



# Santa Susana Mountain Park Association

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## Does It Matter What One Person Does?

by Theodore Dent & Doreen Rusen

The answer is YES!, if a person has a vision of societal change, can enlist others to help that dream come true, and can wait 28 years to see that it does matter.

January 1998 will be recorded as the month when one person, Jan Hinkston, and the hundreds of volunteers of the Santa Susana Mountain Park Association achieved two very large parts of the dream. (In this newsletter are reports on some of the activities of the month; next month there'll be more.



First, it's official! On January 27, 1998, the California State Park and Recreation Commission unanimously voted to create the 670-acre Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park. However, it's like winning the nomination; now we have to work to win the election, and that means to get the funding

for the park. Many thanks to Dan Preece!

Second, Home Savings of America, The Ahmanson Land Company's parent company, has purchased the 4,369-acre Runkle Ranch, which straddles the L.A. and Ventura County border, north of the 118. Within one month, Home Savings will turn the property over to the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy as public open space. Although the entire deal is very controversial, the protection of such a vast holding is part of the dream come true. Many thanks to Joe Edmiston!

## A Four-Parter

SSMPA's General Membership Meetings are held on the third Monday of the month at 7:00 p.m. at Glendale Federal Bank's Community Room, 21821 Devonshire Street, Chatsworth (one block east of Topanga Canyon Boulevard). February's General Membership Meeting will be a four-parter. On Monday, February 16, 1998, from 7:00-7:30, we will conduct business of the Association; at 7:30 we will hear two speakers, Mary Weisbrock of Save Open Space and Cynthia Fitchner, a former President of SSMPA; at 8:00, we will have a forum, when the candidates for the March 1998 Election of the SSMPA Executive Board will be available to answer questions from those concerned about the future of SSMPA. I believe that we have more candidates running than at any time in recent memory. Please make attend; you'll be glad you did!

Members are needed now to run for the Executive Board of the SSMPA. The election will be held at the April 1998 General Membership Meeting. The officers of the Association are President, Vice-President, Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, and Treasurer, plus five Members-At-Large. Term of office is one year. The responsibilities include attendance at two meetings per month, for approximately two hours, each. Benefits include the chance to be involved in the trusteeship of our heritage. Call Nomination Chair Al Knight for more information at 818-252-3466.

# Sanctuary for a Heritage

From the Los Angeles Times Editorial Page, 1 February 1998

Those who scoff and call the idea of San Fernando Valley history an oxymoron clearly have never stayed long. Even the most cursory tour--from the front seat of a car, for instance-- reveals myriad street names--Lankershim, Mulholland, Van Nuys, or Chandler, perhaps--honoring the long-dead barons whose politics and conniving were every bit as compelling as those of the royal courts.

And closer observation--astride a favorite pony, maybe--reveals a rich unwritten past. Last week, the California State Park and Recreation Commission rode to the rescue of land tucked in the Santa Susana Pass and declared it a historic park. The marks of this land date to before the time of Spanish explorers, when native tribes ground smooth divots into rocks as they mashed food. And there are more modern hints of the past: etchings perhaps carved by someone waiting for a stagecoach or just resting for the night.

Now that the park is named, the trick is preserving these tatters of history for another generation. Some supporters worry that vandals may strike some of the sites. Sadly, there are indeed visitors who think a can of paint only improves already beautiful vistas or that an artifact looks better over the fireplace. To those who might consider such destruction and thievery, think again: Prison and steep fines await.

History has won the day, let it carry on for another few hundred years.

# Green Light for Ahmanson

From the Los Angeles Times Editorial Page, 1 February 1998

The last knot keeping the Ahmanson Ranch development tied up in legal limbo was loosened last week, five years after the Ventura County Board of Supervisors gave its blessing to the controversial project. The Ahmanson Land Co. announced Wednesday that it had reached an agreement with entertainer Bob Hope to purchase the final two properties it was required to buy and set aside as public open space before it could begin to build in the southeast corner of Ventura County. Those two parcels--Runkle Ranch near Simi Valley and Corral Canyon in the Santa Monica Mountains--were the final pieces in a complicated land swap that permitted Ahmanson to build more than 3,000 homes on 2,400 acres if it added 30,000 acres to the county's permanent stash of never-to-be-developed open space.

Just two weeks earlier, the developer was looking for a way out of buying these two parcels, totaling some 4,700 acres. Before that, Ventura County Supervisor Frank Schillo floated a plan that would have allowed Ahmanson Ranch to proceed without the purchase.

Both efforts were rightly rejected, although if the intention was to scare Hope into making a deal, they may have served their purpose. The main thing that made this development palatable was the prospect of preserving all that open space. To allow the project without that benefit would have been unconscionable. Once the full 10,000-acre dowry has been assembled, it will be time for the next phase of the epic Ahmanson saga to begin.

# Chatsworth Land Wins Approval as State Park

Edited from the Los Angeles Times, 28 January 1998

By T. CHRISTIAN MILLER, Times Staff Writer

**Recreation: After working for 28 years to gain recognition for the 670-acre area south of Santa Susana Pass, volunteers get their wish.**

VALENCIA--It took 28 years, \$13.7-million and hundreds of volunteers, but the hills and sandstone ramparts south of Santa Susana Pass finally became a state historic park Tuesday. With loud cheers from the audience, the California State Park and Recreation Commission voted unanimously to recognize the 670-acre tract's storied past, where Native Americans once performed sacred rituals and stagecoaches trundled across steep rock roads. Park volunteers, who have been working for Tuesday's recognition since 1970, celebrated the occasion with hugs in the hallways outside the Hilton Garden Inn in Valencia, where the commission met Tuesday. Then they immediately vowed to focus on the future: finding the money to hire a park ranger and buying more land to preserve other wild areas near the park. "I'm just ecstatic," said Janice Hinkston, who founded the Santa Susana Mountain Park Association 28 years ago, "It's a wonderful feeling." The question for the park now is money. Though naming the park is recognition of its importance, the park service won't be making any substantive changes to the area for several years-perhaps for up to a decade. Funding shortfalls the past few years have created a backlog in which more than 100 of California's 240 state parks currently lack the blueprint necessary for their development. And even those parks with such blueprints don't have enough funds for all the improvements needed. Nonetheless, local state park officials were confident that the intense interest in the Santa Susana Park in the hills above Chatsworth would help secure the money needed to hire a ranger and build park facilities sometime in the next few years. In the short term, they pledged to step up patrols in the park, which has been plagued in the past by vandals and looters. "I'm optimistic, not in the short term, but in the long term," said Dan Preece, district superintendent. "The Santa Susana (park) would be a fairly high priority." The state park system began buying land in the Santa Susana Mountains in 1979, eventually spending \$13.7 million to acquire the land now officially dubbed Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park. The site used to be a border outpost between the Tongva and Chumash cultures. In the 1800s, it became one of the major transportation routes between southern and northern California. In more modern times, the park has also been the setting for western movies and other films.

## Santa Susana Docents

The Santa Susana Docents provide Nature/History walks at Chatsworth Park South for elementary school children. On the walk, the children tour five stations, including a small display of local artifacts at the Visitors Center. This program has been very well received by hundreds of children, and hundreds more could learn about the Santa Susana Mountains and the Simi Hills if...if... we had a couple of more docents. If you have a need to help others, have a couple of hours free on a regular basis, and want some really good times, this may your great opportunity knocking. For more information on becoming a docent and joining the fun of sharing your love of nature with children, please call Pat at 818-998-5224 or Jan at 818-993-0508.

## FROM THE ARCHIVES

by Albert Knight, Vice-President, SSMPA

Readers will recall (see the December 1997 SSMPA/FPSSM Newsletter) that in 1917 the then young anthropologist John Peabody Harrington had interviewed several Fernandeno descendants, and had visited the northwest and west San Fernando Valley in their company. These notes by Harrington - professional level interviews with knowledgeable native people - are very rare. The principal consultant, Juan Melendrez, was the Indian son of Miguel Leonis, owner of a vast tract of land in the southwest San Fernando Valley. Juan, although raised in the Catholic Church, was familiar with many of the now old-ways of the Fernandeno people, and with most of the history of the early Spanish and Mexican settlement of the area.

Here is a short list of some of the places the Indians and the now famous anthropologist discussed....

1. La Cuesta de Santa Susana ("cuesta" means a steep grade) Originally the Kaso'wey Indian trail. = El Camino de Santa Susana y Simi- later known as La Cuesta Vieja (the old cuesta). Today known as the Old Stage Coach Trail.
2. Domec Ranch ("Domec" is a French Basque family name) = Chatsworth Lake Manor (see El Escorpion de las Salinas). Now the location of the Chatsworth Lake Manor Chapel.
3. El Escorpion- later El Escorpion Viejo ("Escorpion" refers to the evil spirit that the Fernandeno knew as Munuits) = The village of Huwam (in Chumash) or Totoonga (in Fernandeno). In historic times it became the El Escorpion Land Grant- at one time owned by Loomis, Melendrez's father. It was later known as Charlie Bell's Canyon. Today the area is called Bell Canyon,
4. El Escorpion de las Salinas ("salinas" refers to saline or impure waters) = The Chatsworth Reservoir area and the native community formerly found at the NW part of the reservoir (including perhaps the Domec, La Calera and Los Judios areas). Today the general area of Chatsworth Lake Manor.
5. La Calera ("calera" is Spanish for limekiln) = The Old Limekiln (see El Escorpion de las Salinas) Only a little bit remains of La Calera. The roofing that protects what little is left of the site can still be seen at the northwest end of the Chatsworth reservoir area.

.... More on Harrington in the next Newsletter....

## Annual Election of FPSSM Officers

The Foundation for the Preservation of the Santa Susana Mountains will hold its annual election for Board of Directors at its Tuesday, February 24, 1998 meeting at 7:30 p.m. in the Santa Susana Visitor Center. The tentative slate is as follows:

### **President**

Nancy Razanski

### **Vice President**

Janet Lazik

### **Recording Secretary**

Gretha Davis

### **Treasurer**

Pauline Aue

### **Corresponding Secretary**

Lisa Nicholson

### **SFV Area Chair**

Judy Garris

### **Simi Valley Area Chair**

Pearl Turbush

### **Santa Clarita Area Chair**

George Riippi

### **Members-At-Large**

Joe Meagher, Lindsay Wilhelm

Nominations will also be taken from the floor. Also, anyone wishing to serve in an above office please call Nancy Razanski at 818-341-3512.

## Archives

Much of SSMPA's archives are available at:

CSUN Urban Archives Center  
Oviatt Library, Room 4  
18111 Nordhoff Street  
Northridge CA 91330-8326,  
or by phone: Robert Marshall,  
Archivist at 818-677-2832.

## **Stagecoach Trail Hikes**

SSMPA hikes are conducted every Sunday, October - June (except fifth Sundays of the month & rain-outs are occasionally a problem) from the parking lot of Chatsworth Park South Recreation Building, which is located at the western terminus of Devonshire Street, about one mile west of Topanga Canyon Boulevard.

Hikers meet at 9:00 a.m. with the hike leader for the four-mile (700-ft. gain) loop up the Stagecoach Trail, which is in the hills west of the park. Hikers are advised to bring water and a snack in hiker's back pack or hip pack. Lug sole shoes or sturdy, closed shoes are advised, as is the wearing of a hat. All hike leaders are knowledgeable and experienced.

Barbara Coffman is the hike leader for the first Sundays of the month; Judy Garris on the second Sundays, Lindsay Wilhelm on the third Sundays; and Lee Baum on the fourth Sundays.

## **Other Santa Susana Mountain/Simi Hills Hikes**

The Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy and Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority offer hikes on an irregular basis at Rocky Peak Park (SR 118 at Chatsworth Simi Valley line); Sage Ranch (SR 118 or 101 to Topanga Canyon Blvd., west on Roscoe or Plummer to Valley Circle, to Woolsey Canyon Road (Rocketdyne Road), to Black Canyon Road; Santa Clarita Woodlands/Mentryville (I-5, Lyons, west to Pico Canyon, left at Y to end of road); and Towsley Canyon Park (I-5, Calgrove, west on The Old Road to Ed Davis Park, 1/2 mile to parking area by the kiosk). These hikes are free. Please call Nancy at 310-589-3200, ext. 126 for additional information and requirements. There are many hikes scheduled every month.

## **More Hikes**

Rancho Simi Trail Blazers offers a comprehensive hike schedule, including strenuous five-mile hikes on Sunday evenings at 5:00 from Rocky Peak trailhead. For information call, Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District at 805-584-4400.

## **Invitation to Explore - Hummingbird to Rocky Peak**

Santa Susana Mountains Task Force (SSMTF) and SSMPA conduct hikes in the Santa Susana Mountains and the Simi Hills. The Invitation to Explore series this month is Hummingbird to Rocky Peak. Join us for an easy paced hike. Lunch at 'Gaucho' Cave near natural pools, then hike to Rock House. Five miles, 1000' gain. In Simi Valley, meet at 9:00 a.m. at Kuehner Drive north of the 118 Freeway. Bring water, lunch, and lugsoles. Leaders: Judy Garris, Rosemary White, Rick Farber.

## **Hike Leaders - Train Now!**

Every Sunday (except July-Sept. and fifth Sundays of the month) hike leaders take groups of approximately ten to thirty interested individuals, families, and groups on hikes on the Stagecoach Trail. The need for additional hike leaders to be trained is always there. If you would like to become one of these fine individuals, please call Barbara Coffman at 818-347-5603. Your heart will thank you.

## SSMPA Executive Board

Pauline Aue	Member-At-Large	818-341-5872
Barbara Coffman	Member-At-Large	818-347-5603
Theodore Dent	Recording Secretary	818-882-4664
Judy Garris	Member-At-Large	818-346-7654
Susan Gerke	Treasurer	818-704-9304
Jeff Johnston	Member-At-Large	805-522-8662
Albert Knight	Vice President	818-252-3466
Patricia Levin	Corresponding Secretary	818-998-5224
Doreen Rusen	President	818-360-0894
Lindsay Wilhelm	Member-At-Large	818-348-9682



## Phone List

Assemblywoman Tom McClintock - 818-368-3838  
California State Parks Department (general information) - 818-880-0350  
California State Parks Foundation - 415-258-9975  
Congressman Howard P. "Buck" McKeon (San Fernando Valley) - 818-885-1032  
Congressman Howard P. "Buck" McKeon (San Clarita) - 805-254-2111  
Frank M. Buda, Attorney At Law - 818-999-9871  
Governor Pete Wilson - 213-897-0322  
Los Angeles City Park Headquarters (general information) - 213-665-5188  
Los Angeles City Park Headquarters (Ranger dispatch) - 213-913-4147  
Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy - 310-589-3200  
Southern California Edison (general information) - 800-655-4555  
State Senator Cathie Wright - 800-458-8500  
William S. Abbey, Deputy Attorney General - 213-897-2604

## Address List

Department of Parks and Recreation, Box 942896, Sacramento CA 94296-0001  
Pete Wilson, State Capitol, Sacramento, CA 95814  
Cathie Wright (or your Senator), State Senate, Sacramento CA 95814  
Tom McClintock (or your Assemblyperson), State Assembly, Sacramento CA 95814

**Check Out Our Web Page!** (in progress) - <http://home.LACN.org/LACN/ssmpa/>

**Publicity Chairman – Diana Dixon-Davis - 818-341-4242**

## Need That Warm Feeling?

Have you been wishing you could find our very special T-shirt which features Chumash rock art? These newly-arrived, attractive black shirts with red artwork come in a variety of adult sizes. You can buy as many as you like at our general meetings. (Or call Susan at 818-704-9304.) All proceeds go for the preservation of the Santa Susanas

## First Canada Goose Celebra- tion

Saturday, 21 February 1998, The Canada Goose Project will be celebrating Canada Geese. Learn about the Adopt-A-Wild Goose program. Take a stroll to see the geese.

**DIRECTIONS:**  
From Burbank Blvd. and Woodley Ave., go north on Woodley, turn right onto the road leading to the Tillman Water Reclamation Plant, then proceed east to the farthest parking lot. You will see our tables on the grass in front of the Wildlife Area. For further information, call 818-769-1521.

# CANDIDATES STATEMENTS

## LINDSAY WILHELM - Member-At-Large

Since joining SSMPA 3 years ago, my main activity, almost by accident, definitely by need, has resulted in redefining the roles of the Foundation (FPSSM) and SSMPA. Now their differing means of achieving similar goals can be better understood hopefully, appreciated; and the organizations mutually supporting. Soon I will be writing an Annual Achievement Report concerning activities of SSMPA including the Archiving Project, the Lands Committee, and By-Laws Update. Now that our region has officially been named a state park, I feel more than ever that we must make sure that our tax dollars are used as we wish to protect what has been preserved and to acquire more adjoining properties. Therefore, I intend to analyze legislation on funding parklands and encourage SSMPA to lobby elected officials. My involvement with other local similar organizations such as the Cold Creek Docents, the Topanga Docents, the California Native Plant Society, Save Open Space has given me a valuable broad perspective on regional environmental issues and how to handle them effectively. Thank you.

## DOREEN RUSEN - Member-At-Large

As retiring President of SSMPA, I wish to submit my name as a Member-at-Large on the incoming Board. Community activities include a member of SSMPA for many years - my first love; Past President, Chatsworth Community Coordinating Council (still a Board member & currently co-editor of community calendar), and Board member of Chatsworth Jr. Baseball League for 25 years. Our recent dedication as a STATE HISTORIC PARK reinforces my desire to remain involved on a very active basis.

## MITCH LUCZYMSKI - Member-At-Large

Mitch Luczynski is currently the National Deputy Trail Coordinator and Area Director of Equestrian Trails Incorporated. He continues to represent the local equestrian community and consult with government officials at meetings at the city, state and federal levels. Mitch has been very active in working on the planing and development of equestrian trails in the Santa Monica Mountains area, and hopes to see the development of pedestrian, equestrian and mountain-bike trails in the Santa Susana Mountains and Simi Hills region. Mitch, a 20+-year resident of Chatsworth, hopes to make sure that the equestrian community and their interests are adequately represented on the SSMPA Board of Directors.

## PAT LEVIN - Corresponding Secretary

Pat has been serving as Corresponding Secretary for the last few months. She has written so many letters, so capably, that I feel a need to say how wonderful it has been having her doing the job. Theodore Dent

## AL KNIGHT - Vice President

I have had the honor of serving as the Vice-President of the SSMPA for the past 3 years (1995-1997), and am now a candidate for Vice-President for the year 1998. This period of time has been one of transition for the Association. As you are all aware, Jan Hinkston, the founder of the Association, has moved to Oregon, and the Association has had to learn to stand on it's own two feet. I believe that my contributions towards that goal have been, for the most part, successful. During the year of 1997, I have been involved with the following duties and/or activities, on behalf of the Association: Meeting Chair for most of the 1997 Board of Directors and General Membership meetings (Doreen Rusen was ill and/or recovering). Worked with Jeff Johnson to try and get a through trail established between Chatsworth Park South and Corriganville. Along with other members of the Association met with Joe Edmiston, Rorie Skei, and/or Paul Edmiston on the proposed Deer Lake Highlands development(s), and on other issues. Initiated and continue to write FROM THE ARCHIVES (information on our local history) for the SSMPA Newsletter. Along with Barbara Coffman acted as liaison with various State of California Parks Department personal, inc. Chief Ranger Dan Preece, State Parks archaeologist Michael Sampson, and Parks rep. Joanne Kerbavaz (issues discussed included SCE's 1993 illegal grading, the new State Historic Park, etc.). Acted as liaison with local Native American community, including Chief Charlie Cook, and with the Native American Heritage Commission in Sacramento. Led a Sunday Morning Sierra Club Hike (in May), which highlighted local archaeology and history. Am the 1997 Chairperson of the SSMPA Nominations Committee. Spoke to a SSMPA General Meeting on Native American Rock Art in Los Angeles County. Sorted through Jan's/the SSMPA's archives (some 20 boxes worth! - pertinent information was filed info at either the SSMPA/FPSSM Visitor's Center or at the Oviatt Library at CSUN). Continue as Programs Chair, and have brought a number of high quality speakers to our General Meetings. I believe that the Association has benefited from my activities, and I look forward to continuing to serve as SSMPA VP during the year of 1998.

## DORIAN KEYSER - - Member-At-Large

Retired Hughes Senior Staff Engineer. Now devotes most of time to environmental causes-and a major music event at the PARAMOUNT Ranch. Joined SSMPA in 1990. Former Board member, vice-president, president. Now chairs SSMPA Lands Committee and Sierra Club's Santa Susana Mountains Task Force. Frequently represents SSMPA with LA and Ventura County Supervisors and commissioners, L.A. City commissions and City Council, Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy. Submits written comments as appropriate to the above. Leads children's' nature hikes. Will work to maintain close cooperation between SSMPA, the Foundation, and the Sierra Club and with state parks, the Conservancy, and Chatsworth groups.

## JEFF JOHNSTON - President

(Jeff has been serving on the Executive Board for the last year. He has shown remarkable ability based on his legal training to ensure a well-reasoned approach to issues which have come before the board. He has well represented the issues of Simi Valley. Jeff is a member of the Rancho Simi Open Space Conservation Association board and a member of the Corriganville Preservation Committee. During the past year, I have had the opportunity of working with Jeff on the By-Laws Committee, which he has spearheaded, through eight drafts, so far. Many of us believe that SSMPA is headed for a bright future with Jeff Johnston as our new President.) Theodore Dent

## HOLLY HUFF - Member-At-Large

Holly is currently a member of the Rocketdyne Clean-Up Coalition, and a board member of the Susana Knolls Home Owners Association. Holly is a long time resident of the Simi Hills area (she was raised in the Chatsworth Lake Manor area, in the San Fernando Valley, and lives in Susana Knolls, in Simi Valley). Holly is personally familiar with the environment of the Simi Hills and has been very active in protecting the area. One of her primary concerns has been the protection of the wildlife corridor through the Simi Hills, which continues to be threatened.

## SUSAN GERKE - Treasurer

I have served as treasurer of SSMPA for one year. During that time, I have managed its funds and organized and maintained its financial records to my best ability. Being successful at keeping my own personal checkbook balanced and my finances in order, I feel I am qualified for the job. My goal for the future, should I be re-elected, is to continue to support SSMPA by building and maintaining a strong financial base for the organization, its work and activities.

## JUDY GARRIS - Member-At-Large

I have been hiking and exploring open space for over thirty years, During this time I have learned to be a good observer and translator of wildlife. I am presently a Naturalist/Interpreter and work teaching Ecology to children and adults. I have attended numerous classes and seminars on Southern California 's unique environment with an emphasis on native and edible plant use. I am a hike leader with the Sierra Club. During the past year on the board of SSMPA, I have organized and lead public hikes (Explorer Hikes) in the Santa Susana Mountains with groups of about twelve to thirty-five. During these hikes the public is informed of the activities of SSMPA in working with public agencies and landowners on preserving open space. I have been working with Dorian Keyser on the Lands Committee. I attend hearings and meetings of other environmental organizations and public agencies. We work closely with various park users in exploring trails and keeping informed of potential development. For general educational purposes, I am working on maps that will visually display the watersheds thereby stressing the importance of preserving certain lands for wildlife movement. I have been photographing the canyons and assembling slides for documentation and presentations. Jeff Johnston, Barbara Coffman and I are reviewing material for presentation from Jan Hinkston's collection. Judy Garris' previous volunteer and board experience: Last year I served on the board of directors for SSMPA as Member-at-Large, meanwhile serving on the Board of Directors of Sierra Singles as Membership Chair.

I believe my position on the board contributes to a knowledge and understanding of the lands for which we are trying to preserve. If I am elected I will work—to preserve open space in the Santa Susanas and the Simi Hills and continue to expand our knowledge of lands available for wildlife and for our enjoyment of nature related activities. I hope to be able to mediate in user conflicts and assist in representing SSMPA: at important hearings. Thank you.

## THEODORE DENT - Recording Secretary

SSMPA's mission continues to be one of service to our communities and to humanity at large. During the past two years, I have served as Recording Secretary, a position for which I am on the ballot again. During my tenure, I have recorded the minutes (and tried to make sense) of all General Membership Meetings, Executive Board Meetings, By-Law Committee Meetings, Ad-Hoc Committee Meetings, etc. Additionally, I served as Editor and Publisher of the newsletter for two years and Corresponding Secretary for one and one half years. I was once asked why, after being a member for twenty-five years and not being involved, why I had become active. It was then that I realized that two years ago, it became urgent and critical for the organization for me to be involved. During the next year, I hope I can convince a few more people how critical and urgent it is for them to become a part of our great organization. See you at our next meeting. You won't want to miss it!

## CHARLIE COOK - Member-At-Large

Wot Tig S'low ("Chief with Eye of the Eagle"- sometimes known as Mr. Charlie Cook) is recognized by many local Native Americans as a hereditary Chief of the Eastern Coastal Chumash/Fernandeno. Charlie has actively represented the local Indian community since the late 1960's. Charlie was a founder of the San Fernando Band of Mission Indians and their President from 1961 to 1970. During the early 1970s Charlie was one of the founding members of the United Chumash Council (although only semi-active now, the UCC was one of the first attempts to organize all of the modern Chumash descendant groups into one coordinating council). Charlie has also served as a member of the California Indian Legal Service Board of trustees for 20 years (1968-88). Charlie was a founder of the Satwiwa Native American Cultural Center (Rancho Sierra Vista/Satwiwa), a unit of the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area, and he is currently President of the Friends of Satwiwa, which supports the operations of the Cultural Center. Charlie has volunteered many 1,000s of hours of his time (without monetary compensation), in support of the local Native American community and in support of saving our beautiful local environment. On one of his recent nature hikes, over 1,000 people showed up to hear him speak.



# ABSENTEE BALLOT

(for those members unable to attend the March 16, 1998 General Membership Meeting.)

Please mail the absentee ballot below (ensuring a postmark before March 9, 1998) to:

Albert Knight, Chairman  
SSMPA Nominations Committee 1998  
SSMPA  
PO Box 4831  
Chatsworth CA 91313-4831

## ABSENTEE BALLOT

BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
SANTA SUSANA MOUNTAINS PARK ASSOCIATION  
MARCH 1998

The Nominations Committee of the Santa Susana Mountains Park Association has considered and approved the following candidates for the 1998 Board of Directors.

Please vote for ONE candidate for each of the following offices by circling the name printed or by writing in the name of a candidate of your choice.

<u>PRESIDENT</u>	JEFF JOHNSTON	OR	_____
<u>VICE-PRESIDENT</u>	ALBERT KNIGHT	OR	_____
<u>TREASURER</u>	SUSAN GERKE	OR	_____
<u>RECORDING SECRETARY</u>	THEODORE DENT	OR	_____
<u>CORRESPONDING SECRETARY</u>	PAT LEVIN	OR	_____

### MEMBERS-AT-LARGE

Please vote for FIVE of the following candidates for MEMBERS-AT-LARGE by circling the name printed and/or by writing in the name(s) of a candidate or candidates of your choice (to a maximum of five names.)

CHARLIE COOK	JUDY GARRIS	_____
HOLLY HUFF	DORIAN KEYSER	_____
MITCH LUCZYMSKI	MILT MCAULEY	_____
DOREEN RUSEN	LINDSAY WILHELM	_____

### An e-mail Tale

Once upon a time, Glenn Bailey suggested we added a space for members to indicate their e-mail address on the membership form. He further suggested that even though we're on the web, we could make it clear to potential e-mailers that SSMPA business can be conducted by e-mailing to: [tcdent@earthlink.net](mailto:tcdent@earthlink.net)  
Glenn also said that he could be reached at [GlennSFV@aol.com](mailto:GlennSFV@aol.com).

And then the State funded our ranger, and we lived happily ever after.

# CALENDAR



February 15 (Sun.) Weekly Hike; meet at Chatsworth Park South - 9:00 a.m.  
February 16 (Mon.) General Membership Meeting, Glendale Fed. - 7:00 p.m.  
February 22 (Sun.) Weekly Hike; meet at Chatsworth Park South - 9:00 a.m.  
March 1 (Sun.) Weekly Hike; meet at Chatsworth Park South - 9:00 a.m.  
March 2 (Mon.) Executive Board Meeting, Visitors Center, Chats.Pk.S.  
March 4 (Wed.) Deadline for articles for the March Newsletter  
March 8 (Sun.) Weekly Hike; meet at Chatsworth Park South - 9:00 a.m.  
March 15 (Sun.) Weekly Hike; meet at Chatsworth Park South - 9:00 a.m.  
March 16 (Mon.) General Membership Meeting, Glendale Fed. - 7:00 p.m. -  
SSMPA Annual Election of Officers

## SSMPA & FPSSM

By Nancy Razanski, President, FPSSM, former President, SSMPA

The Santa Susana Mountain Park Association (SSMPA) holds a 501 (C) (4) tax status. Funds come in from non-tax deductible donations, mostly from annual membership dues. Membership includes the newsletter and monthly program meetings. SSMPA can take part in extensive lobbying and petition gathering activities. The Foundation for the Preservation of the Santa Susana Mountains (FPSSM) holds a 501 (C) (3) tax status. It can seek and obtain grants and accept tax deductible donations. It can also serve as a land trust (can purchase open space and hold it until a parks department can purchase it). Both groups do public education outreach to help preserve the Santa Susana Mountains and Simi Hills through such activities as hikes and nature walks. The goals of both organizations are the same: to protect the wildlife corridor including historical sites, stretching from the Santa Monica National Recreational Area to the Los Padres National Forest. This is for the enjoyment of present and future generations. Both environmental non-profit groups worked to obtain public park status for the Santa Susana Mountain Park Project.

## SANTA SUSANA MOUNTAIN PARK ASSOCIATION

WE INVITE YOU TO JOIN/RENEW/REJOIN S.S.M.P.A.

Investing in the future of our communities and its resources is probably one of the best expenditures of our time and efforts. Please return this cutoff with your contributions to help ensure our futures. Please make checks payable to SSMPA and send to P.O. Box 4831, Chatsworth, CA 91313-4831

\_\_\_\_ Senior or Student (\$5.00)      \_\_\_\_ Individual(\$10.00)      \_\_\_\_ Family (\$15.00)  
\_\_\_\_ Business or Organization (\$25.00)      \_\_\_\_ Life Member (\$100.00)

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

CITY/STATE/ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

SPECIAL INTEREST/EXPERTISE: \_\_\_\_\_

# THE FOUNDATION FOR THE PRESERVATION OF THE SANTA SUSANA MOUNTAINS

presents . . .

*The Santa Susana Docents* and invites you to a  
*Four-week Naturalist Education Program.*

Enjoy with us a "Living Guide" to the Panoramic Santa Susana Mountains.  
Learn about the region you live in!

Enhance your knowledge and enjoyment  
of the geology, wildlife, plants, and Native Peoples of our area.

February 21: 9 AM - 3 PM

Bob Thomas  
Julian Gonzales  
Dana Dierkes

**Our Rocky Landscape**  
**Snakes and Lizards—How to live safely with them**  
**Practical Uses of Edible and Medicinal Native Plants**

February 28: 9 AM - 3 PM

Ray Sauvajot  
Rosi Dagit

**Wildlife Populations and Wilderness Corridors**  
**How Oaks Add Value to Our Lives**

March 7: 9 AM - 3 PM

Mati Waiya  
Art Langton  
Gloria Lothrop

**Chumash Dress, Dance, and Music**  
**Chaparral Birds of the Winter and Spring**  
**Hispanic Influences in our Region**

March 14: 9 AM - 3 PM

Craig Torres

**His Tongva Ancestry and Traditional Soapstone  
Carving Skills**

Virginia Watson,  
Lila & Bill Schepler  
Marge Feinberg

**A Portrait of Early Settlers' Lives**

**Future of the Rim of the Valley Heritage Trail**

**Meet at** Visitor Center, Chatsworth Park South, 22360 Devonshire Street, Chatsworth.

Brunch provided in the morning, snacks and drinks in the afternoon.

Wear comfortable clothes and walking shoes.

**For more information or to RSVP to the series,** please call Gretha Davis at (818) 340-4011.

**Cost:** All four days for only \$15 if signed up by February 18<sup>th</sup>. The cost will be \$20 for sign-ups on February 21st. *Adult enrollees only.* Cost non-refundable, applicable to future naturalist programs.

**To Pay for the series by Mail:** Please make checks out to the "Foundation for the Preservation of the Santa Susana Mountains." Mail to: **FPSSM**, c/o Gretha Davis, P.O. Box 4831, Chatsworth, CA 91313-4831

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