

**Thank
You!**



2022 Board of Directors



Officers

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Bettye Miller, Vice President
Dee McCoy, Secretary
Rocio Nuñez, Treasurer

Directors

David Bratt
Eileen Hay
Kent Johnson
Curt Lindemer
Rocio Nuñez
Roxanne Smith
Nelva Valladares
Paul Valiukas

Staff

Val Silva, Executive Director
Dee McCoy, Office Manager
Bob Williams, Volunteer
Coordinator
Eileen Hay, Trails Coordinator
Roxanne Smith, Front Desk
Coordinator

Photos contributed by David Bratt, David Christian, Bryan Clabeaux, George Crusoe, John Flippin, Eileen Hay, Gayle Haro, Bettye Miller, Jan Pettit, Rex Philpot, Michael San Filippo, Lorien Sanders, Shiloh Sanders, Nelva Valladares, Domenic Wager, Alfredo Zarate, and Janelle Zarate.

From the President

It has been a great honor to serve this year as your president. I have been volunteering with SGWA for 15 years now. Our organization is awesome! For decades our group has put forth the effort to protect the wilderness, educate the public and maintain the trails of our beautiful San Gorgonio Wilderness. It has been my privilege this year to make new friends and welcome new volunteers into the family.

We have had many challenges this season with closures due to mudslides closing access to many of our activities. Despite the hurdles, our volunteers have done an awesome job.

Thanks to all of you volunteers who help make SGWA work, from greeting people in our visitor centers, programs at the amphitheater, Big Falls, trail patrols, trail crew and many who work behind the scenes to help organize and keep everything going. All of this cannot be done without you. You all rock!

I leave you with a John Muir quote: "Climb the mountains and get their good tidings. Nature's peace will flow into you as sunshine flows into trees. The winds will blow their own freshness into you, and the storms their energy, while cares will drop away from you like the leaves of Autumn."



Rex Philpot

From the Executive Director

SGWA volunteers are an amazing bunch of people. Each one has a unique skill and contributes to the whole of SGWA. The San Gorgonio Wilderness is extremely fortunate to have such a dedicated group of individuals.

You will see in the yearbook the accomplishments made through the year and the people who made them happen. Volunteers take on many jobs, some behind the scenes, like Andrew Sauer who created the online program for wilderness permits; Bob Williams, who keeps all the records that you find statistics on in this yearbook and also schedules patrols and manages the volunteer sign-ups, Eileen Hay and David Bratt, who survey trails and schedule trail work; and Bettye Miller, without whom we wouldn't have a yearbook or newsletter.

It takes a team to run a great organization like SGWA. We are indeed fortunate to have a great team, and we look forward every year to finding new volunteers to join the team. Come join us.



Val Silva

The Year in Review



The impacts of climate change – devastating fires and drought – continue to challenge SGWA activities, and 2022 was no exception. Debris flows from the 2020 El Dorado Fire washed out part of Highway 38, resulting in fewer trail patrols and trail maintenance projects in August, and necessitating the closure of the Barton Flats Visitor Center and an abrupt end to Ranger Talks at the Greyback Amphitheater. Catastrophic mudslides in Forest Falls in August and September further limited trail activities.

Even so, SGWA volunteers donated nearly 14,000 hours during the abbreviated 2022 season, a contribution which the U.S. Forest Service calculates is equivalent to approximately \$420,000. Approximately 140 volunteers contributed hours in service in the San Gorgonio and Cucamonga Wilderness areas, working to protect and clean the forest, improve facilities and trails, and help approximately 16,000 visitors appreciate and enjoy the forest, nearly 9,000 of them on wilderness trails.

After the successful launch of an online wilderness permit system in 2021, SGWA added the crowdsourced Switchback app, which allows users to upload information about trail conditions, such as water sources. It has proved to be a popular addition, with more than 50 people accessing the app every day.

SGWA volunteers care for the San Gorgonio Wilderness and its surrounding areas as well as the portion of the Cucamonga Wilderness that is managed by the San Bernardino National Forest. Volunteers picked up more than 170 bags of trash, cleaned up nearly 100 illegal fire rings, and removed a record 830+ fallen trees from the trails. The presence of SGWA volunteers in uniform is a deterrent to resource damage in the forest.

Interpretive programs educated more than 7,200 visitors about fire safety, Leave No Trace ethics, and how to appreciate and share the forest with the plants and animals that live there. Volunteers create these programs each year with information designed to improve the visitor experience. In a season shortened by the closure of Highway 38, the Radford Fire, and mudslides in Forest Falls, the Barton Flats Visitor Center served more than 650 people; volunteers at the Big Falls Recreation Area talked to more than 4,700 visitors; and Front Desk staff at the Mill Creek Ranger Station assisted nearly 1,200 visitors.



The 300+ Club

These volunteers each donated more than 300 hours of service during the 2022 season.



Topping the list of volunteer hours donated this year is David Bratt, with more than 850 hours! David plays a critical role as a trail boss, surveying trails before crews tackle various projects and leading other volunteers as they complete those tasks. He also served on the Board of Directors.



Roxanne Smith is well-known to visitors at the Mill Creek Visitor Center, where she donated more than 700 hours. At the Front Desk Roxanne answers visitors' questions, sells SGWA merchandise, and provides information about road and trail conditions. She also serves on the SGWA Board of Directors.



Eileen Hay volunteered more than 570 hours as SGWA's trails coordinator. She is a gifted leader, motivator and record-keeper, coordinating and leading trail crews in an exceptionally busy season. She also serves on the SGWA Board of Directors.



In her second year with SGWA Nelva Valladeres has become an invaluable trail boss, contributing more than 500 hours in 2022. Her cheerful, can-do attitude is inspiring and fun to be around. She serves on the Board of Directors as well.



Keeping track of volunteer hours isn't everybody's cup of tea, but Bob Williams does a terrific job as SGWA's volunteer coordinator. He donated more than 525 hours, scheduling trail patrols, inputting volunteer hours, and sending weekly reports to the Forest Service.



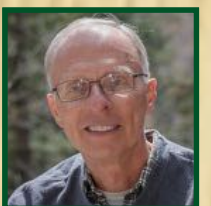
If there's a trail blocked by trees or with tread that needs repair, that's where you will find Antonio Huerta. In his second year as a volunteer he has become a valued member of the trail crew, donating more than 450 hours this year.



Dan Scott is a longtime volunteer who contributed more than 400 hours on trail patrols and teaching colleagues how to use patrol radios. He is a familiar face at Dry Lake, where he talks to campers about bear and fire safety, and where to find water. Ask him about the bear that got away ... with his food.



SGWA board Vice President Bettye Miller donated more than 400 hours in 2022. She volunteers at the Barton Flats Visitor Center, writes grant proposals, is editor of the quarterly newsletter and yearbook, and co-chaired the Forest Festival.



Curt Lindemer donated more than 325 hours in a variety of activities in 2022. He patrols trails, works at Big Falls and the Front Desk, and put his organizational and business experience – and sense of humor – to work as co-chair of the Forest Festival. He also serves on the Board of Directors.



If you hike in the Cucamonga Wilderness you've likely met John Do. John contributed more than 300 hours this season, checking permits and advising hikers about water sources and trail conditions. "Regulars" preparing to hike Mt. Whitney have come to view him as a valuable resource.

30 Years of Service



Dan Scott is well-known to campers at Dry Lake, one of his favorite places in the San Gorgonio Wilderness. Over the years he has assisted in the rescue of injured hikers, navigated pesky bears, and shared his love of the backcountry with his children, grandchildren, and the public. He has contributed more than 9,500 hours over the past 30 years.

Mike Garant is a familiar face at Dry Lake and atop Mt. San Gorgonio, a hike he has taken many times over the years, often with volunteer Dan Scott. He has contributed more than 5,400 hours as a volunteer. Ask him about his “miracle” sunglasses that fell between two boulders on the peak 25 years ago and were recovered nearly 20 years later. Without a scratch.

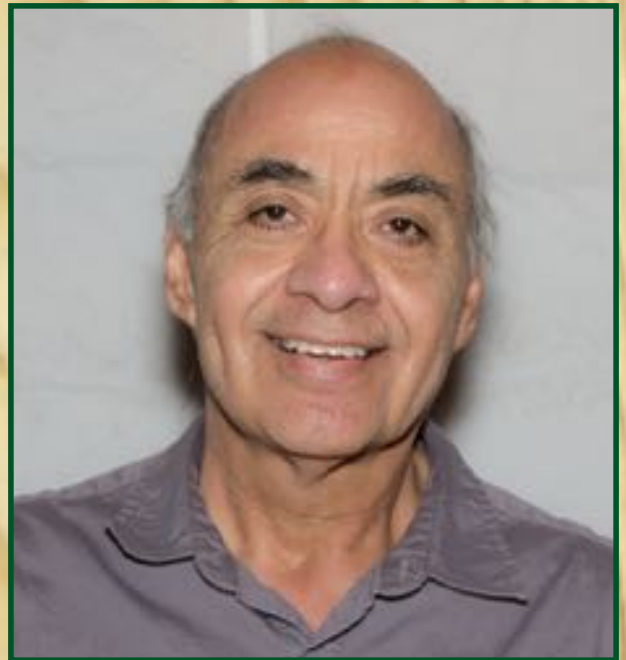


25 Years of Service



Jeff Haggard has participated in numerous nature trail and picnic area cleanup projects over the years. He also has welcomed thousands of visitors to the Big Falls Recreation Area, advising them how to protect their food from bears and be safe around the falls. Over the years he has contributed more than 1,600 hours.

Bob Villa began volunteering with SGWA doing trail patrols, answering questions posed by hikers and checking for wilderness permits. In more recent years has shared his love of wilderness with families attending the annual Forest Festival. He has contributed approximately 1,200 hours as a volunteer.



P R O T E C T



Trail crews continued to clear and repair trails damaged in the 2015 Lake Fire, and began rebuilding the Lost Creek Trail destroyed in that fire. They also repaired trails washed out by debris flows and removed fallen trees burned in the El Dorado Fire of 2020.

Volunteers cleared 830+ trees from trails and repaired more than 34,300 feet of trail, hauling tons of rock by hand to shore up tread with rock walls and removing brush growing over trails. Their efforts make trails safer and more enjoyable for hikers.

Patrol volunteers also monitored water availability in the backcountry – a service that has become significantly more critical during a historic drought – and advised backpackers about the need for permits.





S E R V E

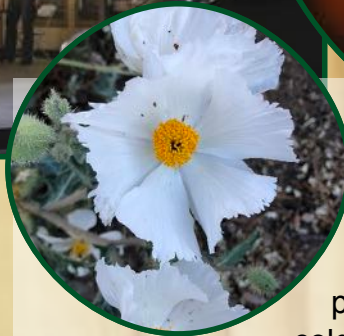
They also dismantled nearly 100 illegal fire rings, which improves fire safety in the backcountry.

The online permit system SGWA developed in 2022 remains popular with hikers and appears to be increasing compliance with permit requirements because they are easier and faster to obtain. The system also allows SGWA to provide updates about information important to hikers such as water availability and bear activity, and enables the issuance of immediate safety warnings. SGWA issued nearly 2,100 permits for day and overnight use.

Volunteers also measured and surveyed 15 miles of trails for the Forest Service in a program known as Infra.



E D U C A T E



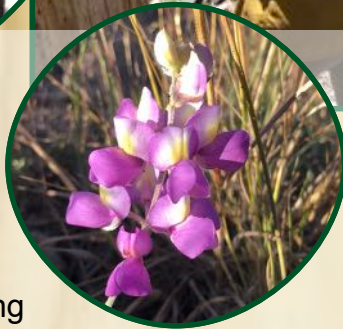
What should you do if you encounter a bear? Do bats really attack people? Are rattlesnakes cold-blooded killers?

Forest visitors learned the answers to these and other questions on Saturday evenings at the Greyback Amphitheater, where SGWA volunteers shared their passion for the forest and explained what everyone can do to help protect the plants and animals that live there. Ranger Talks drew more than 200 people in 2022.

Nature talks are only one way SGWA volunteers educate the public about forest. Volunteers at the Big Falls Recreation Area helped educate more than 4,700 visitors about how to safely enjoy and protect the forest.



ENGAGE



Volunteers also appeared at community events in Oak Glen and Glen Helen and Prado regional parks, interacting with nearly 1,500 people.

At the Barton Flats and Mill Creek visitor centers, volunteers answered questions about the forest, the San Geronio Wilderness, and what trails were closed in the aftermath of the El Dorado Fire; explained how to access the online wilderness permit system; and helped more than 2,500 visitors enjoy their mountain experience.

The annual Forest Festival was cancelled after months of planning when flooding and debris flows forced the closure of Highway 38 for the entire month of August.



26+ Years of Service

Phebe Baty



Teddi Boston



Ardis Beckner



John Flippin



Mike Garant



Sheila McMahon



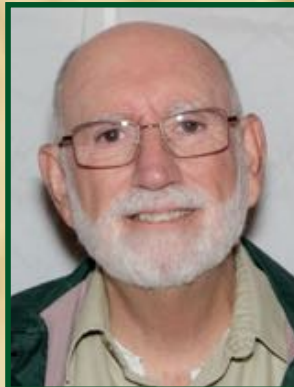
Sandy Messner



Pat Peters



Phil Rosenkrantz



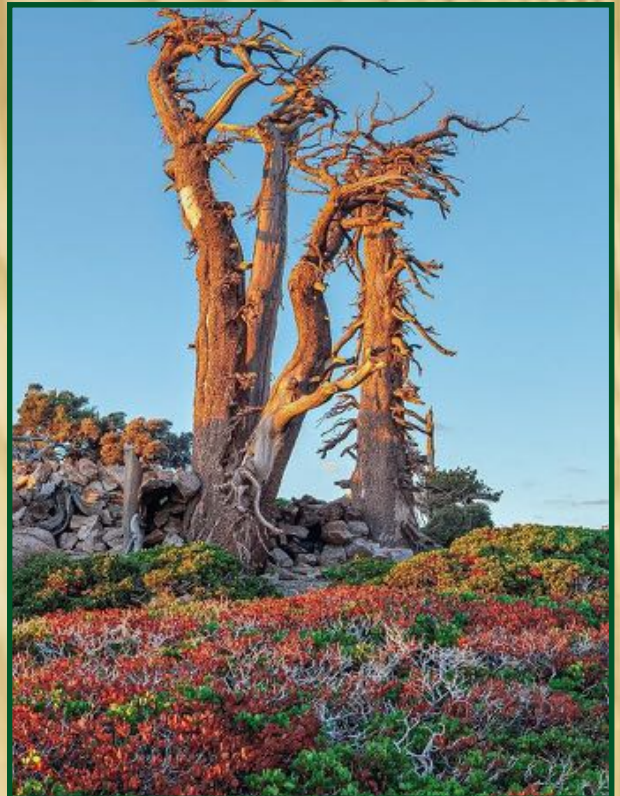
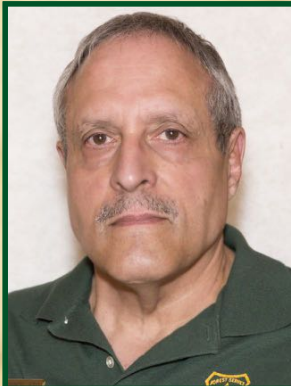
Dan Scott



Val Silva



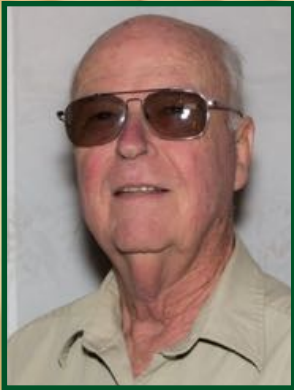
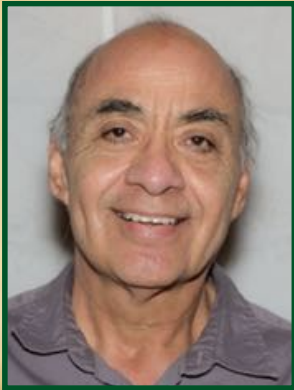
Jim Sirick



16-25 Years of Service



Jeff Haggard
Suzie Kirkwood
Dee McCoy
Maryann Oliver



Linda Roddick
Walter Roth
Bob Villa
Bob Williams

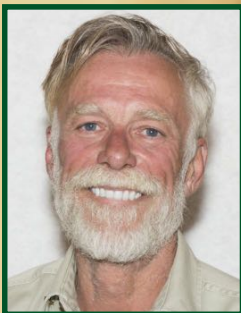


Janelle Zarate
Not pictured:
Walt Kirkwood



6-15 Years of Service

Dave Baumgartner
Gary Berry
Mike Bigness
Rebecca Bradshaw



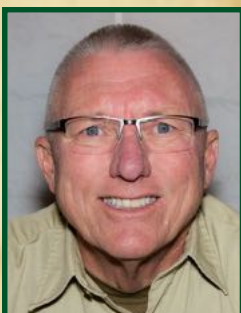
Mike Burros
Allan Chang
George Crusoe
John Do



Mariana Elder
Tim Elder
Chelsey Feierfeil
Hope Garant



Gina Griffith
Matt Harward
Eileen Hay
Jim Hill



Cyndi Johnson
Albert Lee
Bob Lum
Brenda McGee



6-15 Years of Service



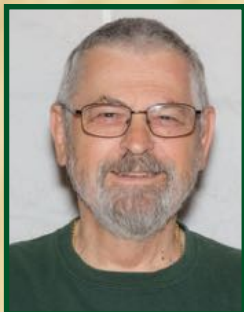
Betty Miller
Ed Nemeth
Rocio Nuñez
Manish Pagey



Scott Petterson
Rex Philpot
Jean Rogers
Michael San Filippo



Shawn Sisler
Roxanne Smith
Chris Sobek
Rick Sobek



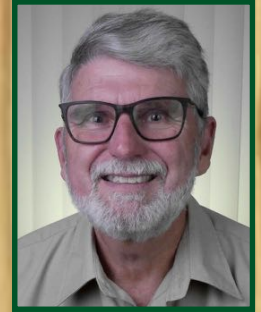
Emily Spencer
Robert Stokke
Becky Sweet
Domenic Wager



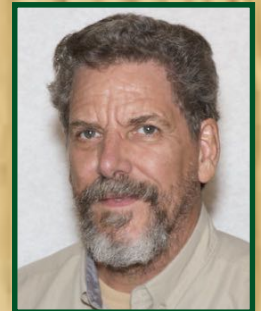
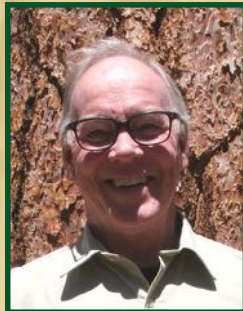
Katherine Williams
Alfredo Zarate

2-5 Years of Service

David Bratt
Jeff Butler
Lorne Cheeseman
David Christian



Bryan Clabeaux
Pamela Conti
Greg Craft
Fabien Derache



Kylie Donia
Linda Garcia
Melinda Garcia
Gayle Haro



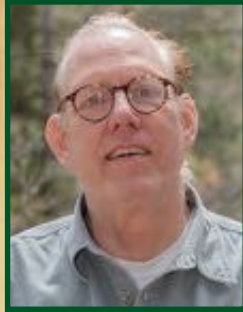
Donna Harward
John Howell
Antonio Huerta
Kent Johnson



Margot Johnson
Ronn Knox
Curt Lindemer
Nicholas Litt
Not pictured:
Sylvia Araujo, Rex Brown,
Benny Canady, Chuck
Churchill, Don Hale, Mark
Knight, Joel Kuehn



2-5 Years of Service



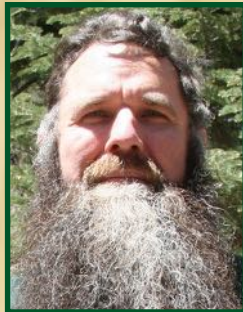
Emma Martinez
Tom McCurnin
Lewis Merges
Luisa Moya



Jan Pettit
Sharon Philpot
Aaron San Filippo
Aliana Sanders



Lorien Sanders
Shiloh Sanders
Andrew Sauer
David Schumacher



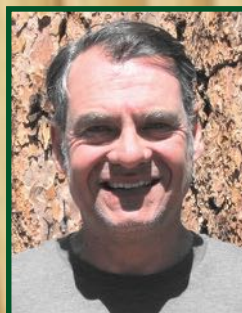
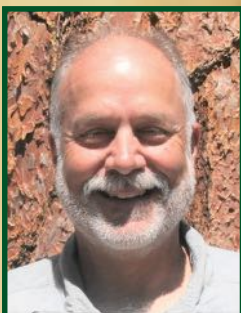
David Sill
Brent Swanson
Rory Talmon
Paul Valiukas



Nelva Valladares
Paul Van de Riet
Brandon Wakefield
Not pictured:
Zara Matheson, April
McElfish, Kyle Petterson,
Diane Rachals, Amy Ruiz,
Blake Schulz, Spencer
Shain, Bryce Sisler

Chipmunks

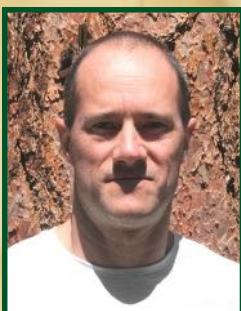
Valeria Aguilar
Lenny Berz
Bill Born
Nancy Cione



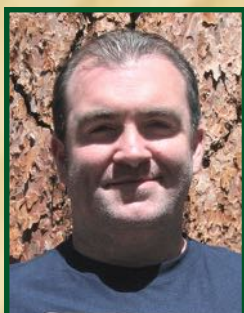
Ross Conklin
Kaity Creasy
Shannon Cwikla
David Martin Del
Campo



Paul Eickhoff
Mark English
Omar Espinoza
Cindy Foster

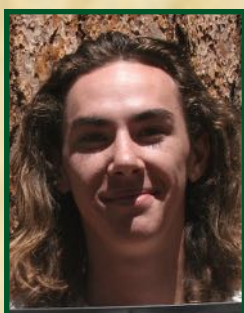


Micah Kiter

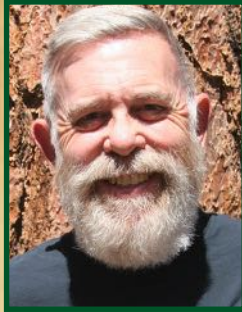


Simon Kok

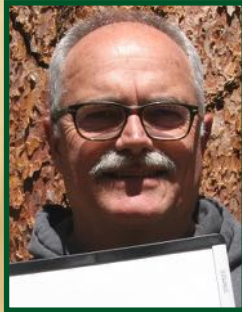
Not pictured:
John Barnes



Chipmunks



Louis Machado
Steve McCuen
Stalin Myers
Justin O'Brien



Kristi Racine
Bob Sjogren
Ana Soltero
Tara Vander Vliet



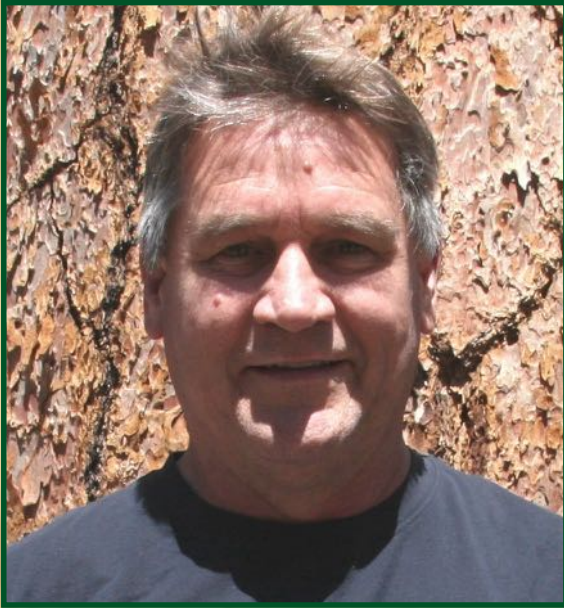
Justin Williams



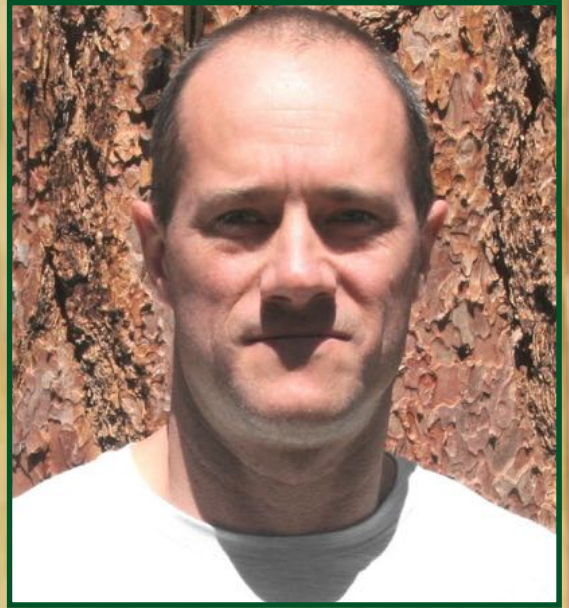
Not pictured:
James Radtke, Scott Smith,
Matt Sobek, Diana Wells



Chipmunks of the Year



Paul Eickhoff



Mark English

These first-year volunteers each contributed more than 100 hours in 2022. They patrolled trails, worked on trail crews, and volunteered at interpretive sites, including Big Falls, the Greyback Amphitheater, and the Barton Flats and Mill Creek visitor centers. They were amazing!



Micah Kiter



Ana Soltero

Hours of Service

0-99 Hours

Valeria Aguilar
Phebe Baty
Ardis Beckner
Gary Berry
Lenny Berz
Bill Born
Teddi Boston
Rebecca Bradshaw
Jeff Butler
Benny Canady
Lorne Cheeseman
Nancy Cione
Ross Conklin
Pamela Conti
Kaity Creasy
Shannon Cwikla
David Martin del Campo
Mariana Elder
Tim Elder
Omar Espinoza
Chelsey Feierfeil
Cindy Foster
Hope Garant
Melinda Garcia
Jeff Haggard
Donna Harward
Matt Harward
Cyndi Johnson
Ronn Knox
Simon Kok
Joel Kuehn
Marlene Linsalato
Nicholas Litt
Louis Machado
Emma Martinez
Zara Matheson
Steve McCuen
Thomas McCurnin
Brenda McGee
Sheila McMahan
Sandy Messner
Luisa Moya
Stalin Myers
Pat Peters
Kyle Petterson
Scott Petterson
Jan Pettit
Rex Philpot
Sharon Philpot
Kristi Racine
James Radtke

Phil Rosenkrantz
Walter Roth
Amy Ruiz
Lorien Sanders
Shiloh Sanders
Aaron San Filippo
David Schumacher
David Sill
Jim Sirick
Bob Sjogren
Scott Smith
Chris Sobek
Matt Sobek
Emily Spencer
Shain Spencer
Brent Swanson
Domenic Wager
Diana Wells
Justin Williams
Katherine Williams
Tara Vander Vliet

100-199 Hours

Mike Bigness
Rex Brown
Chuck Churchill
Greg Craft
Fabrien Derache
Mark English
John Flippin
Michael Garant
Gayle Haro
Margot Johnson
Micah Kiter
Mark Knight
Albert Lee
Dee McCoy
Lewis Merges
Rocio Nuñez
Justin O'Brien
Manish Pagey

Andrew Sauer
Rick Sobek
Becky Sweet
Paul Van de Riet

200-299 Hours

David Christian
Bryan Clabeaux
George Crusoe
Paul Eickhoff
Jim Hill
John Howell
Kent Johnson
Bob Lum
Jean Rogers
Michael San Filippo
Val Silva
Shawn Sisler
Ana Soltero
Robert Stokke
Paul Valiukas
Alfredo Zarate
Janelle Zarate

300-399 Hours

John Do
Curt Lindemer

400-499 Hours

Antonio Huerta
Bettye Miller
Dan Scott

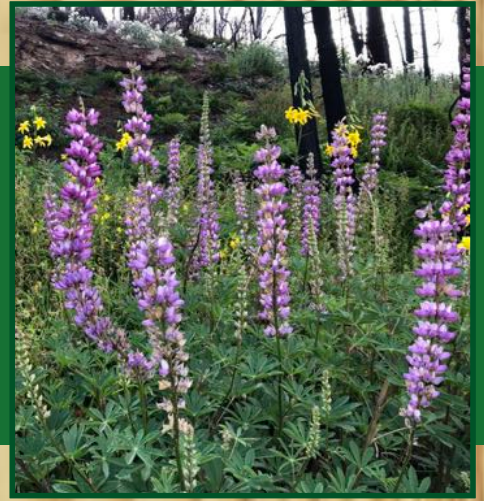
500-599 Hours

Eileen Hay
Nelva Valladares
Bob Williams

600+ Hours

David Bratt
Roxanne Smith







In memoriam



The End of the Trail

– *Robert Service*

Life, you've been pretty good to me,
Yet here's the end of the trail;
No more mountains, moor and sea,
No more saddle and sail.
Waves a-leap in the laughing sun
Call to me as of yore ...
Alas! my errant days are done:
I'll rove no more, no more.

Life, you've cheered me all the way;
You've been my bosom friend;
But gayest dog will have his day,
And biggest binge must end.
Shorebound I watch and see afar
A wistful isle grow wan,
While over is a last lone star
Dims out in lilac dawn.

Life, you've been wonderful to me,
But fleetest foot must fail;
The hour must come when all will see
The last lap of the trail.
Yet holding in my heart a hymn
Of praise for gladness gone,
Serene I wait my star to dim
In the Glow of the Greater Dawn.

Larry Stiles