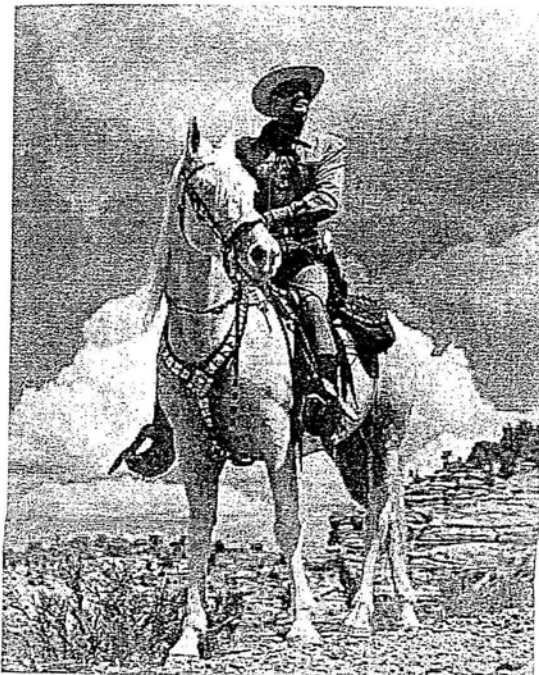


October 2006 Newsletter

If Only The Lone Ranger Could Ride Again

Many western TV and movie films such as the revered Lone Ranger, Roy Rogers, Hopalong Cassidy, Gene Autry and several thousand other movies were filmed on location in the Simi Hills and Santa Susana Mountains. In the era of the 1950s the outlaws were shot from a distance without graphic violence and the "good guys" made every effort to capture, wound but not kill, the "bad guys." In a Lone Ranger radio program made into a TV film, 1949, the actor, Clayton Moore, playing the part of one of seven Texas Rangers, is ambushed in a canyon and stays alive by painfully crawling to a cool shady water spring running down a boulder. The actor, Jay Silverheels, in the role of Tonto, finds the Texas Ranger and nurses him back to health. Tonto buries six of the ambushed dead Texas Rangers and tells Clayton Moore that he is the Lone Ranger. A movie legend is born. Both the Lone Ranger and Tonto, the "Trusty Scout" made it their mission in future episodes to establish law and order in the region by capturing the bad guys.

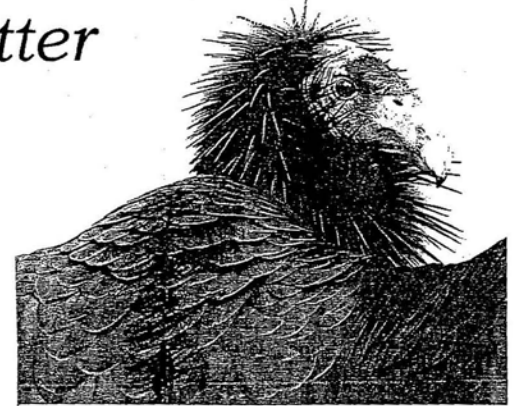
It is over 50 years since the first filming of the Lone Ranger and so many great westerns. The population growth/ development in the area has altered the scenic views forever. Even more alarming are the illegal acts of land grading, dumping, and destruction of native plants, trees and rock formations that compromise this region's environment and wildlife. Because it's so difficult to stop the modern day outlaws, one dreams of hearing "Hi-Ho Silver, Away!" to know that the Lone Ranger and Tonto are back to stop the dark deeds by the "bad guys" throughout the Simi Hills and Santa Susana Mountains.



"Lone Ranger, The" Clayton Moore 1955 Warner Bros.

The Iverson Movie Ranch, Corrigan Movie Ranch and Spahn Ranch, western film locations in the Simi Hills and Santa Susana Mountains, are all gone because of fire, the building of the 118 Freeway and housing development. The canyons and valleys surrounding these former movie settings are in jeopardy from over-development and destructive treatment. What can you do about the preservation of this area? Write your city council person, county supervisor, state representative and governor and let your voice be heard. Contact SSMPA, (818) 702-0854 to volunteer your time in helping right some wrongs. We can't wait for the Lone Ranger and Tonto to ride in and save us.

Carla Henry



General Membership Meeting Monday, October 16, 2006

"Chumash pray at condor releases into the wild. We pray that they can survive this modern world, that the condor will have room and space to roam and spread their wings over this world as it always has and as it should be."

-- Julie Tumamait-Stenslle

Chumash Descendant/Storyteller

Come learn about the largest bird in North America. Mike Havstad, Chairman of Ojai Chapter, Los Padres Forest Assn. (a special interest group partnered with Ojai Ranger District, Los Padres National Forest), will teach us about condors and their refuge in Ventura County via a PowerPoint presentation and other fascinating visual aids. Mike is involved with the Wheeler Gorge Visitor Center programs where he has recently set up a very popular docent program.

SSMPA General Membership Program meetings take place every 3rd Monday September through November and January through June at the Rockpointe Clubhouse, 22300 Devonshire, Chatsworth, on the south side, 1 block before entering Chatsworth Park South. Our program meetings begin at 7:15 p.m. and conclude at 9:00 p.m.

UPCOMING SIERRA CLUB HIKES

Sun., 10/15 - Stagecoach Trail - 9:00 a.m. Interpretative hike into history in our Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park. Meet at 9:00 am for a 4 mi (700' gain) loop up the Stagecoach Trail. From Topanga Canyon Blvd., turn W on Devonshire, drive into Chatsworth Park S to the 2nd parking lot. Ldr: Lee Baum (818) 341-1850. *Sierra Club, Santa Susana Mtns Task Force Outing.*

Tues., 10/17 - Las Virgenes Canyon: 8:30 a.m. Moderately paced 4-6 mi, rt, 500' gain on picturesque trail. Meet at kiosk (take 101 Fwy to Las Virgenes Rd, N, go to end of road, park). Bring water, lunch, lugsoles, hat, sunscreen. Rain cancels. Ldrs: Marcia Harris. Asst. Ramona Dunn. *San Fernando Valley, Wilderness Adventure Hike*

Thu., 10/19 - Johnson Motorway to Rocky Peak Rd: 8:00 a.m. 10 mi, rt, 1500' gain/loss hike on picturesque trail in Santa Susana Mtns. Come and learn about indigenous plants & animals. Meet outside Indian Oaks gate. From Topanga Cyn Blvd in Chatsworth, just N of 118 Fwy exit, turn L onto Poema Place, continue .2 mi and park along curb outside gate. Ldr: Margaret Vernallis. Asst: Nancy Krupa. *San Fernando Valley, Wilderness Adventure Hike*

Chatsworth Trails Park Restoration Project

Save Chatsworth's grant funding for the Chatsworth Trails Park Restoration Project, Phase I, is enabling the restoration and revitalization of the 13-Acre Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy Park at Canoga and the 118 Freeway, commonly known as "Hornor Park". The vision for this natural park area, which is widely used by equestrians and hikers, includes the removal of invasive, non-native plants, tree trimming and brush clearance, trash clean-up graffiti removal, the planting of new native plants and trees, and the establishment of a central rest area on the flat mesa, including benches, trash receptacles and hitching posts, and also informative and educational signage about the wildlife and birds that frequent the park. Much of this work has been completed by community members and groups, and there is more to be done. The project completion date is December 15, 2006.

If you would like to get involved in this project, and would like more information, please e-mail Vanessa Waters at info@savechatsworth.org. Join enthusiastic members of your community on either (or both) *Saturday and Sunday, November 11 and 12 - 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.* for "Community Planting Days." Bring gloves and garden tools and help plant California natives in the park!

Save Chatsworth requests donations to continue working towards its goals. If you are concerned about losing open space in Chatsworth, please make a tax-deductible donation to Save Chatsworth. Mail your check to: Save Chatsworth, Inc., 21704 Devonshire Street, #133, Chatsworth, CA 91311.

Saturday, October 21, 8am to 4pm

"RE-ENCHANTING THE CITY IV; Saving Our Wildlife in the Corridors of the Sky, the Earth and the Waters." Friendship Auditorium, 3201 Riverside Drive, Los Angeles 90027 (near Griffith Park Entrance). Lunch will be provided to those participating in the early afternoon workshops. Register at: gmrnet@gmrnet.com/ESTFSignUp.html or call 818-769-1521.

Sunday, October 22, 1pm to 2:30pm

"PAST, PRESENT & FUTURE OF THE WESTERN ENVIRONMENT - GRIZZLY BEARS."

Museum of the American West, 4700 Western Heritage Way, Griffith Park. This event is cosponsored by the National Sierra Club and the Museum. Panelists include Sean Hecht, Executive Director, UCLA Environmental Law Center, "Montana" Jim Cole, Author, Photographer and Grizzly Bear Expert, and Jonathan Spaulding, Executive Director, Museum of the American West. After question and answer period, all are invited for an informal gathering at the Golden Spur Cafe on the Patio, to meet the Panelists. The event is free, however reservations are suggested at 323-667-2000 X354 (mention Sierra Club).



Public Meeting #3 for Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park General Plan

Weds., October 25, 2006 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.
at Chatsworth Park South (Chatsworth Recreation Center/Gym), 22360 Devonshire St., Chatsworth.

California State Parks invites you to the third public meeting for the Santa Susana Pass State Park to present the single (preferred) plan and support material. The single plan was developed with the input received at the first and second public meetings held in January and June of 2006. After the presentation, the General Plan team will be available to receive public comments. Following this meeting, the General Plan team will prepare the preliminary General Plan Document. Upon the completion of this Document, the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) process will be initiated. After the CEQA process, the General Plan Document will be presented to the California Parks and Recreation Commission, which will entail a public hearing process.

Legal Defense Fund

A legal defense fund to assist S.L.A.P.P. suit defendants (see September newsletter) is in the process of being set up. Details are forthcoming.

Zorro's Cabin Non-Acquisition

The Board of Directors of SSMPA regrets to report that in spite of our strong support to put this historic adobe cabin and beautiful surroundings in the hands of the Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District, who had offered to purchase it for fair market value, the deal is off. Efforts to acquire the property were stopped by an aggressive private owner who is assembling property in the area, putting it out of reach of the park and its supporters. We continue to work and take steps to preserve other parcels and lands in the Santa Susana Mountains and Simi Hills and appreciate your support in this endeavor.

Views of the Candidates (Please get out and vote on November 7th!)

The following questions were put to the two candidates for Ventura County Supervisor, Jim Dantona and Peter Foy, with a statement that their respective answers would be printed in this newsletter: "What is your position on the preservation and/or use of the remaining open space in the Simi Hills? There have been a variety of allegations of illegal grading, road building, dumping/land filling and creation of building sites in certain areas of the Simi Hills. What is your position with respect to these activities and what steps, if any, would you take to control them?" Here are their answers:



I enjoy the beauty of our hills and believe we should follow the rules of the hillside development ordinance that Simi Valley has adopted. It would be ideal if the open space were to remain pristine for all of us to enjoy. I believe this will continue because of the policies that are in place and the desire of the Simi Valley City Council.

I believe we have a responsibility and a legal obligation to obtain permits to perform work on parcels throughout the county. When these permits are obtained, we need to follow the guidelines that go with them. It is the responsibility of the Supervisor's office and the agencies that oversee these activities to ensure that work is done in accordance with the guidelines of the permit.

Peter Foy
Candidate for County Supervisor

Vote in the Upcoming Chatsworth Neighborhood Council Elections.

Teena Takata and Diana Dixon-Davis, both Board Members of the SSMPA, are running for the Chatsworth Neighborhood Council. Linda van der Vaik, the co-chair of the Chatsworth Historical Society and Chatsworth Coordinating Council and SSMPA life member, is also running. Elections are to be held on Wednesday, October 18, 2006, from 12 pm through 8 pm, at the Lawrence Middle School, 10100 Variel Avenue, Chatsworth. See candidates' short comments on the CNC website (at <http://www.chatsworthcouncil.org>) and longer statements at the election and at the Chatsworth Public Library. Among other activities, the Chatsworth Neighborhood Council's Land Use Committee reviews discretionary projects such as subdivisions and tracts as the projects are being processed by the City. If you live or work in Chatsworth, please vote. Our community needs your support.



Twenty-four years ago - public safety, small town atmosphere, and the comfort of scenic rolling hills were prime motivators for me leaving behind the clutter of nearby Los Angeles. As former Angelinos continue seeking a more peaceful existence in neighboring Ventura County, unfettered growth is steadily encroaching upon our once serene hillsides, threatening the quality of life we take for granted.

It is not too late! Before cement and asphalt replace hiking trails and wildlife corridors, remember I am the ONLY candidate for Supervisor who...

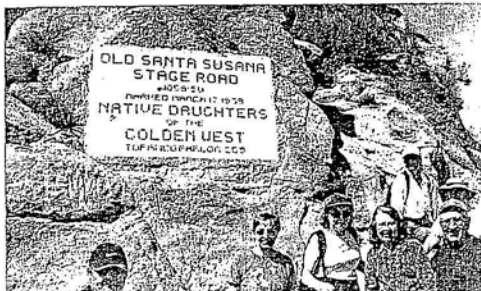
- Stood with local residents to protest illegal dumping.
- Will enact a tougher County Hillside Ordinance protecting our hills and open space.
- Supports the voter approved SOAR ordinance to manage growth.
- Is endorsed by SOAR co-founder Richard Francis.
- Used his own money and campaign to help defeat the massive North Park development in Moorpark's hills.

For the last 12 years our current County Supervisor failed to abide by even basic growth requirements, creating visual blight and threats to fire safety, while turning a blind eye to the illegal grading, dumping, and land filling taking place under her watch.

I will not allow that to continue on my watch. The buck stops here!

Jim Dantona
Candidate for County Supervisor

Thank you for renewing your SSMPA membership: Leslie Bashaar, Cecelia Heppes, Don & Evelyn Heim, Keith & Debbie Larson, Ants & Virve Leps, Bob Galletly, Mary Thompson, Margaret Vernallis, Charlene Vincent, Edith Roth.



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 ((\$10.00) Individual (\$15.00) Family (\$20.00)
 Life Member (\$150.00) Business / Organization (\$30.00)

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

Election of SSMPA Officers Coming Up

Our next election of directors will be held at our January general membership meeting. Since the third Monday (which would be our usual meeting date) falls on Martin Luther King Day, instead, we will conduct the program meeting and election at the Rockpointe Clubhouse on the following Monday, 1/22/07. Please plan to attend.

This is a good time to start thinking about how you can personally serve the organization and its mission. Would you like to serve on our board and help make a difference? Call Carla Henry, Election Committee Chair, at (818) 340-7357 for further information.

Members are invited to attend our board meetings, held on the first Monday of each month, to observe and to see how you can participate. Please call Jan Miller for details: (818) 702-0854.

The Election Committee will submit the slate of officers and ballot for the November newsletter, and oral candidate statements will be given at our membership meeting on Monday, November 20th. We won't have a general membership meeting in December; the election will take place January 22nd.

PROPOSITIONS ON BALLOT FOR ELECTION NOVEMBER 7

Election day is coming up fast, and three of the 13 statewide initiatives on the November ballot could significantly help -- or harm -- California's health and environment. Now is the time to a) make sure you're currently registered to vote, and b) get involved in one or more of these important initiative campaigns. You may register to vote up to 15 days before election day (November 7). Absentee ballots will be available between October 9 and October 31. Go to http://www.ss.ca.gov/elections/elections_vr.htm for complete voter registration information.

Proposition 84, Clean Water, Parks & Coastal Protection Act would invest \$5.4 billion in California's natural infrastructure to help ensure that Californians have access to safe drinking water, are better protected from floods and continue to enjoy good conditions at our parks, rivers, lakes, beaches, bays and coastline. To learn more and get involved, go to <http://www.yeson84.com/>

Proposition 87, Alternative Energy, Tax on California Oil would raise at least \$4 billion to promote clean fuels, clean-fuel vehicles and clean-fuel infrastructure and reduce California's annual oil needs by 4 billion gallons (about 25 percent of our current consumption). Funding for these projects would come from a modest fee (that could not be passed on to consumers) on oil extracted from California lands. Visit <http://www.yeson87.org/> to learn how you can help this campaign.

Dear Members:

Thank you for participating in the SSMPA mission.

Your membership is an important investment in our future and that of our children, and we value it.

Please note the renewal date on your label and send in your dues to continue your membership. Current life members: if you would like to receive the newsletter electronically, please let us know. If not, we kindly ask for your support by remitting \$5.00 per year to help us with costs.

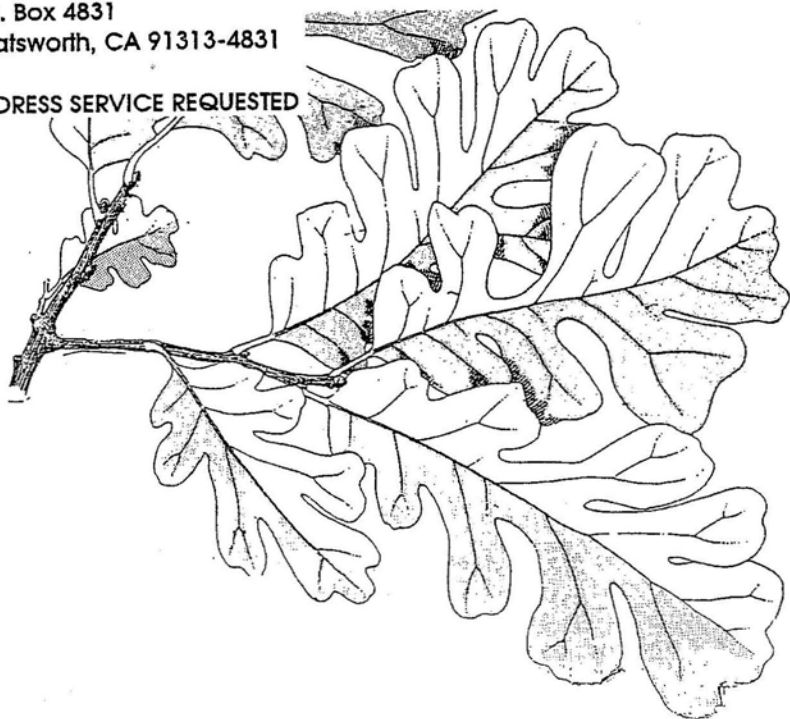
The SSMPA Board of Directors



Santa Susana Mountain Park Association &
Foundation for the Preservation of the Santa Susana Mountains
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