

Wilderness Link

San Geronio Wilderness Association

February 2023

Volume 11, Issue 1

Calendar of Events

These are the major events planned for 2023. Some dates may change as circumstances evolve. Check your email and the volunteer calendar at www.sgwa.org for updates.

February

24-25 Banff Film Festival

March

28 Election of directors

April

22 Art & Nature Festival

29 Inland Empire Science Festival

May

6 Nature trails/BFVC cleanup

20 Orientation

27 Ranger Talks begin

Barton Flats VC opens

June

TBD Trail crew/Patrol training

July

1 Birthday Bash – Tulakes

August

19 Forest Festival

September

2 Last Ranger Talk

24 Barton Flats VC closes

October

14 Awards Potluck

Close Tulakes

November

28 Officer elections

December

2 Holiday party

Bears, Bikes and Skis – It's Time Again for Banff Films

By Bettye Miller

Migrating polar bears in Canada, rock climbing on the Yucatán Peninsula, kayaking above the Arctic Circle, and skiing in the Karakoram mountains of Pakistan are among the subjects of short films featured in the Banff Mountain Film Festival World Tour on Friday, Feb. 24, and Saturday, Feb. 25, in Redlands.

The film festival, a fundraiser for SGWA, 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.

The Banff Mountain Film Festival, a program of Banff Centre, is the largest and one of the most prestigious mountain festivals in the world. After 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 roughly 550 communities and more than 40 countries across the globe, the Banff World Tour celebrates achievements in outdoor storytelling and filmmaking worldwide.

For more information check the SGWA website at www.sgwa.org or email sgwa@earthlink.net.



"Wild Waters" is one of eight short films featured in the Banff Mountain Film Festival World Tour on Friday, Feb. 24, at the Fox Event Center in Redlands. ©Photo credit Carl Zoch

See the schedule of films on Page 3.

Board Elects 2023 Officers

Rex Philpot was re-elected president of the SGWA Board of Directors at the November board meeting.

Also elected were Bettye Miller, vice president; Dee McCoy, secretary; and Curt Lindemer, treasurer.

The election of board directors will take place at the March board meeting.

Free Fee Days in 2023

The Forest Service will waive recreation fees at most day-use sites on lands managed by the agency on the dates listed below. Participation by concession-operated sites may vary.

Here are the dates:

- **Jan. 16:** Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- **Feb. 20:** Presidents Day
- **June 10:** National Get Outdoors Day
- **June 19:** Juneteenth
- **Aug. 4:** Great American Outdoors Day
- **Sept. 23:** National Public Lands Day
- **Nov. 11:** Veterans Day



South fork Trail 2022-11-19 Tree removal before and after



Despite patchy snow, trail crew volunteers continue the never-ending effort to remove trees blocking trails in the San Geronio Wilderness. This November project tackled fallen trees on the South Fork Trail. Photo by Shawn Sisler

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



Trail crew volunteers begin the challenging work of removing a massive tree that toppled onto the Vivian Creek Trail. Photo by George Crusoe

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Monthly Donors

Linda Griffith
Bob Oppermann

December 2022

Brittany 9
Deanna Eickhoff
Bettye Miller

Phil Rosenkrantz
Ted Sledzinski
B.J. Withall

January 2023

Allan Chang
Kyle Heinemann
Jim Hill
Suzie Kirkwood
Sabrina Jimenez
Stephan Slater

Memberships via Banff Film Festival

Judy Atkinson
Wayne Burke
Andrew Christopherson
Ashleigh Covarrubias
Cindy Foster
Linda J. Foster
Gwyn Frost

Melinda Garcia
Melanie Hendrickson
Sonia Hermsillo
Matilda Kaneshina
Jerome King
David Maerzke
Jim Matiko
Meike Murone
Michael Richman
Phil Rosenkrantz
Luis Salazar
Caitlin Smith
Suraj Trivedi
Ben White

Banff Film Schedule

Friday, Feb, 24

"Flow" Follow skier Sam Favret into a closed resort during the winter of 2021.

"The Fastest Girl in the Village" – As a girl growing up in Lesotho, Khothalang Leuta never imagined she could become a bike racer.

"Nuisance Bear" – Best Film: Environment. Churchill, Manitoba, Canada, is famous as an international destination for photographing polar bears.

"Wild Waters" (tour edit) – Audience Choice Award. French kayaker and Olympic hopeful Nouria Newman prepares to become the first female kayaker to run a 100-foot waterfall.

"Creation Theory" – Creative Excellence Award. Nature's raw elements converge in the Westfjords of Iceland, taking us on a journey: surfer on wave, snowboarder on peak, and musician on stage.

"Reel Rock 16: Cenote" – A young papaya farmer discovers the joy of climbing in the crystalline limestone sinkholes of Mexico's Yucatán Peninsula.

"Free to Run" – U.N. human rights attorney and mountain runner Stephanie Case fights to find a way forward for the Afghan women of her NGO while undertaking the longest ultra trail race of her life.

"Do a Wheelie" – Danny MacAskill and a host of friends push the boundaries of the humble wheelie and learn a thing or two from friends old and new.

Saturday, Feb, 25

"Alta" – A team of high performance riders travels to Alta, Utah, for a spring freeskiing session that delivers a variety of styles and conditions of skiing.

"Reel Rock: Bridge Boys" – A horizontal big-wall adventure on the longest crack climb ever attempted.

"Continuum" – Everything is connected. Each ride is an extension of the cycling adventure before and each reentry is a transition to the next launch.

"Before They Fall" – A decades-long battle to protect old-growth forests in British Columbia escalates on Vancouver Island.

"A Baffin Vacation" – Erik Boomer and Sarah McNair-Landry set off on a 45-day expedition traveling through the remote landscape of Baffin Island above the Arctic Circle.

"Wood Hood" – Best Short Film. DeVaughn is a 15-year-old from New York City who loves skateboarding and craves a quiet place to escape the chaos of home, city, and kids who steal from him.

"Doo Sar: A Karakoram Ski Expedition Film" (tour edit) – Andrzej Bargiel and Jedrek Baranowski set off to the Karakoram mountain range in Pakistan for a skiing adventure at nearly 20,000 feet.

"North Shore Betty" – At age 45 Betty Birrell picked up mountain biking after a career as a mountaineer and professional windsurfer. She is a role model for anyone she meets.



Director's Desk Val Silva

We're all very excited to see all the new snow. While it won't totally recover the springs and water sources in the wilderness, it will surely help.

Spring is just around the corner; the flowers should be incredible this year. Of course, winter causes more trees to fall and which means more trail work to do, and SGWA trail workers are anxious to get into the higher elevations.

While we await spring it's time to prepare for our summer programs. Volunteers are planning for cleanups at the Barton Flats Visitor Center, Whispering Pines and Ponderosa nature trails, and Tulakes in May. Orientation for new volunteers is being planned for May 20 with trainings for trail work, patrols and interpretive programs to follow.

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.

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

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Contributors this issue:

Rex Philpot, Val Silva, Shawn Sisler and George Crusoe

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

Volunteer Profile

Jean Rogers

By Bettye Miller

For campers who worry about bear encounters on trails or in their campsites, Jean Rogers offers reassurance and practical advice in a popular Ranger Talk every summer.

An SGWA volunteer for 11 years, Jean coordinates the Ranger Talk program at the Greyback Amphitheater and supervises activities at the Barton Flats Visitor Center.

Jean, a soon-to-be-retired high school language arts teacher, began volunteering with SGWA after a conversation with longtime volunteer Richard Hockensmith, with whom she taught at a large Fontana high school.

"He asked me how I was one day," she recalled. "I said I needed to get outside. He said, 'Have I got a group for you!' I went to Orientation that May and have been volunteering ever since."

Over the years she has hiked many trails in the San Geronio Wilderness, "but I am an 'hours per mile' hiker. Trail patrol partners were always patient with me when I needed to pause for a photo.

"The highest I have been is around 9,000 feet on Fish Creek Trail, where I had my first experience with altitude sickness. That slowed me down some."

She said she is proud to be a part of SGWA and its mission of protecting the San Geronio Wilderness. "Our trail patrols and maintenance crews do an outstanding job of keeping the wilderness trails, and other trails outside the wilderness area, safe for the public."

Interpretive programs fulfill the third part of SGWA's mission statement: To serve, protect, and educate, she added.

"Although Trail Patrol members educate hikers on the trails, the programs at the Barton Flats Visitor Center and the Ranger Talks reach out to the public in the campgrounds and beyond," she said.

One of Jean's favorite memories of volunteering at the Visitor Center involves the Jeffrey Pine next to the parking lot.

"One of our volunteers will involve any visitor with learning about the Jeffrey Pine. One day she even corralled a group of bikers who had stopped to rest on their way to Big Bear. It was such a treat to see these riders stick their noses in the bark of the

Jeffrey to smell it, and to be surprised at what they discovered."

Jean said her favorite places in the mountains are Jenks Lake and Camp Tulake.

"Jenks Lake is such a beautiful spot," she said. "One of the best times I had was participating in our former Fish Festivals. Being an avid saltwater fisherman myself, it was so much fun to help the little ones catch their first fish."

Camp Tulake, where she was introduced to SGWA, "is a beautiful place to camp and spend time in the outdoors. Trails are easily accessible, and the scenery can't be beat."



Jean dressed for her Ranger Talk about bears.

5 Tips for a Great Ranger Talk

Here are Jean's tips for creating an informative and entertaining Ranger Talk. If you're interested in presenting a Ranger Talk this summer contact Jean at jeanr8689@gmail.com.

Programs are held on Saturday evenings from Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day weekend at the Greyback Amphitheater in Barton Flats.

1. Use a subject that relates to the outdoors/nature, and you are passionate about.
2. PowerPoints are a good way to present in our low-tech Greyback Amphitheater environment.
3. Keep your information in layman's terms.
4. Get the visitors involved. (I use a Famous Bears Identification Game for beforehand.)
5. Use lots of visuals.
6. Include hands-on displays if available.

Museum Celebrates FS Legacy of Conservation

If you're curious about the history of the U.S. Forest Service and its legacy of conservation, check out the National Museum of Forest Service History.

Located in Missoula, Montana, the museum was established in 1988 as a nonprofit organization dedicated to collecting and preserving the history of the Forest Service. Its collection to date numbers more than 50,000 artifacts, documents and memorabilia relating to the agency's history and culture, and much of it is available to view online.



Gifford Pinchot commissioned nickel-plated bronze badges like this one for forest guards in the 1900s. Photos from NMFSH archives.

“(T)he NMFSH is dedicated to public exploration and discourse on conservation, the history of forestry, the social and economic impact of public land management and the work of the US Forest Service throughout history and into today,” according to the museum’s website. “There are few people in this country who have not been touched

in some way by the U.S. Forest Service – whether as current or past employees, through the use of forest products in our daily lives, through the protections of our firefighting services, or as a visitor to the many national forests and grasslands.”

Conservation education is an integral part of the museum’s programs and exhibits, a focus that will expand with the construction of its National Conservation Legacy and Education Center.



Among the current collection are items that illustrate the role of the Army’s 10th Mountain Division in the development of the nation’s alpine ski areas; explore the connection between smokejumpers and World War II paratroopers;



Harold Lawson from the Portland Radio Laboratory operates a heliograph, c. 1936. Heliographs were used by the Forest Service to send messages using sunlight reflected in flashes from a mirror.

examine the history of conservation giants such as Theodore Roosevelt and Gifford Pinchot (the first chief of the Forest Service); and share slices of life from early rangers and their spouses.

There are also uniform patches and badges in use over the last century, backpacks and logger boots, a 1955 film with Eddy Arnold singing “The Ballad of Smokey Bear,” signs from forest entrances and fire lookouts, and a Tucker Sno-Cat from the 1960s.

For more information about the museum and to view its online collections go to [The National Museum of Forest Service History \(forestservicemuseum.org\)](http://TheNationalMuseumofForestServiceHistory(forestservicemuseum.org)).

Feeling the Love

Visitors to the San Geronio and Cucamonga wildernesses have many nice things to say about SGWA volunteers. Here’s a sample of comments on



Facebook about trail crews encountered on a project on South Fork Trail in November:

TB: Our little group passed by these awesome guys the other weekend. They were super kind as we passed, and HUGE thanks to them for all the work they did. We noticed a LOT fewer fallen trees/branches to climb over on our way back out the next day!

MG: Thank you all for your awesome work!

JC: Thankful for you guys!

AS: Thanks for all you do!



President's Corner

Rex Philpot

Looking up into the wilderness from my home on the valley floor, it is great to see the peaks blanketed in white. A scenic wonder seen from all around the inland basin.

Our mountains are beautiful covered in snow. It is much-needed moisture due to the drought of the last few years. Our wilderness has been thirsty. I look forward to seeing all our springs and creeks flowing this spring.

For those that are experienced and prepared,

hiking in the winter is a great experience. The landscape appears different covered in snow. Hiking in the winter's cold and snow has its advantages. There are fewer hikers on the trail, giving you greater peace and quiet to commune with nature.

It also presents unique challenges that avid hikers enjoy. Do not go unprepared; winter skills are needed.

I want to thank all the SGWA volunteers that have continued to serve throughout this winter. It is very much appreciated. You guys rock!

I leave you with a quote from Aldo Leopold: "To those devoid of imagination, a blank place on the map is a useless waste; to others, the most valuable part."

SGWA

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Serve

Protect

Educate

