

Wilderness Link

San Geronio Wilderness Association

May 2023

Volume 11, Issue 2

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.

May

6 Nature trails/BFVC cleanup
20 Orientation
27 Ranger Talks begin
Barton Flats VC opens

June

9 Fish & Wildlife Festival, Prado Regional Park
10 National Get Outdoors Day (fee-free day)
TBD Trail crew/Patrol training

July

1. Birthday Bash – Tulakes

August

4 Great American Outdoors Day (fee-free day)
19 Forest Festival

September

2. Last Ranger Talk
23 National Public Lands Day (fee-free day)
24 Barton Flats VC closes

October

14 Awards Potluck
Close Tulakes

November

28 Officer elections

December

2 Holiday party

Summer's Almost Here! Summer's Almost Here!

Save May 20 for Orientation Day

It's time to dust off the hiking boots and get ready for summer in the wilderness. SGWA volunteers have been busy:



Jim Hill wields a chainsaw to clear a log blocking a nature trail at Highway 38 and Jenks Lake Road. Photo by John Flippin



- maintaining wilderness trails where they are free of snow and making plans to clear avalanche debris;
- cleaning up the Whispering Pines and Ponderosa nature trails on Highway 38, where eight trees were cleared from the trails and much trash was picked up;

- removing a Dumpster-full of trash scattered through the Barton Flats Visitor Center;

Lorien Sanders, Rex Brown and Jan Pettit staffed the SGWA booth at the Inland Empire Science Festival in April. Photo by Bettye Miller



- representing SGWA and the San Bernardino National Forest at the Wildlands Conservancy's Arts and Nature Festival in Oak Glen and the Inland Empire

Science Festival at the Western Science Center in Hemet. Orientation Day is May 20 at Camp Tulake, a time to gather with old friends and welcome new Volunteers for the 2023 season. Plan to

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Before and after photos of clearing a large tree from a nature trail on Highway 38 on May 6. Photos by John Flippin

Board Elects 2023

Directors

Members of the SGWA Board of Directors were elected at the March 28 meeting. They are: Kent Johnson, Rocio Nuñez, Andrew Sauer, Roxanne Smith, Ana Soltero, Paul Valiukas, Nelva Valladares, and Bob Williams.

Officers for 2023 are: Rex Philpot, president; Bettye Miller, vice president; Curt Lindemer, treasurer; and Dee McCoy, secretary.

Summer

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arrive by 9 a.m. with your completed volunteer agreement and your chair.

As is our custom, returning volunteers are asked to bring a potluck dish. SGWA will provide burgers and hot dogs. Watch your email for further instructions. We look forward to another great season!

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

Corporate

Adventure 16
Amazon Smile
Boeing
Edison International
Goodshop
Greater Good

San Manuel Band of
Mission Indians
Santa Ana River Cabins
Assn.
WilderNext Corp.

Monthly Donors

Linda Griffith
Bob Oppermann
Steffan Slater
Linda Griffith
Brittany Nickelason

December 2022

Deanna Eickhoff
Bettye Miller
Phil Rosenkrantz
Ted Sledzinski
B.J. Withall

January 2023

Allan Chang
Kyle Heinemann
Jim Hill
Suzie Kirkwood
Sabrina Jimenez

February 2023
David Schumacher
Sean Reed

March 2023
Terry Grill
Scott Warden

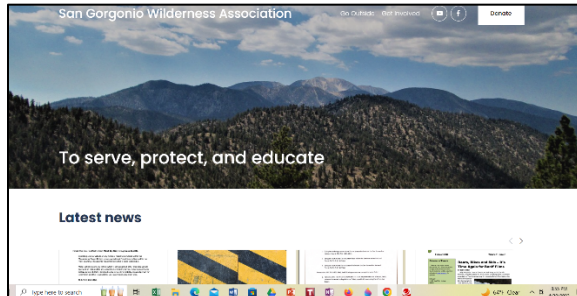
April 2023
Tyler Bishop
Kathy Wing
Elsa Yadao

**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 Hermosillo
Matilda Kaneshina
Jerome King
David Maerzke
Jim Matiko
Meike Murone
Michael Richman
Phil Rosenkrantz
Luis Salazar
Caitlin Smith
Suraj Trivedi

Ben White



Website Gets Makeover

Thanks to board member and web designer Andrew Sauer, our website has a new look.

You'll find the same information in a contemporary design that is easy to navigate. For example, if you're looking for the volunteer calendar, click on "Get Involved" at the top of the home page, then on "Current Volunteers." Or, scroll to the bottom of the home page and click on "Current Volunteers."

Looking for wilderness permits or weather forecasts? Click on "Go Outside" at the top, middle or bottom of the home page and choose "Permits" or "Conditions."

Replacing the forum is the crowdsourced Switchbacks app (<https://switchbacks.app/>), also developed by Andrew, which features information about trail conditions such as water sources.

Thank you, Andrew!

Calling for an Infra Coordinator!

A wonderful opportunity has opened up for someone to take on the leadership role of Infra Coordinator this season.

Each trail in the wilderness needs to be surveyed every five years and it is the responsibility of the Infra coordinator to organize those surveys. The coordinator keeps track of the rotation lists and

updates them as the trails get surveyed. The lead surveyors take responsibility for the survey and sending the results to the coordinator. The coordinator then sends the survey to the Forest Service for use in planning and updating the trails.

These surveys play an important role in the preservation of trail systems in the country.

Even if you have never conducted a survey you can be trained and then can work closely with the coordinator this season. Please email Eileen Hay at sgwa-trail@earthlink.net or text or call her at 619-857-3074.

Ranger Talk Help Needed

If there is something about wilderness, plants, critters or local mountain history you'd like to share with forest visitors, there's a place for you as a presenter in Saturday-night Ranger Talks at Greyback Amphitheater this summer.

Please contact Jean Rogers, who coordinates our Ranger Talk program if you're interested: jeanr8689@gmail.com

Also needed are volunteers to help serve hot drinks, sell snacks, or serve as Smokey Bear. Be sure to sign up on the volunteer calendar (<https://www.sgwa.org/current-volunteers>) and let Jean know when you'd like to help.



**Director's Desk
Val Silva**

Volunteer Profile

Paul Valiukas

Spring has made an appearance in the mountains with the promise of beautiful flowers and running streams. I shake off the winter cobwebs and once again realize how much I miss being in the mountains with SGWA and all the volunteers/friends.

SGWA always looks forward to the summer. We have orientation where returning volunteers get to see each other, plan for the summer adventures, brush up on skills, and get outside. We are always happy to see new volunteers – this year we have 40 – and welcome them to the group.

The past winter, while dropping epic snow, has also dropped many trees on the trails.

Trail crews have already started working on the South Fork Trail, where an avalanche occurred and an additional 30 trees have fallen. Reports from other trails are about the same.

Interpretive programs are scheduled for Greyback Amphitheater. Barton Flats is getting ready to open and Mill Creek Visitor Center is getting busier and busier.

Whoo hoo, we are off to a fun summer!

By Bettye Miller

Paul Valiukas had encountered SGWA volunteers on numerous hikes, but one particular chat with a trail crew piqued his interest.

“After chatting for a while we parted ways. Then one person yelled out, ‘Hey! If you come across something in the middle of the trail, don’t be afraid to move it,’” he recalled. “It was a funny, inspiring moment.”

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

Editor: Bettye Miller
Contributors this issue:

John Flippin, Eileen Hay, Rex Philpot, and Val Silva

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

Paul, a senior account manager for a company that supplies raw materials to medical device companies and other industries, is beginning his sixth season as an SGWA volunteer. He serves on the Board of Directors, works on the trail crew and helps patrol the backcountry.

“I’ve had a lifelong appreciation for nature and mountains specifically. Through activities at SGWA, I feel I’m playing some small role in caring for them,” he explained.

Volunteering with SGWA is a respite from his job, which is “mostly a virtual world isolated in front of a computer,” he said. “There is a satisfying element to doing trail work, both from the physical aspect but also seeing the result of trails being maintained. ... There is satisfaction in working as a team and the comradery that goes along with it and of course the satisfaction of seeing the results of everyone’s work. The best part is driving home, reflecting on the day’s activities and a feeling of accomplishment. Oh, and those end-of-the-day potlucks are pretty nice, too!”

Engaging with visitors while patrolling trails is fun and rewarding as well, he said.

One of Paul’s favorite places in the San Geronio Wilderness is along Vivian Creek Trail, “just past the



wilderness boundary where it levels out and you’re walking among the big trees. Might be in part because you’ve made it past the steep section of Vivian and you can catch your breath!”

Another is higher elevations of South Fork Trail past Dry Lake on the way to Trail Flat, where it “almost feels like you’re in the Sierras.”

All SGWA activities – from interpretive programs to trail maintenance and trail patrols – enhance visitors’ experiences and contribute to the organization’s overall mission to serve, protect and educate, he said.



“There’s a lot of opportunities for an individual to participate in a way that interests them,” Paul said. “SGWA offers a way for me to indulge that interest when I was first in college wanting to get a degree in biology and work outdoors. It has given me an opportunity to learn skills that are different from my day job. I appreciate all the learning opportunities and those individuals willing to teach.”

Forest Festival Is Back

Mark your calendar for Saturday, Aug. 21, 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.

There will be live music, hands-on activities, and appearances by Smokey Bear. A potluck and barbecue for exhibitors and SGWA volunteers will follow.

Photo contest celebrates National Forest Week

National Forest Week is July 10-16 and the National Forest Foundation is holding a photo contest to celebrate. Photos may be submitted between July 10 and midnight (MT) July 16.

This year’s theme is “Forest Mode.” For more information 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, among them: 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.

The National Forest Foundation is chartered by Congress and promotes forest conservation and responsible recreation.

Wanted: Photos for SGWA Yearbook

As you volunteer on the trail and in interpretive activities please remember to take photos and share them with us for possible use in the yearbook and various publicity opportunities. Please send them to gorgoniogal@gmail.com.



10 Essentials to Carry in Your Car and on the Trail

When you take to the trail or the road, what should you take in case of an emergency?

SGWA volunteer Rex Brown has compiled this list:

- Emergency shelter and cord
- Extra water and food
- Extra clothes and hat
- Map and compass
- Flashlight and batteries
- First aid kit and sunscreen
- Knife
- Phone

Fun Facts About Our National Forests



1. National Forests are home to more than 3,000 species of fish and wildlife.
2. More than 7 in 10 Americans live within 100 miles of a National Forest.
3. National Forests are home to 122 ski areas and countless miles of backcountry access.
4. National Forests contribute \$13 billion annually to our economy through visitor spending.
5. National Forests contain 136 scenic byways.
6. National Forests contain 119 Wild and Scenic Rivers.



7. You can explore two Volcanic National Monuments on our National Forests.
8. The National Forest System includes 20 Grasslands and one Tallgrass Prairie.
9. At 17 million acres, Alaska's Tongass National Forest is our nation's largest National Forest.
10. Water from our National Forests is valued at \$3.7 billion per year.



Source: National Forest Foundation

Horses Uphill: Horses tend to go uphill when spooked. Stay on the downhill side of the trail to let horses pass.

Yield Appropriately: Be aware of other users so you are prepared to stop when needed. If going downhill, yield to users going uphill. Be safe and courteous.

Revere the Resource: Practice leave no trace principles and leave the trail as good or better than you found it.

Pets: Follow posted rules for where pets can and cannot be. Make sure they are under your control at all times and pick up their waste.

Be Informed: Know what uses are allowed on each trail and any local rules and regulations.

Source: San Bernardino National Forest

Forest Service Trail Tips

Communication: Speak up and say hello or ask to pass so that people, and especially horses, know you are there.

SGWA

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President's Corner
Rex Philpot

Educate

*In these mountains made of dawn. In these
mountains made of sunset
In these mountains made of billowing cloud. With
beauty before me
With beauty behind me. With beauty around me. I
walk. I see the canvas and the clay.
Of the ultimate artist, His sculptures, and hues
without peer. As I look to the heavens
I thank the Lord. For this wilderness I hold so dear.
– Rex D. Philpot*

As we travel through the wilderness this season,
take the time to enjoy the gem of the San Bernardino
Mountains.

Pause and look at the great views along the trails.
The various vegetation and wildlife. Listen to the
wind through the trees, running water, the sound of
nature. Let the wilderness rejuvenate your soul.

I am looking forward to meeting our new
volunteers at orientation and I want to thank all the
volunteers that have continued to serve throughout
the winter.

If you enjoy the wilderness and want to give back
and volunteer, please go to our website and sign up.

See you on the mountain.