

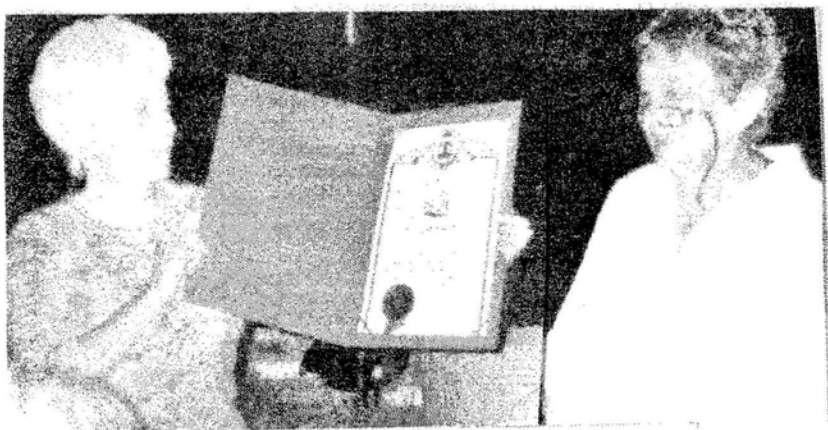
Santa Susana Mountain Park Association

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

Volume 37 Issue 6

October 2007 Newsletter

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
MONDAY OCTOBER 15, 2007



FAREWELL TO SUSAN

At the Farewell Party on Saturday, Sept. 8, Mary Gorman presented a beautiful Certificate to Susan, signed by Supervisor Michael Antonovich.

The party was at the home of Cheryl and Willem Reitvelds in Box Canyon. It was a lovely evening, lots of good food and good friends.

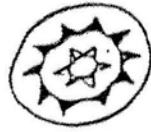
Our guest will be presenter, Christina Walsh, of Clean Up Rocketdyne, (web address: cleanuprocketdyne.org). The presentation will be about current issues including the Judges order, the waterboard fines and current compliance point hearing coming up on 10/4 and what it means to the community, SB990 and what it means to the community and what/how to communicate to the governor to ask for support/signing of the bill, the RCRA RFI process that her group is currently undergoing and finally, the Emergency ISE which is an emergency immanent substantial endangerment order to remove the contamination [dump] found by the community [cleanuprocketdyne.org team] in the creek of Sage Ranch that leads to Brandeis and Simi below.

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

NOTE: Last month's guest, Jim Edmondson, gave a splendid presentation. Did you know there are Steelhead in Malibu Creek?



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.



Coyotes
By Carla Laureen Henry

Human beings have moved further into animal habitats causing the loss of many populations. Not so for coyotes.

Coyotes not only survive our invasion, often they thrive. The Native Americans called coyotes "tricksters" because they are smart and use all their wiles to survive: wandering, hunting, thinking and outsmarting their prey. Coyotes even watch for traffic, looking both ways at a roadside, to avoid getting hit!

Coyotes can run 40 miles per hour and jump 8 foot barriers/fences. They often travel in packs and will call large dogs out then attack. We need to respect this intelligent animal. Here are a few precautionary things to do:

1. Close garbage lids
2. Do not leave pet food out
3. Keep kittens/cats and small dogs inside the house unless you are outside with them.
4. Keep your dog on a leash when walking in the open space areas - coyotes will work in packs to lure a dog away from the owner.
5. Bring a whistle and a walking stick to intimidate the coyote when walking.
6. Do not leave small children unattended outside in areas know for coyote sightings.
7. Do not bait coyotes or other wild animals (they are not pets)

Why should we like and even revere coyotes: They keep the small critter population down: rodents, rabbits, squirrels, and even reptiles. Rodents and fleas are carriers of the bubonic plague; infected ground squirrels have even been found in the Angeles National Forest. Coyotes are important in keeping this balance of nature.

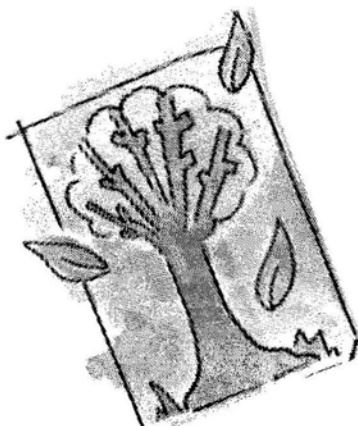
Coyotes are part of the southwestern culture. Their howl is a lonesome sound that makes our heart ache. It is a song of the desert and mountains.



UPCOMING HIKES

Bring water, lunch,
lugsoles, hat, sunscreen.
RAIN CANCELS

THERE IS AN E-MAIL
WITH TERRIFIC GRAPHICS
THAT DETAILS HIKES
THROUGH DECEMBER 2007
Zuliebear@aol.com
ATTN: Dianne



Vail-E-Vents Hike Sierra Club Angeles Chapter
San Fernando Valley Group

Tuesday Hikes

Moderate Easy Paced 4-6 Mile October 9 Placerita Canyon State Park:

O:(SFV) 4 mile 400' gain hike through Placerita Canyon Park with shaded oak groves and a willow and sycamore-lined seasonal stream. Come & learn about the indigenous plants & animals Meet 8:30 AM at Placerita Nature Center parking lot. From Hwy 14 in Newhall take Placerita Cyn Rd exit and turn right (east) 1 1/2 miles to park entrance.

Leaders: STEVE RUDOLPH Asst: PIXIE KLEMIC

October 16 Paramount Ranch:

O:(SFV) 5 mile, 400' gain around the old (and still active) movie set and environs, including a side trip to the old Reagan Ranch. Come & learn about the indigenous plants & animals Meet 8:30 AM at Paramount Ranch parking lot. From 101 Ventura Fwy take Kanan Rd exit, go south on Kanan Rd Va mile, turn left on Cornell Way and veer to right continuing south 2 1/2 miles to Paramount Ranch entrance on right

Leaders: STEVE RUDOLPH Asst: RAMONA DUNN

October 23 Towsley Canyon, Santa Clarita

Woodlands: O:(SFV) 5 1/2 mile 1000' gain with great vistas, a chilly narrows, diverse plant life, tar seeps and a fumarole. Come & learn about the indigenous plants & animals Meet 8:30 am Ed Davis Park, Newhall. Take the Calgrove exit from Interstate 5, turn west under the freeway and take the Old Road south 1/2 mile to Ed Davis Park entrance on right, park in second dirt parking area on the right near kiosk, about 50 yds past entrance gate, before fee area.

Leaders: ANTS LEPS Asst: VIRVE LEPS

October 30 Palo Comado & Cheeseboro Cyns

O:(SFV/WA): 5 mile, 800' gain loop hike in scenic Simi Hills, through chaparral, grasslands and oaks. Come & learn about the indigenous plants & animals Meet 8:30 AM at trailhead. From 101 Fwy take Kanan Rd exit and go north 2.2 miles to Sunnycrest Dr. and turn right. Continue 0.8 miles to the Public Open Space" sign on right and park along curb.

Leaders: MARCIA HARRIS Asst: PIXIE KLEMIC



THURSDAY HIKES Moderately Paced Hikes

RAIN CANCELS

Oct 11 Chumash Trail to Fossil Hill:

O: (SFV/WA) 8 (optional 10) mile 1500' gain hike in rolling hills of Santa Susana Mtns. Come & learn about the indigenous plants & animals Meet 8 AM at trailhead. From 118 Fwy take Yosemite Ave exit north 0.4 mile, turn right on Flanagan Dr, continue 0.8 mile to end and park. Leader: MARGARET VERNALLIS Asst: BOB GALLETLY

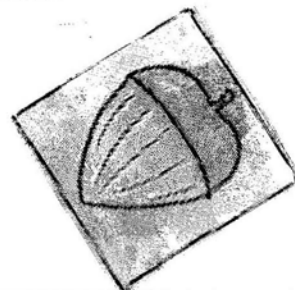
Oct 18 Las Virgenes Canyon:

O: (SFV/WA) 8 - 9 mile 800' - 1200' gain hike on picturesque trail. Come & learn about the indigenous plants & animals Meet 8 AM at trailhead kiosk. From 101 Ventura Fwy take Las Virgenes Rd exit north 1+ mile to end, street parking.

Lder: BOB GALLETLY Asst: M. VERNALLIS

Oct 25 Malibu Nature Preserve:

O: (SFV) 6 to 9 mile loop hike, 1900' gain, in Santa Monica Mtns. through private Malibu Nature Preserve, past Chumash caves, ascending Nicholas Canyon to Nicholas Flat, then returning via Leo Carrillo State Park and Nicholas Canyon Beach. Shorter 3 to 6 mile options available. Learn about indigenous plants, animals and history of Nicholas Cyn. Come & learn about the indigenous plants & animals Meet 8:30 AM at Malibu Nature Preserve 33905 Pacific Coast Hwy, 12.5 miles west of Malibu Cyn. Rd., watch for sign "Nature Reserve" on right, free parking. Leader: PETER IRELAND Asst: NANCY KRUPA



**STAGE
COACH**

Sunday, October 21, 2007: Stagecoach Trail - 9:00am. Interpretative hike into history in Santa Susanna Pass State Historic Park. Meet at 9:00am for a 2 1/2 mi (400' gain) loop up the Stagecoach Trail. From Topanga Canyon Lvd. turn W. on Devonshire, drive into Chatsworth Park S. to parking lot next to the Auditorium. Leader: Lee Baum (818-341-1850 (Sierra Club-Santa Susana Mtns Task Force Outing). Stagecoach Trail Hikes will be on the 3rd Sunday of each month, starting October.

TRAIL

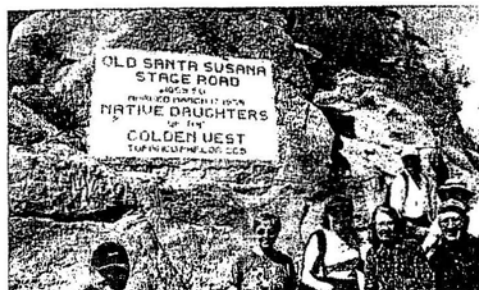
Santa Susana Mountain Park Association

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 SSMMPA and send to SSMMPA, 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: _____



HOW THE SSPSHP GENERAL PLAN WAS FUNDED

SSPSHP General Plan Financial History

by: Nancy Razanski

The Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park (SSPSHP), which is currently in the process of getting its General Plan, received the funds for it from the Edison Lawsuit settlement. In December 1993, Edison ordered the L. A. City Fire Department to widen roads on state parkland without contacting the California Department of Parks and Recreation. This action resulted in natural resource and archeological/historical damage. Disking was done.

The natural resource damage settlement occurred by August 1998. It amounted to \$69,000.

The archeological and historical damage was substantially more. This portion of the settlement was completed by May or June of 2000. I, Nancy Razanski, was subpoenaed by the Southern California Edison Company attorney, Hugh Jeffrey Grant. Mr. Grant said I was called in on the case as a material witness. I did not know who told him to contact me. Apparently SSMPA Founder, Janice Hinkston, had given me some slides showing the damage; these were taken soon after the incident occurred. I checked through my materials and found the slides. I called Janice Hinkston, long distance, for advisement. She told me to get digital photos made. I did so. Edison promised to pay me for the photos. They did. I asked to be connected with the State Parks attorney too. His name was William S. Abbey. I asked Mr. Abbey what Edison would do with the materials I planned to send. He said they would be submitted in court. I asked if Edison would be required to share all the information. Mr. Abbey said no. I then decided to send a duplicate photo packet to Mr. Abbey. I wanted to be fair. I then called Edison attorney Mr. Grant and described each photo I had and said that I was sending the State Parks attorney a duplicate packet of photos. Mr. Grant said that I had become a hostile witness because I was helping the Parks Department more than I was helping Edison, "Of course," I said. "The Parks Department had received the damage."

A couple of weeks later, William Abbey told me the case was settled out of court which was really surprising to him. According to Mr. Abbey the total settlement, including the initial \$69,000, came to \$450,738.90. Much of this money is now being used to finance the preparation of the Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park General Plan.

You know, to this day, I don't know who told Edison to subpoena me as a material witness. I wonder if they were sorry?

Submitted by,

Nancy Razanski

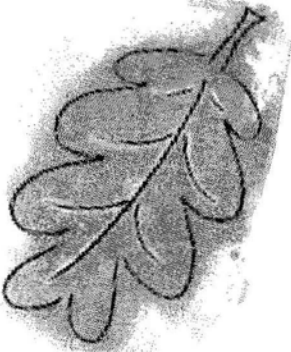
Nancy Razanski
V.P. of FPSSM

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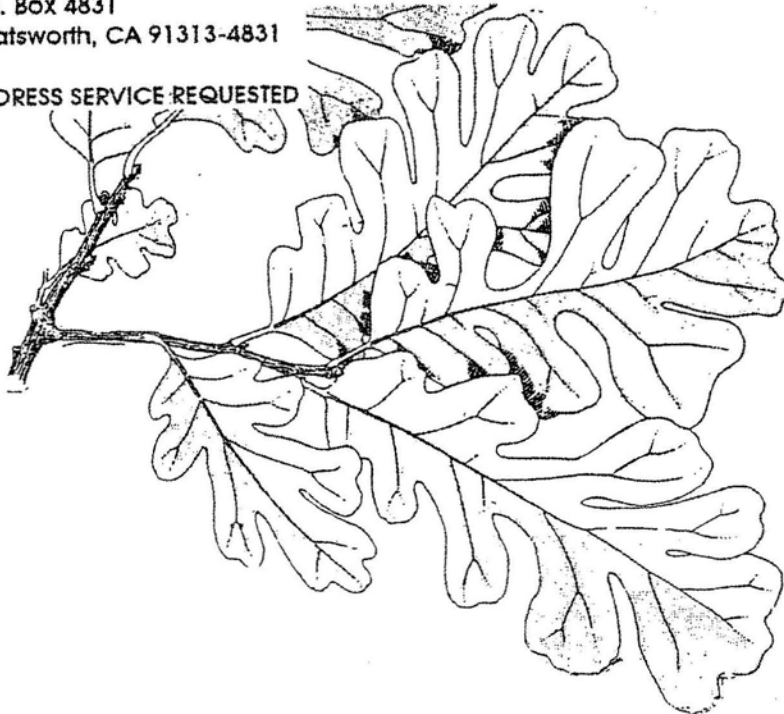
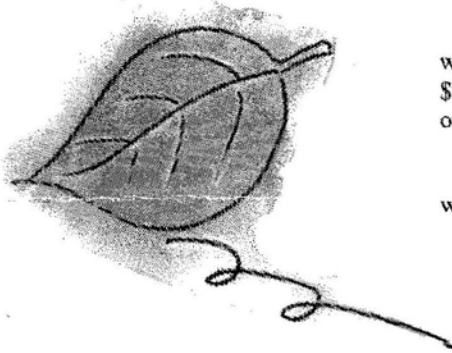
Santa Susana Mountain Park Association &
Foundation for the Preservation of the Santa Susana Mountains
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Chatsworth, CA 91313-4831

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

LIFE Member
Nancy Razanski
22149 James Alan Circle
Chatsworth CA 91311-2051



\$69,000 vegetation damage
\$450,738.90 archeological



not including