

A Take Pride in America National Award Winner

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President's Message

Did you hear the one about...
Friends, Volunteers, and Members

Stop me if you've heard the one about the guy from Tennessee who

always wore several hats at the same time. How about the one about the Volunteer Coordinator who started each year discussing his impending retirement? I'm sure you've heard about the Executive Director who helped found the SGWA and kept it moving forward for nearly two decades until he was able to pass the responsibilities off to others.

If I have you looking for punch lines at this point, it is no doubt that you have participated in some SGWA events over the last 18 years and have heard some of the infamously painful bad puns from our Volunteer Coordinator, Business Manager, Executive Director, Friend, and Mentor **John Flippin**. There is no punch line, because this is the year that John has removed all his "hats" and has returned to being a Volunteer.

For many of us John has been the face of SGWA in our interaction with Forest Service partners and Contributing Members, as well as existing and potential Volunteers.

In 1990 **James Bolson, John Flippin, Dana Floyd, Dorothy Fotheringham, David Hallet, Alice Krueper, Linda Roddick, Val Silva, and Dale Silvernail**, and founded the organization that became SGWA. As we start 2008, John and Val are the remaining Founding Directors still active in our program.

Last year **Alden Kiertzner** was selected to take on the Volunteer Coordinator duties, and **Dee McCoy** has been taking on additional duties in the office. With John's full retirement this year, fellow Founder

Val Silva has agreed to step into the role as Executive Director.

John has served this organization well for many years and it will be strange to have an awards ceremony without his painful puns. As you see John out on the trails, please take a moment to thank this man who has given so much to keep SGWA moving forward. Thank you, John!

And moving forward is what we continue to do. The Banff Mountain Film Festival held at the University of Redlands this last March has made so many more people aware of SGWA and the work we do and has provided us many opportunities to educate the public about the wonderful Wilderness we all hold so dear. The Festival was a tremendous success and we are already in discussions with the University to host the event again next year. I want to thank SGWA's Vice President **Ted Schofield**, who worked very hard to plan and organize the event, as well as recognize the outstanding contributions from **Phebe Baty, Ardis Beckner, Richard Hochensmith, Alden Kiertzner, Sue and Peter King, Sheila McMahon, Lee Nielson, Val Silva, John Flippin, and Bob Williams**, who all went above and beyond to assure success.

Our 2008 program is just starting and it has already been an eventful year!

Jarome Wilson, President SGWA



New Executive Director Val Silva

Many of you know me or have at least seen me on the trails. I have been a volunteer with SGWA for 25 years. That's right, 25 years, during that time my children have grown, they were 8 and 10 when I started—now I have a granddaughter, **Cassidy**, who is 10 and also a volunteer.

My husband **Danny** and I began coming to the mountains in the late 1970's my children were young and it was cheap family entertainment. They think they would have preferred Disneyland every weekend but I'm sure they are wrong. We brought our horses and rode most trails in the mountains and camped first at South Fork, when it was a horse camp, and then in Heart Bar dispersed area.

One day when I was riding with my friend **Patt French**, we were caught at Dollar Lake without a permit. We were given a choice: volunteer or get a ticket. Seems the ticket would have been cheaper but who had money. Twenty-five years later I am still here, so is Patt, by the way.

I am looking forward to being the Executive Director. John has done an excellent job in setting up the program in anticipation of his retirement. I am fortunate to have the support of **Dee Mc Coy**, who is office manager, and Interpretive sites coordinator, **Alden Kiertzner**, the volunteer coordinator, and **Sue King**, merchandise Manager. Members of the board have been very helpful and are willing to take on tasks, or take me to task if I am running amuck. I also appreciate the support of the Forest Service. **Melinda Lyon**, **Alfredo Zarate**, and **Sharon Barfhect** keep me informed and help with prioritizing projects, training, and many other technical details. With everyone's help we will continue to grow as an organization and be here in 25 years so my grandchildren and yours can take over the reins.

It's not that I don't have another life, I just prefer this one. I have been the Equestrian Coordinator for 20 years and will continue to ride

and patrol. You will find me at Tulake or Mill Creek most of the summer. My e-mail address and phone numbers are in this publication. Don't hesitate to contact me with questions, advice, or ideas. I invite everyone to come visit or stay a night or two while they volunteer.

Executive Director's Corner Val Silva

John Flippin is enjoying a well-deserved retirement after 15 years of leadership and dedication to SGWA.

John was responsible for the administrative development of SGWA. When he first started as Executive Director, there were only a handful of volunteers who did wilderness patrols. SGWA was run by a board and the volunteer coordinator was a Forest Service seasonal employee. The Forest Service felt it would be better if they contracted with SGWA to do the volunteer coordination and entered into a challenge cost share agreement with SGWA.

Through John's leadership, we now have over 120 volunteers doing many types of valuable programs for the Forest Service. In addition to wilderness patrols, volunteers man three interpretive sites, Barton Flats, Horse Meadows and Big Falls. We provide evening programs at the Greyback Amphitheater for hundreds of people in the summer time. Volunteers also provide environmental and educational information at environmental events at the local colleges and, for the first time, brought the Banff Film Festival to the Redlands area. We are also members of Earth Share and we go to local employers and tell them about our program and the Earth Share program to encourage payroll pledges to the organization.

SGWA was honored with the Take Pride in America award - The President's Volunteer Service Award. Created by the President's Council on Service and Civic Participation, it is the highest award for volunteerism to be bestowed on Americans who, by their demonstrated commitment and

example, inspire others to engage in volunteer service.

John has been dedicated to SGWA - he has been the one who makes sure everything is done correctly and safely. He has maintained an excellent rapport with the Forest Service that makes our program strong. John plans on doing the thing he loved most before he became the Executive Director, volunteering. He took the Trail Boss training and is a qualified trainer for trail work and we will see him out on the trail cracking the whip. He and Kate are also planning some long awaited vacations this summer.

Thanks, John, for all your dedication and hard work. I expect you to volunteer at least two weekends a month until you learn the job.

BANFF!!!

Ted Schofield, Funds Development Coordinator

On March 26, 2008, the San Gorgonio Wilderness Association hosted the first annual Banff Mountain Film Festival World Tour appearance in the Inland Empire of Southern California. The evening was a rousing success and the culmination of nearly a year of activity by a group of SGWA volunteers.

In the spring of 2007, volunteer **Bill Carr** brought a well-researched suggestion to the Board that SGWA apply to the Banff Centre to host a new stop on their World Tour as an SGWA fundraiser. Banff, located in the Canadian Rockies about 80 miles from Calgary, has held a Mountain Film Festival concentrating on mountain culture every November for the last 30 years. Then a variety of the winning films is selected for a world tour. The folks at Banff are very selective about who hosts their tour stops so the board was a little surprised when SGWA was selected within a few weeks of applying. The SGWA mission of preserving the wilderness of San Gorgonio fit the Banff Mountain emphasis on mountain culture.

Thus began several months of activity as a group of volunteers planned for the big event. **Phebe Baty**, took the lead in negotiating with the **University of Redlands** to use their Memorial Chapel as the venue for the show. The University waived their normal fee for the Chapel and supported the SGWA in every aspect of hosting a successful event. **Lee Nielsen** took charge of finding sponsors to donate door prizes for the event. He set his sights high and lined up **REI of Rancho Cucamonga, Equadra Outfitters of Big Bear, The Robinhood Lodge and Resort of Big Bear, Snow Summit, Apple Computer**, and **Land Rover**. The local sponsors donated prizes worth more than \$2,000.

The Board decided that this opportunity shouldn't be devoted simply to raising money and expanded the goal to educating the public about the SGWA mission and the recreational opportunities in the local mountains. With this in mind, **Mickey Kacherwski** designed a new display board to present the SGWA story, **Jarome Wilson** prepared the graphics, created a slide show of the wilderness to introduce the films, and prepared brochures to encourage new volunteers and tell the SGWA story. **Phebe Baty, Ardis Beckner, Sheila McMahon, Lee Nielsen** did a great deal of retail marketing as they got the word out in Redlands, Loma Linda, Big Bear, and Riverside. The Board knew we had a great show but getting the word out was critical to the success of the event.

The day of the show a large crew of volunteers was ready. **Phebe Baty, Ardis Beckner, Teddi Boston, Bill Carr, John Flippin, Jan Gudgell, Richard Hockensmith, Alden Kiertzner, Sue and Peter King, Cindy McGregor, Sheila McMahon, Pat Peters, Dan Riley, Karen Saffle, Val Silva, Bob Williams** and many more showed up in their volunteer uniforms to set up the equipment, sell tickets and keep the crowd happy.

The end result of all this work was a wildly cheering group of 600 outdoor enthusiasts. People would

cheer in the middle of a film. There were collective OOHS! and AAHS! when a skier or mountain biker had a spectacular fall. Large groups would cheer when a friend won an iPod or a gift certificate. To say a great time was had by all would be a gross understatement. The SGWA received a standing ovation at the end when the Banff moderator asked the audience to thank the hosts -- SGWA.

Best of all, the Banff Centre has SGWA as a host for at least the next two years and the University of Redlands wants SGWA to bring the tour back again and again. The good will and energy that this event brought SGWA and the wilderness will resound throughout the next year. The Banff coordinators warned that our audience should double next year.

Thanks for 15 Wonderful Years, by John Flippin

It's actually been 21 years since I first started volunteering with the Forest Service in the San Geronio Wilderness, a couple months before I retired from the Air Force. I fondly remember that first day of volunteer training (at Camp Tahquitz then) and the wonderfully friendly people including **Bob Shuker**, Wilderness Manager (now retiring from FS law enforcement at Region 5), **Dave Hood**, FS Volunteer Coordinator, volunteer **Linda Roddick** (later to be SGWA President), and new volunteer **Larry Vincent** (later joining and recently retired from the Forest Service). It was a beautiful mid-May cool morning under the tall pines in 1987. **Mickey Kacherwski, Peggy Manning, and Danny and Val Silva** had already been volunteering for a few years.

Then in May 1993, the FS Volunteer Coordinator position was abolished just a couple of weeks before our annual new volunteer training. I was already the SGWA business manager and SGWA President **Linda Roddick** encouraged me to take on the volunteer coordinator position. I thought I was doing it for one summer until something else could be worked out. Well, I continued to

get lots of encouragement and help from super Forest Service people and SGWA volunteers for the next 14 years. It's always been about good people working together and it always will be. All the SGWA successes that I've been fortunate to be associated with have occurred because we've always had a great joint Forest Service/SGWA team. That's what I will miss the most, working constantly with that team -- frustrating, very worrisome, and tiring at times (like most jobs worth doing), but mostly always pleasurable and very rewarding. Knowing that I had a little part in enabling thousands of volunteers over the years to serve the public in so many wonderful ways -- that will always make me feel good. I've been very lucky that we've had the best association presidents an executive director could ever ask for in **Linda Roddick, Dave Hallet, Val Silva, Roger Gossett, and Jarome Wilson**. We've also had fantastic Forest Service Liaisons like **Brad Burns, Karen McKinley, Audrey Scranton, and Alfredo Zarate** working directly with us and supporting us all the way. There are dozens more names I would like to mention, from ground pounding volunteers and Forest Service personnel, up through San Bernardino National Forest staff and Forest Supervisors. I will forever be very grateful to all the volunteers and Forest Service people for putting up with me and my bad jokes, and for giving me the best and most satisfying career I could have ever hoped for. Also, thank you for that wonderful retirement party, cards, and gifts.

As I retire, I'm very happy that the SGWA is in great financial health (thanks mostly to Vice President, **Ted Schofield**), and under the direction of an excellent board of directors, dedicated officers including our amazing President, **Jarome Wilson**, a great new volunteer coordinator, **Alden Kiertzner**, and the best Executive Director, **Val Silva**, we could ever dream of having. Now I'm enjoying retirement with my partner **Kate** and simply volunteering again. How can I do otherwise? SGWA volunteers are the greatest bunch of people I've ever known, all

working together to protect the forest and enabling the public to maintain and improve their physical, mental, and spiritual health. I'll see you on the mountain. Take care. John "Flip"

Jenks Lake Val Silva

As you leave the South Fork wilderness boundary, you notice a "ditch" filled with water. This water is diverted from the South Fork River and goes several miles to fill Jenks Lake.

The ditch was dug by **Captain Jenks** who came into the area in the mid-1870s. He built an earthen and log dam across a ravine above Barton Flats and formed a small lake. Legend says he did the job single-handedly. He erected a log cabin on the north shore where he lived for a number of years.

The purpose of the lake was to raise fish and supply San Bernardino with fresh fish daily. This enterprise lasted until the early 1890s when the state legislature prohibited the selling of trout from mountain streams and lakes.

Today many people enjoy fishing and picnicking at Jenks Lake – and, of course, it's the site of our Fish Festival in September. Thanks Captain Jenks!!

Information obtained from John Robinson's book, *The San Bernardinos*-carried in SGWA stores and web site.

Fish Festival 2008 14th Year, Teddi Boston

Planning for the Fish Festival is already underway. This is the 14th year of this wonderful event. This special day provides a great outdoor experience for many underprivileged children from the inter-city. It's fun to watch them fishing and enjoying Jenks Lake.

Thanks to **Aramark Corp., Anaheim Rotary #921, Fisheries Volunteer Corps, Anaheim Police Activities League, Los Angeles Conservation Corps, California Department of Fish and Game, U.S. Forest Service,** and **San**

Gorgonio Wilderness Association. They provide everything needed-fishing buddies, food, and t-shirts.

Look for updates on the planning of this event in future newsletters. Mark the date on your calendar to come and help-September 13, 2008.

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:

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

*L. T. Eiland
B.C. and L.P. Gonzales
Miriam Ibarra
Richard and Lois Nowels
Dolores Smith*

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*Jennifer Blackwell
Melissa Estrada
Suzanne Hanna
Linda Harris
Jonathan Humphries and Karen Smith
John and Theresa Jachtschitz
Marina and Howell Livingston
Stacie Minor
Karen Uriarte*

President's Summit Team (\$100, \$175 family, or more annually)

Kay Dotson

A New Season-Dee McCoy Interpretive Sites Manager

I hope everyone is looking forward to getting back up on the mountain as much as I am. I want to welcome back all of our veterans and have them join me in welcoming all of our new volunteers this year. I'm counting on having some new faces" representing" at the Big Falls Information Station, up

at Horse Meadows, and at the Barton Flats Visitor Center this season, in addition to my dependable crew of regulars.

If all this early warm weather we've had is any indication of this summer, I expect the Falls will be more popular than ever for our forest visitors. Our being present up at the Falls on the weekends is a big help to our Forest Service personnel. I know how much they appreciate you guys, so let's not let them down-sign up for a couple of days at the Falls and let's make sure we have someone there **every** weekend this year.

We have two new couples joining the SGWA this season to be hosts at the Barton Flats Visitor Center. **Errol and Bonnie Robichaux** and Errol's brother and wife, **Ron and Shirley Robichaux.** The Robichaues come from Louisiana and are interested in meeting and working with new people, and are looking forward to enjoying the scenic beauty of the California mountains. They will be helping us open the visitor center for the season and are staying until late July.

Glenn and Marcia Riddle will be coming back mid-July and will be staying until we close at the end of September. I encourage all of you to stop by the visitor center as soon as you can and help welcome the Robichaues' to the SGWA family.

Whispering Pines Val Silva

Whew!!!! did we have a busy day! Saturday, May 10, was the annual Whispering Pines clean up day, which was planned and organized by **Mary Hart.** We were able to accomplish even more than usual this year because so many people signed up to help. At Whispering Pines, we fixed some trail tread, raked pine needles, picked up four large bags of trash, including some barbed wire, and put in new signposts for an interpretive sign.

Then everyone had lunch and moved on to Barton Flats, Horse Meadows, and Tulake for clean up. They raked, painted, picked up

more trash, and fixed broken water pipes.

After all this work, we enjoyed a great retirement dinner at Tulake for **John Flippin**. There was Turkey, Ham, and lots of good food and CAKE.

Thanks to **Phebe Baty, Judi Brey, Allan Chang, John Dombrowski, Betty and Bill Ferrell, John Flippin, Jan Gudgell, Mary Hart, Dell Hawkins, Jim and Cyndi Johnson, Mickey Kacherwski, Susan Macklin, Joe and Cindy McGregor, Sheila McMahan, Sandra Messner, Lee Nielsen, Patricia Peters, Gail Seymour, Cassidy Silva, and Bob and Catherine Williams**. Great job everyone! This starts the summer off on a good foot- woo hoo!!

Crosscut Extravaganza!!!!

Val Silva

After a great day last Saturday the 10th, working hard and eating well, a dedicated group came to work on the "Big Trees of South Fork" the next day.

Over the winter, two very large trees had fallen inside the Wilderness on the South Fork Trail. Early in May, **Mike Follett, Lee Nielson, Ted Schofield**, and I went in to "take them out." Ha. Thanks to Ted, Lee, and Mike, they were limbed but it required an army to saw them, they were BIG.

So the army set off from Tulake Sunday morning. **Bob Williams** joined the equestrian group and rode up (we have pictures). **William Berthold** came - it was his first day back at work. **Alan Chang, "Retired" John Flippin** (you notice he doesn't seem retired), **Dell Hawkins, Norm and Shirley Jackes, Jim and Cyndi Johnson, Mickey Kacherwski, Alden Kiertzner, Gail Seymour, and Cassidy Silva** made up the rest of the army.

It took about an hour and a half to get the first tree cleared, which was about 3 feet in diameter. At 11 a.m., off we went to the second tree, thinking (this was me thinking) - we'll be done by 1:00.

The second tree took a smaller tree down with it. Some people started on the smaller tree with the "come a long" and others started with the larger one, it must have been 4 feet across.

About 1 p.m., remembering this was Mother's Day, Alan and Alden headed home (good sons). Everyone had started on the bigger tree by then. At two o'clock several more of us left-no mothers, just needed to get home. That left five - which, coincidentally, was when they finally got it done-5 p.m. Guess I do underestimate time.

There was lots of hard work and sawdust flying. It was a good Mother's Day and a job well done. Next time you're on South Fork, look for those trees and admire the hard work.

Poem

Veronica Espinoza

Sunshine and blue skies
Birds chirping and flowers blooming

In the distance is a rushing river
Howls from inside the forest

Clouds hover over the mountaintops
Thunder roars with anger
Lightning strikes the earth with hatred

A Spark
Fire fierce with rage begins to destroy
the forest

Animals begin to run together
Ashes land in the water of the river

A distant voice shouts
Men and Women begin to run
A sound of digging in the earth's
ground

The fire becomes even more enraged
Hitting the sides and beginning to die

The skies clear and the stars become
visible
Animals come out of their hiding
spots

The Men and Women begin to rejoice
Sadly, trees were lost
Deaths, were burned
But the forest still stands as strong as
the mountains

Time comes again where flowers
blossom
New trees have already begun to
sprout
The forest still stands with a new
beginning
A life with a never ending

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Earth Share not part of your employer's workplace giving campaign? The SGWA would like to help you with that. Call **Ted Schofield** at 909-862-1089 or send an e-mail to him at flyer1955@aol.com.