Sunday, April 25  
Saturday, May 22  
Sunday, June 27  
Saturday, July 17  
Sunday, September 12  
Saturday, October 23



Robert Buckleman

The free, docent-lead two-mile hikes will allow participants to walk the lands that provide such inspiration to artists, and to see the installations and artwork created by the creative minds who come to the well-known artist-in-residence program. There will be a total of 12 free hikes from April to October.

The program will also offer six Director's Tours this year. These half-day tours will be led by Djerassi Program Director Dennis O'Leary and cost \$40. Bring a lunch to enjoy the mid-day break.

**Reservations are necessary for all tours, which have filled up quickly in recent years. Call the Djerassi Resident Artist's Program at (650) 747-1250 for reservations.**

## PICTURED:

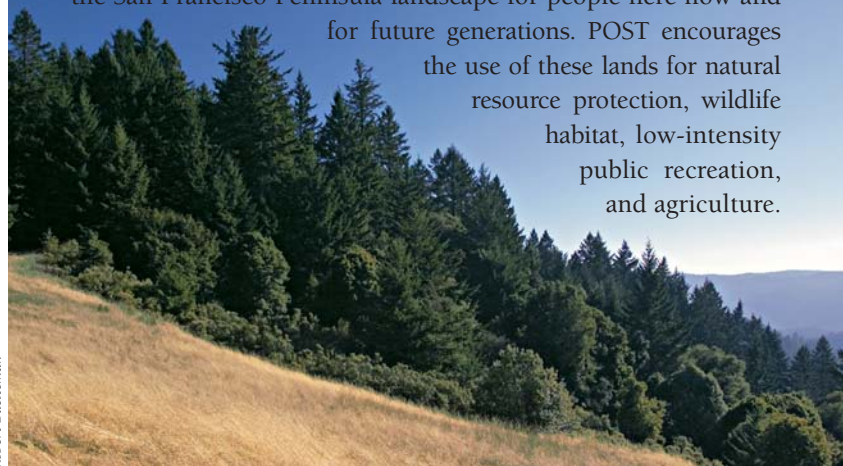
*Redwood Line*, 1995, by artist Dominique Bailly



## POST'S MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Peninsula Open Space Trust (POST) is to give permanent protection to the beauty, character, and diversity of the San Francisco Peninsula landscape for people here now and for future generations. POST encourages the use of these lands for natural resource protection, wildlife habitat, low-intensity public recreation, and agriculture.

Robert Buelteman



## Stock Gifts to POST

A gift of stock can be an excellent way to support POST's land conservation work. You avoid capital gains tax and receive a charitable deduction for the full value of the stock, regardless of appreciation. POST can then sell the stock tax-free and use 100 percent of the proceeds to protect our Peninsula's open lands.

**Step #1:** Contact your stockbroker. He or she can make a direct electronic transfer of your stock certificates to POST's account with the following information:

DTC # 226 National Financial Services  
Banc of America Investment Services  
555 California Street, 7th Floor  
San Francisco, California 94104  
Attention: Julie Helwig or Kelly Lawson  
(415) 627-2191  
(800) 227-4786

Account Name: Peninsula Open Space Trust  
Account Number: P61-045870

**Step #2:** Give your stockbroker POST's taxpayer identification number: 94-2392007

**Step #3:** Notify POST as soon as the transfer instructions have been given so we can ensure that your gift is recorded accurately. Please contact Kathryn Morelli, Vice President, (650) 854-7696.

However you choose to support POST's work, your contribution makes a difference and is greatly appreciated. Thank you! ■

**POST has moved!** Our new address is:  
3000 Sand Hill Road, 1-155, Menlo Park, CA 94025



## Landscapes

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Menlo Park, CA 94025

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# Seaside School Ridge... Saved!

**PROPOSED...**



Without your support, estate development could have destroyed Seaside School Ridge's scenic beauty and future recreational opportunities.

**...PROTECTED!**



*Cover photos: Robert Buelteman*



**LANDSCAPES**  
**SPRING 2004**

Peninsula Open Space Trust  
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