

VOLUNTEER NOTES

Remembering Veterans

In preparation for a full military honors funeral, MarinShares volunteer Veterans Remains Officer **James Cook** and fellow vets will escort the cremated remains of several U.S. veterans from Mt. Tamalpais Mortuary to Sacramento Valley National Cemetery in Dixon, the national cemetery closest to Marin.

The public is invited to a transfer ceremony at 10:45 a.m. Thursday, March 17, at the Marin Civic Center campus near the military memorial statues, Avenue of the Flags, San Rafael.

After that, the escort group will proceed to the national cemetery, where the remains will be held until the funeral, which is planned for Thursday, April 21, at 1:00 p.m.

James' county volunteer supervisor, Marin Veterans Service Officer **Sean Stephens**, is among the officials scheduled to participate.

The effort is part of the Missing in America Project, which locates and properly lays to rest the previously unclaimed remains of United States military veterans.

Volunteer Plans Digital Access Across Marin

By Scott Harrop

Internships and volunteer roles can lead to public service positions and interesting projects that help the community. MarinShares volunteer **Rebecca Woodbury**'s career began this way.

After a college internship with the City of San Rafael, she was hired and took on increasing responsibilities over 10-plus years, culminating as San Rafael's director of Digital Service and Open Government. She helped shape the Digital Marin Strategic Plan, working alongside Marin County Information Services and Technology (IST) Director **Liza Massey** and other leaders.

Then, planning a big personal move, Rebecca left her job with the city, but "I couldn't bear to leave Liza and the project." The solution: become a MarinShares: County of Marin volunteer. Her volunteer title is Digital Marin co-chair. Liza is the other co-chair.

"The Digital Marin Strategic Plan is a roadmap to move us from where we are today to a better digital future," said

Rebecca. "This initiative envisions a future where everyone in Marin has access to universally available, affordable, reliable, resilient, and safe internet. They have the devices, support, and literacy to take part in the world."



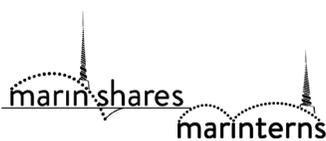
Rebecca Woodbury

PHOTO BY CHRISTINE FOSTER

Digital infrastructure is a complex topic, addressing the digital divide, digital literacy, and physical infrastructure. The initial stages of the project focused on identifying the needs of government and other service organizations, such as nonprofits, health, and education groups.

To identify how well these are positioned, Rebecca and fellow executive steering committee members supported

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Get Outside! Marintern Committed to the Great Redwood Trail

By Maddie Dabbah

Eager to make change, Bay Area native **Meredith Foster** is an avid participant in the fight for climate conservation.

A junior at St. Ignatius College Preparatory in San Francisco, she has been a Marintern with the Great Redwood Trail (GRT) since last June.

Projected to reach over 300 miles, the GRT will link California's iconic San Francisco and Humboldt bays. What was once a decaying railroad is

becoming an exceptional trail for hikers, bikers, and outdoor enthusiasts.

Meredith has been doing much heavy lifting by getting the word out about the GRT initiative. At just 17, Meredith is skilled with communications. Helping to support GRT social media, editing its website, and connecting with partners up the coast are only part of what she does. Though Meredith considers her role to be "behind the scenes," it has made a visible impact.

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Volunteer Plans Digital Access Across Marin

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47 community workshops, interviews, and focus groups—plus 12 surveys. The result was “2,000 to 3,000 touchpoints” from all over Marin, she said.

In addition, a few residents with expertise offered research and analysis. “Government doesn’t always have all of the expertise in-house, and it is a testament to Liza and the county that they listened and valued these contributions,” Rebecca said. Rounding out the community effort, public and private high school students and Boy Scouts helped with surveys and more.

It quickly became apparent to Rebecca that Marin was underinvested in digital infrastructure. Perhaps surprisingly, she explained, this was not always divided along socioeconomic lines: even some affluent neighborhoods are underserved. Local organizations operate a variety of older, legacy systems, each with its own tech staff, mission, and technology. Part of the challenge is how to integrate all of these in a comprehensive strategy. “Starting from scratch would be easier,” Rebecca said.

It became clear that buy-in was needed to execute the plan. The initiative

evolved into cross-sector partnerships. Each community now has its own outreach committee. “It’s more than just an infrastructure plan,” she said.

Splitting time between her Sausalito apartment and a home in Sweden with her life partner, Rebecca has volunteered 275 hours so far. Serving remotely has been “a bright spot during the pandemic.”

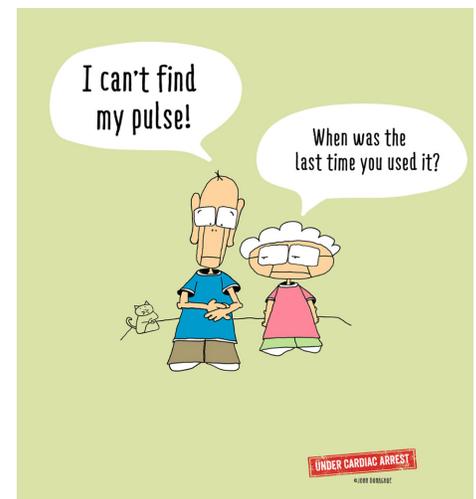
Another plus: The Marin County Board of Supervisors adopted the Digital Marin Strategic Plan on February 1. “It’s a comprehensive view of how to function in the digital age,” Rebecca says of the plan.

A key element is integrating government with the tech environment. This requires finding alignment among competing stakeholders. The next step toward implementation is to access state and federal funding.

Rebecca, a Santa Rosa native, will continue volunteering with Digital Marin after moving permanently to Sweden next year. For now, having two locations allows comparison: “My internet connection in rural Sweden is better than my connection in Sausalito—incredibly faster and cheaper,” she reports.

“We were astounded when Rebecca left her position with the City of San Rafael and announced she was moving to Sweden,” said Advanced Systems Engineer **Jeff Daniel**, her volunteer supervisor in the IST Department. “We thought for sure we were going to lose our number-one volunteer—but no. Rebecca is committed to improving the lives of the digitally disadvantaged in Marin and wants to see our project through no matter what time zone she is in.”

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CARTOON BY JOHN DONAGHUE

Get Outside! Marintern Committed to the Great Redwood Trail

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PHOTO COURTESY OF MEREDITH FOSTER

Meredith Foster

“Meredith’s communications work is building public awareness and support for the GRT now, while laying the groundwork to solicit future

participation in community planning and volunteer opportunities,” said **Kevin Wright**, a principal planner for Marin County Parks.

Much of Meredith’s assignment is done electronically, making her internship viable during the pandemic. She continues to develop the GRT’s website and Twitter and Instagram accounts, accumulating hundreds of followers and viewers. Users find updates on the trail’s progress, partnerships with campaigns such as #LeaveNoTrace, and information on the Great Redwood Trail Alliance, a separate group that supports the project. Meredith also helps collect revenue for the GRT and local businesses that run along its boundaries.

“Her initiative and determination... add value to the project,” said **Gustavo Goncalves**, board aide to Supervisor **Damon Connolly** of District 1 and the staff supervisor of Meredith’s internship.

Meredith is also a member of the Corte Madera Climate Action Committee, an organization endorsed by the town council.

Balancing school, extracurricular activities, and an internship is not easy. But Meredith’s continued efforts reveal her love for climate conservation and recreation.

When asked what prompted her to intern with the trail, Meredith said that “It stood out as a transformational project. It’s a small part of a big effort, and it takes a lot of work to make good things like this happen. I wanted to be involved.”

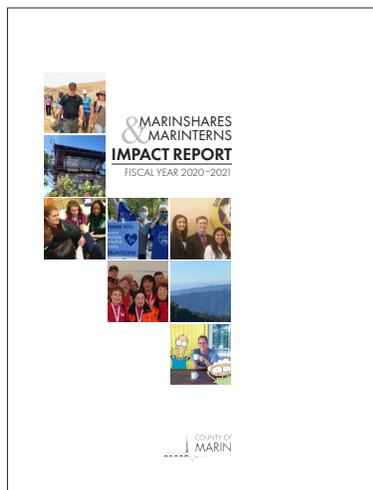
VOLUNTEERS AND INTERNS MAKE AN IMPACT!

The numbers are in for fiscal year 2020-2021. Pandemic conditions created limits, yet 3,400-plus MarinShares volunteers and unpaid Marinterns served over 180,000 hours in County of Marin departments during the fiscal year.

Although average participation declined, the Marin Medical Reserve Corps in the Health and Human Services Department nearly quadrupled in size as volunteers and interns with medical experience wholeheartedly supported the county's pandemic response.

Another bright spot in the recently published [MarinShares & Marinterns Impact Report](#): the number of paid interns rose by 51% and their hours increased by 14%.

Look for your department's record in the report. For highlights of volunteer and intern involvement, see the back page.




DESIGN BY ELEANOR LAU

Happy Anniversary

We congratulate these volunteers who celebrate their anniversaries this month and thank them for their ongoing involvement.

25 YEARS

Mary Bowles (Tiburon), **Roger Felton** (Belvedere), **Helen Lindqvist** (Tiburon), **Rosine Reynolds** (Larkspur), Stewards, Marin County Parks (Parks)

23 YEARS

Mark Nordquist (Petaluma), Air Patrol Volunteer, Marin County Sheriff's Office (MCSO)

21 YEARS

Al Baumann (Petaluma), **James Malaspina** (Palm Springs), Patrol Volunteers, Parks

16 YEARS

Nora Martinis (Corte Madera), Senior Peer Counselor, Health & Human Services (HHS)

15 YEARS

Robert Eichstaedt (Larkspur), Marin Search & Rescue Volunteer, MCSO

13 YEARS

Cara Wasden (Petaluma), Lifelong Learning Reader, Novato Library

11 YEARS

Kathryn Mitchell-Ball (San Rafael), Senior Peer Counselor, HHS

9 YEARS

Susan Buster (San Rafael), Shelver, Fairfax Library

8 YEARS

Curt Simon (San Rafael), Marin Search & Rescue Volunteer, MCSO

7 YEARS

Al Baumann (Petaluma), Steward, Parks
Robert Rowlands (Mill Valley), **Thomas Strada** (San Rafael), Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service/Auxiliary Communications Service (RACES/ACS) Volunteers, MCSO

6 YEARS

Jerry Kay (Novato), **Stephen Sarhad** (San Rafael), RACES/ACS Volunteers, MCSO
Earl McCowen (Novato), **Marty McCowen** (Novato), Patrol Volunteers, Parks

5 YEARS

Nicholas Koo (El Sobrante), **Chris Patella** (San Francisco), **Michael Synyard** (Berkeley), **Adam Vasquez** (Larkspur), Marin Search & Rescue Volunteers, MCSO
Sydney Lundquist (Dublin), **Dalynn McEwen** (Novato), Marin Search & Rescue Youth Volunteers, MCSO

4 YEARS

Rose Lupo (San Rafael), Corte Madera Creek Cleanup Volunteer, Parks

3 YEARS

Christopher Cuyler (San Rafael), **Toby Fray** (San Rafael), **Maria Malin** (San Rafael), **Michael Webb** (San Rafael), Marin Search & Rescue Volunteers, MCSO
Haydon Jamison (San Rafael), **Kader Kayser** (San Rafael), **Fawn Zech** (San Rafael), Marin Search & Rescue Youth Volunteers, MCSO
Ed Remitz (Larkspur), Writing and Editing Coach, Human Resources

2 YEARS

Casey Addicks (Novato), **Daegan Cutter** (San Anselmo), **Cadence Evans** (Mill Valley), **Solomon Fragakis** (Larkspur), **Luke Tusher** (Belvedere), **Kylie Voelker** (Novato), Marin Search & Rescue Youth Volunteers, MCSO
Troy Evans (Mill Valley), **Brad Hartwig** (San Francisco), **William Kuimelis** (San Anselmo), **Camero Maidenberg** (Oakland), **Emily Morrison** (Novato), **Brian Nishinaga** (San Rafael), **Karen Rehder** (San Rafael), **Maria Robles** (Vallejo), **Max Thompson** (San Rafael), Marin Search & Rescue Volunteers, MCSO
Matt Ford (San Rafael), Veterans Office Administrative Support Volunteer, HHS
Christian Hellwig (Mill Valley), Steward, Parks

1 YEAR

Bob Salter (Novato), Radio Communications Volunteer, Department of Public Works

Who's New & Welcome!

Michael Cann (Mill Valley), Marin Search & Rescue Volunteer, Marin County Sheriff's Office (MCSO)

Ciara Cox (Point Reyes), Marin Search & Rescue Volunteer, MCSO

Ann Cummings (Corte Madera), Restorative Justice Project Volunteer, Probation Department

Declan Ericksen (Kentfield), Marin Search & Rescue Youth Volunteer, MCSO

Daniel Felling (San Rafael), Marin Search & Rescue Volunteer, MCSO

Zadie Foskett (Mill Valley), Marin Search & Rescue Youth Volunteer, MCSO

Michelle Garcilazo (San Anselmo), Law School Intern, Public Defender's Office

Oliver Goldman (Mill Valley), Marin Search & Rescue Youth Volunteer, MCSO

David Grover (Petaluma), Marin Search & Rescue Volunteer, MCSO

Jackson Harrison (San Rafael), Marin Search & Rescue Youth Volunteer, MCSO

Luca Hines (Kentfield), Marin Search & Rescue Youth Volunteer, MCSO

Dennis Hughes (San Francisco), Marin Search & Rescue Volunteer, MCSO

Mac Kayser (Mill Valley), Marin Search & Rescue Youth Volunteer, MCSO

Andromeda Kelly (Mill Valley), Marin Search & Rescue Youth Volunteer, MCSO

Curtiss Kim (San Anselmo), Radio Communications Volunteer, Department of Public Works (Public Works)

Desmond Kim (Mill Valley), Marin Search & Rescue Youth Volunteer, MCSO

David Landa (San Anselmo), Marin Search & Rescue Volunteer, MCSO

Andrew LeBlanc (San Francisco), Radio Communications Volunteer, Public Works

John McConeloug (Fairfax), Marin Search & Rescue Youth Volunteer, MCSO

Nicole McConeloug (Fairfax), Marin Search & Rescue Volunteer, MCSO

Emerson Meadows (Mill Valley), Marin Search & Rescue Youth Volunteer, MCSO

Amanda Mueller (Larkspur), Marin Search & Rescue Youth Volunteer, MCSO

Rahul Narang (Mill Valley), Marin Search & Rescue Volunteer, MCSO

Gregory Olson (Novato), Marin Search & Rescue Volunteer, MCSO

Yasamin Pashmineh Azar (Lincoln), Suicide Prevention Research Intern, Health & Human Services

Aidan Post (Tiburon), Pre-Law Intern, Public Defender's Office

Raul Rodriguez Soto (Novato), Immigration Program Intern, Public Defender's Office

Nick Slanec (San Rafael), Marin Search & Rescue Volunteer, MCSO

Shea Sorcher (Mill Valley), Marin Search & Rescue Youth Volunteer, MCSO

Fred Stemmler (Mill Valley), Marin Search & Rescue Volunteer, MCSO

Zoe Stephens (San Anselmo), Marin Search & Rescue Youth Volunteer, MCSO

Emilia Valdez (Hayward), Literacy Tutor/Reading Buddies Intern, Point Reyes Library

Frank Wang (San Francisco), Marin Search & Rescue Volunteer, MCSO

Kelly Weidner (San Rafael), Marin Search & Rescue Volunteer, MCSO