Mark Twain said a river tells a new story every day. On the Kings River, the next chapter is being written.

The River Rangers program at Reedley College trains a new generation to restore and preserve the Kings, using the mile and a half stretch that flows along the campus as their laboratory.

Supported by a $200,000 grant from the Edward K. Martin Family Foundation for a permanent endowment, Reedley students gain a truer understanding of this treasured ecosystem by connecting classroom curriculum to real world experience. This paid internship also better qualifies them for careers with the U.S. Forest Service and other resource-management agencies, said Reedley College forestry instructor Louie Long.

Restoring habitat is physically demanding, Louie says, but the students see their labor pay off as native plants regain a foothold and waterfowl return.

At CVCF we believe this river’s story is a fine example of the power of philanthropy — to change the course of all our lives for the better.

Edward K. Martin Family Foundation

The late Edward “Ted” K. Martin established funds at the Central Valley Community Foundation to support the restoration and preservation of the San Joaquin and Kings rivers. As a youth, the Fresno businessman — who passed away in 2013 at age 90 — developed a bond with these waterways that lasted his lifetime. And that bond now extends to a new generation who can help preserve it for generations to come.

Long Live the Kings!