What a Season!
2020 Board of Directors

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Dee McCoy, Secretary
Teddi Boston, Treasurer

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David Bratt
Chelsey Feierfeil
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Bob Williams

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

A special thank you to our Forest Service liaison, Jihadda Govan, for her expertise, perseverance, and support of SGWA. Jihadda, you're terrific!

Photos contributed by Brian Braithwaite, David Bratt, John Flippin, Jeff Haggard, Eileen Hay, John Howell, Cyndi Johnson, Kristy Loufek, Bettye Miller, Phil Rosenkrantz, Scott Petterson, Michael San Filippo, Ali Sanders, Lorien Sanders, Dan Scott, Val Silva, Shawn Sisler
From the President

As many of us have said, the 2020 season was nothing that anyone expected. But our ability to stay true to our core mission of protecting the wilderness – despite a global pandemic, floods, and our third wildfire in five years – demonstrates that SGWA volunteers are a determined and resourceful bunch.

We can be proud of that. I am.

To the volunteers who patrolled the wilderness and trail crews who made the trails safer, thank you for an awesome job amid very difficult circumstances.

To the Board of Directors, a huge thank you for your hard work and thoughtfulness in leading this organization through unprecedented times.

To Val Silva, executive director extraordinaire, SGWA would not be what it is without your wisdom, your love of the wilderness, and your delightful sense of humor. Thank you for your leadership during these weird times.

I am so proud of SGWA and all of our volunteers. Thank you for another successful year. See you next year!

From the Executive Director

This year book has been dedicated to a look at the past. I think that’s an appropriate place to be in this time of change. The future will change because of the Covid restrictions and the fires, but we will have a new normal. It’s good for us to reflect on our past, our accomplishments, the beauty of our wilderness, and friends who are no longer here.

This summer brought many more people to the outdoors. Many just wanted to get out of the house away from the daily problems to enjoy the outdoors – hopefully they will return. It is up to SGWA to educate them about wilderness ethics and help them have an appreciation for the outdoors. As we do so they become stewards of the land. It’s a mighty goal for us, but we can accomplish anything and are looking forward to 2021.

Despite being shut down for nearly five months, we accomplished a lot. We had trail work almost every week. Volunteers removed 239 trees from the trails, and worked on over 11,000 feet of trails.

We refinished the benches at Greyback Amphitheater so it will be ready for a fresh new season. We also went virtual with some of the campfire programs on our website. John Flippin refurbished the old tool trailer so we can hang saws and keep equipment dry and safe.

Remembering our mission statement – Serve, Protect and Educate – I feel we have a bright future for next year. We will work with the challenges that may come and make a new normal.

I’d like to thank the Board of Directors for being so upbeat and helpful in making this year productive. Bettye Miller, our president and yearbook editor, has gone above and beyond to keep things together and put a good spin on everything.

I look forward to seeing everyone next summer; we have a big job to accomplish. CHANGE IS GOOD!
The 2020 season was a memorable one by any measure. The global coronavirus pandemic curtailed our interpretive programs and required additional safety protocols for trail crews and volunteers patrolling wilderness trails. Because of bans on large public gatherings SGWA had to cancel Orientation Day and, for the first time, did not accept new volunteers. The Forest Festival also was cancelled, as were our famous potlucks. The Apple and El Dorado fires each caused one-month closures of the San Gorgonio Wilderness in August and September, the third and fourth times in five years the wilderness has been closed because of fire.

Also memorable was how volunteers adapted quickly to life in a pandemic. Some processed wilderness permits remotely. Board meetings were conducted via Zoom. Virtual ranger talks were posted online. Smaller trail crews tackled troublesome trees nearly every week. Coverage of trails by volunteer rangers continued at the same rate as in pre-pandemic seasons.

In short, SGWA continued to fulfill its core mission to protect and preserve the wilderness.

SGWA volunteers donated more than 7,645 hours during the 2020 season, a contribution which the U.S. Forest Service calculates is equivalent to approximately $208,000. Nearly 90 volunteers contributed hours in service in the San Gorgonio and Cucamonga Wilderness areas, working to protect the forest, to improve facilities and trails, and to help visitors better understand and enjoy the forest. SGWA volunteers donated 893 hours of work on trails in the San Gorgonio Wilderness and the Cucamonga Wilderness.

The San Gorgonio Wilderness and its surrounding areas are cared for by volunteers, as is the portion of the Cucamonga Wilderness that is managed by the San Bernardino National Forest. Volunteers picked up more than 70 bags of trash, cleaned up 120 illegal fire rings, and removed 239 trees from the trails. The presence of SGWA volunteers in uniform is a deterrent to littering and resource damage in the forest.

SGWA also hosted the Banff Mountain Film Festival World Tour, with over 1,000 people in attendance.
The 300+ Club

These volunteers each donated more than 300 hours of service during the 2020 season.

John Howell topped the list of volunteers in terms of hours donated at 485 hours. He is a familiar sight at Dry Lake, his favorite campsite in every season, where he breaks up illegal fire rings and advises hikers on wilderness ethics. That’s his winter camp on the yearbook cover.

Before David Bratt joined a Forest Service trail crew in the Sierras this summer he worked more than 300 hours on SGWA trail crews, where he also served as a trail boss. He also serves on the SGWA Board of Directors.

There probably aren’t many hikers who haven’t encountered George Crusoe and his infectious laugh on the South Fork Trail. George contributed more than 320 hours this season as he visited with hikers on the trail and broke up illegal fire rings.

Eileen Hay is SGWA’s trails coordinator extraordinaire. She donated more than 370 hours preparing, coordinating and leading trail crews during an especially challenging season. She also serves on the Board of Directors.

Michael San Filippo contributed more than 300 hours patrolling trails this season, sharing his love of wilderness with numerous hikers. Michael is especially well-known for his breathtaking photos of the wilderness.

Dan Scott is a longtime trail patrol volunteer who contributed more than 300 hours. Over the years Dan introduced his son and grandson to the beauty of this wilderness and the need to preserve it. Later in this yearbook you will see a photo of his grandson Blake at age 12 on his first hike to Dry Lake.

Roxanne Smith donated more than 340 hours, serving on the Board of Directors and at the Mill Creek Visitor Center. She also processed hundreds of wilderness permit requests from home after the coronavirus shuttered the visitor center.

Longtime volunteer Bob Williams contributed more than 370 hours and served as SGWA’s volunteer coordinator. In that role he scheduled trail patrols and prepared weekly reports for the Forest Service. He also serves on the Board of Directors, worked on trail projects, and helped refurbish the Greyback Amphitheater.

Lonnie Yett began coordinating volunteer staffing at the Mill Creek Visitor Center a few years ago and made it look easy. He donated more than 400 hours as he processed wilderness permit requests and handled IT issues. He’s moved away, but now that he has an SGWA Outpost sign, not out of reach.
Teddi Boston is a legend in the hiking community after her solo through-hike on the Pacific Crest Trail nearly 45 years ago, the first woman to do so. Her presentations about that adventure are among the most popular Ranger Talks at the Greyback Amphitheater, and she has shared advice on tackling that trail with visitors at the Barton Flats Visitor Center (in pre-pandemic years). Teddi also is SGWA’s longtime treasurer.
Before coronavirus safety protocols limited trail projects to removing hazard trees and crew size to six, trail volunteers continued to repair trails damaged by the Lake Fire in 2015 and subsequent flooding. When the pandemic hit trail projects focused on removing hazard trees and repairing damaged tread around them. SGWA volunteers were on the trails nearly every week and accomplished a great deal – 239 trees removed and more than 11,000 feet of trail repaired.

Overall, SGWA crews removed trees and repaired eroded tread on trails throughout the San Gorgonio Wilderness. The largest tree measured
Serve

46 inches in diameter!

In cooperation with the Forest Service, SGWA volunteers have performed all trail maintenance in the San Gorgonio Wilderness for many years. SGWA also assumed responsibility for trails in the San Bernardino National Forest portion of the Cucamonga Wilderness several years ago.

SGWA volunteer rangers continued to protect the wilderness as they interacted with hikers who swarmed the backcountry as much of society shut down during the pandemic. They monitored water availability, advised backpackers about the need for permits, and dismantled numerous illegal fire rings.
Interpretive activities were severely impacted by coronavirus restrictions this year. The Barton Flats and Mill Creek visitor centers were closed, and Ranger Talks were cancelled. Nevertheless, volunteers continued to answer questions posed by visitors via email, on the SGWA website, and on social media. Previously recorded Ranger Talks were posted on the SGWA website.

This was the season where volunteers tackled projects that will enhance our ability to serve the public in 2021. Some volunteers developed new interpretive materials that will help families better appreciate the forest and its inhabitants.

A persistent group of volunteers spent several weekends refurbishing the Greyback Amphitheater, stripping paint and sanding seriously weathered benches, and giving them a new coat of paint. There won’t be a splinter in sight for Ranger Talk audiences next year.

Still more volunteers working from home processed more than 5,200 requests for wilderness permits, with a turn-around time of less than 48 hours, often less.

SGWA also presented the Banff Mountain Film Festival World Tour over two days in February, which was attended by more than 1,000 people.
26+ Years of Service

John Flippin
Mike Garant
Sheila McMahon
Sandy Messner
Pat Peters
Dan Scott
Jim Sirick
Val Silva

Phebe Baty
Ardis Beckner
16 - 25 Years of Service

Teddi Boston
Lloyd Eggebrecht

Jeff Haggard
Susie Kirkwood
Dee McCoy
Bob Oppermann

Linda Roddick
Phil Rosenkrantz
Walter Roth
Cassidy Silva

Larry Stiles
Bob Villa
Bob Williams
Janelle Zarate

Not pictured:
Walt Kirkwood
6 -15 Years of Service

Changhai Ahn
Gary Berry
Mike Bigness
Rebecca Bradshaw

Becky Buffington
Allan Chang
Bud Cole
Edie Cole

George Crusoe
Eric Davenport
Bruce Dimock
John Do

Mariana Elder
Tim Elder
Betty Farrell
Chelsey Feierfeil

Hope Garant
Diana Gossard
Gina Griffith
Matt Harward
Not pictured:
Quin Garant
6-15 Years of Service

Elaine Hay
Mike Hayes
Jim Hill
Andy Johnson

Bill Kirk
Albert Lee
Eliza Lee
Bob Lum

Brenda McGee
Pam McKeown
Bettye Miller
Ed Nemeth

Rocio Nunez
Manish Pagey

Scott Petterson
Rex Philpot
6 - 15 Years of Service

Jean Rogers
Michael San Filippo
Shawn Sisler
Bob Stokke
Randy Thompson
Robin Thuemler
Domenic Wager
Lex Willard
Katherine Williams
Geneva Yett
Lonnie Yett
Alfredo Zarate
Not pictured:
Rick Sobek
2 - 5 Years of Service

Dan Arone
Brian Braithwaite
David Bratt
James Brown

Arlette Bruce
Dale Crawford
Patrick Davis
Fabien Derache

Mike Eudy
Fariba Dorrifar
Bart Grant
Gayle Haro

Donna Harward
Susie Honey
John Howell
Libby Kelly

Ronn Knox
Sarah LaFon
Paul Lambert
Sue Lauritzen
2 - 5 Years of Service

Curt Lindemer
Marlene Linsalato
Sarah Linsalato
Nicholas Litt

Kristy Loufek
Duyen Ma
Thomas McCurnin
Kevin McKeown

Lewis Merges
Tej Patel
Reyna Peach
Stephen Peach

Jan Pettit
Benjamin Philpot

Sharon Philpot
Joe Reyes
2 - 5 Years of Service

Aaron San Filippo
Aliana Sanders
Lorien Sanders
David Schumacher
Marianne Shuster
David Sill
Roxanne Smith
Tyler Sullins
Becky Sweet
Amanda Tromblay
Paul Valiukas
Bill Voden
Krill Volchinskiy
Rodney Walters

Claudia Zepeda

Not pictured:
Robbie Bishop, William Castro, Martin Garcia, Melinda Garcia, Buzz Hall, John Karwoski, Kyle Petterson, Bryce Sisler, Carlos Solorio, Glen Thompson, Scott Warden
Remember When ...
Hours of Service

1-99
Ardis Beckner
Mike Bigness
Robbie Bishop
Teddi Boston
James Brown
Brian Braithwaite
William Castro
David Chavez
Chun Choi
Bud Cole
Lisa Cox
Patrick Davis
Fabien Derache
Lloyd Eggebrecht
Lynn Follstad
Hope Garant
Michael Garant
Quin Garant
Martin Garcia
Melinda Garcia
Bart Grant
Gayle Haro
Donna Harward
Matt Harward
Cliff Heck
Bill Kirk
Ronn Knox
Albert Lee
Paul Lambert
Dee McCoy
Thomas McCurnin
Joyce McIntire
Pamela McKeown
Sheila McMahon
Sandy Messner
Rocio Nuñez
Manish Pagey
Pat Peters
Kyle Petterson
Scott Petterson
Rex Philpot
Linda Roddick
Jean Rogers
Phil Rosenkrantz
Aaron San Filippo
Aliana San Filippo
Lorien Sanders
Marianne Shuster
David Sill
Eddy Solis
Robert Stokke
Becky Sweet
Amanda Tromblay
Dave Turner
David Ulinder
Paul Valiukas
Domenic Wager
Dwayne Watson
Katherine Williams
Geneva Yett
Alfredo Zarate
Janelle Zarate
100-199
Chelsey Feierfeil
Jim Hill
Cyndi Johnson
Kristy Loufek
Bob Lum
Lewis Merges
Bettye Miller
Reyna Peach
Jan Pettit
Val Silva
Shawn Sisler
200-299
David Bratt
John Do
John Flippin
Curt Lindemer
Stephen Peach
David
Schumacher
300-399
David Bratt
George Crusoe
Eileen Hay
Dan Scott
Michael San
Filippo
Roxanne Smith
Bob Williams
400-499
John Howell
Lonnie Yett

Historic and family photos:
Page 1, bottom left: Alfredo Zarate, Audrey Scranton, Val Silva, and little Cassidy Silva in 2000; Page 7, middle right: John Flippin; Page 11, top right: Val Silva and Smokey; Page 22, clockwise from top right: Betty Farrell; flag retirement ceremony at Tulakes; Blake Scott at Poopout vista; Jim Johnson packing in supplies for South Fork trail work; Val Silva & Co. on the trail; Cyndi Johnson on the Lost Creek Trail; Jeff Haggard family at a Forest Festival; 1984 Board of Directors; Cyndi and Jim Johnson on a Dry Lake trail project; middle, Val Silva and Cyndi Johnson with Smokey; lower middle, volunteers at a 1980s Fish Festival; Page 23: John Flippin, Alfredo Zarate and Bob Wood; Diana Gossard and Smokey; Back cover, bottom: Equestrian patrol atop San Gorgonio Peak in 1993
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.

Graciela Lum

In Memoriam