



Mariposa READ
(Read, Enjoy, And Discover)

Thursday, April 21, 2022 at 7:30 PM
Sunday, April 24, 2022 at 2:30 PM

Mariposa Butterfly Festival

To listen, tune in to KRYZ Radio or log onto www.kryzradio.org
For Transcripts:

- Go to the event on our Facebook Page: Mariposa Adult & Family Literacy
- Go to our website: www.mariposalibrary.org under the Adult Literacy tab, Mariposa READ
- Pick up a print copy from the Adult Literacy cart in front of the Mariposa Library, M-F, 9-4

Mariposa Butterfly Festival

This coming weekend is the Mariposa Butterfly Festival. This festival is the second largest event in Mariposa and people come from all over to join in the fun. For 2022, the days of fun will span from Friday, April 22 to Sunday, April 24. It is said, on the Yosemite Mariposa County Tourism Bureau’s website, that the Butterfly Festival is one of the most family-friendly festivals in California. Mariposa spreads its wings for this celebration when families and friends gather for a weekend of music, art, food, education, equestrians, skydivers, and, of course, butterflies!

“Mariposa” means butterfly in Spanish. In 1806, Gabriel Moraga led a Spanish expedition to our area. After setting up camp near an almost dry riverbed near present-day Mariposa, Moraga’s company was swarmed by butterflies. It is said that there were so many that it nearly blocked out the sun. He then named this place, “Las Mariposas”. During the Butterfly Festival, around 4000 butterflies are released in commemoration of the butterflies that gave Mariposa its name.

The festivities begin in historic downtown Mariposa on Friday from 5-8pm. Merchants will be open, and many will have special offers on their goods and services. Main Street Mariposa is organizing an evening of music, art, and fun drawings. There will be local street musicians and artists along the sidewalks and in some of the shops. There will be a drawing every half hour with gifts from the shop owners.

Saturday morning there will be a parade in downtown along Highway 140. The parades start at 10:00 am. There is a Pet Parade where people signed up to showcase their animals (that must be under 120 pounds) and they are encouraged to put them in costumes and people get to vote on their favorites. Then there is the festival’s main parade. One of the traditions has been for sky divers to land in the street during the parade. It is a spectacular sight. You may also see

floats, bands playing, horses, classic cars and even a giant butterfly or two. You will want to arrive early to pick out a good spot. Some people sit on the sidewalk, others bring chairs. Don't forget a hat and some sunscreen as well.

Some may choose to picnic, but the restaurants in downtown Mariposa will be open and there will be food at the Mariposa Fairgrounds. At the Fairgrounds you will also find vendors with handmade crafts, apparel, vintage and antique collections, jewelry, and more. There will be special vendors for the children as well such as butterfly crafts and a face painter. Many of the artisan vendors are members of Made in Mariposa.

This year there will be an exotic bird and reptile show in one of the fairground buildings and a home & garden show in another, on both Saturday and Sunday. The car show is on Saturday from 11am to 3pm and there will be aerialist performers on Sunday from noon to 3pm. There is a tech center and some rides. On Sunday they are putting up a water slide. There is a wonderful lineup of musicians that will play both on the front lawn of the fairgrounds and on the Amigo Stage. The artists cover many genres of music from rock, country, & pop. Dancing is definitely allowed.

You will not want to miss Habitat Row at the Butterfly Festival. This is an amazing, educational area where you can learn more about the importance of pollinators. Because of cars and environmental factors, the butterfly migration is no longer a sun-blocking cloud of butterflies. Habitat Row teaches about butterfly and other pollinator conservation. There are plant experts and master gardeners in this area to help educate about the plants that butterflies need to live. You will find seeds and plants and demonstrations in this area along with some giant caterpillars that make great photo opportunities and fun for the children.

Perhaps the most iconic portion of the Butterfly Festival is the butterfly release. Caterpillars are taken to local school classrooms and home-schools one month before the Butterfly Festival. They are provided with "Butterfly Pavilions", which are safe enclosures in which the caterpillars will be raised into butterflies. The children watch and learn the process and are taught about the four stages of the life cycle of the butterfly and the importance of preserving our natural environment. During the Festival, children are handed a small piece of orange with a butterfly on it, and they are shown how to carefully hold the orange until the butterfly is ready to fly away. Up to 4000 butterflies are released and they go into nature to pollinate and, hopefully, rebuild the receding butterfly population.

The fun at the Mariposa Fairgrounds will be on Saturday from 10am to 8pm and on Sunday from 10am to 4pm. The cost to enter is \$3 for one ticket or \$5 for two tickets. Children 12 years old and under are free. There will be a special treat on Saturday. KRYZ Radio is doing a live broadcast from 1:10 to 2:10 pm. Folks who do radio shows on KRYZ Radio will be on the Amigo Stage and get to talk about their shows and play some music. Mariposa READ is being given an opportunity to talk about this show, how we are helping literacy learners, and how folks can volunteer with Mariposa Read, Enjoy, And Discover. Be sure to tune in on Saturday, April 23, 2022, at 1:10 in the afternoon to listen, or better yet, we hope to see you at the Mariposa Butterfly Festival.