

Santa Susana Mountain Park Association

Volume 38 Issue 1

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

January 2008 Newsletter

On October 19, 2007, escrow closed on a property in the south Chatsworth Peak area known as the Wallace Property. This was a joint purchase, with Santa Susana Mountain Park Association contributing \$16,250 to the purchase price of this parcel, Foundation for the Preservation of the Santa Susana Mountains contributing \$11,250 and additional contributions made by Santa Monica Mountain Conservancy and the Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District

The property has incredible views of the San Fernando Valley and has a beautiful seasonal pool which is home to Fairy Shrimp.
(see page 2 "Fairy Shrimp")

In the future we will have maps and information regarding access and locations of hiking trails.



GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING January 21, 2008 at 7:15PM

There will be a screening of the:
The Legend of the Lone Ranger
(Western - 1949 - 69 min. - B&W)
Directed by George B. Seitz
Starring Clayton Moore, Jay Silverheels

Return with us now, to those thrilling days of yesteryear.
Ride with the most famous lawman of all, The Lone Ranger. Thus begins the tale of a man who never shot to kill, never sought reward for cleaning up the west of outlaws.

Hi Ho Silver...Away!

Clayton Moore stars as the masked crime fighter and Jay Silverheels (editors favorite!) plays his trusted sidekick, Tonto. Popcorn will be served.



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 at 9:00pm.



A warm Thank You to Virginia Watson, our speaker for November meeting. The slide presentation was lovely as well as informative

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.

Fairy shrimp From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Fairy shrimp (*Anostraca*) are branchiopods that include brine shrimp. They often appear in vernal pools, pot holes and other ephemeral pools. Although they live in fresh or saltwater they do not live in oceans or seas. They are well-adapted to living in arid areas where water is present for only part of the year. Their eggs will survive drought for several years and hatch about 30 hours after rains fill the pools where they live. Some eggs may not hatch until going through several wet/dry cycles, ensuring the animals' survival through times that the pools don't last long enough for the shrimp to reproduce.

Adult fairy shrimp, *Branchinecta packardii*

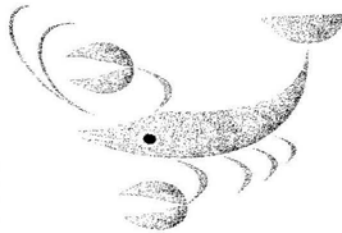
The Western United States (especially California) is home to many species of fairy shrimp, five of which are threatened or endangered: the vernal pool fairy shrimp (*Branchinecta lynchi*, threatened), the Conservancy fairy shrimp (*Branchinecta conservatio*, endangered), the San Diego fairy shrimp (*Branchinecta sandiegonensis*, endangered), the longhorn fairy shrimp (*Branchinecta longiantenna*, endangered), and the Riverside fairy shrimp (*Streptocephalus wootoni*, endangered). All these listed species are endemic to the west coast, some found in fewer than a dozen populations in a very small area. The vernal pool fairy shrimp (*Branchinecta lynchi*) was thought to exist only in California until a population was discovered in the Agate Desert area of Oregon in 1998.

Although most fairy shrimp are small (under ½ inch, 1 cm), the largest species are over 6 inches (15 cm) long and are predatory on other fairy shrimp. The giant fairy shrimp (*Branchinecta gigas*) is the largest and is found in the playas of California's southern deserts. This species traps the much smaller alkali fairy shrimp (*Branchinecta mackini*) with its large antennae. In contrast, the newly-discovered giant fairy shrimp *Branchinecta raptor* from Idaho has modified raptorial phyllopodia, which it uses to stab and puncture its prey.

Fairy shrimp



Adult fairy shrimp

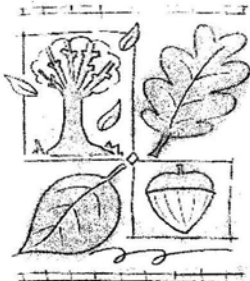


Not a shrimp, but a cute cousin



Photo furnished by Bob Pavlik
Santa Susana Mountains &
San Fernando Valley

NOTE TO READERS: IF YOU WISH TO SEND ANYTHING TO THE NEWS LETTER THE E-MAIL ADDRESS IS: Mail@ssmpa.com
We are in process of gathering E-Mail addresses for our members.
Please forward your address to the above. Thanks



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

RANCHO SIMI TRAILBLAZERS Regularly Scheduled Hikes (Hikes are canceled if it rains. There are no hikes on holidays.)

Sunday Evening - Rocky Peak Meet at 4 PM at the Rocky Peak trailhead at the end of Rocky Peak Road on the Santa Susana Pass. (Strenuous - 4.8 MRT)

Tuesday Evening - Long Canyon Meet at 6:30 PM in the Long Canyon parking lot. Directions: Take First Street South. Continue when the road's name changes to Long Canyon Road. The parking lot is at the intersection of Long Canyon Road and Wood Ranch Parkway. (Easy to Moderate - 3.0 MRT)

Thursday Evening - The Chumash Trail Meet at 6 PM at Chumash trailhead. Directions: Take the 118 Freeway to Yosemite exit. Go north on Yosemite and turn right on Flanagan Dr. The trailhead is at the end of Flanagan Drive. (Moderate to Strenuous - 5.2 MRT)



January 12th Devil Canyon to Brown's Canyon Road* 9 MRT - Moderate (1,100' elevation gain) The trail follows Devil Creek upstream through the heavily shaded Devil Canyon, gradually gaining elevation, until it meets Brown's Canyon Road near the northern end of the Rocky Peak Fire Road. Oak trees, interesting rock formations, a variety of flowering plants, and solitude abound. Meet at the 118 & Stearns St. Park & Ride at 8 AM. Bring 2 to 3 quarts of water and a snack. Wear boots.



January 26th Ahmanson Ranch - Lasky Mesa* 9.5 MRT - Easy (500' elevation gain) The first part of our hike takes you through gently rolling hills dotted with huge, spectacular oak trees. After a loop around Lasky Mesa, the hike heads northwest to Las Virgenes Canyon where a small creek nurtures a more densely covered area along the banks of the stream. Check simitrailblazers.com/activities for more information about this hike. Meet at 8 AM near Donut Delite at the corner of Madera and Royal. Bring 2 to 3 quarts of water and a snack. Wear boots.



February 2nd Wildwood Park - Santa Rosa Trail* 5 MRT - Moderate (500' elevation gain/loss) Nice views of Santa Rosa Valley and the Topatopa mountains. Meet 8AM near Donut Delite at the corner of Madera and Royal. Bring 2 quarts of water, a snack, and wear boots.



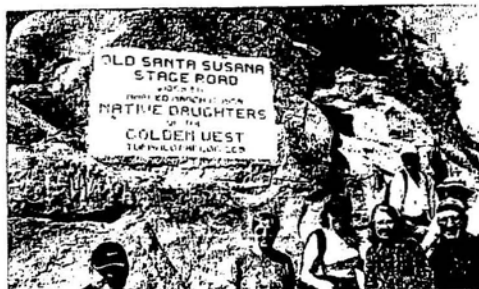
February 9th Sisar Canyon to White Ledge* 9 MRT - Moderate (2000' elevation gain) Follow a creek up to the California Bay Laurel trees of the White Ledge campsite in the Topatopa Mountains. Bring 1 to 2 quarts of water, water purifier, layered clothing, and lunch. Wear boots. Meet at 8 AM near Donut Delite at the corner of Madera and Royal.



**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 SSMPA and send to SSMPA, P.O. Box 4831, Chatsworth, CA 91313-4831.

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Senior or Student (\$10.00) | <input type="checkbox"/> Individual (\$15.00) | <input type="checkbox"/> Family (\$20.00) |
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Name: _____ Phone: _____

Street Address: _____ E-mail: _____

City / State / Zip: _____

Special Interest / Expertise: _____

~~December~~ Bird Report - by Jack Unger

December is one of the peak months for seeing and identifying birds. Most "northern" birds migrate south for the winter and that means that now is a great time to see birds that are not in this area during the summer. Here are the interesting birds that we've seen listed by area.



***Chatsworth Oaks Park** *This is a great little park located on Valley Circle/Plummer just across the street from the Nature Pond at the Chatsworth Nature Preserve. The park and surrounding area offers a great diversity of habitat. I stopped there for just a few minutes one morning and was rewarded by seeing a new species - a flock of Golden Crowned Sparrows. You can follow the trail east (along Valley Circle) along the road, then in about 1 block climb turn and head north then turn again (to the west) and follow the trail up the small hill. One way, the entire hike from the park to the top of the hill takes about 12 minutes. You will be rewarded with great views of the Chatsworth Nature Preserve and beyond from the top. Susan Gerke used to call this "Duck Hill" - and for good reason. You can see the ducks (and Geese) down in the Nature Pond across the street in the Preserve.

***Woolsey Canyon** *Oak Titmouse, Fox Sparrow (Mixed into a flock of White Crowned Sparrows) Roadrunner

***Chatsworth Nature Preserve** *Canada Geese - Yes the geese have returned. There are an average of 100 or so in the mornings. Climb duck hill just after sun-up (around 6:30 AM) and see and hear them for yourself. If you hang around until 7:00 AM or so, you will see them take off and form up into a "V" formation as they fly off to the South. American White Pelican - If you're lucky, you may see several of these huge (wingspan up to 12 feet) white pelicans with pink bills. A small group hangs out in the pond on most mornings.



Lesser Nighthawk
Loggerhead Shrike
Rufous Crowned Sparrow
Meadowlark (flocks)
Western Grebe
Pied-billed Grebe
Bufflehead
Hooded Merganser

Great Egret
Snowy Egret
Great Blue Heron
Red-winged Blackbird
Black Phoebe
Say's Phoebe
Roadrunner(s)
California Quail

Gambel's Quail
Nuttall's Woodpecker
Red-tailed Hawk
American Kestrel
Northern Harrier
~~Lark Sparrow~~

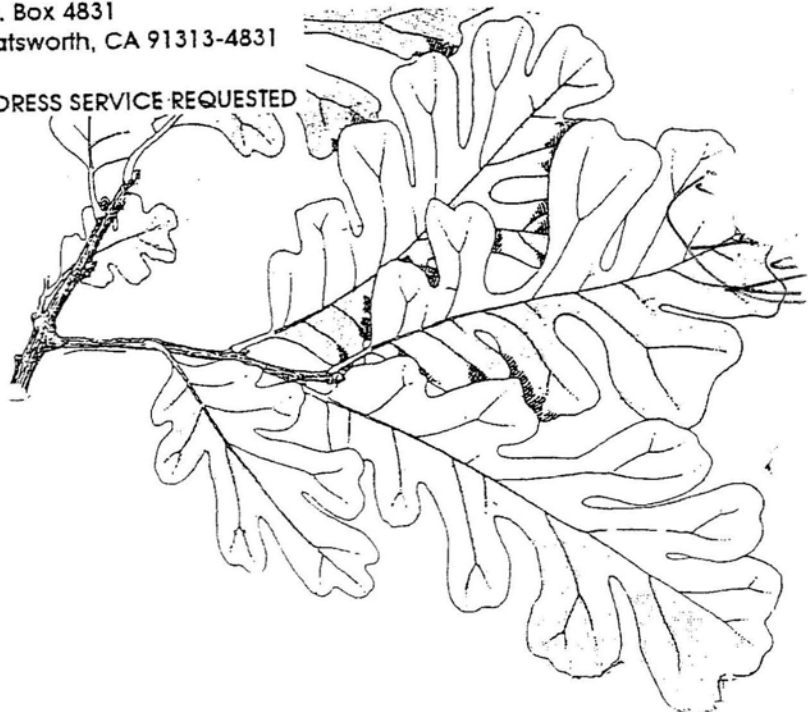


Good Birdwatching!!*

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