

SANTA SUSANA MOUNTAIN PARK ASSOCIATION

Dedicated to the Preservation of the Santa Susana Mountains and Simi Hills

A Non-Profit 501(c)(4) Organization

Incorporated August 31, 1971

Website: www.ssmpa.com

Email: mail@ssmpa.com

First Quarter, 2012 Newsletter

Volume 41.10

Santa Susana Mountain Park Association

Community Meetings 7:15 pm

Jan, Feb, March Presenters

(Community Meetings are Free to SSMPA Members and Public)

Rockpointe Clubhouse: 22300 Devonshire Street, Chatsworth CA 91311
(On the south side, one block before entrance to Chatsworth Park South)

Monday, January 16

OFF THE BEATEN PATH

Presenter: Bronwyn Ralph, Author

Bronwyn Ralph has captured the San Fernando Valley cultural landmarks, historic monuments and points of interest in her book, *Off the Beaten Path*. Did you know there is a collection of 20th Century folk art created by John Ehn (1897–1981) featuring saloon gals, cowboys, pioneer families and humorous tombstones located in the Pierce College Agricultural grounds? It's free to visit. In the early 1930's President Hoover paid a visit to Ranch Sombra del Roble "Ranch in the shade of the Oaks," which is now Orcutt Horticultural Center. Come hear Bronwyn as she shares her discoveries of interesting places to visit in our community.

Monday, February 20

URBAN COUGARS

Habitat Range: Santa Monica Mtns.-Simi Hills-Santa Susana Mtns. – Los Padres Nat'l. Forest

Presenter: Jeff Sikich, Ecologist, National Park Service

Mountain Lions (cougars) need 100 square miles each as territories but the estimated 10 lions now living in the Santa Monica Mountains are in a tight 275-square mile range isolated by a freeway system, suburbs and the Pacific Ocean. Urban sprawl creating isolated habitat is causing the lions to become extinct from inbreeding and horrific deaths caused by attempted freeway crossings. Sikich's studies reveal the situation is "dire." Building wildlife crossings for lions to safely navigate the urban sprawl conditions along the wildlife corridor is years from completion. What can be done now, what is being done, and future work to protect the lion population will be discussed by Sikich.

Monday, March 19

OAKIE HOUSE and GROUNDS – THE OAKRIDGE ESTATES

Historical-Cultural Monument #484

Presenter: Pat LoPresti

The English Tudor-style house, designed in 1937 by architect, Paul R. Williams, for actress Barbara Stanwyck, later became the home of actor, Jack Oakie, and his wife, Victoria Horne, circa 1940. The home and grounds were almost lost to development when former Councilman, Greig Smith, worked with the Dept. of Recreation and Parks to save as a SFV historical-cultural monument. Learn about the estates' history and the community recreational site available for the public to enjoy.

2011: A Review of our Activities and Accomplishments

SSMPA working with the Foundation for the Preservation of the Santa Susana Mountains ...

Most local to federal government agencies, including California State, are struggling with budget cuts, deficits, and all the issues that make keeping our local park, Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park (SSPSHP) and sister park, Los Encinos State Historic Park, open for public enjoyment. We continue to partner with State Park Rangers/Associates: Sean Woods, Karma Graham, Scott Raley, Lee Hawkins and Jennifer Dandurand to make SSPSHP Volunteers a model for all State Parks and keep our State Historic Parks open.

Volunteer Hours Contributed in 2011: 3600 – 3700! Final hours to be determined in January.

Special Service:

200+ Hours: Dale Chaloukian, George Madrid, John Luker, Lorie Lawrence and Peter Ullrich

40 – 199 Hours: Will report in our next newsletter all the names of dedicated volunteers who spent hours of their time in the Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park as Park Observers, on Graffiti Squad duty and as Interpretative Hike Leaders.

SSPSHP Volunteer Celebration in January, 2011 kicked off an awards dinner to celebrate the first year Volunteer 2010 achievements.

Receiving special commendations:

John Luker: CA State Medallion of Superior Achievement

Teena Takata and Peter Ullrich: CA Poppy Award

Volunteers collectively contributed 3,637 Hours in 2010

In 2011, the Foundation for the Preservation of the Santa Susana Mountains (FPSSM) rebooted, a 501(c)3 non-profit, dedicated to operating the Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park. Please see special insert with coverage of the Foundation's activities.

Working with elected officials: In public meetings, elected official offices, in Sacramento or by correspondence with CalParks Foundation, local, state and federal government officials, Michael Antonovich, Bob Blumenfield, Barbara Boxer, Jerry Brown, Julia Brownley, Mitchell Englander, Diane Feinstein, Elton Gallegly, Fran Pavley, Brad Sherman, Greig Smith, Henry Waxman, Dennis Zine, SSMPA/FPSSM board members are active in keeping our State Parks open and protecting-preserving the Santa Susana Mountains-Simi Hills.

The Rim of the Valley Wildlife Corridor (ROV) study in Congress continues to be in our radar sights. SSMPA board members contributed in 2010 to the public meeting sessions. John Luker and Teena Takata in 2011 sponsored a hike of the SSPSHP with Margie Steigerwald, Planner, National Park Service. The ROV will expand the NPS service area of the Santa Monica Mountains to strategic land areas in the Simi Hills-Santa Susana Mountains-San Gabriel Mountains-Angeles National Forest. The ROV will serve the community by providing not only a wildlife corridor but also a "people" corridor for passive recreational activities including hiking, equestrian and mountain bike trails.

Strategic alliances/partnerships formed and/or engaged with for the common goal to serve our community:

California State Parks Foundation . CA State Dept. of Parks and Recreation . CalParks Foundation . Center for Biological Diversity . Chatsworth Historical Society . Chatsworth Community Coordinating Council . Chatsworth Neighborhood Council . Chumash Indian Museum, DTSC, Docents: Malibu and Topanga, Folk4Parks . L.A. City Dept. of Recreation and Parks . L.A. City Councilmembers . Moorpark College Archaeological Dept. . Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) . SFV Audubon Association . Los Angeles Sierra Club . National Park System . Southwestern Herpetologists Society . Tree People, and Ventura County Archaeological Society.

Santa Susana Field Lab (SSFL) DTSC-Public Participation Group (PPG) Four of the SSMPA Board Members serve on the DTSC-PPG advocating for a responsible clean up at the SSFL. SSMPA Board Members facilitated two hikes at the SSFL for the public and several attended the Groundwater U and other cleanup-testing projects and many public meetings.

In the news: From feature articles to editorials in Chatsworth Patch, Daily News and Los Angeles Times, Radio and Documentaries on the internet, SSMPA Board Members, spokesperson, John Luker, and others, are blasting our commitment to keep SSPSHP open and protect our local community.

Community Meetings and Public Outreach: SSMPA provides the public free presentations with diverse subjects led by notable community representatives: Corina Roberts, Redbird, Kathleen Semple Delaney, Ecologists, NPS Researcher-Urban Fragmentation, Aaron Wells, Southwestern Herpetologists Society, Ilene Anderson, Biologists-Center for Biological Diversity, Ann & Ray Vincent, Chatsworth Historical Society, Mitchell Englander, Councilmember-District 12, and Jerry England-Historian of Western Films.

Land Use: Teena Takata reports on Eagle's Nest located in the Simi Hills: For several months in the past year we have worked with the proposed seller's agent and with Trust for Public Lands to postpone foreclosure proceedings while the seller's agent continued to market the property. Warren Stone and other board members work to protect the Santa Susana Mountain foothills-canyons from irresponsible development, Carla Bollinger submitted to the Los Angeles General Plan Update, and all board members contribute hours and hours of time in community meetings to keep historical Chatsworth and surrounding areas preserved as a wildlife corridor with native habitat and passive recreational use for hikers and equestrians.

2011 Awards and Recognition:

John Luker: CA State Parks Medallion of Achievement, SFV Audubon Society 2011 Annual Conservation Award, and Chatsworth Community Coordinating Council "Citizen of the Year".

Teena Takata: CA Poppy Award

Peter Ullrich: CA Poppy Award

Warren Stone: Chatsworth Community Coordinating Council "Community Service Award".

SSMPA received awards/contributions/support:

Councilman Greig Smith Community Services Grant, January, 2011, \$1000.00

SFV Audubon Society, \$300.00, Private donations

Rockpointe Homeowners Association: Graciously provides their clubhouse meeting room and kitchen for SSMPA's Community Meetings.

We thank you all for your support!

SSMPA Board Members 2011:

Teena Takata, President

Diana Dixon-Davis, Treasurer

Warren Stone, Web Host, Newsletter Editor

Robert "Bob" Dager, E-mail list/mailings

Jack Unger, Member-at-Large

John C. Luker, Vice President

Dr. Elizabeth Harris, Secretary, Facebook Page

Carla Bollinger, Newsletter Writer, Program Chairperson, PR

Albert Knight, Member-at-Large, Archaeologist

Chris Beauvais, Member-at-Large

Jack Unger served on the SSMPA Board for several years and then as President 2008 – 2011. He has moved out of the area and therefore retired. We thank him for his years of service and dedication in providing a strong leadership during his term as President.

Board Members are elected in the Spring. We are looking for a few good people who want to help protect and preserve the Santa Susana Mountains-Simi Hills, or have special skills and interest, or just want to serve a great cause. Let one of the board members know you want to know more about being a board member or a volunteer. See us at our community meeting or write: mail@ssmpa.com

Activities ... Hikes:

Refer to SSMPA website for updates: www.ssmpa.com and Facebook: Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park

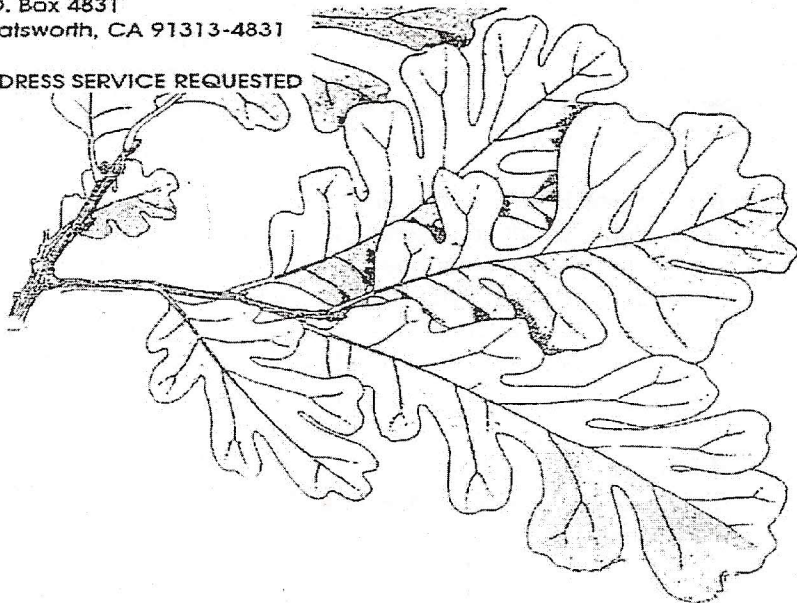
SSMPA Interpretive hike leaders: Dale Chaloukian, Elizabeth Harris, John Luker, Teena Takata, and Peter Ullrich

Welcome Walks: Organized and led by SSMPA in the SSPSH

SSPSHP Volunteer Hikes Contact: Jennifer Dandurand, park interpretive specialist, volunteer coordinator, Los Encinos SHP 818.784.4849 | e: jdandurand@parks.ca.gov | schedule: w: 1:30-5:30; th, sa: 9-5:30; su: 1-5:30 (off: m, tu, f)

Stagecoach Trail Stagecoach Trail: Meet 9:00 a.m., 3rd Sunday of each month (months November through June.) No hiking in summer-early fall due to hot weather. An interpretive hike into the history of Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park: Hike is a 3 to 4-1/2 mile loop up the historic Stagecoach Trail. Meet at park entrance on Larwin Avenue, park on street. Leader: Lee Baum (818-341-1850) Sierra Club-Santa Susana Mountains Task Force Outing.

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



SSMPA Mission: Our mission is to serve as stewards of the Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park (SSPSHP) and surrounding areas and to continue to preserve and protect habitats for plants and animals native to the location, unique geological formations, and sites of ethnological, archaeological, and historic interest. We also seek to provide passive recreational and environmental education opportunities, support the acquisition of new public parks, and open space and conservation easements, expand existing natural parks, and to participate in the planning of park infrastructure and programs.

SANTA SUSANA MOUNTAIN PARK ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Future newsletters will be sent via e-mail ... we need your e-mail address!!!

If you haven't sent your membership renewal for the 2011/2012 season, please send now. We accept donations and/or Individual and Family Life Membership any time! **IMPORTANT:** If you need to continue receiving your SSMPA Newsletter via U.S. mail, please send an additional \$10.00 with your membership renewal or if you are a Life Member. Newsletters are mailed every three months.

Sign up for a LIFE MEMBERSHIP and/or a DONATION OF \$50.00 and receive a FREE SSMPA/CHUMASH designed Organic Cotton T-SHIRT (image on www.ssmpla.com "Supporting SSMPA": Let us know your size when you mail in your check.

Membership dues: () \$15.00 for individuals () \$20.00 for a Family () \$30.00 for a business or organization () \$150.00 for Individual Life Membership () \$200.00 for a Family Life Membership. Make your check payable to SSMPA and mail to SSMPA, P.O. Box 4831, Chatsworth, CA 91311

Please be sure to fill in the following information:

Name(s) _____ E-mail _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Special interests or skills you have and if you would like

to volunteer for any activities: _____

IMPORTANT: Please send today your e-mail address or changes to your e-mail address to board member, Robert "Bob" Dager: bobdager@att.net. Your e-mail address is exclusively used for the SSMPA newsletter and community announcements.

Thank you for your support!