



2018 NEWSLETTER

Stanislaus Wilderness Volunteers {A California Non-profit Corporation, Registration #CT0171922}
Wilderness Office • Summit Ranger District
Stanislaus National Forest • 1 Pinecrest Lake Road • Pinecrest, CA. 95364 •
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Can you believe it? The 2018 Stanislaus Wilderness Volunteers' project season is in the books! Although both 2017 and 2018 were heavily impacted by weather and fires, SWV has done their best to carry out their mission of preserving our wild areas and inspiring the public to do the same. Our challenge continues to be how to enlist others to join in our cause through growing our membership and soliciting funds.

Our season opening meeting was held on April 28, 2018 at the Forest Service Supervisors Office in Sonora. Board elections were held and the new Board of Directors consists of: Rebecca Andrade, President, Brian Morris as Treasurer, Jeff Hawley, Stephanie Reichle and Sean Kessler as Board Members. Sherri Elliott volunteered to serve as Secretary. At the end of the season Brian announced his resignation from the board because life's travels have taken him out of the area. We wish him well and thank him for his many years of service and participation with SWV. The group welcomed two new members, Vanessa Mcvay and Lee Taylor.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT:



Photo courtesy of R. Andrade

"This Spring, I was elected President after taking on multiple board positions over the years. After ten-plus years of working and living in the Wildernesses of the Sierra Nevada, I have come to find Wilderness Education to be the most powerful tool in our toolbox. This summer our Wilderness Manager, Joel Silverman completed a Wilderness Educational Plan for the Stanislaus National Forest, our Leave No Trace tabling crew was out in full force with over 600 contacts made, Dave Moser trained USFS employees and our Summit Ranger Station Wilderness Educator, Brent Petty, has again exceeded reasonable expectation of SWV! It's not just about what volunteers do, it's about who they are. Before the Donnell Fire started, I participated in a radio interview on the Tuolumne Trailheads Radio Show to talk about SWV and the significance of the Clark Fork area as it relates to the 50th anniversary of the PCT and its historical significance. Our love and dedication to Wilderness is what brings us together; and to me, it's the greatest honor. Thank you for your continued support. I truly look forward to working with you all in 2019."

-Rebecca Andrade, President.

THE PROJECTS-

The big news of the 2018 season, of course were the two fires which heavily impacted our area and cut our project season short. The Ferguson fire, near Yosemite started mid-July and besides causing great damage to the Sierra National Forest, the Stanislaus National Forest and Yosemite National Park, filled our area with smoke. The Donnell fire, which started August 1, 2018 caused great devastation to the forests and structures along the highway 108 corridor. Joel Silverman's availability to SWV was severely limited once the fires begun because he and his staff were called on to provide logistical support for the fire crews. The Donnell fire caused the cancelation of the SWV week-long work project to Emigrant Lake due to accessibility issues. The September workday was also canceled.



The first project day was on June 9, 2018 and was led by Dick Chimenti. It was a trail maintenance project departing from the Box Springs Trail head. This was a great collaborative project with 5 USFS participants and 10 SWV participants. The group split into 3 teams, each led by a sawyer. The teams leapfrogged passed each other, to more efficiently do the work. We cleared 2 ¼ miles of trail, removed 53 trees from the trail, all outside of wilderness. A Sierra Club group which hiked the trail the

next day, forwarded their thanks for the cleared trail.

Chris Larimer served again as the project leader for the Leave No Trace (LNT) workdays, of which there were many. His teams staffed tables at the Summit Ranger Station, usually on holidays or anticipated busy weekends. The LNT teams assisted the USFS staff at the Summit Ranger Station issuing Wilderness permits, public education and fielding questions. Their goal is to engage the public in conversation about the LNT Principles and how to minimize human impact while they are enjoying the Wilderness we all love. This season they had the added challenge of providing the public with alternatives to fire and smoke-impacted areas. Chris and his teams made over 600 contacts this past season. Although the LNT events are usually single-day events, on busy weekends, Chris has been known to be at the Summit Ranger Station on multiple days over holiday weekends. Thank you, Chris!



The second project day of the 2018 season was on July 14 and was led by Jeff Hawley. It was a campsite cleanup project to Bear Lake and covered 8.5 miles of trail and campsites. The team consisted of six volunteers who removed about eight pounds of garbage, including toilet paper from approximately 25 sites. Eighteen fire rings were either removed or modified and ten others were cleaned. Three large trees were reported in the trail, but this team was not equipped for tree work.

On September 15, Jeff and Linda Hawley and Mike and Judy Sawyer met with past SWV president, Jim Beard in San Francisco and finally delivered the 2016 President's Volunteer of the Year award. Jim was given the award for his many years of participation, including serving as SWV president for seven years and writing a number of grants which allowed SWV to fund interns who worked with the USFS Wilderness Rangers out of the Summit Ranger Station.

WHAT'S NEXT-

A board meeting was held December 5 to begin the planning for the 2019 SWV Project Season. Sherri Elliott has already been on a scouting trip from Mosquito Lake to Bull Run Lake and found at least 30 downed trees! Joel Silverman reported, at the end of season meeting, that access to Carson-Iceberg and County Line Road from the 108 side will most likely be closed in 2019 because of the fires that burned these areas in 2017 and 2018.

This will allow our group to focus on other areas that may require our attention. It also means the public will have fewer places to go and it will elevate the importance of the LNT teams and their efforts to connect with the folks that are visiting the wilderness.

Joel is working on scheduling a First Aid Class that SWV members can attend in early 2019. This will be a prerequisite for all saw training classes. Additionally, Joel announced the closing of the Mi Wok ranger station to the public. There will be staff there for at least another year, although, the current plan is to eventually move most staff up to Summit (besides Fire staff).

SWV continues to actively seek new members, so any efforts to that end are encouraged and appreciated. Those of you that are in the giving spirit...please consider a donation to SWV. Your contribution will provide needed resources to continue this work and...it is tax deductible.

The date for the SWV season opening meeting has been proposed for April 27, 2019 with details to follow. We wish you all a safe and happy holiday season!

A TRIBUTE-

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Don Anderson (Nov. 3, 2018). Don was a long-time member of SWV and was recognized as SWV Volunteer of the Year in 2012. His contributions and stewardship of the wilderness are legendary. We have lost an incredible resource- his knowledge, his experience, his kindness and his humbleness. Don, it is with profound appreciation that we thank you for your service and your contributions to making this a better place. Happy Trails, dear friend!

-Compiled by Linda Smith-Hawley

