

Santa Susana Mountain Park Association

Volume 38 Issue 5

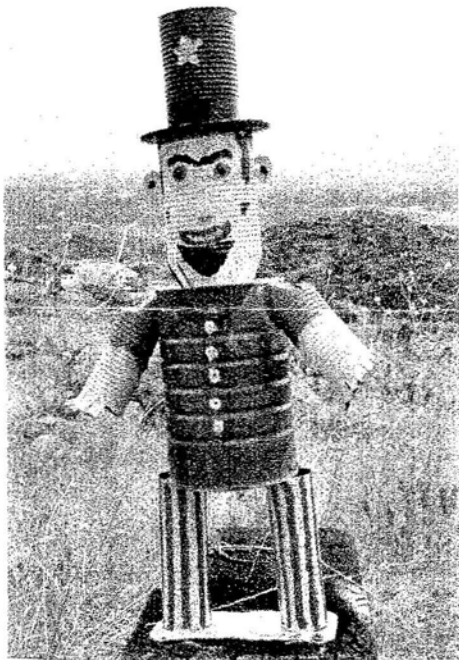
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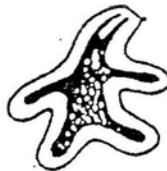
A Non-Profit 501(c)(4) Organization
Incorporated August 31, 1971

May 2008 Newsletter

STATUE AT WOOLSEY CANYON



Folk art displayed them on the Woolsey Canyon Road turnoff Simi Hills-Santa Susana Mountains area. (Stay tuned: More info on art work to follow)



GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING May 19, 2008 at 7:15PM

At this month's meeting, Captain Daum of the Los Angeles County Chatsworth Lake Fire Station will be the guest speaker. Topics to be discussed include home fire safety, brush clearance, medical emergencies and emergency vehicle access to mountain properties. Questions on all topics are welcome.

NOTE: Elections for the SSMPA Board of Directors will also take place this evening. Be sure to come and cast your ballot!

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.

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.

! BIO BLITZ! Santa Monica Mountains!

May 30-31, 2008 - Bioblitz - Noon to Noon

Join National Geographic, the National Park Service, the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, and the California State Parks to comb the Santa Monica Mountains to observe and record as many plant and animals species as possible in 24 hours. For more information and to register to to <http://www.nationalgeographic.com/field/projects/bioblitz-ca-2008.html>



About the Project

BioBlitz is a 24-hour event in which teams of scientists, volunteers, and community members join forces to find, identify, and learn about as many local plant and animal species as possible. National Geographic and the U.S. National Park Service are planning a series of ten annual BioBlitzes around the country.

In 2008, a BioBlitz will take place in the [Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area](#), presented and sponsored by National Geographic and the National Park Service in collaboration with Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy and California State Parks.

Project Goals

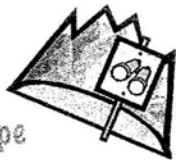
Project founders organized BioBlitz as a way for communities to learn about the biological diversity of local parks and better understand how to protect them. BioBlitz events are also an opportunity for adults, kids, and teens to join biologists in the field, participate in bona fide research expeditions, and learn from the experts about biodiversity—both around the planet and in our own backyards



WHO'S IN THE PARK? ? ?

Match the species to its estimated population in Yellowstone National Park: (Information from Yellowstone Resources & Issues 2007)

- | | |
|-----------------------|----------------|
| mountain lion | 3900 |
| wolves | 9000 - 20,000 |
| grizzly bears | 4300 |
| black bears | 200 - 250 |
| bighorn sheep | 250 - 275 |
| pronghorn antelope | 500 - 650 |
| moose | 2,149,047 |
| bison | 15 - 20 |
| elk | 140 - 160 |
| summer park employees | 200 |
| summer park visitors | fewer than 500 |



Answers: mountain lion: 15-20, wolves: 140-160, grizzly bears: 200, black bears: 500-650, bighorn sheep: 250-275, pronghorn antelope: 200-250, moose: fewer than 500, bison: 3,900, elk: 9,000-20,000, summer park employees: 4,300, summer park visitors: 2,149,047

Just For Fun!

Just For Kids photos: Pam Cahill, Shirley Cope, Mark Johnson, Janet Lyons. NPS.

www.YellowstoneAssociation.org

FIRST-DUE TO SOME COMPUTER PROBLEMS, SOME MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS HAVE NOT BEEN NOTED ON THE ADDRESS LABELS. PLEASE ACCEPT APOLOGIES. THE PROBLEMS ARE BEING WORKED ON. PATIENTS IS APPRECIATED. Now, Thank you for renewing your SSMPA membership: Leon & Shirley Brown, Nicloe Garcia & Kelly McMahon, Matalie Krah, Barbara Lilley, Merrily Lovell, Michael Mcintrye, Ann Marco, Gerald & Carolyn Murphy, Kim Sodek, Agnes Talley and Joanne Woodruff. NEW MEMBERS: Bohumila Bures, Mitchell Englander and John Luker-WELCOME.

SSMPA BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTION INFORMATION

All paid-up SSMPA members, as of May 6, 2008, 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 their ballots or bring them to the General Membership meeting on **Monday, May 19, 2008**.

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 PREFERABLY**, bring it to the May 19th meeting (see front page of this newsletter for details of meeting).

BALLOT - SSMPA BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2008

The Elections Committee of the Santa Susana Mountain Park Association has considered and approved the following candidates for the 2008 SSMPA Board of Directors, along with 1 self nominated candidate. 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: JACK UNGER OR _____

VICE PRESIDENT: WARREN STONE OR _____

RECORDING SECRETARY: TEENA TAKATA OR _____

TREASURER:

DIANA DIXON-DAVIS

PATTY MILLER

OR _____

MEMBER AT LARGE: REID BOGERT OR _____

MEMBER AT LARGE: CARLA HENRY OR _____

MEMBER AT LARGE: JAN MILLER OR _____

MEMBER AT LARGE: PATTY MILLER OR _____

MEMBER AT LARGE: DIANA DIXON-DAVIS OR _____

MEMBER AT LARGE/NEWSLETTER EDITOR: CHRIS BEAUVAIS OR _____

WRITE IN CANDIDATE _____

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MEMBER AT LARGE/NEWSLETTER EDITOR: CHRIS BEAUVAIS OR _____

WRITE IN CANDIDATE _____



UPCOMING HIKES

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

Rancho Simi Trailblazers

Activities Schedule



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

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.

(Meet at 5 PM during daylight savings time.) (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)

May Activities

May 3rd

Wildwood Park - Santa Rosa Trail*

5 MRT - Moderate (500' elevation gain/loss)

Nice views of Santa Rosa Valley and the Topatopa mountains. Meet 8 AM near Donut Delite at the corner of Madera and Royal. Bring 2 quarts of water, a snack, and wear boots.

May 3rd

Mountain Lion Presentation

1 PM - **Rancho Santa Susanna Community Center** - 5005 Los Angeles Avenue #C, Simi Valley

Do you want to get up close to a mountain lion and other wild animals you might encounter on the rural/urban fringe? This program is a **live animal** presentation on wildlife/human conflict occurring on the urban edges, i.e., urban areas abutting natural areas, involving a variety of solutions to these encounters. The program will detail the specifics on each animal's biology and needs, resulting in an action/reaction resolution to the conflicts in urban backyards. Please click [here](#) to view the Park District flier.

May 10th

Sulphur Mountain*

6 to 10 MRT - Moderate to strenuous

This is a beautiful area in the mountains between Ventura and Ojai. Meet at 8 AM near Donut Delite at the corner of Madera and Royal. Wear boots, bring bug juice, snack and 2 - 3 quarts of water.

May 17th

Work Party- Lower section of the Lower Stagecoach Trail

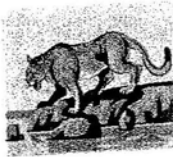
Meet at the eastern end of the Corriganville Parking lot at 8:00 AM. Bring 2 to 3 quarts water, a snack, sturdy boots/shoes, gloves, hat, sunglasses and sunscreen. Tools will be provided.

May 24th

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. Please click [here](#) 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.



STAGECOACH TRAIL

STAGECOACH TRAIL - 9:00AM. INTERPRETATIVE HIKE INTO HISTORY OF SANTA SUSANA PASS STATE HISTORIC PARK. MEET AT 9:00AM FIR A 2 1/2 MI (400' GAIN) LOOP UP THE STAGECOACH TRAIL. FROM TOPANGA CANYON BLVD., TURN W. ON DEVONSHIRE STREET, 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.



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 SSMPPA and send to SSMPPA, 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: _____

Getting Rid of a Pest? There May Be Consequences.
by Chris Beauvais

There is a potential problem in our neighborhoods. Rat poison!, which is going into unintended victims. In the Box Canyon Creek area, bodies of a Great Horned Owl, who was found in his tree niche, in a coma but later died, and a fox have been found and necropsies have been done on them. The chemicals of rat poison were found.

There may be an influx of rats due to the recent rains, but it appears the use of poison is effecting the rest of the food chain. Most rodent poisons that are available for household contain some form of blood thinner. They block the working of vitamin K, required to produce clotting factors in the blood. They are slow-acting, and long lasting. Once an animal eats the poison and uses up the clotting factors in its blood it cannot make more. Any small bruise or wound will continue to bleed until the animal is weakened by the blood loss, and dies.

Birds of prey are the most common victims of secondary toxicity because they can easily capture small animals that are weakened from the blood loss due to poisoning. As noted, terrestrial mammals, including foxes and coyotes are not immune. Even carrion animals are susceptible. From the bottom of the chain, through the top link, **nothing** is immune. On the Simi Valley website www.simivalleyacorn.com/news/2006/1013/Neighbors, dated 10-13-06, there is an article detailing how mountain lions were being killed by rat poison. The primary diet is for these large cats is mule deer but they do eat coyotes, raccoons and other small animals. Also, think of the pets. If your pet eats a poisoned mouse, rat, or other small mammal, it too will be poisoned, even if the animal is dead (secondary toxicity).

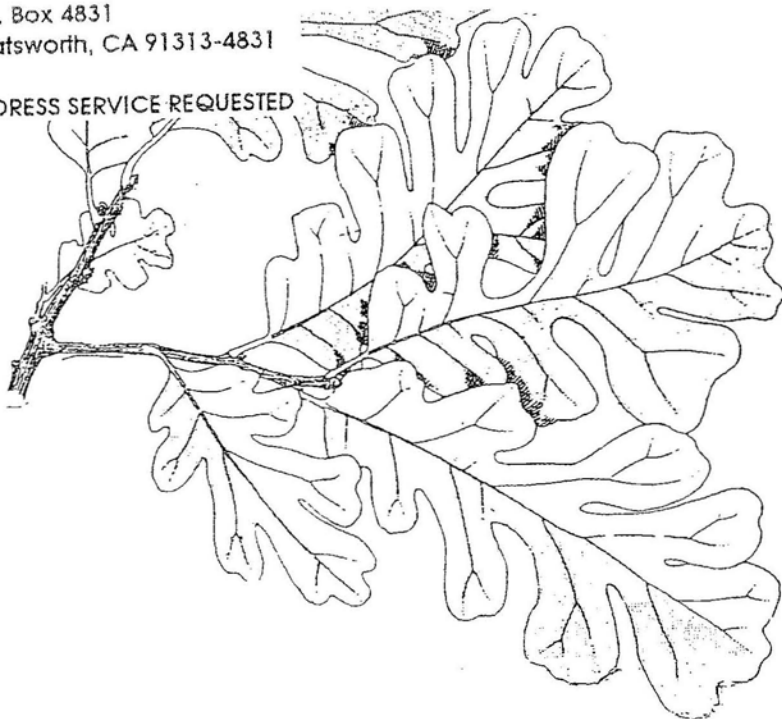
Common over the counter poisons which are blood thinners include D-Con, One-Bite, Mole Patrol, Victor, and Ramik. This is NOT a complete list. Active ingredient names to watch for are Warfarin, Brodifacoum, Coumadin, Difethialone, Diphacinone, and Chlorophacinone. There may be other names. These chemical names appear in the list of active ingredients which, in the United States, must be printed on the product.

Eradications such as Hav-a-Heart Traps, regular rat traps and high pitched devices are alternatives to getting rid of the rats. The Internet might have other options. Also, pick up fruit and other edibles from yards, do not attract rodents with bird feeders, DO NOT feed wildlife and feed pets indoors.

Please think of Nature first. These secondary victims are predators, rat catchers in their own right.

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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