



# SWV 2016 SEASON LAUNCH 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

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## Presidents Message

The backcountry is opening up, the streams are full and in short order, the wildflowers will be blooming once again, enlivening the landscape with their fabulous color. The visitors to the wilderness – the Emigrant, the Carson-Iceberg and the Mokelumne are eager to head out and enjoy the solitude and the beauty the land has to offer. The SWV volunteers are readying equipment, planning projects and assembling the teams to contribute to another season of trail clearing, wilderness restoration, education of our visitors and keeping wilderness wild. We kicked off a new year this season with most of our volunteers returning to continue contributing to this great cause in addition to new volunteers, eager to learn the skills and lend their talent to the mission of SWV.



Photo courtesy of Rebecca Andrade



As your next President, I have big shoes to fill. **Jim Beard**, having served over seven years as President has elected to transition to the role of Secretary after serving so capably as the President of the organization (whatever happened to “President for Life??”). Under his leadership, we implemented a hugely successful internship program, recruited new volunteers and elevated the level of organization and improved the working relationship we have enjoyed with the Forest Service. Jim’s tireless efforts in writing grants to fund these interns, many of whom go on to work for the Forest Service after serving as interns, has been nothing short of amazing. His willingness to continue to contribute to the organization deserves special recognition as a volunteer who has gone above and beyond – whose love of the wilderness he has known since he was a young lad continues to beckon. Thank you Jim Beard.

This season is packed with many activities and we continue to find new ways to engage the public and recruit volunteer who share the love of preserving wilderness and care for the land. We are also focusing our effort in developing funding sources to continue to be able to provide the level of support for the Forest Service and our volunteers. Our programs have been successful largely in part from grants from various agencies—some governmental, some private. Our organization can use the support of a larger community that supports the mission of the organization and is willing to sponsor SWV to fund additional interns, provide equipment and fund our operating needs. We are actively seeking sponsors willing to contribute to the mission of SWV, formed in the mid 1990’s and incorporated as a 501-c3 non-profit in 2003. Contributions to this organization are tax deductible.

## Wilderness Week!

This is an excellent opportunity to expose people new to the concept of wilderness as well as seasoned veterans to a host of activities planned for Wilderness Week. Stanislaus National Forest Interpretive Ranger and Stanislaus Wilderness Volunteer Membership Coordinator Rebecca Andrade will be hosting “Wilderness Week” Wednesday July 27th to Saturday July 30th, 2016. Join Stanislaus Wilderness Volunteers, Stanislaus National Forest Wilderness and Interpretive Rangers, and other wilderness specialists for a week full of fun Leave No Trace educational activities, at

beautiful Lake Alpine! All ranger programs are *free and open to the public*, so tell your friends and bring your kids! All programs meet at the Marmot Day Use Area, Lake Alpine Amphitheater located off Highway 4. For more information about the ranger programs or how you can become a volunteer for a wilderness week event contact Rebecca Andrade at r.andrade218@gmail.com or (209) 591-7996.

FYI: Bear Valley Music Festival is concurrent with Wilderness Week and Lake Alpine provides endless opportunities for all types of outdoor recreation! Hope you can join us for a fun week of celebrating wilderness education!

The schedule below provides the details on this exciting week of wilderness education.

### **Wednesday July 27<sup>th</sup>**

1400-1500 — Junior Ranger Program: Wilderness Explorer, Leave No Trace awareness for Kids!

### **Thursday July 28<sup>th</sup>**

1000-1300 — Fun Lunch Hike: Wilderness Awareness Hike to Duck Lake!

1400-1500 — Animal Tracking: Leave Only Footprints

### **Friday July 29<sup>th</sup>**

1100-1200 — Guided Walk: Leave No Trace Awareness Walk, at Lake Alpine

1400-1500 — Lake Alpine T-Shirt Fish Printing Activities: Leave No Trace Fishing Education

### **Saturday July 30<sup>th</sup>**

1400-1500 — Junior Ranger Program: Wilderness Explorer, Leave No Trace awareness for Kids! Featured guests Stanislaus Wilderness Volunteers!

1900-2000 — Wilderness Week Grand Finale presents Stanislaus Wilderness Rangers! Invited: California Conservation Corps Back Country Trails Program, Stanislaus Wilderness Volunteers Leave No Trace, Back Country Horsemen Association Leave No Trace representatives and you!!!

Remember to prepare – sunscreen, plenty of water, protection from the sun and elements and clothing appropriate to the activity you and the family plan to attend.

### **PROJECTS – HAVE WE GOT PROJECTS!**

Coming up shortly, our favorite invasive weed— Bull Thistle, *Cirsium vulgare*. Fun Fact: Bull Thistle is the national flower of Scotland! Who knew?

Stanislaus Wilderness Volunteers help reduce impacts on native vegetation and other forest resources by removing and monitoring Bull Thistle in wilderness areas of the Stanislaus National Forest. Bull Thistle thrives in disturbed areas, such as recently burned areas. This non-native species takes advantage of water, soil nutrients, and open space resources, native vegetation and wildlife rely upon for survival. As Bull Thistle establishes in disturbed soil, the overall health of the forest is impacted by the changes in forest ecosystem the infestation causes. The negative impacts to forest resources, includes: alters fire regime, loss in biodiversity, habitat loss, decreases access to recreational opportunities and reduces enjoyment of a pristine wilderness experience. After establishing in an area, if Bull Thistle is left to bloom, thousands of seeds spread to a new area by wind and other modes of transportation to further degrade forest resources. Bull Thistle out-competes native vegetation, due to the



fact it is a prolific seeder. The other factor to take note of is this non-native invasive species is without a natural occurring species to regulate its population; and, that's where the Stanislaus Wilderness Volunteers are needed to help restore the natural balance of the forest ecosystem. The Stanislaus Wilderness Volunteers are trained in native and non- native species identification, Leave No Trace, and use the minimal tool requirement to achieve the least amount of impact possible during Bull Thistle removal projects. Bull Thistle removal is effective when treatments are done repeatedly and the area is monitored over time to reduce seedlings from reseeding.



SWV volunteers have proved effective in reducing historically heavy infestations of this noxious weed. The story of one dedicated Stanislaus Wilderness Volunteer has motivated me to continue the hard work and many days of Bull Thistle removal, in the Elephant Rock Lake Area. Don Anderson is that special volunteer who dedicated enormous time to controlling the Bull Thistle infestation and significantly reducing the infestation to a manageable number of plants in the Mud Fire area, from Elephant Rock Lake to Rock Lake. His years of work serve as an example of dedication to protecting wilderness resource and inspiring future generations of Stanislaus Wilderness Volunteers. Don Anderson received the 2012 “Volunteer of the Year” award for being “young in spirit”. He was and remains the oldest member of SWV.

Join us July 10th for our first 2016 Bull Thistle Removal project in the Mud Fire area. For more information contact Rebecca Andrade at [r.andrade218@gmail.com](mailto:r.andrade218@gmail.com) or (209) 591-7996.

### **Ranger Academy**

SWV participated once again in the Ranger Academy this past June, who offered 4 courses with certifications: Leave No Trace Trainer, Crosscut Saw, Wilderness First Aid, and Stock Orientation. Field skill courses were offered in addition to panel discussions on Wilderness Resource Advisors and Wilderness Stewardship Partners – How they can help.

### **Our Schedule**

You can help! The schedule below outlines the activities SWV volunteers have committed to for this season. Review the schedule and if you’re not already signed up, please contact Mike Vroman ([mvpro4ster@gmail.com](mailto:mvpro4ster@gmail.com)) to be included in the scheduled activities.

To all the SWV Volunteers — thank you for your service and dedication. Be safe and have a great season. To all non-members, consider joining us for a great experience in wilderness. If hiking or trail work is not your thing, consider donating to SWV. Your contributions will provide needed resources to continue this work.

*Jeff Hawley*

*President, Stanislaus Wilderness Volunteers*



Alpine Lily: Photo courtesy of Rebecca Andrade

## 2016 SWV Project and Training Schedule

(05-10-16)

DATE	LOCATION	DESCRIPTION	CONTACT
<b><u>TRAINING &amp; MEETINGS:</u></b>			
May 21-22	Out of Summit	Crosscut saw certification – new	Dave Moser
June 4	Out of Summit	Crosscut saw refresher	Dave Moser
June 7-10	Summit	Wilderness Ranger Academy # <b>See link below</b>	Jim Beard
June 9–10	Summit	LNT Trainer course @ Ranger Academy#	Jim Beard
October TBD	TBD	End of Season Debrief & Social Event ✳	

### **LNT EDUCATION DAYS:**

May 28	Summit	LNT Education: Memorial Day WE	Chris Larimer
June 18	Summit	LNT Education	Chris Larimer
July 2	Summit	LNT Education: July 4 <sup>th</sup> WE	Chris Larimer
July 30	Lake Alpine	LNT Education: Wilderness Week	Rebecca Andrade
August 6	Summit	LNT Education	Chris Larimer
September 3	Summit	LNT Education: Labor Day WE	Chris Larimer

### **FIELD WORKDAYS & PROJECTS:**

May 14	Summit	Trail Clearing	Mike Vroman
June 12 (Sunday)	Alpine	Weed Removal	Rebecca Andrade
July 10 (Sunday)	Alpine	Weed Removal	Rebecca Andrade
July 15-17	TBD	Weekend Restoration/campsite cleanup	Jim Beard
August 5-9 (Fri-Wed)	Summit	Cleanup/Restoration, stock support, location TBD	Jim Beard
August 14 (Sunday)	Alpine	Weed removal	Rebecca Andrade
August 20	Summit	Restoration/campsite cleanup	Mike Vroman
September 17	Alpine	Campsite Cleanup/Sign Repair	Rebecca/Joel
October 15	Summit	Campsite Cleanup/Sign Repair	Mike Vroman

### **SPECIAL EVENTS for Wilderness Week:**

July 27-30 Alpine See schedule of activities below: Rebecca Andrade

Wednesday	27-Jul	1400-1500	Junior Rangers	
Thursday	28-Jul	1000-1300	Fun Lunch Hike	
Thursday	28-Jul	1400-1500	Animal Tracking	
Friday	29-Jul	1100-1200	Guided Walk	
Friday	29-Jul	1400-1500	Fish Printing	
Saturday	30-Jul	1400-1500	Junior Rangers	Junior Rangers
Saturday	30-Jul	1900-2000	Wilderness/Joel Silverman	LNT Lake Alpine