



Santa Susana Mountain Park Association

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

Volume 40/ Issue 4

April 2010 Newsletter

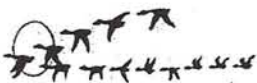
Website: E-Mail:
SSMPA.com Mail@SSMPA

Celebrate Earth Day at CHATSWORTH NATURE PRESERVE Sunday, April 11, 2010 10 am - 3:30 pm

Come and enjoy the serenity and beauty of the Chatsworth Nature Preserve (CNP) as part of April's Earth Day celebrations. The CNP is closed to the public except for special events so this is an opportunity to visit the only Los Angeles open space wildlife preserve. Sponsored by the Canada Goose Project and the Sierra Club with other environmental non-profits, Santa Susana Mountain Park Association (SSMPA), Mountain Lion Foundation, and others attending.

There will be educational materials on wildlife and plant species. CNP is home to many wildlife and bird species from coyote, bobcats and mule deer, red-winged and tri-color blackbirds, egrets, ducks and many native plants. There will be guided hikes around the ecology pond for families and a favorite activity, story telling by Chumash storyteller, Dennis Garcia. Bring your picnic lunch and join us - FREE!

The walk-in gate is located on Plummer Street/Valley Circle, west of Topanga Canyon, Chatsworth. Please park cars on either side of Valley Circle before entering the preserve. Motorcycles, bikes are not allowed in the preserve to protect and preserve the ancient oak trees and wildlife habitat and plants.



April 19 - COMMUNITY MEETING - 7:15 pm
Rockpoint Clubhouse

Creating a Green Canopy for Greater Los Angeles
Presenter: Torin Dunnivant from TreePeople

"Is Los Angeles still in a drought? What about all the rain we've had? Is harvesting rain water possible or even practical? And what do trees have to do with water anyway?"

Want to know what you can do keep your home & Los Angeles beautiful and also reduce our dependence on imported water?

Come hear TreePeople's Torin Dunnivant talk about rain water. Harvesting and tree mimicking technologies. Learn what you can do to make a difference and create a healthier, more sustainable Los Angeles. Founded in L.A. in 1973 by teenage Andy Lipkis and his friends, TreePeople's story continues to evolve - powered by the idea that every individual can plant the seeds for a more livable future. "Check out the new www.treepeople.org!

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.

SSMPA 2010-2011 Board of Directors ELECTIONS at April 19 Community Meeting.

SSMPA will conduct its annual Board of Directors elections at the April 19, 2010 Meeting. There are 10 positions to fill. The following board members are running for re-election:

Jack Unger - President	Members-at-Large: Carla Henry (and back up sec'y)
	Jan Hinkston, Founder/Honorary Member
John Luker - Vice President	Warren Stone (Webmaster)
Teena Takata - Secretary	Chris Beauvais (Newsletter Editor)
Diana Dixon-Davis - Treasurer	Reid Bogert

Jack Unger: I first joined the SSMPA around 2002. I'm currently running for my third term as SSMPA President. I feel very privileged to serve along with our outstanding group of committed and responsible SSMPA Directors. Our Mission continues to be to provide opportunities for more and more people in our Community to actively participate helping to preserve and protect the Simi Hills and Santa Susana Mountains. Many new community members have stepped up this year to work with us as Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park Volunteers and as Archaeological Site Stewards. My hope is that we will make many more new friends during the upcoming year.

John Luker has been a cinematographer for 28 years. A 30 year resident of Box Canyon, he lives and sees first hand what life is like in the Wilderness/Urban Interface. 4 1/2 years ago, he started down a path of environmental activism. As Vice-president of SSMPA he has helped in the creation of programs and initiatives to help preserve and protect the vast assets and beauty of our local mountains. He is currently the chairman of the Volunteer committee for the Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park.

Teena Takata has been an active local hiker and open space advocate in the Chatsworth area for the last ten years. I have been on the SSMPA Board for approximately the last six years and presently am the Secretary for the SSMPA. I have also assisted in starting the Volunteer Group that is helping our State Park. I'm Secretary of the Land Use Committee of the Chatsworth Neighborhood Council, and look forward to continued service for these organizations that try to ensure that future development projects are compatible with our community and equestrian heritage.

Diana Dixon-Davis: SSMPA Treasurer: I have been an active member of SSMPA ever since I moved to Los Angeles 30 years ago. I have testified many councils and commissions on behalf of the SSMPA and the SS Pass State Historic Park. For 9 years I have kept SSMPA books, prepared monthly treasurer's reports, filed annual Federal & State Income Tax & other reports required by the City of Los Angeles and California State Attorney General and Secretary of State. I worked on getting the CALPAW State Initiative passed to establish SSPSH. I did publicity for meetings, formation activities for the SSPSH and its dedication. I am an elected member of the Chatsworth Neighborhood Council Board and serve on the Outreach & Public Safety Committees, VP Programs for the Chatsworth Community Coordinating Council, VP Health & Safety for Chatsworth High school PTA, North West Valley PTA, and on Legislation and Health/Community Concerns Committee 31st District PTA. I also work on the Chatsworth Library Beautification Committee.

Carla Henry: Member-at-Large and back up Sec'y: I have been a member and served on the Board for eight years. From helping write newsletter articles, participation in all activities to promote the mission of SSMPA, and enlisting our community meeting speakers, it's a pleasure to serve on the Board. As a landscape artist and poet, I'm concerned with our region and America's "shrinking landscape," open spaces-wildlife preservation. Serving on the SSMPA Board helps me make an active contribution to my passion and see goals accomplished by our team.

Warren Stone: member at large for 5 years and webmaster. Active in conservation and music.

Chris Beauvais has been the Newsletter Editor since 2007. Although I have lived in Granada Hills most of my life, I spent many a summer in Chatsworth Park, climbing the rocks, etc. I have also done field archeology at Corriganville and a site off Kuehner on the Simi side of the Santa Susana Mountains. I am also an archery instructor and poet whose poetic range includes the political and environmental.

Reid Bogert grew up in Chatsworth driving his teachers crazy and getting into mischief. He's been involved with SSMPA since meeting Jan Hinkston many years ago. He just got out of jail and wants to serve another term on the board of SSMPA and to support efforts to save the mountains from the land predators.

We need two more board members to help with various assignments: **Publicity**, Grant Writing, Event Participation, Letter Writing, Volunteer Coordinator, or anyone with special talents to help SSMPA fulfill its mission to preserve and protect the Santa Susana Mountains-Simi Hills. Please contact Carla Henry: carlamamay@aol.com or leave message: 818-340-7357 if you are interested in serving on the SSMPA Board for 2010-2011.

To quote John F. Kennedy: "And so, my fellow Americans: ask not what your country can do for you - ask what can you do for your country!" If you have been pondering what you can do, join our board members and become a part of the "I can do" crowd!



Activities Schedule

SANTA SUSANA PASS STATE HISTORIC PARK

John Luker, SSMPA Vice President, is in the park most week ends give him a call and he will help you to get the most out of our park
jcluker2@yahoo.com 818-371-7918

THERE IS AN E-MAIL WITH TERRIFIC GRAPHICS THAT DETAILS HIKES
Website: Communityhikingclub.org
Zuliebear@aol.com
ATTN: Dianne

4/17 (Saturday) 9am (hike plan to be determined but we'll still emphasize flowers)
Teena Takata will be our leader, but our guru John Luker has confirmed he'll be along to entertain us along the way!
Hope to see many of you with us.

Get to know your park, get to know your history.

Hikes are canceled if it rains. There are no hikes on holidays. Bring water, snack, lug soles shoes, hat, and sunscreen. No hiking in the summer-early fall due to hot weather

Simi Trail Blazers

Regularly Scheduled Hikes

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

Sunday Evening - Rocky Peak Fire Road - Meet at 4 PM at the Rocky Peak Fire Road trailhead. Take the Rocky Peak exit on the 118 Freeway and head north over the freeway. Park at the trailhead or across the bridge on the Santa Susana Pass Road. *(Meet at 5 PM during daylight savings time.)* (Strenuous - 4.8 MRT - 1,100' elevation gain)

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 - 450' elevation gain)

NOTE: This hike is divided into two groups with two leaders: one for beginners and the other for intermediate hikers.

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 - 1,100' elevation gain)



STAGECOACH TRAIL

Stagecoach Trail: Meet 9:00 am. 3rd Sunday of each Month, months November through June. No hiking in the summer-early fall due to hot weather. Interpretative hike into history of Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park. Hike is a 3 to 4-1/2 mile loop (400' gain) up the historic Stagecoach Trail. Directions: From Topanga Cyn. Blvd., turn west on Devonshire St., to Larwin Avenue about 200 feet south of Devonshire on right. Meet at park entrance on Larwin Avenue. Park on street. Leader: Lee Baum (818-341-1850/ Sierra Club-Santa Susana Mtns. Task Force Outing.)



Santa Susana Mountain Park Association

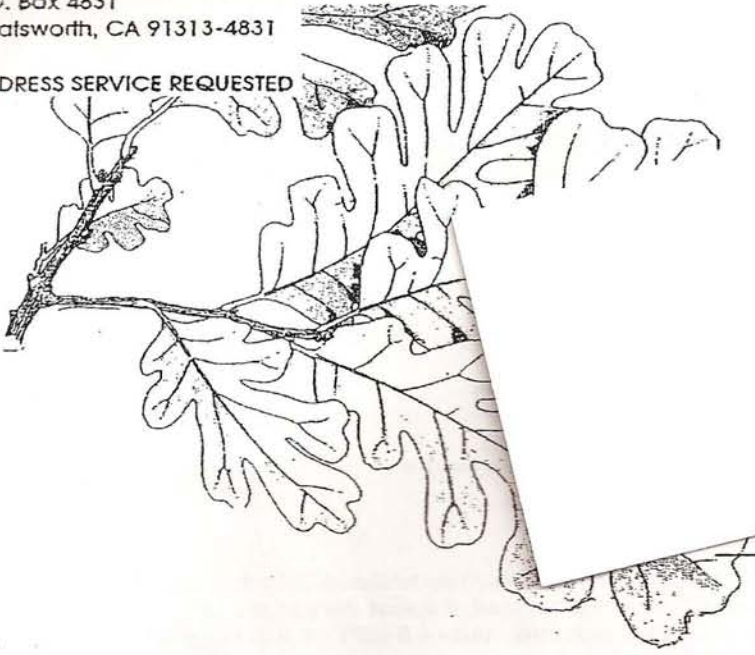
Invites you to JOIN/NEW (circle I). Investing in the future of our Communities and its resources is probably one of the best expenditures of our time and effort. Return this cut off with your contribution and your support. AS OF SEPTEMBER 1, 2009 THE NEW YEARLY DUES ARE: ()\$15.00 for Individuals ()\$20.00 for a Family ()\$30.00 for a Business or Organization ()\$150.00 for an Individual Life Membership ()\$200.00 for a Family Membership. Make your check payable to SSMPA and mail it to our Post Office Box Address (see last page). Please be sure to include your Name, Mailing Address, Phone and E-Mail Address. Please tell us about any special interests, special skills or special expertise that you have.

NAME _____ PHONE _____
E-MAIL _____ ADDRESS _____



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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A FEW TURKEY VULTURES, ROAD KILL AND A NICE GUY NAMED MAX by: Carla Henry

Driving south along Valley Circle Blvd. through Lake Manor, I saw a turkey vulture in the road pecking at some road kill. Cars driving past the stop sign at Box Canyon were zipping along and almost made the turkey vulture added road kill. I honked at one vehicle racing by, pulled off the road, grabbed my camera and took a few photos, one of the vultures standing over his dinner and another photo of a vulture (with a #10 tag) perched on a post considering whether to take the risk and join in for dinner.

While shooting candid shots of the winged pair, a man came along with a shovel, risked the traffic to shovel off the road kill to pile it on the side of the road. He came back across and we talked about the cars racing too fast unconcerned about whether they did or did not run over the vulture. He figured if he pushed the road kill off the road, the vulture had a better chance of survival. Sometimes when I'm a little perturbed with the current events and ugly behavior by humans, I see a man like Max, just off work still wearing his uniform, taking a risk to protect a vulture. It's good to know there are real human beings alive and well out there!

REMINDER : SSMPA T-Shirts for Sale. Great to wear to events, such as the Garden Festival noted below. SEE WEBSITE FOR DETAILS

A GARDEN FESTIVAL - Sunday, April 25, 2010, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Featuring Roses, Crafts, Tours of Minnie's Cottage and other events. For complete information, please go to the SSMPA website: www.ssmpa.com Admission Donation: Adults \$4.00, Children \$1.00 and Kids under 5 - Free



Santa Susana Mountain Park Association

Website: SSMPA.com E-Mail: Mail@SSMPA.com

Officers: President	Jack Unger	Members at Large:	Newsletter Editor
Vice President:	John Luker	Warren Stone	Chris Beauvais
Secretary	Teena Takata	Reid Bogart	Honorary Member:
Treasurer	Diana Dixon Davis	Jan Miller	Jan Hinkston
Back up Sec	Carla Henry	Patty Miller	

SSMPA BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTION INFORMATION

SSMPA members, currently paid as of March, 2010, can vote for the candidates on the ballot, 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, April 19, 2010.

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 so it is received at the P.O. Box by April 19, 2010 - OR bring it to the April meeting (see front page of this newsletter for details of meeting).

BALLOT - SSMPA BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2010

The Elections Committee of the Santa Susana Mountain Park Association has considered and approved the following candidates for the 2010/11 SSMPA Board of Directors. 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: JOHN LUKER OR _____

RECORDING SECRETARY: TEENA TAKATA OR _____

TREASURER: DIANA DIXON-DAVIS OR _____

MEMBER AT LARGE/BACKUP SECRETARY: CARLA HENRY OR _____

MEMBER AT LARGE/NEWSLETTER EDITOR: CHRIS BEAUVAIS OR _____

MEMBER AT LARGE: REID BOGERT OR _____

MEMBER AT LARGE: WARREN STONE(WEB MASTER) OR _____

MEMBER AT LARGE: _____

MEMBER AT LARGE: _____

FOUNDER/HONORARY MEMBER: JANICE HINKSTON

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