

SAN GORGONIO WILDERNESS ASSOCIATION

AN BERNARDINO NATIONAL FOREST

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4-Victor

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President's Message Jarome Wilson

Volunteer Rangers: Armed with Persuasion

Dear Volunteers, Members, and Friends of the SGWA,

In the late 1970's and early 80's I spent many days hiking through the San Gorgonio Wilderness and ran into quite a few Rangers. My idolized view of Rangers consisted of rugged mountain men who knew every secret the mountain had to tell, who could probably wrestle a bear just for fun, and who could root out permitlacking scofflaws merely by scent. They'd take one look at you and just know whether you had a valid permit or not. I must have been 14 when I had the opportunity to actually witness a Ranger issue a citation to some transgressors near Shield Flats.

Many years later I had the wonderful opportunity to actually achieve my

boyhood dream when I became a Volunteer. Although I realize the mountain has many more secrets than I'll ever know, and I'll never go in the ring against even a small bear, and my keen sense of smell couldn't ID a wilderness miscreant from a cheeseburger, I still go home on the weekends with a deep satisfaction that I have achieved a dream.

It was not until I became a Volunteer that I learned that citation-issuing Rangers no longer roam the backcountry as they did in my youth. My initial reaction to learning this was sadness. Surely the Wilderness must be sliding downhill without the legal authority of a law enforcement officer to stem the tide. After all, what could a mere Volunteer do to get the public to follow Wilderness ethics without the authority of a citation-book and badge? It was after my first year that it suddenly dawned on me. As a Volunteer I have a more powerful tool in my arsenal than the Rangers of my youth: persuasion. BECAUSE I lack the ability to enforce a regulation, I must depend upon the power of persuasion. Now encountering someone who is violating a regulation becomes an opportunity to educate.

When I encounter people on the trail who are violating a wilderness regulation I find myself looking for convincing reasons why a person would willingly want to follow the regulation other than fear of a citation. When persuasion is successful, an uninformed visitor becomes a long-time Wilderness ally. You can see it in their eyes when you find a point they never considered, when they realize the potential impact their actions can cause to an area they obviously love and admire. When we provide them a meaningful reason why a

regulation exists they will walk away believing in the wisdom of the regulation.

Law enforcement obviously has a vital role, especially in our heavily urbanized forests, and persuasion is not the answer to every backwoods transgression, but the folks I witnessed near Shields Flats at 14 probably learned a lot more about avoiding Rangers than they did about Wilderness ethics. I often wonder if that citation created a Wilderness ally, or an adversary.

Jarome

Armed With Persuasion John Flippin, Volunteer Coordinator

Jarome Wilson's article about the great value of friendly persuasion is very true. Many San Gorgonio Wilderness visitors have a pretty good idea of Forest Service regulations and wilderness ethics before encountering a volunteer out on the trail. This is due, in part to the excellent job of friendly persuasion by SGWA volunteers over the past couple decades, and information received by visitors from the Mill Creek Ranger Station and Barton Flats Visitors Center. Most unknowing visitors are willing to be educated, and are happy to abide by the rules if the persuasion or education is done in a friendly manner.

However, there will always be a very small percentage of visitors who ignore the rules. They find it too inconvenient to obtain proper permits, which help keep the wilderness from becoming overcrowded; they have illegal campfires, which can ruin camp areas and endanger the forest; and they camp too close to streams, meadows, and lakes, spoiling the wilderness experience of others

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When the actions of uneducated visitors become unacceptable, the SGWA and the public inform the Forest Service, which is quick to get law enforcement on the scene. As an example, the Front Country District recently assigned temporary law enforcement resources to the Vivian Creek Trail to help resolve an increasing problem of visitors without proper permits.

As Jarome stated, "...encountering someone who is violating a regulation becomes an opportunity to educate." SGWA volunteers do a marvelous job of educating, protecting, and serving the public and our Wilderness. Thank you all for continuing your very important work of friendly persuasion.

Jenks Lake Fish Festival

The 8th Annual Jenks Lake Fish Festival was held on Saturday, September 14, 2002. It was a great success due to the organization of the San Bernardino National Forest Fisheries, Front Country Ranger District's Recreation staff, the Anaheim Rotary Club, and SGWA. Even though nature threatened its cancellation with the lowest recorded rainfall in over 120 years, this year the highest recorded number of fish were caught – 98 rainbow trout!

Was it the lower water level in the lake or just more cooperative and hungry fish? The children hauled in over 38 pounds of fish; the longest was 13 inches and weighed 13 ounces. But that wasn't the heaviest fish--there was a 12-1/4 incher weighing 14 ounces. Most of the trout caught this year were good size, averaging 10 inches.

A total of 84 children from 4 organizations participated -- Childhelp USA of Beaumont; Sheepfold Kids of Riverside and Orange Counties; Robert M. Pyles and Juliette Low Elementary Schools from Anaheim; and Boy Scout Troop 103 from Banning. There were 31 volunteers from Deep Creek Fly Fishers, Fisheries Resource Volunteer Corps, Rancho Rod 'n' Reel, and the California Department of Fish and Game. Also helping out were 21 San Bernardino National Forest personnel, led by **Lisa Mizuno**.

Twenty-seven SGWA volunteers helping the children fish and serving lunch to everyone include **George Annas**,

Teddi Boston, Sue Braunwalder, Teri Cappuccio, Bill Carr, John Flippin, John Grzeskiewicz, Jeff Haggard, Mary Janelle Hart, Mickey Kacherwski, Kotzin, Lewis C. Kyle, **Jaimie** LaPointe. Joe McGregor, Cindy McGregor, Sheila McMahon, Sandy Messner, Richard Nyerges, Dan Riley, Diane Riley, Don Rosene, Walter Roth, Karen Saffle, Val Silva, Danny Silva, John Sporcich, and Jarome Wilson.

Individuals and organizations donating money, goods, and transportation, also make the event possible and much more enjoyable for the children. We all appreciate the contributions by Albertson's Food Center of Anaheim, The Anaheim Convention Center, Arrowhead Pond of Anaheim, Anaheim Rotary #921, and Yellow Cab of North Orange. A wonderful, anonymous donation of \$1000 supplied the children with Jenks Lake Fish Festival t-shirts, souvenir photographs and fishing supplies.

The Tulake BAD BEAR Val Silva, Equestrian Coordinator

The resident bear at Tulake has been a BAD BEAR lately. Guess with all the bear reports and warnings, we shouldn't have been too surprised. However we thought he had been trained and we put up those cute no bear signs.

The kitchen plumbing has been his only bad habit for the past two years (yes the same bear). He never damages anything else and only occasionally scares us by coming to the campfire at night. The kitchen plumbing problem had been resolved by putting in a slip joint where he liked to tear it up. He would then just pull out the slip joint decide nothing was interesting and go away. Danny would reconnect the slip joint and it would be fine, no big deal.

This went on last summer and all of this summer until September 6; **Teddi Boston** called me at home that Friday night when she arrived at Tulake. She informed me the bear was now a BAD BEAR; he had taken the whole drain (about 10 feet), pulled it out of the ground and placed it down the trail.

Danny (Silva) was pretty mad at the bear already because he made a hole in the new screen door (the bear waited two

weeks, it wasn't really new anymore). Danny, **George Annas** and **Dell Hawkins** formed a plan of action and went to work on the kitchen drain. They brought in newer, stronger pipe, no more nice slip joint for him to play with. They dug the pipeline deeper (very hard in the rocky area) and for the piece de resistance they sprinkled hot crushed chili peppers all over the top. BAD BEAR hasn't touched it in two weeks, so maybe this will be the end of it, HA.

BAD BEAR is like a phantom mascot; he is very quiet, wanders around mostly at night, he occasionally comes in during the day, but basically he just snoops around and goes about his bear business. He is not nearly as destructive as the Barton Flats bear. He seems happy to share his home with us and tolerates all our people type Bill Carr was leaving Tulake oddities. one morning and noticed BAD BEAR sitting on the kitchen porch contemplating the screen door. Bill said he honked his horn and BAD BEAR walked around the corner to see who was making so much noise, then he wandered off. Guess Bill disturbed his peace and solitude. George Annas took some pictures of BAD BEAR, who seemed to pose for them. In one picture he is perched on top of the door in George's horse trailer. George posted the pictures in the kitchen. Danny wants to put a wanted sign on the bottom of the pictures but has refrained. If BAD BEAR survives the hunters and is back next year, I'm sure Danny will not be as mad at him and let him stay another year.

A Great Summer at Barton Flats Visitor Center John Flippin, Volunteer Coordinator

We've had a fantastic few months again serving the public at the Barton Flats Visitor Center. John Dombrowski, Interpretive Sites Manager, has led a great group of volunteers from Memorial Day weekend through early October. John opened the center with the help of new volunteer Everett Smith from Texas. Everett was a tremendous help all summer long. In addition to normal visitor center duties, Everett designed a much needed and easy to use computer database for us to keep track of all our contributing members. volunteers, and volunteer

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activities. Everett's time with us went much too fast and we will miss him next year as he travels in other parts of the US.

We were happy and lucky to have **Glen** and **Marcia Riddle** from Arizona back for their fifth year with us. Glen and Marcia, with their extensive knowledge of all our mountain areas and of all the Forest Service rules and regulations, are tremendous assets to our operations. Unfortunately, they were able to stay at Barton Flats for only about a month this year.

Luckily, as Glen and Marcia were pulling out, Larry and Reta Shoup were able to pull in for their second year with us. Larry and Rita probably had more fun than anyone with the bears at Barton Flats. There was one especially large bear, as tall as the top of the garage door when standing up, that was frequently flipping the garbage dumpster over and making himself at home around Larry's and Reta's RV. He took time to lie down for a while and chew up their RV sewer drain one evening. We, including the bears, will miss Larry and Reta next summer while they are hosting a camp in Bar Harbor, Maine.

Throughout this busy summer, John and all the Barton Flats volunteers have greeted thousands of visitors, completed a lot of painting and repairs, and made it a lot easier for many dozens of other volunteers to patrol trails, patrol the Santa Ana River, staff the Horse Meadows Interpretive Site, and have a successful Forest Festival. The Barton Flats crew helps the public better understand and enjoy their forest. In addition, they are essential to the effective accomplishment of many other volunteer services beyond the Barton Flats Visitor Center. Our congratulations and thanks to all of our Barton Flats folks for another great summer!

Heart Bar Horse Patrols by Val Silva, Equestrian Coordinator

Pat Peters and Jan Gudgell have been busy at Heart Bar this year. Although, they have not been able to spend the entire weekend due to home constraints, they have managed to come up most weekends this summer for at least one day. They have picked up many bags of trash and given out countless amounts of information.

Joe and Cindy Mc Gregor are also volunteers at Heart Bar. They too have been unable to spend as much time as usual out there this year. When able to come up, they do trail work and assist the public.

I had occasion to give out information recently to some folks from the Heart Bar area and was reminded how very different it is from assisting people in the wilderness. Most of the volunteer contacts are in the dispersed camping area. People camping in the Heart Bar area tend not to be as well informed about camping, trails, permits and regulations as people that use the wilderness. It seems more an "urban" camping area, lots of first time campers and families with small children and city The volunteers here answer questions about trails, where to go, how long does it take, how hard is it, how to set up tents, are there bears, mountain lions, why can't they have a campfire and if its in a fire ring why can't they let it burn while they go to Big Bear. Additionally, the proper disposal of trash and toilet paper is foreign. I imagine they have trash compactors at home.

Pat, Jan, Joe and Cindy are always informative with Heart Bar visitors and very patient. I hear from other horse people I know who have come to Heart Bar how helpful the volunteers are. I think they are really offering a great interpretive program that assists people in being comfortable with and using our forest.

A Little Wilderness History John Surr

My dad was **John B. Surr**, (he of John's Meadow), a San Bernardino attorney and good friend of **Joe Momyer**. They and a bunch of others who loved the outdoors and skiing set up an informal Eidelweiss Ski Club in the early 1930s, with their home base in the area near the Big Draw north of Greyback. In the late '30s they build a ski hut there, with mostly native stuff, a little tar paper and hay that they carried on their backs, and a pot-bellied stove that was carried by a mule.

When I was a kid in the '40s and '50s, we would feel that we had arrived when we were invited to accompany my dad to the

hut, usually involving strapping on warsurplus seal skins to our skis at the bottom of Christmas Tree Hill. The hut was an exciting place to be, just below and with a view of the Big Draw, the sound of wind and birds to keep you company. At least one Eidelweisser, **Jean Viegle**, spent his honeymoon in the hut. For years after the wilderness designation of the area the Club would get formal notices that the hut was illegal, but the Forest Service didn't tear it down until years later because it was very useful as a shelter whenever someone broke a leg or whatever in that general area (which happened).

The Eidelwessers were mostly Swiss immigrant people from all over Southern California, with a few German and Norwegian immigrants thrown in, as well as a few local nature lovers like my dad, Victor Pinkert, Joe Momeyer, Frank Moore, Fred Eaton, and Dr. Bob Wade. One of the Swiss, Walter Lier, was a true original. He liked to ski in the nude. One time he was doing this in the Big Draw when he was stung by a bee in his nether regions. Another time, over by Keller Peak, he saw a bunch of skiers approaching, and tried to put on his pants over his ski boots, much to his friends' laughter. I went with my Dad and several others in about 1967 to Dry Lake one weekend, to be the advance crew for Congressman Jim Martin, who was a crucial swing vote in protecting the area from the proposed ski resort. Martin and a reporter from the Riverside Press-Enterprise appeared from a helicopter (one of the first at that altitude) late that afternoon, and were regaled with many mountain stories that evening, helped by a liberal supply of liquid refreshment. When Martin returned to DC, he changed his vote and the area was saved, at least until the next assault. Thank you all for continuing your good work on the Mountain. I really cherish the stories in 4-Victor.

Officer Nominations and Elections

The SGWA Officers (President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary) are elected by the Board of Directors each year at the November Board Meeting. The Board will conduct nominations for the 2003 term at the October 29th meeting.

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Officers are not required to be Directors. In fact, any person except Forest Service employees is eligible to fill these positions if nominated by a current Board Member and elected by the Board.

If you are interested in one of the Officer positions please contact a Board Member that you believe would be willing in placing your name in nomination. Current Officers and Directors are listed on the last page of the 4-Victor newsletter.

All SGWA members and volunteers are always welcome to attend Board Meetings, which are held the last Tuesday of the month. If you are interested in participating in the business of managing the SGWA feel free to contact me any time for more information:

Jarome Wilson 909-279-1868 jarome@mac.com

Workplace Charitable Giving Campaign Ted Schofield, SGWA Volunteer

Many large companies, government agencies, school districts, and colleges and universities allow their employees to make contributions to their favorite charities payroll deductions. through These programs are convenient for the donor and generate steady income for the selected charities. Another benefit for the non-profit is a generally higher level of financial support. The United Way pioneered the Workplace Giving Program and in some organizations, it is the only group represented in the giving campaign. Other groups, primarily public entities, have expanded their campaigns to include other options such as Earth Share and the Children's Fund.

If you work for an organization with a giving campaign, you may consider using payroll deduction to support the San Gorgonio Wilderness Association (SGWA). Because the SGWA is part of Earth Share of California, it is easy to donate if Earth Share is part of your campaign. Simply locate the SGWA's number and designate it as the beneficiary of your gift and your entire donation will

go to the SGWA. Or, you could give your gift to Earth Share and support over 80 environmental groups including the SGWA. Either way, you will be making a difference in our environment.

If Earth Share is not part of the giving campaign, it is still possible to designate the SGWA as the recipient of your donation. Simply locate the number for "Other Qualified Non-profits", select that option, and fill in the San Gorgonio Wilderness Association. It will be necessary to give the address of the SGWA to ensure that the United Way sends the donation. The SGWA address is:

San Gorgonio Wilderness Association 34701 Mill Creek Road Mentone, California 92359

We are all dedicated to preserving the wilderness and we enjoy assisting the hikers and campers visiting the wilderness, but sometimes we forget that it takes a certain amount of money to make it all happen. The Workplace Giving Campaign is a very convenient way to make a difference.

Thank You For Your Support!!

Many who know the great value of our forest and wilderness areas may not have the time but have the monetary resources to help the SGWA continue to "Serve, Protect, and Educate." Recent contributing members to whom we and forest visitors owe many thanks are:

Individual (\$25) Family/Dual (\$35) and Student/Senior (\$20) Members

Ken Hall Gregory Rhodes

Trail Blazers

(\$50 or more annually)

President's Summit Team

(\$100 or more annually)

Thank you, Ideal Graphics!

Printing of the 4-Victor Newsletter is contributed in part by **Scott Watson**, **Ideal Graphics**, Ontario, CA. A big

thanks goes to Scott and his staff for their service and consideration.

SGWA Wish List

If you know of someone who would like to donate the below listed items, new or used, please let us know. Tax deductions are applicable.

- Self-focusing slide projector with timer for nature talks
- Metal cabinet for SGWA Mill Creek Office
- Used trailer with shower for Barton Flats Visitor Center
- Folding utility tables
- Folding chairs

Thank you very much to the following that have donated items previously on our wish list. Their generosity is greatly appreciated.

Fremont Investment and Loan, Redlands, CA - Desktop copier

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