

W I N T E R 2 0 0 9 - 2 0 1 0

 **The WILDERNESS DISPATCH**
NEWSLETTER of the SAN GORGONIO WILDERNESS ASSOCIATION

A Take Pride in America National Award Winner
www.TakePride.gov



San Gorgonio Wilderness Association

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www.SGWA.org

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SGWA Office Assistant - Dee McCoy

Adopt-a-Trail Leader - Mary Hart

Wilderness Dispatch Editors - Pam McKeown and Ann Robinson

Flickr Photo Gallery Manager/Photographer - Bob Hazelton



SGWA 2010 Activities Calendar

DATE	ACTIVITY	COMMENTS
March 31 (Wed.)	Banff Mountain Film Festival-Redlands HS Clock Theater	Ted Schofield
April 10 (Sat.)	Interpretive Training for Trainer	Jarome Wilson
April 10 (Sat.)	CPR First Aid (SBNF Office; Time TBD)	Pam McKeown, Allan Chang
May 2 (Sat.) 10:00 am	Initial Maintenance/Setup/Turn On Water at Barton Flats	Dee McCoy, Val Silva
May 2 (Sat.)	Survey for Whispering Pines/Ponderosa Trail Maintenance	Mary Hart, Val Silva
May 8 (Sat.) 9:00 am	Whispering Pines/Ponderosa Trail Maintenance and Barton Flats Cleanup	Mary Hart
May 8 (Sat.)	Tulake Opening Work Party	Val Silva, Mickey Kacherwski
May 8 (Sat.)	Additional Cleanup/Setup of Barton Flats Station	Dee McCoy
May 15 (Sat.) 09:00 am -5:00 pm	Volunteer Training, Tulake-Veterans and New Volunteers Trail Maintenance Training	Staff Val Silva
May 22 (Sat.)	First Trail Patrols of Season	Teddi Boston
May 29 (Memorial Day Weekend)	Open Barton Flats to Public	Dee McCoy
May 29 (Sat.)	Potluck - Tulake	Val Silva
May 29 (Sat.)	First Greyback Evening Programs	Jarome Wilson
June 5 (Sat.)	National Trails Day	Teddi Boston
July 3 (Sat.)	Birthday Bash at Tulake	Val Silva
Aug 14 (Sat.)	Forest Festival at Barton Flats	Karen Saffle
Sept. 11 (Sat.)	Children's Fishing Festival at Jenks Lake	Teddi Boston
Oct. 2 & 3 (Sat./Sun.)	Last Forest Patrols of Season	Teddi Boston
Oct. 9 & 10 (Sat./Sun.)	Last Weekend Barton Flats Open to Public Begin Winter Prep of Barton Flats and Tulake	Dee McCoy Dee McCoy, Val Silva
Oct. 16 (Sat.)	Volunteer Recognition Luncheon	Val Silva, Dee McCoy, Teddi /Boston
Oct. 17 (Sun.)	Close Tulake/Barton Flats	Dee McCoy, Val Silva

WILDERNESS DISPATCH

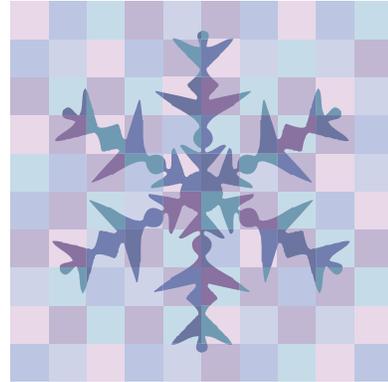
Winter 2009-2010

Happy New Year to All SGWA Volunteers!

As we enter into 2010, we move on knowing that 2009 held so many memories and milestones for both the organization as a whole and as individuals. Please join us in remembering a few of those milestones.

- SGWA volunteers donated 14,500 hours this past year. The Forest Service calculates the value of those hours to be about \$271,875!
- Volunteers had direct personal contact with over 21,253 visitors.
- As volunteers, we removed 125 large bags of litter from roads, trails, and camp grounds, and 140 illegal fire rings were removed.
- Volunteers performed over 600 hours of valuable trail maintenance, repairing over 3 miles of trail tread and brushing over a mile of trail, and removing over 40 fallen trees.
- As Volunteers, you presented over 20 Interpretive programs to over 1200 people.
- Volunteers provided lunch and fishing buddies to 160 children at the Fish Festival.
- Volunteers assisted 8,065 people at Barton Flats Visitor Center, 4,383 people at the Big Falls Center, and an additional 754 people were contacted at Horse Meadows. You have additionally provided help at the Mill Creek front desk, patrols of the SG Wilderness and surrounding areas, and litter control and education along the 10 miles of the Santa Ana River.

2009 was a memorable year and we have hopes that 2010 will hold more milestones for a successful year.



SGWA Volunteers Honored for Service Awards

Several Volunteers were recognized for their years of service at the October award ceremony. We are proud to recognize them and say, "Thank You!!!" from the SGWA.

28 Years of Service

Peggy Manning

27 Years of Service

Mickey Kacherwski

26 Years of Service

Val Silva

25 Years of Service

Patt French

20 Years of Service

Pat Peters, Jan Gudgell, Jim Sirick

15 Years of Service:

Ted Schofield and Ardis Beckner

10 Years of Service

John Grzeskiewicz and Walter Roth

Please congratulate these volunteers for their dedication and years of service to the organization. Here's to many more!



Jarome Wilson, Teddi Boston, and Jeremy Liu admiring the well-deserved award!



October 2009 in Washington, D.C.

SGWA is Awarded the Aldo Leopold Award for Overall Wilderness Stewardship Program (External)

The San Geronio Wilderness Association (SGWA), working with the San Bernardino National Forest, partnered with the Forest Service to recruit, train, administer, and support volunteers.

In the last year, SGWA volunteers restored over 100 abandoned fire ring sites to natural conditions, presented nearly two dozen nature talks, staged a free forest festival, and provided trail maintenance in and around the San

Geronio Wilderness. The SGWA has been actively helping the San Bernardino National Forest for more than 25 years.

Fourteen SGWA Volunteers showed their support for the organization and traveled at their own expense to Washington, D.C. for the awards ceremony. **Jarome Wilson**, President of SGWA, made a wonderful presentation to share more information about the organization with those who

attended the ceremony.

Congratulations to the SGWA for a job well done and to all those who took the time to participate in the award ceremony.

Winter "Leave No Trace" Tips

Information by Bob Hazelton



All of us need to practice our LNT training.



Bob Hazelton did a great job presenting the winter version of the "Leave No Trace" principles. The details were specific for winter hiking. The principles include the following:

- Plan ahead and prepare.
- Travel and camp on durable surfaces.
- Dispose of waste properly.
- Leave what you find.
- Minimize campfire impacts.
- Respect wildlife.
- Be considerate of other visitors.

When traveling, consider the weather you will be hiking in. Know the forecast in advance. Keep in mind the ability level of your group. Travel may be slower in the snow, so allow adequate time for the return hike.

Extreme weather requires specialized gear, clothing, and extra planning for the worst case scenario.

Trail markings may be hidden in snow, GPS batteries may not work well in the cold weather.

Avoid traveling close to tree limbs and brush as when these are frozen, they are fragile and can be easily broken.

When selecting camping

sites, use removable tent anchors, such as ice axes, ice screws, and poles rather than moving rocks or attaching to the trees.

Remember to pack out all solid waste. Dismantle all snow shelters, igloos, or wind breaks.

The "NO CAMP FIRE" rules apply in the winter also, to be used only for emergencies.

Winter is an especially vulnerable time for animals.

For more information about the principles of LNT visit <http://www.LNT.org> or speak with the SGWA LNT Trainer, Bob Hazelton.

Winter Patrol Training



The winter patrol training went off with a lot of enthusiasm on December 20, 2009. **Dan Scott** and **Michael Garant** presented our first annual SGWA Winter Training. They talked about what to do in an emergency situation. Clothing requirements for cold weather were also discussed. Techniques for setting up a winter camp with emphasis on types of food and additional hydration were explained. Dan and Mike gave us tips and tricks picked up from experienced winter backpackers and equipment specific to winter patrols was discussed and demonstrated.

Both Dan and Mike have already been on their first winter patrol when they went out on the trail the day after

Christmas and stayed out a few days.

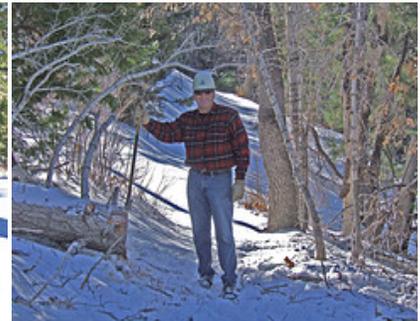
Anyone who attended this training day may want to go out and “test the snow,” so gear-up and get going! Dan and Mike have extended an invitation to help with further hands-on training for techniques like self-arrest with an ice axe. This valuable technique may save your life if you fall on the ice! A handout with all the details can be obtained from Val, if you want more information.

A key point from the Winter Patrol Training was, “Know your limits.” Never go out beyond your ability level.



Winter Trail Maintenance

Several groups have already been out on the trails doing trail maintenance. We are going to select several group projects focusing on trails that have not been worked. If you are interested, please watch the e-mail notifications for advanced planning of events.



SGWA Annual Training for 2010

May 15, 2010, will be our Annual SGWA Training. Please plan to attend and update your skills. We will have a variety of special topics. We will use the time to train new volunteers and purchase uniforms. We will also have a station to recertify CPR, and there will be an update on radio training for anyone who needs more hands-on practice. The annual training is a good time to network with your fellow volunteers. We all have our special interest. Many of us volunteer time in Wilderness Patrol, Equestrian Unit, Trail Maintenance, or Interpretive Sites. Seldom do we all get together to share our experiences and knowledge. We look forward to seeing everyone at the training. Let's make 2010 another year to remember and have an even greater impact on educating the public on protecting our beautiful wilderness!

Searching for Money for the SGWA

By Bob Oppermann

Remember the movie *Oleanna*? Neither do I, but it was the answer to 91-down in the LA Times crossword puzzle, the clue being "1994 Mamet movie." And getting that answer earned the SGWA one penny. What about the author of "No Exit"? I don't know that one either...never even heard of it. But the answer to 77-across (Sartre) earned the SGWA another penny. How is the SGWA earning money from banal pop culture? Glad you asked!

The search engine "Goodsearch" (www.goodsearch.com) is a passive fundraising tool of the SGWA. Powered by Yahoo!, it's motto is "You search, we give." For an organization such as SGWA, it's the perfect tool for raising money passively. With over 120 volunteers, most of whom are computer literate, we could earn over a dollar per day if each volunteer just did ONE search per day on Goodsearch. That would mean that since 2008, we could have already earned \$876.00 through year-end 2009 (120 volunteers x \$.01 x 730 days). So how close to that total do you think we are? Put it this way; as of this writing, if all 120 volunteers did a search right away, we would then reach the \$100.00 mark...after over two years of fundraising! C'mon, we're the SGWA...we can do better than that!

Earning money for doing a task that we already do, should be a no-brainer. If you've never been to Goodsearch.com before, it is really easy to set up. Once

on the site, just go the second window titled "Who Do You Search For?." Simply type in "SGWA" and hit the 'enter' key. Then do a search, and when you are done, you will have raised another penny for the San Gorgonio Wilderness Association.

Another aspect of this site is "Goodshop" in which major retailers (Target, Amazon, etc.) allow you to buy things on-line (for home delivery or in-store pickup), and they contribute a certain percentage to the cause. I travel a lot for work, and I recently discovered that Holiday Inn will donate 3% of my room rate to the SGWA. Therefore, I am now booking all of my rooms through the Goodsearch website. Between the rooms and the new refrigerator I bought from Home Depot, I have earned the SGWA about \$14.00 in the past month or so. And there is no extra charge for these transactions, so all is good.

Using Goodsearch as one of your search engines is a great way for SGWA to raise money. It's certainly easier than working concession stands at concerts, and has the potential to be a very good source of income for us. Please think about using Goodsearch as one of your search resources, and let it become another financial resource for SGWA.

Now, 112-across, who played Delon in 'Purple Moon'...?



The Missing Knife-A True Story
By Walter Roth

There used to be a trail from Dollar Lake to South Fork, in those days, known as "Slushy Meadows. Remnants of it still exist, but it has, for the most part, disappeared. Thirty-eight year ago, I found a shiny new pocket knife on the trail while taking a shortcut. The knife has a fork and spoon attachment like a Swiss Army knife. When I opened the knife I saw that the blade was engraved with the name Dawnelle Roth. I

thought, "What an amazing coincidence to find a brand new knife on a rarely used trail, more amazing was to find it engraved. It was really amazing to see that the owner had the same, not very common, last name as myself! I have kept the knife all these years and never used it, as it seemed too nice to use. A couple of weeks ago, I discovered the knife in a box of camping gear. I decided to see if I could find Dawnelle Roth on the

internet. I found someone who looked like a likely candidate and e-mailed her. After a few email discussions, I was sure that I had the original owner. It turned out that we grew up just 4 miles from each other. I mailed her the knife which had been a gift from her grandmother. Her two brothers had received identical knives with their names engraved. I sent it to her just in time for a wedding where she was able to share the whole story with her family. I was happy that it ended with the owner being found.

CPR and First Aid Training

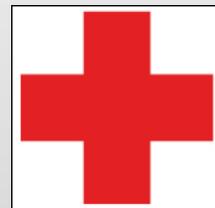
SGWA has two American Red Cross trained CPR and FA Instructors.

We will be recertifying the current SGWA Volunteers who have CPR and First Aid cards that are expiring this year. First Aid is good for three years and CPR needs to be done yearly through the American Red Cross guidelines.

The date will be Saturday, April 10,

at the San Bernardino Forest Service office. The time will be announced soon. We will also be recertifying volunteers during our annual training in May as we did last year.

All SGWA Volunteers must be able to go out on the trails with basic skills that may be used in the event of a life threatening emergency. CPR or First Aid may save the life of a fellow volunteer, a family member, or a forest visitor in need.



Patt French Celebrates 25 Years with SGWA!

Patt French was recognized for 25 years of service this past October at the Annual Awards Banquet. Patt is active with the organization as an Equestrian team member. We want to recognize her dedication to the organization. Thanks Patt, here's to 25 more!



We are Seeking Future SGWA Board Members

The Nominations Committee is requesting your help in identifying potential candidates for the SGWA Board of Directors. If you, or someone you know, are eager to become more involved in organizing and planning the future of the SGWA, please contact a current Board Member, or let Val Silva know you are interested.

Candidates need to be able to meet on the last Tuesday of each month for meetings and to participate on various committees and planning events.

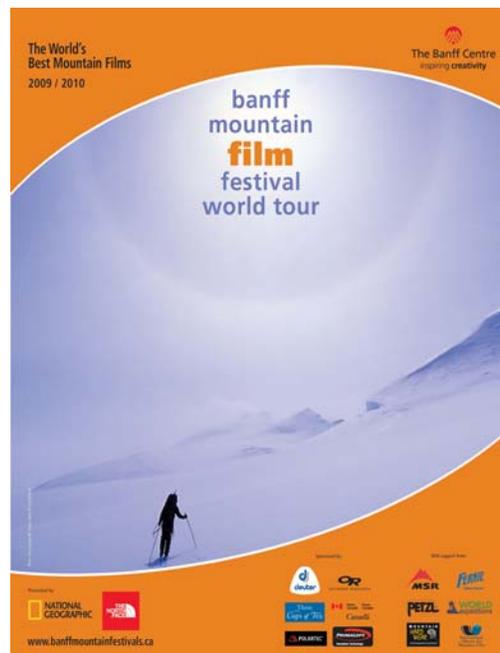
National Geographic & New Balance
Present
The Banff Mountain Film Festival World Tour
Hosted by
The San Gorgonio Wilderness Association
March 31, 2010, at 7:00 P.M.
Redlands High School Clock Theater

The San Gorgonio Wilderness Association (SGWA) is hosting the Banff Mountain Film Festival World Tour at the Redlands High School Clock Theater on Wednesday, March 31, 2010, at 7:00 P.M. Tickets are available on-line at www.sgwa.org or at the door the night of the performance. Tickets are \$12.00 and all proceeds go to serving the public and protecting the wilderness. More information is available at www.sgwa.org.

The Banff Mountain Film Festival is an annual event which recognizes outstanding independent films dealing with mountain culture and the environment. The festival is held in early November and then a variety of these films are offered on a World Tour. This is the third annual tour visit to the Inland Empire. Last year's event was a huge success with over 700 wildly enthusiastic participants. This year's program will have more than

two hours of high energy entertainment. There will be drawings for door prizes so save your ticket stub and prepare for a night of adventure in the mountains of the world.

The SGWA is incorporated in California as a nonprofit organization dedicated to preserving the San Gorgonio Wilderness and serving the public visiting the wilderness. The SGWA is hosting the World Tour in an effort to raise awareness of the recreational opportunities in the local mountains and of SGWA's efforts to preserve the Wilderness for future generations.



Hosted by the San Gorgonio Wilderness Association
March 31, 2010
Redlands High School Clock Theater
840 E. Citrus Avenue
Redlands
Tickets: \$12.00
Ticket information at: www.sgwa.org
Any new \$25 membership to SGWA receives a FREE ticket!

Individuals who purchase a \$25 membership with SGWA will receive a free ticket! JOIN TODAY at www.sgwa.org.

Remember, SGWA membership fees are tax deductible.



Fruits of Their Labor By Jarome Wilson, SGWA President

Members, Volunteers, and Friends of SGWA,

Thoughts of the Colorado River and the harsh desert climes of the American Southwest do not likely run through our minds while enjoying nature's beauty in the San Gorgonio Wilderness. The towering Ponderosa Pines around Dollar Lake do not usually remind us of the Yucca that permeates Echo Park in the northwest corner of Colorado. Generally the most we consider the desert is while gazing at the view of it from high above, and that is primarily to reflect on the awesome view.

Were it not for attempts to control the mighty Colorado River in the mid 1950's the history of the San Gorgonio Wilderness might be completely different.

The Bureau of Reclamation went into overdrive with plans to harness and constrain the Colorado River. The same fervor that won the war went into plans to dam the river for agriculture and power. For the most part Americans viewed this activity with approval.

It was the attempt to dam Echo Park in the Dinosaur National Monument that sounded the alarm for conservationists who thought the Bureau was going too far. The Sierra Club became an environmental powerhouse during their battle to prevent the dam. Howard Zahniser and the Wilderness Society led an unprecedented national campaign to fight this and other similar efforts to dam pristine canyons.

They argued that National Monument status did little to prevent development. The immediate fight culminated with the passage of the Colorado River Storage Project Act in 1956 which prevented construction of dams in National Parks or Monuments.

Fresh with this victory Zahniser and others turned their sights to Wilderness. Zahniser drafted the Wilderness Act in 1956. Eight long years of wrangling finally secured passage of the Act in 1964. San Gorgonio Wilderness was one of the unique areas included in the Act.

Howard Zahniser died of heart failure on May 5, 1964. I find it sad that he did not live to see the passage of the Wilderness Act which passed just four months later.

Over the past year I have often thought about how Zahniser did not get to see the completion of his dream. We each are living it for him, and the countless others who toiled so hard. Zahniser's story has helped me to reach a decision about my efforts in the battle to protect Wilderness.

Last year I indicated that I intended to step down and pass the reins to someone else to lead SGWA. I spent much of the last year watching SGWA reach and exceed many goals and accomplishments. A lot of hard work by many volunteers, Directors, and Officers has allowed SGWA to grow and thrive, even in the midst of one of the worst economic downturns in recollection. When given the honor of receiving the Aldo Leopold Award for Wilderness Stewardship on behalf of SGWA I thought about how far the organization had come in the past 9 years.

I told my wife Christin about how sad I was to be leaving when the organization was humming. She responded that nobody had asked me to step down. When I learned that the Board had yet to find a replacement I indicated my willingness to stay on. Last November the Board re-elected me to another term and I readily accepted. Working with SGWA has been, and continues to be, one of the driving forces in my life, and I look forward to continuing on.