



SANTA SUSANA MOUNTAIN PARK ASSOCIATION

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

A Non-Profit 501(c)(4) Incorporated Nov. 30, 1971

Email: mail@ssmpa.com

Founded Nov. 20, 1970

Website: ssmpa.com

Fall, 3rd QUARTER, 2014 Newsletter

SSMPA COMMUNITY MEETINGS: 7:00 pm

(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, September 15

Chumash Chief and Soapstone Carver

Presenter: Ted Garcia



Ted Garcia, Chief of his band of the Chumash Tribe from the San Fernando Valley is multi-talented in Native American traditional songs, storytelling and soapstone carving. His soapstone carvings carry the spirit of the land of his Chumash ancestry. He is a featured artist in the Discovery Channel's National Parks show.

Garcia will begin his presentation with a spiritual blessing for Diana Dixon-Davis.

Monday, October 20

Park or No Park?



Come watch Art Seidenbaum's 1972 KCET interview with **Jan Hinkston**, founder of the SSMPA, and others (pro & con) on the issue of establishing a Santa Susana Mountains / Simi Hills state park.

The anti-open space/park advocates protested an invasion of "foreigners" and claimed land owner rights. The pro-park advocates presented the need for preserving natural land and cultural assets.

The [Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park](#) became a reality in 1998.

In Memoriam Diana Dixon-Davis



The family of Diana, husband Phillip, and three sons, Kevin, Scott and Ben (wife Kristy), lost their wife and mother on July 13, 2014. The community of Chatsworth lost a woman who dedicated her life to many worthy causes: women, children, the health and well-being of all human beings, and the environment. She served on the SSMPA as a board member for over 30 years.

In Memoriam from Teena Takata, SSMPA President:

I always think of Diana, first, as Passionate – Unwavering; absolute courage in all her opinions, and always willing to express her position. There was no question what Diana's position on any matter was.

A tireless worker for the community, she spent an incredible number of hours working for the SSMPA, the PTA, the Chatsworth Neighborhood Council, the SSFL CAG, the Chatsworth Community Coordinating Council, and always treasured the local state park the community helped create with its activism. She loved sharing origami with the children and working with them, and also spent many hours behind the scenes, helping groups out as treasurer and using her education background in demographics from Berkeley as appropriate to evaluate various community issues, for the great benefit of the community.

We are sure Phil, her children, and other family members will sorely miss her. But the community also has lost an incredible advocate for open space and educating young members of our community to appreciate the outdoors and their education.

Rest in peace Diana, we will be missing you.

Monday, November 17

History of Chatsworth

Presenters: Ann & Ray Vincent – Chatsworth Historical Society

Ann & Ray will cover a pictorial presentation highlighting Chatsworth's timeline, significant events in Chatsworth history, and its historic landmarks.

PLAN Public Land Alliance Network – Nature by Design Conference
Saturday, October 18, 2014 ▪ 8 am – 4:30 pm
King Gillette Ranch 26800 W. Mulholland Highway, Calabasas, CA 91302
Hosted by the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority
Sponsored by Santa Susana Mountain Park Association

Come and learn about the PLAN-Nature by Design conference that will build support to protect and provide wildlife corridors, animals and the habitat they depend on, preserve open space, and parkland. This can be accomplished by establishing a Public Land Alliance Network (PLAN) through environmental organizations dedicated to preventing unchecked urban sprawl. The open space will include mountains, ridgelines, grasslands, watersheds, coastal land, and significant ecological areas (SEA's). To protect these gains we need to educate youngsters and adults on the importance of open space issues. Come to the conference to hear ideas and how we can network together to accomplish these goals.

Attendance: \$25.00 includes food & beverages: Morning bagels & fruit and lunch sandwiches with beverages. For more info to attend and register go to this website: ssmpa.com/plan

So many battles are raging to preserve open space and historic and cultural assets. Here is a list of developments that have negative impact on many levels in the Santa Susana Mountains-Simi Hills:

Andora Estates (formerly Tone Yee): TY Chatsworth89, LLC, has reportedly sold the approximately 89 acre parcel that occupies the majority of the undeveloped land between the hills of the Santa Susana Pass Historic Park and the Chatsworth Oaks Park next to the Chatsworth Nature Preserve. The property is west of Topanga Canyon Blvd., just north of Plummer. Daniel Bernstein is a local contractor who now intends to develop the property. He initially showed neighbors and the Chatsworth Neighborhood Council's Land Use and Equestrian Committee plans for 43 lots and significant open space on the west and very steep part of the property.

More recently, he has advised he has dropped the planned number of homes to 33, but has not yet been able to provide a map. The last drawings had large problems with emergency access roads and equestrian trails cutting through about 1/3 of the lots, a trail drawn along the west side that did not connect to the State Park, and the emergency access route through Plummer (through the steep narrow road, then through the top lot owner's property to the project.) Reportedly, final details on the Plummer Street emergency access terms continue to be worked on. Plummer has a very steep grade, and the private lot has significant access issues also.

We are very concerned about this development. A wildlife corridor in this area is critical. With the recent announcement of the wildlife bridge to be constructed at Las Virgenes at the 101 Freeway, retention of a viable wildlife corridor through this area is critical. Significant development has been underway along the top of the ridge in Ventura County, so this larger parcel is the most likely place a corridor can be retained.

Mr. Bernstein very recently indicated a new Environmental Impact Report will be prepared due to project changes since the last owner presented the development.

We will continue to monitor this project and work to discourage development in this area. - Teena Takata

Hidden Creek Estates: This development is an extension of the Porter Ranch mega-development in the foothills of the Santa Susana Mountains. It will alter and destroy a riparian, blue-stream region, Brown's Canyon Creek and Mormon Canyon Creek, when water shortages are critical. This is a vital native plant and tree woodland habitat with abundant wildlife. It doesn't make sense for the City of Los Angeles to annex this county region for infrastructure that will be costly, an area destined to require future taxpayer bailouts because this 188 housing development will be built on a natural landslide area and in the pathway of historic wildfires.

Woolsey Canyon Estates: The location of this 14 mansion development is at the turn on Woolsey Canyon Road from Valley Circle Blvd. This is a strategic wildlife corridor in the Simi Hills for large mammals to the smallest flying and crawling animals. Mule deer, bobcats, coyotes, and occasionally cougars move between the Santa Susana Field Lab and the Chatsworth Nature Preserve (CNP). Woolsey Canyon Creek feeds the CNP wetlands, a vital need for the Pacific Flyway migratory and local birds.

- Carla Bollinger

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Chatsworth Community Coordinating Council presents awards to three SSMPA Members!

Teena Takata Citizen of the Year 2013 - 2014

Teena Takata has contributed so many hours (years!) of her life devoting herself to the preservation of open space and parkland, equestrian lifestyle, and the preservation of the history and culture of Chatsworth. She is serving as President SSMPA (2011 – Present), serves as the FPSSM Treasurer and leads interpretive hikes in the State Park, has served on the Chatsworth Neighborhood Council as Treasurer and Land Use Committee. When CA State Parks earmarked the SSPSH to close, Teena with other leaders rallied to keep our park open; she won the CA State Poppy Award. Teena's dedication to Chatsworth is worthy of her CCCC Citizen of the Year Award!

Carla Bollinger and Tom Nachtrab Community Service Honoree's 2013 – 2014

Carla: She is the SSMPA Newsletter Editor, Program Chairperson and handles PR for community events. Concern for the Chatsworth Nature Preserve led her, with others, to form the Chatsworth Nature Preserve Coalition to protect this vital resource. She is an artist who enjoys painting the natural beauty of Chatsworth, CNP ecology pond, oak trees, and boulders.

Tom: Tom serves on the SSMPA Board of Directors and coordinates the website, e-mail announcements and PR for issues, and is a member of the Community Advisory Group to ensure responsible cleanup of the SSFL. Tom began a campaign to spur re-opening of Chatsworth Park South, publicizing the number of days it has been closed.

**SSMPA's mission is to preserve and protect the Simi Hills,
Santa Susana Mountains, and regional open space.**

Red-winged blackbird *Agelaius phoeniceus*



Male Red-winged blackbirds are striking in appearance, red shoulder patch, with yellow border. Females are plain brown-streaked. Habitat: marshes & meadows. Seen in Chatsworth Nature Preserve Ecology Pond marsh on cattails & reeds. Range from southern Alaska-northern Canada to Mexico, coast-to-coast.

Tricolored Blackbird *Agelaius tricolor*



Male Tricolored blackbirds are black with a red shoulder patch, white border. Females are blackish-brown streaked. Habitat: Marshes and grasslands. Rare species, range: California. In 70 years population decline is 80% due to loss of habitat. Nest in CNP last seen 2006. CA Fish & Wildlife: Species of special concern. Priority 1

Thursday, Sept 18: 6 pm – 8:30 Canoga Park Artwalk Madrid Theatre:

Artists: Carla Bollinger, Corinne Schnur, and Helen Hewes will have their artwork on display the month of September. Art reception in conjunction with Canoga Park Artwalk the evening of Sept. 18.

Sunday, Oct. 5: 11 am – 3 pm Chatsworth Historical Society – Pioneer Days – Homestead Acre

A day of old fashion family fun! The Homestead Acre, 10385 Shadow Oak Dr. – Parking with shuttle bus from Chatsworth Train Depot. Chili Cook-off, woodcarvers, entertainment, panning for gold, veteran quilt display, blacksmith, Indian artifacts • Tours of 1911 Homestead Cottage and Museum \$5 Admission-Donation; \$1 Children; kids under 5 free www.historicalsocieties.net • chatsworthhistory@gmail.com • Phone: 818-882-5614

Saturday, Oct 18: 8 am – 4:30 pm PLAN – Nature by Design Conservation Meeting – see Page 2 for details

HIKES

Welcome Walks: Interpretive hikes in the Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park (SSPSHP): Facebook: [Friends of the Santa Susana Mountains](#) and www.fpssm.org

SSPSHP Volunteer Hikes: Contact: Jennifer Dandurand, park interpretive specialist, Los Encinos SHP: 818.784.4849; jdandurand@parks.ca.gov

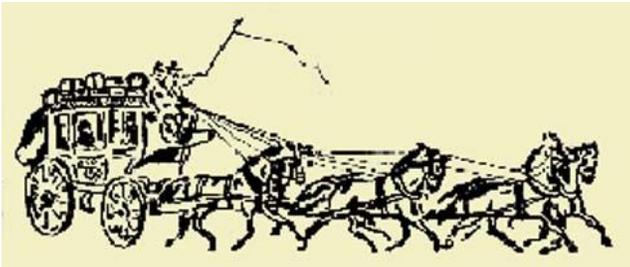
Rancho Simi Trail Blazers: www.simitrailblazers.com **Sierra Club:** www.angeles.sierraclub.org/sfv/ Meetings,



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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Mail label here

SEPTEMBER MEMBERSHIP DRIVE



MEMBERSHIP is due for all annual members in September. Please fill in the form below and submit it. If you do not want to receive your newsletter via e-mail and must receive by snail mail, please send an additional \$10.00. If you have moved, please be sure to let us know your new address.

SSMPA MEMBERSHIP IS A VOICE IN YOUR COMMUNITY!

YOU CAN NOW USE YOUR CREDIT CARD OR PAYPAL ACCOUNT: Go to our website: ssmpa.com

Sign up for a LIFE MEMBERSHIP and/or a DONATION of \$50.00 and receive a FREE Chumash designed [T-Shirt](http://ssmpa.com/membership) (image on ssmpa.com/membership) Let us know your size when you mail in your check.

THANK YOU for your recent special donation: **Patricia Levin**
And in memory of Diana Dixon Davis: **Gretha & Douglas Davis, Brian Davis, Carla Bollinger**

PLEASE SEND IN YOUR MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL OR NEW MEMBERSHIP TODAY
() \$20.00 for individuals () \$25.00 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 91313-4831

Be sure to fill in the following information

Name(s) _____ E-Mail _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Special interests or skills _____

IMPORTANT: Please send today your e-mail address or changes to your e-mail address to: mail@ssmpa.com.
Your e-mail address is used exclusively for SSMPA newsletter and community announcements.