

FOUNDATION FOR THE PRESERVATION OF THE SANTA SUSANA MOUNTAINS

P. O. Box 831 - Chatsworth, California 91311

TRAIL TIDINGS
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Featuring....Mountain Park News and Views

WINTER 1980

BILL SCOTT, EDITOR

CALIFORNIA'S ANCIENT ASTRONOMERS--THE CHUMASH

DATE: Monday, February 18 TIME: 8:00 p.m.

PLACE: Glendale Federal Community Room
21821 Devonshire St. Chatsworth

Join us at the monthly General Membership Meeting of the Santa Susana Mountain Park Association for this program. Arlene Benson, an archaeologist, will lecture and show slides of the Chumash Indians who formerly lived in this region.

The status of the State Purchases of park land in the Santa Susana Mountains will be updated by Maureen Cates and the negotiations for purchase of the Weber *Webster* property near the Stagecoach Trail will be reported.

Refreshments will be served following the meeting.

SLATE OFFERED FOR ELECTION

Here is the slate of officers suggested for the election to be held at the March meeting of the Association. Nominations may also be made from the floor.

President Jan Hinkston
Vice President Open
Treasurer Virginia De Broux
Recording Secretary Cynthia Fichtner
Corresponding Secretary Open
San Fernando Valley Chairman
Bill Scott
Santa Clarita Valley Chairman
Open
Ventura County Chairman Open
At Large B. J. Scott
At Large Open

PLANNING GOES ON FOR PAGEANT

Planning for the Centennial Pageant is continuing. If you would like to work on the project call Jan Hinkston at 998-7231.

SANTA SUSANA MOUNTAIN PARK ASSOCIATION meets on the third Monday of every month at the time and place on the front page. Mark your 1980 Calendars now.

39 ACRES ADDED TO THE PARK

The California Public Works Board on Jan. 28 approved the expenditure of \$995,150 for purchase of 39.81 acres for addition to the Santa Susana Mountains Park

The parcels include the former Spahn Ranch and part of the Kelly ranch. The Equestrian Center has retained 10 acres for its operations.

This is the second state purchase for the Park. Further purchases are planned including the Stage Coach Trail.

Assemblyman Robert C. Cline rushed through legislation last year to beat deadlines. He has worked since 1971 in the acquisition process.

SSMPA MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL DUE

Its time again to renew your membership in the Association. You may do this at the meeting or mail a check to P.O. Box 831, Chatsworth, CA 91311.

LITTLE LEAGUE WINS, WILDLIFE LOSES

The City Council has overruled its Recreation, Library and Cultural Arts Committee and decided to allow the use of 14 acres of the Chatsworth Reservoir basin as a Little League baseball facility.

The proposal now goes to the Water and Power Commission and the Recreation and Parks Commission, which has previously opposed the proposal, for their consideration.

Letters to the Recreation and Parks Commission, City Hall East, 200 N. Spring St., Los Angeles, CA 90012 and to the Board of Water and Power Commission, Dept. of Water and Power, p.o. Box 111, Los Angeles, CA 90051 would help. Both agencies have opposed the action previously.

A letter to Councilman Hal Bernson, 18917 Nordhoff St., Suite 18, Northridge, CA 91324 expressing your opposition would also help.

Councilman Hal Bernson supported the proposal which had been previously opposed by environmentalists and nearby residents who claimed the wildlife would be disturbed.

At the annual tour of the basin last month, hundreds of geese and ducks were visible and many other species of birds have been reported.

Bernson denied claims that the basin is a natural wildlife preserve and added that the Little League season does not coincide with the time the geese are in the area so there would be no threat to the birds.

Chatsworth Lake is now almost dry because the dam has been declared unsafe for earthquakes. The Department of Water and Power says it will be at least five years before it can be rebuilt.

A small ecology pond is maintained by the DWP and Dr. Fishler of the Biology Department and graduate students at Cal State Northridge. This provides water for the birds.

With the Lake refilled, there would not be enough space for both the birds and ballplayers and fans.

OAK TREE ORDINANCE HEARD

The City Oak Tree Ordinance continues on its way to the Council after many months of testimony and some changes by the Planning Commission and Council Committees.

It is still too weak to be effective in saving many trees, according to Helen Tread of the Oak Tree Coalition. It has been even weakened rather than strengthened.

Appearances and letters can still help improve the measure, she says. If you want to help she can be reached at 703-8056.

HIKES, NATURE WALKS CONTINUE

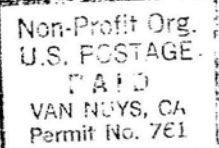
The series of hikes in the Santa Susanas continue with three scheduled each month. They are held on the second and fourth Sundays and the fourth Saturday.

The hikes meet at 9 a.m. in the parking lot on the Northwest corner of Topanga and Devonshire in Chatsworth.

The Nature History Walk meets at the same time but at Santa Susana Pass Road and the Rocky Peak exit of the Simi-SFV Freeway in Chatsworth. Leaders are Jan Hinkston and Bill Scott. For more information, call 998-7231 or 885-8479.

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P.O. Box 331
Chatsworth, CA 91311



Nancy Razanski
22149 James Alan Circle
Chatsworth, Calif. 91311
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