

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: www.ssmpa.com

Fall – 3rd QUARTER, 2013 Newsletter

Volume 46.10

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 16, Chumash Storytelling and Wisdom



Presenter: Dennis Garcia, Traditional Dancer and Story Teller

Dennis Garcia was raised to believe in three values: limitation, moderation and compensation. He will share with us how wealth comes in many different forms. Garcia will bring a display of his dance regalia and other

Chumash ceremony artifacts. Join us for a Chumash spiritual evening of storytelling, and wisdom to begin the fall season.

Monday, October 21, San Fernando Valley Bird Observatory located in Simi Hills - SSFL



Presenter: Mark Osokow, SFV Audubon Society, Biologist with special interest in bird migration.

Mark Osokow led the campaign to establish a bird observatory at the SSFL for the purpose of systematically gathering information to fill data gaps about population distribution of birds throughout the San Fernando Valley and adjacent areas. Members of the SFV

Audubon Society and others help with general site survey counts and birdbanding at the Bird Observatory. Join us for Mark's fascinating photo presentation on bird banding in the Simi Hills

Monday, November 18, Saving the Santa Clara River and the San Francis Dam Break

Presenter #1: Lynne Plambeck/Saving the Santa Clara River

Photo: B. Perry



Lynne will report on the efforts by the coalition of conservation organizations and public interest groups, to stop the proposed Newhall Land Development (NLD), an area of 2,000 acres along the Santa Clara River, a proposed development of 60,000 homes. The NLD will destroy the flow of the Santa Clara River by converting tributary streams to concrete-lined channels, filling in the Santa Clara River's floodplain on a large scale, causing destruction of open space, a riparian eco-system, unearthing and desecrating American Indian burial sites, sacred places, and cultural natural resources. Lawsuits have been filed against Los Angeles County for not adhering to various environmental laws, Native American, state and federal laws.

Presenter#2: Arlene Bernholtz/ San Francis Dam Break:

Arlene will share stories of the largest California man-made disaster. March 1928 the dam broke with waters as high as 77-79 feet high that swept through the Santa Clarita Valley-Ventura County and out to the Pacific Ocean. The dam break destroyed livestock, wildlife, homes, with a human death count of approximately 600 people; actual count is still unknown. Man-made disasters will continue to occur when the power of nature is not respected.

Help Preserve the Simi Hills

The Santa Susana Field Lab (SSFL) is an integral part of the Simi Hills in the Rim of the Valley Wildlife Corridor. SSMPA leaders, John Luker, Bob Dager and Tom Nachtrab, have led a community campaign to support National Park Service (NPS) to arrange acquisition of property in the SSFL, preserving it forever as open space parkland.

Sign the Petition for NPS to arrange acquisition of property in the SSFL Click [HERE](#) or go to our website: <http://ssmpa.com/issues-and-positions.php> to learn more and see the community organizations and leaders who support this petition.

A Tale of Chatsworth Park South Closure

SSMPA is encouraged that, after five years, Los Angeles City has a comprehensive plan for cleaning up Chatsworth Park South (CPS). We urge the City of Los Angeles to find the funds it needs to perform the work. CPS, formerly a skeet shooting range in the 1960's, was closed in 2008 when lead pellets and other contaminants were discovered. At best, the park can reopen in the summer 2015 ... seven long years of closure. You can ask LA City representatives your own questions about CPS:

Council District 12: megan.cottier@lacity.org
City Recreation & Parks: paul.j.davis@lacity.org



Report on Art Seidenbaum's Interview, KCET Program, "CITY WATCHERS – Santa Susana: Oct. 6, 1972

Janet Lazik, Nancy Razanski and Carla Bollinger recently went to UCLA campus, Powell Library - Archive Research and Study Center to view Art Seidenbaum's 1972 interview with Jan Hinkston, founder of SSMPA and Foundation; Zelma (Skillman) Van, past SSMPA President; Don Wallace, land owner - 4.5 acres on Ventura County side; and Box Canyon homeowner and editor of the Box Canyon Bee. Jan and Zelma presented reasons for saving open space and need for creation of the Santa Susana Park. Don Wallace presented landowner's rights. The Box Canyon homeowner presented opposition for reasons including "government would take homes from too many people and 90 miles of land including Newhall Land Ranch, Getty Oil, and Bob Hope property." She was vehemently opposed to the Park because 1800 people living in Box Canyon didn't want the Park, She believed "foreigners," anyone who wasn't a Daughter of the American Revolution (DAR) would come and dump trash, as well as her concern over unscrupulous people in Sacramento. Jan discussed the original intent to save 80 square miles, preservation of natural land and cultural resources. Jan pointed out from the Palo Alto Study that taxpayers pay more to develop land because of the need for public schools, roads, sewers, lighting, etc. Jan, a DAR, rebutted the Box Canyon homeowner's statement about "foreigners". Jan and Zelda were hopeful that the State would have enough money in 1974 for a bond issue to create the park. Carl Chase, field deputy for CA State Assembly Member, Robert Klein, reported the state doesn't have the money until the 1974 State Park Bond passed. This didn't happen. It took 28 years, between 1970 and 1998, for Jan Hinkston, Zelma Van and others, including Nancy Razanski and Glenn Bailey, to see the creation of the Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park, 670 acres in the foothills of the Santa Susana Mountains-Simi Hills.



Braunton's Milk-Vetch
Astragalus brauntonii

Endangered Native

Endangered species in 1997, Federal: Grows in chaparral, valley grassland, coastal sage scrub, and closed-cone pine forest; endemic to Southern California, Ventura, SFV-Los Angeles, Orange Counties; mountains: Santa Monica, San Gabriel and Santa Ana and Simi Hills. Does not tolerate human-caused disturbances. It depends on extended dormancy and is fire adapted, requiring wildfire or other natural disturbances to thrive. A short-lived perennial with growth up to five feet. Braunton's Milk-Vetch has rebounded at the SSFL since the 2005 wildfire. Threat: Human interference, loss of habitat (open space in carbonate, lime-containing soils.)
art/article: Carla Bollinger

Of Mice and Mountain Lions

Use of Anti-Coagulant Rodenticide (AR): The use of AR's to control gophers, ground squirrels and other rodents in open space, nature preserves, and wildlife corridors is causing significant harm and death to non-target larger animals, mountain lions, bobcats, coyotes, and predators, hawks, owls and other wildlife. Biologists, wildlife researchers, scientists from National Park Service, California Wildlife Center, U.S.G.S. Ecological Research Center, CA Department of Fish and Wildlife and other agencies, have participated in years of field studies or treatment of animals diseased from AR's. Their research indicates AR's are the cause of illnesses and deaths of larger animals from digesting poisoned rodents, gophers, or squirrels.

1st Generation Anticoagulant Rodenticide (FGAR): This AR is intended for multiple feedings and less persistent in the tissue and intended for commercial and outdoor use. FGAR ingredients can be coumachlor, diphacinone, chlorophacinone and warfarin. FGAR can be purchased by homeowners.

NOTE: Studies have shown that diphacinone and chlorophacinone are significantly more toxic and may kill some rodents in a single feeding: www.dfg.ca.gov/education/rodenticide Both of these AR's are more toxic than other FGAR's and can kill rodents in a single feeding; in our local regions field studies and treatment centers have shown wildlife very ill or found dead have diphacinone in their system.

2nd Generation Anticoagulant Rodenticide (SGAR): Intended for single feeding, highly toxic, with ingredients, Brodifacoum (d-Con ingredient), Bromadiolone, Difethialone and Difenacoum. Because of studies by NPS and other scientists, EPA has placed a ban on SGAR's because of the high toxicity that is more persistent in tissue for a long time, i.e., Bromadiolone (245 days.)

Ground squirrels and rodents are known to cause destruction of dams from burrowing activity, agriculture loses crops; even oak tree saplings can be victim to ground squirrels bark chewing. There is the human concern of disease carrying rodents and occasionally cases of "the plague" carried by fleas on rodents are reported. However, there are rare cases of humans with the plague and even rarer cases of a death because of the easy availability of antibiotics. There is a need to control rodent population in specific situations but this must be done without the AR toxicity that is causing larger animals to become diseased often leading to their death. Predators, mountain lions, bobcats, coyotes, hawks, and owls naturally control rodent populations so it makes more sense to protect the predators from toxic poisoning caused by SGAR.

The California Wildlife Center (CWC) reports receiving non-target animals with secondary poisoning that builds up in the animals' liver until internal and external bleeding occurs killing the animals. CWC treats a fair number of animals for mange caused by immune system breakdown; the suspect of this condition is SGAR toxicity. NPS reports "Mange has overtaken vehicle collisions as the No. 1 cause of death for bobcats in Southern California." The use of SGAR's is considered as toxic and deadly as DDT usage in the 1960's, the cause of near extinction of Bald Eagles and other wildlife. The EPA is moving forward to banning AR's because of studies showing the toxicity and deaths for non-target animals. EPA initiated regulatory action to cancel and remove from the consumer market twelve D-con brand mouse and rat poison bait products. Use of AR by homeowners must be banned in wildlife corridors with safer controls by governmental agencies managing open space, nature preserves, and parkland.

–Carla Bollinger

EVENTS

PIONEER DAYS: 23rd annual Pioneer Days – Sunday, Oct. 6, 11 a.m. – 4 p.m. Homestead Acre, Chatsworth Park South, 10385 Shadow Oak Dr. (west end of Devonshire.) Info: 818-882-5614 . www.historicalsocieties.net

Family Fun: Chili Cook-off and bake sale; wood carvers, spinning & weaving, Veteran quilt display, children's activities, community displays, tours of museum and homestead. Park at the Chatsworth Train Depot and use free shuttle service, every 15 minutes from 11 a.m. – 4 p.m.

HIKES

Welcome Walks: Foundation for the Preservation of Santa Susana Mountains: As the weather cools down the State Park volunteers will be leading interpretive hikes in the Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park (SSPSHP). Although nothing is yet scheduled, watch <http://www.fpssm.org/hikes-and-events.php> for updates. If you use Facebook, go to "Friends of the Santa Susana Mountains" page for current updates and lots of pictures people post about their trips in the park (it's fun to see the comments on this page.) Also, upcoming events are posted at the kiosks at Larwin and Andora entrances as hikes are set. We hope to see you out on the trails enjoying our open space!

SSPSHP Volunteer Hikes: Contact: Jennifer Dandurand, park interpretive specialist, volunteer coordinator, Los Encinos SHP; 818.784.4849; e-mail: jdandurand@parks.ca.gov Schedule: W: 1:30-5:30; th, sa: 9-5:30; su: 1-5:30

Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area (**SMMRA**) King Gillette Ranch Visitor Center: www.NPS.gov/samo/

Rancho Simi Trail Blazers: www.simitrailblazers.com : activities/index.html

SFV Audubon: www.sfvaudubon.org Meetings and Bird Walks for Families

Sierra Club: www.angeles.sierraclub.org/sfv/ Meetings, Hikes, Local Environmental Issues

2013/2014 SSMPA Board Members

Teena Takata, President

Vanessa Watters, Recording Secretary

Warren Stone, Member-at-Large

Tom Nachtrab, Member-at-Large

John Luker, Vice President

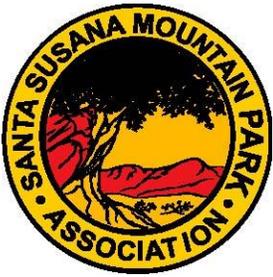
Carla Bollinger, Program Chair/newsletter Editor/PR

Robert "Bob" Dager, Member-at-Large

Albert Knight, Archaeologist, Non voting Emeritus

Diana Dixon-Davis, Treasurer

Donna Nachtrab, Member-at-Large

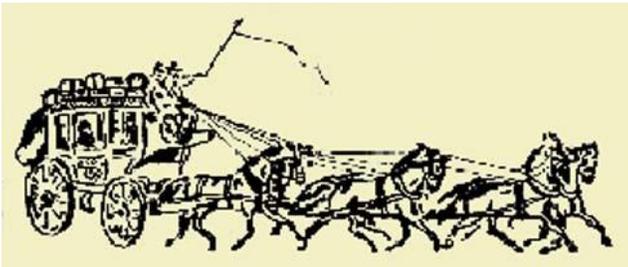


Santa Susana Mountain Park Association (SSMPA) and
 Foundation for the Preservation of the Santa Susana Mountains (FPPSSM)
 P. O. Box 4831
 Chatsworth, CA 91313-4831
 ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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

Mail label here

SEPTEMBER MEMBERSHIP DRIVE



MEMBERSHIP is due for all annual members in September. Please fill in the membership renewal form below and submit your renewal. If you do not 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.

Your membership (new and renewal) and donations help SSMPA efforts and continued success in providing free community meetings; advocacy for open space/nature preserves; keeping or reopening local parks; acquiring easement land parcels to protect native plants and habitat, wildlife corridors and park space; environmental educational opportunities; preservation of Chatsworth and surrounding area's local history, cultural, and archaeological sites.

SSMPA MEMBERSHIP IS A VOICE IN YOUR COMMUNITY!

Thank you for your recent special memberships and donations: Melba Simms, Robert & Kathleen Goldberg

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

PLEASE SEND IN YOUR MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL TODAY OR NEW MEMBERSHIP

() \$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 you have and if you are interested in

volunteering for special assignments or activities _____

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.