



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

2nd QUARTER, 2015 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, April 20 7:00pm

Santa Susana Field Lab: A National Monument? [\(map\)](#)

Presenter: Christina Walsh

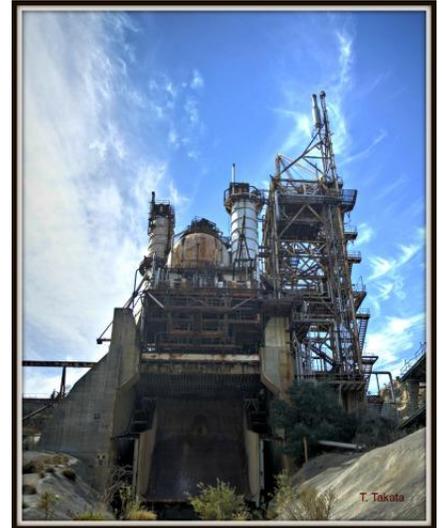
The former Santa Susana Field Laboratory (SSFL) is a significant cultural Native American site, a birthplace of modern rocketry and space exploration, and a sensitive, crucial link in the Simi Hills segment of the Rim of the Valley wildlife corridor. The site needs protection from urban sprawl.

Ms. Walsh will present a case for designating the SSFL a National Monument. President Obama can designate a National Monument without congressional approval, based on the Antiquities Act of 1906. Petitions, paper and online, supporting National Monument status are circulating.

The federally recognized Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians Tribal Council is also working to have the site designated a California Sacred Site.

Come learn how the SSFL cultural-historic site and wildlife habitat can be saved for future generations.

www.facebook.com/ssflnationalmonument <http://chn.ge/1EIB4I7>



Monday, May 18: VALLEY RELICS Museum Night

Meeting to be held at different location:

21630 Marilla Street, Chatsworth 7:00 – 8:30 pm

[\(map\)](#)

valleyrelics.org

Museum owner, **Tommy Gelinas**, collects artifacts in the San Fernando Valley, saving many from being tossed into the landfill. A recent save is the HENRY'S TACO sign.



Photo: Henry Bollinger

The museum showcases Nudie's famous Elvis Presley jacket, Roy Rogers' memorabilia, signs from SFV restaurants that long ago closed their doors, ashtrays, matches, and menus. Many, many other items are on display.

Free but donations are appreciated.

SSMPA does not hold Community Meetings June – August.
Have a wonderful summer.

Events, local news/issues are updated on our website ssmpa.com
and via email updates.

Notes on Santa Susana Field Lab:

- **The following organizations have all recently called on the President of the U.S. to establish the SSFL site as a protected National Monument:** LANVEN Archeological Society, Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians Tribal Council, SFV Audubon Society, SSFL Community Advisory Group (CAG), SSMPA, West Hills Neighborhood Council.
- **Two years ago these organizations all called on the National Park Service to take over the NASA property at SSFL:** Canoga Park Neighborhood Council, Chatsworth Community Coord. Council, Chatsworth NC, Granada Hills North NC, Granada Hills South NC, Equestrian Trails Inc. - Corral 54, Lake Balboa NC, Porter Ranch NC, Reseda NC, SSMPA, Valley Alliance of NCs (VANC), Ventura County Archaeological Society, West Hills NC, Winnetka NC.

A Battle Lost – Dayton Canyon



Daylight - Dayton Canyon 2013
Carla Bollinger

SSMPA and other community activists recently lost a long battle to save Dayton Canyon, located at Roscoe Boulevard and Valley Circle Boulevard, from residential development.

History: Clyde Dayton, a health food pioneer, known as the “Red-Ripe Honey-Man” had a 138-acre ranch located at Roscoe and Valley Circle Boulevard, Owensmouth City, now Canoga Park, to the Ventura County line. April 12, 1922, Dayton and his wife Lulu met a violent death, shot and burned in their isolated cabin. Their deaths still remain a cold case. The canyon and creek were named after the Daytons.

Dayton Canyon had riparian coast live oak woodlands, open space, and mixed chaparral. Dayton Creek, with Bell Creek, is a headwater of the LA River. On February 25, 2000, the LA City Planning Commission approved construction of 147 luxury homes by the developer/builder, SunCal Companies. This approval came after Environmental Impact Reports, after 32 Native American burial sites were discovered and after protests by community and environmental organizations. The developer/builder has changed hands from SunCal to Centex and is now Pulte Homes of Yorba Linda. Grading began in February 2015 for 151 luxury-mansion homes (3500 square feet each) on 64 acres.

From a SSMPA Oct. 1998 newsletter: *DAYTON CANYON – EDGE OF A WILDLIFE CORRIDOR: Hidden near the southeast corner of the Chatsworth Nature Preserve, Dayton Canyon’s lush riparian habitat provides a potential year-round water source for animals in the Santa Susana/Simi Hills wildlife corridor. A notice of impending development in the area focused our attention on this canyon and members of SSMPA began exploring the area.*

A resident of the canyon invited us on a tour along an old dirt road barely visible now but used by wild animals as evidenced by their scat droppings. We hiked up into the back end of Dayton Canyon, a mix of undeveloped county and private land that presently protect the wildlife. The development company has set aside some land for open space and we are waiting for the draft environmental impact report (EIR) to be produced in order to determine if more open space needs to be preserved.

Published in a SSMPA 2001 Newsletter: (Reprinted in part from Daily News, August 27, 2001)

CHATSWORTH – Archaeologists have unearthed prehistoric bone fragments in 32 American Indian burial sites in Dayton Canyon, LA County coroner’s officials said. Development at the near Valley Circle and Roscoe Boulevards has been halted while an archaeological excavation takes place. Archaeologists, working for SunCal, a company planning to build a 150-home subdivision at the 100-acre site, discovered the bones in individual graves during the last month. It could not be immediately estimated how old the bones are but the bones will be tested to determine their age. From a representative sample of what’s in the ground they will project who left the remains behind and how they lived. A report on the excavation could take a year to complete.

Officials of the commission, which negotiates with the archaeologists for a timely reburial of the remains, called the find significant because of the number of remains found. “Typically we hear about one burial discovered at a time,” said Rob Wood, an associate governmental program analyst for the commission. Wendy Teeter, a curator of archaeology at the Univ. of CA, LA, Fowler Museum, said it’s an important find because of the rarity of undeveloped land in the region. “These sites are becoming endangered species because development keeps plowing over them,” she said. “All of these sites are significant, insofar as there are so few left.”

SSMPA Newsletter, August 2003: *Dayton Canyon Suncal Companies Project* On or about July 7, 2003, the Suncal public relations rep said it looks like they “might start grading either in the middle or latter part of this summer. Grading will take 4 to 5 months, so we are talking next year before there will be any houses in the marketplace.” Interestingly, the message given last year at this time was exactly the same.

The city approved 175 single family homes to be built on 68 acres at the NW corner of Roscoe Blvd and Valley Circle Blvd. in West Hills. It will be a non-gated community. 214 acres will remain in permanent open space. P. 3-17 of the Final Environmental Report: "The developer will ensure public access for passive recreation such as hiking and horseback riding." However, there remains a question as to whether space will be made for public parking.



West Hills Neighborhood Council board member Elliot Maggin conceived the idea of a **candlelight vigil** in remembrance of the disappearing oak woodlands and creek, open space, and trails for hikers and equestrians. West Hills community residents and people from SSMPA and other environmental groups gathered on February 7, 2015 in a silent memorial candlelight vigil. Years from now, many will wonder why the death of this natural wild place happened, and it will be another cold case for Dayton Canyon.



Update? Chatsworth Park South Re-Opening

There is little new to report. Several bids for the remediation work have been received by LA Department of Recreation and Parks. The bids are apparently being reviewed now. The City will provide us no schedule for future milestones. Councilmember Englander, however, stated in late February 2015 that the City expects to "re-open the park by 2015."

Angeles Forest Fast Rail: SSMPA has sent a letter of opposition to the Director of Environmental Services, California High-Speed Rail Authority. [See here](#) A proposed "alternative" route from Palmdale to Burbank through a tunnel under the Angeles Forest contravenes a long-standing fundamental principle of U.S. Conservation policy; vis., the inviolability of federal National Monument lands and National Forest designated wilderness lands. Dana Stangel, Southwestern Herpetologists Society, spoke at a recent PLAN meeting about how the High-Speed Rail will destroy foothill communities in the Lake View Terrace-La Tuna Canyon-Sunland/Tujunga and Sun Valley. You can learn more about the deleterious effects of the High-Speed Rail on this website: www.dontrailroad.us

Upcoming Events

Sunday, April 12, Chatsworth Nature Preserve – Earth Day Open House 10:00 am – 3 pm Organized by the Southwestern Herpetologists in cooperation with DWP, the only day the CNP is open to the public. Opening ceremony led by Chumash Elder, Mati Waiya. Ceremonial Blessing ceremony, interpretive hikes around the Ecology Pond led by conservation leaders, exhibits. Free. No dogs or other domestic animals allowed. www.savechatsworthpreserve.org

Sunday, April 26, Chatsworth Historical Society – Garden Festival

The Homestead Acre, 10385 Shadow Oak Dr. – Parking with shuttle bus from Chatsworth Train Depot. Tours of 1911 Homestead Cottage and Museum • Duchess Tea www.historicalsocieties.net • chatsworthhistory@gmail.com • Phone: 818-882-5614

July 17-19, Redbirds Children of Many Colors Powwow 7075 Campus Road, Moorpark, Cultural Celebrations, \$2.00 suggested donation per car. www.redbirdsvision.org

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/sfvg/ Meetings, hikes

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

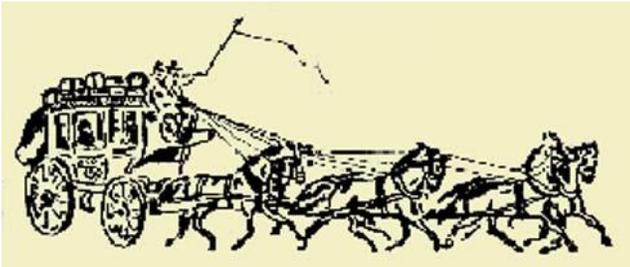
Hiking and Event Updates: ssmpa.com



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

Mail label here

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE



MEMBERSHIP is due annually. 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.

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, or send an email to mail@ssmpa.com if you pay online.

THANK YOU for your recent Life Membership: Michelle Covello

THANK YOU for your recent New Memberships: Michael McIntyre, Vivian Ehresman, Christina Catania

THANK YOU for your recent Special Contributions: Vicki Ahlers, Edwin Embree

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.

SSMPA Board of Directors Election – 2015 – 2016

Candidates Statements and Election Ballot

Teena Takata: Candidate for President and Treasurer: I've been involved in working on preservation of open space in our local areas for about 15 years. Serving for about 10 years as Secretary of the Land Use Committee or Chatsworth Neighborhood Council, who reviews large projects provides me information on what is happening to better serve SSMPA. I enjoy being outdoors walking through our local hills and enjoying wildflowers and other encounters with wildlife and want to share this experience with others – ultimately that is the best way to ensure preservation of the open spaces we enjoy. SSMPA is a great organization with a long history and is an excellent group to help advocate for preservation of open space. I look forward to seeing what other projects we can work on over the next few years.

John Luker: Candidate for Vice President: I'm hoping you reaffirm me as Vice President of the SSMPA. Since 2009, I have been representing and furthering the mission and goals of the SSMPA through my work in our community as an organizer and advocate as well as in meetings with legislators at every level of government, and lobbying in Sacramento. The SSMPA is the best vehicle for change I have ever seen in our community. This Board of Directors, in my opinion has the best of our community working together to further the protection of our precious hills and the creation of new open space and parkland. Please join me in reaffirming everyone to another year of community advocacy. Thank you.

Vanessa Watters: Candidate for Corresponding Secretary: I serve as President of Save Chatsworth, Inc. and have spearheaded funding from the City of Los Angeles for three consecutive years for Save Chatsworth's restoration project in Chatsworth Trails Park. I also am Treasurer of the Twin Lakes Property Owners Association, and a life member of SSMPA. I am very dedicated to community service and would appreciate the opportunity to continue fulfilling the goals of SSMPA if reelected to the board.

Carla Bollinger: Candidate for Program Chairperson, Newsletter Writer/Editor, and PR.. I am a life member of SSMPA and served on the board for thirteen years. My passion to paint trees, landscapes, and enjoy the natural wonders led me to the need to protect our vanishing landscape. I want to continue donating my time and energy, working with other dedicated people, to protect the Chatsworth Nature Preserve (CNP Coalition Delegate), the Rim of the Valley (ROV) wildlife corridor for critters and humans. I participate as a consultant in the NASA SSFL Section 106 to preserve our historical-cultural assets from the rock art to the rocket engine Test Stands that landed humans on the moon. I organized the Public Land Alliance Network (PLAN) with our first conference held in Oct., 2014.

Donna Nachtrab: Candidate for Recording Secretary: I am devoted to maintaining open space in our area, and am actively involved in the Volunteer Program for the Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park and the Chatsworth Historical Society. I joined SSMPA in 2013 and lead the SSMPA board members in the annual revision of the SSMPA Mission Statement, Strategic Plan, and Vision Statement. I also handle new memberships and maintenance of SSMPA contacts..

Tom Nachtrab: Candidate for Member at large: I believe that accessible open spaces are increasingly necessary to balance our lives alongside the urban mazes and suburban sprawls within which we live. Open spaces do not preserve themselves, so I am pleased to assist, any way I can, an effective advocacy organization, like SSMPA, in the struggle to preserve open space.

Warren Stone: Candidate for Member at large: I have been on the SSMPA Board as Member-at-Large for seven years and a Life Member for approximately 20 years. I support the protection of open spaces and wild life habitat. I support the Santa Susana Pass State Historical Park. I also serve on the board of Save Chatsworth Inc. and the Vice President of Twin Lakes POA. In 2011 I won a "Community Service Award" from Chatsworth Community Coordination Council.

Robert "Bob" Dager: Candidate for Member at Large: I am committed to keeping Chatsworth's unique character as a community. The SSMPA constantly monitors the attempts by outsiders to encroach upon and diminish that character. I have been a Board Member for four years and am proud of the work that our organization is accomplishing.

Wendi Gladstone: Candidate for Member at Large: Humans share this planet with millions of other flora & fauna. We must be stewards of the earth. Only through education, awareness and activism can we protect our precious environment. I have been involved in environmental education the greater part of my adult life. I feel I may be able to contribute to the mission of SSMPA through my educational background and be one of many who "speak for the trees". Because, "Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better." (Dr. Seuss)

Albert Knight: Nonvoting Member Emeritus I have been a life-time member of the SSMPA for some 25 years and I served as Vice President for 4 years during the late 1990's. I worked with California State Parks, Janice Hinkston, Glenn Bailey, Barbara Koffman, Dorian Keyser, Nancy Razanski and many others to help create what is now Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park. As a professional archaeologist I am aware of the archaeological resources of our region, including those at Burro Flats, and by serving on the Board I help keep members informed about archaeological resources and any issues that might affect them.

SSMPA BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTION INFORMATION

SSMPA members, currently paid as of May, 2015, can vote for the candidates on the ballot, or you can write in the names of the candidates of your choice. Members can either mail their ballots, e-mail their ballots, or bring them to the Community Meeting, Monday, May 18, 2015.

Instructions: Individual: Fill in the BALLOT form at the bottom, cut and mail in. Two Members in same Family, fill in both BALLOT forms and mail to SSMPA, P.O. Box 4831, Chatsworth, CA 91313-4831 so it is received at the Post Office by May 18. E-mailing: Fill in the BALLOT, scan, and e-mail to mail@ssmpa.com. Or, bring the ballot to the May 18, Community Meeting.

BALLOT – SSMPA BOARD OF DIRECTORS CANDIDATES 2015-2016

The Elections Committee of the Santa Susana Mountain Park Association has considered and approved the following candidates for the 2015-2016 SSMPA Board of Directors. Please vote for ONE candidate in each of the following offices by circling the printed name or by writing in the name of a candidate of your choice.

PRESIDENT: **Teena Takata**, or _____

VICE PRESIDENT: **John Luker**, or _____

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY: **Vanessa Watters**, or _____

PROGRAM CHAIRPERSON, NEWSLETTER EDITOR: **Carla Bollinger** or _____

RECORDING SECRETARY: **Donna Nachtrab**, or _____

MEMBER-AT-LARGE: **Tom Nachtrab**, or _____

MEMBER-AT-LARGE: **Robert “Bob” Dager**, or _____

MEMBER-AT-LARGE: **Warren Stone** _____

MEMBER-AT-LARGE: **Wendi Gladstone** _____

MEMBER-AT-LARGE: **Write in Candidate:** _____

PRESIDENT/TREASURER: **Teena Takata**, or _____

VICE PRESIDENT: **John Luker**, or _____

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY: **Vanessa Watters**, or _____

PROGRAM CHAIRPERSON, NEWSLETTER EDITOR: **Carla Bollinger** or _____

RECORDING SECRETARY: **Donna Nachtrab** _____

MEMBER-AT-LARGE: **Tom Nachtrab**, or _____

MEMBER-AT-LARGE: **Robert “Bob” Dager**, or _____

MEMBER-AT-LARGE: **Warren Stone**, or _____

MEMBER-AT-LARGE: **Wendi Gladstone**, or _____

MEMBER-AT-LARGE: **Write in Candidate:** _____