



Santa Susana Mountain Park Association

Volume 29, Issue 3

A Non-Profit Organization
Incorporated August 31, 1971

March 1999 Newsletter

ENVIRONMENTAL CALENDAR

Three very important hearings, whose outcomes will affect our local environment and therefore our lives, will be taking place in the next two months:

March 10, 1999 - 3:30 p.m. at Pierce College: Last hearing on Pierce College Farm. The LACCD Board of Trustees will cast their final vote after this public hearing. See page 2 for more information.

March 23, 1999 - 10:00 a.m. at L.A. City Hall: Report to L.A. City Council by DWP Commissioner President Ric Caruso on the Chatsworth Nature Preserve/Reservoir. See page 2 for details.

April 7, 1999: Rocky Pointe project is tentatively scheduled to be heard by the Simi Valley Planning Commission. See page 3 for more.

Other more lighthearted environmental happenings will also be taking place in the next two months:

March 7, 1999 - 12:00 - 4:00 p.m. at Pierce College: Celebration of Arbor Day. See page 5 for details.

March 20, 1999 - 10:00 a.m. at Chatsworth Park South and Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park: Celebration of the 60th anniversary of the Placing of the Old Stage Coach Trail Plaque by the Topanga Parlor #269 Chapter of the Native Daughters of the Golden West. See story on page 4.

April 10-11, 1999 at Malibu Creek State Park: The Topanga Canyon Docents, with Malibu Creek Docents, will conduct their 17th Annual Field Ecology Weekend. See page 4 for more information.

April 14, 7:30 p.m. at old Canoga Park Fire Station: Barbara Coffman's slide show on the history of the Stage Coach Trail. See page 5 for more.

SSMPA March 15th Program

Starting in late March, and continuing into June, wildflowers in the local mountains will be blooming in all of their glory. So that members can appreciate our spring flowers, SSMPA member Milt McAuley has graciously agreed to bring his Wildflowers slide show as well as his great sense of humor to our March General Membership Meeting.

Milt is always very entertaining and informative. He is the author of Wildflowers of the Santa Monica Mountains, complete with pictures and descriptions of the wildflowers that grace these mountains. He has also written several books about the trails of the Santa Monicas, regularly leads hikes there, and is leading the building of the Backbone Trail which, when completed, will extend from Will Rogers State Park to Point Mugu.

The Monday, March 15, 1999, SSMPA General Membership Meeting will take place at 7:30 p.m. (7:00 for board members) at the Rockpointe Recreation Center, 22300 Devonshire Street, Chatsworth (south side of street, 1 - 1/2 blocks before entry to Chatsworth Park South).

SSMPA Board election results will be announced at the meeting. Ballots for voting for the Board are on the last page. You have the choice of mailing your ballot or bringing it with you to the meeting. ☺

Showdown at Pierce College

The last public hearing on the fate of Pierce College's 240-acre farm land is set to take place on Wednesday, March 10, 1999, on the grounds of Pierce College. The L.A. Community College District (LACCD) board of trustees will cast their final vote on the Pierce College Farm following the hearing.

Everyone who opposes turning this land into a golf course is urged to show up. Indeed, since the developer, Qvale/Colbert, intends to pack the hall with proponents of development, it is critical that hundreds of farm supporters show up at the hearing to give the LACCD trustees a clear message that the community at large opposes the proposed development of this land.

The Pierce College Farm hearing is scheduled to convene at 3:30 p.m. Signs will direct you to the meeting place. Parking is free.

Let us all remember that the fight against development is almost always an uphill battle. In this case, the developer is distributing glossy brochures and has hired a public relations company.

Those in the grass roots movement to save the Pierce College Farm can oppose this development by:

- Showing up at the March 10th hearing
- Speaking at the March 10th hearing
- Writing the LACCD board:

Elizabeth Garfield, President
L.A. Community College Board of Trustees
770 Wilshire Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90017

To reserve a place as a speaker on behalf of the Farm, you can sign up on Monday or Tuesday before the hearing by calling (213) 891-2044.

Call Margo Murman of the Coalition to Save the Farm at (818) 346-9943 for more information on the hearing on Pierce Farm.

Bring your friends and neighbors! THIS IS OUR LAST CHANCE to save Pierce College Farm. Let's change their minds and preserve this unique agricultural and environmental asset! ☺

Chatsworth Nature Preserve / Reservoir Hearing

By Dorian Keyser

DWP Commissioner President Ric Caruso will present his report and recommendations on the Chatsworth Nature Preserve/Reservoir to the L.A. City Council on Tuesday, March 23, 1999, in Room 315 of Los Angeles City Hall. The hearing will start at 10:00 a.m. L.A. City Hall is located at 200 N. Main St., Los Angeles 90012-4801.

We badly need a lot of people to show up to say that we oppose any development or athletic fields anywhere in the 1,326-acre preserve.

From the Valley (818 area code), you can call Hal Benson's office without incurring toll charges by first calling 756-8121 to reach City Hall and then dialing 485-3343. Call on March 21 or 22 for information about free parking in the nearby L.A. City garage. Ride pools are advised. ☺



Dedication of Westridge/Canyon Back Wilderness Park

By Patricia Milow

On a sunny Saturday, February 20, 1999, 1,518 acres of open space above Mandeville Canyon became the State's newest park, the Westridge/Canyon Back Wilderness Park. Formerly known as the Eastport property, it was the single largest privately owned open space remaining in the City of Los Angeles. The new park borders the 20,000-acre urban wilderness park system known as the "Big Wild."

After opening remarks by Conservancy Executive Director Joe Edmiston and Conservancy Chair Elizabeth Cheadle, Mati Waiya, President of Wishtoyo, performed a beautiful White Sage Purification Rite and spoke of how "land is medicine" and of how you should "take what you need and leave the rest for tomorrow."

Councilwoman Cindy Miscikowski, Congressman Brad Sherman, and Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky spoke in turn, the latter saying that this parcel is the "crown jewel of acquisitions — if this had gone, other places might not be acquirable." Supervisor Yaroslavsky also acknowledged that "our time is limited, but our actions here are unlimited and will have a lasting effect." ☺

Rocky Pointe Project Near Corriganville

Again, there seems to be some insensitivity about preserving the unique environment of the Simi Valley — its wonderful rock outcroppings, its majestic oaks, and its wetlands.

For those of you not familiar with the location of this proposed project, it is on the west side of Kuehner at the City/County line. It is necessary to pass this site to enter Corriganville, where many movies and TV programs were filmed.

For years, this has been a wetlands area for numerous varieties of birds and plants. It is also an historical area and abuts the restored Santa Susana Depot. The Susana Knolls — a unique, rural area — would be impacted by the "citification" of this site in such close proximity.

The proposed Rocky Pointe project would encroach upon a boulder of historical significance in Chumash Indian culture. There is discussion regarding the necessity to alter the boulder to widen the road, and about the need for sound walls on both sides of the "big" rock to insulate the 26 proposed homes. This would compromise the scenic entrance to the city and blot out a wonderful viewshed.

As we all know, although there are attempts at preservation, oaks do not do well in residential tracts. This was recently demonstrated in Thousand Oaks where a 900-year-old oak was rotting and had to be removed due to a poor environment with lawns intruding on its roots.

For years, the site of the proposed Rocky Pointe project has been a wetlands site for migrating birds and a sanctuary for endangered plants. This is indeed a riparian habitat that should be preserved. The developer contends that they have capped a well and the problem has been mitigated. However, we who live in the area continue to see standing water on the site.

Additionally, this was an area hard hit by the 1994 earthquake because of the known high water table and liquefaction. This makes us wonder if it is wise to propose to build these homes which, because they would be built on shaky ground, could so easily be destroyed by a future quake.

To lose another beautiful area, no matter how small, would be a crime. Those of us opposing this project are frantically seeking ways to purchase this land, to preserve it as a natural heritage. The Rocky

Update on Dayton Canyon

by Judy Garris

The Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for Dayton Canyon Estates is being formulated. Public comments and responses from agencies have been taken into consideration. As a result, the developer, Suncal Company, is working on reducing the footprint of the development, including a reduction of the number of lots. The amount of grading will be reduced and less dirt will be moved.

There will be an increase in the amount of land donated to a conservancy. Many conservation groups, including the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, are interested in obtaining and managing the dedicated open space, and the developer is in the process of deciding what agency will receive the land.

Mr. Rattazzi, the principal of Suncal, states that he realizes the public need for trails and is committed to developing a trail system. The most popular trail beginning from the confluence of Dayton Creek and its tributary is being studied. The trailhead will probably not be in the same place.

If the EIR is approved and zoning changes are allowed, the lovely riparian stream with its sycamores attesting to a good water source for animals will be impacted, and the little delta will be replaced by a basin. (A basin for water retention is needed to moderate water flows and prevent flooding.) Mr. Rattazzi says the plans will keep as much of the streambed as intact as possible, but some of the streambed will be moved.

Concerning the need of wildlife for the year-round source of water that Dayton Creek and its tributary provide, the developer expressed awareness and sensitivity to this issue.

Calls and comments can be directed to:

Bill Rattazzi
21601 Devonshire Blvd., Ste. 116
Chatsworth, CA 91311
Phone: (818) 772-2077
Fax: (818) 772-2067

Rocky Pointe Project Near Corriganville

Continued . . .

Pointe project is tentatively scheduled to be heard by the Simi Valley Planning Commission on April 7, 1999. Any support for preservation of this area would benefit all, so please plan to attend when a finalized date and time have been established. *

— Susana Knolls Homeowners Association

Old Stage Coach Trail Plaque Honored

By Nancy Razanski, FPSSM President

On Saturday, March 20, 1999, starting at 10:00 a.m., the Foundation for the Preservation of the Santa Susana Mountains (FPSSM) will host the 60th anniversary of the Placing of the Old Stage Coach Trail Plaque by the Topanga Parlor #269 Chapter of the Native Daughters of the Golden West back on March 17, 1939. [Note: the chapter's name was Topanga Parlor #269, not Topanga Parlor #269.] We hope to have representatives from that original group present for our event.

Meet near Chatsworth Park South's back parking lot. There will be hikes to the Plaque and pictures taken for a \$2.00 donation per photo to the FPSSM. Gretha Davis will take Polaroid shots. Ed Gooley will assist.

There will also be food and entertainment. Ralph's Market has already donated a \$25 gift certificate for a cake. Judy Garris will demonstrate how to play a Native American flute. William A. Razanski, creator of the "Scaling the Devil's Slide" watercolor, will autograph prints for a \$10 tax-deductible donation to the FPSSM. Kevin Wachs of Earthly Bodies cosmetics has offered to organize a litter cleanup of our parkland two hours prior to the event.

Our Stage Coach Trail celebration will be attended by State Park Superintendent Randy Sederquist, who has assigned State Park Interpreter Mike Allan to procure our new Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park signs and Russ Kimura, a Ranger at Los Encinos State Historical Park, to assist us in the planning of the event. We hope to have a display from Los Encinos focusing on the De La Ossa family, who not only owned Los Encinos Rancho but also the La Cuesta ("The Mountain") relay station near Devil's Slide.

Chatsworth Historical Society, Chatsworth Women's Club, FPSSM, SSMPA, and State Parks plan to have displays. Four categories of admission have been set up for both individuals and families, ranging from \$2 to \$10 tax-deductible donations. Businesses are encouraged to donate an FPSSM patronage in \$25 and \$50 amounts.

In case of rain, we hope to use Chatsworth Park South gym for indoor festivities. For more information, call Nancy at (818) 341-3512. Y'all come, y'hear? *

17th Annual Field Ecology Weekend

By Don Murchie, Topanga Canyon Docents

The Topanga Canyon Docents, in association with Malibu Creek Docents, have set the weekend of April 10-11, 1999, for their 17th annual Field Ecology Weekend at Malibu Creek State Park. The 2-day event will feature overnight camping, hands-on workshops, demonstrations, field trips and fun for the whole family.

Activities get underway at 9:30 a.m. Saturday with a choice of a lecture on mini-climates and geography with a field walk, a landscaping talk, and a nature art demonstration. Saturday afternoon features a choice of a discussion of the Gabrielino (Tongva) Indians culture and crafts, a demonstration of the technology of native mammal monitoring, and a talk comparing native and non-native flora.

Saturday evening entertainment will include a slide show and a lecture on bats. A bird walk will take place on Sunday morning at 7:30 a.m. After breakfast, there will be a choice of a talk on mammal tracking, a talk on the geology of the Santa Monica Mountains, and an encore of the field walk and lecture on mini-climates and geography. After lunch, there will be an encore of the nature art demonstration.

Field Ecology Weekend events will be based in Malibu Creek State Park's Group Campsite Area, which has barbecue pits, showers, sinks, and toilets. Participants have the option of camping Friday, Saturday, and even Sunday nights. Camping check-in starts at 4:00 p.m. Friday, and check-out is no later than 11:00 a.m. Monday. Bring



Scaling the Devil's Slide

your own tent if you plan to camp. Tent camping is not mandatory, but is preferred.

Bring snacks and a food contribution for Saturday evening's pot-luck. Please do not bring along either radios or pets.

The Field Ecology Weekend costs \$25.00 per adult (15 years and older) and \$15.00 per child (6 to 14 years). Children age 5 and under are free. Also, if you pay for 3 children, you can bring up to 4 more for free.

Preregistration and prepayment are required. Space is limited, so sign up fast. For more information, call the Topanga Canyon Docents Hotline, (310) 535-9400, or call Don Murchie, the event's coordinator, at (310) 450-8639. *

Arbor Day at Pierce College

Come celebrate Luther Burbank's birthday on Sunday, March 7, 1999, from 12:00 noon to 4:00 p.m. on the campus and farm of L.A.'s Pierce College. Learn how to plant a tree! See farm animals. Tree games, music, dancing, storytelling, and international food will also be featured at this event.

Admission is free and sign language interpreters will be available. Signs will guide you to the event once you enter the Woodland Hills campus at the Mason/Victory entrance. For more information, call (818) 349-4057. *

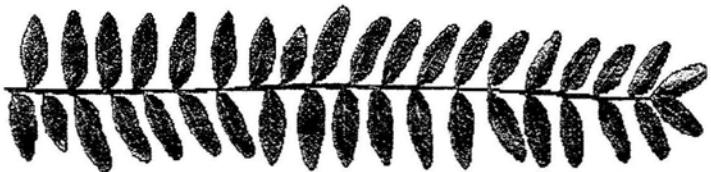
SLIDE SHOW ON HISTORY OF STAGE COACH TRAIL

Barbara Coffman will narrate the history of stage coach travel in the San Fernando area, especially in the Santa Susana Pass, on Wednesday, April 14, 1999. The slide show recalls the days of yesteryear with their stage coaches and relay stations.

The slide show presentation will take place at 7:30 p.m. at the old fire station at 7248 Owensmouth Street in Canoga Park (next to the Canoga Park library).

The event is sponsored by the Canoga Park Historical Society. Everyone is welcome. *

Many thanks to Randy Perras, new Manager of the Topanga Canyon/Roscoe Office Depot, for continuing the donation of printing services, i.e., the duplication of our newsletter. We appreciate it!



SSMPA Executive Board

Charlie Cooke, Member-At-Large	805-269-1244
Theodore Dent, Recording Secretary	818-882-4664
Judy Garris, Member-At-Large	818-346-7654
Susan Gerke, Treasurer	818-704-9304
Holly Huff, Member-At-Large	805-526-0961
Jeff Johnston, President	805-643-1721
Dorian Keyser, Member-At-Large	818-345-3795
Albert Knight, Vice President	818-252-3466
Patricia Levin, Corresponding Secretary	818-998-5224
Doreen Rusen, Member-At-Large	818-360-0894

Publicity Chairman: Diana Dixon-Davis - 818-341-4242



Rim of Valley Creator Passes On

Marge Feinberg, originator of the Rim of the Valley trail, passed away on February 2, 1999. Her passing was celebrated on February 6 with a beautiful funeral attended by many of her loving friends, as well as family.

We will miss her. *

Suggested Programs for Future SSMPA Meetings

By Dorian Keyser

Below are some of my ideas for future programs. What are yours? Please let me know by calling me at (818) 345-3795.

1. Show SSMPA's video of China Flats and Runkle Ranch if someone can help with the loan of a large, reasonably transportable TV monitor-set.
2. The steelhead of Malibu Creek — a slide show by Jim Edmundson, Executive Director of California Trout.
3. The ancient Anastazi ruins of Chaco Canyon, Aztec, and elsewhere in New Mexico, Arizona, and Colorado — a slide show by Sierra Club leader Bonnie Sharp, who annually leads two two-week work parties to them.

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Suggested Programs for Future SSMPA Meetings

Continued . . .

4. Elsemere, Sunshine, and Towsley Canyons — a slide show by Henry Schultz of the Santa Clarita Group of the Sierra club.
5. Photographic views of the Simi Hills and Santa Susana Mountains — a slide show by SSMPA members Judy Garris and Jeff Johnston.

March Hikes

Stagecoach Trail and Exploration Series hikes are offered by the Santa Susana Mountain Task Force (SSMTF) of the Sierra Club and publicized by the SSMPA and the Foundation for the Preservation of the Santa Susana Mountains (FPSSM).

Stagecoach Trail Hikes

SSMTF hikes are conducted every *Sunday*, October - June (except for very rainy days) from the parking lot of Chatsworth Park South Recreation Building, 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 4-mile (700 ft. gain) loop up the Stagecoach Trail in the hills west of the park. Bring water and a snack in a back or hip pack. Lug sole shoes or sturdy, closed shoes, and a hat are advised. All hike leaders are knowledgeable and experienced.

Stagecoach Trail Hike Leaders

First Sunday: Barbara Coffman
Second Sunday: Judy Garris
Third Sunday: Lindsay Wilhelm
Fourth Sunday: Lee Baum

Santa Susana Exploration Series

Sunday, March 28, 1999 — Hike at Hummingbird Creek

This will be an easy-paced, 4-mile walk, 700-foot gain, in the Hummingbird Creek area, which is on the Simi Valley side of the Santa Susana Mountains. Hike to the Rock House and caves.

Hike at Hummingbird Creek, continued

Meet at 9:00 a.m. at Rocky Peak Road off of the 118 Freeway for rideshare to the trailhead. Bring water & snack. Heavy rain cancels. Call Judy Garris at (818) 346-7654 for more information.

Other Hikes in the Santa Susanas

Devil Canyon

Thursday, March 18, 1999. A moderately paced, 7-mile hike. Meet at 10:00 a.m. at the North end of Topanga Canyon Blvd., just north of the 118 Freeway. Turn left and park on Poema Place or turn right and park on Mojave Trail. DO NOT PARK IN THE INTERSECTION AT THE END OF TOPANGA CANYON BLVD. Wear long pants; bring snack to share & water. Heavy rain cancels. Call Judy Garris at (818) 346-7654 for more information.

Easter Morn with Archaeologist

Sunday, April 4, 1999. Learn about Indian life in Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park with Al Knight. Meet at 9:00 a.m. at Chatsworth Park South Recreation Building parking lot (west end of Devonshire Street). Serious rain cancels. Leader is Barbara Coffman. For information, call (818) 347-5603.



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. Return this cutoff with your contributions to help ensure our futures. Please make checks payable to SSMPA and send to SSMPA, 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: _____ Fax: _____

City/State/Zip Code: _____ Email: _____

Special Interest/Expertise: _____

Candidates' Statements

JUDY GARRIS – President

During my past two terms as Member At Large, I have learned much from all the previous active members of SSMPA. It has been and still is a strong, dedicated group with a deep passion and commitment to preserve the fast-disappearing natural open space of the Simi Hills and the Santa Susana Mountains. If elected President, I will be proud to assist in continuing their work and honored to be chosen to represent this organization.

In my past year with SSMPA, I have written articles and spoken to the public and other environmental organizations of the importance of preserving the wildlife corridor that connects the national forests with the Santa Monica National Recreational Area. I have physically explored much of the public and private land, so I have an intimate knowledge of the open space we are fighting to save. I have worked closely with Dorian Keyser, chair of the Lands Committee, and have attended hearings and meetings with him. We try to keep abreast of new public land policies, development proposals, land for sale and any activities that will affect the preservation of the natural state of the land in our area. In my spare time, I have studied the history of the SSMPA to better understand the successful dynamics of activism.

Now that the previous board has accomplished the preservation and seen the dedication of the Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park, we need to broaden our goals to include the preservation of the rest of the Simi Hills and the Santa Susana Mountains as our founder, Jan Hinkston, did in her vision of the Santa Susana Mountain Park. We need to keep this goal in mind as we tend to the details of guiding a new state park. I would like us to interact more with the people who are working to expand the Santa Clarita Woodlands which will complete the Santa Susanas' connection to the Angeles National forest.

I believe the Foundation for the Preservation of the Santa Susanas (FPSSM) and the SSMPA, both with similar goals, need to work closely together and, if elected President, I will work to strengthen our bonds by encouraging periodical joint meetings. I am hoping to inject more "fun" by getting both organizations together for informal gatherings.

As President, I would like to assist in focusing our priorities toward these goals and, as I have done in the past year, I will continue to try to increase our resources of public open space for the enjoyment of wildlife and people. I want to inform public officials of the importance of tightening up the definition of open space and the need to preserve as much of the local native plants and animals as possible. I would also like to gain more support from our environmental friends of the Santa Monica Mountains and impress upon them the importance of this wildlife corridor to their mountains.

DORIAN KEYSER – Vice-President

A. Former SSMPA President and Vice-President.

B. March 1998 - March 1999 activities:

SSMPA Member At Large, Chair of its Lands Committee, Member of its Bylaws Committee.

Primary focus: Organized and led efforts of the SSMPA, Audubon Society, Sierra Club, and community at large to save the Chatsworth Nature Preserve/Reservoir from development and athletic fields.

Worked on other lands issues and on bylaws revisions.

C. Planned activities for march 1999 - March 2000:

1. If elected SSMPA Vice-President, I will back up the SSMPA President and arrange the programs of its membership meetings to reflect the needs and wishes of the membership.
2. I will work to establish closer relations with the Foundation for the Preservation of the Santa Susana Mountains.

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DORIAN KEYSER – Vice-President

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3. I will work for the completion and adoption of the revised SSMPA bylaws with due regard for the ideas and wishes of SSMPA members.
4. I will continue Lands Committee activities with Judy Garris, Chris Van Schaack, and others.
 - a. I will work to prevent the development of any part of the Chatsworth Nature Preserve in cooperation with Councilman Bernson, community groups, and others.
 - b. I will work to preserve wildlife corridors from/to Los Padres and Angeles National Forests to/from the Santa Monica Mountains via the Santa Susana Mountains and Simi Hills.
 - c. I will ensure that the requirements of the Memorandum of Agreement for the 338-acre Indian Springs Phase II property, including deeding 272 acres to the Santa Monica Mountains conservancy and access to the trails, are fulfilled.
 - d. I will work to obtain funding from the public sector to purchase the 14-acre Hoerner property, a critical element in linking Brown's Canyon to Corriganville via south of the 118 Freeway.
 - e. I will work to preserve as much of Dayton Canyon as possible in its natural state.
 - f. I will represent the SSMPA to California State, L.A. County and City and Ventura County officials, and the Conservancy via letters and testimony at meetings.
5. I will continue working with California State Parks officials for the planning and implementation of the infrastructure and activities in the Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park.

SUSAN GERKE – Treasurer

I am willing to serve another year as Treasurer of SSMPA. My background as an executive assistant, in addition to my experience in serving as Treasurer this past year, enables me to perform the duties of this position adequately and in such a way as to keep the Association in good financial standing.

PATRICIA MILOW – Corresponding Secretary

I joined the Santa Susana Mountain Park Association on May 16, 1998, the day on which we publicly celebrated the creation of the Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park. I have recently been editing the SSMPA newsletter, and I also volunteered to document the recent work on the Association's Bylaws (in other words, I have the SSMPA Bylaws draft on my computer and I update the draft according to the changes agreed upon in each meeting of the Bylaws Committee).

Although I have always been in favor of saving the environment, I became a convert to environmentalism upon reading an article in the Whole Life Times about the dignified and serene death of a deer who had been hit by a car, as witnessed by some hikers who spotted the downed deer and stayed with her till the end. This moved me so much that I realized deep down that we must preserve all the wilderness that we have left so that wild animals can continue living wild and natural places will remain for all to explore.

I am just a beginner when it comes to matters like preserving open space via land acquisition, but I am a fairly good writer (I make my living as a Technical Writer). When it comes to corresponding on behalf of the SSMPA, I can put together good letters by soliciting information from more knowledgeable Association members, and then composing the letters in an appropriate and effective way.

I am currently acting as Corresponding Secretary, as Pat Levin will be going on a long trip in early March. I understand that some of the correspondence that we receive must be acted upon immediately, and I promise to do so. Also, if there is some way that I can network our group with other environmental groups through this position, I would like to do so.

HOLLY HUFF – Member At Large

I served as an SSMPA Member At Large this past year. I am very much interested in preserving open space and wildlife corridors, and am pleased that I can do so through the SSMPA. As a resident of Susana Knolls in Simi Valley, I would like to see Ventura County have more funds earmarked for acquiring properties large and small as they become available. I sit on the board of the Susana Knolls Homeowners Association. Protecting our community against overdevelopment has been a constant battle. We are always fighting to save the rural flavor of our neighborhood, which isn't always so easy when you live in one such as ours, surrounded by vast open space on one side, and the City of Simi Valley on the other.

I am a member of the Rocketdyne Clean-up Coalition. RCC was formed in 1989 when contamination was found at the Santa Susana Field Lab, aka Rocketdyne. As a community group we set 3 goals: 1. To clean up the contamination, 2. To stop any further nuclear work, and 3. To have a health study done on the workers.

I'm a native Valley girl. I lived in Calabasas until I was 8 years old. In 1959 we moved to Chatsworth Lake (and there *was* a lake) where I continued to live until 1972, at which time I moved to Susana Knolls. My husband and I rebuilt our house and we are still raising two children, ages 20 and 15. I share a small gardening business with a friend that keeps me busy.

TERRIE BRADY – Member At Large

I first became aware of environmental issues during a course in ecology in summer school of 4th grade. I also learned about endangered species at about that time. About 4 years later, someone asked me what I wanted to do with my life. I thought about all the possibilities, as if someone had granted me a wish, and I said "stop extinction." The Endangered Species Act had been passed earlier that year, 1974. The Endangered Species Act is up for reauthorization since this year is its 25th anniversary. Strengthening of the Act will be an important issue for us to focus on in the upcoming year. I was a social activist during high school, helping to found the Social Justice Club at my school. I worked on organizing participation in walk-a-thons and food drives as the President of a club in the 1976-77 school year. I also volunteered at centers in Venice, California, and in Tijuana, Mexico, helping the poor get needed items.

In 1988, I completed my degree in Liberal Studies at CSUN. I recycled a little, but I felt that I needed an outlet for my idealism. The direction for that came in the form of an article in Rolling Stone Magazine about rainforest destruction. I recognized the feeling of urgency that had led me to my activism in high school. I joined many environmental organizations including the Audubon Society and Tree People, and became active as a volunteer in both organizations. I participated in docent training for Topanga Canyon State Park. Although I never became an active docent, I met Rosie Dagit there, and she showed us how we could influence the system to save oaks, her special area of expertise, by commenting on EIRs. I commented on the proposed development of 100 homes in the Topanga Canyon area. Although the County Planning Commission voted to allow the project, the development was stopped when the SMMC bought the property.

In 1989, I took a course in environmental geology which gave me a basic overview of existing environmental crises as well as government processes involved in environmental protection. I followed the Tujunga Wash golf course project closely in 1996. Recently, Bill Eick notified me of hopeful efforts on this front by the Department of Fish and Game due to the potential listing of the Santa Ana Sucker, a fish present on the property, and several other factors leading the Department to request a supplemental EIR.

My current focus is the preservation of Pierce College Farm. However, since there are always so many important environmental issues, I try to comment in writing or in person on any other environmental issue that stirs my heart. I try to get others involved. I hope we can expand the Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park to what Jan Hinkston had envisioned when she founded our organization. I hope we can make strides toward completing the wildlife corridor to connect the Santa Monica Mountains with the Angeles and Los Padres National Forests. A 3-mile-wide open space area is the minimum necessary for wildlife to travel and interbreed in the long-term according to Ray Savajot of the National Park Service. It is my intention and hope to preserve

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TERRIE BRADY — Member At Large

Continued . . .

a wildlife corridor 3 miles in width through the Simi Hills and the Santa Susana Mountains. Three miles is all that remains there as open space now. Therefore, all remaining open space in our region is critical, and we are at a critical turning point. This is why I hope to be elected to your board: to work to save the remaining wildlife linkages. We have witnessed a great victory in the opening of our new Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park, for which I can take no credit, but can only express my admiration for all of you who made it possible. I look forward to working with the excellent activists who made this important State Park and wildlife area possible. Let's hope we have many more victories so we can fulfill Jan's dream and preserve a green belt around our part of the valley.

DIANA DIXON-DAVIS — Member At Large

I ask for your vote to join the SSMPA Board and continue to be your Publicity Chairman. Though I have been a member of the SSMPA for about 17 years, and a member of the Sierra Club for about 35 years, I have mainly volunteered in the LAUSD schools and the PTAs in this area. I did help to collect signatures for qualifying the last two environmentally oriented State Bond Measures and I have done the publicity work for the SSMPA for the past 1 and 1/2 years. I was a founding member of PRIDE and still continue to work for rational land and resource usage in the San Fernando Valley.

My community work has included a wide range of activities. I led a committee that set up the earthquake preparedness program at Germain Street School, which became a model for all of LAUSD and led to my co-chairing a California State Senate Task Force on Earthquake Preparedness in the public schools. I have served the Northwest Valley Council and 31st District PTA in a variety of positions ranging from Safety and Legislation Chairman to President. I have served as an elected parent representative on the School Site Councils, School Based Management councils, and the instructional Cabinets at Germain, Lawrence M.S., and Chatsworth H.S. I have served as a community advisor to School Board Members Julie Korenstein and Valerie Fields, and California State Senators Hayden, Roberti, Rosenthal, and Assemblyman Hertzberg, and even Council members Bernson, Chick, and Picus. I currently serve on the San Fernando Valley and the Los Angeles County Alcohol Policy Coalitions, and the Smart Shuffle Citizens' Advisory Council. I was involved in the Year Round School Issue, Heat Policies for Schools, Banning Military Assault Weapons, Redistricting LAUSD School Board Election Districts, Child-care Permits, Annenberg Grant, L.A. Break-up Campaign and many other issues. I have been a member and Vice President of the North Valley Democratic Club, Treasurer of the 38th Assembly District Democratic Committee, am Elected Delegate for the 38th A.D. to the Democratic State Central Committee and an elected representative to the Democratic Party of the San Fernando Valley.

BETTE BUTLER — Member At Large

I am a photographer interested in the environment. I am a docent for the Ronald Reagan Library. I have served previously on the SSMPA Board. Current member of SSMPA Bylaws Committee.

GLENN BAILEY — Member At Large

Former SSMPA and Foundation President. Member of numerous environmental boards. Led North L.A. County effort to collect signatures to qualify the Mountain Lion Proposition (117), Proposition 185, and other environmental propositions for the ballot, and coordinated efforts of volunteers to pass them. Current member of SSMPA Bylaws Committee.

DOREEN RUSEN — Member At Large

Current SSMPA Member At Large and past President of SSMPA. Current SSMPA Bylaws Committee member.

SSMPA Election Information

All paid-up SSMPA members 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 to the return address on the back of this page, or bring them in to the General Membership Meeting on Monday, March 15. Note that only ballots that have labels affixed to the back will be accepted.

Note: There is no candidate for the Recording Secretary position currently. However, the amended SSMPA By-laws call for 12 members on the SSMPA Board, as well as the Founder, Jan Hinkston. We hope that two more members can be elected to the Board in May to perform recording and membership functions.

Instructions: Detach this last 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. Place this ballot page, making sure that the label with your name and address is still affixed to it, in an envelope, and mail it to the return address indicated on the back of this page. Otherwise, bring it to the March 15th meeting.

SSMPA 1999 BALLOT

The Elections Committee of the Santa Susana Mountain Park Association has considered and approved the following candidates for the 1999 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	JUDY GARRIS	OR	_____
VICE-PRESIDENT	DORIAN KEYSER	OR	_____
TREASURER	SUSAN GERKE	OR	_____
CORRESPONDING SECRETARY	PATRICIA MILOW	OR	_____
MEMBER AT LARGE	GLENN BAILEY	OR	_____
MEMBER AT LARGE	TERRIE BRADY	OR	_____
MEMBER AT LARGE	BETTE BUTLER	OR	_____
MEMBER AT LARGE	DIANA DIXON-DAVIS	OR	_____
MEMBER AT LARGE	HOLLY HUFF	OR	_____
MEMBER AT LARGE	DOREEN RUSEN	OR	_____

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MEMBER AT LARGE	DIANA DIXON-DAVIS	OR	_____
MEMBER AT LARGE	HOLLY HUFF	OR	_____
MEMBER AT LARGE	DOREEN RUSEN	OR	_____

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