



4-Victor

*The Newsletter of the
San Gorgonio Wilderness Association
Volume 7 • Issue 1
March 2003*

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President's Message

Jarome Wilson

Dear Volunteers, Members, and Friends of SGWA

A new season brings new hopes, opportunities, and challenges to our Association.

It has been a long, dry wait, but finally we see snow capping the majestic peaks of the San Gorgonio Wilderness. A few more good storms before the season starts may bring some much needed water to our parched and thirsty wilderness. These late winter storms renew hopes that the public will have wonderful

recreation opportunities in the land we all love so much.

Our volunteers were very instrumental in helping to educate the public about the forest closures last year, but we know they would much rather be helping the public out on the trails. Many volunteers will be finding opportunities to take on greater roles in moving the Association towards our goals of serving, protecting, and educating.

John Flippin, our outstanding Volunteer Coordinator and Business Manager, has shouldered most of the burden of coordinating our successful volunteer program. We will be providing him with some much-needed relief in his workload this year by utilizing more volunteers as assistant coordinators. Therefore, you can expect to see many new faces distributing radios on Saturday mornings.

Having more people involved in managing the program makes the Association much stronger and better prepared to face the challenges of the future, and turning these challenges into golden opportunities.

As with any non-profit organization, the SGWA faces the never-ending task of securing the necessary funding for our programs. The majority of our funding today comes from the Forest Service. The post-September 11 world is forcing the Federal government to adjust

spending priorities, and even us die-hard wilderness advocates realize that the safety of citizens from terrorism is a far greater priority than recreation activities. We should not, however, allow terrorism to destroy our quality of life, which includes our appreciation of the need to preserve wild areas. Our challenge, therefore, is to double our efforts to secure funding from other sources, such as our participation in Earth Share.

I look forward to the coming year. The hopes, opportunities, and challenges will no doubt make 2003 an exciting year to look back upon!

Jarome Wilson

Adopt a Trail Project May Hart, Adopt-a-Trail Coordinator

It's that time of year again for clean up of the Whispering Pines and Ponderosa trails. The date has been set for **April 26 at 9:00 a.m.** We will be meeting at the Whispering Pines Trailhead, located on Hwy. 38, just before the Jenks Lake West turnoff. This project is for veteran volunteers who have gone through safety training. You should be receiving your first scheduling letter the beginning of April to sign up. If you do not receive it and want to join us, please call me at (714) 526-7361 and leave a message. Bring work gloves and a sack lunch. Hope to see you there.

Officers of the Board

Each November, the Board of Directors elects the officers (President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer) that they will work with to set the priorities and direction of the Association.

Last November, the Board elected **Jarome Wilson** as President, **Ted Schofield** as Vice President, **Karen Saffle** as Secretary, and **John Flippin** as Treasurer.

Sandy Messner, our departing Secretary, has done an outstanding job keeping the minutes of the Board, and we thank her wholeheartedly for her wonderful years of service.

The Board of Directors and Officers look forward to working closely together to help set and implement the goals and priorities of the Association for 2003.

Thank You For Your Support!!

Many who know the great value of our forest and wilderness areas may not have the time but have the monetary resources to help the SGWA continue to "Serve, Protect, and Educate." Recent contributing members to whom we and forest visitors owe many thanks are:

Members

Individual (\$25); Family/Dual (\$35) and Student/Senior (\$20)

Henry F. Hall

Expressions, Temple City

Kevin F. Walsh

Robert Williams

President's Summit Team

(\$100 or more annually)

Robert and Kathy Seidenberg

Ted Sledzinski

Life Member (\$600)

Bryan Walton

The Forest Is Calling

John Flippin, Volunteer Coordinator

I'm sure I hear the forest calling for you volunteers again. The winter is almost over, we finally have some

snow on the ground (three feet at Dry Lake, 3/4/03), and the flora and fauna miss seeing you staffing the visitor centers and out on patrol. I know I miss getting up there most every week and I'm sure most of you are getting the urge to serve under the big pines again.

Well, I can assure you we have another exciting season coming up. Of course, what makes things work well are great people, and we have some great people coming back to support your volunteer services. Your SGWA officers, board of directors, and staff (see back of newsletter) have been working hard through the winter to keep the SGWA business going, to continue raising funds, and to plan the new season.

Ted Schofield, Funds Development Director, with the help of several wonderful volunteers, has a very successful payroll contributions program going with Earth Share of California. **Karen Saffle** will be putting together another fantastic Forest Festival – try volunteering for that, it is really a lot of fun. Look for a special trail maintenance project or two with **Larry Stiles**, who has volunteered to coordinate these very rewarding and enjoyable adventures for us again. **Danny Silva** will again give us our "forest home" at Camp Tulake and **Val Silva** will lead our valuable equestrian corps for another year. We are also very happy to have **John Dombrowski** back for his second year as our Interpretive Sites Manager. John already has some great, full-time volunteer hosts lined up for Barton Flats.

We will start out the year with **Mary Hart**, Adopt-a-Trail Coordinator, again leading some trail cleanup and reconstruction on the Whispering Pines and Ponderosa nature trails. **Michael Gordon** continues to do a super job maintaining our web site (requires more changes, updates, additions, and general monitoring than most realize) where the Back Country Bulletin Board is a tremendous service to wilderness users and a great source of

trail information for all of us. Also, 2002 was the best sales year ever in the website's Back Country Store. Oh yeah, are you enjoying this great newsletter? Thank our editors, **Teri Cappuccio** and **Ann Robinson**. They are the best.

Of course our Forest Service paid professionals are looking forward to seeing you again. Among them are a new Front Country District Ranger, **Gabe Garcia**, and our returning Forest Service Liaison, **Alfredo Zarate**. There is a tough job balancing the recreational needs of the general public, the desires of politicians, the goals of small businesses and large corporations, and the health of the forest. To say they can use your help is a great understatement.

Finally, your relatively new President, **Jarome Wilson**, has developed an expanded Assistant Coordinator program that will provide new and exciting challenges to willing volunteers, free me up to work on other aspects of our program, and strengthen our overall program for the future. You'll learn a lot more about this soon. By the way, your old (I'd better say previous) President, **Roger Gossett**, sends his best wishes to you all. He and his wonderful wife **Patti** are enjoying snow country in New Hampshire very much but miss us a lot.

There it is again. Did you hear that whisper in the air? I'm sure the forest is calling you.

Newsletter Articles Submission

Teri Cappuccio, 4Victor Editor

SGWA volunteers are encouraged to submit articles for the newsletter. Your article can be about an experience or an adventure you would like to share with others. In addition, if you have camping/backpacking items you would like to sell, we will gladly advertise for you free of charge. Please submit all articles as a Word document attachment to teri.cappuccio@azteconline.com. The deadline for submission is the 1st day of each month.

Fremont Investment and Loan

Ardis Beckner, SGWA Volunteer

A big THANK YOU to Fremont Savings and Loan for contributing approximately \$200.00 to SGWA through their Deposit Incentive Donation Program.

Having an account with Fremont Savings & Loan helps support SGWA by simply notifying them of your volunteer service. No money is taken from any customer's account. All Fremont donations are based upon combined total liquid assets of our members who have requested to be a part of this program.

For branch locations, please call 800-670-5060. You may call or stop by any branch office for further information.

Thank you, Ideal Graphics!

Printing of the 4-Victor Newsletter is contributed in part by **Scott Watson, Ideal Graphics**, Ontario, CA. A big thanks goes to Scott and his staff for their service and consideration.

SGWA Wish List

To enable us to better serve the public we wish we had the following items. If you know of someone who would like to donate these items, new or used, please let us know. Tax deductions are applicable.

- Self-focusing slide projector with timer for nature talks.
- Metal cabinet for SGWA Mill Creek Office.
- Used trailer with shower for Barton Flats Visitor Center.
- Folding utility tables.
- Folding chairs.

Wishes Come True

We thank the following very much for their donations. Their generosity will benefit the public greatly.

Ed Kenny – Backpack and backpack stove.



Disclaimers

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One Environment... One Simple Way to Care for it

How can you choose between the eagle and the buffalo? Between the elephants and the whales? Between drinking clean water and breathing clean air? Between forests and beaches? Would there be a right choice?

Now there's a way to help not just one, but all these things. It's called Earth Share of California – the world's leading environmental and conservation charities working together.

Through Earth Share you can make a payroll deduction donation that helps to preserve and protect the environment – locally, regionally, nationally, and globally. Or you can choose to help specific organizations such as the San Geronio Wilderness Association through your payroll deduction.

Earth Share not part of your employer's workplace giving campaign? The SGWA would like to help you with that. Call **Ted Schofield** at 909-862-1089 or send an e-mail to him at flyer1955@aol.com.