

1/7/96
Newsletter

Santa Susana Mountain Park Association

AN EXPLOSIVELY ENTERTAINING SLIDE TALK JANUARY 15 PROGRAM

Our own Vice President and professional archeologist Albert Knight will present a rare treat for any group. We'll see slides of the Tehachapi Project which includes a large Native American village built in an area of unique volcanic formations. The light brown rock indicates that its origin is from very deep within the earth, close to its center. We are fortunate to be able to see these slides before the area is designated as a State Park, which will occur on January 17, 1996 in Tehachapi, about 50 miles north of Lancaster. We will meet for this presentation at the usual time and place: 7 p.m., January 15, Glendale Federal Bank Community Room, 21821 Devonshire Street, two blocks east of Topanga Canyon Boulevard in Chatsworth.

Nancy Razanski

SSMPA's 25th ANNIVERSARY

On November 19, 1995, SSMPA celebrated its 25th anniversary in the Chatsworth Park South gymnasium. Over 100 people attended, including exhibitors from such organizations as the Chatsworth Conservation Coalition, Chatsworth Historical Society, Friends of the Library, Corral 54, the Sierra Club and Redbird. Most people who attended marveled at how nicely organized the program was. It began with Charlie Cooke of the Chumash Nation giving a smudging ceremony, a purification using the smoke of white sage, for SSMPA leaders and others. We were fortunate to have long-time SSMPA friend and musician Brad Banyon sing for us his famous "Santa Susana" song and recite original poetry. We were also entertained by David Arlen, a professional musician and neighbor of Nancy Razanski. David sang western songs including "Happy Trails To You" while he played his guitar to the accompaniment of synthesized drums, bass, fidel and piano. David has worked on the Merv Griffin Show as well as with Roy Rogers and Dale Evans. Both musicians donated their time and talent to make the event a success.

Hughes Market donated two large cakes and Ralphs donated a \$75.00 food certificate. Many thanks to Lindsay Wilhelm for arranging these donations.

SSMPA received Certificates of Recognition from the office of Cathy Wright, and from Councilman Hal Bernson. Valerie McCabe from Mayor Riordan's office was also present. A field deputy from Councilman Krue's office was also a winner in our free drawing.

Other dignitaries present were Joe Edmiston from the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, Suzanne Goode, Neil Braunstein and Dan Preece of the California State Department of Parks and Recreation and Nancy Pearlman from the Ecology Center.

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Action Alert! We are in dire need of a treasurer by March, 1996. Please call Nancy at (818) 341-3512 if you can assist. Don't be shy; we need you!

We invite you to join us in our efforts by becoming a MEMBER --

Senior or Student (\$5.00) Individual (\$10.00) Family \$15.00)
Business or Organization (\$25.00) Life Member (\$100.00)

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____ CITY/ZIP _____

Special interests/Expertise _____

Checks payable to: SSMPA Please mail to the address below:

Prize winners in our drawing received a copy of Milt McAuley's book Wildflowers of the Santa Monica Mountains, Chumash tee shirts and note cards, an SSMMPA patch and Swanky The Swan, a children's picture book written by Nancy Razanski.

Former SSMMPA President Pearl Turbush and her husband Chuck came all the way from Arizona to attend. Loretta ~~Ditlow~~ ve in from Los Angeles and Janice Hinkston flew in from Oregon for the occasion. It was a glorious day.

Souvenir programs, produced by Linda and Warren Stone, may be obtained free by contacting Nancy Razanski at (818) 341-3512.

HIKE LEADER NEWS

The loss of several long-time hike leaders has made it difficult to offer hikes every Sunday during the winter months. Our current list of leaders for March through June includes newcomer Lindsay Wilhelm and returnees Barbara Coffman and Lee Baum. We are especially excited about our guest hike leaders; Milt McAuley will lead the wildflower walk on May 5, and SSMMPA Vice President Al Knight will lead the archeology walk on June 2, 1996.

We bid farewell to Kent Kellegrew, who will be leaving for Central California after his last hike on March 3. Kent has lead SSMMPA hikes for over ten years. A favorite leader among the hiking crowd with his ready wit and good cheer, SSMMPA has long appreciated his reliability and total dedication. He will be greatly missed - there will never be another Kent! We wish him the very best as he travels down the road on his way to new experiences.

TRAIL NEWS

On Saturday, December 9, John Downy of the Rancho Simi Trailblazers and I spent the morning clearing brush along the Wagon Freight Road. These few hours of labor will make a huge difference in the usability of that trail.

Remember, there is no government money for trail work. The only way we can keep from losing our trails to overgrowth is through our own efforts. If you are willing to lend a hand, call me! Barbara Coffman (818) 347-5603

NEW ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER AT CHATSWORTH BRANCH LIBRARY

Our Chatsworth Branch Library is only one of ten citywide to receive a grant from the Mitsubishi Corporation for an Earthkeep Center. The grant will furnish funds for

environmental books and programs such as the one scheduled for January 20 at 10:30 a.m. entitled "Wildlife On Wheels", especially interesting to elementary school children.

An environmental club is forming at the library geared for ages four to fifteen. Call Mrs. Capicatto at the library for more information. When Mrs. Capicatto applied for the grant, she mentioned the beautiful scenic open space existing in our area. This may have been a factor in our library being so honored.

Nancy Razanski

Contest Results

The Canada Geese arrived on 1/17/95
at 8:00 a.m. in Chatsworth Reservoir.

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