

A hymn of love to the world.

—ELIZABETH GILBERT

BRAIDING SWEETGRASS



Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge,
and the Teachings of Plants

ROBIN WALL KIMMERER

Robin Kimmerer's book, *Braiding Sweetgrass*, challenges the Western culture's relationship with nature, laying a course for all of us to reconnect with our indigenous heritage, to remember what we have forgotten- to act as a part of nature, not apart from it.

Except where noted, all of the quotes in this presentation are from the book *Braiding Sweetgrass*. All of the photographs are of activities of Mariposa Trails

This presentation highlights how Mariposa Trails strives to align its actions with this book.

Bill King

February 16, 2022



“I dream of a world guided by a lens of stories rooted in the revelations of science and framed with an indigenous worldview- stories in which matter and spirit are both given voice.”



“One of our responsibilities as human people is to find ways to enter into reciprocity with the more-than-human world. We can do it through gratitude, ceremony, land stewardship, science & art, and in everyday acts of practical reverence.” ●

Mariposa Trails



The emotional & spiritual themes from the book
“Braiding Sweetgrass” by Robin Kimmerer, listed
below, played a significant role in the development of
our Vision Statement.

Ceremony

Belonging/ Connection

Relationship

Gifts

Gratitude

Reciprocity

Responsibility



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.

Ceremony



- “Ceremony is a vehicle for belonging- to a family, to a people, and to the land.”
- “Ceremonies transcend the boundaries of the individual and resonate beyond the human realm. These acts of reverence are powerfully pragmatic. These are ceremonies that magnify life.”
- “Ceremony marries the mundane to the sacred.”

“Ceremony focuses attention so that attention becomes intention. If you stand together and profess a thing before your community, it holds you accountable.”



Belonging/Connection

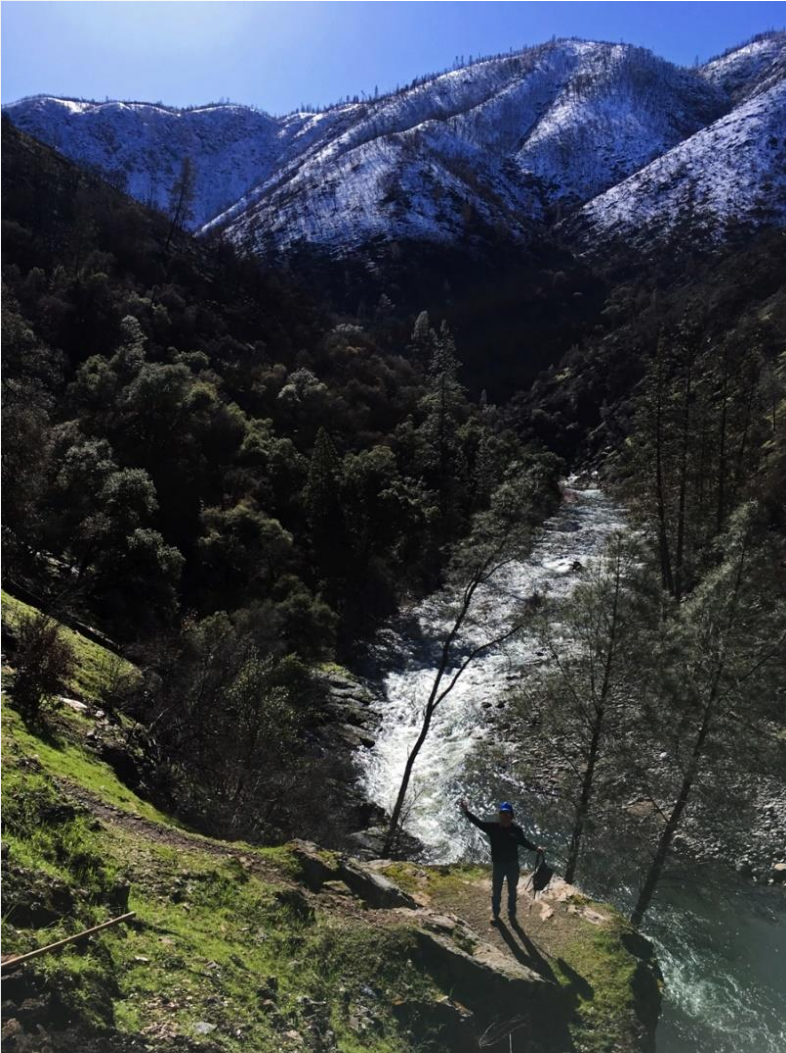


- “Is the land a source of belongings, or a source of belonging?”
- “I wonder if much that ails our society stems from the fact that we have allowed ourselves to be cut off from that love of, and from, the land. It is medicine for broken land and empty hearts”
- “Philosophers call this state of isolation and disconnection “species loneliness” – a deep, unnamed sadness stemming from estrangement from the rest of Creation, from the loss of relationship.”

“Ceremony is a vehicle for belonging- to a family, to a people, and to the land.”



Relationship



- “Cultural survival depends on healthy land and a healthy, responsible relationship between humans and the land.”
- “Restoring land without restoring relationship is an empty exercise.”
- “It’s not just land that is broken, but more importantly, our relationship to land.”

“Because the relationship between self and the world is reciprocal, it is not a question of first getting enlightened or saved and then acting. As we work to heal the earth, the earth heals us.”



Gifts / Gratitude / Reciprocity



- “I’ve heard it said that sometimes, in return for the gifts of the earth, gratitude is enough. But I think we are called to go beyond cultures of gratitude, to once again become cultures of reciprocity.”
- “In a culture of gratitude, everyone knows that gifts will follow the circle of reciprocity and flow back to you again. This time you give and next time you receive.”
- “We are all bound by a covenant of reciprocity: plant breath for animal breath, winter and summer, predator and prey, grass and fire, night and day, living and dying. Water knows this, clouds know this. Soil and rocks know they are dancing in a continuous giveaway of making, unmaking and making again the earth.”

“The circle of ecological compassion we feel is enlarged by direct experience of the living world. In learning reciprocity, the hands can lead the heart.”



Responsibility



- “To carry a gift is also to carry a responsibility”
- “A lot of the time you hear people say that the best thing people can do for nature is to stay away from it and let it be. There are places where that’s absolutely true and our people respected that. But we were also given the responsibility to care for land. What people forget is that that means participating- that the natural world relies on us to do good things.”
- “By using materials as if they were a gift, and returning the gift through worthy use, we find balance.”

“The moral covenant of reciprocity calls us to honor our responsibilities for all we have been given, for all that we have taken.”



Mariposa Trails



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