

*Janice Hinkston
Pres.*

NOVEMBER 1975

FALL NEWSLETTER

Santa Susana Mountain Park Association P.O. Box 831, Chatsworth, California 91311

Dear Friends,

SSMPA has been working five(!) years toward the preservation and the conservation of the priceless resources of the Santa Susana Mountains and Simi Hills. Our numerous activities during the summer and fall months have been significant steps in reaching this goal (see details in this newsletter). But only through your active support can SSMPA successfully work to improve the quality of the environment for ourselves and our children.

For this reason, we hope that after reading the newsletter you will take action to help us help you. Annual and renewal memberships, attending our meetings, going on hikes, writing letters of support, buying a decal, volunteering some time or making a donation all help support the efforts of your Association. Can we count on you??

* * NOVEMBER 17 MEETING FEATURES NICHOLS PROPERTY SLIDE PRESENTATION * * * * *

The newest slides of the scenic and historic Nichols property will be shown as part of the program of the next SSMPA general meeting. Please bring your family and friends and join us at this meeting:

- DATE: MONDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 1975
- PLACE: MEETING ROOM, GLENDALE FEDERAL SAVINGS & LOAN
21821 Devonshire St, Chatsworth (near Topanga Cyn.)
- TIME: 8:00 p.m. Promptly

Our regular meetings are held the third Monday of every month at the above place and time. Please mark your calendars and join us soon!!

SSMPA MOVES TO ACQUIRE KEY 283 ACRE NICHOLS PARCEL: SUCCESS NEAR!

Earlier this month, the Board of Directors of the West Los Angeles County Resource Conservation District voted to allocate a total of \$35,000 toward the purchase of the 283 acre McDonald-Nichols property following a request from Jan Hinkston, President and Glenn Bailey, San Fernando Valley Area Chairman. In September and again in November, the Board voted 3-0 to approve the funds to supplement SSMPA's \$15,678 and to make the determination that the property is a "significant conservation resource..." SSMPA has since begun to negotiate with the owners, who are pressured by a private developer to sell.

The parcel is located south of the old Santa Susana Pass Road and adjoins the Stagecoach Trail property. It is a natural continuation of Chatsworth Park North and South. Without this key parcel the Santa Susana Mountain Park concept may never become a reality. It is the intention of SSMPA to exercise an option on the property until the County of Los Angeles can purchase it (approximately one to two years). We are also hoping that the Trust for Public Land, a group that withdrew from an option on the property last July, will assist us.

NICHOLS PROPERTY CONTINUED: HOW YOU CAN HELP

If you are not familiar with this property, we invite you to attend the November meeting slide presentation or to go on the fourth Saturday family nature hikes (see fact sheet on page 3). Once you've seen the property, we know you will want to help us in our efforts to save it. Tax deductible donations may be made to the "Foundation" (see fact sheet) and clubs and civic groups are urged to consider conducting fundraising projects to help us (a good Bicentennial activity!). If have any ideas or need help in starting such a project, please call Zelma Skillman at 341-5056.

* WRITING LETTERS OF SUPPORT ARE IMPORTANT. Please call and write your support to Supervisor Baxter Ward, Hall of Administration, Los Angeles, CA 90012 and urge him to take action to acquire this land. DO IT TODAY!! *

THE ATTACHED FACT SHEET contains information on our current HIKING programs, membership information, and book and decal order form. Please read it over and return the tear-off portion. THANKS!

THE CHATSWORTH PUMPKIN FESTIVAL featured two SSMPA booths which raised over \$600. Our thanks to the many volunteers, including five Girl Scout Troops and 13 Chatsworth High School students, who helped man the booths for the five weekends.

BEAUTIFUL DECALS DEPICTING OUR MOUNTAINS HAVE BEEN PRINTED and are being distributed. The self sticking decals are perfect for your car window. The \$1.00 donation per sticker helps us in our fundraising efforts. The stickers are available at our meetings, hikes, and by mail.

A NEW SERIES OF HIKES for single adults are scheduled for the fourth Sunday of every month (next one Nov. 23). Meet 9 a.m. at the northwest corner parking lot at Topanga Canyon Blvd. and Devonshire St. Bring water and a snack. For more information, call Jan Hinkston 347-3736.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED to serve as hike guide or docent on our regular hikes. Also, a writer is needed to help with our proposed Bicentennial Pageant depicting the historical importance of the area. Call Jan 347-3736.

SACRAMENTO LEGISLATIVE REPORT is encouraging. AB 1722 (Z'Berg), a bill which would put a \$350,000,000 State and Urban Park Bond Act on the November 1976 ballot to provide funds to acquire state and local park, beach, recreational, and historical resources preservation purposes, is pending before the Assembly Ways and Means Committee. Another bill, SB 174 (Roberti) has passed the Senate and is also awaiting action in the Assembly Ways and Means Committee. It would provide \$25,000,000 for urban parkland funding. These bills will be considered in about a month, so it is urgent that letters of support be written as soon as possible to the Committee, c/o John Foran, Chairman, State Capitol, Sacramento, CA 95814.

* LETTERS TO OUR NEW STATE DIRECTOR OF PARKS AND RECREATION, Mr. Herbert Rhodes are needed to express support for a Santa Susana State Park. His address is P.O. Box 2390, Sacramento, CA 95811. *

THANKS TO NANCY RAZANSKI for her help in writing this newsletter.

