

Wilderness Link

San Gorgonio Wilderness Association

June 2022

Volume 10, Issue 2

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.

June

- 4 Patrol training/mentor hike
Potluck
- 18 Overnight patrol training
- 28 Board meeting

July

- 26 Board meeting

August

- 20 Forest Festival
- 30 Board meeting

September

- 4 Final Ranger Talk
Potluck
- 25 Barton Flats closes
- 27 Board meeting

October

- 8 Awards Potluck
- 25 Board meeting

November

- 29 Board meeting

December

- 3 Christmas party

Forest Festival Returns Aug. 20 to Barton Flats

By Bettye Miller

Mark your calendar for Saturday, Aug. 20, when SGWA's annual Forest Festival returns to the Barton Flats Visitor Center.

This event is a celebration of wilderness and the forest in general, with exhibitors and activities that help visitors discover the variety of plants and animals in these mountains, recreational activities available to them, and how to respect and care for this resource.

Last year's festival drew more than 300 visitors and 13 organizations, and this year's event will be very similar, with live music, hands-on activities, and appearances by Smokey Bear. Among popular activities

See Festival on page 2



Volunteers Rosy Nuñez, Roxanne Smith, Ana Soltero, and Bob and Katherine Williams staffed the SGWA booth at the San Bernardino County Fish & Wildlife Festival on June 18 at Prado Regional Park. It was the second regional event volunteers participated in to raise awareness of wilderness areas and how SGWA helps care for them. Gayle Haro, Jan Pettit, Jean Rogers and Bettye Miller staffed a booth at the Wildlands Conservancy's Arts and Nature Festival in Oak Glen in April. Photo by Rosy Nuñez

Festival

Continued from Page 1

and exhibitors in August will be cross-cut sawing, nature crafts, Western Science Center, The Wildlands Conservancy, Inland Empire Prospectors, the Fisheries Resource Volunteer Corps, the Inland Empire Resource Conservation District, and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife.

A potluck and barbecue for exhibitors and SGWA volunteers will follow.

Many volunteers will be needed in a variety of positions, from parking and set-up to staffing various SGWA activities.

Festival co-chairs are Donna Harward, Curt Lindemer, and Bettye Miller.

Celebrating Wilderness

Gifts to the San Geronio 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. Gifts may be mailed to: San Geronio Wilderness Association, 34701 Mill Creek Rd., Mentone, CA 92359

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President's Summit Team

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Beth Gunn
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Shauna Hoffman
Alison Hill
Jim Hill
Walt & Suzie Kirkwood
Bob Oppermann
Philip Papadopoulos
Phil Rosenkrantz

Audrey Scranton
Steffan Slater
Ted Sledzinski
Scott Warden
B.J. Withall
Ernie Woodhouse
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Trail Blazer

Quentin Allison
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Andrew Lee
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Curtis Lindemer
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Michael McCoy
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Meike Murone
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Brittany Nichelason
Jim O'Brien
Jan Pettit
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Kerry Rennie
Ralph Riggan
Starla Rivers
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Amanda Tromblay
Vincent Van Rooijen
Catherine Walsh
Daniel White
Kipi Wilson-Lee
Brian Volk
Kathryn Wood
Caroline Wright
Christian Wuflestad



Director's Desk Val Silva

It's the beginning of summer and we're on a roll. Many volunteers are out on the trails, working at visitor centers at Mill Creek and Barton Flats, and keeping visitors safe at Big Falls.

One of our biggest trail crews ever – 22 people, including many new volunteers – cleared the Aspen Grove Trail to the Fish Creek Trail junction of 32 trees in one day! That has to be a record! The rock bar team on that project even earned itself a nickname; check out the logo created by John Flippin elsewhere in this newsletter.

Two teams of volunteers set up an SGWA booth at regional events in April and June, at The Wildlands Conservancy in Oak Glen and Prado Regional Park. They interacted with nearly 800 people, a great way to let even more people know about what we do and the importance of the wilderness.

One of our own two public outreach events is coming up soon, the Forest Festival on Aug. 20. We'll need plenty of volunteers. Watch for more details, and be sure to sign up on the calendar.

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.

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

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Contributors this issue:

**David Bratt, John Flippin, Dee McCoy, Rosy Nuñez,
Manish Pagey, Rex Philpot, and Val Silva**

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

Photo contest observes National Forest Week

National Forest Week is July 11-17 and the National Forest Foundation is holding a photo contest to celebrate.

Photos may be submitted between July 11 and midnight (MT) July 17. Categories are landscape (no people), recreation, and youth photographer (18 and under).

Submissions will be judged on their quality of composition and whether or not they fit the category requirements. Unlimited submissions are allowed. For more contest information, including rules and prizes, go to www.nationalforests.org/get-involved/national-forest-week-photo-contest.

National Forest Week celebrates the 193-million-acre National Forests and Grasslands system and the benefits they provide to the public.

This system includes: more than 9,000 miles of scenic byways, almost 150,000 miles of hiking trails, more than 4,400 miles of wild and scenic rivers, at least 5,100 campgrounds, and 328 natural pools.



National Forests and Grasslands, which are managed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture-Forest Service host more than 170 million visits each year. Visitor spending pumps \$13.5 billion into the economy annually, sustaining nearly 223,000 jobs in gateway communities.

"These lands are the foundation of America's outdoor recreation heritage and sustain our way of life.

"They provide water to millions Americans in thousands of communities, clean our air, store carbon, and provide timber, minerals, oil and gas and other resources for industry and communities," according to a statement on the National Forest Foundation's website.

The foundation is chartered by Congress and promotes forest conservation and responsible recreation.

Volunteer Profile

Nelva Valladares

By Bettye Miller

The first time Nelva Valladares hiked in the San Gorgonio Wilderness 10 years ago the route she chose quickly became a favorite: a “lollipop loop” from South Fork Trail to Dry Lake, up the Sky High Trail to the San Gorgonio summit, then down to Dollar Lake and the South Fork Trail.

“Each time it teaches me a valuable lesson and creates beautiful memories with friends,” she said.

Nelva began volunteering with SGWA in 2021 “and my goal is to make it over 26 years and more.” She became a volunteer, she said, “to help protect the San Gorgonio Wilderness so that one day my future children and their children can enjoy this wilderness just like I do and be part of this wonderful organization.”

“SGWA is important because its volunteers protect, nurture and care for the wilderness, and create a space for others with the same goal to come together and carry this on for future generations,” she explained.

Nelva’s skills, commitment, and enthusiasm on trail maintenance crews last year earned her a spot as a trail boss this season and election to the Board of Directors in March.

This summer she also hopes to do day and overnight patrols, where her experience helping to manage a family-owned restaurant – ensuring that customers have a positive experience and overseeing employees – will be a plus interacting with hikers on the trail.

Whether it’s sawing huge trees blocking trails or hauling rocks and dirt to shore up eroding trails, Nelva said she has been impressed by the skill of fellow volunteers and their commitment to safety.

“Every time we are out on trail projects SAFETY is our main priority, from wearing the proper safety gear to carrying tools the right way and communicating when we are rolling rocks and logs,” she said. “Everyone is so friendly and willing to teach and help one another.

“I’ve learned so much in one year with SGWA. Everyone has been a mentor to me. Now I can teach other new volunteers.”



“SGWA is important because its volunteers ... create a space for others with the same goal to come together and carry this on for future generations.” – Nelva Valladares

New directors elected to SGWA board

Three new directors were elected to the SGWA board at the March 29 meeting.

They are Andrew Sauer, Paul Valiukas, and Nelva Valladares. They join continuing directors David Bratt, Eileen Hay, Curt Lindemer, and Roxanne Smith.

We’d like to thank Chelsey Feierfeil and Bob Williams, who completed their terms of office, for their service on the board.

Officers for 2022 are: Rex Philpot, president; Bettye Miller, vice president; Dee McCoy, secretary; and Rosy Nuñez, treasurer.



SGWA trail crews have had a busy season already. They have repaired major washouts on the John's Meadow Trail, and one epic trail project in June saw 22 new and veteran volunteers clear 32 trees and countless rocks from the Aspen Grove Trail between the trailhead and Fish Creek Trail junction.



Jim Hill's rock bar crew on that project was so productive that it earned a nickname, complete with logo (above) designed by John Flippin.

A big thank you goes to Rosy Nuñez and Val Silva for feeding our trail crews.



Photos by David Bratt, John Flippin, Eileen Hay, and Manish Pagey.



Volunteers made what was an impassable washout at Stetson Creek on the John's Meadow Trail easier for hikers to navigate.





President's Corner Rex Philpot

It was great meeting 35 new volunteers and seeing many of our veteran volunteers at our orientation in May. Many of the new volunteers have already jumped in to volunteer.

I want to thank our many volunteers for all your dedication and work. Without you the many trail projects, ranger talks, patrols, etc. would not be accomplished. Your hard work is very much appreciated.

I encourage you all to go out and enjoy the outdoors this summer. Come and walk the beautiful trails of the San Gorgonio Wilderness. The cool, clean mountain air. Experience the jewel of our local mountains.

Don't forget our Ranger Talks at the Greyback Amphitheater every Saturday night through the summer. Our presenters do a great job, which cover a multitude of topics that will pique the interest of all that love the outdoors. And a bonus, you get to meet Smokey Bear.

Amazon Smile Supports SGWA



If you shop on Amazon please consider using smile.Amazon.com and designate the San Gorgonio Wilderness Association as the charity to benefit from your purchases.

AmazonSmile can be activated in the Amazon Shopping app for iOS and Android phones. It's the same shopping experience of Amazon, with the added benefit that AmazonSmile will donate 0.5% of eligible purchases to SGWA.

SGWA

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