

Wilderness Link

San Geronio Wilderness Association

May 2021

Volume 9, Issue 1

Calendar of Events

These are the major events planned for this year. Some dates may change as circumstances with Covid 19 evolve. Check your email and the volunteer calendar at www.sgwa.org for updates.

May

- 8 Barton Flats cleanup
- 15 Veteran orientation
- 22 New volunteer orientation
- 25 Board of Directors meeting
- 29 Potluck (tentative)
- 29 First Ranger Talk (tentative)

June

- 5 Whispering Pines cleanup
- 29 Board of Directors meeting

July

- 4 Birthday Bash
- 27 Board of Directors meeting

August

- 21 Forest Festival
- 31 Board of Directors meeting

September

- 4 Potluck
- 5 Last Ranger Talk
- 26 Barton Flats Visitor Center closes
- 28 Board of Directors meeting

October

- 9 Awards
- 26 Board of Directors meeting

November

- 30 Board of Directors meeting/Election of officers

December

- 4 Holiday Party

A New Season – Almost Back to Normal

By Bettye Miller and Val Silva

It's time to break out the boots and take to the trails!

After fires and a covid-altered season in 2020, this year promises to be more normal, with some modifications.

Our trail crews have already been busy, clearing more than 100 downed trees from the South Fork-Dry Lake Trail this spring.

Other volunteers have resumed trail patrols, educating backpackers new to the San Geronio Wilderness about the prohibition against campfires and generally making the wilderness safer.

We're off to a great start!

See Season on page 3



Volunteers tackle one of more than 100 trees removed from the South Fork-Dry Lake Trail in early spring. Photo by David Bratt

Save these dates

Orientation activities will be held in small groups on two days this year to comply with Covid safety protocols. Returning volunteers are scheduled for Saturday, May 15, at Tulakes, followed by new volunteers on Saturday, May 22. Sign up on the SGWA volunteer calendar at [Volunteer Calendar | San Geronio Wilderness Association \(sgwa.org\)](http://Volunteer Calendar | San Geronio Wilderness Association (sgwa.org)). These sessions are filling up fast; sign up today.

Smile and Help SGWA



If you shop at Amazon, please consider using smile.amazon.com and designate SGWA to receive a percentage of the sale. Every little bit helps. SGWA has received more than \$750 so far this year from shoppers who have made purchases using smile.Amazon.com.

2021 Board of Directors

President: Bettye Miller
Vice President: Rex Philpot
Secretary: Dee McCoy
Treasurer: Rosy Nuñez
Directors: David Bratt, Chelsey Feierfeil, John Flippin, Eileen Hay, Kristy Loufek, Roxanne Smith, Bob Williams

Celebrating Wilderness

Gifts to the San Gorgonio Wilderness Association help support our efforts to preserve the wilderness and the forest surrounding it. We are thankful for these supporters whose generosity makes it possible for us to further our mission to serve, protect and educate. This list includes lifetime members and individuals who have contributed to SGWA since December 2018. If you would like to make a gift in memory of a loved one or to honor someone special please contact our office at (909) 382-2906, or visit our website at sgwa.org. Gifts may be mailed to: San Gorgonio Wilderness Association, 34701 Mill Creek Rd., Mentone, CA 92359

Corporate

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Robert Oetzel
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Dan Scott
Mark Voykovic
Scott Warden
Bryan Walton
Jarome Wilson

President's Summit Team

Linda Griffith
Terry Grill
Beth Gunn
Robert Hazelton
Shauna Hoffman
Alison Hill
Jim Hill
Walt & Suzie Kirkwood
Bob Oppermann

Audrey Scranton
Steffan Slater
Ted Sledzinski
Scott Warden
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Ernie Woodhouse
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Family

Fast Track Capital Management

Individual

Adrienne Allegretti
Judy Atkinson
Jonathan Baty
John Berlette
Jeffrey Boehler
Heather Broersma
Scott Brovsky
Mark Campbell
Tricia Carelli
Ashleigh Covarrubias
Donna Crawford
Shannon Cwikla
Daniel Domancich
Juliann Emmons
Margaret Floyd-Evans
Linda Foster
Bertram Froehly
Gwyn Frost
Ewa Graves
Ezra Greenhouse
Matthew Hall
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Viviane Helmig
Shauna Hoffman
Molly Leddy
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Carl Lindemer
Curtis Lindemer
Elisabeth Longo
Jim Matiko
Hannah McAnespie

Michael McCoy
Stephen McCrea
Seth McLaughlin
Shan McNaughton
Sarah Mellon
Kevin Nerison
Marc Nurre
Kevin Proctor
Penny Ramos
James Rasco
Sean Reed
Kerry Rennie
Ralph Riggan
Phil Rosenkrantz
Rachel Sahl
Heath Sawyer
Matthew Schreiner
David Schumacher
Deborah Seibly
Patricia Shearer
Steffan Slater
Caitlin Smith
Sandra Smith
Frank Sprinkle
Ann-Marie Stauble
Brandon Swanson
Katy Swift
Troy Sykes
Paula Taylor
Amanda Tromblay
Vincent Van Rooijen
Catherine Walsh
Daniel White
Kipi Wilson-Lee
Brian Wolk
Kathryn Wood
Caroline Wright

Season

Continued from page 1

Orientation activities will take place in multiple sessions over three days this year to accommodate gatherings of no more than 10 people. Veteran volunteers will return for one of two orientation sessions on Saturday, May 15, at Tulakes; new volunteers who wish to participate in patrol or interpretive activities will be welcomed in one of two sessions on Saturday, May 22, at Tulakes; and all trail crew volunteers will receive orientation on Saturday, June 5, at the nature trails on Highway 38 at Jenks Lake Road West.

Training for patrol and interpretive volunteers will last two hours. Additional orientation sessions will be scheduled as needed. Sign up on the volunteer calendar at www.sgwa.org.

All volunteers will need current first aid/CPR cards this season. We are coordinating with the fabulous Dr. Allan Chang, a seasoned SGWA volunteer, to offer a first aid refresher class this month online. Watch your email for more details. You may also renew your certification with an online CPR/AED/First Aid course from the American Heart Association.



Trails volunteer John Flippin replaces a sign on the South Fork Trail. Photo by David Bratt

Trailheads for the Aspen Grove, Fish Creek, South Fork, Lost Creek and Vivian Creek trails have reopened, and we expect that Momyer probably will, too. We will need volunteers to patrol on weekends, weekdays, and overnight.

San Bernardino Peak and Forsee Creek/John's Meadow trails likely will remain closed this season as they suffered extensive damage from the El Dorado Fire last year.

The Mill Creek and Barton Flats visitor centers are expected to open early in the season, with Covid safety protocols dictating that most activities be conducted outside. We're looking forward to resuming nature talks at Barton Flats and welcome volunteers who enjoy sharing their love of the forest with children and their families.

Thanks to support from SGWA's Forest Service liaison, Jihadda Govan, we are working to assemble kits that volunteers may use for these talks.

We hope to resume Ranger Talks at Greyback Amphitheater as well and are coordinating with California Land Management, the concessionaire that manages Barton Flats-area campgrounds for the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

The Forest Service has given tentative approval to hold our Forest Festival, a family-oriented event at the Barton Flats Visitor Center, which is scheduled for Saturday, Aug. 21. Smokey Bear is always a favorite at the Forest Festival and Ranger Talks, and we'll be on the lookout for volunteers who are eager to demonstrate their inner Smokey – after a little Smokey etiquette training. Seriously. Smokey is a polite bear who never makes a peep and is generous with hugs and paw-waving.

Welcome back!

Permit System Online

SGWA used the months of trail closures in the San Gorgonio Wilderness following the El Dorado and Apple fires last summer to develop an online wilderness permit system for day use and overnight hikes.

The new system went live in April when the Forest Service announced the reopening of the Aspen Grove, Fish Creek, South Fork, Lost Creek and Vivian Creek trails.

The online process allows individuals to request permits, trailheads and campsites and find out immediately if their selection is approved. Permits are emailed to the person making the request and can be saved on your cellphone or printed.

"Lots of visitors to the San Gorgonio Wilderness have been enjoying the new permit system and the ease of getting a permit," said Val Silva, SGWA executive director. "Over 120 permits were issued the first weekend with little need for us to work on them. There have been a few glitches and we're working on them. But everything is online and automated, and most folks figure it out easily."

Check out the new permit system at [Wilderness Permits | San Gorgonio Wilderness Association \(sgwa.org\)](http://WildernessPermits|SanGorgonioWildernessAssociation.sgwa.org).



Director's Desk Val Silva

The theme of this whole newsletter is optimism – we are feeling like a new beginning. The trees, animals, ferns, even the dirt have been awaiting our footsteps. It feels sooooo good to be on the mountain again.

Seems like we have been hit with many setbacks each year – fire, flood, but never famine; we always eat well. My cup is always half-full and I know we are going to have a wonderful summer.

I am looking forward to seeing visitors and volunteers enjoying the wilderness this summer.

Did You Know?

According to an article in the May 2021 issue of Costco Connection, 45 minutes or more of hiking in the mountains results in less fatigue and higher alertness than the same amount of time spent indoors on a treadmill. And 20 minutes spent hiking among trees, bird-watching or pursuing other activities in nature reduces cortisol, the stress hormone.

Various studies show that time in nature also:

- Decreases anxiety and negative thinking and lowers levels of depression and stress.
- Improves mental and physical well-being more than indoor activity.
- Helps to decrease high blood pressure.
- Improves cognitive development in schoolchildren.
- Helps diabetics be more active and better control blood sugar.

The Wilderness Link is published quarterly by the San Geronio Wilderness Association.

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David Bratt, Dee McCoy, and Val Silva

Submit story ideas and photos to sgwa@earthlink.net
or gorgoniogal@gmail.com

Edison International, Corona Tools Grants Support SGWA

The San Geronio Wilderness Association has received grants from Edison International and Corona Tools totaling \$21,000 to support trail projects.

Edison International, the parent company of



Southern California Edison, has awarded SGWA \$20,000 to preserve and restore wilderness trails damaged by fire and erosion.

The funds will be used to purchase equipment such as radios, GPS spots, and tools used to clear trails and remove downed trees; supplies such as personal safety equipment and enhanced first aid kits; wood for signs to replace those destroyed by fire; and pack animals to haul food and supplies to volunteers working at higher elevations.

Edison International partners with local nonprofits whose programs focus on education, the environment, public safety and emergency preparedness, and civic engagement.

Corona Tools, manufacturer of many of the kinds of tools SGWA trail crews use,



donated \$1,000 in tools through its Corona Cares program. Those tools have already been put to use.

“We’d like to thank Edison International and Corona Tools for their generous support of the San Geronio Wilderness Association,” said SGWA President Bettye Miller. “These grants will help us as we work to improve the experience of hikers and backpackers in the wilderness. We are very grateful.”

Save the Date



Mark your calendar for the Forest Festival, which returns this year on Saturday, Aug. 21, at the Barton Flats Visitor Center. This family-friendly event features booths from a variety of outdoor groups and vendors, nature crafts, and food. Smokey Bear will make a guest appearance as well.



President's Corner

Bettye Miller

Welcome to a new season in the wilderness! It feels so good to say that. This past year was full of challenges – two more wildfires in the San Gorgonio Wilderness and a global pandemic – that limited what we could do and changed how we conducted the business we could.

Thank you to the SGWA Board of Directors and Executive Director Val Silva, who remained optimistic as we developed new safety protocols to support as much of our mission as possible in 2020 and made alternate plans for a more vigorous season in 2021 amid ever-changing circumstances.

Thank you to volunteers who hung in there last year, repairing trails and clearing downed trees, patrolling trails in the San Gorgonio and Cucamonga wilderness areas, spiffing up the Greyback Amphitheater, and working behind the scenes to prepare for what we anticipate will be a more normal season in 2021.

Orientation/training events will look very different this year, but will still provide a chance for us to come together, albeit in smaller groups. We will welcome new volunteers again, and I look forward to meeting them and hanging out with old friends.

How we train and how often we can socialize may be a little out-of-the-ordinary for us, but as we demonstrated admirably in 2020, SGWA volunteers are resourceful, resilient, and dedicated. That is a firm foundation on which to build another successful season.

Welcome back!

SGWA

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