



Santa Susana Mountain Park Association

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May 1999 Newsletter

A Non-Profit Organization
Incorporated August 31, 1971

Environmental Updates

By Judy Garris

Chatsworth Reservoir — The Department of Water and Power is developing a Concept Study for Chatsworth Nature Preserve/Reservoir. The plan may include a long-term lease agreement for the entire site to be managed by a conservation organization. It could also include controlled public access for educational purposes or opening the park to the public for passive recreation (no ball fields or dogs in the Preserve). Perhaps with management by a conservation-oriented agency such as the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy which owns Sage Ranch and the new Rocky Peak Park, both in the Simi Hills, much of the Nature Preserve will be allowed to return to an unmanicured natural oak savannah. (Have you seen the graceful form of a Valley Oak as its limbs sweep to the ground?) Please write, call, fax, e-mail Councilman Hal Bernson of the 12th District, expressing your feelings on the matter. Our opinions are counted.

Dayton Canyon — The final Environmental Impact Report is now available at your library. Thanks to all those who wrote responses to the draft form! In the revised project plan, the impact to the Coast Live Oak woodland was reduced from 2.38 acres to 1.26 acres, affecting 56 fewer oaks. The area dedicated to permanent open space will be expanded from a minimum of 214.4 acres to possibly 270 acres. The total number of lots was reduced and the 230-foot high cut slope was eliminated, along with reductions of cut and fill in the grading plan. The developer will work to provide a public trail system to the dedicated open space. The water detention basin in the heart of the oak woodland remains in the plan. I wonder if the Cooper's Hawk living there will also remain. ❀

May 17th Program

Henry Schultz, chair of the Santa Clarita Group of the Sierra Club and a frequent hike leader in the Santa Susana Mountains, will present a slide show on Towsley Canyon, Elsemere Canyon, Sunshine Canyon, and the Santa Clarita Woodlands. He will show Sunshine Canyon before most of its trees were cut down to make a trash dump and will tell us about hiking opportunities in the Santa Susanas.

This program will be of special interest because we are trying to place funds on the next California State Bond Proposition for parks, open spaces, etc., to purchase property that will complete the Wildlife Corridor from the Santa Monica Mountains, through the Simi Hills and Santa Susana Mountains, to the Angeles National Forest and the Santa Clarita River (the latter is about six miles from the Los Padres National Forest).

The General Membership Meeting starts at 7:30 p.m. at Rockpointe Recreation Center, 22300 Devonshire, Chatsworth (south side of street), one block before entry to Chatsworth Park South.

June 21st Program

At our June 21st meeting, SSMPA member Barbara Coffman will present a slide show of the history of the Old Stage Coach Trail, which is part of the Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park. Come to this presentation and then join Barbara on the Sunday, June 26, hike in the State Park, starting at 9:00 a.m. from the Chatsworth Park South parking lot and lasting about 3 hours. Wear lugsole shoes and a hat; bring water and food; and use sun block.

Submitted by Dorian Keyser. ❀

Unveiling Our Park's Signs

By Nancy Razanski, FPSSM President

One highlight of the March 20th 60th Anniversary of the Placing of the Old State Coach Trail Plaque was the unveiling of one of six signs for the new Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park. The signs were financed through a contingency fund, a \$1,000 grant to the California Department of Parks and Recreation by the Foundation for the Preservation of the Santa Susana Mountains (FPSSM).

Pictured with the new Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park sign are, from left to right: Ed Gooley, FPSSM SFV Area Chair; Nancy Razanski, FPSSM President; Audrey Hedlund, FPSSM Member-At-Large; Janet Lazik, FPSSM Vice-President; Gretha Davis, FPSSM Recording Secretary; Lisa Nicholson, FPSSM Treasurer; Lindsay Wilhelm, FPSSM Fundraising Chair; Randy Sederquist, State Park Superintendent of the Topanga Sector; and Judy Garris, current SSMMPA President.

Four of the six signs will be installed inside the new park's borders, with two kept in reserve. Locations for the sign will be: the South Entrance near Larwin Avenue; the Central East Entrance bordering with Chatsworth Park South; the Northwest Entrance, paralleling Old Santa Susana Pass Road; and the Western Border near Lilac Lane, close to the Ventura County line. It takes two hours to install each sign. We hope to have the Central East Entrance sign installed in honor of May Is State Parks Month, as well as of the anniversary of the State Historic Park's dedication on May 16, 1998.



On May 2, 1999, Randy Sederquist of State Parks will attend the Wildflowers Hike led by Judy Garris. We hope Janice Hinkston will be there too. A Taste of Scandinavia restaurant lunch is planned afterwards. ❀

Children's Docents Hike

A big thanks goes out to Jim Riley, long-time past SSMMPA Board member and ongoing Santa Susana Docents hike leader. On Friday, April 23, Jim led some of our children's docents on a fantastic hike into Happy Camp and shared his knowledge of wildflowers and the history of that area.

Become a children's docent and have fun with us! For information on becoming a children's docent, call Janet Lazik, Chair of the Santa Susana Docents, at (818) 993-0508. ❀

SSMMPA Executive Board

Judy Garris, President	818-346-7654
Dorian Keyser, Vice President	818-345-3795
vacant (your name?), Recording Secretary	
Susan Gerke, Treasurer	818-704-9304
Patti Milow, Corresponding Secretary	818-992-7757
Terrie Brady, Member-At-Large	818-349-8889
Bette Butler, Member-At-Large	818-700-0220
Diana Dixon-Davis, Member-At-Large	818-341-4242
Holly Huff, Member-At-Large	805-526-0961
Doreen Rusen, Member-At-Large	818-360-0894

On April 19, 1999, Glenn Bailey resigned from the SSMMPA Board of Directors. Although the Association's proposed bylaws call for a 12-member board, the SSMMPA Board may only have ten members at present and, since the organization still has no Recording Secretary, there was one member too many even though it was a 10-member board. Glenn is, however, continuing to serve the SSMMPA on the Bylaws Committee as well as in other ways. ❀

❀ Think about becoming the SSMMPA Recording Secretary. Duties are only taking minutes for SSMMPA meetings twice monthly (once a month during the summer), but this position is very important for the organization. Becoming the new SSMMPA Recording Secretary could be a meaningful way for you to give back to your community and environment.

❀ Or, think about becoming the SSMMPA Hospitality Chair. This chair's duties consist of setting up refreshments for the General Membership Meetings. It's a pleasant way to perform a service.

❀ While a member of the SSMMPA Board (Terrie Brady) has been doing some Membership Chair tasks, SSMMPA needs someone to take over the Membership Chair. Another important SSMMPA Chair is also available, that of Fundraising Chair. Both of these are two great ways to help your community and the environment.

May Hikes

Stagecoach Trail and Exploration Series hikes are offered by the Santa Susana Mountain Task Force (SSMTF) of the Sierra Club and publicized by the SSMPA and the Foundation for the Preservation of the Santa Susana Mountains (FPSSM).

Stage Coach Trail Hikes

SSMTF hikes are conducted every *Sunday*, October - June (except for very rainy days) from the parking lot of Chatsworth Park South Recreation Building, located at the western end of Devonshire Street, less than one mile west of Topanga Canyon Boulevard.

Hikers meet at 9:00 a.m. with the hike leader for the 4-mile (700 ft. gain) loop up the Stage Coach Trail in the hills west of the park. Bring water and a snack in a back or hip pack. Lugsole shoes or sturdy, closed shoes, and a hat are advised. All hike leaders are knowledgeable and experienced.

Stage Coach Trail Hike Leaders

First Sunday: Barbara Coffman
Second Sunday: Judy Garris
Third Sunday: Lindsay Wilhelm
Fourth Sunday: Lee Baum

Devil Canyon, continued

TOPANGA CANYON BLVD. Wear long pants, lug-sole shoes and a hat; bring a snack to share and water. Heavy rain cancels. Call Judy Garris at (818) 346-7654 for more information. RSVP requested.

Moonlight Hike in the Valley

Wednesday, May 26, 1999. A moderately paced, 5-mile, 1200-foot gain/loss, hike to view the city lights of the San Fernando Valley. Meet at the trailhead at 7:00 p.m. Take the 118 Freeway to Balboa Blvd., go north about 2 miles to Sesnon, then west about 1 mile to Neon Way, turn right, go to the end and park. Wear lugsoles; bring water. Rain cancels. Leaders are Casey Bialas (805-251-4619) and Henry Schultz (805-296-3748), both of the Santa Clarita Sierra Club.



Santa Susana Exploration Series

Sunday, May 23, 1999 - Devil Canyon

This will be a moderately paced, 7-mile hike. Meet at 10:00 a.m. at North end of Topanga Canyon Blvd., just north of the 118 Freeway. Turn left and park on Poema Place or turn right and park on Mojave Trail. **DO NOT PARK IN THE INTERSECTION AT THE END OF**

Many thanks to Randy Perras, Manager of the Topanga Canyon/Roscoe Office Depot, for the donation of printing services, i.e., the duplication of our newsletter. We very much appreciate it!



SANTA SUSANA MOUNTAIN PARK ASSOCIATION

WE INVITE YOU TO JOIN / RENEW / REJOIN S.S.M.P.A. (Please circle one.)

Investing in the future of our communities and its resources is probably one of the best expenditures of our time and efforts. Return this cutoff with your contributions to help ensure our futures. Please make checks payable to SSMPA and send to SSMPA, P.O. Box 4831, Chatsworth, CA 91313-4831.



- Senior or Student (\$5.00) Individual (\$10.00) Family (\$15.00)
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Please send in your dues if you wish to continue your SSMPA membership and continue to receive our newsletter. If you already paid, please disregard this notice.

If the expiration date on the label is marked in blue, payment of your membership dues is due this month.

If the expiration date is marked in green, payment of your dues will be due next month.

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