



# 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](mailto:mail@ssmpa.com)

Founded Nov. 20, 1970

Website: [ssmpa.com](http://ssmpa.com)

## Winter, 1st QUARTER, 2015 Newsletter

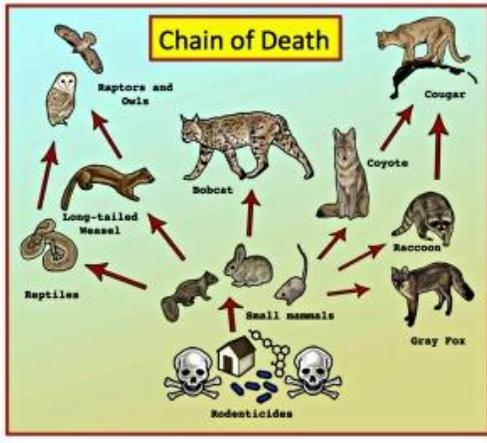
### **SSMPA COMMUNITY MEETINGS: 7:00 pm**

(Community Meetings are Free to SSMPA Members and the Public.)

**Rockpointe Clubhouse: 22300 Devonshire Street, Chatsworth, CA 91311**

(On the south side, one block before entrance to Chatsworth Park South)

### **Monday, January 19, 2015**



### **Presenter: Joel Schulman, [Poison Free Malibu](#)**

Joel Schulman will discuss how Anticoagulant Rodent (AR) poisons have spread throughout the eco-system threatening wildlife and pets. He will discuss the sources of poisons, what we can do about eliminating them, and alternatives for rodent control.

### **Monday, February 16, 2015**



### **Lynne Plambeck, President, [SCOPE](#) Santa Clarita Organization for Planning the Environment.**

Lynne will report on SCOPE's efforts to save the Santa Clara River (the last wild river in LA County and one of America's ten most endangered rivers), oak trees, and open space from urban developments such as Newhall Ranch, Vista Canyon Ranch, Disney-Placerita Canyon, "Gates King Industrial Park" and others that destroy natural areas.

### **Monday, March 16, 2015**



Drought Fires

### **Presenter: Kathryn "Katie" Goldman, Sr. Fellow [Greenhouse Gas Management Institute](#)**

**Climate change:** It's in the news but what does it mean? What is the large universal picture and the meaningfulness to our local area and to individuals? Katie will discuss the ways climate is changing / will change our region and what actions individuals can take to help solve the problem and plan for the future.

### **Legends & Heroes – Nancy Razanski**



**SSMPA President (1990-1992)**

**FPSSM President (1997-2002)**

Nancy responded to Jan Hinkston's newspaper article of Nov. 1970 forming SSMPA with a mission to create a park and to save the Santa Susana Mountains and Simi Hills. She attended the 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting held in December, committing herself to a life of service for both SSMPA / FPSSM. Alongside Jan and others, she worked hard to raise \$10,000 through parades, fairs, and many community events that eventually became seed money for the Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park. She continues to provide advice and community outreach on behalf of SSMPA/FPSSM. Her 44 years of dedication to the Chatsworth community was recognized at the Chatsworth/Porter Ranch 2014 Chamber of Commerce Legends & Heroes Luncheon honoring individuals for the difference they make in our community.

**Simi Hills, a crucial wildlife corridor link between the Santa Monica Mountains and the Santa Susana Mountains, are under threat from urban sprawl.** Mansionization of the Simi Hills on the east side, above Lake Manor-Chatsworth, continues to destroy the scenic vista, native plants, chaparral, trees, and compromises the watershed which supports the Chatsworth Nature Preserve-Los Angeles River system.



**Simi Hills, east, along Valley Circle Drive above Chatsworth Oaks Park**

The battle continues to rage over the Santa Susana Field Lab (SSFL) cleanup: radical and extreme background level versus rational and environmentally safe residential level. The City of Simi Valley and California State Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) have tested and retested over 15 years finding that Runkle Canyon, on the west side of the SSFL, is safe for building over 400 homes in the Simi Hills.

Elected officials and environmentalists concerned with wildlife such as mountain lions and bobcats are working together to build the Liberty Canyon Wildlife Crossing for connectivity between the Simi Hills south to the Santa Monica Mountains. Some cleanup extremists are advocating that a road be built on the west side of the SSFL through the Simi Hills connecting to the new KB Homes development to carry the 100,000+ truckloads of soil-rocks-structures that they demand be removed from the SSFL site. This is an irresponsible idea that will further destroy the sensitive wildlife corridor in the Simi Hills. A road built between the SSFL and KB Homes development cutting through the Simi Hills would contradict the purpose of the Liberty Canyon Wildlife Crossing.



**View from SSFL with KB Homes grading in Runkle Canyon-Simi Valley**

## **Saying Goodbye and Thank You Zev Yaroslavsky**

**Los Angeles County Supervisor  
3rd District (1994-2014)**

**LA City Council 5<sup>th</sup> District (1975-94)**

Zev spent the past five decades as a Los Angeles elected official, working with integrity and determination to preserve and protect the Santa Monica Mountains (SMMs). He collaborated with his planning deputy, Ben Saltsman, Kim Lamorie, President of the Las Virgenes Homeowners Federation, Friends of the Santa Monica Mountains, and many other supporters to see the Santa Monica Mountains Local Coastal Program (LCP) adopted by the LA County Board of Supervisors on August 26, 2014 and certified by the CA Coastal Commission on Oct 10, 2014. The LCP will protect 52,000 acres of sensitive habitat, ban ridgeline development, save oak trees and other native woodlands, outlaw AR poisons, protect water resources and prevent opening of new vineyards. This is the most important land use document ever adopted in the SMMs.

Other notable projects Zev supported ...

- Helped acquire 7,870 acres of SMMs parkland in 1994
- Helped preserve the 588 acres of "Soka University" now called King Gillette Ranch
- Spearheaded the 14-mile busway across the SFV
- Supported expansion of light rail in SFV
- 1986 won a slow-growth movement with Proposition U cutting in half the allowable size of new buildings on 70% of the city's commercial property.
- 2003 cast a dissenting vote against the Newhall Ranch development and in 2012 abstained from voting on a reconfiguration of the development.
- While fighting for environmental issues, healthcare, housing for the homeless, and other "liberal" projects, he was respected as an economically conservative elected official.
- Provided \$200,000 grant money for the Liberty Canyon Wildlife Crossing

Zev spoke at the PLAN Conference, Oct. 18, about the LCP. As he leaves office this year, this historic land use legislation protects the Santa Monica Mountains for generations to come. We appreciate all his contributions through the years to save open space/parkland.

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

#### **Did you know?**

**James Garner**, Actor, notable TV Shows, "Maverick" and "Rockford Files", (April 7, 1928 – July 19, 2014), a celebrity and also an activist. With Steve McQueen and Burt Lancaster, James Garner was a founding member of the Friends of the Santa Monica Mountains. Garner came close to a real life fistfight at city hall with LA Councilman Karl Rundberg over a disputed master plan for the Santa Monica Mountains being pushed through without time to organize opposition. (The master plan passed but Rundberg later lost re-election because of a Harbor Commission corruption scandal.)

**John Quigley**, known for tree sitting, chained himself to a giant oak named "Old Glory" in 2003 and lived in the tree for 72 days. Old Glory was saved, relocated about a quarter-mile down the road in Pico Canyon Park, Santa Clarita. Old Glory Oak Tree #409, 150 years old, 10 foot-in-diameter, moved in 2003, marking 2015 as a twelve year survivor.

#### **California Red-legged Frog *Rana aurora draytonii***

The CA Red-legged frog (RLF) is listed on the Federal Endangered Species list. These frogs are threatened by loss of habitat from urban sprawl (housing, golf courses, commercial development), farmland, contamination from pesticides, and invasive species such as non-native bullfrogs. Even though the RLF is the largest native frog at 2 to 5 inches, the larger non-native bullfrog eats its distant cousin. The RLF has lost 90% of its historic population. In 2014 Santa Monica Mtns. National Park Service biologists, with other partners, began re-introducing the RLF into Santa Monica Mountain stream habitats. Preservation of habitat for the red-legged frog was one of the reasons for saving Ahmanson Ranch, now the Upper Las Virgenes Canyon Open Space Preserve, managed and operated by the MRCA in partnership with SMMC.



#### **Events and Hikes**

##### **Thursday, January 1: 11 am: First Day Hikes: Andora Trail Head: 9955 Andora Ave.**

Start a new year fitness plan with a moderate hike led by the Foundation for the Preservation of the Santa Susana Mountains (FPSSM). Details: [www.fpssm.org](http://www.fpssm.org)

##### **Saturday, March 21: 8 am – 3:30 pm - PLAN Meeting: at SSFL, hosted by Boeing Corporation**

Focus of the PLAN meeting will be the National Park Service's Rim of the Valley Wildlife Corridor Special Resource Study (ROV). Margie Steigerwald, Outdoor Recreation Planner with the NPS will discuss the progress of this congressionally mandated study. Clark Stevens, Executive Officer, Resource Conservation District of the Santa Monica Mountains will cover an important element to the ROV, the Liberty Canyon-Agoura Hills Wildlife Crossing at the 101 Freeway.

##### **Sunday, April 12: 10 am – 3:00 pm – Earth Day in Chatsworth Nature Preserve hosted by DWP**

This annual event opens with a Native American blessing followed by interpretive hikes throughout the day around the Ecology Pond.

#### **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](http://www.fpssm.org)

**SSPSHP Volunteer Hikes:** Contact: Jennifer Dandurand, park interpretive specialist, Los Encinos SHP: 818.784.4849; [jdandurand@parks.ca.gov](mailto:jdandurand@parks.ca.gov)

**Rancho Simi Trail Blazers:** [www.simitrailblazers.com](http://www.simitrailblazers.com) **Sierra Club:** [www.angeles.sierraclub.org/sfvg/](http://www.angeles.sierraclub.org/sfvg/) Meetings, hikes

**SFV Audubon:** [www.sfvaudubon.org](http://www.sfvaudubon.org) Meetings and Bird Walks for families

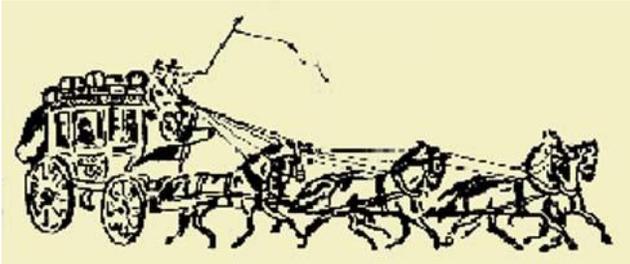
**Hiking and Event Updates:** [ssmpa.com](http://ssmpa.com)



Santa Susana Mountain Park Association (SSMPA)  
 P. O. Box 4831  
 Chatsworth, CA 91313-4831  
 ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Mail label here

**MEMBERSHIP**



**MEMBERSHIP** is due for all annual members in September although we gratefully accept your new membership, renewals, donations all year round! 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, or your e-mail address has changed, please be sure to let us know.

**SSMPA MEMBERSHIP IS A VOICE IN YOUR COMMUNITY!**

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

THANK YOU for your recent **Life Memberships:** Justin Waluch & family, Doug Noland & family, Craig Baker  
**New Members:** Elaine Trogman, Don Wallace & family, Michael McIntyre  
**Special Contribution:** Diane Fike

Pay by check (below) OR use your credit card at: [ssmpa.com](http://ssmpa.com)

**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](mailto:mail@ssmpa.com).  
 Your e-mail address is used exclusively for SSMPA newsletter and community announcements.

## 2014: A Review of SSMPA Board Activities and Accomplishments

**Santa Susana Field Lab (SSFL): Promoted preservation of cultural-historic sites (Native American and Rocket Test Stands) and campaigned for environmental protection through a risk-based cleanup to protect a sensitive wildlife corridor and future parkland.** SSMPA Board Members actively participated in numerous community meetings, Community Advisory Group (CAG), NASA Section 106, sponsored community hikes/tours of the SSFL, gave presentations at neighborhood councils, home owners associations (HOA's), environmental organizations, wrote letters to elected officials and newspaper editorials, seeking a responsible cleanup to prevent unnecessary destruction to this valuable historical and wildlife habitat site.

**Public Land Alliance Network (PLAN):** The first PLAN Conference, October 18, at the King Gillette Ranch Auditorium, sponsored by SSMPA and hosted by Mountains Recreation & Conservation Authority, jump started a collaborative effort to protect and provide wildlife corridors, animals and the habitat they depend on, preserve open space (from the desert to the sea) and parkland. Environmental organizations, HOA's, government agencies, local government planners, scientists, and others met to look at ways to design a balance of public and private land, stop unplanned urban sprawl in order to support sustainable lives for people, pets, and wildlife. The conference attendees unanimously voted to have this alliance meet quarterly.

**Chatsworth Park South:** SSMPA continued to closely track the (disappointingly slow) progress toward re-opening of CPS. It has now been closed for 7 years, awaiting cleanup of lead contamination. The City of LA has requested bids from contractors for the remediation work. The City has received some reasonable bids and is reviewing them. Awarding of a bid is expected soon, and the actual remediation work (soil capping) is expected to begin in early 2015, and is expected to take about 6 to 9 months. SSMPA will continue to "count the days."

**Land Use:** SSMPA submitted comments/documentation to LA County Planning Department for the General Plan 2035, Santa Susana Mountains/Simi Hills SEA 23, proposing protection of open space, watershed, wildlife corridors, and parkland. Letters were sent to elected officials and newspapers to protest developments such as Hidden Creeks Estates in Brown's Canyon-Santa Susana Mountains, Woolsey Canyon Estates-Simi Hills, Andora Estates, and to oppose to the LA County proposal for a rail corridor through Angeles National Forest.

**Liberty Canyon Crossing:** Board Members attended the Mountain Lion Fundraiser and support the Liberty Canyon Crossing for wildlife.

**Chatsworth Nature Preserve:** Changes in DWP management, a new general manager and CNP property manager, established a need to re-open communication channels between DWP and SSMPA, CNP Coalition, SFV Audubon Society, and the SW Herpetology Society.

**Event Participation:** SSMPA participated in Earth Day celebrations in the CNP, the Chatsworth Historical Society Garden Festival and Pioneer Day, Day of the Horse, SSPSHP Stagecoach Trail Hikes, SSFL tours, field studies with the SW Herpetologists and SFV Audubon Society (including the Christmas Bird Count), SSFL meetings, neighborhood council meetings, Rim of the Valley Corridor, Mountain Lion Fundraiser, Chatsworth Community Coordinating Council (CCCC), Chatsworth/Porter Ranch Chamber of Commerce meetings, meetings with elected officials, and our own SSMPA community meetings held eight times a year.

**Awards and Recognition:** CCCC recognized Teena Takata, SSMPA President, as Citizen of the Year. Carla Bollinger and Tom Nachtrab were recognized as Community Service Honorees (2013-2014).

SSMPA Board Members: **Teena Takata**, President; **John Luker**, Vice President; **Donna Nachtrab**, Secretary; **Carla Bollinger**, Program Chair/PR/Newsletter Editor. Members-at-Large: **Robert 'Bob' Dager**, **Wendi Gladstone**, **Tom Nachtrab**, **Warren Stone**, **Vanessa Watters**