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- SBC Communications
- Verizon Foundation

Our interpretive program during this time owes much to **Karen Saffle** and her involvement with the San Bernardino County Museum which grants us the loan of the critter displays we've shown countless children at Barton Flats.

Last winter, SGWA was approached by **Raven Anne Marie** (Visitor Information Supervisor at Mill Creek) and **Pat Baker** (Alpine Camping Services) with a plan to conduct Saturday evening campfire Ranger Talks throughout the summer. Last spring, several SGWA volunteers were given extensive training and became nationally certified by NAI (National Association for Interpretation) the same certification given to interpreters in the National Parks. NAI Certified Volunteers **Teddi Boston, Dee McCoy, Bob Oppermann, Marco Perales, Don Rosene, Walter Roth, Karen Saffle, Dave Turner, Mark Voykovic, and Jarome Wilson** will be conducting interpretive programs each weekend throughout the summer at the Greyback Amphitheater. At this writing, five programs have already been presented to 178 visitors with the bulk of the summer crowds yet to arrive.

Our partnership with the Forest Service and Alpine Camping Services to present these programs breathes new life and vitality into interpretation on the forest and allows us to reach a new generation of visitors. Please consult the program schedule provided in this newsletter and consider spending an evening participating in SGWA's legacy of interpretation

Jarome Wilson,
President SGWA



Welcome New Volunteers

John Flippin
Volunteer Coordinator

A wonderful new group of people very dedicated to serving the public joined us in May. We already know these 15 men and women have a keen interest in the San Gorgonio Wilderness and surrounding forest. Although they could go out and enjoy their forest on their own whenever they wish, they have chosen to give their time and money to help others have more enjoyable and safer visits to the forest. Dedicated? They are dedicated without a doubt – proven by their taking the time to complete required training and spending significant personal funds on uniforms and equipment, not to mention the considerable amount of time they've promised to serve.

They are a diverse group of all ages, male and female, hikers and equestrians, from all over southern California. They will be greeting visitors at various visitor centers, maintaining trails, and performing education/safety patrols in and around the San Gorgonio Wilderness. Thank you very much new volunteers for joining us to help the public maintain and improve their physical, spiritual, and mental health while recreating in their National Forest.

In Memory of

Marie Kupecz
April 7, 1916 – April 20, 2004

Marie Kupecz was a Forest Service volunteer with the SGWA since 1995. She served primarily at the Barton Flats Visitor Center in recent years. Marie fought heart problems over the past year and more recently cancer. After being confined to a wheelchair a couple years ago and then having more medical problems, Marie was always expressing concern about doing enough to be allowed to remain in

President's Message

Jarome Wilson
President SGWA

Dear Volunteers, Contributing Members, and Friends of SGWA,

When our Association was founded in 1990 the original goals were focused around interpretive activities. In fact, our name was initially going to be San Gorgonio INTERPRETIVE Association. Our founders understood that educating the public (and especially children) about the wonders and importance of wilderness is an important step in preserving it for future generations. Interpretive activities played a major role in our activities, and we worked hand and hand with Forest Service staff in developing and presenting programs to the public.

As with many great programs on our local forests, Congressional budget cutbacks forced the Forest Service to scale back staffing devoted to interpretive activities and the Association was left on our own. SGWA's interpretive program was kept alive until the turn of the century when we faced budget constraints of our own. Interpretive activities since that time have been limited to what very dedicated individual volunteers could do on their own with little support.

the program. Of course, that made us smile as we assured her she did far more for us than her modesty would let her admit.

And she never quit doing all she could, including coming into Mill Creek to stuff envelopes and fold brochures, and sitting by the animal/plant displays at Barton Flats to help educate visitors about the wonders of the forest. Perhaps one of her biggest contributions was the inspiration she provided to so many of us by being a real fighter and never giving up. She hiked these mountains and forests most of her life and loved them very much. We are lucky to have known her and will remember her on our walks among the trees. We'll miss you Marie.

Marie wrote a special poem we published here a few years ago. It is well worth reading again as we say, "Farewell for now Marie."

Forest Folklore

By Marie Kupecz

*The forest is a magic place
Where elves and wood nymphs play.
They dance away the summer nights,
But hide with light of day.*

*Their tiny homes are in the oaks
And ponderosa pine.
They make a path of fairy dust
And lichen trails that shine.*

*Softly walk beneath the boughs,
Speak in whispered tones.
Do not disturb the woodland plants
Or green moss covered stones.*

*These little folk are everywhere,
They're watching us with glee,
Knowing that they live within
A world we cannot see.*

*The forest is a happy place
Where fantasies abound,
Where wonder is recaptured
And long lost dreams are found.*

Marie Kupecz, August 3, 1997

Contributors have donated \$175.00 to SGWA's Wilderness Forever Fund in memory of Marie Kupecz. The Wilderness Forever Fund is a perpetual endowment helping to ensure the maintenance and protection of the San Gorgonio

Wilderness and surrounding forest throughout the future.

"It is our task in our time to hand down undiminished to those who come after us, as was handed down to us by those who went before, the natural wealth and beauty which is ours." – John F. Kennedy

DGA's Values Benefit SGWA **Jarome Wilson** **SGWA President**

Many corporations understand that reaching out to the communities they serve is good for business. The employees at DGA (Digital Graphics ADvantage - a subsidiary of SBC SMART Yellow Pages) just know it's the right thing to do. DGA employees are so committed to serving the community that they have created a volunteer group (DGAid) to coordinate fundraising events for various charities and non-profit organizations.

This year DGAid added SGWA to its list of fundraising recipients. Employee **Karen Smith** was tasked with coordinating fundraising events and selected Earth Day (April 22) as the logical date to organize around. Karen was instrumental in selling the SGWA story to the DGAid team. Her drive and determination made this happen.

Employee **Taylor Little** created wonderful posters that introduced SGWA and announced three fundraising events that DGAid would conduct on behalf of SGWA.

Because Earth Day falls on the same date as Bring Your Children to Work day, Karen asked if Smokey Bear would be available to teach the kids wildfire safety. Fortunately SGWA's President **Jarome Wilson**, also a DGA employee, just happens to know how to get on Smokey's busy schedule.

Jarome spoke to the kids about Earth Day and fire safety before Smokey's arrival. All the children had the opportunity to have their photo taken with Smokey, and afterwards Smokey roamed the halls of DGA and learned about how all the ads for SBC telephone directories are created.

At lunchtime, hungry children, employees, and bears had the opportunity to buy pizza, cookies,

and soft drinks sold by DGAid volunteers **Debi Kristiansen, Louvenia Watkins, Kelly Schnick, Theresa Jachtschitz, Linda Harris, Taylor Little, Leila Muego, Quyen Baldwin, and Alfonso Otoy-Vera.** The profit generated from the food sale was donated to SGWA.

On April 23 and April 30, employee **Frankie Lee** sold his famous egg-rolls and sandwiches as part of another fundraising event to benefit SGWA. Frankie had never heard of San Gorgonio before but found SGWA's mission compelling. The proceeds from his food sales resulted in additional profits donated to SGWA.

On May 7 the DGAid team held yet another pizza sale. Fortunately for SGWA and other charity organizations DGA employees are often hungry! The proceeds for this third fundraising event were also donated to SGWA.

These fundraising events resulted in a total of \$1,045.20 for SGWA, but also provided the opportunity to showcase San Gorgonio to folks who might never have heard of it before. Many employees have gazed upon San Gorgonio while walking along the Santa Ana River during break times at the Anaheim facility without realizing they were looking at the source of that river.

SGWA is extremely grateful to the generosity and enthusiasm of DGA, SBC, SBC Interactive, and the volunteers on the DGAid team. The value they place on community involvement is obvious and they have clearly shown they live their values by embracing charitable groups such as SGWA.

Each of the volunteers on the DGAid team will be receiving a complimentary annual membership in the SGWA so they can keep in contact with the fruits of their efforts.

Trails Are Ready, Except

We had a great volunteer trail crew out for our annual cleanup and maintenance of the Whispering Pines and Ponderosa Nature Trails on April 24. **Mary Hart** and **John Flippin** got the trails surveyed and things ready to go the weekend before. And following Mary's lead, **Teddi Boston, Teri Cappuccio, Jeff Haggard, Jan Gudgell, Mickey Kacherwski, Jeff Lynn, Cindy and Joe McGregor,**

Pat Peters, Danny and Val Silva, Greg Silver, and Bob Williams removed a dozen large bags of litter, cleared tread, cut back the brush, and sawed two fallen trees off the trails. Our thanks to **Audrey Scranton** from the Forest Service for working with us.

So the trails are again ready for the public to enjoy. EXCEPT, the Ponderosa Trail has suffered a very large percentage (at least 50%) of pine and fir die-off due to the drought and beetles. Because there are so many trees dead and they are beginning to drop limbs or fall over completely, the Ponderosa Trail has been temporarily shut down for public safety until those trees can be dropped and removed.

We thank these and other volunteers for keeping so many trails open, clean, and safe. The hours you donate enable thousands of visitors to enjoy tens of thousands of hours hiking through the forest.

2004 Summer Programs

Jarome Wilson
SGWA President

The following programs are held at Greyback Amphitheater. Smokey Bear will be visiting the programs when available. Refreshments and a low-impact campfire will be provided:

7:30 8:00 PM—Arrive/Meet & Greet
8:00 8:45 PM—Program
8:45 9:00 PM--Salute to wildland fire fighters

Saturday, July 17

Don't Just Visit the Wilderness Experience it! (Bob Oppermann)

The 5 Life Zones in the San Bernardino Mountains (Don Rosene)

Saturday July 25--Call of the Wild (Karen Saffle)

Saturday July 31--Hiking the Pacific Crest Trail (Teddi Boston)

Saturday August 7--Perseids are Coming! See the Meteor Shower (Dee McCoy/Dave Turner)

Saturday, August 14--Sentinels of the Forest (Mark Voykovic)

Saturday, August 21--The 5 Life Zones in the San Bernardino Mountains (Don Rosene)

Saturday, August 28--Star Program (Dee McCoy/Dave Turner)

Saturday, September 4--40 Years of Wilderness (Jarome Wilson)

Sunday, September 5--Medicinal Plants (Diane Watkins)

Saturday, September 11--40 Years of Wilderness (Jarome Wilson)

Fantastic Two Thousand And Four

John Flippin
Volunteer Coordinator

Our 2004 summer season of volunteer activities on the mountain is off to a great start. I thank you all for your time and effort in getting all the necessary training so that you can effectively serve, protect, and educate the public in a safe manner. As the world changes and becomes more complex, additional training and education will always be necessary to be successful. I'm sure most of you find this to be true in your everyday jobs and careers. It is certainly true for our volunteer program where all of you can take pride in being "professional volunteers."

We have a wonderful group of new volunteers and you veterans are doing a great job of teaching them the fine details of serving the public out on the trail, at Barton Flats, at Horse Meadows, and at the Big Falls Station. As usual, our volunteers are doing so many different things at so many different places it is hard to summarize briefly. Forgive me for not mentioning everything and please send in articles to our editors, **Teri Cappuccio** and **Ann Robinson**, about experiences you or other volunteers are having on the mountain.

Our trail patrols, both foot and equestrian, have provided excellent coverage every week so far. They have given valuable trail condition information to the Forest Service trail crew and the public. They've also already provided assistance in a visitor injury incident and cleaned up dozens of illegal fire rings.

Many volunteers have participated in several trail maintenance projects. **Mary Hart** led a great group in getting the Whispering Pines and Ponderosa Nature Trails ready for the summer (see other article). Also, **Bill**

Hedekin, Jeff Lynn, Dan Riley, and Travis Underwood did some great work on the lead-in road to the Lost Creek Trail for National Trails Day.

Horse Meadows is seeing a lot of visitors this year. And those visitors are being well served by many volunteers staffing the interpretive site there, including **David and Kim Van Horsen**. Of course they could not do it so well without the help of twins **Peter** and **Faith** who started out in strollers with us just a few years ago. And speaking of interpretation, don't miss **President Jarome's** article about our new interpretive programs at the Grayback Amphitheater – those interpretive volunteers are very special.

Do you like the running water and showers at our Tulake Work Camp? Thank **Danny Silva** who with help from a great team of volunteers including **Del Hawkins** and **Mickey Kacherwski** got the camp opened up again this year. It is so nice there - the bears are visiting already. It is also very nice at the Barton Flats Visitor Center where **John**



John Dombrowski and new volunteer **Larry Fuerstinger** led the way in getting the grounds and buildings cleaned up and ready to go for another busy summer. We are very happy to have **Glen and Marcia Riddle** back as our lead Barton Flats Visitor Center Hosts.

There are the always reliable veterans who come up often like **Larry Stiles** - a great trainer of new wilderness patrol volunteers; **Val Silva** who leads our equestrians in trail patrols, trail maintenance, and packing of special project supplies; **Jan Gudgell, Pat Peters, and Cindy and Joe McGregor** patrolling the Heart Bar/Coon Creek area; and **Karen Saffle** who is already getting things in order for our August Forest Festival. Of course we are very lucky to have **Janelle Kotzin** and **Dee McCoy** as co-managers of Barton Flats and our other interpretive sites. I'm afraid there are so many volunteers I have not mentioned who are doing many wonderful things throughout the forest. Thank you all for getting another summer off to a great start. You are all helping

thousands of people make many wonderful memories that will last them a lifetime. Take care out there and I'll see you on the mountain.

Fremont Investment & Loan Helps Forest Visitors Through the SGWA

The San Gorgonio Wilderness Association receives \$\$ Cash \$\$ from Fremont Investment & Loan through its Deposit Incentive Donation Program.

If you currently have accounts at Fremont or open any new accounts, just mention you want SGWA #361 to receive credit and Fremont will do the rest. Fremont will make an annual donation and it costs you, an SGWA supporter, nothing. SGWA will receive a cash donation and you'll get great interest rates on FDIC insured accounts!



SGWA has been a member of this program since September 2001 and has received a total of \$785 to date. The value of those funds to the public is then multiplied eight times by our volunteers who serve, protect, and educate.

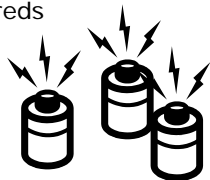
Please help us earn more in 2004! For information on this wonderful program, please contact **Barbara Garcia** at Fremont Investment & Loan at 909-793-8080 (located at the corner of State and 6th Streets in downtown Redlands).

OUR THANKS TO FREMONT FOR HELPING SGWA SERVE THE PUBLIC.

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/displays
- Folding metal chairs
- Digital Image Projector for computer slide presentations
- Ten AA battery holders for Bendix/King radios
- AA batteries, hundreds



Wishes Come True

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

- Del Hawkins – Heavy Duty Security Screen for Camp Tulake kitchen AND for modifying the hitch on our camper trailer for Barton Flats Host use
- Danny Silva – for repainting Del's security screen.
- Jim Gooley – for installing the security screen.
- Mark & Natalie Voykovic - Desk top copy machine for Barton Flats Visitor Center
- Alfredo Zarate – Two folding utility tables
- Ann Robinson – Thirty laminated radio instruction/information cards
- Teri Cappuccio - Computer for Camp Tulake

Does Your Company Offer an Employee Matching Gift Program

MANY EMPLOYERS WILL MATCH OR DOUBLE YOUR CONTRIBUTION TO THE SAN GORGONIO WILDERNESS ASSOCIATION, EVEN IF YOU ARE NOW RETIRED.

WITH YOUR MATCHING GIFT, OR ONLY YOUR DONATED HOURS if you are an active volunteer, you can easily increase your support of our public service and increase the protection of the San Gorgonio Wilderness. Please check with your company to see if they have a matching gift or volunteer incentive program. If they do, simply send us the necessary company forms and we'll take it from there.

You can help us partner with companies such as Bank of America, Edison International, Illinois Tool Works, and Verizon to make the world better for all.

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:

Family/Dual (\$35)

*Al Hull
Bob & Bev Kreider
Suzie Kirkwood*

Individual (\$25)

*Bruce McKissick
Christian (Chris) Eichelsdoerfer
Gregory Rhodes
Julie Newton
Patricia Engels*

Individual Lifetime

David Brisban

Non-Profit Partner

Upper Santa Ana River Users Assoc

President's Summit Team

(\$100 or more annually)
*Malcom Heppenstall, MD
Pat & Clarinda Teixeira
Richard Nyerges
Robert Myers*

Student/Senior Members (\$20)

Edmund Treidler

Trail Blazers

(\$50 or more annually)

*Jim Bolson
Odos Clanin*

Thank you, Ideal Graphics!

Printing of the Wilderness Dispatch contributed in part by Scott Watson, Ideal Graphics, Ontario, CA. A big thanks goes to Scott and his staff for their service and consideration.

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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 Gorgonio 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.