

# 2021 Annual Report



## MARIPOSA TRAILS

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# About Us

Incorporated in May 2020, Mariposa Trails is a charitable non-profit with Federal 501(c)(3) status obtained through the extended Form 1023 application process. Tax ID#: 85-1241296

## Our Vision

We believe that individuals, communities and the planet can all thrive together, and that this health is attained through relationships of reciprocity. Through our sojourns, be it hiking, riding, camping or trail-tending, we offer a fresh hope of restoration and invite you to build comradery with one another and with nature.

## OUR COMPASS

- points to understanding that through healing and sustaining the natural world, the natural world sustains us as well.
- includes a bearing that encourages people to nourish and teach a meaningful relationship of reciprocity with the earth and all her beings, to mindfully listen and learn from the natural world, and in gratitude, share and apply that knowledge.

## OUR MAP

- charts the recognition that it is essential to gather, support and celebrate the diverse gifts of individuals and organizations to enable achievement of shared missions.
- reveals that exploring, tending and experiencing the natural world brings understanding that nature is an essential part of humanity, and in turn, humanity can be a benefit to nature.

## OUR JOURNEY

- embraces trails as gifts, and in gratitude, we use them respectfully, enhancing and creating beauty and joy.

## Our Mission

We provide trail access and promote its use for adventure, health, stewardship, education and community prosperity.

## Our Board

Bill King, President and Executive Director

Beth Kellner, Treasurer

Ursula Stock, Secretary

# Message from the Board

Hello Friends,

In 2021, Mariposa Trails celebrated our first anniversary as an active and growing non-profit corporation. It is already time for our second annual report! Reports always state the important statistics of a past year - number of trail tending days, number of donors, value of assets and etc., but they do not tell the stories behind the numbers. The stories behind the numbers are the real essence of our organization.

Here are just two of the many stories behind the scenes.



"Best Theme  
Float"  
@Mariposa  
Butterfly  
Festival Parade

**BEARS** - well not just any bear, but a singing bear! Inspiration for Mariposa Trails to join the 2021 Butterfly Festival Parade came from a singing bear. This bear and his singing coyote friend were patiently gathering dust, just biding their animatronic time, waiting for an audience again when the idea of making them the stars of a parade float was born. Mr. Bear led the way to creating a float themed on "Leave no Trace." None of the humans working on this creation had ever done this before but a bear singing trail songs led to a fabulous collaboration between old friends, neighbors and

complete strangers culminating in sharing the fun with the whole community as we paraded down the streets Mariposa.

**MULES** - nobody is really sure when the last pack mule traveled the trail in the South Fork of the Merced River. The route down from the Wawona Road to Kistler and Grapevine camps had become obscured, nearly gone from downed trees, fire, flood and lack of use. Yet on a bright early summer day in 2021, mules returned to that trail. The Sierra Free Packers, in collaboration with Mariposa Trails, the CCC and the USFS, rode their horses and led a string of mules packed with supplies down the path and into the canyon to supply trail-tending crews. The mules were no longer history, and a new story joining the past and the future of mules was told in their reliable journey down and back that day.

Mariposa Trails is looking forward to 2022, and creating new stories through our sojourns on the trails and in the community.

Happy Trails



The U.S. Department of Agriculture awarded its 2021 National Award on "Restoration" to Mariposa Trails. BIG thanks to our community of volunteers who restored the Hite's Cove Trail after it was severely damaged by fire and subsequent erosion.  
(Board members Ursula Stock, Bill King and Beth Kellner)

# Year in Review

## 2021 Accomplishments

U.S. Department of Agriculture issued the “National Award for Trail Restoration” to Mariposa Trails for work completed on the Hite’s Cove Trail.

Participated in the Butterfly Festival and Parade; awarded “Best Theme Float”

Initiated the *Pioneer Market and High Country Food and Cafe* Receipt Program!

Achieved the *Gold Status* “Guide Star” Rating

Member of “Give-Lively” Network of Non-Profits

Hosted the “Merced River Wildflower and History Tour”

In partnership with the Sierra National Forest, the California Conservation Corp (CCC), and the Sierra Free-packers, repaired 6 miles of the South Fork Trail!

Expanded our online *Trail Map*

## Trails

In 2021, Mariposa Trails completed 30 trail-tending outings, including 4 overnight trips, on 8 different trails with 49 volunteers resulting in 974 volunteer hours equating to a labor value of \$24,768 (974 @ \$25.43 per hour). Plus, with help of a CCC crew, a total of 9 miles of trail were re-established or repaired and/or, and 310 logs cut from trails.



Board member Ursula Stock celebrating construction of a water diversion channel on a badly eroded road in the Hite’s Cove area.



## Jerseydale 2021 Project

United States Forest Service lands near Jerseydale are the most proximate public lands to the population centers of Mariposa. They also contain roads and trails used by a variety of users, including hikers, trail-runners, mountain bikers, equestrians and OHV's. A total of 380 volunteer hours were dedicated to the improvement of trails in this area, mostly to removed trees over the trails, and include:

- Skelton Creek
- Owl Creek Loop Trail
- Virginia Creek Trail



Volunteers Earl, Annie, Jim, Berrit, Beth, Bill and Michele taking a break having tended the Skelton Creek Trail.



AmeriCorp volunteers at camp-out at the Virginia Creek trailhead.



Skelton Creek Trail in near Jerseydale



## Highland Trails

Temperatures in the South Fork Canyon can be extreme in the summertime. Fortunately, at the right time of the year, there are 3 trails of note that provide respite and spectacular views from the highlands of the South Fork.

- The Granite Creek Saddle Trail
- The Pinoche Ridge Trail
- Savage-Lundy Trail

Although the Granite Creek Saddle Trail was inaccessible this year due to excessive tree fall, 8 outings were dedicated to scouting and clearing portions of the other highland trails.



Steve scouting for the “lost” trail along Pinoche Ridge.



AmeriCorp volunteers, and Marcus, near Sweetwater Point after a trail-tending a popular equestrian route.



CCC volunteer crew from Fresno taking a break on the Savage Lundy Trail.



## The South Fork Trail

The 21-mile long “South Fork Trail” is a key link in a regional trail system that connects the foothills in Mariposa County with Yosemite National Park. It spans an elevation of 4,000 feet, traversing through some of the wildest and culturally rich landscapes in the Sierra Nevada Mountains. Successive extreme natural events (fires & floods) have imperiled the trail and ability to access it.

### HITE’S COVE TRAIL

In 2021, 257 volunteer hours were dedicated to restoration efforts of the Hite’s Cove Trail, which opened in November 2020 after years of closure due to the effects of the 2018 Ferguson Fire. Though at a slower rate, trees are still falling over the trail, and the Cove is still in a major state of disrepair.



Dave and Bill relaxing after creating a work-around for the Hite’s Cove Trail.

### ALDER/WILLARD CREEK TRAIL/KISTLER/GRAPEVINE

In 2021, 48 volunteer hours were dedicated to repairs. Plus, a CCC crew worked extensively on this trail segment, repairing 4 miles of trail, many sections that had been completely grown over.



The “Sierra Free-Packers” on the Alder Creek portion of the South Fork Trail

### SIMS COVE SEGMENT

In 2021, a CCC crew worked extensively on this trail segment, repairing 2 miles of trail that had been completely grown over.

The Stockton-based CCC crew at Hite’s Cove 4x4 Road gate.



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## Our 2021 Trail-Tending Volunteers

Mariposa Trails would like to thank the following individuals for their contributions to trails in 2021:

- David Nelson
  - Connie Wylie
  - Jack Wooten
  - Ron Allen
  - Sean Murray
  - Ursula Stock
  - Ruth A Kepler
  - Annie Scott
  - Berit Scott
  - Jim Wittkopf
  - Steve Humpfry
  - Elaine Denny
  - Ben Kurtz
  - Tony McDaniel
  - Sesar Sanchez
  - Paul Wagner
  - Rachel Patteson
  - Dillon Helms
  - Earl Heitzman
  - Robert Garcia
  - Meredith Dickson
  - Keith Ensminger
  - Austin Ensminger
  - Marcus Padilla
  - Melisa McFarland
  - Wes Bartell
  - Kay Farjadi
  - Quentin Kendall
  - Nathaniel Clink
  - Margarita King
  - Nick Ross-Rhudy
  - Jenna Kahn
  - Mason Innumerable
  - Tara Krantz
  - Laurie Martin
  - Josh Hampshire
  - Leigh Siracusano
  - Joaquin Pastrana
  - Andrea Canapary
  - Ed Canapary
  - Seth Porter
  - Michele Minniear
  - Michael Haarmeyer
  - Irene Vasquez
  - Kevin Spach
  - Deedee Soto
  - Catie Mong
  - Jose de Jesus Ortega
  - Paul Brickett
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## Community

### BUTTERFLY FESTIVAL

In 2021, Mariposa Trails took time away from the trails to join community partners at the Mariposa Butterfly Festival. Our festival committee came up with a treasure hunt map that sent participants around the fairgrounds searching for answers to questions on Metamorphosis. We would like to especially thank committee members - Michael Red Earth-Booth design and set-up, Mary Brown-story telling and treasures, Annie Scott T-shirt design and Lincoln for being our mascot and dog ambassador. And thanks to our treasure hunt partners: the Mining and Mineral Museum, Xerces Society, Mariposa Native Plants, the National Wildlife Federation, Pathos Screen Printing, and of course last but not least Bill Lowe and the Butterfly Festival Committee.

“Butterflies teach us about the life cycle “metamorphosis” which means a change from one thing into something new and different. Not only butterflies but also plants, animals, insects and even rocks go through the changing cycle of life”. *From the Mariposa Trails Butterfly Treasure Map*



Volunteers Beth, Ruthie, Bill, Mary Michael and Lincoln

### WILDFLOWER/HISTORY WALK

In 2021, Mariposa Trails hosted our first tour and fundraiser, the April Wildflower and History Walk, in collaboration with the Merced Sunrise Rotary. Doug Kranovich and Bill King led guests along the Railroad Flats area of the Merced River Trail, a place rich in both nature and history. The groups were treated to Doug's extensive and entertaining knowledge of native wildflowers along with Bill's fascinating look back into the history of the local mine and the railroad trail. Guests were also served a delicious “Mountain BBQ ” catered by Willow Creek Catering. Our thanks to Nature for cooperating with two beautiful days, river views and many wildflowers. Many thanks also to Doug K Kranovich, Robert Garcia of Merced Sunrise Rotary, Doug Greenwood Bureau of Land Management and Keary and Dawn Allison of Willow Creek Catering. If you missed this event in 2021 look for it coming up again in 2022!



Doug with participants, many from Merced Rotary

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# Fiscal Overview

For fiscal year 1/1/2021 to 12/31/21

Figures as of December 31, 2021

<b>Assets</b>	\$8,582.00
<b>Liabilities</b>	\$ 0.00
<b>Funding Sources &amp; Revenue</b>	
Grants	\$1,633.75
Material Donations	\$ 202.38
Donations - Direct public support	\$3,462.35
Fundraisers	\$1,560.00
<b>Total Annual Revenue</b>	<b>\$6,858.48</b>
<b>Expenses</b>	
General Administration/Operations	\$ 729.56
Program Services/Supplies/Equipment	\$2,988.44
<b>Total Annual Expense</b>	<b>\$3,718.00</b>

## GRANTS

Much thanks is given to the *Yosemite Tourism Bureau* for awarding *Mariposa Trails* a \$1,200 competitive grant for marketing brochures and local trailhead signs.

## OUR 2021 DONORS

We would like to express our profound gratitude to our financial supporters. Without their contributions, we would not have been able to lay the foundation for “Mariposa Trails,” upon which our work will grow into the future.

Andrea Canapary  
Aron Nussbaum  
Art Baggett  
Belinda Braunstein  
Beth Kellner  
Bob Worcester  
Brenda Sestrap  
Brian Swanson  
Candace Gregory  
Catherine Trejo  
Colleen Egan  
Connie Wylie  
Evelyn Wilson  
Gayle Kellner  
Hannah Moon  
Jeanne Knapp  
Bill King  
Jeff Gabe  
Jim Bishop  
John Hoffman  
Jordan Soltman  
Joyce Yowell  
Laurie Martin  
Margarita King



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### CONTINUED....OUR 2021 DONORS

Marie Bradley  
Mary Lincoln Brown  
Mary O'Brien  
Mathew Kidd  
Merced Sierra Club  
Michael Red Earth  
Michele Minniear  
Mike Wenrich  
Nicole Belle Isle  
Paul Wagner  
Pete & Liz Halboth  
Roger J Wyan Photography  
Sandra Laird  
Shelby Edwards  
Steve Humphry  
Ursula Stock  
Wendy Brown-Barry  
Zachary Wells

### RECEIPT CLUB MEMBERS

To those who gave their grocery store receipts to Mariposa Trails, THANK YOU! Both *Pioneer Market* and *High Country Health Food and Café* offer a receipt program to support local non-profits. We are grateful to these grocers and shoppers who made it possible for this year's \$262.13 donation. As every penny counts, the same can be said for receipts.

Michelle Minniear  
Ralph Menderhausen  
Sally Martinez  
Paul Brickett  
Wendy Brown  
Evie Wilson  
Jeff Gabe  
Ron Allen  
Michael Red Earth  
Ruthie Kepler  
Tracy and David Greenwood  
Margarita King  
Ralph Ariola  
Thomas Sims-Brown

--- And many receipts from anonymous individuals

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## Our Thanks!

Without your support we would not be so successful. Thank-you volunteers, the Sierra National Forest - notably Cori Hayth!!!!, the Bureau of Land Management, Merced Sunrise Rotary, Willow Creek Catering, Pioneer Market, High Country Foods and Café, Sierra Free-Packers and our donors.

Your support will help “Mariposa Trails” continue to keep trails open to the public. Mariposa Trails is dedicated to supporting, maintaining and educating the public about Mariposa’s unique trail system. To support our efforts, please visit: [www.MariposaTrails.org](http://www.MariposaTrails.org)



## Mariposa Trails

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