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*The Newsletter of the
 San Gorgonio Wilderness Association
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With so much time spent in the outdoors it is natural to build a love and appreciation. Because I had an early interest in history it was natural for me to want to learn about the history of the places I camped and hiked. Learning about the Holcomb Valley gold rush, for instance, was much more compelling when I was walking in the footsteps of those I was reading about.

Of course, others have different interests. Some of my childhood friends were more interested in learning about the birds or animals they encountered, while others focused on rocks and minerals. Regardless of our personal interests we all shared a common bond of wild appreciation that we carried into adulthood. The seeds for wilderness appreciation were planted.

The youth of today do not have the same opportunities to experience the wild outdoors that we did as kids. We no longer send our children to summer camp for the whole summer - perhaps a week, if at all. Our world is much faster paced and many no longer have the patience to enjoy the quiet solitude of the wilderness. Our children spend their weekends racking up extra points in the latest video game instead of exploring the outdoors.

Many families today rarely get off the established highways going through our forests, and often drive through so quickly they miss the experience entirely.

How are we to preserve wilderness in the future if we are not planting the seeds for wilderness appreciation today?

One opportunity to build this appreciation is through the interpretive activities the SGWA performs. While our backcountry patrols help to preserve the wilderness today, the interpretive programs help to plant the seeds in young minds that will germinate in the future.

If you would like to help plant the seeds that will help preserve wilderness in the future, please review **Sheila McMahon's** article in this newsletter to find out how. Jarome

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)

- Christian Eichelsdoerfer*
- Roger Luebs*
- Julie Newton*

President's Summit Team

- (\$100 or more annually)
- Upper Santa Ana River Users Assoc.*



President's Message Jarome Wilson

Planting Seeds

How Do People Learn Wilderness Ethics and To Appreciate the Outdoors?

The vast majority of us learned to appreciate the outdoors in our childhood. Family camping trips, Boy Scouts, and summer camp planted the seeds for my personal outdoor appreciation. Those countless nights sleeping under the stars were incredibly formative. I believe it is impossible to watch shooting stars zip across the sky, gazing at the Milky Way, and not feel a deep sense of awe at the mere wonder of being in the wild outdoors.

Volunteers and Contributors Improve Public Health John Flippin

Our working volunteers and contributing members/sponsors made the summer of 2002 one of the best ever. Working volunteers and contributing members/sponsors once again enabled us to care for the forest and help visitors better understand and enjoy the very special and wonderful resources of the San Bernardino National Forest. By providing clean and safe trails and camps and by providing education in historical and natural resources, the continuing work of the SGWA ensures a safe, enjoyable source of low cost recreation, which helps the public improve their mental and physical health.

Our volunteers' service was amazing and varied as it has been for the past 20 years. Of course it is people and how well they care for others that makes any program as successful as this volunteer program has been for many years. We've been very lucky to have very caring Forest Service personnel and volunteers over the years from the Forest Service founders of our program, Dave Hood and Bob Shuker, and our SGWA founders Jim Bolson, John Flippin, Dorothy Fotheringham, Dana Klatt, Alice Krueper, Dave Hallet, Linda Roddick, Val Silva, and Dale Silvernail, to all of the great volunteers and Forest Service personnel we have today. We were lucky again this year to have a few excellent new volunteers come on to help our veterans. As a result, volunteer accomplishments were truly unbelievable.

Volunteers donated 15,000 hours, worth over \$350,000 to the Forest Service and the public. Volunteers protected and cleaned the forest, improved facilities and trails, and helped tens of thousands of visitors including 15,500 with whom they had personal contact. Some of the major volunteer accomplishments in 2002 were:

- Removed thousands of pounds of litter from roads, trails, and camp sites.

- Cleaned up 65 illegal fire rings, and prevented many more.
- Presented many nature walks and talks to several hundred visitors.
- Provided lunch and fishing buddies to 84 children at the Forest Service Fish Festival.
- Put on a free forest festival for over 500 visitors.
- Operated and maintained the Barton Flats Visitor Center where volunteers talked with 6,500 visitors.
- Operated and maintained the Horse Meadows historical site along the South Fork Trail.
- Operated and maintained the visitor information station at the Big Falls Picnic Area.
- Provided complete patrol of the San Gorgonio Wilderness and surrounding areas.
- Provided frequent fishing and litter control and education along 10 miles of the Santa Ana River.
- Performed minor trail maintenance along 100 miles of trail in and around the Wilderness.
- Removed a few miles of brush and several trees from across trails.
- Patrolled and monitored mining operations in the forest.
- Managed educational sales outlets in five locations on the forest.
- Maintained an extensive web site containing forest information including weather and trail conditions.
- Operated and maintained a permanent work camp for all volunteers.
- Provided current trail/camp conditions reports for Wilderness visitors.
- Provided a dozen public assists to lost, injured, and/or stranded forest visitors.

Well, you get the idea. Volunteer services are amazing in quantity, quality, and variety. And that is why all volunteers were honored by the Forest Service at our awards ceremony on October 19. Our most constant day-to-day Forest Service supporters, Bob Wood and Alfredo Zarate, presented very special awards to Jarome Wilson,

SGWA President and Assistant Volunteer Coordinator; Karen Saffle, Forest Festival Director; Teddi Boston, Fish Festival Donations Manager; Mary Hart, Adopt-a-trail leader; Teri Cappuccio and Ann Robinson, 4-Victor Editors; Val Silva, Equestrian Coordinator; Danny Silva, Tulake Volunteer Camp Manager; Del Hawkins and Mickey Kacherwski, Camp Tulake Maintenance; Larry Stiles, Trail Maintenance Leader; Ted Schofield, Funds Development; John A. Flippin, Michael Garant, Karen Saffle, and Dan Scott for completing ten years of volunteer service; George Denney for fifteen years of service; and Mickey Kacherwski and Linda Roddick for twenty wonderful years of volunteer service. Congratulations to all volunteers for another great year!!

Alpine Meadows Camp Honors SGWA Volunteers John Flippin, Volunteer Coordinator

In appreciation for all the services provided by volunteers, **Dr. Peter Huber** and **Linda Crawford** provided the facilities of their camp and a delicious barbeque chicken dinner for the 70 volunteers and family members who were able to attend our awards ceremonies on October 19. They had also provided us with the use of their camp and two meals at our training day last May. We are very thankful for the support of Alpine Meadows Camp staff including **Susan Sostman**, Camp Director; **Lisa Avery**, Administrative Assistant; **Michael Dennison**, Director of Operations; and **Chris Hajek**, Head Cook.



It is a very good partnership that we have with Peter, Linda, and their staff as together we all help people have some wonderful experiences in the mountains – experiences that improve mental and physical health and provide wonderful memories for the future. **THANK YOU ALPINE MEADOWS CAMP!**

Trail Maintenance Report

Lary Stiles, Trail Maintenance Coordinator

Clearing the San Bernardino Peak Trail

How do you quickly clear a 5.7 mile trail when there are no reliable water sources in mid summer and that trail climbs from 5,900 to 9,200 feet? Well, the easy way is to call upon the SGWA trail crew.

All it takes is a little planning, an available water source and a volunteer trail crew that is willing to spend a hard weekend working on this overgrown trail. After years of neglect and a pending Col. Washington Monument ceremony, the San Bernardino Peak trail needed to be properly cleared. Val and her "Sons and Daughters of the Trail" delivered 30 gallons of water and the heavy tools by horseback to a special camp near the Manzanita junction. With water and tools there was nothing stopping the volunteer crew from carving a wide path in the Manzanita and thorn bushes from the trailhead to Limber Pine Bench.

Armed with only loppers, mcleods and pulaskis, the team worked up and down the trail. They developed a leap-frogging pattern of trail clearing. As one group would finish a trail section, they would advance to the lead position to start hacking and cutting again. No time outs were taken except for a quick drink of water. "Move on, let's get this done," became the call of the day. "We don't want to do this again for three years." At this pace and working on south facing slopes, the crew started running out of water. Finally, with the job completed and just a little water remaining, they worked their way back to camp and the equestrian's wonderful water source for the night.

Who are these great trail crew volunteers? Well "itchy-foot" Dan Green, Greg Silver, Jim Schofer, Dan Kerr, Bob Opperman, Phil Morgan and Bill Tibbits are the guys. So if you need



some great lopping and chopping done in a short period of time, these are the people you call. They completed a trail project that was expected to take two weekends in only one; an outstanding effort by all the volunteers.

I wonder if the Vivian Creek trail could be cleared with the same enthusiasm next season?

Personal Thanks From John To You

As every year at this time, I cannot help but extend my deepest thanks to the SGWA officers, board members, and volunteers for allowing me to continue coordinating your wonderful services to the public for the past year. I feel very proud and fortunate to be associated with the greatest group of volunteers I have ever known. Everyone has different amounts of time available that they can donate to the forest. However, all the hours you donate, whether 40 or 400 are vitally important to the success of this Forest Service team.

I've now finished my tenth season as your coordinator and was just telling your past president, **Roger Gossett**, that I wished I could have those ten years back – so that I could do the same thing all over again. It's been a tremendous pleasure thanks to wonderful Forest Service personnel and all of our great volunteers.

I'll continue to stop by our office at the Mill Creek Ranger Station but will be there much less through the winter. Remember my home phone, 909-790-2157, and email address, johnpaulip@earthlink.net are open to you all as usual. I look forward to seeing you next May. Have a wonderful holiday season, a great winter, and take care out there.

Interpretive Programs Sheila McMahon, SGWA Volunteer

Next summer 2003, SGWA would like to again offer interpretive programs to our neighboring camps. If you'd be interested, plan a program of about one

hour in length to be presented to a group of 10-50 campers 8-18 years old.

Topics that you might be interested in are:

- * Local Indians and how they survived
- * Our neighbors the Bears
- * Life on an Oak Tree
- * Low Impact Camping and Hiking
- * First Aid
- * Little used Camp Sites
- * Cooking in the Wilderness
- * What if I get lost?
- * What's happening to our trees?
- * Fire! Good or Bad?
- * Fun Camp Songs

Any interpretive program is more interesting with visual aids. Also, an audience remembers more with active participation.

Share your knowledge and expertise!

If interested, or if any questions please contact **Sheila McMahon**, (909-683-8850)

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

Interpretive Sites John Dombrowski, Interpretive Sites Manager

Horse Meadows: Where History and Hospitality abound

Trudging up from the South Fork trailhead, heading up to the many scenic and soul soothing stops within the Wilderness ahead can be a bit of a strain, even for the best of hikers. That first mile seems to go in only one direction--UP!! And it does--quietly winding towards the summit.

It is no wonder that visitors are eager to stop and sit a spell in the tempting shade of towering pines and visit with the volunteers who greet them at historic Horse Meadows. With offerings of cool water and information about local history and current trail conditions, most find this a very pleasant repose. Frequently, visitors will ask our volunteers for recommendations as to the best routes or camping areas.

We are very fortunate to have knowledgeable and service oriented volunteers, like **Sheila McMahon** and **Sandy Messner**, who have spent many days this season, greeting and educating trail travelers on their way up the mountain. Some of our volunteers make it an "event" when serving at Horse Meadows. **David** and **Kim Van Horton** make it a family affair by sharing their love of the forest and desire to help others with their 3-year old twins, **Peter** and **Faith**. Others, like **John Wegner**, spent numerous nights camping at the meadow.

With such dedication to ensuring that forest visitors obtain the most from their excursion up the mountain, it is no wonder that another successful season has been accomplished. Thanks to those who have made this happen.

Big Falls Station: Seeking to Serve

The newest of our interpretive sites, Big Falls Station, nestled beneath towering pines and cedars in the heavily used Big Falls Picnic Area above the community of Forest Falls, has completed its 2nd successful season. This was no easy task for those who volunteered to serve here.

Extra dry weather, marauding bears, and the frequent trips to the Falls to clean up trash, had volunteers employing all phases of the SGWA motto - SERVE, PROTECT, EDUCATE. There wasn't a day that all of these didn't come into play. Fortunately, the many who spent time here were up to the task.

John Sporcich, spent EVERY weekend (and holidays) serving the thousands of visitors to this scenic site. But because this was not a "one-man"

operation, many others contributed countless hours. **Bill Carr, Sue Crowell, Jeff Haggard, Don Rosene, Lewis Kyle, and Susan Scott** were among those who provided visitors with the many services offered. **Sylvia Beasley** even brought her teenage daughter, **Summer**, several times to help out. I am sure that the many visitors who received information or assistance gave thanks to this talented group.

It is with great anticipation we look forward to next year. Thank you again for your dedication and hard work. Your return will be needed.

Alice Krueper Memorial Pacific Crest Trail Day

The cleanup of a couple miles of the Pacific Crest Trail north and south of Interstate Highway 10 near San Geronio Pass on November 16th was a huge success. We were very happy to remember Alice (a founder of the SGWA and a long-time PCT trail crew leader) as nine of our volunteers joined several dozen PCT Association volunteers in a fun day of trail maintenance. Our thanks goes to SGWA volunteers **John Flippin, Therese Haran, Sheila McMahon, Bob Oppermann, Dan & Diane Riley, Don Rosene, and Dan & Val Silva**.

Forest Protection John Flippin, Volunteer Coordinator

Unfortunately, the extreme drought, dryness, and fire danger in the forest required temporarily closing many parts of the forest to the public. This action required getting a lot of information about what was happening and why it was necessary out to the public. Our information patrols on dirt roads and trails and at trailheads encountered many people who had not read or heard about the closures. Although many had to change their recreation plans, visitors contacted were very understanding and

thankful that steps were being taken to protect their forest for future use.



In addition, one of our patrollers, **Teddi Boston**, came upon a small wildfire just as it was beginning to take off near Lodgepole Spring in the San Geronio Wilderness. With the help of Teddi's early call to dispatch and a little fire suppression work that she could safely perform, the fire was contained to a small area by rapidly deployed Forest Service fire fighters and aircraft water drops.

In addition to Teddi, we thank the following very much for their time and effort expended in getting the word out to forest visitors about the forest protection closure – **Sandy Messner, Richard Nyerger, Dan Riley, Bob and Kathy Seidenberg, Larry Stiles, John Voykovic, and John Wegner**.

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