

Summer/Fall 2022

# Watershed Connections

*Delivering News to the Carson River Watershed Community*







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## OUR NEW OFFICE

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*CWSD works to promote cooperative action  
with communities to protect the  
Carson River Watershed.*

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Environmental Protection.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Nevada State Parks

[parks.nv.gov/events](https://parks.nv.gov/events)

### Carson City Open Space

[Parks, Recreation, and Open Space | Carson City](#)

### Muscle Powered

[Events Calendar | Muscle Powered](#)

### Carson Valley Trails Association

[Events Calendar | CVTA](#)

### Alpine Watershed Group

West Fork Carson River  
Fuels Reduction, Aspen, and Meadow Restoration Project Tour  
July 12, 5:30-7:30 PM

### Markleeville Creek Day

September 17, 9 AM  
[Events Calendar | Alpine Watershed Group](#)

### Friends of Hope Valley

[Events Calendar | Friends of Hope Valley](#)



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## Promoting Pollinators in Carson City

*By Lyndsey Boyer, Open Space Manager and Bee City USA #76 City Liaison  
Carson City Parks, Recreation & Open Space*

June is Pollinator Month, but we shouldn't wait until June each year to think about the importance of pollinators in our lives, and the benefits they provide to our food chain and ecosystems. Pollinators like bees, butterflies, bats, beetles, and birds (oh my!) are critical to our way of life as they are responsible for 1 out of every 3 bites of food we eat – think about a world without fruits, coffee, avocados, nuts, chocolate, tomatoes, vanilla beans, or even sugarcane. Without pollination services, humans would have a very dull diet. Culinary opportunities aside, pollinators are also responsible for maintaining our natural environment by helping flowering plants reproduce. By ensuring plants, especially native plants, can produce seed – pollinators are helping maintain healthy ecosystems, reduce soil erosion, and increase carbon sequestration. Collectively these benefits are felt even at the watershed level. The health of our rivers, lakes and streams depends on healthy vegetation to stabilize the banks, provide habitat for wildlife, and maintain water temperatures for fish and aquatic creatures. Much of this healthy vegetation is maintained through pollination services. Pollinators truly are the very foundation for maintaining the functionality of our environment.

Recognizing the enumerable benefits pollinators provide, Carson City became a Bee City USA in 2018 – the 76<sup>th</sup> in the nation and the 1<sup>st</sup> in Nevada. Through this designation, Carson City pledged to

preserve pollinators throughout our community, through a combination of public education and habitat creation. As you plan for your garden this year, think about ways you can support pollinators throughout the season. Consider planting a small pollinator garden or [tapestry lawn](#) (a lawn with no grass component), leave dandelions in the spring as they are the first food source for bees, remove weeds by hand before turning to herbicides, or try organic, pollinator safe alternatives, place shallow dishes of water (with rocks for safe access) as a water source, and in the fall leave some leaf material behind to provide nesting habitat. These small changes can have big impacts for our pollinators! For more information on how you can further protect pollinators, please see our resources and Pollinator Plant List at [carson.org/beecityusa](http://carson.org/beecityusa).



Still from "Promote Pollinators", CWSD's Watershed Moment PSA for June



## Recreation in the Watershed

By Juan Guzman, Director at Large, Carson Valley Trails Association

Chelsea Kincheloe, President, Muscle Powered

Below are updates from two of the watershed's most stalwart recreational aficionados:

**Carson Valley Trails Association and Muscle Powered!**

### Carson Valley Trails Association

#### DUANE PETITE IS CVTA'S FIRST EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR!

Given his decades of service to the Carson Valley, many of you may already know Duane and his wife Pam. Their family moved to the Gardnerville area in 1981 planning to enjoy every free moment on foot, on horseback or on mountain bikes exploring the public lands surrounding the Carson Valley. Within a few years they found access to the public lands diminishing as real estate development was accelerating. This new reality is what led Duane to his work with the USFS, The Nature Conservancy and CVTA.

Over the years, Duane has volunteered with CVTA building trails, recruiting corporate volunteers and organizing events. More recently, his volunteering has evolved to include workshop facilitation and advising the Board on their membership program and fundraising efforts. Now, as CVTA's first ever

Executive Director, Duane is energized by this new opportunity to work closely with our members, volunteers, donors and directors as well as community partners, agency representatives, private landowners, elected officials and tribal leaders. Duane can be contacted at:

[duane@carsonvalleytrails.org](mailto:duane@carsonvalleytrails.org).



#### CVTA ANNUAL MEETING

On May 25, 2022 approximately 90 people attended CVTA's annual meeting, including our newest Board Member at Large and Chief Editor of the CVTA Newsletter, Laura Parks.

Several key messages from CVTA Executive Director Duane Petite were loud and clear: CVTA has exciting opportunities ahead for more trails, more trail connectivity and more varied experiences for trail users. Equally important are upcoming opportunities to influence the update of the Douglas County Comprehensive Trails Plan and to engage with the next generation of trail users. Seizing these opportunities is going to require more muscle, more money and more members. Duane urged everyone to reach out to their friends, neighbors and colleagues and invite them to join CVTA as volunteers, donors or members.

For more information on CVTA events, trail photos and maps or to become a member, visit our website [CarsonValleyTrails.org](http://CarsonValleyTrails.org).

### Muscle Powered

#### TRAIL UPDATES

Our trail volunteers have been hard at work on the Odyssey Trail on Prison Hill. Paul Sinnott, one of our phenomenal crew leads has been guiding our volunteers on building a new section of trail starting at Koontz Ln that will eventually connect to Dead Truck Canyon. This new trail will replace a current existing steep and narrow section of trail with a more gentle trail built to sustainable trail standards.

The Cap to Tahoe build will continue and fingers crossed, be completed in the fall of 2022! Sierra Trail Works will continue with a mechanized build and Muscle Powered volunteers will complete a hand build of 0.9 miles on portion of private property where Muscle Powered has a trail

access agreement with the landowner.

The trail requires two bridges, both of which will be constructed and installed over the summer. Upon completion, Cap to Tahoe will provide a much needed connector from Ash2Kings to the Tahoe Rim Trail. This new 11-mile segment of trail will not only be a critical connector piece from Carson City to the Sierra's but will provide breathtaking views of the Carson Valley. We are always grateful to our project partners, including private landowners,

Sierra Trail Works, State Parks, USFS, Carson City Parks, Recreation and Open Space and our dedicated team of volunteers.

Lincoln ByPass is 'officially' open! On National Trails Day, Muscle Powered in partnership with Carson City Parks, Recreation and Open Space invited partners,



WALK BIKE BUILD

(Continued on page 4)

(Continued from page 3)

who worked hand in hand on the Waterfall trail head improvements and the Lincoln ByPass, to a ribbon cutting ceremony to mark the opening of these projects!

Special thanks go to Chris Martinovich from Public Works, Brian Hanson and Matthew Zumstein from USFS, Carson City Mayor Lori Bagwell, and Mike Drews for his reading of the history of Kings Canyon Road.

Big thanks to Peter Doenges our Trails Coordinator for orchestrating trail crews for brushing and talking about the amount of work and partnerships it takes to build new trail!

For those of you looking for a fun, flowy trail? Lincoln ByPass has got you covered! Bikers, hikers and equine users can either start up the Kings Canyon Road or at the Longview Trailhead. Be prepared for a steep and moderately technical ride up from Longview or enjoy the 1.2 mile ride from the Waterfall trailhead to the top of the trail and enjoy the ride down!

## MAY BIKE MONTH CELEBRATIONS

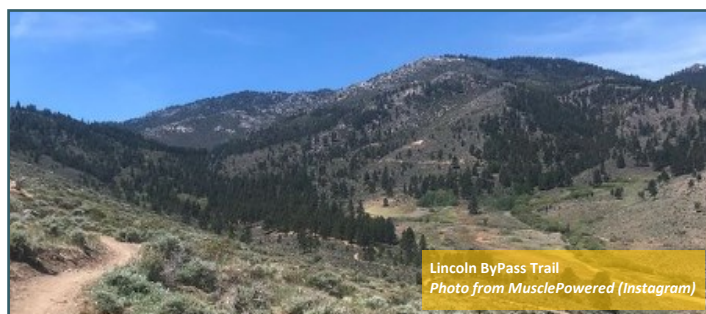
Muscle Powered received a proclamation from the Carson City Board of Supervisors, detailing the benefits of a bicycling community early in May. Some of the events included the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Gear Swap, The Celebrity Ride and an internationally

recognized ride honoring bicyclist who have been struck or killed on roadways. The eastside cruise called for three rides for families and highlighted the new trails constructed by the Carson City Parks, Recreation and Open Space Department in the vicinity of 5th Street and North Prison Hill. It was a great May filled with a special bike activity each week.

Several groups participated in our Bike to Work Week Challenge! A shout out to One Lone Ride (OOR), Carson City Orthodontics and State Public Works.

Thanks to all who helped make our Bike Party 2022 a success!

For more information on trail-building volunteer opportunities or adding your organization to the Bike2Work week challenge for May 2023, email [info@musclepowered.org](mailto:info@musclepowered.org).



Lincoln ByPass Trail  
Photo from MusclePowered (Instagram)

## CWSD Board Member Spotlight

*By Martina Schambra, CWSD Watershed Technician, AmeriCorps*

*Jim Hindle & Cassi Uhart, CWSD Board of Directors*

There have been a few new faces on CWSD's Board of Directors these last few months! Below we will spotlight two of our new members, all of whom are dedicated to the health of the Carson River Watershed.



In 2021, Storey County officially became part of the CWSD Board of Directors! Our first Director from Storey County is **Jim Hindle**, and we are happy to have him aboard.

*Jim is a resident of Virginia City in Storey County and values the beauty and quality of life unique to rural Nevada. Jim has been on the Storey County Planning Commission since 2014, the last 4 years*

*as its Chair. Jim is also Vice President of the Nevada State Association of Parliamentarians and is a former Communications Chair for the National Association of Parliamentarians. In addition to holding an M.B.A. in Marketing and Financial Management from Washington University in St. Louis, MO, Jim has a B.A. in Biology from Lawrence University in Appleton, WI.*

Along with Jim, we are also welcoming **Cassi Uhart**, our new Director from Douglas County. We will let her introduce herself!

*My name is Cassi Uhart and I am a fifth generation rancher in the Carson Valley. I received my Bachelor's in Animal Science from Colorado State University. I am excited to be on the board of the Carson Water Subconservancy District as an advocate for the present and future farmers and ranchers of this beautiful valley I am blessed to call Home.*



CWSD is excited to work with Jim and Cassi going forward, and we cannot wait to see the good they will do for our Watershed!





## Watershed Warriors: Regenerative Ag with Joe Frey

By Kaylee Maples & Martina Schambra, CWSD Watershed Technicians, AmeriCorps

After much blood, sweat, and coordination, the Carson Water Subconservancy District (CWSD) is launching the **Carson River Coalition Agriculture Working Group**, as a follow-up to our 2021 Watershed Wednesday Climate Change Forum that focused on regenerative agriculture and the benefits of soil health to water quality and our climate. Establishing this working group involves direct outreach to the Carson River Watershed's farming and ranching community to facilitate conversation and cooperation regarding soil health best management practices and how this relates to enhancement of water quality and overall watershed health.

Many of these types of conservation practices, most recently coined regenerative agricultural management, have been championed by Soil Conservation Service folks in the Midwest since the Dust Bowl. The "new" part of these practices is harnessing the holistic and sustainable benefits that ensue once the practices are implemented on the ground. As we learned during the Watershed Wednesday talks, we have local ranchers and farmers implementing these practices right here in the Carson River Watershed. Recently, CWSD spoke with **Joe Frey**, a Fallon native with a passion for agriculture spanning over two decades, about his use of regenerative agricultural practices to improve the health of his soil and the quality of his fields' water runoff.

Joe began his work in ranching and farming when he was 18 years old, with a focus on corn, alfalfa, and various cover crops. He quickly learned that the traditional methods he had been taught were simply not conducive for maintaining the health of his soil. With that realization, he set off on researching alternative agricultural methods to boost his soil's health.

Through a three-day grass-fed beef and cattle raising course in Idaho with [Understanding Ag](#), an organization focused on promoting regenerative agriculture, Joe learned about sustainable practices and

how they could benefit his property. He began by protecting and enhancing the riparian areas along the river flowing through his property, which helped to keep his soil moist and improved his water runoff. His practices evolved to include limiting tillage, introducing more cover crops, intensive grazing, and reducing his pesticide use.



Site Tour with Joe Frey, shovel in hand, Fallon, NV  
Photo by Brenda Hunt

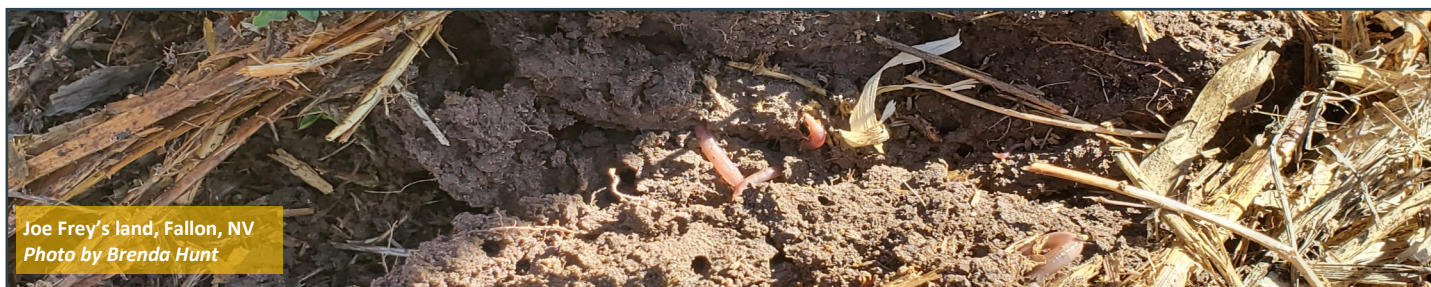
While he admits there have been some yield loss, it is balanced out by the reduced inputs (less pesticides, labor, etc.) needed on his property and the newfound health of his land- which he now affectionately calls his "worm farm." Of the regenerative ag practices he has incorporated into his work, transitioning to no-till farming and roller crimping has made the largest impacts on his overall soil health by increasing water

filtration and water-holding capacity- an obvious boon in the dry climate of Northern Nevada.

Joe is successfully implementing regenerative practices on his lands, but is always striving to improve his craft. Currently, he is working with *Uplifting the Voice of the Ecosystem* (UVE), a regional hub of the [Savory](#) network focusing on localized holistic land stewardship education and land monitoring, and University of Nevada Cooperative Extension.

With his dedication to better land management practices, Joe is a shining example of regenerative agriculture in the Carson River Watershed. He is excited to share his knowledge and encourage more farmers and ranchers in the watershed to embrace regenerative ag practices. For those interested in beginning their journey into regenerative agriculture, Joe advises that step one be transitioning to no-till or minimum tillage practices due to some of the benefits described above. As Joe says in reference to this shift in management practices: "It's a long-term game more than a short-term game."

If you are interested in joining the Carson River Coalition's Ag Working Group, contact [Brenda@cwdsd.org](mailto:Brenda@cwdsd.org). Kickoff meeting proposed for October '22.



Joe Frey's land, Fallon, NV  
Photo by Brenda Hunt



## River Wranglers: The Current Currents

*By Rebecca Feldermann, Executive Director, River Wranglers*

**T**his spring River Wranglers has been busy working with schools throughout the watershed. Traveling from Douglas County to Carson City, and Lyon to Churchill County—if you were down at the river, you probably saw us there! From March to May, River Wranglers worked with 10 schools in the watershed at five locations on the river and provided outreach at four community events.

The month of March was focused on our Trout in the Classroom (TIC) program. The TIC program is an environmental education program in which students raise trout from eggs to fry and release them at the swim up stage. The students monitor water quality, engage in stream habitat study, and learn to appreciate water resources.



Photo Courtesy of River Wranglers

Our work in April and May included a STEM Night event, the Paiute-Shoshone Tribe Earth Day event, in-classroom workday presentations, trainings, and wrap-ups, a Flood Awareness event, and multiple Conserve the Carson River workdays.

The four workdays that were held this spring took place at various locations along the river: Venturacci Ranch in Fallon, Rambling River Ranches in Fallon, East Silver Saddle Ranch in

Carson City, and River Fork Ranch in Genoa. These workdays involved two high schools and four elementary schools with a total of 514 students! Over the course of a workday, interactive stations were set up at the river including nonpoint source pollution, mapping the watershed, how the water cycle works, observing nature, wrapping trees to protect them from beaver damage, animal adaptations, picking up trash at the river, a demonstration with an interactive watershed model, and learning about animals of the watershed.

We look forward to the upcoming summer events throughout the watershed and hope to see you there!

River Wranglers would like to thank our partners who help make these events happen!

For more information, visit [www.riverwranglers.org](http://www.riverwranglers.org). If you would like more information about River Wranglers please contact Rebecca Feldermann at 775.386.2743 or at [rebecca@riverwranglers.org](mailto:rebecca@riverwranglers.org).



Photo Courtesy of River Wranglers



Hi! My name is Rebecca Feldermann. I am the new Executive Director of River Wranglers.

### ***I love***

the outdoors, especially the desert and Pacific Northwest.

### ***I live***

in Dayton with my husband James and our dog, Larry.

### ***I know***

a lot about youth, having spent my career devoted to children in various capacities.

### ***I hope***

to create meaningful and impactful interactions with youth of the Carson River watershed.

### ***I like***

hiking, reading, board games, and traveling to new and beautiful places.

### ***I enjoy***

giving students the opportunity to see their watershed up close and learn just how important stewardship is to the environment and the water.





## The AmeriCorner

*By Martina Schambra, CWSD Watershed Technician, AmeriCorps*



**H**ello! My name is Martina, and I am the new AmeriCorps member working with Carson Water Subconservancy District (CWSD) as their Watershed Technician! I have only been on the team a few months, but I have already learned so much about the Carson River Watershed and the communities that depend on it. It's an honor being able to assist with the good work being done here at CWSD!

I grew up in a small town in Southern California and moved to the Carson City area only a few years ago. While it was certainly an adjustment, I am happy to be here and helping my new community! Previous to my joining CWSD, I worked at the Heavenly Ski Resort in South Lake Tahoe. I hope that my experience with the snowpack up top can inform my new working relationship with the snow melt down below.

While I am only in my position for the duration of the summer, I hope to make the most of it. I look forward to working with the good people of the watershed (and beyond!) and taking this experience with me when I head back to the University of Nevada, Reno in the fall! Happy trails!

## What Will Be Your Watershed Moment?



BAG IT



USE A CAR WASH



RECREATE RESPONSIBLY



TAKE THE PLEDGE!



RECYCLE MOTOR OIL



MAKE YOUR YARD  
A SPONGE



PROMOTE POLLINATORS



FOSTER HEALTHY SOIL



PITCH IN



EXPLORE YOUR  
WATERSHED



ENGAGE IN YOUR  
WATERSHED



STOP INVASIVE SPECIES  
IN YOUR TRACKS