

500 Redwood Seedlings Planted in "Forever Wild" Forest



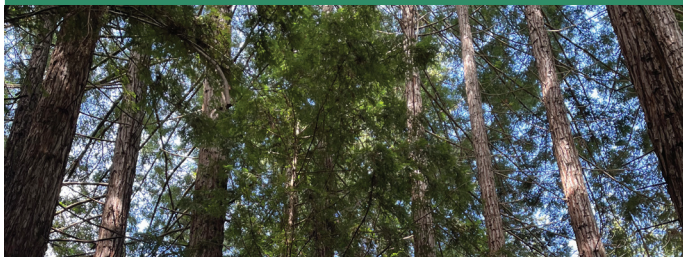
The Redwood Forest Foundation gifted us 500 tiny trees to increase the proportion of redwoods in our 50 acres of "forever wild" forest land.

Our hard-working Conservation Committee planted them in a week. It was rewarding to dig in the earth, using our hands to place saplings in their new home.

Operations Manager Samantha Stahl shared: *"As I dug into the clayish ground, I felt something spring up in my chest. Perhaps it was not exactly hope, but a consciously reflective optimism... The seedlings will outlive me, no matter how long I am on this earth."*

As each seedling went into the ground we whispered this prayer:

May you grow and prosper.



Summer In The Country For Inner-City Youth

Starcross will again partner with Harbor House in Oakland to offer their group of young people a country farm experience.

Hiking through the forest, picking berries for breakfast, making apple cider, and sleeping under the stars are some of the enriching opportunities the kids and counselors will enjoy. We are happy to host them again, and to introduce them to the wonders of nature and simple living.



Thank You, Friends!



Many of you have written to express that you find our Friday Reflections, Weekly Walks and Haiku helpful in your journeys. We are moved and appreciative. Though we

may not have met in person, you are definitely part of Starcross Community! Very special thanks, also, to our dedicated Publication Committee under the guidance of Mia Martins and Samantha Stahl.

International Recognition for House of Hope Graduate



Since 1998, the Starcross Kin Worldwide House of Hope in Uganda has provided a home and education for over 150 destitute orphans during the AIDS pandemic.

Fortunately, the orphan crisis has ended, and the last students will soon graduate. We're proud to share one of many success stories.

Winnie Nakiyingi came to the House of Hope as an 8-year-old orphan. She is now an international statistician! Winnie founded an initiative to empower girls like her interested in science, technology, engineering, and math careers. She has worked to promote collaborations between policymakers, diplomats, and scientists/researchers. She was the only African woman invited to participate in the Science Diplomacy Week organized by the United Nations and was recently interviewed on BBC. Congratulations, Winnie!

Stepping Stones and A Winter Walk Go Digital!



We are very pleased that two of Brother Toby's most popular books are now available as e-books. In *STEPPING STONES* and *A WINTER WALK*, you'll find insightful reflections, timeless guidance, and nature-focused spirituality. Whether you're revisiting these volumes or reading for the first time, these new editions are a welcoming portal into the contemplative world of a fellow seeker.



Silver Medal at Los Angeles International Olive Oil Competition

Adding to our medal collection, we are thrilled to announce that Sister Julie's Organic Extra Virgin Olive Oil won big at the prestigious L.A. competition! As soon as we tasted this oil, we knew it was special. Winning silver at a competitive international contest like this confirms our feeling.

We were also awarded a Bronze Medal in Traditional Packaging Design, for the "timeless elegance" of our bottles. Our classic packaging conveys an Old World Italian charm to countertops everywhere.

Starcross Food Pantry Serves Community



As a partner agency with the Redwood Empire Food Bank, we provide free nourishing food to our neighbors. The number of local families depending on the bimonthly distribution has grown to include nearly 180 people and we are humbled to be able to help so many. We could not provide this important service without our Food Bank Committee, composed of 10 wonderful volunteers, who order, pick up, sort, and distribute the food. Thank you to all who contribute to the Starcross Food Pantry!

Forest Trail Walks



We are happy to extend an invitation for you to explore our 50-acre forest. The Conservation Committee has been clearing trails, creating a map, and installing signs so you won't get lost! The forest is a magical place to stroll, rest by a mighty redwood, and take some deep healing breaths. Let us know if you'd like to explore on your own or with a guide. Email [Juan Pablo Klenner, jp@starcross.org](mailto:jp@starcross.org), to arrange.



Brother Toby's Haiku Workshop



With its focus on simplicity, beauty, and nature, haiku poetry is a spiritual pathway at Starcross. In mid-March, Brother Toby led a workshop for a dozen young friends who have spent time on our land. Whether attending in person or on Zoom, all were enriched by an afternoon of haiku-writing and contemplation.

If you'd like to try one yourself, Brother Toby's guidelines for writing haiku are:

1. Write a 3 line poem with 17 syllables. The first line has 5 syllables, the second has 7, the third has 5.
2. Let the poem reflect awareness of the season of the year.
3. Don't be clever!
4. It's not personal—it is listening to nature, and thus becomes universal.



Taking a Pause

We love the deep sound of the chapel bell ringing each day at 12:30 and 5pm, reminding us to pause for a few moments of mindful meditation.

You are Invited to Visit Starcross!



VISITS AND TOURS -

If you are in the area, please stop by weekday afternoons to take a self-guided audio tour or an independent stroll. Call the office to tell us you are

coming, 1-800-960-1500.

FARM STAND - Our rustic farm stand is open from 8am to 6pm every day. Pick up olive oil, books, herbs, jams, pickles, and fresh produce in season. Pay by the honor system with cash, checks, PayPal or Venmo.

WEDNESDAY MEDITATION CIRCLE -

Every Wednesday at 5pm, we hold an open meditation in the hilltop chapel. We are a multi-faith group, welcoming people on all paths or none. (Vaccinated folks, please.) There is a short reading followed by 30 minutes of silent meditation. No reservation required.



COME CHAT, PICK BLACKBERRIES, and PICNIC - In the summertime, there is a lot of activity out front. Folks stop by to visit on the chat bench, enjoy lunch on our picnic tables, and pick baskets of blackberries to take home.

QUIET DAY AWAY - In our busy lives, we sometimes need to step back from it all. Starcross is happy to provide a healing space for your Quiet Day Away. Wander through the forest, read on a bench, meditate in the chapel. We will leave you in peace. Email Julie, sj@starcross.org, to arrange.

From Tree to Bottle



We can't wait to welcome our next incredible cohort of volunteers to Starcross for Olive Harvest in November. In 2023, the group of 12 lived together for about

a month. Shared work, meals, walks, and philosophical conversations were enriching to all. Volunteers tell us they enjoy seeing the process of making olive oil all the way through, from tree to bottle. Long lasting friendships are formed.



In fact, two couples who met here recently got married—although we can't guarantee that outcome! If you'd like to participate in olive harvest, contact Sister Julie, sj@starcross.org, for details and an application.

