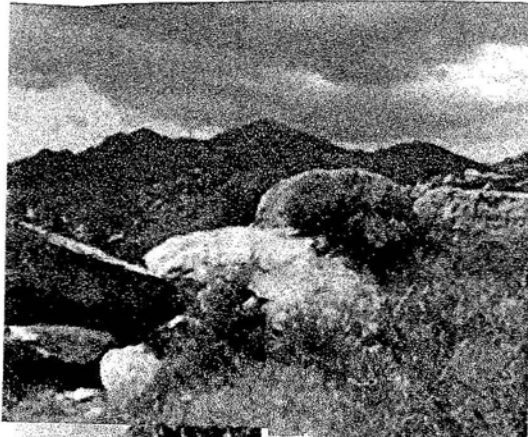


Santa Susana Mountain Park Association

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

February 2009 Newsletter

Volume 38 Issue 2



SANTA SUSANA SANDSTONE, FLORA
AND CLOUD STUFF
PHOTOS BY HENRY BOLLINGER

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING February 16, 2009

At this month's meeting, we will have
MOVIE NIGHT.

"Come and have fun watching a "local" Western movie with us. Look for and identify all the local landmarks. Popcorn and refreshments will be provided."

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.

Website: SSMPA.COM
E-Mail: MAIL@SSMPA.COM

Rotary Community Garden to Open this Spring in Chatsworth By Barbara Pamplone

The Mid San Fernando Valley Rotary is opening a community garden at 10341 Jordan Street, just south of Devonshire. Marie Patterson of Naya Fresh Body Spa, 21800 Devonshire, will coordinate the community neighbors who want to help build and work in the garden. Her contact information is 818-341-8888 and marie@nayafresh.com. We will need at least 10 -- preferably more - people who want to raise vegetables and share in the fruit.

Please call or write Marie with your contact information so we can plan a community meeting of those interested -- and get information on what the community wants from the garden.

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.



GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT, February 13 - 16, 2009

Bird watchers throughout North America can participate with tens of thousands of bird watchers for the 12th Annual Great Backyard Bird Count. This is a joint project of the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and the National Audubon Society (anyone can participate). You can count birds from 15 minutes or as long as you desire for one or more days during the event. Report your findings online at www.birdcount.org

MOUNTAINS RESTORATION TRUST ART EXHIBIT, Sunday, March 29 from 11am to 5pm at Headwaters Corner in Calabasas. The 6th Annual Art Exhibit sponsored by the Allied Artists of the Santa Monica Mountains & Seashore will feature artwork painted on location throughout the Santa Monica National Park & Recreation areas. A portion of the artwork sales are donated to MRT. Contact Carla Henry for further information: 818-340-7357

ROCK LOVE

"We've learned that God rules the universe and that everything God made is living. Even the rocks are alive. When we use them in our sweat ceremony we talk to them and they talk back to us."

Mathew King - Lakota

The Santa Susana Mountains/Simi Hills are rich in living rocks; in the winter-spring seasons water flows and cascades down their faces, each day the rocks change colors; in morning sun they are bright orange, mid-day they turn brown, late day become golden with umber shadows and in the night are awash in moon-glow. The rocks harvest gardens with wild flowers and chaparral shooting through their crevices and all around them. You can visit them, they invite you to sit and share your stories - they love to listen!

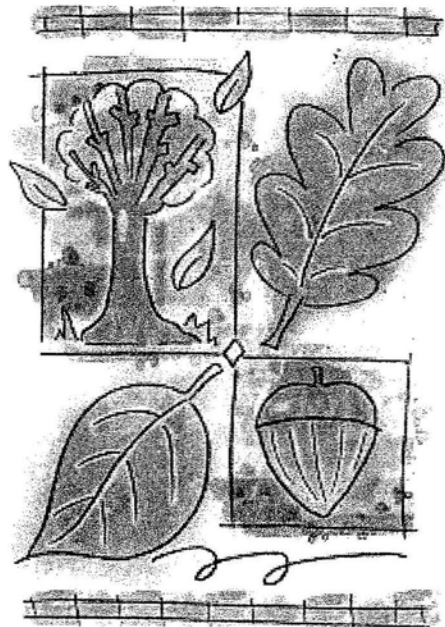
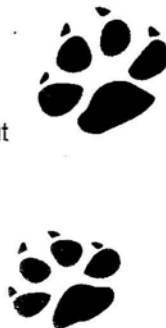
Carla Henry

DO YOU WANT TO CHANGE THE WORLD?

We are, you can too! Join the new SSMPA Docent/Education Program. We are looking for motivated people interested in expanding and maintaining Parkland in our local mountains, as well as educating our community about the amazing and rich history of our area.

We Need: Teachers, Grant writers, hikers, and enthusiasts of all ages and stripes. New Docent training will start in the spring.

New Projects underway now include:
California Archaeological Site Stewardship Program
L.A. County Trail Mapping Project
Hiking Guide for Santa Susana Pass Historical Park
Interpretative Hikes in The Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park
Grant Writing and Parkland Acquisition
Earth Day Activities



SSMPA VOLUNTEER PROJECTS - WE NEED HELP!!!

Find friends, FUN and get closer to our heritage. For volunteer committee information and sign up, contact John Luker: jcluker2@yahoo.com



Thank you for renewing your SSMPA membership: Merrily Lovell, Hal & Marie Lovett, Clara Woll & family, Moonyee Powers, Wendy Brunell and Kira Fuchs. Also a thank you to Carla Henry for her generous gift.

Activities Schedule

Regularly Scheduled Hikes

(Hikes are canceled if it rains. There are no hikes on holidays.)

Rancho Simi Trailblazers

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)

February Activities

February 14th*

Backbone Trail Part 3: Backbone Trailhead (across from Mishe Mokwa Trailhead) to Encinal Canyon Road Trailhead Shuttle*

No dogs
10.0 Miles - (830' elevation gain) - Moderate to Strenuous

Meet at 8 AM near Donut Delite at the corner of Madera and Royal. Please remember, this hike requires ample shuttle cars, so be prepared to drive your car from Donut Delite to both the beginning and ending trailheads. There are no parking fees at either trailhead. Shuttle car driving directions will be distributed at Donut Delite. Bring 2 - 3 quarts of water and lunch. Wear sturdy boots. Go to simitrailblazers.com/activities/BackboneTrail for Nat'al Park Flyer. Go to simitrailblazers.com/activities/bbtm/Day2 for trail map.

February 28th

Backbone Trail Part 4: Encinal Canyon Road Trailhead to Latigo Canyon Road Trailhead Shuttle*

No dogs
7 Miles - (1,692' elevation gain) - Moderate to Strenuous

Meet at 8 AM near Donut Delite at the corner of Madera and Royal. Please remember, this hike requires ample shuttle cars, so be prepared to drive your car from Donut Delite to both the beginning and ending trailheads. There are no parking fees at either trailhead. Shuttle car driving directions will be distributed at Donut Delite. Bring 2 - 3 quarts of water and lunch. Wear sturdy boots. Go to simitrailblazers.com/activities/BackboneTrail for Nat'al Park Flyer. Go to simitrailblazers.com/activities/bbtm/Day2 for trail map.

March Activities

March 7th

Backbone Trail Part 5: Latigo Canyon Trailhead to Malibu Canyon Trailhead Shuttle*

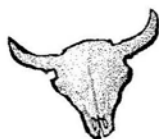
9.8 Miles - (1,286' elevation gain) - Moderate to Strenuous

Meet at 8 AM near Donut Delite at the corner of Madera and Royal. Please remember, this hike requires ample shuttle cars, so be prepared to drive your car from Donut Delite to both the beginning and ending trailheads. There are no parking fees at either trailhead. Shuttle car driving directions will be distributed at Donut Delite. Bring 2 - 3 quarts of water and lunch. Wear sturdy boots. Go to simitrailblazers.com/activities/BackboneTrail for Nat'al Park Flyer. Go to simitrailblazers.com/activities/bbtm/Day2 for trail map.

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



STAGECOACH TRAIL

STAGECOACH TRAIL - 9:00AM. INTERPRETATIVE HIKE INTO HISTORY OF SANTA SUSANA PASS STATE HISTORIC PARK. MEET AT 9:00AM FOR A 2 1/2 MI (400' GAIN) LOOP UP THE STAGECOACH TRAIL. Corrections: change Trail head (meeting place) to park entrance on Larwin Ave. about 200 feet south of DEVONSHIRE on right. Park on Street. 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.



Thursday/February 26

Led by Doug Demers and Asst. Bob Galletly, for picturesque trail in Santa Susana Mtns. Learn about indigenous plants and animals. Meet at 8:30 am outside gate to Indian Oaks residential area (north end of Topanga Cyn. Blvd., just north of 118 fwy exit, make left onto Peoma Place, continue .2 mile and park along curb outside gate. Moderately paced 9.5 mile 1700' gain.

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: _____





Santa Susana Mountain Park Association



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Diana Dixon Davis

Members at large:
Red Bogert
Carla Henry
John Luker
Jon Miller
Patty Miller
Newsletter Editor
Chris Beauvais

The Basics on How to Track Legislation

By Diana Dixon-Davis, diana.dixon.davis1@juno.com



Anybody, anywhere with internet access can now track California legislation. If you know the bill's number, topic, or author, you can begin to follow that bill from introduction, through committee hearings, staff reports, amendments, committee votes and finally to the governor's desk.

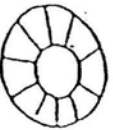
The legislature has put all this information, on line, and in a timely manner. By registering your e-mail address anyone can also "subscribe" to a bill. Every time there is any "action" on the bill/bills of interest you are notified by e-mail.

To get started, go to the California State Home Page www.ca.gov and midway down on the left hand side, click on Legislature. On the next page, click on Bill Information, and then on the next page click on Bill Search. By Bookmarking Bill Search, you can go directly to that page the next time you want to look up a bill. Enter the bill number and other information (legislative session) and the appropriate bill will be called up.

Note that all current and past bills (since 1003) are available on line.

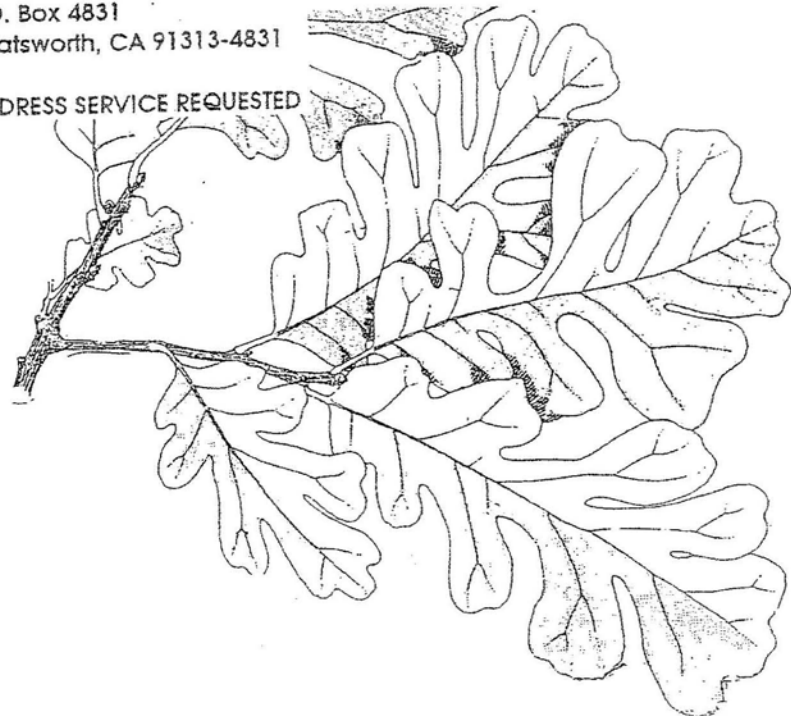
Upon retrieving a bill you can check its Status (current disposition), History (status since introduced), Committee Reports, all votes and amendments. All bills follow a pattern of introduction, hearings and floor votes set up by annually adopted calendar and rules.

To get more information about the legislative process go to the Publications link available on most legislature pages, and access either the Legislative Primer or the Glossary. Between the two documents you can get many technical questions answered. If you are still stumped, you can call me or your local legislators' offices. There are many ways to "game" the system, from straight forward Hijacking a bill, Gut and Amend, to complex insider "deals." Bills can change completely from one day to the next, a single word change can totally alter its meaning. Be careful when following or supporting a bill to always identify the "day/version" you are referencing.



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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