

Wilderness Link

San Geronio Wilderness Association

February 2022

Volume 10, Issue 1

Calendar of Events

These are the major events planned for 2022. Some dates may change as circumstances with Covid 19 evolve. Check your email and the volunteer calendar at www.sgwa.org for updates.

February

25-26 Banff Mountain Film Festival

March

29 Board elections

TBD Thurman Flats cleanup

April

16 Nature talk training

May

8 Nature trails/BFVC cleanup

21 Orientation

27 Ready BFVC for opening

28 Barton Flats opens

Ranger Talks begin

Trail work training

Potluck at Tulakes

June

4 Patrol training/mentor hike
Potluck

18 Overnight patrol training

July

2 Birthday Bash

6 Potluck, board meeting

August

20 Forest Festival

September

4 Final Ranger Talk
Potluck

25 Barton Flats closes

October

8 Awards Potluck

December

3 Christmas party

Banff Film Festival Returns to Redlands Feb. 25-26

By Bettye Miller

Hot-air ballooning over Turkey, engaging with grizzly bears in Alaska, high-diving over a frozen lake, and navigating Chicago's streets as a bike messenger are among the short films featured in the Banff Mountain Film Festival World Tour that returns to Redlands on Friday, Feb. 25, and Saturday, Feb. 26.



"Izembek" is one of six films that will screen at the Banff Mountain Film Festival World Tour on Saturday, Feb. 26. The film festival runs Feb. 25-26. ©Photo credit Gerrit Vyn, Conservation Media at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology

SGWA once again is hosting the film festival, which begins at 6:30 p.m. at the Fox Event Center, 123 Cajon St., Redlands. Doors open at 6 p.m. Tickets are \$30 and may be purchased online at www.sgwa.org or at the door. A different program of films will be offered each night.

This year's festival is sponsored by the family of George Schofield, father of Ted Schofield, an SGWA past president and longtime volunteer.

See Banff on page 3

What's in a Uniform? A Lot of Pride

If you've ever wondered how to wear your Forest Service uniform properly, the answer boils down to USFS regulations – and pride, says SGWA volunteer and retired USFS officer Alfredo Zarate.

Alfredo, who served as the Forest Service liaison with SGWA for more than 15 years, said he was proud when other Forest Service officials praised SGWA volunteers "for how sharp they looked in their uniforms versus volunteers from other organizations. I always thought, 'Those

See Uniform on page 3

Smile and Help SGWA



If you shop on Amazon please use [smile.amazon.com](https://www.smile.amazon.com) and designate the San Gorgonio Wilderness Association as the charity to benefit from your purchases.

2022 Board of Directors

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Vice President: Bettye Miller
Secretary: Dee McCoy
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Directors: David Bratt, Chelsey Feierfeil,
Eileen Hay, Curt Lindemer, Roxanne Smith,
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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 January 2020. 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](https://www.sgwa.org). Gifts may be mailed to: San Gorgonio Wilderness Association, 34701 Mill Creek Rd., Mentone, CA 92359

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Fast Track Capital
Management

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Stephen McCrea
Seth McLaughlin
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Sarah Mellon
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Brittany Nichelason
Jan Pettit
Kevin Proctor
Penny Ramos
James Rasco
Sean Reed
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Ralph Riggan
Starla Rivers
Shelley Russell
Rachel Sahl
Rebekah Sanford
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David Schumacher
Deborah Seibly
Patricia Shearer
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
Christian Wuflestad



"Follow the Light" is one of seven films that will screen at the Banff Mountain Film Festival World Tour in Redlands on Friday, Feb. 25. The film festival runs Feb. 25-26. ©Photo credit Pierre Henni

Banff

Continued from page 1

The Banff Mountain Film Festival, a program of Banff Centre, is the largest and one of the most prestigious mountain festivals in the world. At the conclusion of the film festival in Banff, Canada, a selection of films that won awards and were audience favorites are selected for the Banff Mountain Film Festival World Tour. With stops planned in more than 125 cities in the United States and more than 40 countries around the world, the tour features a collection of the most inspiring action, environmental, and adventure films from the festival. (See film schedule on page 5.)

The festival is a fund-raiser and recruitment tool for SGWA.



Director's Desk Val Silva

While we await spring it's time to plan our summer programs. Volunteers are planning for cleanups for Barton Flats and Whispering Pines trails and Tulakes in May. Orientation for new volunteers is being planned for May 21 with follow-up detailed training for trail work, patrols and interpretive programs.

Looking forward to a great spring-summer season. Keep an eye on our calendar.

For those of you who are interested in volunteering sign up at our website, www.sgwa.org-volunteer, and fill out the application. We will notify everyone the first of April with details for Orientation. I look forward to seeing everyone.

Uniform

Continued from page 1

(SGWA) guys look sharp.”

The Forest Service requires employees and volunteers who wear uniforms because of their frequent interactions with the public to wear their uniforms properly.

“People respect a person who is properly dressed versus someone wearing blue jeans with their uniform shirt hanging out, missing their name tag, or wearing pink or lime green T-shirts under their shirts,” Alfredo said.

Some examples of uniform regulations:

- The complete uniform must be worn – shirt, pants or shorts, brown belt, name tag. Uniform shirts should not be worn with blue jeans.
- Uniforms must be “neat, clean and tidy.” (Forest Service Handbook 6509.11k, sec. 48.03d)
- The large Forest Service patch is worn on the left sleeve and the volunteer patch is on the right sleeve, centered 2 inches below the shoulder seam.
- The name tag is worn on the right side of the shirt, just above the pocket, not on the flap.
- Name tags may be worn with non-uniform volunteer shirts.
- Volunteer badges are worn on the left pocket, on the buttonhole.
- Hats must be official USFS or volunteer baseball caps, or a brimmed hat with a Forest Service logo or one of approximately the same color (check with SGWA to make sure non-USFS brimmed hats are satisfactory).
- No hats with logos, such as those promoting sports teams or businesses.

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

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Contributors this issue:

David Bratt, Dee McCoy, Ted Schofield, and Val Silva

Submit story ideas and photos to sgwa@earthlink.net

or gorgoniogal@gmail.com

Volunteer Profile

Alfredo Zarate

By Bettye Miller

When Alfredo Zarate retired in 2014 after a long career with the U.S. Forest Service, there was never any doubt that the next chapter of his life would include volunteering with SGWA. His wife, Janelle, is a longtime volunteer, and Alfredo served as the San Bernardino National Forest's liaison with SGWA for more than 15 years.

"I always thought that SGWA was a great asset to the Forest Service," he said. "It's a great organization that takes care of its people. In addition to the hard work performed there is a strong camaraderie between team members."

Just how significant SGWA is became clear in 2009 when the organization received the Aldo Leopold Award for Overall Wilderness Stewardship Program (External) from the Forest Service, he said. Alfredo accompanied 14 SGWA volunteers to Washington, D.C., to accept the award.

"When Washington knows of the SGWA organization by name, that says it all," he said.

After active service in the Marine Corps and Air Force and while serving in the Air Force Reserve, Alfredo joined the San Bernardino National Forest. He spent 29 years in various capacities: manager of the San Geronio and Cucamonga wilderness areas for nearly 20 years, safety officer, driver examiner, forest protection officer (law enforcement), and recreation officer. He retired as the assistant recreation officer for the Front Country District.

In 1999 he was detailed to the Six Rivers National Forest in Northern California as the forest's recreation officer. While at Six Rivers he also managed recreation sites for the Shasta and Klamath National Forests.

"When I got to the San Bernardino National Forest they had a wilderness manager, one wilderness ranger, and a Forest Service trail crew," he recalled. "The Forest Service does not have the employees to do that anymore, which is why it's very important that SGWA volunteers are here to maintain the trails, break up fire rings, remove trash, and help people in the wilderness."

Known as a stickler for detail and safety, Alfredo has volunteered on numerous trail crews and is one of six volunteers who is chainsaw-certified. Much of



his trail work has involved removing fallen trees outside wilderness boundaries, where the use of chainsaws is permitted. He also has played significant roles in refurbishing the Greyback Amphitheater and relocating tons of sand around the Barton Flats Visitor Center.

He is especially proud of SGWA's safety record.

"With as many hours as we put in and the potential risk from trees that have fallen, to go out and remove them without anyone getting hurt, that's a big plus," he said. "Every time we go out and hit the trail it's always a great experience to be with people who take pride in their work. We go in safely and come out safely."

Thankful hikers make the hard work of trail maintenance especially rewarding, he added. "It makes me feel good. They don't have to thank us, but they do. They appreciate what we do."

Women in Wilderness Webinar

The National Wilderness Stewardship Alliance will present a webinar, "Beyond Secretaries, Hostesses, and Cooks: The Power, Humility, and Compassion of Women who Battled to Save Wilderness," at noon on March 8. Registration is required and may be made at www.wildernessalliance.org.

Michelle L. Rielly from the Fish and Wildlife Service will share her insights behind the women involved in the early days of the conservation movement. This presentation tells the stories of several women who contributed to our wilderness legacy.

Banff Film Schedule

Friday, Feb. 25

“Follow the Light” – From sunsets over dramatic landscapes to the illumination of hot air balloons and the warm ambience of Turkey, immerse yourself in this colorful adventure.

“Finally” – After two months of confinement, free-skiing prodigy Ben Buratti finds himself alone on his home mountain of La Clusaz, France.

“Bear-like” (tour edit) – Two adventurers engage in close contact with grizzly bears in Alaska experiencing first-hand the struggle for survival and dramatic fighting scenes.

“If You Give a Beach a Bottle” – Inspired by a picture book, Max Romey heads to a remote beach on Alaska’s coastline in search of marine debris. he finds a different story.

“Dream Mountain” – Pasang Lhamu Sherpa Akita is a certified international high mountain guide, an accomplished mountaineer, humanitarian, and a mother. She reflects on her personal highs and lows and just how much the mountains mean to her.

“Em” – Emilie Pellerin has become one of the world’s best on-sight climbers. Now she’s ready to push her level on her hardest route yet, La Zébrée, a spectacular 5.14a overhanging crack in Quebec.

“My Midsummer Morning” – Alastair Humphreys, inspired by Laurie Lee’s book “As I Walked Out One Midsummer Morning,” sets out on his most terrifying journey yet – walking through Spain, earning money for food by playing his violin, being distinctly unmusical.

Saturday, Feb. 26

“Never in the Way” – Chicago-based bike messenger, Nico Deportago-Cabrera, sees city maps like a central nervous system where everything is connected. “The point,” he says, “is to never be in the way.”

“Always Higher” – Lysanne Richard is one of the world’s best international competition high divers. The 39-year-old Canadian mother of three is ready to focus on a 22-meter high dive in the dead of winter over a frozen lake.

“A Foreign Native” (tour edit) – A professional skier leaves his familiar world behind and spends close to a year in Iran. When military activity ramps up in January and Covid-19 hits in February of 2020 his journey takes a very different route.

“Markus Eder’s The Ultimate Run” – What if you could link every powder turn, every rail, every cliff drop, every comp run and every kicker nailed into one ultimate run? Markus Eder is doing just that.

“Izembek” – There has been pressure for nearly four decades to build a road through Alaska’s Izembek National Wildlife Refuge. Cornell Lab of Ornithology’s Gerrit Vyn explores the area to document its wildlife and wilderness, before it’s too late.

“Reel Rock 15: Deep Roots” – Lonnie Kauk undertakes a personal journey to honor his indigenous Yosemite roots, and to connect with his legendary father by repeating his iconic climbs.



George Schofield Family Sponsors Banff Festival

George Schofield (LTC USAF Reserve May 20, 1920 – Feb. 18, 2020)

George Schofield was born in New York at the beginning of the Roaring Twenties. His childhood was happy and normal until the stock market crashed in 1929, when he joined millions of other citizens facing hunger and poverty. When asked, he would explain that everyone was in the same boat so he didn't realize how bad it was.

His first job was as a telegram delivery boy. He earned a dime for a delivery and another nickel if he talked the recipient into sending a reply. Next he worked at Steeplechase, a famous amusement park in Cooney Island, New York, where his father was employed as a clown. He began selling insurance when he was old enough to hold a real job and completed the Fire Department of New York's (FDNY) firefighter testing, placing near the top of the applicants, shortly before the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor.

By March 1942 he was a lieutenant and a navigator in the Army Air Corp. Initially assigned to the 6th Ferrying Group in Los Angeles, he flew the Pacific and Indian Oceans, delivering combat aircraft to the front lines. George was often selected to fly with inexperienced pilots making their first over-water flights.

See Schofield on page 6

Schofield

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On one mission he earned the Air Medal for a seven-days (85 flight hours) mission flying critical B-29 engine parts from the U.S. West Coast to the China Burma India (CBI) theater. This allowed the B-29s to bomb Japan.

After more than a year flying in the Pacific, Indian Ocean and CBI, George was sent to New Castle AFB in Delaware for fuel management training, which he thought was humorous considering his experience in the Pacific. After completing training, on his last night he went to a USO dance where he was fascinated by one of the young ladies but didn't approach her because he was leaving for the West Coast in the morning. The next day he received orders assigning him instead to New Castle to be an instructor navigator and eventually Chief of Navigator Standardization. He got the phone number of Elizabeth, the woman he'd seen the night before, and they married six months later. They were married until her death 67 years and five children later.

For the rest of the war, George flew the Atlantic, South America, North Africa, Europe and the Middle East. His adventures highlighted the dangers of flying 75 years ago. On one flight from Marikesh, Morocco, to England in an A-26 the weather forced them to descend so low that the windscreen was hit with spray from the waves. He navigated by maps across North Africa until they reached the ocean and then by compass headings and a stopwatch.

When the war ended in August 1945, George's tour was extended until December 1946 as he guided the return of "war weary" aircraft and hospital flights for wounded soldiers. By this time he had flown in every theater of WWII. He remained in the USAF Reserve, eventually retiring as a lieutenant colonel.

After the war, the FDNY offered George the firefighter position that he had qualified for prior to the war. He graduated at the top of his class, then passed the lieutenant's test on his first try.

Soon after his company responded to a rescue of sewer workers who were overcome by poisonous gas and trapped in large tunnels several stories underground. In the early 1950s firefighters did not have oxygen tanks and his company was one of the first to receive the Scott Breathing Masks/Tanks. He led the rescue attempt and was the last man to return to the surface even though his air had run out and he suffered poisoning from the gas. For his

leadership George received the FDNY's highest Award for Valor. A short time later he was promoted to captain, faster than anyone in department history.

After 35 years with the FDNY, George and Elizabeth retired to her home state of Delaware, settling in Dover. George became active in the local community and was elected president of the Wilmington Warriors, a group of WWII veterans who had served at New Castle AFB. After Elizabeth passed away in July 2013, George became a docent at the Dover AFB Museum and would make presentations on WWII to large audiences and give tours of the aircraft displayed at the museum. He remained very active in the community and in November 2019 he was inducted into the Delaware Aviation Hall of Fame.

In January 2020, George fell ill and was diagnosed with cancer. On Feb. 18 he passed away at his home surrounded by his five children. He is buried with Elizabeth in Arlington National Cemetery, Virginia.

HELP WANTED FOR SUMMER NATURE TALKS

Looking for enthusiastic volunteers to promote awareness and a love of nature through Ranger Talks, or Interpretive Workshops! Training will be provided at a workshop on Saturday, April 16, at 9 a.m.

Ranger Talks take place on Saturday evenings at the Greyback Amphitheater from Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day weekend. The talks last 35 to 40 minutes. Volunteers involve visitors in a variety of ways to promote a better understanding of and appreciation for nature. Examples include, but are not limited to: PowerPoint presentation, models, real-life examples, songs, storytelling, costumes, etc. We are open to suggestions.

Interpretive Workshops at Barton Flats Visitor Center can be about an hour in length and are usually more interactive and face-to-face than Ranger Talks. Volunteers incorporate numerous methods of visitor involvement, including guided hikes, real-life demonstrations, models, songs, storytelling, etc. We are open to suggestions. We will provide advance publicity and assistance (if needed).

There are picnic tables on the BFVC grounds, and a small outdoor amphitheater at the back of the BFVC building, with electricity if needed.

Join the enthusiastic volunteers at BFVC on Saturdays this summer!

Please email Jean Rogers at jeanr8689@gmail.com with reservations, questions, and ideas.



President's Corner **Rex Philpot**

This is my first article as the new president of SGWA. I want to first thank Bettye Miller for all her hard work and dedication as president for the past two years. She has done an outstanding job and is still active as a volunteer and current vice president.

I have been a volunteer with SGWA for the past 13 years. It has been a wonderful ride being involved in the many facets of the organization. I love our local wilderness; it is the gem of southern California.

I would encourage all of you that have thought about volunteering or have volunteered in the past to come out this coming season. Enjoy our beautiful mountains, and at the same time give back and help protect and maintain this gem. Sign up on our website under volunteering and come to our orientation in May.

SGWA Country Store

Need maps of the San Gorgonio Wilderness, Pacific Crest Trail, or national forests in Southern California? Check out SGWA's Country Store on the SGWA website, www.sgwa.org/.

Paper maps don't run out of battery life, nor are they dependent on a cell signal. Even experienced hikers should take a paper map and compass.

Keep checking back. More merchandise will be coming soon.

√ **Save These Dates**

Orientation is scheduled for Saturday, May 21. Watch your email and the SGWA website for more information.

The Forest Festival returns Saturday, Aug. 20, at the Barton Flats Visitor Center. This is one of SGWA's key public outreach events and is always fun.

The end-of-season Awards Potluck will be Saturday, Oct. 8. Remember to record your hours throughout the season.

SGWA

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