

A Take Pride in America National Award Winner

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President's Message by Jarome Wilson

Dear Volunteers, Members, and Friends of SGWA,

This is the tenth summer I have been volunteering with San Gorgonio Wilderness Association and as I gaze upon the last decade I count myself blessed and fortunate to be a part of this organization.

I spent a lot of time in these mountains in my youth, thanks to the efforts of such heroes as **Joe Momyer, Harry James, Alice and Harry Krueper, Neale Creamer, Gordon Cleaver**, and the many other members of the Great Generation who fought hard to create and defend the Wilderness during the 1960's and early 70's. They were known as the Defenders of the San Gorgonio Wilderness. The Defenders later passed on the honor of protecting the Wilderness to the San Gorgonio Wilderness Association whose founding directors in 1990 were volunteers **James Bolson, John Flippin, Dana Floyd, Dorothy Fotheringham, David Hallet, Alice Krueper, Linda Roddick, Valerie Silva, and Dale Silvernail**.

I was born during the years the Defenders were waging the fight to establish and preserve the San Gorgonio Wilderness and I was just a boy when the first volunteers became guardians. They fought hard to preserve and pass on the Wilderness to the children of that day – me and my generation.

Sadly, the ranks of these warriors shrink with each passing year. Earlier this year we learned that **Dorothy Fotheringham** had passed away in Alaska. She was a founding Director of SGWA and a

Barton Flats Visitor Center institution - she has become the yardstick by which we will always measure Barton Flats hosts.

On August 10 our 24-year equestrian volunteer and Tulake camp manager and cook Danny Silva passed on. Danny truly personified the ideals of volunteers of his generation – selfless giving was just something you do. His hospitality to new and long term volunteers helped keep us going on the trail and made us feel part of a worthy group. He is missed very much.

I value and treasure the history these people created, and I am constantly aware that the efforts of myself and my generation are only possible because of their efforts. I worry that the children of today's generation may forget the sacrifices and battles waged on their behalf.

Today's younger generation may present the biggest challenge to Wilderness preservation in the future. Far fewer are brought to the mountains to experience the great outdoors. Summer camps are far less active than when I was young, and today's society is often so fast paced that it has little patience for experiencing something as simple as the morning dew.

The majestic slopes of San Gorgonio have seen many great people come and go. As long as the value of Wilderness is recognized in our society, those pristine slopes will watch over many more great people yet unborn. Jarome

Wishes Come True

We thank the following very much for their donations. Their generosity will benefit the public greatly.

- Robert Coleman-portable BBQ

- Independent Living Systems, Inc. small safe, 24 folding chairs, two electric calculators, two write/erase boards, one cork bulletin board, and one trash container wheel base.
- American Security Bank-Refrigerator

Current major sponsors of SGWA are:

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- U.S. Forest Service and Adventure Pass Program

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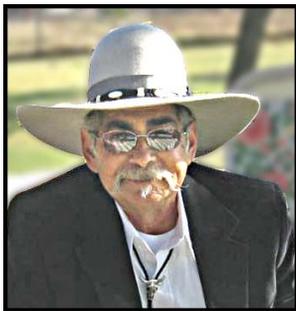
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- Santa Ana River Cabin Association
- The Wildlands Conservancy (www.wildlandsconservancy.org)
- Verizon Foundation (<http://foundation.verizon.com/>)

In Memory of Danny Silva

One of our very best, **Danny Silva**, had to leave us in August after a courageous three-year battle with prostate cancer that had spread. But he is out of pain on happy trails with our dear Lord now.

Danny has been an equestrian volunteer since 1984. He has done so many things for the public with us, it is difficult to remember them all. Danny performed trail patrols in and around the San Gorgonio Wilderness, did trail maintenance, and took care of Jenks Lake for many years. He had great fun serving the disadvantaged children at the Jenks Lake Fishing Festival every summer. Danny also led many of us in refurbishing Camp Tulake and the Horse Meadows Historical Site. We will all, of course, miss his good humor, wonderful cooking, and great hospitality in making all comfortable and welcome at the Tulake Volunteer Work Camp. We were all very lucky to have Danny here with us in this life. Our spirits will meet again.

Danny's loving wife **Val**, his son **Danny Jr.**, daughter **Lee**, and granddaughter **Cassidy** extend their love and thanks to family and friends for all the wonderful support, prayers, kind words, and lovely cards.



**Tulake Volunteer Work
Camp and Equestrian
Notes**

by **Val Silva**, Camp Manager
and Equestrian Coordinator

Another interesting summer is on its way to being over, where does the time go. Of course, the weather has been weird and the streams are low. But still it's beautiful and we've been enjoying another great summer at Camp Tulake.

In May we opened Camp Tulake and spruced things up for the season. A little paint, elbow grease, and fun went a long way in getting the summer started. **Dell Hawkins, Susie and Walt Kirkwood, Randy Thompson, Frank Stubblefield, Frank Ferreira, Heather Ferreira, Mary Hart, Teri Cappuccio, Jaimie LaPointe, Richard Andrus, Susan Macklin, Teddi Boston, Mickey Kacherwski, and Cyndi and Jim Johnson** all got the place opened. No wonder we had such a good time - there were a lot of us. Because of the cold spell we had last winter we had pipes break that hadn't frozen before. Mickey and his water crew had "fun" tracking them down and repairing them. After all that attention the place looks pretty good.

In June we had a great trail work project for National Trails Day. In May, **Pat French** and I rode up to Fish Creek Camp and surveyed the trail for work needed. Then **Dell Hawkins, Gail Seymour, Cyndi and Jim Johnson** and I rode up and met a large group of other volunteers to work on the trail. It was a great day and with as many people as we had there it was short work.

There has been lots of other riding going on and at the first of the season lots of trees and brush to beat back. **Pat Peters** and **Jan Gudgell** have been working on rocking the Santa Ana River Trail and picking up trash in the Heart Bar dispersed area - they have their jobs cut out for them. **Betty Farrell** and **Peggy Manning** are burning (perhaps poor terminology in fire season) up the trails. Peggy was 84 in June and is still riding and checking permits. Yep, **Teddi** is back at Fish Creek Saddle, we packed her up earlier in the season. She reports a bear tested her tent, but no problem she has duct tape and all is now silver.

We have three new horse volunteers - their owners are **Judi Brey** and **Cyndi and Jim Johnson** (my sister and bro-in-law). Jim went to the 2-day crosscut saw training along with many other volunteers from all over southern California. Many of them stayed at Camp Tulake Saturday night because they were cutting logs on the other side of Jenks Lake Road for their training the next day. They were impressed

with Camp Tulake, one even taking pictures and saying his wife won't believe it and that they may just have to come volunteer here. We had an enjoyable night by the fire swapping volunteer stories, some of which sounded more and more like fish stories.

The annual joint birthday bash was a big success. I wasn't going to have it this year because Danny wasn't able to do the cooking and get it organized as he has for many years. However, **Cindy and Joe McGregor** would have none of that and put together a nice party. I guess we all have to get one year older again this year.

**Benefits for SGWA
Members**

Because the SGWA is an Alliance Member of the American Hiking Society (AHS), active SGWA volunteers and contributing members can receive a 16% discount on individual AHS memberships. An AHS membership includes one-year subscriptions to the American Hiker (AHS magazine with great hiking articles, tips, and current news affecting hikers) AND to Backpacker magazine (the flagship periodical for hikers, backpackers, and outdoor enthusiasts of all types).

See more information about the American Hiking Society at www.americanhiking.org. If you decide to join, just enter "San Gorgonio Wilderness Association" in your membership application where it asks for Alliance Club name.

"The sovereign invigorator of the body is exercise, and of all the exercises walking is best."

Thomas Jefferson



Bald Eagles Recover

This summer the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) announced the recovery of the bald eagle population and the final decision to remove it from the list of threatened and endangered species. When the nation's symbol was listed in 1967 as endangered there were barely 400 nesting pairs in the entire lower 48 states. Now there are more than 9,700 nesting pairs!!

Federal and State agencies, local governments, Tribes, conservation and environmental organizations and volunteers, and citizens across the nation can celebrate this

achievement. Due to the dedication, conservation efforts, and the perseverance of all these people, the bald eagle no longer requires protection under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). Forest Service employees and volunteers of the San Bernardino National Forest have taken part in this important recovery for decades. Bald Eagles can be seen at Big Bear Lake, Silverwood Lake, Lake Arrowhead, and Lake Hemet during much of the year.

Both the ESA and a crucial decision by the Environmental Protection Agency to ban the use of DDT in 1972 provided the impetus for the USFWS and its partners to accelerate recovery using captive breeding programs, reintroductions, law enforcement efforts, protection of habitat around nest sites and land purchase and preservation activities.

Bald eagles will continue to be protected by the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. Both acts prohibit killing, selling or otherwise harming eagles, their nests, or eggs.

The USFWS has established a special Bald Eagle website containing a wealth of information on this truly outstanding conservation story at <http://www.fws.gov/migratorybirds/BaldEagle.htm>



Great New and Veteran Volunteers
by **Dee McCoy, Interpretive Sites Manager**

Each year we are exceedingly fortunate to have many new terrific volunteers join us and this year is definitely no exception. We have some really great people this year - people who are not only willing, but seek out getting involved in all the different ways we have of serving forest visitors. From foot patrols and trail maintenance to staffing our visitor centers at Barton Flats and Big Falls, they serve well, including at the Mill Creek front desk throughout the week. New volunteers working with me at the interpretive sites are **Heather Hare, Richard and Jill Hockensmith, Jane Keys, Jeremy Liu, Kim Peterson, Marianne Strelecky, and Domenic Wager**. They are all doing such a great job. If you have not had the opportunity to work with them yet, believe me it is a pleasure.

And, of course, my veteran "strike team" members - all of whom would most likely bleed forest green if cut: **Richard Andrus, Phebe Baty, Ardis Beckner, Bill Carr, Paul Castanedo, Veronica Espinoza, Jan Gudgell, Jeff Haggard, Janelle Kotzin, Lois Kuss, Robert McDowell, Susan Macklin, Sheila McMahon, Sandy Messner, Michael Mojarro, MaryAnn Oliver, Pat Peters, Barbara Petite, Karen Saffle, Beverly Taylor, Donna Schmidt, Bob Villa, Vicki Voss, Glenn and Marcia Riddle** (our summer resident hosts at Barton Flats), and **Bob and Kathy Seidenberg** (SAR patrol extraordinaire and Belgian Waffle chefs). And thank you **Jeff Lynn** for helping get the Barton Flats grounds ready for action back in May (you know you're welcome at the visitor center without yard tools in your hand too.) All of you are a necessary and valuable part of the SGWA and you have my admiration and gratitude. I may be referred to as the Interpretive Sites Manager, but it's really all of you who "manage" them.

One other "hat" I wear is being a part of the Interpretive Campfire Programs at Greyback Amphitheater. Dave and I enjoyed extraordinarily high attendance at our three

astronomy programs this season and were lucky enough to get some "astronomical" help from **Carly Austin**. Thank you Carly, you are well on your way to being yet another invaluable link in the SGWA chain. Dee

County Supervisor Addresses Mountain Deer Population

In a July 2007 meeting of the Board of Supervisors of San Bernardino County, Third District Supervisor **Dennis Hansberger** brought up the issue of deer population. Hansberger addressed those present, saying, "It has been brought to my attention by several mountain residents that the deer population in the mountains has decreased significantly. There is a significant concern that deer are a rare sighting in the mountains, and yet the State Department of Fish and Game continues to issue deer hunting licenses each year."



Hansberger subsequently requested that the County Fish and Game Commission work with the State Department of Fish and Game to conduct an analysis of the deer population in our mountains. Also from Hansberger: "It is important to determine the population of the current deer herd to see if the speculation is correct and determine if it is necessary to suspend further deer hunting licenses for this area."

SGWA Wish List

To enable us to better serve the public we wish we had the following items. If you know of someone who would like to donate these items, new or used, please let us know. Tax deductions are applicable.

- AA batteries for patrol radios
- Heavy-duty portable electronic equipment boxes for interpretive program equipment
- Two new desktop or laptop PC computers
- Electronic cash register
- Gas barbeque for volunteer functions

- Two heavy-duty walk-in steel storage containers, approx. 10' x 10'
- Fifteen full-brim hardhats with chin straps and sun shields
- One- and two-person crosscut saws
- Portable fold-up fiberglass/resin lightweight tables
- Portable plastic/cloth table-top display boards

Waffles for Wilderness

Bob and Kathy Seidenberg are great volunteers who have specialized in taking care of the Santa Ana River. On their many patrols along the river they remove huge amounts of trash, educate visitors about the proper care of the river and forest, and hand out many Smokey Bear souvenirs to lots of young anglers and hikers.

Another of their specialties is cooking Belgian waffles. Bob and Kathy have provided two free Belgian waffle breakfasts at the Barton Flats Visitor Center so far this summer. Volunteers, Forest Service fire fighters, and other Forest Service personnel have greatly enjoyed their delightful masterpieces covered in fruit syrups, chocolate, nuts, whipped cream, etc. We had a lot of delicious calories to burn after those breakfasts. Thank you very much Bob and Kathy and thanks to those who made donations to the SGWA while indulging under the tall pines.

Donate the Easy Way!

The following companies will donate cash for volunteer work you do!

- Bank of America - \$500 for 100 hours of volunteer work
- Citicorp - \$500 for 50 hours of volunteer work
- Version - \$750 for 50 hours up to twice a year for a total of \$1500
- Edison - \$600 for qualified volunteer service
- Time Warner - \$1000 for 30 hours
- U.S. Borax (Rio Tinto Minerals) - \$500 for 100 hours of volunteer work

No time to volunteer? The following companies will match charitable donations made by their employees to qualifying organizations:

- Countrywide Financial - matches charitable donations dollar-for-dollar
 - Intuit Foundation - matches charitable donations dollar-for-dollar
 - Illinois Tool Works Foundation - matches donations three-for-one
- If you work for one of these companies, contact your personnel department for more information, or email **Richard Hockensmith**, SGWA Funds Development Officer, at rdhockensmith@msn.com. Also, if you know of other companies who also make donations for volunteer work and/or match charitable donations, please let us know and we'll pass the word along. Thanks for your support of SGWA!

Forest Festival Again a Great Success

Our annual Forest Festival at the Barton Flats Visitor Center was a great success again this year. On a beautiful day in the mountains about 350 visitors had fun with children's crafts, petting horses, sawing and branding "Smokey" tree



discs, being hoisted in the Search and Rescue litter, weaving baskets, and petting live snakes, tortoises, owls, and possums. The public also enjoyed learning about the

wilderness, the SGWA, local forest history, fire fighting equipment, and the Off-Highway Vehicle Volunteers program.

On a wonderful August morning, about 40 volunteers and others enjoyed a free Belgium waffle breakfast courtesy of volunteers **Bob and Kathy Seidenberg**. After a long fun day of greeting and educating the public, we wrapped things up with delicious barbecued hamburgers and hotdogs by volunteer chef **Jeff Haggard**. Our continuing thanks to **Karen Saffle**, Forest Festival Manager, for pulling it all together so well once again.



Fremont Investment and Loan Helps Forest Visitors Through the SGWA

The San Gorgonio Wilderness Association receives \$\$ Cash \$\$ from Fremont Investment and Loan through its Deposit Incentive Donation Program.

If you currently have accounts at Fremont or open any new accounts, just mention you want SGWA #361 to receive credit, and Fremont will do the rest. Fremont will make an annual donation and it costs you, an SGWA supporter, nothing. SGWA will receive a cash donation, \$1,337.69 this year, and you'll get great interest rates on FDIC insured accounts! No money is taken from Fremont customer accounts and complete privacy is maintained.

SGWA has been a member of this program since September 2001 and has received a total of \$3,392 to date. The value of those funds to the public is then multiplied five times by our volunteers who serve, protect, and educate.

Please help us earn more! For information on this wonderful program, contact **Barbara Garcia** at Fremont Investment and Loan at 909-793-8080 (located at the corner of State and 6th Streets in downtown Redlands) or any of their other branches (1-800-373-6668) including Torrance, Long Beach, Huntington Beach, Newport Beach, Laguna Woods, Woodland Hills, Northridge, Pasadena, Whittier, and Tustin. Look for more information at www.1800fremont.com/ida/branchlocation.asp.

OUR THANKS TO FREMONT FOR HELPING SGWA SERVE THE PUBLIC.

Welcome to New Mountain Top District Ranger

Kurt L. Winchester has joined us this summer as the new district ranger on the Mountain Top District of the San Bernardino National Forest (NF). He was most recently a staff officer on the Plumas National Forest in Quincy, California. Kurt Winchester was assigned the position of district ranger after the former district ranger, **Allison Stewart**, became the Forest Service national press officer in Washington, DC.

"We are delighted to welcome Kurt to the Mountain Top District, where his skills will be a valuable addition to the great healthy forest work already established there," said Forest Supervisor Jeanne Wade Evans. "His strong background in forestry and fire management makes him a good fit for the Mountain Top and the communities. I am pleased to welcome him to the forest."

Winchester, 53, received his Bachelor of Science degree in forest management from Utah State University in 1977. While still in school, he began working for the Forest Service as a temporary employee on a fire crew for three years on the Wasatch-Cache NF in Utah. He then moved to Flagstaff, Arizona where he worked on the Coconino NF and the Kaibab NF in timber and fire management. In 1986, he moved to the Carson NF in Taos, New Mexico, where for over sixteen years he worked as a silviculturist, a forester, a staff officer, a district ranger, and an acting deputy forest supervisor. He was most recently on the Plumas NF for three years as a special assistant in implementing the special forest management legislation of the Quincy Library Group across three national forests.

"I'm excited to join the team on the Mountain Top Ranger District," Winchester said. "I know it's a big district with many challenges, and it's known for its strong cooperative work with the communities. I'm glad to become a part of it." He and his wife Maria have three grown daughters.

The Devil Will Return
(adapted from *The Forest Steward*, August 2006)

Southern California's infamous seasonal winds are dry, north-easterly winds with speeds of 30 to 100 miles per hour. Their incorrect yet widely used name is Santa Ana Winds. Their correct name is "Santana Winds" or "devil winds" - "Santana" being the Spanish word for "Satan."

These hot, drying winds occur when air coming off the desert gets squeezed through mountain passes and forced in a southwesterly direction toward the ocean. These offshore winds usually occur from fall to winter when a high pressure

system forms in the Great Basin between the Sierra Nevada and the Rocky Mountains. The air warms and dries as it flows down slope from the high plateau, and its speed increases dramatically when forced through narrow canyons and passes such as our local Cajon Pass north of San Bernardino.

The arrival of Santana winds is often preceded by clearing skies, bright starry nights, and a drop in temperatures. As they begin to blow, temperatures rise and the relative humidity plummets rapidly. Santana events typically last from two to seven days. With each passing hour the fire danger increases.

Santana winds dry and heat available fuels. They push fire more quickly into new, pre-heated areas of fuel. As a result, the rate at which fire spreads is exaggerated during Santana winds. When a fire starts during Santana conditions, it can easily turn from a routine wildfire into a catastrophic event such as the Old Fire of 2003.

Scientists Prove What We Already Know
by John Flippin

For those of us who grew up in the outdoors and/or spend a lot of time there now, the psychological benefits of being "out there" are obvious. We are certainly not drawn back out there because it is easy to climb steep trails or carry ridiculous weight on our backs or because we like various bugs trying to penetrate our defenses. You know the great feeling it provides. It is a feeling that is difficult, if not impossible, to explain to those who have not had the opportunity to get used to miscellaneous discomforts which become inconsequential in the company of just you and nature in the great outdoors.



The June 15, 2007, issue of **The Week** reported that doctors wrote 190 million prescriptions for antidepressants in 2006. For some people, those medications are lifesavers, though many critics question whether some psychiatrists are handing out the most commonly

prescribed antidepressants like candy to any patient going through a rough time. New research indicates there is an alternative treatment for mild depression that is cheaper and just as effective: spending time engaged in vigorous activity in the outdoors. Researchers at Britain's Essex University asked people suffering from mild depression to take a 30-minute walk, some in a wooded park and others in an indoor shopping center. After the country walk, 71 percent said they felt less depressed and 90 percent said it made them feel better about themselves. After the shopping center walk, only 45 percent felt less depressed and 22 percent said they felt more depressed. Another 44 percent said their self-esteem had fallen. In a second study on "ecotherapy," 108 people went cycling or walking, or took part in outdoor conservation projects. Afterward, 94 percent said such "green" exercise had improved their mental health.

I don't believe this is surprising research results to most of our readers. But it does confirm why we often refer to our volunteers as health care providers - providing safe, low cost opportunities for people to maintain and improve their physical, spiritual, and mental health in the great outdoors.

A Breezy Sunny Day
by John Flippin

The 13th Annual Jenks Lake Fish Festival organized by the San Bernardino National Forest Fisheries and Front Country Ranger District Recreation staff, the San Gorgonio Wilderness Association, the Fisheries Resources Volunteer Corps, and the Fire Education Volunteers took place on a perfect sunny day on September 15th. The 80 invited kids had a beautiful breezy adventure around Jenks Lake.

We had over 50 volunteers, including members of the Fisheries Resources Volunteer Corps, Anaheim Rotary #921, Anaheim Convention Center, San Gorgonio Wilderness Association, and the Fire Education Volunteers. In addition, there were about 10 San Bernardino National Forest personnel led by **Alfredo Zarate**, Front Country District Assistant Recreation Officer, and **Sharon Barfknecht**, Wilderness

Ranger. Our San Bernardino National Forest Aquatic Biologist, **Gar Abbas**, also joined in the fun. Volunteers and Forest Service personnel served a free hot lunch, helped children fish, and presented nature and fire education displays and activities. The children also received free t-shirts and photos of themselves with the fish they caught. We missed having Forest Service Fire Engine crews with us this year. They were all very busy protecting lives and property threatened by the very large Butler 2 Fire near Big Bear Lake that had started the day before.

People coming out to spend time with the children are not the only keys to a successful event. People and organizations donating money and goods also make the event possible and much more enjoyable for the children. Those supplying apples, sodas, hot dogs and buns, cookies, chips, and transportation through the San Gorgonio Wilderness Association included the Anaheim Convention Center, Anaheim Rotary #921, 7-Up Bottling Company of Orange, and Crabill & Sons Produce of Fullerton - all pulled together by our wonderful SGWA volunteer

Teddi Boston. Donators of significant funds for t-shirts, film for children's souvenir photos, fishing bait, and other supplies included **Mary Ann Schofield, Joanne Meier, Ted Schofield**, and the Fisheries Resources Volunteer Corps. All of these folks and many more are essential members of our Jenks Lake Fish Festival team making life better for some wonderful children.

All in a Day of Volunteering
by Ardis Beckner, SGWA
Volunteer

If you have ever wondered why people volunteer for the San Gorgonio Wilderness Association, let me share some happenings.

It was a normal Sunday morning when I drove to the appointed meeting place with the interpretive sites coordinator. We checked out two radios, our contact for emergencies. The Big Falls area was quiet, as there was a chili cook-off and parade in the nearby small town to celebrate the 4th of July.

After setting up the tables with information for visitors and the signs offering Adventure passes, I started off to pick up trash and see if there

were any problems needing attention on the trail to Big Falls, the highest and most reliable falls in southern California. Uncaring party people had been there the day or night before and ignored signs saying "No Alcoholic Beverages." I picked up beer bottles and cans, as well as empty chip bags and a half can of bean dip. There were bottle caps and some broken bottles, left in an area where parents bring children to splash in the water to enjoy the outdoors and cool off at a price they can afford. I picked up a plastic grocery bag full of trash when one of the children started screaming. I glanced at him and thought how much fun it would be if my brother or sister threw water all over me. The screaming continued and now father was beckoning me to come quick! He was grabbing a towel and wrapping it with pressure around the child's knee. My years of first aid training told me it would need major stitches.

The father carried the 8 yr old as far as the nearest house driveway while I used the radio to call for help. My band aids weren't big enough. Three rangers and search and rescue volunteers arrived on scene and the child was taken to a local hospital for care.

On my next volunteer day I had the good fortune of being assigned to the Johns Meadow trail, along with **Sandy Messner** and our "volunteer botanist" **Sheila McMahon**. The day was lovely, a mere 90 by noon, but this trail is mostly in the shade. We were just ready to start off when a friendly dog with harness and 3 identification tags came down the trail with tongue hanging, indicating it was hot.

We assumed the owners were not far behind, so waited to encourage them to keep dogs on leash in the woods. When they didn't show, Sandy, the dog trainer, offered some water in a thermos jug marked with bear teeth marks left by someone at the trail head. We used up two bottles of water and part of a half gallon from my trunk before the dog was satisfied. We called the collar phone number in Orange county thinking maybe the dog had wandered off and been left, but there was no reply. The other tags from the animal shelter told us they would be open the next day. So we tried to coax the dog to get into the car to

take it to the nearest ranger station at Barton Flats until someone picked it up. The dog had been well trained not to take rides with strangers and walked off to lie beside a truck in the parking area. We left, thinking we might see the owners on the trail. We did not, but the truck and dog were gone when we arrived back from hiking.

On the trail there were two 6-10 inch diameter trees down halfway across the trail. More work for volunteers. Some hikers had put their feet in the duff along the edge of the trail, enjoying the dirt slide with each step. Squirrels had remembered some acorns hidden in the trail and now 6-8 inches down which they retrieved for food. They didn't close up the holes so we did. Our reward came when we reached the creek. The water seeps that run across the trail had provided water for flowers, as had the creek below us. Fireweed made a carpet of purple flowers above and below the creek crossing. But an even greater reward were the 18 other flowers we identified from the

reds of paintbrush and scarlet monkey flowers, to yellows of sneezeweed, wallflowers and goldenrod, to the tufts of clematis and purple of lupines. There were white rein orchids, elderberry, currants, prickly poppy and thimbleberry. Most of all, we enjoyed the stream orchids with hundreds of plants blooming in profusion. For years I had thought myself fortunate to find 2 or 3 of them, but in this dry year there were so many on July 14th that I will mark my calendar to go back next year to check. Oh, did I mention the lemon lilies at Vivian Creek also put on a garden show in July? A steep hike, but worth the effort especially if you like going to free garden shows.

Each volunteer day brings new adventures. Which reminds me, I am due to help at Mill Creek Ranger station today in 15 minutes. Yours for the hike. Ardis

(Editors Note: Ardis Beckner is in her 13th year of volunteering with the SGWA.)



SGWA Steps Up Trail Maintenance Efforts

by John Flippin

There has been an unfortunate reduction in Forest Service trail maintenance funding for the San Geronio Wilderness and surrounding forest this year. Therefore, the SGWA is trying very hard with its own limited funding to begin building a more complete trail maintenance program of its own. The SGWA has, through purchases, donations, and grants, put together a good supply of trail maintenance tools and personal protective equipment and is looking for additional funding to obtain more. Also, six of our volunteers (**Todd Foster, Jim Johnson, Jeff Lynn, Richard Nyerges, Dan Riley, and Ted Schofield**) donated two full days of their time to successfully complete a crosscut saw certification class. Because several of them had a lot of prior crosscut saw experience with Forest Service trail crews, they will be certified to lead other volunteers on crosscut saw projects to remove larger trees from across trails.

As in past years, many small teams of two to three volunteers are accomplishing small projects in and around the wilderness on most weekends - minor brush removal on 5 to 20 feet of trail in various locations, removal of small trees across the trail, rock removal on small sections of trail, etc. In addition, this summer SGWA is beginning to survey for, plan, coordinate, and supervise larger trail maintenance projects requiring four or more volunteers.

On the Whispering Pines and Ponderosa Nature Trails, **Mary Hart** led the team of **Teri Cappuccio, John Flippin, Jan Gudgell, Jeff Haggard, Del Hawkins, Jeff Lynn, Kim Maes, Pat Peters, Kate Steele, Cassidy Silva, Val Silva, and Bob Villa**. In early May, they cleaned up winter debris, repaired trail damage, picked up litter, and cut back brush and low hanging tree limbs.

In early June, on the lower Fish Creek Trail, **Val Silva and Teddi Boston** led a very large crew consisting of **Richard Andrus, John Flippin, Del Hawkins, Cindy Johnson, Jim Johnson, Jeff Lynn, Oscar Maldonado, Kim Peterson,**

Sheila McIntire, Sandy Messner, Ted Schofield, Gail Seymour, and Steve Thom. They all reconstructed a 50-yard section of trail washed out by a flash flood, rebuilt a 40-foot section of trail knocked out by a very large tree fall, and removed three large trees from across the trail.

Robert McDowell surveyed the Forsee Creek Trail and found that many trees were across the trails going up to Jackstraw Camp and over to Johns Meadow Camp. These were some of the hundreds of drought/beetle killed trees near the trail in that area. In early July, Robert led **John Flippin, Alden Kiertzner, Kim Peterson, and Brian Rose** up the trail to remove the downed trees. They removed nine trees in all, cut back several low hanging trees, and did a little trail tread repair work.

In late July, **Bob Oppermann** led **John Flippin, Paul Halewijn, Jeff Lynn, Dan Riley, and Donna Schmidt** up the Siberia Creek Trail. That is a National Recreation Trail going from the Santa Ana River canyon south of Big Bear Lake up to Snow Valley on Highway 18. **Bob, Larry Stiles, and Alfredo Zarate** had surveyed the trail for maintenance needs earlier in the summer and found there was a need for several projects including tread repair, brush removal, and tree removal over a long period of time. On a hot day, Bob and his team, along with Forest Service personnel **Sharon Barfknecht, William Bertoldi, Odos Clanin, and Alfredo Zarate** started cutting back brush, repairing trail tread, and removing trees on several lower portions of the trail. After a very dusty hot day of work, volunteers **Bob and Kathy Seidenberg** provided a wonderful free barbeque dinner to the crew at their second home in Seven Oaks.

Most recently, volunteers **Gary Berry, Karl Doering, Michael Garant, Dan Scott, Donna Schmidt, and Ian Smith** joined Forest Service personnel **Sharon Barfknecht, William Bertoldi, and Odos Clanin** on the Vivian Creek Trail. After a long hike in, they repaired several illegal switchback cuts and removed a few large trees from across the trail.



Congratulations to the volunteers mentioned above and many others on weekly patrols who are keeping trails open for the public in and around the San Geronio Wilderness. People tend to fight for the protection of what they know and love. And the public will come to know and love these forests and mountains much more if they have good clear trails on which they can make their way into the heart of the mountains and develop that love.

The Common Willow

(adapted from Forestland Steward, Winter 2002 issue, CA Dept. of Forestry & Fire Protection)

Willows, in the genus *Salix*, are common plants, generally found in riparian, or wet, environments. There are about 170 species worldwide, with about 100 in North America, and six species commonly found in the Southern California mountains. They all have long, narrow, lance-shaped leaves and can be found from 2,000 to 10,000 foot elevations. Most are shrubs (some up to 30 feet high), but two in southern California, the Red Willow and the Golden Willow, are trees growing to 45 feet high.

Willows provide food and cover for many different animals including shade for fish, habitat for birds, and browse for deer. They are the preferred food of beaver and often used for building beaver dens.

Native Americans used preparations from willows to treat toothache, stomach ache, diarrhea, dysentery, and dandruff. The medicinal properties come from the salicin found in willows. Salicin is closely related to acetylsalicylic acid (aspirin). Native Americans also used the stems for basketry and bow making and the bark for tea and fabric making.

Willow is a pioneer species, able to establish in disturbed soils. It is shade intolerant but able to survive flooding. These characteristics make willow a good choice for stream bank stabilization. The fast spreading root systems are effective in erosion control.

Willow is also being explored as a renewable energy resource to combat global warming. Willow biomass plantations have been established in New York and Europe for its potential as a fuel for electricity generation.

Lifetime Members

The following people have made at least one especially generous single donation of \$600 (individuals)/\$900 (joint) or more.

Their dedication to our mission of serving the public and protecting the Wilderness in the San Gorgonio area is evident and very much appreciated.

Donations of this size are especially important in helping the SGWA to establish a strong and lasting program of service, protection, and education.

- David Brisban
- Gitty Denver
- Peggy Manning
- Christin Militello
- Karen Saffle
- Bryan Walton
- Jarome Wilson

**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:

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(\$25, \$35 family, \$20 student/senior, or more annually)

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- Jaimie La Pointe
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- John Flippin
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