



Manzanita  
*Arctostaphylos patula*



## Sierra Outpost



Fiddleneck  
*Amsinckia menziesii*

**Program April 14th:**

### “A Conversation with Ranger Shelton Johnson”

You will want to mark your calendars now for Saturday, April 14th from 2:00 -3:30 pm. We have invited Shelton Johnson, a ranger naturalist with Yosemite National Park, to share his story with us. This will be held at the Mariposa Town Park Pavillion, 4998 County Park Road. Please feel free to share this event with your friends, family and neighbors. You will NOT want to miss this one!



—Trish Darcy

*encourage people to look at nature's loveliness, and that is precisely what I'm trying to do for people of color here in the United States who don't have a*

connection to their national parks and wilderness lands. The U.S. is steadily moving toward a much more culturally diverse society so unless ALL Americans feel an emotional, intellectual, and spiritual bond with our natural world, the work of previous generations on behalf of the national park idea will be diminished. As a society, we need to rekindle an indigenous relationship with the earth, and restore a sense of the sacred in all of our dealings with creation.”

Shelton’s words:  
“My objective is basically the same as the conservationist, John Muir. He once wrote words to the effect that he *lived only to*

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#### Program:

### “Ranger Shelton”

**Saturday, April 14**

**2:00-3:30pm**

**County Park**

## Leadership Team



# Mad Hatter Checklist

—Sandi Gabe

The Mad Hatter Teams have been hard at work planning and scheming to bring a one-of-a-kind event to Mariposa. By now you should have received your event

tickets in the mail. Can you help us check any of these things off the list??? Send any updates or responses to Sandi Gabe.

([sandi.gabe@hotmail.com](mailto:sandi.gabe@hotmail.com))

- **Sell your tickets** and let us know you've sold them. We're tracking the number of sales so that we don't oversell the event.
- **Create an experience auction item.** Everyone can contribute! You should receive a call or email from someone on the team encouraging you to submit an idea.
- **Share your popup** for the day. We need seven popups to cover the food and dessert goodies.
- **Volunteer to help set up or clean up.** We have 25 tables to dress. Everything you'll need will be boxed to make setup easy.
- **Join a decorating party.** Watch your email! We need your help making giant mushrooms and table centerpieces. No experience needed.
- **Turn your newspaper** (heavier packaging or butcher paper is better!) into a giant

mushroom. Let Jill Rowney know if you have some to spare.

([jillrowney@yahoo.com](mailto:jillrowney@yahoo.com))

- **Volunteer to make a salad.** We'll put salads together in the Red Bud room at the fairgrounds.



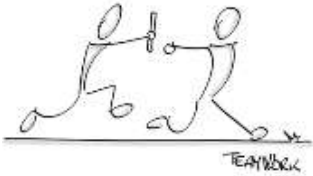
Mushrooms in the making (Anyone have extra butcher or packaging paper? Newspaper is really fragile these days and readily falls apart).



### Ideas for an "Experience" auction item:

- Offer a lesson— painting, crocheting, skiing, cooking technique or other skill you might possess.
- Offer a service— weeding, painting, etc.
- Offer someone else's service that you purchase and donate.
- Offer to cook a meal— have you a specialty ethnic, or other culinary delight?

# Leadership Team



## We NEED you — Still!

—Trish Darcy

Come join a fun group of people helping to make our branch educational and fun! Every spring we put out a plea for help and you all come running to help out! (Yes, I am laughing out loud!). But seriously, we are easy to work with and you can just do what interests you. The following are positions we need to fill each year. Some of us are willing to continue in the position we are in, but if we have someone willing to step up, that is great. Also, If you are willing to be a Co-chair with one of us, that would be great as well. I am president and could use a Co-chair.



- President
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Membership
- Publicity
- Programs



Currently we have no one in Publicity or Programs, so if that interests you let us know.



We know we have many talented members who can help us out with this. Contact one of your Leadership Team if you are interested or just want to ask some questions.

# Events Calendar



## 2024

- April 2-3 **AAUW California Lobby Days**
- April 8 **Leadership Team Meeting:** 4:15pm, Mariposa County Library
- April 9 **SIG—Book Group:** 4:00pm, home of Saralynn Nusbaum
- April 9 **SIG—International Study:** 5:45pm, home of Veronica Gross
- April 14 **Program—Ranger Shelton Johnson:** 2:00pm, Mariposa County Park Pavilion
- April 20 **Coffee and Convos:** 10:00am, Sticks Coffee House
- April 27 **AAUW California Annual Meeting:** 9:00am-12:00 noon, via Zoom
- May 4 **Cinco de Mayo:** 4:00pm, The Grove House
- May 18 **Fundraiser: “Mad Hatter:”** Mariposa County Fairgrounds
- June 2 **Annual Meeting:** 2:00pm, Home of Trish Darcy
- June 22 **Cocktails and Convos:** Details forthcoming



## Program

### Teddy Roosevelt and John Muir's trip comes to life



—Bonnie Little

A nice crowd gathered at the Miner's Roadhouse on Saturday to learn about the historic 1903 visit between President Roosevelt and John Muir. Our presenter was Debra Carter, a retired educator, backpacker, and longtime volunteer at the Fresno Flats Historic Park. Debra has done extensive research on

the meeting between the two men and gave us many facts and humorous antidotes. We learned about their route to get into the park, starting in Raymond with a crowd of 1500 gathered to see the President, to the night they spent near Sentinel Dome sleeping on pine boughs and covered with 40 blankets. Debra also debunked myths about where Teddy Roosevelt stayed during this visit. It was an interesting and informative presentation with great audience participation and questions. Thank you, Debra, for enriching our afternoon!



### Project: Tech Trek

### Interviews show high caliber of candidates

—Trish Darcy

Interviews for Tech Trek were held on Saturday, March 23rd. We interviewed 9 girls. Boy, was it nice to have so many to choose from! It is always such a wonderful day when we hear what these young ladies have to offer us as they grow up. Our future will be in good hands! This year we have selected Grace Hesperheide, Natalie Keyes, Rio Pelote, Aelah Brum, and Brithaney Marquez. The competition was tough and we have very good candidates!

Thank you, again, to Barbara Silva, Dawna Hunter, Rick Uebner, Anne Dochanczyk, and Bonnie Little for helping work with the girls on their applications. More thank-yous to Marti Fazio, Patricia Elka, Beth Waldow, RoseAnn Weinburke, and Kim Monson for scoring the applications. Thanks also to Becky Mock, Liz Darcy, and Sara Robison for volunteering again to conduct the interviews. This program could not survive without everyone's help!

### "Above & Beyond" – Thank you party for Jody & Eric

Eric and Jody Sergienko are moving on. They have contributed to our community in so many ways. You are invited to a thank you party in their honor. Let's send them off in grand style. Food and drinks are not included.

**When: Friday April 5<sup>th</sup>**

**Where: The Grove House : 5 to 7**

Questions: Call Kris Casto 209-810-7154

# Program

## Encouraging neighborhoods to work together to discourage wildfires

—Jody Sergienko

On March 14th at the Board of Supervisors room, AAUW and CalFire hosted a "Firewise Community" program. About 30 people both from our branch and community attended in person with a few more viewing the Facebook live video.



John Patton of Mariposa County Fire (pictured right) was our presenter. Other local resources were present to provide additional information and field questions:

- Mariposa County Resource Conservation District that has grants for home hardening.
- Mariposa Fire Safe Counsel and their brushing and chipping program.
- Yosemite Gateway Prescribed Burn Cooperative, will help you broadcast burn acreage

on your property to cut down burn risky vegetation.

- With that was our local Happy Goat grazing herd, and the head shepherdess who brought us a more organic option.

We have a few Firewise Communities here in the county but not enough! The leader of the Greeley Hill Firewise community

spoke about how they started their group and the benefits it has brought them.

As well as taking a community to a higher level of preparedness, a Firewise Community focuses on the Calfire safe zones and home hardening that decrease the risk of flying embers igniting areas of your home .

For more information contact John Patton at [JPatton@mariposacounty.org](mailto:JPatton@mariposacounty.org) .



**FIREWISE USA**  
RESIDENTS REDUCING WILDFIRE RISKS

# Membership

Bonnie Little, Dina Lambert



## Member Corner: Idea exchange

—Bonnie Little

*Our members share what we have found enlightening and entertaining*



Trish Darcy recommends **Mudbound** on Netflix. She said that the program is very good. Trish describes it as “heavy, but extremely well-done”

Set in the rural American South during World War II, Dee Rees' Mud-

bound is an epic story of two families pitted against one another by a ruthless social hierarchy, yet bound together by the shared farmland of the Mississippi Delta. Mudbound follows the McAllan family, newly transplanted from the quiet civility of Memphis and unprepared for the harsh demands of farming. Despite the grandiose dreams her husband, Henry, Laura struggles to keep the faith in his losing ventures. Meanwhile, Hap and

Florence Jackson, sharecroppers who have worked the land for generations, struggle bravely to build a small dream of their own despite the rigidly enforced social barriers they face. The war upends both families' plans as their returning loved ones, Jamie McAllan and Ronsel Jackson, forge a fast but uneasy friendship that challenges the brutal realities of the Jim Crow South in which they live.

**Mariposa Native Plants**

www.MariposaNativePlants.com  
 MariposaNativePlants@gmail.com  
 209-742-1540 Ron & Beverley

*See our website for plant availability*

# AAUW California



## Connect to the *California Connection*

Did you read your “California Connection?” It is a witty outline of what is happening at the state level in an entertaining, personal fashion. And it is written by our own Dawn Johnson! Click [here](#) if you missed it!

We Provide Opportunities for Women to Reach Full Potential

SIG Overview

# Special Interest Groups (SIGs)

### International Study Veronica Gross



Learn about a country, a culture, and a people. We study one country each year and meet monthly.

### Book Group Saralynn Nusbaum



This group meets monthly to discuss both fiction and non-fiction books members chose to read the previous month.

### Play Reading Group Dawn Johnson



“The play’s the thing!” meets monthly to do cold readings of various plays that are shared by several California branches.

### Hiking Group Becky Mock



The hiking group meets monthly to enjoy each other’s company while hiking new trails in and around Mariposa and Yosemite.



**Does something else tweak your interest? Consider coordinating a new SIG!**

### Wine Tasting Anne Dolchanczyk



The Corks and Forks Wine group meets monthly to experience different types of wines and enjoy them with appetizers and meals paired to complement the varietal being tasted.





### SIG: Book

Contact [Saralynn Nusbaum](#)

Our next meeting will be on **Tuesday, April 9, at 4:00 pm** at the home of Sara Lynn Nusbaum

We will be discussing:  
***The Alice Network***  
By Kate Quinn

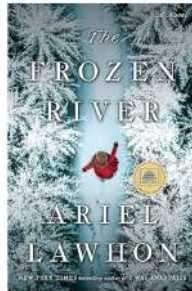


### *The Frozen River*

By Ariel Lawhon

Discussion notes by

Anne Dolchanczyk



The book group had a good discussion about ***The Frozen River*** by Ariel Lawhon. The story is based on the life of a midwife, Martha Ballard, in what is now the state of Maine, just after the Revolutionary War. During her lifetime, Martha Ballard delivered almost 1,000 babies. She kept a diary, noting mostly

births, deaths, and the weather. It is truly remarkable that her diary existed at all since at that time very few women could read or write.

Although many characters and events in the book were real, the main plot involving a murder is fictional. This story is beautifully written and gripping. Everyone enjoyed the book and would recommend it to others. Read it. You won't be disappointed!



### SIG: Wine

Contact [Anne Dolchanczyk](#)

## The Local Grape hosts the wine group

—Anne Dolchanczyk

Thanks to organizer, Mary Ann Dvorak, the wine group gathered on St. Patrick's Day at the Local Grape in downtown Mariposa. It focuses on wines produced in the Sierra Foothills and we were able to sample a nice variety of reds and whites. Also available



were their charcuterie boards with a good choice of cheese, crackers, and fruits.

We had several non-members join us. Suzette Prue



introduced us to the new COO and CFO at the hospital. We told them about AAUW and invited them to our June membership meeting. Hopefully, we piqued their interest!





## SIG: Play Reading

Contact [Dawn Johnson](#)

### *A Dog's Life*

—Dawn Johnson

The Play Group gathered on short notice to read *Sylvia* a 1995 comedy by A. R. Gurney. Sylvia is the name of the main character, who is, yes, a dog. With speaking lines! It's a strange tale of a love triangle between an aging and disillusioned man, his "still working and doesn't like dogs" wife, and a mouthy canine that he found in the park. The dog loves the man unconditionally, which he fears

his wife doesn't. The wife cannot figure out where she fits into his new life revolving around walks and grooming visits. Their marriage counselor advised them to "put a bullet between its eyes." Sylvia's lines are hysterical and were read with surprisingly dog-like accuracy. We mourned that the morning's candy bowl didn't have dog biscuits, because they were surely earned.



## SIG: International Study

Contact [Veronica Gross](#)

### *Oaxacan sports— yesterday and today*

—Jill Rowney

On April 19th, the International Study group met at the home of Veronica Gross where Marti Fazio gave a presentation on the sports of Oaxaca. In the time of the Aztecs (who conquered Oaxacan tribes in 1400-1500's — not so very long ago!!) playing a game could be a life or death proposition! Losers of a game were often sacrificed to the gods. Consequently, those people who were conquered in battle and taken as slaves were often put into the contestant role.

Nowadays, native Oaxacans hone their ball skills at a young age and play their games wherever they may gather, in whatever country they may live. They don't, however, charge the loser any more than a bit of derision for lack of skill. All players survive to play another game.

At April's meeting on the 9th, Sue Overstreet will explore the writers of Oaxaca and their literature.



Above: Ball court in Monte Alban. Below: Hoop through which a very heavy ball was to be thrown



## AAUW California— Annual Meeting

Find out what's happening in the hallways of AAUW California at this Zoom event. Visit classrooms to learn about programs and accomplishments. See which star pupils will be honored as Equity Champion, State Named Gift Honoree, and Branch Activity of the Year

winners. View the winning Speech Trek and Gov Trek student videos. Play our pop quiz game. Plan on choosing an elective for extra study in breakout chat sessions with state leaders. Register [HERE](#) for a hall pass.



AAUW - Mariposa Branch  
**Leadership Team Planning Meeting Minutes**

March 4, 2024  
 Mariposa Library  
 4:15 pm

**Members:**

- Dina Lambert, Finance Officer/Co-Membership: Present
- Bonnie Little, Co-Membership: Absent
- Becky Mock, Recording Secretary: Present
- Trish Darcy, President/Tech Trek: Present
- Kim Monson, Member at Large: Present
- Jody Sergienko, Member at Large: Absent
- Liz Darcy, Member at Large: Present
- Anne Dolchanczyk, Member at Large: Present

**The Meeting was called to order at 4:20 p.m.**

**Minutes** (*Becky Mock*)

February meeting minutes- were approved by email.

**Membership Update** (*Dina Lambert, Bonnie Little*)

- Sue Overstreet is a returning member
- Emily Meriam has joined
- Total membership: 73

**Finance Report** (*Dina Lambert*)

- Google price going up
- Total Income: \$237.00; Total Expenses: \$235.50; Ending Balance: \$6,612.75
- Finance report approved: Trish moved, Anne seconded, approved unanimously

**Standing Projects:**

- Backpack (*Kim Monson & Rebecca Swisher*)  
 Done for now
- Tech Trek (*Trish Darcy*)
  - Tech connect funds will be transferred to Tech Trek
  - 12 applications received, currently being scored
  - Interviews will be March 23rd, at the Library
- STEMEd (*Trish Darcy*)  
 1 student registered, but then did not follow through. We will reintroduce in the fall.

**Fundraisers:**

- Yard Sale Replacement
  - Ideas: Table decorating event; Scavenger hunt; Trivia night; Bingo night

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We Send Girls to Science/Math Camp

(Continued from page 10)

- Mad Hatter-May 18, 2024
  - Sandi looking for experience donations to auction, be sure to let her know what you are planning
  - Costumes – Please participate. Amazon has many Alice-in-Wonderland themed costumes
  - Noted that Senior Center now allows alcohol to be served and rent is inexpensive

#### **Programs:**

- Firewise Community (*Jody Sergienko*)
  - March 14th Board of Supervisors 5:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m.
- Teddy Roosevelt and John Muir in Yosemite (*Bonnie Little*)
  - March 23rd Miner's Inn 2:00-4:00
- A Conversation with Ranger Shelton Johnson (*Trish Darcy*)
  - April 14th the Park Pavillion 2:00-4:00

#### **Old Business:**

- Cocktails and Convos-June 22nd 4:00 The Alley
- Coffee and Convos-April 20th 10:00 Sticks
- Programs for this year:
- Mar. 23rd-Teddy Roosevelt and John Muir in Yosemite
- Mar. 14th-Fire Wise Community
- Apr. 14th A Conversation with Ranger Shelton Johnson
- Apr. 20th Coffee and Convos 10:00 at Sticks
- May 4th-Cinco de Mayo/May the Fourth be with You at The Grove House
- June 2nd-Annual Meeting -2:00 pm at Trish Darcy's
- June 22nd-Coctails and Convos 4:00 at The Alley
- July-Movie in Oakhurst

#### **New Business:**

- Nominations
  - Liz will work with Bonnie on membership
  - Becky will continue as secretary
  - Jill Rowney has expressed interest in Treasurer
  - Trish may stay as president, does anyone want to "share" to position?
  - Need someone to do programs and publicity
- Mentor Program- (Anne/Trish)
  - This is a very positive activity that really helps the students, and there are many students who can use mentoring.
  - Anne is willing to put together a plan and head up the effort
- AAUW CA Annual Meeting-April 27th
  - Meeting will be online this year again

(Continued on page 12)



(Continued from page 11)

**Member Profile:** (Kim Monson)

Kim did an excellent job on Dina’s profile  
Kim will work on the next profile

**Branch Buzz:**

Trish will do this.

**Action Items**

**Upcoming Dates:**

- Next meeting at Mariposa Library, Monday, April 8, 2024 at 4:15 p.m. (No April Fools!)
- Firewise Community-March 14th
- Teddy Roosevelt-March 23rd
- Shelton Johnson-April 14th
- Coffee and Convos-April 20th
- Cinco de Mayo/May the 4th be with You-May 4th
- Annual Meeting-June 2nd
- Cocktails and Convos-June 22nd

**The meeting was adjourned**

AAUW- Mariposa: <a href="http://www.aauwmariposa.com">www.aauwmariposa.com</a>		Project Chairs/Coordinators	
Facebook: <a href="https://www.facebook.com/aauwmariposa">https://www.facebook.com/aauwmariposa</a>		Back Pack Project	<a href="#">Kim Monson &amp; Rebecca Swisher</a>
Instagram: AAUW_Mariposa		Fundraising	<a href="#">Sandi Gabe</a>
Leadership Team: 2023-2024		Good Will Ambassador	<a href="#">Anne Dolchanczyk</a>
<a href="#">Trish Darcy</a>	President	Newsletter Editor	<a href="#">Jill Rowney</a>
<a href="#">Dina Lambert</a>	Finance	Publicity	<a href="#">open</a>
<a href="#">Bonnie Little</a>	Co-Membership	Social Media	<a href="#">Dina Lambert</a>
<a href="#">Dina Lambert</a>	Co-Membership	Tech Connect	<a href="#">Kim Monson &amp; Rebecca Swisher</a>
<a href="#">Becky Mock</a>	Recording Secretary	Tech Trek	<a href="#">Trish Darcy &amp; Barbara Silva</a>
<a href="#">Liz Darcy</a>	Team Member	Website	<a href="#">Dina Lambert</a>
<a href="#">Anne Dolchanczyk</a>	Team Member	Yardsale	<a href="#">Bonnie Little &amp; Micki Finney</a>
<a href="#">Kim Monson</a>	Team Member		
<a href="#">Jody Sergienko</a>	Team Member		
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We Provide Opportunities for Women to Reach Full Potential