

2022 Annual Report



MARIPOSA TRAILS

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

Message from the Board

Hello Friends,

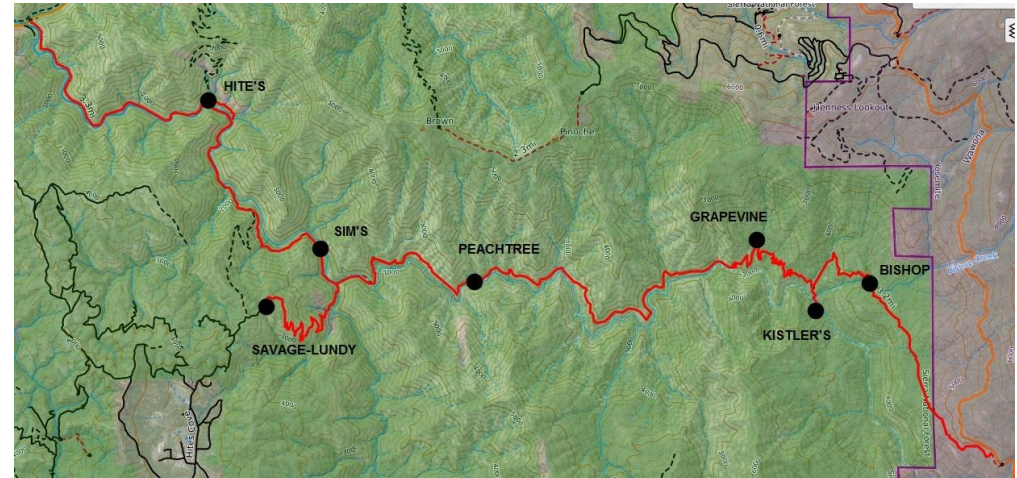
2022 was the year of building new partnerships. We saw our motto of building trails and community manifested in relationships with organizations from across the state.

RESILIENCE First, we were invited by UC Berkely to request a GrizzlyCorps fellow to intern with us developing programs to promote community resilience. That led to the arrival of Clay Groetsch who is working with us on three projects: development of an online and paper map of recreational trails in Mariposa County; exploring the feasibility of creating a shaded fuel break with a trail; and, development of a “voluntourism” program, giving visitors the opportunity to tend trails while also enjoying recreation in our communities. She is real asset to Mariposa Trails and our foothills community!

Welcome Clay.



SOUTH FORK TRAIL The big news in Mariposa County this past year was the Oak Fire, which almost kept our newest partnership from happening at all. As we finished up the last details on our grant request to the Sierra Nevada Conservancy for funds to begin restoration of the South Fork Trail, the Oak Fire broke out. Fortunately, Bill tapped submit before the evacuation began. In December we were awarded the grant! You are invited to join us in the exciting work as we begin to tackle the 4-year restoration project of the historic South Fork Trail in 2023.



HEALTH We also partnered with the Merced County Rescue Mission, by bringing men and women, who in their own lives are dedicated to new paths forward, up to tend foothills trails. Health, healing, confidence, and comradery all gained new ground during these outings, as we joined forces to help restore trails while restoring lives. Nature once again gifted us with lessons of healing in the great out of doors.

Happy Trails

Year in Review

2022 Accomplishments

Participated in the Butterfly Festival and created the “Confident Hiker” Board Game.

Participated in Mariposa’s first National Trail Day celebration at the Art Park in town.

Restored equestrian use of the Skelton Creek Trail, after years of non-use.

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

Obtained a “capacity building” grant from “GrizzlyCorps” in the form of 1 full-time employee, as well as funding from Mariposa County as a match for this GrizzlyCorps Fellow.

Obtained competitive grant funds from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy to restore 14 miles of trails (South Fork Merced River Trail and the Savage-Lundy Trail)

Established partnerships with *Latino Outdoors* and *Merced Rescue Mission*.

Recon of the entire length of the South Fork Trail.

Trails

In 2022, Mariposa Trails completed 34 trail-tending outings, including 3 overnight trips, on 9 different trails with 179 volunteers resulting in 2,033 volunteer hours equating to a labor value of \$60,888 (974 @ \$29.95 per hour). Post fire vegetative growth and dead-fall continues. Crews removed 202 logs and cut 245 branches that had fallen or grown across local trails. 16,750 plant seedlings (mostly brush) located within trail corridors were removed.



Volunteer Wendy Brown riding the Skelton Creek Trail

Jerseydale/Mariposa Pines

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, including:

- Skelton Creek Trail
- Sweetwater Point Bypass Trail
- Virginia Creek Trail



Volunteers Carrie, Mark and Laurel taking a break having tended the Virginia Creek Trailhead.

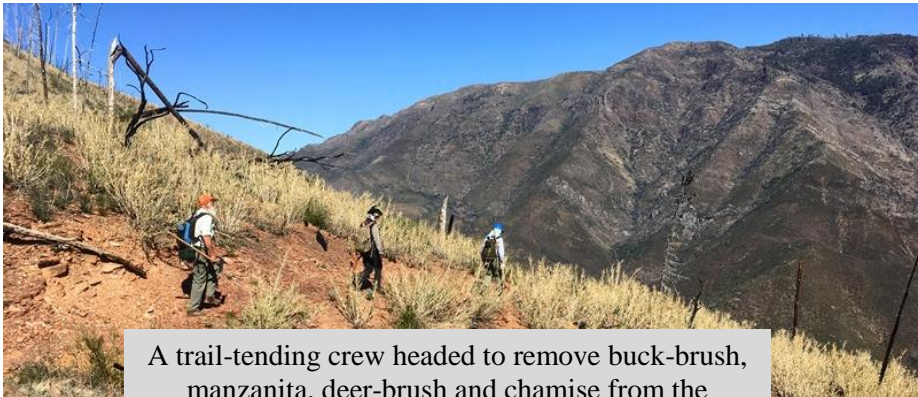


Merced Rescue Mission Trail-Tending the Sweetwater Point bypass Trail.

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



A trail-tending crew headed to remove buck-brush, manzanita, deer-brush and chamise from the Savage Lundy Trail.



Crew on an "Extractigator" mission to remove the hordes of chaparral growing on the Savage-Lundy Trail.



Crew on Pinoche Ridge after a day of removing logs off the 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. Ranging from 1,450-foot to 5,000-feet, the trail exhibits 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

After years of closure due to the effects of the 2018 Ferguson Fire, the Hite’s Cove Trail re-opened in November 2020. Although at a slower rate, trees are still falling over the trail, and the Cove is still in need of major repair.



A volunteer work party of members of the LAMBDA ALPHA EPSILON fraternity from Fresno State relax at “Swirly Rock” on the Hites Cove Trail

BISHOP CREEK TRAIL

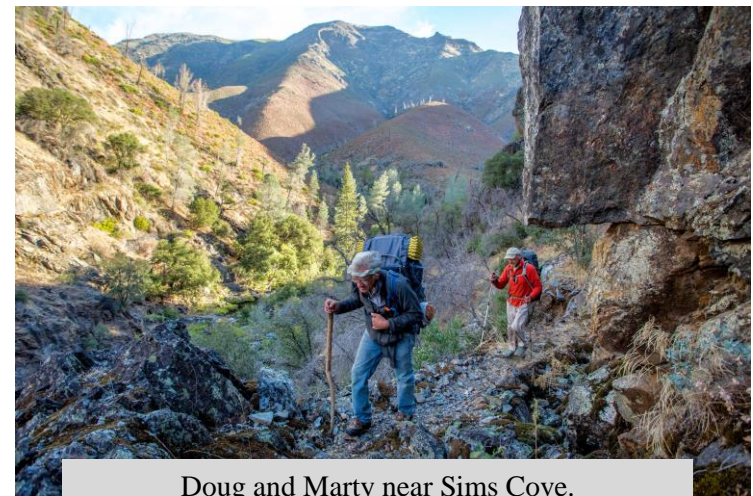
The eastern entrance of the South Fork Trail is the “Bishop Creek Trail,” an important link to Yosemite National Park and the Community of Wawona.



Trail Tending with HoneyTrek.com on the Bishop Creek Trail.

FULL 20-MILE TRAIL

In October 2022, Doug, Marty and Bill performed a complete assessment of the trail during a 5-day recon of the South Fork Trail.



Doug and Marty near Sims Cove.

Our 2022 Trail-Tending Volunteers

Mariposa Trails would like to thank the following 58 individuals:

- David Nelson
 - Sean Murray
 - Doug Kranovich
 - Steve Humpfry
 - Tony McDaniel
 - Paul Wagner
 - Mark Reigel
 - Val Reigel
 - Robert Garcia
 - Marcus Padilla
 - Linda Shepler
 - Brenda Negley
 - Gavin Bruce
 - Dean Leonard
 - Jose Moran
 - Zack Wells
 - Soua Xiong
 - Ann Geierman
 - Matthew Cassle
 - Andrea Canapary
 - Alex Keeton
 - Lori Pontious
 - Nicole Belle Isle
 - Jeff Savage
 - Wanda Savage
 - Larry Frates
 - Laurel Nguyen
 - Kerstin Henry
 - Carrie Toepper
 - Mark Donahue
 - Missy Kaufmann
 - Scott Kaufmann
 - Monique Meza
 - Jose Lopez
 - Vanessa Chavez
 - Ashley Rios Barreto
 - Kristyana Tram
 - Ana Rosas Pacheco
 - Roger Wyan
 - Lydia Bothwell
 - Clay Groetch
 - Sol Rivas
 - Isai Palma
 - Joana Alfaro
 - Jennifer Arellano
 - Steve Montimer
 - Riealle Tyrrell
 - Jeannie Tyrrell
 - Anne Howard
 - Mike Howard
 - Amy Miller
 - Quap Moretz
 - Zach Higgins
 - Andre Sanchez
 - Angel Fabian
 - Manuela Fabian
 - Mirzi Cruz
 - Paul Brickett
-

Building Community

BUTTERFLY FESTIVAL

In 2022, Mariposa Trails took time away from the trails to join community partners at the Mariposa Butterfly Festival. Our festival committee came up with a board game titled-“The Confident Hiker,” that was played by children, couples and families alike while learning about being “trail smart.” Mary Brown-provided story-telling and treasures, with Lincoln, our festival mascot and dog ambassador. We would like to especially thank committee members Ruthie Kepler, Wendy Brown, Steve Humphry, Stacy Sellers, and of course, last but not least, Bill Lowe and the Butterfly Festival Committee.



The “Confident Hiker Board Game” was a big hit at the festival. Volunteer Steve Humphry guides a game.



Beth and Mariposa Trails mascot Lincoln at story-time.

NATIONAL TRAILS DAY

In June 2022, the “Merced River Conservation Committee,” a group run by Ralph Menderhausen, Michael Martin and Jeff Gabe, spearheaded Mariposa County’s first National Trail Day event. Local trail-related organizations and public offices set-up booths at the Art Park and shared stories of their missions and efforts.

READINGS

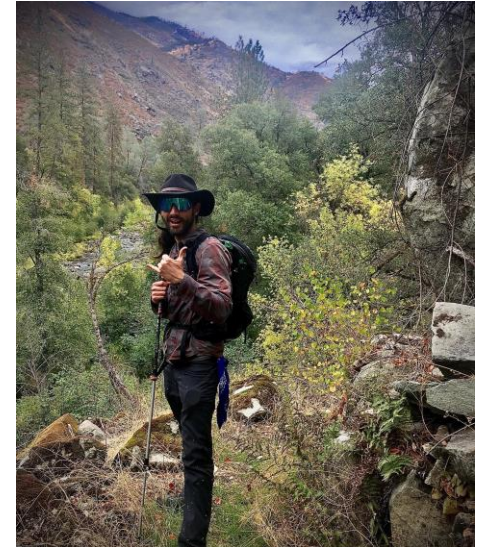
Hiking is a spiritual experience- a ritual where one can be part of everything and everyone. We embrace trails as gifts, and in gratitude, we use them respectfully, creating beauty, joy and understanding. It's an opportunity to give back to the lands that nourish our spirit. Learning about nature's bounty and the area through which a trail runs is an integral part of our outings. Sitting together, sharing these stories through readings from historic figures or esteemed ecologists, humanitarians and scientists become memorable moments cherished by outing participants.



ADVENTURE HIKES

At Mariposa Trails, we view trail work as a means to an end. It's a ceremony of gratitude for what nature provides, and a hope that others will have an opportunity to witness beauty in all its forms.

In 2022, Mariposa Trails began hosting "Adventure Hikes" for the community to experience and learn about local trails.



Quap enjoying the "Sims Cove" segment of the Savage-Lundy Loop Trail.

ACCESS FOR ALL

Mariposa Trails provides trail access and promotes trail use, inviting all to build comradery with one another and with nature. In 2022, Mariposa Trails created outings for a diverse set of groups including but not limited to: the Merced County Rescue Mission, Latino Outdoors, Valley Onward and the GrizzlyCorps.



Latino Outdoors- Fresno Chapter, walking back to trailhead after a wonderful day tending the Alder Creek Trail.



“Valley Onward” leaders repair the Savage-Lundy Trail



Merced County Rescue Mission Trail-Tending the Skelton Creek Trail

Fiscal Overview

For fiscal year 1/1/2022 to 12/31/22
Figures as of December 31, 2022

Assets	\$7,821.77
Liabilities	\$1,000.00
Funding Sources & Revenue	
Grants	\$ 250.00
In-Kind Donations	\$3,000.00
Donations - Direct public support	\$ 1,769.54
Fundraisers	\$ 168.00
Total Annual Revenue	\$5,187.54
Expenses	
General Administration/Operations	\$1,630.38
Program Services/Supplies/Equipment	\$1,342.70
Contract Services	\$ 500.00
Total Annual Expense	\$3,473.08

GRANTS

(1) Much thanks is given to the *Sierra Nevada Conservancy* who awarded a grant in December 2022 to Mariposa Trails to restore the South Fork of the Merced River. The first round of funds will be received in 2023, and issued for 4 consecutive years.

OUR 2022 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.

AmazonSmile
Andrea Canapary
Anne Howard - HoneyTrek
Bill King
Belinda Braunstein
Beth Kellner
Candace Gregory
Jane and Wesley Smith
Gabe Charitable Gift Fund
Kim Hastings
Linda Schepler
Michael Martin
Margarita King
Merced Sierra Club
Richard Nelson
Wendy Brown-Barry
Chad Humpal
Connie Wylie
Steve Humphry
Nicole Belle-Isle
Bob Worcester
Carolyn Toepper

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 \$237.12 donation. As every penny counts, the same can be said for receipts.

Ralph Menderhausen
Sally Martinez
Paul Brickett
Wendy Brown
Jeannie and Evie Wilson
Jeff Gabe
Ron Allen
Ruthie Kepler
Tracy and David Greenwood
Margarita King
Ralph Ariola
Thomas Sims-Brown
Mark Norman
Nicole Belle Isle
Belinda Bruanstein
Larry Frates

SPECIAL DONOR

We are very grateful for the donation made by Roger Wyan of Merced CA (Roger J Wyan Photography) that is supporting the housing needs of our GrizzlyCorps fellow Clay Groetsch. His generous gift was an essential ingredient in attracting and supporting Clay in her stay with us in Mariposa. Thank you Roger!!!



Bill and Clay with donation check from Pioneer Market.

Our Thanks!

Our success is a measure of your support. Thank-you volunteers, the Sierra National Forest -notably Cori Hayth, Yosemite National Park partners, the Sierra Nevada Conservancy, Latino Outdoors, Honeytrek, Pioneer Market, High Country Foods and Café, Merced Rescue Mission 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



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