

Philmont's family legacy

Mark Cordeiro
PhilNews Writer

Philmont is about family, and Melvin Dodd knows this better than anyone.

The 77-year-old Advisor from Crew 714-M-01 out of Gilmer, Texas, has taken each of his 10 sons and five of his grandsons out into the Philmont Backcountry on treks. This summer he's trekking through the south country with one son, one son-in-law, four grandsons and his brother, who also has one of his grandsons along as well.

His decision to return to Philmont started in 1976 when he was hiking just outside of Apache Springs and came to a realization.

"While I was crossing Bear Canyon, I said to myself that I'd bring all of my sons to Philmont," Melvin said. "I just didn't know that I'd have ten."

On July 23, Melvin's crew started hiking to Abreu as he leaned on his customized trekking poles. The poles are marked to signify each of his 14 Philmont treks, which span a period of 61 years.

With each trek he took, Melvin's and his family's love for the Backcountry grew. His brother, Lloyd Dodd, has been on 12 treks since his first one in the early 90s.

"I just love it out here, and I come to help the boys have an experience," Lloyd said. "I think it's a great character-building experience."

The influence Melvin has left on those close to him doesn't stop with his immediate family. Bryan Arrington, a Scout that accompanied Melvin on his 1999 trek, came back

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ABOVE: Maggie McCulloch sings as Becca Goughnour plays the violin at Pueblano's campfire on Sunday, July 21, 2019, at Philmont Scout Ranch in Cimarron, New Mexico. "There's nothing that extraordinary about it. Women can do what men can do, and we should be able to work wherever we want to work, and this shouldn't be that big of a deal because like that, we're here and we're killing it is great," Goughnour said. Photographed by Monica Dunn.

A girl and her ax: Pueblano welcomes first female staff

Monica Dunn
PhilNews Writer & Photographer

When she was growing up, Maggie McCulloch dreamt of becoming one of the 'Pueblano Boys.'

Her father worked full-time for Philmont Scout Ranch, and she frequently watched campfire shows in the Backcountry. Her

favorite evening program was at Pueblano where rowdy lumberjacks told stories and sang.

As McCulloch got older, she went on a trek and noticed that there were only lumberjacks at Pueblano; never lumberjills.

"I felt kind of sad because I never thought I would get the chance to work at Pueblano because it just wasn't a place where girls were at," McCulloch said.

McCulloch never gave up on her goal to work in the Backcountry. When Philmont started to allow women at Pueblano in 2018, she and fellow staffer Becca Goughnour applied. Now they are the first female Program Counselors at Pueblano.

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ABOVE: Philmont staffer David Gregorio on top of the Tooth of Time. Photographed by Sherry Hamilton.

Peak performance

Liz Harper
PhilNews Writer

The sun shines brightly on the Tooth as a hiker carrying a heavy black instrument case pulls himself up to the summit.

The hiker, fourth-year staffer and Urraca Program Counselor David Gregorio, is accompanied by his cello, whom he affectionately calls Claire. Gregorio has summited five of Philmont's peaks with Claire on his back. He often hikes with the cello longways on his shoulders, which means he must maneuver the five-foot-long case around trees on narrow trails.

He got to idea to carry his cello up mountains on a trip to Lovers Leap in 2016. Gregorio and a group of friends decided to sing at the top, and when they finished a crew started clapping for them.

"It was a really wholesome moment, and I was like, 'Man I just really want to do music in the Backcountry,'" Gregorio said. "I want to play music, not just in the camps, but in the rest of the Backcountry."

Gregorio has taken his cello to the top of the Tooth of Time, Baldy Mountain, Shae-fers Peak, Comanche Peak and Mount Phillips. Gregorio and his traveling cello elicit interesting reactions from crews he passes.

"Most Scouts are confused," Gregorio said.

"Most advisors like to crack some jokes about it. I get a lot of, 'Did you forget to leave your cello at home?'"

No matter how crews react, there is usually an element of awe evident when Gregorio hikes past them. After all, backpacking is already challenging without carrying a large string instrument.

But Gregorio enjoys the challenge, and he plays for Scouts he meets on the trail. Hiking with Claire also gives Gregorio a chance to play in the after shows at various campfire camps.

He learned to play the cello in high school, but it was a few years before he obtained his current cello and decided to name it.

"Every cello has its own distinct personality that you can hear when you're playing it," he said. "My cello is a very strong and outspoken cello and doesn't do sweet, dulcet tones. It's very bold in its notes, and eventually, I chose a name that fit that personality and that's how it became Claire."

Gregorio doesn't have plans for his next adventure yet, but there are four more peaks he is considering summiting with his cello companion. There's also a number of other camps at lower elevations that he wants to visit, so he's still debating which to do first.

"I think that I need to just go ahead and round out the last four peaks," Gregorio said. "I really would like to get Big Red, Trail Peak, Black and Touch Me Not done by the end of the summer, so catch me up there."

Philmont's family legacy continued

Mark Cordeiro
PhilNews Writer

Continued from page 1: as an Advisor 20 years later to help the current generation of Scouts come to Philmont.

Even after two decades, Arrington knows that Melvin's love for Philmont has stayed the same.

"He obviously has a love for this Ranch and for Scouting in general," Arrington said.

Arrington, and many of the other Scouts in Crew 714-M-01, are devout members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. For Melvin, being out in God's Country is a way to grow closer to his faith in a way that's unique.

"For me, this is a very spiritual experience," Melvin said. "I feel very close to God out here and do a lot of praying while I'm walking."

Being out in one of his most beloved places again is an experience that Melvin certainly didn't take for granted. As 714-M-01 took their packs off to enjoy the stunning view from The Notch, he stood back, smiling with pride as he took in the view.

"I look forward to meeting Waite Phillips one of these days," Dodd said. "I'll have a lot to thank him for."



ABOVE: Crew 714-M-01 photographed by Chris Langlois.

PSA presents Silver Sage Award

Mark Stinnett

Philmont Staff Association

Mary Stuever, Chama district forester for New Mexico State Forestry, and the Philmont Fire Department, one of the top volunteer fire departments in New Mexico, will be honored for their years of dedicated service to Philmont Scout Ranch on July 27, 2019, as recipients of the 2019 Silver Sage Awards.

The Silver Sage Awards are presented annually by the Philmont

Staff Association to recognize distinguished staff members. It is the highest award in existence recognizing service to Philmont.

Stuever, a professional forester who has served as the Chama district forester since 2010, worked on the Philmont staff as a ranger in 1978 and again as a training ranger in 1982 and 1983.

She earned a bachelor's degree in forest management at Oklahoma State University and later obtained a master's degree in fire ecology from the University of New Mexico. A prolific writer and forestry educator, Stuever has written three books, including *The Forester's Log*, a compendium of her blog posts of the same name, and a field guide to the Sandia Mountains. She has also served as a public

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ABOVE: Maggie McCulloch catches Becca Goughnour from rappelling down the spar pole. Photographed by Monica Dunn.

Pueblano welcomes first female staff continued

Monica Dunn

PhilNews Writer & Photographer

Continued from page 1: The camp used to be all-male, and it serves as a logging camp where participants can spar pole climb, use crosscut saws and cut wood with an ax.

Staff members portray life at the Continental Tie and Lumber Company in 1918, real-life company in New Mexico at the time. The Continental Tie and Lumber Company train ran through Pueblano and the surrounding timber towns.

Backcountry staff members are hired by David O'Neill, Philmont's Senior Associate Director of Camping and Team Lead Backcountry. O'Neill, along with female staff, pushed for women to be hired at male-only camps like Pueblano.

He worked with staff so they could start portraying points in history where more women were working in male-dominated jobs.

"Certainly the history has always been there... for logging camps

and even railroading history tells the stories of women doing the jobs that men did," O'Neill said. "And a lot of it had to do with wartime efforts."

Pueblano is now set in 1918, the year World War I ended. Historically, lots of men went to fight in the war, and the workforce needed more laborers. Women stepped up to fill these positions, including open jobs at the Continental Tie and Lumber Company.

Now, female staff at Pueblano help portray the lives of working women during World War I.

"We were never part of the Philmont story before, but now we get to be," McCulloch said. "They have a story to tell, so we're here to tell it for them."

Although there are some camps who have not had female staff members or female Camp Directors, O'Neill said all Philmont positions are open to women and they are welcome to apply.

Welcoming female staff with open arms has had a lasting effect on Pueblano staff and female participants.

"It's really powerful to see other women working here," Goughnour said. "Just having that solidarity of you can go places in life, and you can do literally the same thing that men can do, which is really, really cool and important."



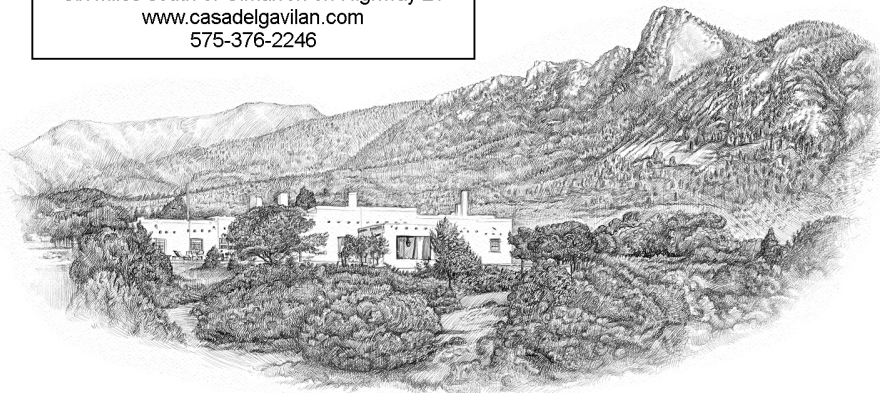
ABOVE: Becca Goughnour compliments her Donkey belayer Maggie McCulloch before rappelling down the spar pole during programming at Pueblano. The duo taught a Ranch Hands trek how to spar pole climb. Photographed by Monica Dunn.

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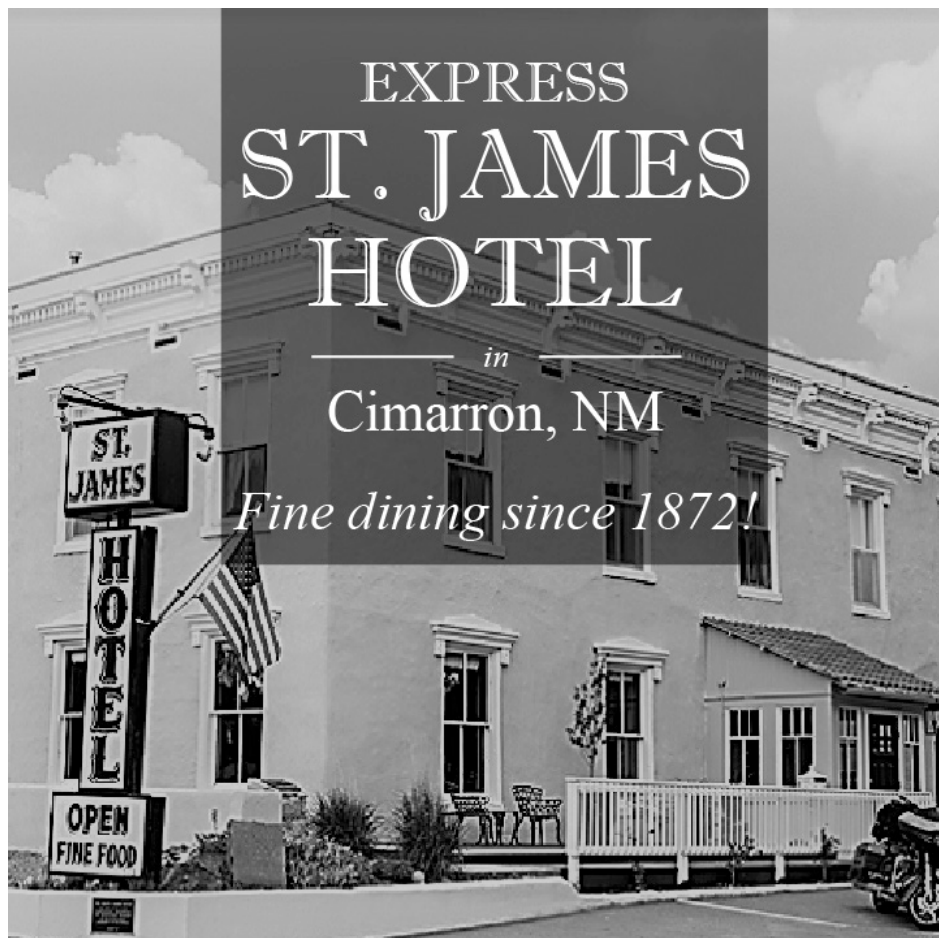
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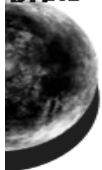


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PSA Silver Sage Award continued

Mark Stinnett

Philmont Staff Association

Continued from page 3: information officer for wildland firefighting teams since 1986.

Stuever's volunteer service to Philmont began shortly after her time on the staff when she conceived and co-authored the first Philmont Field Guide, published in 1985.

Her biggest contributions to Philmont, however, have come in the area of forestry education for the thousands of young people who trek there each summer. She has been a champion and principal architect of Philmont's demonstration forest. She also coordinates Philmont's visiting forester program, through which volunteer professional foresters from across the nation spend a week or two each summer staffing the demonstration forest and sharing their forestry knowledge and experiences with campers.

Stuever is now volunteering additional hours helping Philmont recover from the devastation caused by last summer's Ute Park Fire. Stuever provides consultation and advice for ranch managers as they develop land rehabilitation and timber stand improvement projects to both recover from past damage and protect against future fires.

The Philmont Fire Department is the fourth organization to be named as a recipient of the Silver Sage Award. Founded in 1970, the all-volunteer department provides fire protection for the entire 215-square-mile Philmont property and those portions of Colfax County directly south of it.

The department's members have twice answered the call for major wildfires on Philmont, and are credited in each instance with quick and effective actions that saved priceless historic structures.

The Philmont Staff Association, presenter of the annual Silver Sage Awards, is a 4,000-member alumni organization for current and former members of the Philmont staff.

Chaplain's Corner

Pastor Kerry Cheesman
Protestant Chaplain

Religion and science. Some say these two disciplines have a water and oil relationship; that they don't mix at all. But that isn't really the case.

I am both a Baptist pastor and a professor of biochemistry and genetics. I teach undergraduates and medical students, as well as church school classes. I see religion as asking questions about who and why; science asks questions about how and when. Put these together, and you get a much better picture and much better answers than you do with either alone.

I have a handout for students which shows how the creation stories (yes, plural – both Genesis 1 and Genesis 2) align with the Big Bang and the Theory of Evolution. As you might guess, they align amazingly well. There is no conflict between the two unless one starts from a viewpoint of conflict. One needs to remember that the Bible was not written as a scientific book, but as poetry that tells the story of God and his creation.

Our scientific theories fill in the gaps. For instance, where we once believed that the Earth was the center of the universe and the sun revolved around us, science has demonstrated that the sun is the center only of our solar system (with us revolving around it), and there are likely billions of solar systems out there. To me, that magnifies the story of God's creation a

billion-fold, making God that much more awesome than when I was taught that He created only what I can see with my eyes.

Last weekend we celebrated 50 years since the first moon landing. We can take a few lessons from the astronauts (scientists) that got us to that point.

John Glenn, the first American to orbit the Earth, said, "To look out at this kind of creation and not believe in God is to me impossible."

Frank Borman, commander of the first crew to travel beyond the Earth's orbit, looked down on the Earth and (quoting Genesis 1) said, "In the beginning, God created the heavens and the Earth."

Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin, after landing for the first time on the moon, took out a Bible, a small chalice, and consecrated bread and wine and prayed and celebrated communion before Armstrong opened the hatch and stepped onto the surface of the moon.

Scientists do indeed have deep religious faith and express it to the world. As a biochemist, one of my favorite quotes comes from Francis Collins, who led the Human Genome Project. He said "The God of the Bible is also the God of the genome. He can be worshipped in the cathedral or in the laboratory."

Indeed, God gave us brains for a reason, and He expects us to use them for scientific discovery as well as for worship. We can – and should – do both.

There is no place I know of where it is easier to see the magnitude and beauty of God's creation than here at Philmont. As you trek through God's country, or move about basecamp, look at the creation around you, before you and above you. Know that all you see is part of his loving purpose, and know that God is still here, even after billions of years, watching over us and caring for us every step of the way!

BELOW: Photo courtesy of Pastor Kerry Cheesman.



Activities Calendar

July 26

Tom Munch Concert @Baldy Pavilion, 8 p.m.

July 29

Open Mic & Coffee @ Baldy Pavilion, 8 p.m.
Blood Drive @ T.V. Room, 10:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.

July 30

Brat Day @ Baldy Pavilion, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Movie Night @ Baldy Pavilion, 8 p.m.

Blood Drive @ T.V. Room, 8:30 a.m. - 12 p.m.

July 31

Job Fair @ Baldy Pavilion, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Aug 1

Job fair @ Baldy Pavilion, 8 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Trivia Night @ Walcutt Room, 8 p.m.

Ranger Mile

Jenny Washburne

Associate Chief Ranger

Perched on the side of Fowler Mesa is an unassuming little trail camp called Aguila. Despite its central location (just about three miles from Crater, Abreu, Urraca, and Lover's Leap), it doesn't get much traffic—only two itineraries have an overnight stay at Aguila this summer. However, anyone putzing around in the south country should definitely consider stopping by.

The quickest route to Aguila is from the Abreu parking lot. Heading north on the road, keep an eye out for where the trail branches off to the left. At the top of the hill past the switchbacks, make sure to take the right fork in the trail into camp (taking the left fork will give you a beautiful view, but it also takes you straight up a cliff-face to the top of Fowler Mesa). The hike is only a little over three miles, but be aware of the 1500 feet in elevation gain. While not an especially challenging trail, the route will be hot and sunny until you reach the shady Ponderosa woods at the top. Pack water and rain gear!

When coming from the south, keep an eye out for a large rock situated just to the left of the trail as you enter the camp. It's not advertised on the map, but if you look carefully on the south face of this rock, you can see petroglyphs carved into the rock from thousands of years ago. No one is quite sure what they mean, but they do look similar to the circular petroglyphs found at Indian Writings camp.

Your next point of interest will be Campsite 4 on your right. Keep your eyes out for marks of past skirmishes as multiple crews battled to get there first and mark their claim on the camp. The best part of Campsite 4 isn't just the pleasant location for tents and cooking, though—it's the view off the backside of the campsite overlooking the plains. Abreu's pavilion, Zastrow's ATV sheds, Carson Meadow's cabin and the Morris Creek burn scar are all visible to the south, while the cloud lit plains stretch all the way to Wagon Mound in the southeast.

Like most places at Philmont, the routes to Aguila and the camp itself are steeped in history. Whether you're coming from the south following in the footsteps of the Native Americans, hiking east from Waite Phillips' cabin at Crater Lake, or heading south from Lover's Leap by the stone wall built in the 1860s you can see pieces of the past. As you sit and enjoy the vista by Aguila's Campsite 4, ponder the people who took in the view a hundred or a thousand years ago.



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2019 PSA Reunion and Silent Auction!

The PSA summer reunion will be held on the weekend of July 26-28 at the Philmont Training Center! Current Philmont staff of 2019 are invited to participate in a weekend of activities, service, fellowship, and sharing memories. Some highlights of the weekend include:

Friday, July 26th

6:45 - 7:45 pm Fire Recovery Presentation (PTC, Miranda Classroom)

Saturday, July 27th

8:00 am - 12:00 pm Hike (Meet at PTC Parking Lot)

8:00 am - 4:00 pm Silent Auction Begins (Marchetti Room in National Scouting Museum)

1:30 - 2:30 pm Philmont Fire Station Tour

7:15 pm Silver Sage and Distinguished Alumni Awards (PTC Assembly Hall)

Reception afterwards

*Please visit philstaff.org or stop by the PSA office for a full schedule of the weekend!
*Registration for the event is now closed (current staff do not need to register)

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