

## 2020 WINTER 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 •

[www.swv1.org](http://www.swv1.org)

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### MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT – *Jeff Hawley:*

To our Stanislaus Wilderness Volunteers, our partners and the Community:

Winter has arrived as we start a new year. We make resolves as the wild country we serve to protect restores. Winter is a time of renewal – water replenished by the snow, animals retreating to hibernate and store energy for the spring. Winter is also a time to plan how we want to make a continued difference working with our partners — the US Forest Service, our volunteers and the community in the upcoming late spring to fall season.

Our project priorities are dictated by conditions and needs identified by the US Forest Service. This year, we continue to strive to provide appropriate training to our volunteers – seasoned and new to make sure we can accomplish our projects in a safe and effective manner. SWV has not had a reportable accident since our incorporation in 2003 — 16 years with a perfect safety record. Our projects of trail clearing, campsite restoration, trash removal and public education have been effective in maintaining the wilderness character of many high-use sites.

Our Leave No Trace Program (LNT), managed effectively by Chris Larimer, has proven to be an effective tool in educating the public on the principles of LNT and helping to reduce the impact travelers have on this valuable resource. We will continue that program next year and would love to have additional volunteers and people new to the organization participate. It is an outstanding opportunity to interact with the travelers to the front and back country and make a difference.



*Wildflowers, Horse & Cow Mdw*

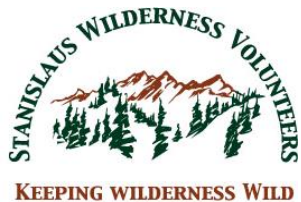
Our other priorities for the upcoming year are to increase the awareness of what we do as stewards of the wilderness to the community at large. We are actively seeking new volunteers to assist in the work we do, and we are seeking support from the community, the business community and the public to further our work. Our outreach program will utilize social media, our website, newsletters, written communications and directed campaigns to enlist volunteers and seek financial support.

I am proud of the work Stanislaus Wilderness Volunteers have done over the years — of the difference we have made in keeping wilderness wild and promoting ethical use of this treasured resource, Wilderness. It is vitally important to keep this organization viable by bringing in new volunteers, raising funds to support the organization's goals and continue to raise awareness of the importance of preserving a special place in America.

Thank you for all you do.

Jeff Hawley

President, Stanislaus Wilderness Volunteers



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### WILDERNESS MANAGERS MESSAGE – *Joel Silverman*:

What makes one person choose to jump out of a perfectly good airplane, pull a chute cord, and sail to the ground? What makes another person choose to hike a heavy pack up a mountain through foul weather in hopes of seeing no one? And what makes someone else want to clean up other people's trash, scatter fire ring stones, and clear trails? The funny thing is

even if we've done all these things, it's tough to know what "makes" one want to do them. And if we knew the exact answer, perhaps, we would have many more wilderness stewards to help us with the work – no, the *joy* - of keeping our beautiful wilderness wild. I'm guessing most people can only love something they know, so

that's probably where to start. Like a trip into wildlands that someone more experienced took us on. Or maybe someone

just gave us a little advice at the Ranger Station before we headed out to a sapphire blue lake we saw in a photograph. Or maybe it started with a field of wild paintbrush flowers or a herd of deer bouncing out of a meadow. Something spoke to us. And maybe we were a little surprised at how high up a mountain persistence and sweat could take us. And maybe we saw some things that others (or we) left behind and made it less beautiful. So, we decided to fix a small wrong that was done out there. Somehow a seed was planted – that

we would lend a hand in keeping this place pristine for those who will come here long after we no longer can. So, as we start a new year, please make it a point to take some novice on a wilderness overnight trip. Or bring a friend to one of our day projects. However, we do it, let us plant more wild seeds in the hearts of others and renew the ones in our own.



*Unnamed dome in the Emigrant.*



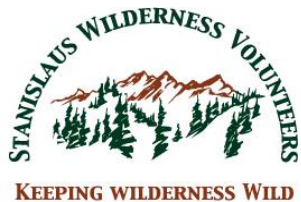
*A mix of snow and rain fell on our multi-day project in September, but we persevered.*



*Fall color in the Emigrant.*



*Volunteers hiking to the project site.*



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### PROJECTS COMPLETED IN 2019

The following events were completed for the 2019 season:

DATE	EVENT	PARTICIPANTS	LOCATION
4/27/2019	Season Opener	SWV Members	USFS Hot Shot Base
5/24/2019	LNT - SRS	C. Larimer, Team	Summit R.S.
6/8/2019	CPR Class	J. Hawley, L. Smith	USFS S.O., Sonora
6/1/2019	Project Day	J. Hawley, S. Happel, A. Gierman, S. Reichle	Bell Meadow
7/4/2019	LNT - SRS	C. Larimer, Team	Summit R.S.
7/13/2019	Project Day: Trail maint; fire rings	S. Elliott, D. Chimenti, S. Happel	Grouse Lake
7/20/2019	LNT - SRS	C. Larimer, Team	Summit R.S.
8/10/2019	LNT - SRS	C. Larimer, Team	Summit R.S.
8/10/2019	Project Day: trail clearing; trees	J. Hawley, R. Davenport	Horse & Cow Meadow
8/23/2019	Chain Saw Recert	J. Hawley, D. Moser, P. McGraw	Summit R.S.
8/31/2019	LNT - SRS	C. Larimer, Team	Summit R.S.
9/16-9/18	Multi-Day: trail maint; fire rings, tree removal, trash removal	S. Elliott, D. Chimenti, S. Happel, D. Moser, F. Juette	Chewing Gum, Relief Valley
10/19/2019	End of Season Debrief	SWV Members	Cold Springs

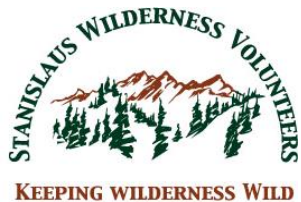
### LEAVE NO TRACE – MAKING A DIFFERENCE WITH THE PUBLIC – *Chris Larimer*

Chris Larimer managed 5 LNT events in 2019, the details of which can be seen in the table, above (or below). Here is a summary of the accomplishments:

“Recognition and appreciation are due to the volunteers who worked the LNT events this past season! Brent, Irene, John, Linda, Jeff, Forrest, Stefani, Bette, Joel and Chris provided positivity and valuable information on backcountry conditions and LNT practices.

There were 229 wilderness permits written and 784 contacts with the public in the five 2019 events. Continuing the conversations about Leave No Trace helps to keep the wilderness wild. The staff at Summit Ranger Station repeatedly expressed their gratitude for our volunteer work and provided welcome support.





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The number of permits written and contacts made have been increasing each year, in particular on Labor Day weekend. The totals for Labor Day weekend exceeded the totals for the other four events combined!

I hope to have the pleasure of working with all of you again next season.

Thanks, again,

Chris Larimer, LNT Project Leader”

### **MULTI-DAY TRIP TO CHEWING GUM LAKE AND RELIEF VALLEY – Sherri Elliott**

*Editor's Note: This narrative by Sherri Elliott describes the work the Forest Service and SWV Volunteers do every season to keep our wilderness wild—that visitors experience as pristine of an experience as possible.*

This multiday from Sept. 16-18 was arranged by Sherri Elliott and included Dave Moser, Steve Happel, Dick Chimenti from SWV and Wilderness Rangers Evan Duvane, Forrest Juette and Joel Silverman. The trip began at the Gianelli Trailhead on what looked like a good day. The hike was an easy climb to Powell Lake and a gentle descent to Chewing Gum lake.

Hour by hour, the clouds turned darker with a storm looming on the horizon. Shortly after arriving at Chewing Gum lake, we were joined by Dave and Forrest to drop our tools and gear before heading to Relief Valley to clear fallen trees from the trail toward Relief Reservoir.

It wasn't long before we set up camp that rain and snow began to fall so we hibernated in our tents for a couple of hours. As we were cozy in our tents at Chewing Gum, Dave and Forrest were riding towards the valley during the storm. They arrived shortly before nightfall to set up their camp in frigid

temperatures. Dave and Forrest and the pack animals were troopers! It was a spectacular scene to see an inch of fresh snow on the ground.

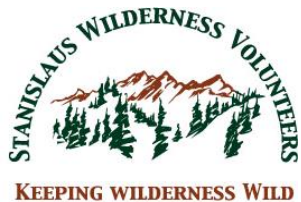
The next morning, we woke to a bright, sunny day. Knowing that the weather forecast called for rain the following day, we concentrated on removing or reducing fire rings and picking up TP and trash around the perimeter of the lake and surrounding area. It was satisfying to accomplish our objectives at the lake since it had been visited heavily during the summer months.



*Early snow at Chewing Gum Lake*



*Removing fire rings at Chewing Gum Lake*



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Meanwhile in Relief Valley, Dave and Forest worked from sunup to past sundown clearing dozens of trees between Chewing Gum and the end of Relief Valley. They accomplished an incredible amount of work with the help of Dave's mules and horses.

On the third day of the trip, more rain and snow were expected so we worked a couple hours before proceeding to hike back to the trailhead. We left a cache of gear at the lake to retrieve later in the week because Dave's mules were unable to return to the lake. That's another incredible story of the "Runaway Mules" that Dave will be telling his grandkids for years to come. There are always unexpected adventures during our extended work trips.

The camaraderie of friends enjoying the wilderness is what brings us together as SWV. Great hikes, good food, laughter around a campfire and good old-fashioned hard work is making a difference for others to enjoy a Wilderness experience for years to come. We appreciate everyone who contributed to our workday projects in 2019.

For more photos of the multi-day work project, please visit this link:

<https://photos.google.com/share/AF1QipOT2AmLJOGgnxJSkkwRkfWu5EFgw96xEbM1tKHscY8sC9bw9bRIRLXcBzIkLWMibQ?key=aU5KWfDdD2J0cTdKb1NFUi00TWpUdkJoZm9UTjV3>

### **HOT OFF THE PRESS! SAW DEMO IN FOLSOM – Sherri Elliott**

Sherri Elliott, Dave Moser, Forrest Juette and Joel Silverman put together a great opportunity to engage the public and introduce SWV. They arranged to do a cross-cut saw demonstration in front of REI at their location in Folsom this Saturday, Feb. 22. They engaged the public and developed list of potential recruits to SWV. This kind of activity is exactly what SWV needs to grow our presence and awareness of our work and serves to recruit new volunteers as well as seek donations to people supportive of our mission.

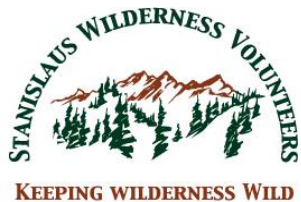


*Cross-cut Saw Demo at REI - Folsom*



*SWV's Dave Moser with the saw demo at REI*

The event had a steady stream of visitors and the public learned about how we assist the US Forest Service in trail clearing and maintenance.



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### SAVE THE DATE FOR THE SEASON KICKOFF EVENT

The SWV Annual Season Opening event and Annual Membership Meeting will be held on Saturday, April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2020 at the Willow Springs Clubhouse, 20522 Willow Springs Drive, Soulsbyville, CA 95372

An agenda will be sent out a minimum of 3 weeks prior to the meeting. SWV Members, please think about bringing at least one guest to the meeting that would be interested in participating in the group.

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR 2020

The table below lists the dates for the SWV events for 2020. Locations for projects will be determined based on conditions and need.

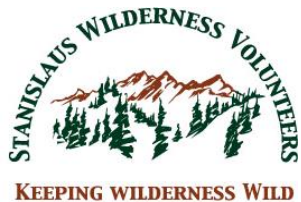
DATE	EVENT	LOCATION
4/25/2019	Season Opener	Willow Springs Clubhouse
5/23/2020	LNT - SRS	Summit R.S.
6/1-6/5	Wilderness Academy	Big Sur
6/6/2020	Project Day - Recon	TBD
6/27/2020	Project Day	TBD
7/4/2019	LNT - SRS	Summit R.S.
7/18/2020	Project Day	TBD
12/25/1901	LNT - SRS	Summit R.S.
8/15/2020	LNT - SRS	Summit R.S.
8/22/2020	Project Day	TBD
9/5/2020	LNT - SRS	Summit R.S.
9/8-9/11	Multi-Day	TBD
10/19/2019	End of Season Debrief	TBD

### WILDERNESS ACADEMY

Joel Silverman, USFS has extended an invitation to the members of SWV to attend the 2020 Interagency Wilderness Ranger Academy which will be hosted by the Los Padres National Forest and California State Parks in Big Sur June 1-5, 2020. Attendance is subject to capacity limits, so if you are interested, please let Joel know ASAP!

"The purpose of the Academy is to provide field level wilderness rangers, partners and volunteers a "toolbox" of professional wilderness and management skills. All levels of experience are welcome. As in past years, the training is available to agency employees, partners and volunteers at no charge and free camping will be available to attendees to help keep costs down. There will be great opportunities to hear engaging speakers, learn new skills, practice wilderness visitor contact and LNT techniques, receive certifications and network with peers from around California!"





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### VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

Every year, SWV has identified a volunteer who exemplifies the mission, the dedication and spirit of what we are about as a group. The President selects a volunteer who epitomizes the attributes of someone who goes above and beyond in contributing to what we do. This year, that honor was bestowed on Dave Moser, a long-time volunteer with SWV. Dave has earned the title of Master in Leave No Trace and has been instrumental in training not only SWV members but his equestrian group from Back Country Horsemen. He has provided stock support on so many occasions – similar to the story you just read. He has brought in new recruits and mentored them. He is responsible for placing numerous signs on trails in the front and back country as part of an overall signage program with the Forest Service. He sharpens all the cross-cut saws you read about above – a time-consuming and exacting task. He has dedicated his time to participate on the Board in several capacities for multiple terms. For this, we thank him for his dedication and service.



*Dave Moser receiving the Volunteer of the Year Award at the Annual Season Debrief*

*Pictured L-R: Steve Happel, Joel Silverman, Jeff Hawley, **Dave Moser**, Dick Chimenti, Stefani Reichle, Sherri Elliott Irene Patton*