



# Santa Susana Mountain Park Association

A Non-Profit 501(c)(4) Organization  
Incorporated August 31, 1971

Volume 37, Issue 5

## September 2007 Newsletter

Jan Hinkston  
7405 Lindemann Trail  
Madison, WI 53719

May 26, 2007

Dear Friends:

THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

I keep hoping as I get older I might lose some of my old foibles, but no such luck! I'm still the world's worst procrastinator when it comes to writing letters!

Congratulations to Susan Gerke for making our newsletter the best it's ever been! She'll be a hard act to follow! I've been reading and enjoying them all the way through!--especially the old photos and the layouts! (As you can plainly see, my word processing skills still leave much to be desired).

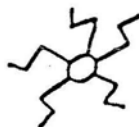
Many thanks especially to Reid Bogert and Bob Cates for all the fine photos they took at the party, and Glen Bailey for the CD! (And thanks for finding Margo Murman at her new address in Oregon-I didn't write it down-could you (glen) please send it to me?).

Thanks also to Nancy Razanski, who carried the ball and got this show on the road. And to Pearl Turbush, thank you for all your hard work.

Last, but certainly not least, thank you Jan Miller for your leadership! I hope your wounds have all healed. Has the property up on Chatsworth Highlands been purchased? All the old feelings about those wonderful rock formations returned upon seeing them! I hope that the 12 Apostles will also be saved on day!

It was so wonderful to see so many friends-sorry about the noise! Los Toros used to be a great place to meet after a hike-remember the orange trees out in the Patio and the pitchers of ice cold beer? Speaking of hikes, I hope you have all been to Sage Ranch-there are brochures down at the parking lot. A 2.6 mile trail begins there. If you see the ranger, ask him how to find the "Mud Flow" rock. We ran out of time. My friend, George Thruo, dropped my off at LAX on his way home in Costa Mesa.

Thanks for the memories!!! Jan



### GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING, MONDAY SEPTEMBER 17, 2007

Our Guest presenter will be Jim Edmondson. For the past 24 years, Jim Edmondson has worked to make California a better place to live, work and enjoy. His vehicle for these actions has been through the protection and restoration of the state's wild trout, native steelhead, and the beautiful places they live. Under his directions the most prominent accomplishments are:

Mono Lake has been saved State water laws changes Steelhead listed under Endangered Species Act Creation of the first trout biodiversity management program in America's history created. A Southern California native, he is a member of the American Fisheries Society and California Trout, Inc.

Latest Honors include:

**2006:** Lifetime Achievement Award (Salmonid Restoration Rederation) second receipt of honor for dedication to restore native coldwater fishes of California and prevent extinction of the Southern California steelhead.

**2005:** Californian of the Year (Outdoor Writers Association of California) for career accomplishments to protect and restore wild trout and native steelhead throughout California.

SSMPA General Membership Program meetings take place every 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday, September through November and January through May at the Rockpointe Clubhouse, 22300 Devonshire St., Chatsworth on the south side, 1 block before entering Chatsworth Park South. Our program meetings begin at 7:15 pm and conclude at 9:00 pm.

**The purposes of the Santa Susana Mountain Park Association are the protection, preservation, restoration, and enhancement of the Santa Susana Mountains and Simi Hills as open space lands and wildlife corridors linking the Los Padres National Forest and San Gabriel Mountains, including the Angeles National Forest, to the Santa Monica Mountains; as habitats for plants and animals native to the Santa Susana Mountains and the Simi Hills; as locales of unique geologic formations; as sites of ethnological, archaeological and historical interests; to provide passive recreational opportunities and environmental education opportunities; and, to support the acquisition of new public parks, open space and conservation easements, the expansion of existing parks, participate in the planning of park infrastructure and programs, and support said programs.**

Garden Friend

Opossums, a marsupial mammal, are a garden's friend. They consume garden enemies like snails, slugs, and bugs. While opossums aren't pretty to look at, they are gentle critters. They have a bad rap because when in danger, they bare their teeth and snarl. If this doesn't deter the predator, they fall to the ground, curl up and lie still. People call this behavior "playing possum." Opossums prefer finding fallen fruit on the ground in their nocturnal foraging. Gardeners often mistaken them as the culprit who climbed up to eat the good fruit - this usually occurs by the nibbling of squirrels and birds. And don't worry, they have a resistance to rabies but still, they're not pets and can transmit bacterial disease if touched. Leave them alone and they'll leave you alone. Just let them clean up your garden!

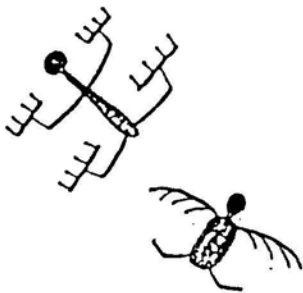
article submitted by Carla Henry



The opossum (*Didelphis virginiana*) is the only native North American marsupial. Marsupials are distinguished by their abdominal pouch used for carrying their young. The opossum is not native to California, but was introduced many years ago from the east coast of the United States and has now become well established throughout much of the state. It is about the size of a house cat, has coarse grayish fur, a pointed face, and hairless, rounded ears. With its long hairless prehensile tail, the opossum can carry things such as nesting materials and even hang upside down from a tree branch. Opossum are about 2 to 3 feet long, including the tail, and weigh up to 15 pounds. Males are usually larger than females. Their feet resemble small hands with five widely spread fingers. All of the toes have a claw except for the opposable thumb on the rear foot. Opossum are well adapted for climbing. The opposable toe on the hind foot assists in holding on to small branches or similar structures.



I'm not playing this time!



BUT HOW 'BOUT IF THE ONE GUY IS RIGHT AN' THE 10,000 IS WRONG...



Saturday Cartoons: Pogo, Dec. 26, 1952



POGO Cartoons by Walt Kelly

# Activities Schedule

Rancho Simi Trailblazers

Regularly Scheduled Hikes  
(Hikes are canceled if it rains. There are no hikes on holidays.)

## UPCOMING HIKES

Bring water, lunch,  
lugsoles, hat, sunscreen.  
**RAIN CANCELS**



THERE IS AN E-MAIL  
WITH TERRIFIC GRAPHICS  
THAT DETAILS HIKES  
THROUGH DECEMBER 2007

ATTN: Dianne

**Sunday Evening - Rocky Peak**  
Meet at 4 PM at the Rocky Peak trailhead at the end of Rocky Peak Road on the Santa Susana Pass.  
(Meet at 5 PM during daylight savings time.) (Strenuous - 4.8 MRT)

**Tuesday Evening - Long Canyon**  
Meet at 6:30 PM in the Long Canyon parking lot. Directions: Take First Street South. Continue when the road's name changes to Long Canyon Road. The parking lot is at the intersection of Long Canyon Road and Wood Ranch Parkway. (Easy to Moderate - 3.0 MRT)

**Thursday Evening - The Chumash Trail**  
Meet at 6 PM at Chumash trailhead. Directions: Take the 118 Freeway to Yosemite exit. Go north on Yosemite and turn right on Flanagan Dr. The trailhead is at the end of Flanagan Drive. (Moderate to Strenuous - 5.2 MRT)

**September 15th**  
**2007 Coastal Cleanup - Arroyo Simi**  
The Trail Blazers will be supporting the Inland Waterway Cleanup in conjunction with Coastal Cleanup Day. Join us Saturday, September 15th from 9:00 AM to Noon. The event is being held at the Rancho Simi Community Park, 1765 Royal Avenue (corner of Royal Avenue and Erringer Road). Meet at the Erringer Road side of the park, near the entrance to the Arroyo.

**September 19th**  
**Club Meeting**  
7 PM - The Community Center - 1692 Sycamore Drive - Room B-1

**September 22nd**  
**Upper Zuma Canyon\***  
5 MRT - Moderate  
Hike down into Upper Zuma Canyon. Meet at 8 AM near Donut Delite at the corner of Madera and Royal. Bring 2 to 3 quarts of water and a snack. Wear boots.

Rancho Simi Trailblazers

**September 29th**  
**Newton Canyon\***  
5 MRT - Moderate (1200' elevation loss/gain)  
Bring snack and 2 to 3 quarts of water and bug juice. Wear boots. Meet at 8 AM near Donut Delite at the corner of Madera and Royal.

October Hikes [September] [November]

**October 6th**  
**Camp Three Falls to Lilly Meadows\***  
6 MRT - Moderate (1,075' elevation gain)  
Beautiful area with a waterfall about half way up. Bring lunch, water and wear boots. Click [here](#) for more information about this hike. For those looking for a bit of a workout, there is an option of adding some mileage by taking the trail on up to Sheep Camp. Meet at 8 AM at the Stearns Street Park & Ride. Bring 2 - 3 quarts of water and lunch. Wear sturdy boots.

**October 13th**  
**Carpinteria Bluffs\***  
5 MRT - Easy  
A beautiful walk overlooking the ocean along the bluffs above Carpinteria. Meet at 8 AM, near Donut Delite on the corner of Madera and Royal. Bring 1 to 2 quarts of water and lunch.

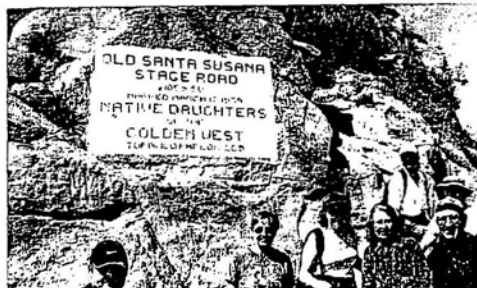
Rancho Simi Trailblazers



STAGE  
COACH

Sunday, October 21, 2007: Stagecoach Trail - 9:00am. Interpretative hike into history in Santa Susanna Pass State Historic Park. Meet at 9:00am for a 2 1/2 mi (400' gain) loop up the Stagecoach Trail. From Topanga Canyon Lvd. turn W. on Devonshire, drive into Chatsworth Park S. to parking lot next to the Auditorium. Leader: Lee Baum (818-341-1850 (Sierra Club-Santa Susana Mtns Task Force Outing). Stagecoach Trail Hikes will be on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of each month, starting October.

TRAIL



## Santa Susana Mountain Park Association

invites you to JOIN / RENEW (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 contribution lend your support. Make your check payable to SSMPA and send to SSMPA, P.O. Box 4831, Chatsworth, CA 91313-4831.

- Senior or Student ((\$10.00)   
  Individual (\$15.00)   
  Family (\$20.00)  
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Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
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 Special Interest / Expertise: \_\_\_\_\_

### First Letter from the Editor:

As the new editor of the Santa Susana Mountain Park Association Newsletter, I want to introduce myself. My name is Chris Beauvais. I was born in Berkeley, CA, but have been a resident of the San Fernando Valley since the early 1950's, residing now in Granada Hills. During my high school years I spent time at Chatsworth Park, climbing rocks, hanging out in train tunnels, just doing what kids do.

When I was a youngster, my dad, mom, brother and I often got into the family Ford sedan for the long scenic drive up Devonshire Street to Topanga Canyon Blvd. over the Old Pass Road into Simi Valley. We always ended up on Kuehner Drive, either at the south end, at Corriganville watching bar brawls and gun fights, eating lunch in Sherwood Forest or at Douglas Park; at the north end of Kuehner were we swam in a giant pool. After I got my driver's license, driving dad's car, I drove the back roads around the Chatsworth Reservoir.

In the late 1980's and early 1990's I could be found again at either end of Kuehner. I majored in Anthropology at Pierce College and one of my classes was Field Archeology taught by Mr. Robert Pence. He ran digs for several years at the small reservoir wall just north of the 118 freeway. I was lucky enough to be part of the digs on that site for about four years. We believe the site we worked on was a Chumash hunting village before they built the reservoir to supply water for the trains. My archeology highlight was working on the site Sherwood Forest, Corriganville Park.

Now, besides my insurance career, I am a volunteer archery instructor at Woodley Park, San Fernando Valley. In addition to my passions, archeology, archery, and nature, I also am a member of the Paradigm Poets. One of my poems was published in the SSMPA newsletter a few years ago.

As your editor, I hope to bring in ideas from all corners, keeping a strong interest in the goals of SSMPA and service to the community. I plan to continue to post area hikes and/or nature walks, articles of interest about nature and man's pressure on her. If you have a short article, poem, photo, etc. about a current event or experience in the Santa Susana/Simi Hills area, please send them in. I will use as many as I can each month.

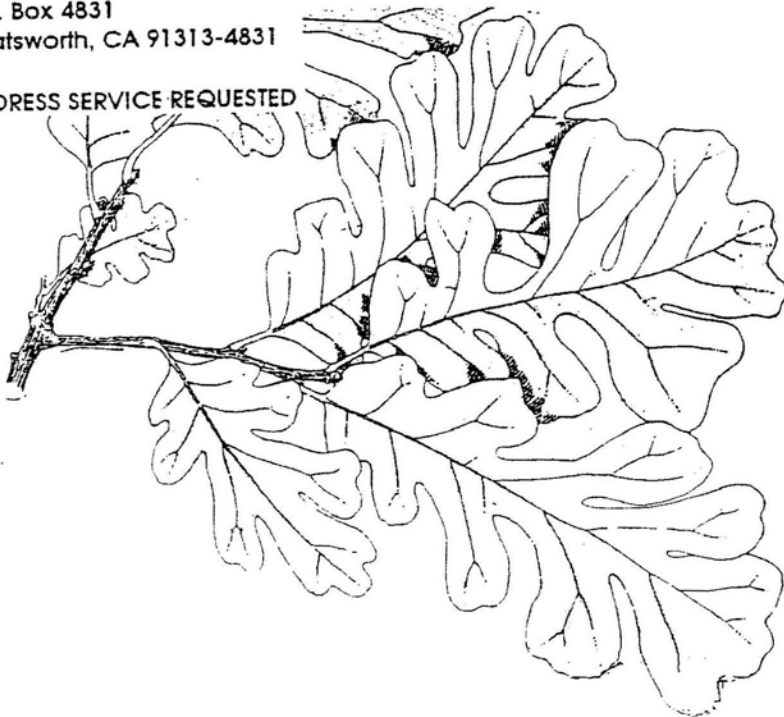
I am expressing my thanks to SSMPA's former editor, Susan Gerke. She has been very supportive and extremely helpful in making this transition as smooth as possible. From all that I have heard and seen, Susan will be sorely missed. I believe I speak for all members of SSMPA in wishing her all the best.

Thank you, Chris Beauvais  
[chrisbovay@gmail.com](mailto:chrisbovay@gmail.com)

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Santa Susana Mountain Park Association &  
Foundation for the Preservation of the Santa Susana Mountains  
P.O. Box 4831  
Chatsworth, CA 91313-4831

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