

## A Take Pride in America National Award Winner

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### President's Message

Dear Volunteers, Members, and Friends of SGWA,

A phalanx of bulldozers plowing through Slushy Meadows would throw down a challenge to all wilderness advocates far and wide, and the response would be immediate and fierce opposition. An arsonist arrested while attempting to set the Forsee Creek trailhead ablaze would likewise arouse the wrath of wilderness advocates and the general public. A brutish clan of drunken thugs discovered torturing a black bear in the backcountry would offend the decency of our society's most jagged characters.

Such obvious and offensive threats to wilderness would raise the hackles of all who respect and appreciate the need to retain some portions of our great country in their

wild and primitive state. One would not need to be a "tree-hugger" to feel the urge to take immediate action.

However, I feel that graver threats to our wilderness grow with each passing day, but the threats are subtle and less likely to become rally cries. Apathy and lack of interest in wilderness and public lands are growing in our wireless society. With each passing year, fewer and fewer visit the backcountry. With the Federal Government committing more taxpayer funds to bail out the economy, it does not take a Rocket Scientist to conclude that funding to agencies that manage public lands will be squeezed.

Those of us who were fortunate to have experienced wilderness in our youth have established a bond with the land that makes us fierce advocates for its preservation. Those who have never experienced wilderness outside of a nice background photo on a friend's MySpace page have no appreciation of shaking the morning dew off a sleeping bag while waking to the sunrise on a ridge over High Creek.

The price of gas and the need to live frugally may keep some visitors away. The uncertainty of our world's economic outcome may force others to isolate themselves from the natural world. These are obvious short-term reasons why there are fewer forest visitors. I suspect, however, even if times were booming that visitation would be down.

Some wilderness advocates welcome the slowdown. They jealously safeguard any knowledge of the San Gorgonio Wilderness to the initiated through fear that the "unwashed masses" would flood the area. That sentiment is understandable. San Gorgonio is besieged on all sides by millions of people - many who would have no qualms about developing it into something more useful.

Yet wilderness protection exists in our country only through the agreement of the general public in its importance. In those masses of humanity are potential friends and advocates. In 1964, the Wilderness Act passed because a significant portion of the people understood the necessity. Would the Act pass in today's world? I'm less certain of that, and unless the percentage of people who advocate wilderness increases, I can see it losing popular support in the future.

The cure for apathy is awareness, and the future crop of wilderness advocates come from today's youth. Sharing

our wilderness experiences with younger members of our circle of friends and family will enlarge the numbers of those who are sensitive to wilderness threats both obvious and subtle.

Take the sons and daughters of this generation to the wilderness and build awareness through experience. Let them pack their iPod's. They may choose to set the earbuds aside on their own volition to hear the natural music of the gentle wild blowing through the Ponderosas. Let them toy with their PlayStation as you lay about in the evening. The first time experience having a Mule Deer walking through camp is instant competition to the game device.

While the youth of today will appreciate the wilderness differently than we did, our primary objective ought to be to grow that appreciation. Once it is planted, we can converse on common ground, and we will have developed the advocates who will watch over the wilderness when we are gone.

Jarome Wilson, President SGWA

### Safety and First Aid Corner Pamela McKeown, Editor

The SGWA recently sent two of our own volunteers to First Aid/CPR Training. **Alan Chang** and **Pamela McKeown** have successfully completed the Red Cross Training for CPR and First Aid. This will allow the SGWA to offer our own in-house low-cost training for all volunteers. We will be offering re-certification in both CPR and First Aid, and we will offer new volunteers the entire class for those who have not had CPR and First Aid. We are planning to roll out these classes in the coming months. Please watch for future times and dates in our next newsletter.

### Grants and \$\$\$\$ Val Silva, Executive Director

We have been very fortunate this year to have received two grants, all due to the efforts of **Richard Hockensmith**. Richard says he writes hundreds of grant proposals each year for us and was very excited when several of them paid off. REI awarded us a grant for \$5000. The money was used to update our computer system and sound system for the amphitheater programs and training. As always, it's great to work with REI and we of course always support their programs and encourage everyone to participate in their many classes. Richard also obtained a grant for us from American Wildlands Grassroots Fund. This grant is to provide equipment, training and certification for Trail work. We are already working on purchasing several crosscut saws and one-man saws plus other equipment for the saws, like wedges.

American Wildlands also paid for **Teddi Boston**, **Dee Mc Coy** and myself to attend a workshop in Oakland. They have so many good ideas about land conservancy, and promoting volunteers - it was well worth the trip.

EarthShare of course has been one of the biggest contributors to SGWA for the past few years. Thru the efforts of **Ted Schofield** we are members of the EarthShare combined giving program. Many of you participate thru your work and know about the program. Each year several volunteers go to workplace campaigns and talk to them about EarthShare so they will contribute to this program.

We also have other members who have agreements thru their employers to donate to us. **Cindy McGregor** has sent some info from H&R Block that will allow us to receive a donation of \$25 per person that we refer to them during tax season. There will be more info on this in January. So if you or anyone you know needs their taxes done, be sure to keep this in mind. We did this two years ago and received \$800. **Jeff Lynn** thru Boron, **Jarome** and **Chris Wilson** thru ATT also support SGWA.

### Thank You for Making This Such a Wonderful Summer Val Silva, Executive Director

Volunteers provided 13,770 hours of volunteer time this year. We were able to clear 70 trees from the trails, and contact 33,000 visitors, I am always amazed by the end of summer how much work has been done. It sure adds up. The Forest Service appreciates all the work you do. Without volunteers much of the trail work, public contacts, and trash wouldn't be done.

In March and April each year, when we start planning for the new volunteer season, it seems like September is a long way off. Then it's November. Wow, no wonder I'm getting old--time flies by so fast.

**Teddi Boston** took over as the volunteer coordinator. She has the enthusiasm to make everyone want to get out on the trails. I know everyone was excited to get the weekly updates on trail work and patrols, and they were also excited to do 12 trail projects this summer. Yahoo. You rock.

**Dee Mc Coy** continued as the interpretive sites manager for Barton Flats, Horse Meadows, and Big Falls. Every weekend she organized people to work at each of these interpretive sites. SGWA gets lots of exposure in these areas and makes a little money too. We provide education and give information to hundreds of Forest Visitors.

**Jarome and Chris Wilson** and their children continued to present programs at the Greyback Amphitheater every weekend this summer. People come from the camps at night and watch programs about the stars, night creatures, and, of course, the ever-famous A Fed Bear is a Dead Bear.

**Alan Chang** and **Pam McKeown** have volunteered to teach the 2009 first aid classes. Hopefully, everyone who needs first aid will be able to attend one of their sessions; they will try to plan them for weekends beginning early in the year. This is a big effort on their part. They both work in the medical field but have taken extra classes to teach

first aid/CPR. Give them a big hand for thinking this one up.

**Bob Hazleton** set up a Flickr account for us and is maintaining it. It's on the SGWA web site volunteer section. He would love to receive some of your pictures to put on it. At the awards, he presented a slide show that had pictures some of you took this year. So next year I expect you to send him lots more.

**Pam McKeown** has joined **Ann Robinson** in handling the reins of the newsletter. They are getting some creative and exciting ideas together so you all get more information in the future and can give more information. This is a very exciting change and I hope you all enjoy their efforts.



### First Aid Kit

**Dee McCoy, Interpretive Sites Manager**

Anytime you are hiking, especially when out on trail patrol, it is recommended that you carry a first aid kit. OK, so what should my first aid kit include?

I asked **Allan Chang**, one of our newest volunteers, but certainly not new in the experience department. Allan is an EMT and has over 200 hours volunteering for the SGWA in his first year! Allan suggested the following list:

#### Outdoor First Aid Kit:

- Adhesive bandages (Various sizes)
- Alcohol-based sanitizing gel
- Alcohol wipes
- Antacid
- Antihistamine (Benadryl)
- Antiseptic ointment
- Aspirin, ibuprofen or Acetaminophen (Tylenol)
- Acetazolamide 250 mg (Diamox) (This is prescript medicine for Acute Mountain Sickness)
- Bee or Ant sting Medicine (StingEze – sold at BIG 5 and Wal-Mart)
- Breathable tape (1/2' wide)
- Butterfly bandages (Various sizes)
- Chemical heat and cold compress packs
- Diarrhea medicine (Imodine)
- Elastic roll bandage (2", 3", and 4" wide)
- Hydrocortisone cream

- Mirror
- Moleskin
- Muscle Rub Cream
- Needles
- Paper pen/pencil
- Poison Ivy spray pen (sell at BIG 5 and Wal-Mart)
- Safety pins
- Scissor
- Snake Extractor-general purpose at Big 5/Wal-Mart
- Sterile gauze pads (2" X 2", 3" X 3", and 4" X 4")
- Sterile stretch rolls (2", 3", and 4" wide)
- Triangular bandage
- Tweezers
- Water purification tablets or filter
- Optional: Your Personal Medicines

#### Reference Resources:

*First Responder, Inc.:* [WWW.FRINC.NET](http://WWW.FRINC.NET)

*Wilderness Medical Associates:* [WWW.WILDMED.COM](http://WWW.WILDMED.COM)

### NEWS FLASH

**Banff Film Festival—March 25, 2009!!!**

This is the second year SGWA will host this spectacular event. Be sure and mark your calendars for Wednesday, March 25, 2009, in Redlands at the Clock Auditorium, Redlands High School. We need volunteers to help sell, tickets, set up, and take tickets. For more information, see the SGWA web site ([www.sgwa.org](http://www.sgwa.org)) or contact Val Silva, [sgwa@earthlink.net](mailto:sgwa@earthlink.net), or call Val at 760.900.9734.

### Volunteer Biography of the Month

**Pam McKeown** became a volunteer in May of 2007. She enjoys the overnight patrols and day hikes out of Tulake. Pam also enjoys meeting people on the trail, and doing the trail maintenance projects. During her first season, Pam was able to summit the peak of San Gorgonio via the South Fork Trail to Dollar Saddle. Climbing to the summit of San Gorgonio was her favorite trip that year. Pam's least favorite part of volunteering is the end of the hiking season in September. Pam enjoys hiking with her children who are grown, and taking her poodles with her on trails by her house. Future plans for volunteering with the SGWA include the possibility of learning to ride horses and become an Equestrian Volunteer someday. For now, Pam is active on the Board for SGWA and recently volunteered to be the Editor of our newsletter.



### H&R Block Partnership Cindy McGregor, Volunteer

H&R Block has again invited to us participate in a partnership with them, where we can raise money for the SGWA, by referring new clients to H&R Block. For every NEW client referred to Block, they will give us \$25. The clients cannot have come to Block in 2008, but could have been a returning Block client from prior years. You will be getting info about the flyers to hand out shortly. This time Block is not offering any discount to the client but it won't cost them anything to present the flyer to Block and it will help the SGWA. You can give the flyers to relatives, friends, put them out in your lunchroom at work, etc. They hope to get the flyers out by the first of the year. Any questions? Contact Val Silva or Cindy McGregor.

### A Little Bit of Tulakes History William Woodward, Lodge Chief and Adviser

Our own Camp Tulakes was once a Boy Scout camp, as many of you already know. But were you aware:

The Old Baldy Council, at its Camp Tulakes, had a camping society, which had the name of Navajo. The name of Navajo appears to have been chosen because of some involvement of the local scouts with Navajo Indians in the area.

In the summer of 1935, the first inductions into the Order of the Arrow, a camp society that recognized those scouts who best represented the Scout Oath and Law, were held during summer camp. This is the founding date of the Navajo Lodge.

In conversations with and a letter from Jack Atwood, our first Lodge Chief, it appears that **O. A. Alderson**, scout executive of the Old Baldy Council, asked him to implement the program because he was a camp staff member. He picked some other camp staff members and they started inducting members during the 4-week camp season in the summer of 1935 at Camp Tulakes. They inducted 32 members during that summer and the following two summers

### Thank You Dee McCoy-Interpretive Sites Manager

Another great year has ended and 2009 will be here before we know it. In the meantime, I want to say thanks to all of you--especially to my Interpretive A list. To those who went above and beyond when it came to volunteering at the Falls: **Larry Boucher, Edie Cole, James Espinoza, Andy Johnson, Maryann Oliver, and Vicki Voss**. Then there are those I can always count on: **Phebe Baty, Ardis Beckner, Bill Carr, Jeff Haggard, Janelle Kotzin, Lois Kuss, Jeremy Liu, Sandy Messner, Robert McDowell, Sheila McMahan, Barbara Petite, Karen Saffle, Beverly Taylor, Bob Villa, Domenic Wager, and Richard and Jill Hockensmith**. And I even had a few who came out of their "niche"-**Allan Chang, Paul Halewijn, and Dan Riley**. Also thanks to **John Flippin** and **Kate Steele** for filling in at the visitor center (so I could go to the Fish Fest!) and to **Glenn and Marcia**

**Riddle**. They weren't able to stay long, but, as always, we are so grateful to have them around, they do such a great job. And last, but definitely not least, **Errol and Bonnie, and Ron and Shirley Robichaux**. They did a fantastic job of taking care of everything at the visitor center and we are genuinely looking forward to their return next May. I hope I'll see all of you again in 2009!

### Paul Bunyan's Pickup Sticks John Flippin, Volunteer

I've been on a lot of great trail crews and I'm sure I've never been on a better one than the crew that crosscut seven large trees (some requiring two cuts) November 29th on the Vivian Creek Trail just before Vivian Camp. **Bob Hazelton's** experience in woodcutting was invaluable (Bob was also our official photographer). **Jim Johnson** was our expert in all kinds of crosscut saws and their use. **Jeff Lynn**, with his many years of trail crew experience, provided expert advice on technique and safety. And then there was me, **John Flippin**, the old man they completely wore out. First, we had two large 24-36" trees to cut out that were on or close to the trail. One, unexpected, must have fallen just a couple days before. Then we cut and cleared away a mess of smaller downed trees that have been blocking the Vivian Falls overlook all summer.

Finally, the best, most fun, and potentially most dangerous was saved for last - a tangle of three large trees and parts of trees suspended on each other and in several live oak trees high over the trail - Paul Bunyan's pickup sticks. **Sharon Johnson**, Wilderness Ranger, arrived to join in the work about the time we started on this, as one of the crew said, "perfect storm" of fallen timber.

I've been working trails for over 20 years and I've never seen anything as challenging. We worked slow, hard, and with great deliberation for the next five hours - making high cuts, low cuts, little cuts, and 30" cuts, roping off various trees for safety, pulling parts with rope from a distance, and rocking on other parts to gain breaks rather than make unsafe final cuts. We spent a lot of time just looking, discussing the situation, determining where the next piece would fall, and figuring the safest way to accomplish the task.

In addition to their very hard and skillful work, I've never seen a crew with more determination to get the job done and yet complete patience in ensuring it was done safely. For the "perfect storm" of fallen timber, I'd say we had the perfect crew.

Just before dark, without a single minor scrape or bruise, we left a trail that was perfectly safe for the easy passage of hikers. I'm willing to hazard the guess that no greater challenge has ever been safely accomplished by a crosscut saw crew. And it is exciting that the SGWA has a few dozen trail maintenance volunteers who can also do such great work for the public. I'm very proud to be a small part of the SGWA-USFS team.

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## 2008 State Trail Worker Award Winner --Ted Schofield!!!

Pamela McKeown, Editor

Our very own, **Ted Schofield** is the Vice President of the San Gorgonio Wilderness Association serving currently. He is a retired Air Force and American Airlines pilot. Ted has been a member of SGWA for 14 years. Most of his volunteer time has been spent on trail patrols, trail maintenance, and restoration projects within the San Gorgonio Wilderness. Ted has run the Earth Share Combined Giving Campaign in Riverside and San Bernardino Counties. The funds raised through this endeavor are used to help run the SGWA programs and maintain the high quality of stewardship in the Wilderness. Ted took over the fundraising activities when the Forestry Service had to cut funding. He has been highly visible in bringing the stewardship endeavors to the public by actively volunteering on trail work, but also by participating in the Forest Festival which is open to the public each August, and in the annual Fish Festival for abused and battered children. It is in these efforts that SGWA teaches the public about the importance of stewardship to the resources of the San Bernardino National Forest.

In 2007 when the Forest Service reduced seasonal trail crew activities, Ted completed a sawyer certification course so he could help remove the large number of fallen trees blocking the wilderness trails. He has led groups of volunteers in trail clearing, with two-man saws and hand tools as not power tools are allowed in Wilderness. Ted has also expanded fund raising to include film festivals.

