



Santa Susana Mountain Park Association

Volume 30, Issue 14

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

October 2001 Newsletter

Fran Pavley Moves to Create California Trail

A resolution designating an official California State Trail stretching between the Oregon and Mexican borders was overwhelming approved in early September by both the Senate and the California Assembly.

Assemblymember Fran Pavley introduced the resolution designating the 1,200-mile long California Coastal Trail as an official state trail and directing the California Coastal Commission and the State Coastal Conservancy to work collaboratively to complete the trail.

"Hikers, bikers, California historians and outdoor enthusiasts are celebrating the designation of the official coastline trail," said Pavley. "This California Coastal Trail designation is a grand first step on a journey to identify the missing linkages in the Trail and to obtain funding to complete it."

Both the CA Coastal Commission and the State Coastal Conservancy have made the trail an agency priority. Ms. Pavley's resolution directs the state to work toward its realization.



"Whatever you do, you need courage. Whatever course you decide upon, there is always someone to tell you that you are wrong. There are always difficulties arising that tempt you to believe your critics are right. To map out a course of action and follow it to an end requires some of the same courage that a soldier needs. Peace has its victories, but it takes brave men and women to win them."

Ralph Waldo Emerson



"You need to create public space for people in the inner cities, and the way to do that, in many cases, is by purchasing and renovating contaminated properties. But you also have to put out the effort to save the last great open spaces in our region, and Ahmanson Ranch is one of them."

CA State Assemblywoman Fran Pavley

General Membership Meeting Monday, November 19, 2001

This evening we will enjoy an interesting lecture and slide show on local rock art given by TWO local archeologists! **John Romani** received his Masters Degree in 1981, based on the investigation of the archeology-astronomy site at Burro Flats. He has worked for the State of CA, NASA, and the counties of San Bernardino and LA. John has done research in the area of archeology-astronomy of ancient cultures, specifically Chumash. **Al Knight** (an SSMPA favorite speaker), a well-known local archeologist and expert on Burro Flats, will co-present. Slides will be of local and other California sites, some presently in excavation. ♠

SSMPA General Membership Program meetings take place every 3rd Monday of the months during the months of September through November and January through May. Program meetings begin at 7:15 p.m. and generally conclude by 9:00 p.m. The venue is the Rockpointe Clubhouse, 22300 Devonshire, Chatsworth, on the south side, 1 block before entering Chatsworth Park South.

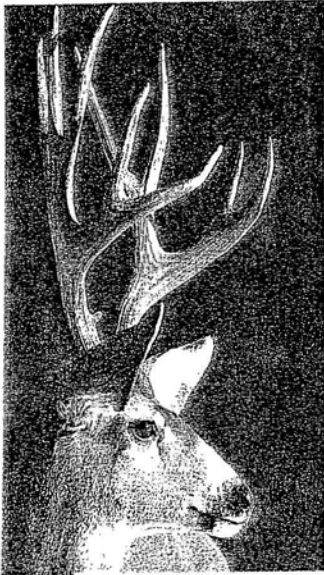
Members are invited to attend General Membership Program meetings and Board of Directors meetings. Board of Directors meetings take place at the Chatsworth Park South Visitors Center on the first Monday of the month. Refreshments are served at program meetings.

A H M A N S O N R A N C H P R O J E C T

Notes from the Public Hearing on August 25, 2001 - by Dorian Keyser, VP and Lands Committee Chair, SSMPA; and member of the joint Los Padres/Angeles Chapter Sierra Club Committee for Ventura/LA County Border Issues

1. **Need for a Subsequent EIR Instead of a Supplemental EIR.** Washington Mutual (WAMU) is presently conducting a *Supplemental* EIR that will not revisit items covered in the existing EIR. However, a *Subsequent* EIR that would be much more comprehensive is needed because:
 - a. The present EIR is badly obsolete in many areas;
 - b. A much more comprehensive, detailed biological survey by competent and impartial scientists might discover additional endangered species;
 - c. The archeological surveys have not been made by qualified and impartial people. In fact, the Calabasas City Council's requests to WAMU to allow highly qualified archeologist Chester King access to their property to investigate its archeology have been denied. Local Chumash leadership has not been involved. In fact, the Native American consultant paid for by WAMU is not of Chumash descent, is not respected by the local Chumash people, and has said that there are no archeological problems with the proposed development.
2. **Traffic To/From the Proposed Development.**
 - a. The existing traffic studies are obsolete since they did not consider traffic from other developments along the Ventura Freeway corridor that have occurred and which will occur in the future.
 - b. Housing in the Ahmanson Ranch development will be too expensive to rent or buy for the laborers who will work there. Thus, most of them will have to commute to the development site daily.
 - c. Traffic to/from the development via Victory Blvd. will greatly impact residents who live along Victory Blvd. and its surroundings. Much of this traffic will be to/from Warner Center and some will reach Ventura Freeway via Winnetka.
 - d. The resultant traffic on this freeway will require the addition of one more lane and the expansion of numerous on and off ramps in Calabasas and Woodland Hills. Why should the taxpayer pay for these additions rather than WAMU? Why should LA County residents pay for these when Ventura County gets all the benefits?
 - e. Eliminating the two golf courses and changing them to public parks will decrease traffic, especially by eliminating the potential professional golf tournaments on one of the golf courses.
3. **Two golf courses planned for the Ahmanson Ranch.** These golf courses will be fertilized by chemical fertilizers, including nitrates, phosphates and potash. During heavy winter rains these chemicals will leach into the Las Virgenes Creek and from there into the Tapia sewage treatment plant. It is doubtful that the Tapia plant can remove these chemicals so that they will frequently be in the water that flows over the silted up Rindge Dam. Moreover, during very heavy rains, the treatment capacity of the Tapia Plant will be exceeded. The developer has stated that their design will eliminate runoff into Las Virgenes Creek but this is not likely, especially during the 50-year floods.
4. **Runoff from Streets and Other Paved Areas.** How will the mostly steel runoff be disposed of? It will contain significant petroleum drippings from automobiles.
5. **Middle and Senior High School Students.** Present plans are to bus senior high school--and perhaps middle school--students to off-Ahmanson-area schools. If implemented, this will contribute to traffic from/to the Ahmanson development. Thus, I suggest that these schools be located inside the development, if the development is to occur.
6. **Endangered Species.** Relatively recent findings revealed the presence of red-legged frogs, which are classified as endangered by the State of CA, in addition to 10,000 San Fernando spineflowers, which were thought to be extinct. However, neither of these has been classified as endangered or threatened by the U.S. government because it lacks funding to investigate. Thus, aggressive action is needed to support Congressman Brad Sherman to obtain funding.
7. **Wildlife Corridor / Habitat Linkages.** Presently, wildlife can migrate to/from the Santa Monica Mtns. from/to the much larger Los Padres and Angeles National Forests via the Santa Susana Mtns. and the Simi Hills. Thus, mountain lions, the top predator species using these corridors, are needed to control the overpopulation of other predators and of prey species, and are still using these corridors. However, should these corridors be severed, the inbreeding of mountain lions will result in their extinction in the Santa Monica Mountains within about 40 years. The result will be a proliferation of mule deer, raccoon, opossum, bobcat and other smaller creatures.
8. **Steelhead Trout in Malibu Creek.** The now silted-up 100-foot high Rindge Dam, built in the mid-1920's on Malibu Creek, blocks the southern steelhead trout from their historic range in the Malibu and Las Virgenes Creek watershed. Thus their historic population of about 200 breeding pairs has been reduced to about 15-25 pairs. Studies are now in progress to determine how to take this dam down safely. Eventually this will be done, allowing the steelhead to regain their historic habitat, including the Ahmanson Ranch property. Unfortunately, the development would expose them to chemical runoff from the golf course. Thus, the implementation of the golf course would seriously impact the survival of the steelhead in the watershed. Photographs exist showing anglers holding large steelhead trout caught in Malibu Creek in the mid-1940s. The ancestors of all the steelhead in CA originated in the Colorado River. They swam around Baja CA and up the coast. Those living in Southern CA evolved to spawn in warmer water, whereas those that swam further north evolved to spawn in colder water. Presently, the populations of southern steelhead are severely endangered, whereas the more numerous northern steelhead are threatened in some places. However, as global warming progresses, the northern waters will become warmer. This will threaten the survival of the northern steelhead. Thus, by enabling the southern steelhead populations to increase to historic numbers in Malibu Creek, Matilija Creek and elsewhere, some of them can be used to restock the State's northern and central rivers and creeks. ☺

WHAT CAN ONE PERSON DO? WRITE YOUR OWN LETTER (the shorter, the better) TO THE EDITOR OF EITHER (1) THE LA TIMES, LA COUNTY (FAX: 213-237-7679) OR E-MAIL letters@latimes.com; or (2) THE LA TIMES, VENTURA COUNTY (FAX: 805-653-7576 OR E-MAIL ventura@latimes.com); (3) THE DAILY NEWS (FAX: 818-713-3723 OR E-MAIL dnforum@dailynews.com).



Mule deer

News from the Audubon Society - SFV District

In past years Arthur Langdon has led a birdwalk through Chatsworth Nature Preserve on a Saturday morning in October. However, this year will be the exception. There will not be an expedition into Chatsworth Nature Preserve this October.

The annual "Christmas Bird Count" will take place on Saturday, December 15th across the country. If you wish to participate in this event, please contact your local Audubon Society for details. Local participants will be counting at Pierce College, Sepulveda Basin and Hansen Dam. There is a possibility that counts will take place at Van Norman Dam, Encino Reservoir and/or Chatsworth Nature Preserve. This, hopefully, can be confirmed one way or another in early December by contacting Arthur Langdon, phone number (818) 887-0973 (evenings).



Red-shouldered hawk

SEE BEAUTIFUL DAYTON CANYON!

Here is your chance of a lifetime to see Dayton Canyon the way the early inhabitants might have known it. Soon this beautiful area will be forever altered with the development that is going in at the corner of Roscoe and Valley Circle Blvd. Although the homes will not be built creekside, the canyon itself will never look the same. Judy Garriss, SSMPA president, hike leader and well-known naturalist, with Bob Galletly's assistance, will lead a 3-mile round trip hike through Dayton on Sunday, October 29th. Meet at 9:00 a.m. in the parking lot at Roscoe and Valley Circle. Wear lugsoles and a hat; bring water and a snack to eat when we reach the cave. This is one hike not to miss!!



Finding California's Oldest Barn

A California organization that calls itself Barn Again wants to get the word out that because our state's old barns are rapidly disappearing, they are looking for as many old barns (that people can visit) as possible. CA State Parks that contain barns, stables or structures of farming significance are listed at www.cal-parks.ca.gov. For detailed info concerning visitation time for each site, search the web site under "Find A Park". Two parks in LA County that contain old barns are:

1. *Topanga State Park*. Trippet Ranch Stable. From PCH, travel north on Topanga Canyon Blvd., past the post office at the center of town, then turn right on Entrada Road. Phone no.: 310-454-8212.
2. *Will Rogers State Historic Park*. Rogers Ranch Stable. North of LA on Hwy 1, off Sunset Blvd. in Pacific Palisades at 1501 Will Rogers State Park Road. Phone no.: 310-454-8212.

If you know of any other old barns, Lorry L. Dunning would love to hear from you at email address: histcon@juno.com.

California or Bust



There are more people in the state than ever before. With coastal cities filling up, much of the new growth has vaulted through the passes and into the interior valleys. The new numbers are certain to generate much discussion about the implications they raise for the future.

Whatever the numbers say, California in fact is not growing. The state remains the same 163,707 square miles it has ever been. But the number of individuals who occupy those 163,707 square miles is growing, and as that happens, we begin to fret. Where to build the new subdivisions and towns demanded by a growing population? Where to place the energy plants, garbage dumps, schools, prisons and freeways? Will there be enough water to go around? What sacrifices will need to be made? How can we adjust to the challenges caused by an increase in our population to 33.9 million?

In 1960 William Bronson wrote a book on the perils of growth called How to Kill a Golden State. Bronson pined for the days of only 5 million Californians. Californians who today bemoan a population of 33.9 million might well seem ludicrous to those who, later in the century, will be coping with a population of 50 million. *"In the old days we had such abundant land and the land was so rich that waste didn't seem to matter. But millions of acres of our prime agricultural land have fallen to the tract builders and much more is doomed. Litter, endless billboards, honky-tonk commercialism, and banal slurb construction line the highways. Poisons and sewage pollute our bays, lakes and rivers. When I was born in 1926 there were slightly less than 5 million people in California, a large number of whom were immigrants, as opposed to us elite native-born. Today we are at the 20 million mark. We were handed a tradition of easygoing life, which rested largely upon two natural factors--good weather and seemingly unlimited land, air and water resources. These are the features that attracted my grandparents, and to a lesser degree attract today's out-of-staters."*

William Bronson, How to Kill a Golden State, 1960

Certain fundamentals, though, remain constant. There always have been and always will be more people coming into California than the Californians already here believe can be accommodated. There always has been and, regrettably, always will be a temptation to blame only the latest newcomers for what has been a 150-year pattern of migration. This scapegoating ignores the obvious fact that all Californians either had the good fortune to be born here or the good sense to move here.

It's true that, depending on the economy, growth as a political issue in California can flare up or flicker down. In a larger sense, however it never goes away. In fact, it has evolved into something beyond a mere issue, something more like an ethos. How to fit more people into a land of finite resources, while preserving the natural charms that draw people in the first place is to be California's never-ending conundrum.

What is the answer? Perhaps we simply must learn how to live with it. What do you think? 

AB 1602 FOR PARKS, ETC.

An important park bond, AB 1602, is to be signed by Governor Davis by October 14th in order to be on the March 2002 ballot. If signed by the Governor, AB 1602 would put a \$2.6 billion bond act on the March ballot to provide funding for state, local and urban parks, coastal watersheds, clean beaches, habitat protection, air and water quality projects. By the time you receive this newsletter, the deadline may be past. If not, please CALL OR SEND A FAXED LETTER TO GOVERNOR DAVIS AT FAX NO. 916-455-4633 AND URGE HIM TO SIGN THIS BILL. Address your (fax) letter to: The Honorable Gray Davis, State Capitol, Sacramento, CA 95814. You can also call his office at 916-445-2841. The full text of AB 1602 is available at the Planning and Conservation League web site at www.pcl.org. For more information contact Karen Douglas at 916-313-4512 or email her at: kdouglas@pcl.org

Thank you for renewing your membership! Melba & Willis Simms, Yolanda Carruthers, Bob Galletly, Doug & Karen O'Rourke, Don Murchie, Cecelia Heppes, Bruce Hale, Dick Bublitz, Charlene Vincent, Leo Cordell + Linda & Andre Van der Valk. **Welcome new members** Josh Einhorn + Anne W. Leel

About this newsletter: If you have comments or would like to submit an article for publication in this newsletter, write to SSMPA, Attn: Newsletter Editor, P.O. Box 4831, Chatsworth, CA 91313-4831. *Susan Gerke, Editor*



OCTOBER/NOVEMBER HIKES

Santa Susana Mountains Task Force (SSMTF)

Sunday, 10/ 21 & 11/18 - Stage Coach Trail Hike: Interpretative hike into history in our Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park. Meet at 9:00 am for a 4 mi (700¹ gain) loop up the Stage Coach Trail. From Topanga Canyon Blvd., turn west on Devonshire and drive into Chatsworth Park South to the 2nd parking lot. Leader: Lee Baum (818) 341-1850.

Sierra Club Hikes

Sunday 10/28 - Dayton Canyon: Moderate 3 mi hike in Dayton Canyon, ending at a cave. Meet 9 am at parking lot at Roscoe and Valley Circle. Wear lugsoles and a hat; bring water and a snack. Judy Garris (818) 346-7654.

Thursday 11/1 - Rocky Peak: Moderate, 5 mi , approximately 1000¹ gain. Meet at 8:30 am at trailhead. Take 118 Fwy to Rocky Peak exit. Trailhead is north of fwy. Leaders: Bob Galletly (818) 885-1920, Nancy Krupa (818) 981-4799.

Rancho Simi Trail Blazers Hikes

Every Thursday - Chumash Trail: Moderate paced 5 mi , approximately 1000¹ gain. Meet at 6 pm at trailhead. Directions: take 118 to Yosemite exit. Go north on Yosemite, turn right on Flanagan Dr. Trailhead is at the end of Flanagan Dr.

Every Sunday - Rocky Peak Trail: Strenuous, 5 mi , approximately 1000¹ gain. Meet at 5 pm at trailhead. Take 118 to Rocky Peak exit. Trailhead is north of fwy.

(For more information on hikes contact the Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District at 805-584-4400.)

Hikers need water, sunscreen, socks, lugsoles, hat and snack or lunch.

PLEASE SUPPORT FPSSM's RUMMAGE SALE!

The Foundation for the Preservation of the Santa Susana Mountains is having a rummage sale!

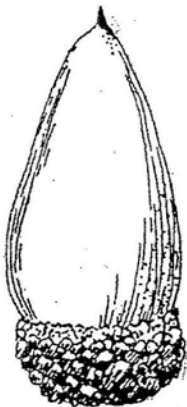
DATES: Saturday and Sunday, November 3 and 4
TIMES: 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. (both days)
PLACE: Chatsworth Park South

Please lend your support by donating items and/or coming to the sale. Nancy Razanski can be contacted at (818) 341-3512 if you have donations or questions.



SANTA SUSANA MOUNTAIN PARK ASSOCIATION

WE INVITE YOU TO JOIN / RENEW / REJOIN S.S.M.P.A. (Please circle one.)



valley oak

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 SSMMPA and send to SSMMPA, 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: _____

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. To find out how you can volunteer for SSMPA, call Judy Garris, President, at 818-346-7654 or Susan Gerke, Newsletter Editor, at 818-704-9304.


 **Mark your calendar**  

SSMPA BOARD MEETINGS

@ Chatsworth Park South Visitors Center:
Monday, November 5th at 7:30 p.m.
Monday, December 3rd at 7:30 p.m.

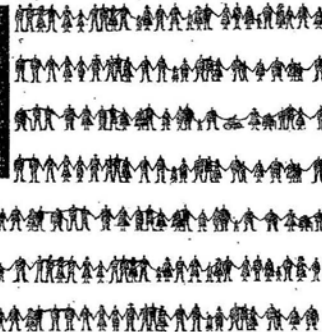
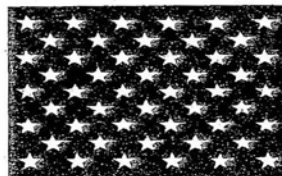
SSMPA PROGRAM MEETINGS

@ Rockpointe Clubhouse:
Monday, November 19 at 7:15 p.m.

Please note the renewal date on your label and send in your dues  if you wish to continue your SSMPA membership and to receive the newsletter. If you are current with your dues, kindly disregard this notice.

SSMPA Executive Board 2001-2002

Judy Garris, President	818-346-7654
Dorian Keyser, Vice President, Program Chair	818-345-3795
Sandra Johnson, Recording Secretary	818-341-0341
Diana Dixon-Davis, Treasurer	818-341-4242
Jim Shirley, Member at Large	818-888-7631
Susan Gerke, Member at Large	818-704-9304
Holly Huff, Member at Large	805-526-0961
Jan Miller, Member at Large	818-702-0854



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