

FSVA Newsletter



Summer 2007

San Jacinto Ranger District

www.fsva.org

Editor's Note: The following is a correction of an article in our Spring Newsletter. My apologies to the author.

ISLE OF THE BLUECURL (*trichostema austromontanum ssp. compactum*)

When Mount San Jacinto stands above the clouds like it did a few weeks ago, it is easy to imagine that the mountain is part of the heavens instead of the land. From the northern slope of Fuller Ridge looking down towards Cabazon the valley was not visible below the clouds. The mountain showed itself as an island, and the clouds showed themselves as the sea with its waves splashing against the island shore. From the base of the mountain where the Coachella Valley begins just east of Banning, the air just above the land was filled with enough blowing sand for the base of the Mount San Jacinto to disappear into haze. Above the haze dense rain clouds hovered over the land. Above the clouds stood Mount San Jacinto, tall and shining in the sunlight, looking as if it rose up from the clouds, not from the earth.

Meanwhile, on this mountain island of the sky, just east of Divide Peak the seeds of a delicate blue-violet flower, one that grows nowhere else in the world, rested in the soil beneath the shallow waters of Hidden Lake. When the weather warms, the seeds will sprout, leaf, bloom and die by the drying edge of the vernal lake. When the winter is past and the mountain rises up from the desert floor instead of rising from the clouds, the mountain will remain an island in the heavens to the Hidden Lake Bluecurl. The little island flower will testify to the improbability of life and the beauty of the heavens and the earth.

Ken Garrett, FSVA Volunteer



Bluecurl

HELLO, RANGER BOB

Many of you remember **Bob Deeble**, staff and volunteer ranger. We want to say a big **Hello, Bob!!** We think of you and wish you well.

Bob worked here as a FS Wilderness Ranger many moons ago, and then came back in the 1990's as front desk staff. Bob has a love for the Wilderness and the Forest Service that is amazing. He has had MS (multiple sclerosis) for 44 years, but that would not keep him down. Until he left the FS in about 2002, Bob would hike with his specially made arm crutches up and down the Wilderness trails, just like a mountain goat, sometimes swaying in the breeze due to the MS, and never falling down. Nothing could keep him out of the Wilderness.

Ranger Bob is a good friend of Candy, a 1980's FS ranger for whom Bob named Candy's Creek after, and he made and put up the sign that still stands today. Candy moved to the coast and stops in every few years to say hello to Melinda.

Today I ran into Bob's best friend here in town, Hill Champion. Hill said that Bob is not feeling as well as he used to. So we want you to know, Bob, that you are ever in our thoughts as we go about our daily business here at your beloved Idyllwild Ranger Station.

We recall the fresh flower bouquets that you often brought in to brighten our days, and our noses. We recall seeing you with your two beautiful golden retrievers loving their ride in the back of your truck on your way to walk them on the Ernie Maxwell Scenic Trail. We recall hearing many stories about your lovely girlfriend, and meeting your handsome sons.

You will be happy to know, Bob, that the San Jacinto Wilderness has not changed. The same junction signs are still up (even got repainted four years ago!), the same lupines bloom on the way to Tahquitz Valley, the same ferns grow five feet tall then yellow out for the autumn months in the meadows (Tahquitz, Little Tahquitz, Reeds, Skunk Cabbage), the same wind whispers through the tops of the pines and makes us love it up there even more. And the same mosquitoes (o.k., descendants of) bite in early summer.

This summer the volunteer rangers are seeing lots of Lemon Lilies, which is unusual of late. And, a few mule deer walk along the meadow sides, sticking

around until after hunting season, they know they will be safe staying in the Game Refuge.

The streams have dried up for the most part this year, as they did 4 or 5 years ago due to the extreme drought. We hope for good, fragrant August and September rains, and look forward to the usual day of a light snowfall at the end of October at the elevation of Saddle Junction and above.

We have several wonderful and dedicated Volunteer Wilderness Rangers, Bob, who continue to care for the Wilderness and the public up there, whether they are lost without a map or didn't bring enough water with them, those things will never change. The volunteers will continue on, Bob, where we can't any longer (due to health or budget), and enjoy every granite rock slab view, every pine cone, and every rain drop up there for us.

You left a great legacy in the Wilderness and in our hearts, Bob, and we just want to say HELLO, RANGER BOB! And a great big thank you!

Written by Wilderness Ranger Gail Heveron with input and warm wishes from Wilderness Manager Melinda Lyon, Office Assistant Laura Verdugo, Personnel Guru Katie Holldber, District Ranger Laurie Rosenthal, Retired Supervisor-turned-Volunteer Ron Lawson, Fire Chief Norm Walker, and from many other staff and volunteers who you are an inspiration to. 8/2/07

Ranger Bob can be contacted at Devonshire Care Center, 1350 E. Devonshire Ave., Hemet, CA 92544, 951-652-1525 directly.

FROM THE COORDINATOR'S DESK

A huge thank you to all of you volunteers! This has been a busier season for me than usual, with Melinda on her Recreation Officer detail at Mill Creek. I want to thank you for working so hard and volunteering so much!!

I had started an article telling what each volunteer has done so far this year, and it was verrrry lengthy, would need its own newsletter! After all, there are 65 of you, and I would say that 50 have been busy this summer. So, I want you to know that you are appreciated. The FS in all areas needs and welcomes your dedication and enthusiasm.

We have had some large, special projects this summer, and without the tireless help of the Coordinators, Board, packers, patrol rangers, office, and just all of you, things would not gone as smoothly.

I also want to welcome our many new volunteers; you have jumped right in to the trainings and helped with special programs already.

Gail Heveron, Volunteer Coordinator / Wilderness Ranger (11 seasons since 1990), 8/2/07



VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION PARTY

This year's **Volunteer Appreciation Party** is coming up! We hope you ALL will come this year! **Date: Saturday, September 15, 2007. Time: 12:00-3:00.** Location: Garner Valley Commons Community Building and spacious grounds (GVPOA gives this to us free of charge since we are a public service agency; thanks to our GV residents Kathy Bowman and Ron Lawson for procuring it again this year). **Excellent BBQ luncheon**, beverages, special cake, awards for all our volunteers, volunteer-made entertainment – just some of the fun. We will mail you a flyer with driving directions. Guests welcome. **Please RSVP** to gheveron@fs.fed.us or 909-382-2951 ASAP.

POSITIONS OPEN

1. Retail Outlet Coordinator (books, maps – order, stock shelves, take inventory), 1-2 hrs. weekly or every other week, average; 2. Back office and filing assistance, 2-4 hrs. weekly or every other week. Please contact Gail at gheveron@fs.fed.us.

DONATION BOX NEEDED

The FSVA is in need of a new donation box. Do you have a nice one, or are you handy and can make one? A floor model is preferred. Please contact Treasurer Denise Edmiston at jdedmiston@verizon.net.



WELCOME

Welcome to our new front desk supervisor, **Hilary Clark**, who comes to us from the National Park Service as an interpretive specialist. **Bob Romano** already has given her an intro to our Wilderness, including the lookout and meadows. This week Hilary is taking her 36 hour fire basic training, she will also be doing fire information. *Gail Heveron 8/2/07*

GROW REMINDER

Hi... as a safety reminder, we are in the middle of **marijuana eradication** processes. If you and or others should walk into a grow, it is best to quietly leave the same way you came in. DON'T stay and take plant samples, equipment, propane tanks, etc. from the camp or site. Try to leave nothing to let them know you were there. Hopefully forest farmers don't know you are there and it makes it easier for us to catch them. If they think someone found their hootch they move... Thank you. *Debbie W., 12E-4 (radio call sign), Law Enforcement Officer (LEO), San Jacinto Ranger District; email to staff 8-1-07.*

Note: We currently have grows on District, usually in outlying areas or off seldom used trails, near water or a spring (may see pipes or tubing). So far, none are in the Wilderness. If you see anything or anyone suspicious, retreat and report it to the front desk staff (or to Dispatch if an emergency situation).

Volunteers are the eyes and ears of the Forest Service, please don't try to take action, growers always have firearms and are not glad to have visitors. *Gail Heveron, Volunteer Coordinator*

Regional Office - The following incidents have occurred involving drug operation activities in Region 5 (California): 130 possible grow sites detected, 80 sites eradicated with a total of 506,343 plants, 10 people have been arrested, and 10 firearms (including an AK-47 and an SKS assault rifle) with ammunition have been seized. 7/27/2007 email to staff.



FROGS UPDATE

We've started up again and you all are invited to come out and help as your schedules permit. *New Frog Squad volunteers are always needed, too.* Our creeks are pretty dry (disturbingly so) but we have seen some frogs and 2nd year tadpoles out this year in a few spots so some made it through the dry winter and are hanging in there. We are starting up the population surveys and coordination with other agencies. Of the first year tadpoles we rescued last year (~70) and relocated to the CRES facility in San Diego, only two have died (last I heard) and some have started getting legs.

I will be stepping back from the Frog Squad duties since I am due to have my own little wiggly offspring on August 13th! That's right, Todd and I are expecting a baby girl! We're very excited, but will be taking some time off this summer after we give birth. I don't plan on being back to work until *maybe* mid-October. So please, spread the word if you know of

others that would like to join the team and help out!!! If you have ANY questions call us. Heidi office: 909-382-2945, Dawn office: 909-382-2922 X 4114. *Note: In case you don't know, the Mountain Yellow-Legged Frog is a federally endangered species, this District has some in Dark Canyon.*



FIRE UPDATE

As of 7/27/07, nationally, an estimated 1,173 structures have been lost to date.

Summary:

of fires, yesterday 195; # of fires, y-t-d 56,536; 2006 fire season 69,656; 2000 fire season 59,084; 10 year average 49,735.

Summary:

Acres burned yesterday 52,331; Acres burned YTD 4,623,092; 2006 fire season 5,164,996; 2000 fire season 3,084,022; 10 year average 3,238,462.

The fire danger level locally is very high. SBNF Forest-wide Fire Restrictions currently allow campfires only in fee campgrounds. BBQ's are always considered the same as a campfire because the burning medium can escape. Stoves are currently allowed but need a permit, whether in or out of the wilderness. Fire Restrictions will change as wind, temperatures, and moisture conditions change (increase/decrease). Check with the front desk for the latest, as should the public. *Gail Heveron 8/1/07.*



SRSJM NATIONAL MONUMENT SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Call 760-862-9984 to RSVP or for schedule with full descriptions.

- 1. Thursday Morning Hikes**, every summer Thursday, 6:30 am, meet at Visitor Center (VC) in Palm Desert.
- 2. Family Excursion to Mt San Jacinto State Park**, September 1, 2007. 8:30 am meet at VC, or lower P.S. Tram station 9:30 am.

3. In the Woods Campfire Program, September 8, 2007, 7 pm, Round Valley Campground. Learn about birds, animals, plants. .

4. Family Excursion to Garner Valley, October 6, 2007, 8:30 am, meet VC. This trip visits the PCT, Lake Hemet, Hurkey Creek Campground. Learn about the local bald eagle population, area history, and examine the effects of pine bark beetle damage. Lunch, camera, binoculars.

5. Henderson Trail Hike, October 7, 2007 and November 11, November 18, 9 am, meet VC. One-mile, easy loop hike through open desert and a wash. Learn about pack rats and visit some of their homes built along the trail.

6. Trailhead Tour, October 20, 2007, 8:30 am, meet VC. Join Philip Ferranti, author and hiking guide, get a warm-up to several trailheads in the National Monument, including the Art Smith Trail, Cactus Springs and Sawmill Trails, Cedar Spring Tr., Ramona Trail, Spitler Peak Trail.

7. Don't Hug the Teddy Bear . . . Cholla!, October 21, 2007 10 am repeats 2 pm, at VC. How do they survive? Does the jumping cactus really jump? Learn roles and adaptations.

8. Anniversary, Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument, Wed., October 24, 2007. The Visitor Center will host a variety of programs to celebrate the seventh anniversary. 8:30 am explore Henderson Trail, geology, migrating birdlife, cacti. 10 am step back in time to experience western settlement, and learn about the establishment of your public lands. 12 noon *There's a Monument in Your Backyard*.

9. Cactus Spring Trail, October 25, 2007, 8:30 am Meet at VC, this trail undulates through transitional desert and pine forest, making it a place of great diversity of plant and animal life.

10. In the Woods, Campfire Program, November 10, 2007, 7 pm, Pinyon Flat Campground. Explore the forest through animal tracking, bird calls, pine cone "secrets", practice Leave No Trace techniques.

11. A Countdown to Earthquakes, an illustrated lecture, November 13, 2007, 6:30 pm, P.S. Library, and Nov 14, 1 pm at Thousand Palms Library. The Coachella Valley is one of the most seismically active regions of the world! Viewing slides and animations, learn about the dynamic geological forces.

12. Hiking 101: Tips for the Trail, November 18, 2007, 10 am, repeats 2 pm, at VC. Hikers 10 Essentials, Leave No Trace ethics, skills and essentials to become a more responsible hiker.

13. There is a Monument in Your Backyard, November 23, 2007, 10 am repeats 2 pm. Take a photographic journey of the magnificent landscape, plants, animals and places.

14. Nature Hike on the Art Smith Trail, December 20, 2007, 8:30 am, meet VC. See how the San Andreas fault has created our desert landscape with its extraordinary diversity of plants and animals. Rated moderate-to-strenuous, 6 miles.

15. Ready, Set, Find! Geocaching, December 29, 2007, 10 am, meet VC. Arrive at 10 am for a brief introduction about this "treasure hunt". Get a coordinate list for ten geocaches that are hidden within the National Monument boundaries. Each cache will have a sign-in sheet and a special fact about the area that you are in. Must have own GPS.

16. Many more great hikes & trips in 2008 already planned out, call for a full schedule.

MONUMENT CONTACT INFO

USFS and BLM are partners in the Santa Rosa & San Jacinto Mountains National Monument, which offers classes, hikes, and events. Call or visit the Visitor Center, 51-500 Hwy 74, Palm Desert, 760-862-9984 for a schedule.

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

The USDA National Agricultural Library is pleased to announce new products developed from its Special Collections. Visit the Special Collections website to see and purchase the array of notecards, prints, and more, including the new Lilies Notecards and Cherry Blossoms Journal. Part of all sale proceeds goes to protect and preserve the valuable material housed at the Library. *Washington Office FS email 7/07, edited by G.H.*

AWARD

The California Indian Basketweavers Association (CIBA) received an award from the National Forest Foundation to support the Pinyon Berry Pine Protection Project on the San Jacinto Ranger District of the San Bernardino National Forest. The project will bring together Cahuilla elders and youth to reintroduce traditional knowledge and skills essential for protecting and enhancing a culturally important ecosystem. This demonstration project is a partnership between CIBA, the Ramona Band of Cahuilla Indians, the Forest Service and others. *Washington Office FS email 7/07,*

edited by Gail Heveron.



CROSSCUT PROJECT

You've probably been wondering how the weekend went with our Crosscut Project in the San

Gabriel River Wilderness on the Angeles National Forest - Mt Waterman Trail...

Three of our crosscut training group were involved in the project: John Seales, San Gabriel River District Wilderness and Trails Manager, Mike Heard, Fred Rice and 64 year old "Recreation Larry" who put us all to shame with his relentless ability to continue cutting...

Well...it was a lot of fun, a lot of work and featured a 'Death March' out of the Wilderness in 100 degree temperatures. Fortunately, we had all prepared for the weather and carried huge amounts of water.

We removed 12 trees from 9 miles of trail. We were able to use just about every technique taught in the training and a few that weren't, like bashing apart a tree with a sledgehammer. The tree was so rotten that the crosscut would not pull through the wood.

We performed underbuck cuts, compound cuts, axe and saw limbing. We rolled giant sections of tree off the trail when cut.

Our saw was actually the preferred tool...Mike's saw had a very thick cross section to it and tended to bind in the wood. I have to say that the steel insert 'Hardhead' wedges are vastly superior to the straight plastic wedges.

One of the guys brought his laptop and webcam so you have about 20 minutes of YouTube video available along with a write up and 180 of my pictures to look at.

So...when you have absolutely nothing better to do...take a look and enjoy!

Via Email from Brad Eells 7/31/07

(Brad, Melinda, and Amanda completed crosscut saw certification training in July.)



Photo courtesy of Brad Eells

My pictures:

<http://www.flickr.com/gp/8695121@N03/7E0ZG1>

Story:

<http://www.crystallake.name/twork/28jul07/28jul07.htm>

Stills:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=htyWA4eR-xA>

Part 1:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EKvtpwDN8A>

Part 2:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Td2w_27LuFs

MICROTRASH

What is "microtrash"? It's that corner of a wrapper from a package of Skittles. A piece of lint or maybe the top of a freeze dried food package. It's the little stuff on the ground, in the crevasse of rock, under the stick. Did you know that most people pick up the little stuff when they drop it and put it inside their pant/shorts pocket? How do I know this? I watch people in the wilderness when they camp or hike. I see their good intentions. However, I see something else they don't see, feel or hear. It happens when they put their hand in their pocket to do the right thing. It happens to all of us. Did you know that if you put something in your pocket, something else usually falls out on the ground? Something to be mindful of when you hike the trail and are scanning for trash to pick-up.

A suggestion and one that I use; carry a small snacksized or quartsized zip-loc baggie and put the microtrash in that instead of your pocket. This way you won't lose any trash you pick up and you don't need to use the fullsize garbage bag until something bigger comes along.

Give it a try!

For the love of the Wilderness,
John Warden, Wilderness 5-19V

BEWARE OF SNAKES



For rattlesnake bites, call Dispatch right away and keep person calm and as still as possible until medical help arrives or until you can slowly walk person out. Snake bite kits are no longer recommended, and staff have had close calls during this big rattlesnake year so be watchful.

Gail Heveron

Wilderness Ranger / Volunteer Coordinator

USFS CONTACT INFO

Idyllwild Ranger Station: 909-382-2921 or 951-659-2117 then 5. * Open 7 days, 8-4:30.

Website: www.fs.fed.us/r5/sanbernardino.

Melinda Lyon: mlyon@fs.fed.us, 909-382-2929,
FSVA Liaison, District Wilderness and Trails Manager

Please note that the main phone number for the Idyllwild Ranger Station's front desk is: 909-382-2921. (An alternate number is 951-659-2117, option 5 gets you to Idyllwild).

I learned a bit about our phone system today, while it was being worked on. The 2921 number is a virtual number and designed to roll to the next available number (meaning 2922 or 2923). If 2922 is called and another call comes in, it will either be busy or roll to the S.O. So, better to use the 2921 number for a better chance to get through and not block other calls.

We are working to resolve the ongoing phone issues and this is one piece of that. There are only two phones at the front desk and they are often busy, so if you don't get a person right away, continue calling. Also, they close for lunch and/or important district staff meetings occasionally, so no one will answer during those times.

John Ladley
Recreation Officer

* Just want to make sure you know the Idyllwild Ranger Station is opening at 7:00 a.m. this summer on Saturdays and Sundays, so you can come to volunteer that early if you like.

The office will remain open until 4:30 p.m. (16:30), as usual.

This is a trial summer, so we're not sure what the future holds.

Gail Heveron via Email 6/16/07
Wilderness Ranger / Volunteer Coordinator

WATER RESTRICTIONS

Two **IMPORTANT** things to note during this extreme drought year and extreme high fire danger year:

1. Water in the wilderness is dried up and/or gone underground. Please start telling **ALL** overnight and day users of the wilderness and non-wilderness trails that they **MUST** bring **ALL** their own water. Our area is not dependable due to the high temps (99 degrees yesterday in Idyllwild) drying up the streams, and Round Valley has gone **DRY** already. This is earlier in the season than 4 or 5 years ago when we dried up in the Wilderness.

If you know of a spot where water surfaces in the Wilderness, tell hikers/riders only if they have finished their own water. Tell them to walk 10 feet away from the side of the stream bed, we are now getting erosion of stream sides that silts up the streams and strips the sides of plant life making for permanent erosion problems (affecting plants, animals, and the wilderness manager).

REMEMBER - if you run across a legal or illegal campfire that is warm, hot, or burning, in other words anything but cold, call it in to **DISPATCH!!!** They will ask you the appropriate questions and go from there. Do not think you are doing the right thing by not calling it in and trying to handle yourself, there are other things to consider that Dispatch is trained to determine. They may ask you if you can put it out, or they may want to send more help, but it is **THEIR** decision (some of you came across this issue recently)!

Even though forest users do not read the regulations, they are still responsible for abiding by them, we hope by stopping at the ranger station for permits and/or maps they will get the latest info.

Knowing the latest is also the responsibility of the Volunteer, that is why we ask you to check in with the front desk staff and ask them what is new before going out, and for you to look at the latest handouts at the front desk (we don't always email out changing fire restrictions, etc.). Your 2007 Volunteer Handbook that you received at this year's training was greatly updated and has helpful info.



FIRE RESTRICTIONS

The Forest Supervisor, Jeanne Wade Evans, has issued the following Fire Restrictions which will go into effect on July 10, 2007. The order prohibits fires outside of developed recreation sites (fee campgrounds), prohibits fires in Yellow Post Sites, and prohibits target shooting outside of permitted public ranges.

Ken Harp
Law Enforcement and Investigations Patrol Captain,
San Bernardino and Inyo National Forests

EMAIL PROTOCOL

Sometimes we get Email with dozens of names on it and you have to scroll down quite a distance before you get to the body of the message. Before you forward those Emails, it's always good etiquette to select (highlight) all those names then hit the Delete key. That makes it easier for the reader to see the message as well as not giving out addresses!

Sharon Middleton
FSVA Newsletter Editor



Heidi and "Lucky"

UPDATE ON "LUCKY"

On Memorial Day week-end, a young bald eagle fell out of its nest at Lake Hemet, fracturing its right radius. The other chick in the nest remained safe. The eagle was noticed by Bill Haring, a long time Lake Hemet weekend resident and avid eagle watcher. He called several rehabbers and Fish and Game and was told to "let nature take its course". Once he got a hold of the Forest Service, Anne asked Heidi to check out the situation and make a decision. It was her day off and her husband, Todd Hoggan (a biologist for the San Bernardino County Museum), and her were returning from Hemet when they got the call. They both headed out there and met up with rec. tech Steve Thompson, who had met up with Bill and contacted them in the first place.

Based on Heidi's years as a wildlife rehabber with the Living Desert Zoo, she decided that the eaglet was too young and injured to survive and chose to take it to the zoo for overnight care. It was then taken to Linda York at the Coachella Valley Wild Bird Center for rehab. It would take 4-6 weeks for the bird to rehabilitate before it could be released to the wild.

On June 13, Heidi received an email from Anne indicating the bald eagle nest at Lake Hemet was completely destroyed.. All of the sticks were on the ground. It appeared that the second chick was gone too... it was last seen at 7:30 p.m. on Sunday the 3rd. The adults were still flying around, but she was unable to find the chick.

On July 13 (hmmm, Fri. the 13th) "Lucky" was returned to Lake Hemet. He has since been seen by various people and seems to be in good shape. We are keeping our fingers crossed that this little guy (gal) will make it!

*Sharon Middleton, FSVa Newsletter Editor
Thanks to contributing Emails from: Heidi Lake Hoggan, Wildlife Biologist, San Bernardino National Forest, San Jacinto Ranger District; Anne*

*Poopatanapong, District Wildlife Biologist
San Bernardino National Forest - San Jacinto Ranger District; Linda York, Coachella Valley Wild Bird Center*

NEW RADIOS!

Hello Volunteers,

Hooray! Our beautiful new radios came in recently! You will need training before you can go out with one, please. It is somewhat the same, but it does not show channel numbers, it shows the channel name instead. Nor does it show repeater numbers readily.

You will need to schedule an individual training with me, Bob Romano, or Brad Eells before you can go out in the field, NO EXCEPTIONS, and BRING your volunteer handbook for the DPH radio layout. Please continue reading on .

This is for your own safety, and as you know by now, safety is stressed by the Forest Service and we coordinators are required to pass it on.

We have a list that you will need to be checked off on before you can volunteer.

For those with their own radios, this does not affect you. If anyone still has one of our radios, I need it back right away so we can exchange it.

Gail Heveron via Email

Wilderness Ranger / Volunteer Coordinator

FSVA BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND COORDINATORS

President:	Mike Taggart
Vice President and Equestrian Parade Unit Captain:	Karleen Esparza
Treasurer:	Denise Edmiston
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Wilderness Coordinator:	Bob Romano
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Non-Board Members

Asst. Wilderness Coordinator and Photography Coordinator:	Brad Eells
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Newsletter Coordinator:	Sharon Middleton
Retail Outlet:	Gail Heveron
Volunteer Hours Coordinator:	Mike McCann
Equestrian Trails Coordinator:	Ron Korman



EQUESTRIAN NEWS

There is a new Equestrian Trails Coordinator, Ron Korman. Ron used to work for the Forest Service, currently he is the Hilltop Horsemen President. Amongst other things, he will be training and coordinating equestrian patrol for May Valley. There are several riders who have attended trainings and gone on orientation rides with Ron. Ron and Karleen represented the FS/FSVA at the recent Redshank Riders Education Day in Anza, providing a presentation on trail riding.

Karleen Esparza and the Parade Unit have been busy. They looked great in the Idyllwild July 4 parade, with about seven riders and one pack mule. Parade Unit trainings are coming up.

Mike McCann was instrumental in packing for the SCA trail crew and for the Tahquitz Peak Lookout door replacement. Other packers who have been a great help – Noel Portelli, Pattie Bottom, Linda Ibarra, Cheyenne Ibarra, Dakota Ibarra, George Boone, Chip Herzig.

WILDERNESS FOLKS' NEWS



We have a new Assistant Wilderness Coordinator, Brad Eells. Bob Romano is happy to have the extra help. In addition to trail time, Brad has computerized and updated many of the handouts used at the front desk.

Thanks to Bob, the replacement of the Tahquitz Lookout door that was vandalized came to fruition. Bob helped write the MRDG report that was required since the lookout is in the Wilderness, plus helped organize the volunteers needed. The lookout opened the day of the replacement for the season.

Several new Wilderness Rangers are getting close to finishing training. John Warden is one, he also prepared and presented a great map and compass training. We hope to have another one, by popular demand.

Steve Ricker, Andy Koperdak, John Edmiston, Kris Leasher, Brad, and Bob have been keeping the Wilderness covered.

Plus Julie Beauchat and Kathy Bowman have done important office wilderness-related work. Otherwise, Mike Worden organized the last Lake Hemet building work day, and Denise Edmiston and Bob Clopine cover the front desk weekly.

FIND A PHOTO

The Forest Service Nature Watch Program has *Find a Photo*, a public website and a nature photography gold mine. It currently contains over 4,000 copyright free photographs of wildlife, fish, and wildflower species, plus a complete assortment of wildlife, fish, and botanical management and research photographs. These photographs can be accessed by anyone; however, none of them may be used for profit. Your own photos can be submitted. *G.H.*

http://www.notes.fs.fed.us:81/wo/wfrp/find_a_photo.nsf/home?openpage

1908 FOREST RANGER EXAM.

Competitor must fill these blanks.

Time commenced _____ Date _____

Examination No. _____

Time finished _____ Place of

Examination _____

N.B. -- Do not write on this sheet. Blank sheets will be furnished for the answers to the questions hereon.

Number answers to correspond with numbers of questions.

Number consecutively the sheets of answers to questions hereon, and write in the following spaces the total number of such attached sheets:

Number of sheets _____

RATING _____

FIRST SUBJECT -- PRACTICAL QUESTIONS.

(Two sheets.)

Question 1. On what Forest, or Forests, do you desire appointment as a Forest Ranger? Give general description of one of these Forests describing (a) topography, or lay of the country; (b) the kind of Forest, giving the common names of principal merchantable trees; (c) the logging operations, their extent and importance; (d) the stock industry, showing the extent and nature of the range; (e) the principal settlements in or near the Forest. (f) In your opinion what was the main reason for creating this Forest?

Question 2. (a) Describe in detail logging in a locality with which you are familiar, covering all operation, from felling the tree to delivery of logs at the sawmill, using all ordinary names applied to the men, operations, and implements. (b) Describe a sawmill with which you are familiar and describe how the logs are made into lumber.

Question 3. What are the ordinary specifications of railroad ties, mining stull, lagging, fence posts? What is a cord of wood? A board foot? How are telephone poles generally measured? How are logs scaled? Name a log scale in common use in your locality and give the contents of logs of the following sizes by this scale:

16 feet long and 26 inches in diameter small end

18 feet long and 30 inches in diameter small end

24 feet long and 18 inches in diameter small end

12 feet long and 15 inches in diameter small end

Question 4. What are the dimensions of a township?

Section? Quarter section? A forty? A square acre?

How many links in a surveyor's chain? How many feet? How many chains in a mile? How many acres in a tract of land 600 feet wide by 3960 feet long?

Question 5. State how you would construct a 14 by 18-foot log cabin? Give the amount of material necessary and approximate cost of construction.

Sheet 2.

FIRST SUBJECT -- PRACTICAL QUESTIONS --
Continued.

Question 6. (a) Enumerate the articles of food and give the amount of each which you would take with you on a two-weeks' trip in August, considering that you were entirely dependent on the supplies you took with you. (b) How many pounds can the average horse pack for six consecutive days, making 15 miles per day? How many pounds can the average man pack under the same conditions?

Question 7. (a) Describe a method of handling range cattle in a district with which you are familiar. Range sheep. (b) Describe by diagram four brands and four earmarks and give the name by which each is known.

Question 8. What constitutes valid residence on a homestead claim? What are the improvement and cultivation requirements and under what conditions can patent be obtained under the timber and stone act, the desert land act, and the placer mining laws?

Question 9. How and for what purposes are National Forests created? How do they affect the water flow, agriculture, lumbering, grazing, and mining?

Question 10. What are the chief duties of a Forest Ranger? Give a plan for protecting a specified tract of land against fire. How would you fight a fire on this tract if it had a good start?

Sheet 3.

The examiner must fill these blanks.

Date of examination _____, 190___. Place of examination _____

Examination number _____

Name of competitor

(Post-office),
(County),
(State).

SECOND SUBJECT -- FIELD TEST

INSTRUCTIONS TO THE EXAMINER.-- Under "Ratings" the examiner will give the rating to which, in his opinion, the competitor is entitled in each test, considering the fitness of the competitor, skill, and ability shown, on the following basis: Very poor, 40 per cent or less; poor, 50 per cent; tolerable, 60 per cent; fair, 70 per cent; good, 80 per cent; excellent, 90 per cent; perfect, 100 per cent. Under "Remarks" the reasons for very high or very low ratings should be given, and any facts noted which may bear upon the rating given or affect the value of the competitor's service to the Government.

Question 1. Saddle and bridle a horse. Ride a quarter of a mile and return (a) at a trot, (b) at a gallop. Time and manner of saddling and unsaddling to be taken into consideration by the examiner.

Question 2. Pack a horse with a tent, two blankets, one-man cook outfit, axe, and shovel, and sufficient grain or provisions to make an entire pack weigh 150 pounds. No paniers to be used. Any satisfactory hitch to be accepted. (Rate on familiarity, neatness, and dispatch, and also experience as determined by oral questions. Competitors should not be allowed to watch the examination of other competitors.)

Question 3. Estimate by pacing, the distance around a triangular tract of not less than one-half mile, giving the distance in rods, yards, and feet. (After all estimates have been submitted examiner will measure exact distance with tape or chain. The route should not be less than one-half mile in length.)

Question 4. Set up a compass, and allowing for the variation given by the examining officer, indicate east, north 25 degrees west, south 50 degrees east. Take the bearing of a designated object and give the compass reading. (Allow only a reasonable length of time for the applicant to complete this test. Rate on quickness, accuracy, familiarity, and experience as determined by oral questions. No competitor should be allowed to watch the examination of other competitors.)

Question 5. Run a compass line around a designated area and read and record the courses, allowing for the variation as given by the examining officer. (Lay out a five-sided irregular figure, with sides between 100

and 200 feet in length, setting proper poles or stakes at each angle. Allow only a reasonable length of time for the applicant to complete this test. Rate on quickness, accuracy, familiarity, and experience as determined by oral questions. No competitor should be allowed to watch the examination of other competitors.)

I hereby certify that the above-named competitor neither gave nor received assistance during his examination, and that ratings given by me are equitable and just, to the best of my knowledge and belief,
(Signature of examiner)

_____, 190____ Date
(Title)

*Brad Eells, Asst. Volunteer Coordinator and
Photography Coordinator via Email 7/16/07
http://www.foresthistory.org/Research/usfscoll/people/Ranger_Life/ranger08.html*

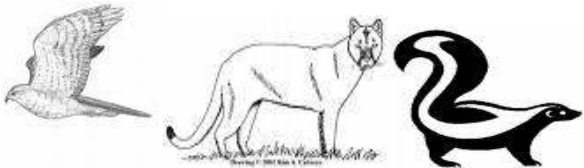
HUMOR IN THE FOREST

All for an owl

Each evening a bird lover stood in his backyard, hooting like an owl - and one night, an owl finally called back to him. For a year, the man and his feathered friend hooted back and forth. He even kept a log of the "conversation." Just as he thought he was on the verge of a breakthrough in interspecies communication, his wife had a chat with her next door neighbor. "My husband spends his nights calling out to owls," she said. "That's odd," the neighbor replied, "so does my husband."

The Hawk, The Lion, and The Skunk

One day in the forest, three animals were discussing who among them was the most powerful. "I am," said the hawk, "because I can fly and swoop down swiftly at my prey." "That's nothing," said the mountain lion, "I am not only fleet, but I have powerful teeth and claws." "I am the most powerful," said the skunk, "because with a flick of my tail, I can drive off the two of you." Just then a huge grizzly bear lumbered out of the forest and settled the debate by eating them all. . . hawk, lion, and stinker.



FREE ADVENTURE PASS DAYS

- **National Public Lands Day - Saturday September 29th**
- **Veterans Day - Sunday, November 11th**

If you accidentally use your Daily Adventure Pass on a Free Day, you may have it replaced free-of-charge at any Forest Service office in Southern California.

ARTICLES WANTED

VOLUNTEERS: This is **YOUR** newsletter and we want to have **YOUR** contributions, please, in every issue. It can be regarding equestrian activities, hikes, wilderness incidents, a safety issue, wildlife, plants and trees, birds, something you have personally experienced in the forest, etc. Everyone is welcome to submit, subject to editing. The newsletter usually comes out quarterly, and the next deadline is November 15, 2007. Please write article in Times Roman 11 font, in Word, and attach in an email to me at ofcpro.sm@verizon.net. Thanks!
*Sharon Middleton, volunteer FSVA
Newsletter Editor*



Hiking down the P.C.T. towards Snow Creek
Bob Romano, Jill Hendren, Melinda Lyon



Photo courtesy of Brad Eells, 5/07