

# Santa Susana Mountain Park Association

Volume 30, Issue 6

## October 2000 Newsletter

A Non-Profit 501 (c) (4) Organization  
Incorporated August 31, 1971

### AUTUMNAL, ENVIRONMENTAL, LOCAL EVENTS

### CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY PLANT SALE



A Coast Live Oak

*Saturday and Sunday,  
October 14-15, 2000, from 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.  
at Sepulveda Garden Center, 16633 Magnolia, Encino.*

Volunteers can help the CA Native Plant Society's Santa Monica Mountains/Los Angeles Chapter sell books, plants from Matilija Nursery, seeds from S&S Seeds, and food cooked by Henrietta and William Yuan. If you're a neophyte, you can learn along with the customers about native plants; if you're more advanced, you can help educate about the value of native plants.

The CA Native Plant Society is asking for people to volunteer a few hours over the weekend — doing jobs ranging from greeting people to working the cashier's table, from helping with the food to advising on books and posters. Or you can help with set-up on Friday or clean-up on Sunday afternoon.

To volunteer, call 818-881-3706 and leave a message with your phone number. A plant sale committee member will return your call. If you can't volunteer, come and enjoy the plants and other goodies under the shade trees at the Sepulveda Garden Center. ☼

### PIONEER DAY

*Sunday, October 15, 2000, 11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m., at Homestead Acre in Chatsworth Park South (where park rd turns south): Chatsworth Historical Society presents Pioneer Day — An old-fashioned chili cook-off, old-time fun for all: exhibits, music and refreshments! Donation: Adults, \$2, Children, \$1 -- Free under 5 years old. For more information, call: 818-882-5614. ☼*

### October '00 SSMPA General Membership Meeting

Monday, 10/16/2000 • Ray Savajot of the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreational Area will present a slide show on the wildlife corridors of the Santa Susana Mountains and Simi Hills.

General Membership Program Meetings take place every third Monday of the months September thru November and January thru May. Program meetings start at 7:30 p.m. and generally conclude by 9:00 p.m. The venue is the meeting room at the Rockpointe Recreation Center, 22300 Devonshire, Chatsworth on the south side of the street, one block before entering Chatsworth Park South.

All SSMPA members are encouraged to attend not only General Membership Program Meetings but also Board of Directors Meetings, which take place at the Chatsworth Park South Visitor's Center on the first Monday of the month. Refreshments are served at program meetings. ☼

### 9TH ANNUAL CALABASAS PUMPKIN FESTIVAL

*Saturday and Sunday, October 21-22, 2000, 8:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., at Paramount Ranch.*

The Pumpkin Festival allows you as a member of the SSMPA to help the Festival while working on behalf of the SSMPA. You can schedule your participation in a 5-hour morning or afternoon shift on Saturday or Sunday. Shifts are 8:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. & 1:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Your pumpkin-oriented efforts will result in the Festival donating a portion of the proceeds to the SSMPA, thus investing in future Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park improvements and our continuing efforts to protect local wilderness and wildlife corridors!

Last year, Festival volunteers earned \$11 per hour. This year, volunteers will receive hats and bandannas, and can park on-site! You can sign up to work one of the 5-hour shifts on forms that will be available at the 10/16 SSMPA General Membership Meeting. For more information on volunteering for the Pumpkin Festival, call Sue Orgen at 818-224-4411, ext. 107. ☼

## Protected Habitat Proposed for CA Red-Legged Frog

From an article in the September 10, 2000 *Los Angeles Times*.

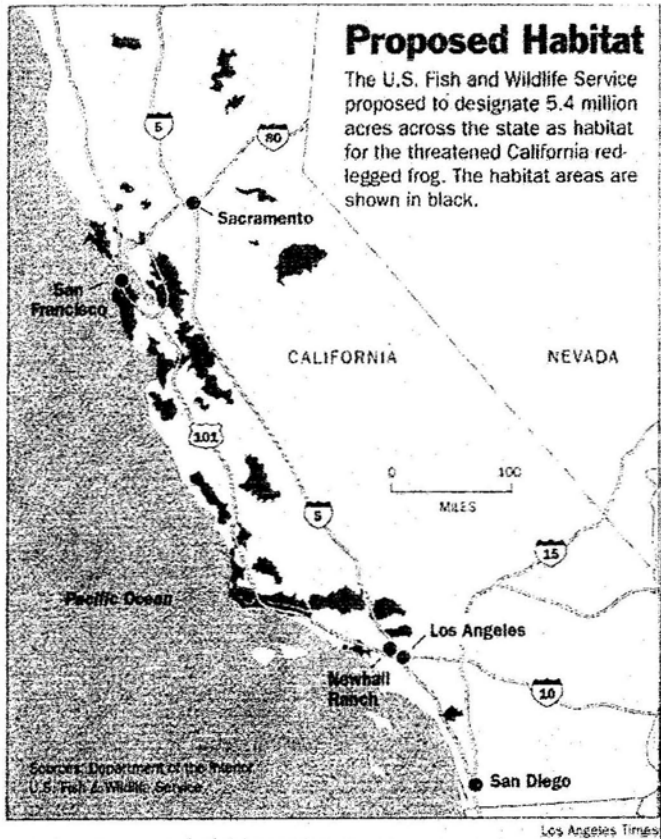
The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has proposed designating 5.4 million acres throughout the state of California as *critical habitat* for the threatened California red-legged frog. The habitat would be the state's largest — and among the nation's biggest — for a threatened species. About 40% of the proposed 5.4 million acres is public land managed by federal, state or local governments; the rest is privately owned.

The federal *critical habitat* designation mandates any landowner seeking federal permits to prove the project will not harm the species or its habitat. Activities that can be curbed include water diversion, construction projects, and recreation.

Since "over 70% of California wetlands have been destroyed ... this is, we feel, a very significant and important step to turning around the decline of the red-legged frog and California wetlands," said Peter Galvin, biologist with the Center for Biological Diversity, a Berkeley environmental group.

The California red-legged frog is the largest native frog in the western U.S., growing up to 5" long. The frogs are olive, brown, grey or reddish-black with small black flecks. Some have red or salmon legs. The red-legged frog is widely thought to have inspired Mark Twain's short story, "The Celebrated Jumping Frog of Calaveras County."

The state's proposed critical habitat for the red-legged frog is composed of fairly large pieces of land mostly scattered between



Sacramento and Los Angeles, including land in Los Angeles, Ventura, and other coastal counties (see map). The proposed change in habitat status could have an effect on Newhall Ranch in Santa Clarita County and the Ahmanson Ranch project in Ventura County.

Newhall Ranch spokeswoman Marlee Lauffer stated that the California red-legged frog has never been seen on their properties, but if critical habitat lies within Newhall Ranch they will have to "study that and work through the process." Tim McGarry of Ahmanson, where 20 adult frogs and 100 tadpoles have been found, stated that they know they are "subject to the requirements of the Endangered Species Act" and that they are going "to develop plans to preserve the species."

The formal document outlining the proposed habitat can be seen at the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service's web site, <http://www.r1.fws.gov>. Final habitat acreage will be determined after a public review, comment period and further study. Public comments must be sent by Oct. 11 to: Field Supervisor, Sacramento Fish and Wildlife Office, 2800 Cottage Way, W-2605, Sacramento, CA 95825, or else emailed to [fwlcrfch@fws.gov](mailto:fwlcrfch@fws.gov).

## Ahmanson Election Alert

With the elections just around the corner, it must be noted that decisions on several positions that will be made in the November elections will be critical in saving Ahmanson Ranch. It is imperative that Fran Pavley (Democrat), who has a demonstrated track record in support of stopping development at Ahmanson Ranch, be elected to the 41st district assembly. While her opponent, Jayne Murphy Shapiro (Republican), says she is in favor of development and is endorsed by the Building Industry Association, you know that Fran Pavley's heart is in the right place since she is endorsed by the Sierra Club and other environmental groups, homeowners associations, teachers, Brad Sherman, Zev Yaroslavsky, and Sheila Kuehl, to name a few.

If you are interested in helping with the Pavley campaign — passing out information, manning phone banks, or displaying yard signs — email Fran at [Fran@Fran2000.com](mailto:Fran@Fran2000.com).

In Thousand Oaks, candidates Ed Masry and Linda Parks are running for reelection. Both are against Ahmanson Ranch development and both have been recognized for their work on environmental issues. Volunteers should contact Rickie Mikkelsen at 805-498-4486, or via email at [MikkelsenR@aol.com](mailto:MikkelsenR@aol.com).

### Conference on Non-Profit Fundraising:

Oct. 17 preconference, Oct. 18-19 in Long Beach. For more information, call 213-347-2070 or send an email to [info@CANonprofits.org](mailto:info@CANonprofits.org). Their web site is [www.CANonprofits.org](http://www.CANonprofits.org).

### Newsletter Submissions:

We need your articles! To submit an article for publication in this newsletter, send it to SSMPPA, Attn: Newsletter Editor, P.O. Box 4831, Chatsworth, CA 91313. - Patricia Milow, Editor

# October 2000 Hikes

Stagecoach Trail and Exploration Series hikes are offered by the Santa Susana Mountain Task Force (SSMTF) of the Sierra Club, and publicized by the SSMPA. This page also lists Rim of the Valley Hikes, which are sponsored by the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy and the Mountains Recreation & Conservation Authority.

**Note:** For most hikes, hikers should wear sunscreen, hiking boots, socks, a hat & bring water. Also, serious rain cancels.



## Stage Coach Trail Hike

*Sunday, October 22, 2000.* Interpretative hike into history in our Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park. Meet at 9:00 am for the 4-mile (700 ft. gain) loop up the Stage Coach Trail. Bring water and a snack in a back or hip pack. From Topanga Canyon Boulevard, turn west on Devonshire and drive into Chatsworth Park South to the second parking lot by the Recreation Building. Call Lee Baum (818) 341-1850 for more information. ☼

## SSMTF Halloween Hike

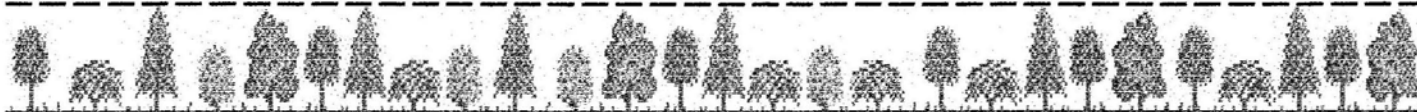
*Happy Camp Halloween Potluck, Oct. 29, 2000, 1:00 pm:* 5-mile, 200' gain, hike. Meet at the north end of Topanga Canyon Blvd. for rideshare to trailhead in Moorpark. Wear lugsoles; bring potluck dish for six, utensils, cup, plate, and water. Call Judy Garris at 818-346-7654, Rick Farber at 323-935-8990 or Rosemarie White at 818-769-1521 for more information. This is a joint SSMTF/Sierra Singles event. ☼

## Sierra Club Hikes

*Mission Peak Moonlight Hike, Wed., Oct. 11:* Moderately paced 5-mile round-trip, 1200' gain, hike to see SFV city lights. Meet at 7:00 pm at trailhead — on 118 fwy, exit Balboa, go north 2 mi. to Sesnon, west 1 mile to Neon Way, right to end of street. Call Casey Bialas at 661-251-4619 or Henry Schultz at 661-284-5613 for more info. ☼

*Wilderness Adventure, Towsley Canyon/Santa Clarita Woodlands Park, Thurs., Oct. 26.* Moderately paced 5.5-mile, 1000' gain, hike with great vistas, diverse plant life and tar seeps. Meet at 8:00 am at Ed Davis Park, 24255 The Old Road, Newhall. From I-5 exit at Calgrove, turn right under fwy and follow The Old Road 0.5 miles south to park entrance. Turn right and follow the dirt road 0.5 miles to nature center and parking lot. Wear sunscreen, lugsoles and a hat; bring water & lunch. Rain cancels. Call Margaret Vernallis at 818-360-4414 or Ramona Dunn at 818-783-8318 for more info. ☼

*Chumash Wilderness, Sunday, Oct. 29:* Moderate to strenuous 8-mile, 1000' gain, hike on Vincent Turnamait Trail from Mt. Pinos parking lot to the back country. Meet at 8:00 am at Ed Davis/Towsley Canyon State Park entrance. From I-5 exit at Calgrove, drive under fwy, turn south on The Old Road. Caravan/carpool to Mt. Pinos parking lot. Wear lugsoles; bring water and lunch. Serious rain cancels. Call Ken Kerner at 661-251-5156 or Henry Schultz at 661-284-5613 for more info. ☼



## SANTA SUSANA MOUNTAIN PARK ASSOCIATION

WE INVITE YOU TO JOIN / RENEW / REJOIN S.S.M.P.A. (Please circle one.)



Investing in the future of our communities and its resources is probably one of the best expenditures of our time and efforts. Return this cutoff with your contributions to help ensure our futures. Please make checks payable to SSMPA and send to SSMPA, P.O. Box 4831, Chatsworth, CA 91313-4831.

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

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

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Special Interest/Expertise: \_\_\_\_\_

We encourage any member who lives in or near the Santa Susana Mountains or Simi Hills to become an active member in SSMPA's effort to protect these area's wildlife corridors. Speaking at City Planning hearings to educate about our wildlife corridors would be great, yet any type and amount of voluntary service is always appreciated. You may be able to contribute an article to the newsletter, man a table of SSMPA merchandise, participate in a committee. . . To find out how you can volunteer for the SSMPA, call Judy Garris at 818-346-7654 or Susan Gerke at 818-704-9304.

**October 16, 2000, 7:30 PM Program Meeting: Rockpointe Recreation Center.**

**November 6, 2000, 7:30 PM Board of Director's Meeting: Chatsworth Park Visitor's Center.**

**November 20, 2000, 7:30 PM Program Meeting: Rockpointe Recreation Center.**

**All SSMPA members are welcome to both General Membership Program and Board of Director's Meetings.**



Thanks to the folks at the Office Depot store on Topanga Canyon Boulevard south of Victory for the donation towards the duplication of our newsletter. We very much appreciate it!

If the expiration date on your label is marked in **pink**, your SSMPA dues have **expired**. Please send in your dues if you wish to continue your SSMPA membership and to receive our newsletters. If it's already paid, kindly disregard this notice.

If the expiration date on your label is marked in **blue**, payment of your SSMPA membership dues is **due this month**.

Finally, if the expiration date is marked in **green**, payment of your dues is **requested next month**.

Santa Susana Mountain Park Association &  
Foundation for the Preservation of the Santa Susana Mountains  
P.O. Box 4831  
Chatsworth, CA 91313-4831

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