

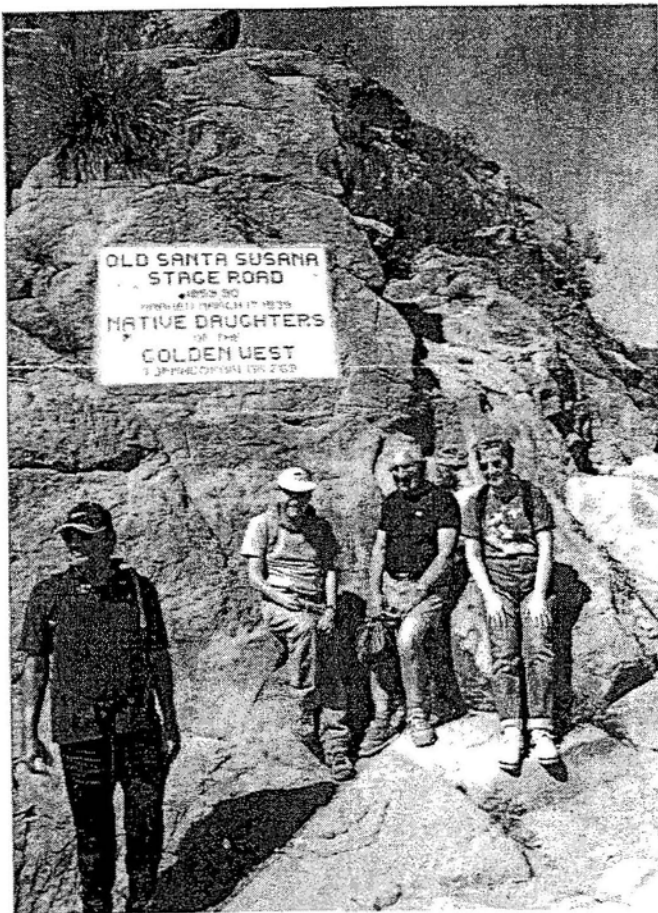
Santa Susana Mountain Park Association

Volume 30, Issue 37

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

April 2004 Newsletter

Happy hikers reach the plaque on the Devil's Slide
Sierra Club/Santa Susana Mtns. Task Force Stagecoach Trail hike
March 21, 2004



Reid Bogert

Headlands Tour

On March 26th, Mary Nichols, Secretary of the CA Resources Agency during the Davis Administration and currently the new director of the Institute of the Environment of UCLA and a member of the CA Coastal Commission, was given a tour of certain canyon areas in the Santa Susana Mountains to view the LA watershed and river headwaters. Also on the tour were Mary Loquvam, Wetlands Recovery Project Local Assistance Program; Frank Havore, CSUN biologist, Debbie O'Hare, Jo Kitz & Steve Harris of Mountains Restoration Trust; Judy Garris, Santa Susana Mountains Task Force of the Sierra Club, SSMPA; Teena Takata, SSMPA, Land Use Committee, Chatsworth Neighborhood Council; and Vik Bapna, LA County Dept. of Public Works Watershed Division. The tour brought a focus of awareness to the vast Brown's and Mormon Canyons headwaters and other areas that contribute to the watershed of the LA River and the need to preserve and protect them from impact.

Mountains Restoration Trust submitted a grant proposal to the State Water Resources Control Board 2003 Consolidated Grant Program to conduct research in the Upper LA River area west of the 405 Fwy. to determine those undeveloped areas of the Santa Monica Mountains, Simi Hills, and Santa Susana Mountains critical to recharging the San Fernando Valley Groundwater Basin. The basin currently provides water to 600,000 LA, Burbank and Glendale residents. Current levels of native water recharging the basin is only a fraction of historical levels due to the valley floor being covered by impervious surfaces.

General Membership Program Meeting

Monday, April 19, 2004

Election Night! Remember to bring your ballot, which you will find on page 3 of this newsletter. Our new Board of Directors will take office at the end of the evening.

Patricia Havens, a Simi Valley city historian since 1983, will be our guest speaker. Ms. Havens is director of the Strathearn Historical Park and Museum, located at 137 Strathearn Place, at the west end of Simi Valley. She is also on the Ventura County Cultural Heritage Board. Our close neighbor, Simi Valley, has fascinating history. Ms. Havens will expertly give us a tour through its colorful Chumash, Spanish and pioneer periods. Come, be educated while being entertained!

SSMPA General Membership Program meetings take place every 3rd Monday of the months during the months of September through November and January through May. Program meetings begin at 7:15 p.m. and generally conclude by 9:00 p.m. The venue is the Rockpointe Clubhouse, 22300 Devonshire, Chatsworth, on the south side, 1 block Chatsworth Park South entrance.



Strathearn Historical Park and Museum

Flowers Gone Wild - Free Hotline!

Through the end of May, call (818) 768-3533 to hear the best places to see blooms. Narrated by Emmy Award winning actor Joe Spano, the messages are updated Thursday evenings with information for more than 90 wildflower sites throughout Southern California. Visitors to www.theodorepayne.org can read the weekly reports covering all of California. The site provides links to dozens of flower-watching destinations and lists the common and botanical names of each flower mentioned, and where and when it is blooming. With its wide range of habitats, from coastal sage scrub to deserts to alpine meadows, California enjoys one of the most diverse and spectacular arrays of wildflowers from the state flower, the showy orange California poppy, to the blues of the wild lilac, Santa Barbara ceanothus.



Teena Takata

Padres' Shooting Star, Dayton Cyn. meadow

Park to Offset Bigger Landfill by Creating Wetlands

Sunshine Canyon Landfill operators plan to create a 2-acre park at Bull Creek in Granada Hills, in addition to 16 acres of new habitat at Chatsworth Nature Preserve to compensate for wetlands destroyed by the approved dump expansion. The Granada Hills park was a concession to elected officials and dump neighbors who argued that Browning Ferris Industries ("BFI") should create a wetlands project closer to the landfill and the residents affected by it. But the small park doesn't completely mitigate the damage, some dump opponents said. The landfill expansion will destroy three acres of wetlands and approximately 700 trees. BFI will spend at least \$100,000 to develop the two-acre park near Balboa Blvd. near El Oro School. The company would like to create wetlands on 16 acres at the Chatsworth Nature Preserve, including digging basins for shallow ponds and planting riparian plants and trees.

BFI must create another 24 acres of wetlands in the Chatsworth Nature Preserve to offset other landfill projects causing stream and wetlands damage. In total, the company would spend \$2 million to create 40 acres of wetlands at the Chatsworth Nature Preserve including the planting of 20,000 riparian trees and plants.

A tree mitigation plan is also in the works, as 700 existing trees would be cut down. The North Valley Coalition, which opposes the dump expansion, contends that removing aged oaks would destroy a significant ecological habitat. To mitigate the loss of the trees, twice as many new trees would be planted elsewhere.

The Chatsworth Formation

[Continued from last month]

The Chatsworth Formation is dominated by a light gray, fine to medium grained sandstone with abundance of mica and kaolinite (a clay). When exposed to the air, the exposed rocks turn golden as a result of oxidation of iron rich minerals in the sandstone. This process takes time. You will note that the bedrock cuts in the Chatsworth Formation along the 118 Freeway are still gray in color. The total thickness of the formation in the Simi Valley/Chatsworth area, as measured by Orrin Sage, is 6,080 feet.

The formation is part of the North Pacific Plate, which is moving to the northwest at a current rate of about 2.5 inches per year. As the plate boundary, the San Andreas Fault turns to the west in the area just north of Palm Springs. Since plate motion is continuous, the result is a shortening of the Earth's crust and the formation of mountains specifically the Transverse Ranges, of which the Simi Hills and the Santa Susana Mountains are a part. Consequently the Chatsworth Formation has been raised above sea level and has been tilted to the northwest and west in the Simi Valley area. South of the Susana Knolls, the beds dip 20-30 degrees to the northwest; at Santa Susana Pass they dip 17 degrees to the northwest; and north of the pass, they dip 20-40 degrees to the northwest, west and southwest.

The formation is bounded on the north and west by the Santa Susana Formation, which is also made up primarily of turbidites. However, before the Santa Susana Formation was laid down, the Chatsworth Formation was above sea level for a long enough period for the youngest material to be eroded away. The contact between the Chatsworth and the Santa Susana Formation exhibits such features as stream valleys.

Few fossils occur in the Chatsworth Formation in the Simi Valley area, because anything that was deposited with the sands on the continental shelf was ground up during its long and turbulent journey into the deep ocean. Nonetheless, I have found a portion of a large bivalve, i.e., clam shell, imbedded in sandstone on a portion of the old Corriganville property. Sharks are surface feeders that lose their teeth when feeding. Consequently, an occasional shark's tooth is found, because it has drifted down from the surface of the ocean after the sands had collapsed into the depths. There is a slab of sandstone on the right-hand side of the Chumash Trail I have seen while climbing some 1,000 to 1,500 feet above Hamilton Saddle, which exhibits the fossilized remnants of woody stems and organic debris. It's not very showy, but it is unusual for our part of the Chatsworth Formation.

The Chatsworth Formation usually abuts the younger Santa Susana Formation north of the freeway. At Kuehner Drive the cobble deposits due north of the freeway interchange are the "Simi Conglomerates" of the Santa Susana Formation. On the Chumash Trail, the "ballbearing" portions of the trail well west of Hamilton Saddle are the Santa Susana Formation. When the cobbles are no longer evident as you go up the trail, just west of Hamilton Saddle, you are in the Chatsworth Formation. Finally, at the top of the Chumash Trail, when you hit the Rocky Peak Road, you suddenly leave the Chatsworth Formation and are in the Simi Conglomerates of the Santa Susana Formation. The road cut clearly exhibits the Simi Conglomerates. At that point the boundary between the formations is marked by the southern branch of the Simi-Santa Rosa Fault.

The best places to see the Chatsworth Formation close up are from the Rocky Peak, Hummingbird and Stage Coach trails.

Mike Kuhn

SSMPA BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTION INFORMATION

All paid-up SSMPA members can vote for the candidates whose statements appear in this newsletter, or you can write in the names of the candidates of your choice. Members can either mail in their ballots or bring them to the general membership meeting on **Monday, April 19th**.

Instructions: Detach this page from the rest of the newsletter. If you are an individual member, indicate your votes in one of the ballots below. If you have a family membership, indicate your votes in both ballots. Mail this ballot page to SSMPA, P.O. Box 4831, Chatsworth, CA 91313-4831 - *OR* - bring it to the April 19th meeting (see front page of this newsletter for details of meeting).

BALLOT - SSMPA BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2004

The Elections Committee of the Santa Susana Mountain Park Association has considered and approved the following candidates for the 2004 SSMPA Board of Directors. Please vote for ONE candidate for each of the following offices by circling the printed name or by writing in the name of a candidate of your choice.

PRESIDENT	JAN MILLER	OR _____
VICE PRESIDENT	DORIAN KEYSER	OR _____
RECORDING SECRETARY	PATTY MILLER	OR _____
TREASURER	DIANA DIXON-DAVIS	OR _____
MEMBER-AT-LARGE	REID BOGERT	OR _____
MEMBER-AT-LARGE	JUDY GARRIS	OR _____
MEMBER-AT-LARGE	SUSAN GERKE	OR _____
MEMBER-AT-LARGE	CARLA HENRY	OR _____
MEMBER-AT-LARGE	SANDRA JOHNSON	OR _____
MEMBER-AT-LARGE	TEENA TAKATA	OR _____

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MEMBER-AT-LARGE	CARLA HENRY	OR _____
MEMBER-AT-LARGE	TEENA TAKATA	OR _____

Thank you for renewing your SSMPA membership: Joanne Woodruff, Michael McIntyre, Don & Evelyn Heim, Barbara Lilley, Chuck & Pearl Turbush, and Rhonda Scott. **Welcome, New Members:** Hannah Almstead, Dan & Kim Huffman, and Gobind Hira.



Santa Susana Mountain Park Association

invites you to **JOIN / RENEW** (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 contribution lend your support. Make your check 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)
 Life Member (\$100.00)
 Business / Organization (\$25.00)

Name: _____ **Phone:** _____
Street Address: _____ **E-mail:** _____
City / State / Zip: _____
Special Interest / Expertise: _____

The purposes of the Santa Susana Mountain Park Association are the protection, preservation, restoration, and enhancement of the Santa Susana Mountains and Simi Hills as open space lands and wildlife corridors linking the Los Padres National Forest and San Gabriel Mountains, including the Angeles National Forest, to the Santa Monica Mountains; as habitats for plants and animals native to the Santa Susana Mountains and the Simi Hills; as locales of unique geologic formations; as sites of ethnological, archaeological and historical interests; to provide passive recreational opportunities and environmental education opportunities; and, to support the acquisition of new public parks, open space and conservation easements, the expansion of existing parks, participate in the planning of park infrastructure and programs, and support said programs. To find out how you can participate, contact Jan Miller at (818) 702-0854.

Upcoming Hikes

SANTA SUSANA MOUNTAINS TASK FORCE HIKES:

Sun., 4/18 - Stagecoach Trail - 9 am: Interpretative hike into history in our Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park. Hike up the Devil's Slide and learn the colorful history of the park. Moderate 4 mi, 700' gain loop up the Stage Coach Trail. From Topanga Cyn Blvd., turn W on Devonshire, drive into Chatsworth Park S to the 2nd parking lot. Wear long pants, lugsoles, bring water & snack. Ldr: Lee Baum. (818) 341-1850.

Sun., 5/2 - Devil Cyn Native American Plant Walk - 2 pm: Easy-paced 5 mi rt, 300' gain. Walk with naturalist through wind-carved canyon into Ybarra Cyn. Learn how Native Americans used plants for housing, food, medicine & religion. Stream hopping & potluck picnic. Meet N end Topanga Cyn Blvd off 118 Fwy, L on Poema Pl, park). Bring food for 6, utensils, cup, plate, water, lugsoles. Ldr.: Judy Garris. Co-Ldr: Teena Takata. (818) 703-1040.

SIERRA SINGLES HIKE:

Sat., 5/8 - Ahmanson Ranch - 9 am: Ahmanson Ranch was purchased for by the State of CA in Nov. 2003 and just recently opened to the public. The area is one of 2 known habitats of the San Fernando Valley Spineflower, believed to be extinct for decades but recently discovered. Habitat for the California Red-Legged Frog, which was recently added to the Federal Endangered Species List. The purchase ended a 17-year fight to prevent Washington Mutual from building its proposed 3,050 houses on this wild site. We will hike on a fire road to Laskey Mesa for 5 miles rt, 550' gain. Meet at the trailhead, N end of Las Virgenes Rd. Take 101 Fwy toward Calabasas, exit Las Virgenes Rd, go N. Park on street or nearby dirt area. Bring 2 qts water, lunch & sunscreen. Wear hat, sunglasses and light colored clothes. Sneakers OK. Leaders: Silvia Darie and Eric Marcus.



California Red-legged Frog
Listed as threatened under the federal
Endangered Species Act June 1996.

Hug A Tree, Clean a Park

Volunteers of all ages are needed at 34 CA state parks on Sat., 4/24, for the 7th Annual CA State Parks Foundation Earth Day 2004 restoration and cleanup. The Earth Day program encourages CA residents and businesses to actively participate in environmental improvement projects in their communities. Statewide, thousands of volunteers each year plant native trees and community gardens, restore trails and wildlife habitats, install recycling bins, remove trash and debris from beaches and parklands, and make overdue repairs to fences and boardwalks. CA state parks and community parks will complete environmental improvement and maintenance projects in honor of Earth Day. In Southern CA, local state and community parks where this year's Earth Day restoration and cleanup will take place include Baldwin Hills State Park, Malibu Creek State Park and Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park in Chatsworth (meet at 8:00 a.m. in Chatsworth Park South).

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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