



# Santa Susana Mountain Park Association

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

Volume 38 Issue 3

## March 2008 Newsletter

### Canada Goose Prayer Upon Awakening

Oh Great Spirit  
Thank You for Creating us  
Thank You for Giving us  
Life  
Again  
This Day.

Thank You for Surrounding  
Us  
With Your Beauty.

Today  
We Open ourselves  
More Deeply  
More Widely  
For You  
To Express  
Yourself  
Through us  
More Fully  
Than ever  
Before.

Thank You for Expressing  
Your Perfect Health  
Through us  
This Moment  
And Each Moment.

Thank You for Your Green  
Grasses  
And  
For Your  
Yellow Grains.

Thank You for Protecting our Young ones  
From the Foxes  
The Gulls  
The Crows  
The Ravens  
And the Bears.

Thank You for Protecting us All  
From the Coyotes  
The Wolves  
The Great-Horned Owls  
and the Eagles.

Thank You Great Spirit  
For Allowing us  
To Journey  
Around  
Once Again  
On Your  
Great Circle  
Of Life.

/Anon. (2008/)

### GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING March 17, 2008 at 7:15PM

Our Guest Speaker this month will be Barbara Tejada, the new Angeles district archaeologist for State Parks. It is a new position in the district and she will be involved for the formation and implementation of a cultural resource program for all area parks.

Among the topics she will be talking about is an archaeological site stewardship program she is starting up, with a focus on Santa Susana. The training will be held on April 5-6, 2008, at Malibu Creek State Park, sponsored by California State Parks and the Society for California Archaeology. Basic information on the program is available at [www.ssmipa.org](http://www.ssmipa.org) for members who would be interested in getting involved.

SSMPA General Membership Program meetings take place every 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday, September through November and January through May at the Rockpointe Clubhouse, 22300 Devonshire Street, Chatsworth, on the south side, 1 block before entering Chatsworth Park South. Our program meetings begin at 7:15pm and conclude at 9:00pm.

Further to the Santa Susana Field Lab Joint Powers Authority (JPA) presentation by Jarrord DeGonia from Assemblyman Cameron Smyth's Office at last month's general meeting, SSMPA will ask to be included as a Citizens Advisory Panel.



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.

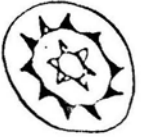
## The Basics on HOW TO TRACK LEGISLATION

By Diana Dixon-Davis

Anybody, anywhere with internet access can now track California legislation. If you know the bill's number, topic, or author, you can begin to follow that bill from introduction, through committee hearings, staff reports, amendments, committee votes and finally to the governor's desk. The legislature has put all this information, on line, and in a timely manner. By registering your e-mail address anyone can also "subscribe" to a bill. Every time there is any "action" on the bill/bills of interest you are notified by e-mail.

To get started, go to the [California State Home Page](#) and midway down on the left hand side, click on <Legislature.> On the next page, click on <Bill Information>, and then on the next page click on <Bill Search>. By Bookmarking Bill Search, you can go directly to that page the next time you want to look up a bill. Enter the bill number, and other information (legislative session) and the appropriate bill will be called up. Note that all current and past bills (since 1993) are available on line. Upon retrieving a bill you can check its [Status](#) (current disposition), [History](#) (status since introduced), [Committee Reports](#), all votes and amendments. All bills follow a pattern of introduction, hearings and floor votes set up by the annually adopted calendar and rules.

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



### The General Elections are approaching in May.

The current board members are:

President: Jan Miller Vice President: Teena Takata

Secretary: Patty Miller Treasurer: Diana-Dixon Davis

Members at Large: Reid Bogert, Todd Doherty,  
Carla Henry, Warren Stone, Jack Unger

Newsletter: Chris Beauvais

WEBSITE: [ssmpa.com](#) E-Mail: [ssmpa@ssmpa.com](#)

Anyone wishing to run for the board of SSMPA please contact Jan Miller at 818-702-0854



### April 6, 2008 - Earth Day - 10 AM to 4 PM

The Chatsworth Nature Preserve is only open to the public a few days each year. Earth Day is one of those days. Now you can finally see the Chatsworth Nature Preserve for yourself!

Enter at the **Plummer Street gate**.

For more information, phone **818-769-1521**.



### State Susana Pass State Historic Park

Report by Teena Tatka

On February 29, 2008, the State Park & Recreation Commission met and approved the general plan for the Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park. The community has long been waiting for implementation of the plan creating the general framework for operation of this historic and treasured site.

The plan provides for primary access to the park from Chatsworth Park South, at the west end of Devonshire. Secondary access points under the plan are from Lilac Lane, Andora Avenue near Lassen, Jeffrey Mark Court in the Rockpointe Condominiums and from Santa Susana Pass Road.

Hiking, equestrian and bike trails provide good access to the major areas of the park, although the number of trails is greatly reduced to improve preservation and reduce human impacts. Trail access points, to Eagles Nest on the south, toward the southwest corner of the park, toward the high mesa to the west, are included. Access to Simi Valley to the west, on existing trails that go to Corriganville, are preserved. Camping has been approved near Santa Susana Pass Road. The secondary access points may include small parking lots and restrooms.

Based on public concerns, equestrian staging areas are to be improved and it was clarified that parking areas would be off-street on park land.



**Thank you for renewing your SSMPA membership:** Mary Thompson, Leona Ward, Corcia, Anna Combs, Jack Levine, Audrey Hedlund, Jeffrey Pomerantz, Bob & Laurie Daeger, Tom Harrison, Robert Gallety, Keith & Debra Larson, Lilian Haro, Jensen, Merrily Lovell, Bob & Kathy Goldberg, Donald & Diane Fike, Hal & Marlene Lovett, Scheunholtz, Art Langton, John Shillito, Hannah Almstead, Pearl & Chuck Turbush, Jerry Socik, Bob Dager, Leon & Shirley Brown, Clara, Martv & Eirk Woll, James Carlin, Donald Heim, Craig Baker, Mary Jane Shannon, Laura Graff, E.L. Embree, Jack Unger, John Palmer, Wendy Bruiell, Sherwin Lovett, Sandra Johnson



### UPCOMING HIKES

Bring water, lunch, lugsoles, hat, sunscreen.  
**RAIN CANCELS**

#### Regularly Scheduled Hikes

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

##### Sunday Evening - Rocky Peak

Meet at 4 PM at the Rocky Peak trailhead at the end of Rocky Peak Road on the Santa Susana Pass. **(Meet at 5 PM during daylight savings time.)** (Strenuous - 4.8 MRT)

##### Tuesday Evening - Long Canyon

Meet at 6:30 PM in the Long Canyon parking lot. Directions: Take First Street South. Continue when the road's name changes to Long Canyon Road. The parking lot is at the intersection of Long Canyon Road and Wood Ranch Parkway. (Easy to Moderate - 3.0 MRT)

##### Thursday Evening - The Chumash Trail

Meet at 6 PM at Chumash trailhead. Directions: Take the 118 Freeway to Yosemite exit. Go north on Yosemite and turn right on Flanagan Dr. The trailhead is at the end of Flanagan Drive. (Moderate to Strenuous - 5.2 MRT)

#### March Activities

##### March 15<sup>th</sup>; Work Party - Upper section of the Lower Stagecoach Trail

Meet at the eastern end of the Corriganville Parking lot at 8:00 AM. We will carpool to the upper trailhead near Lilac Lane. Bring 2-3 quarts water, a snack, sturdy boots/shoes, gloves, hat, sunglasses and sunscreen. Tools will be provided.

##### March 22<sup>nd</sup> : Danielson Memorial\* 6 MRT - Moderate (1000' elevation gain)

Visit a waterfall and the Danielson Memorial, view the Oxnard Plain and Channel Islands from Old Boney Road. Meet at 8 AM near Donut Delite near the corner of Madera and Royal. Bring 2 to 3 quarts of water and a snack. Wear boots.

##### March 29<sup>th</sup>:Towsley Canyon Loop Trail\* 6.5 MRT - Moderate (1670' elevation gain)

Spectacular geological formations, rugged mountain views, tar pits, canyon narrows, frothy streambeds and more. Meet at 8 AM at the 118 & Stearns St. Park & Ride. Bring your camera, water and lunch. Wear boots.

#### April Activities

##### April 1st

**Mt. Everest - from Base Camp** 42 MRT - Strenuous (11,417' elevation gain) CHECK OUT RANCHO SIMI TRAIL WEBSITE FOR INFORMATION ON CLIMBING EVEREST!!!!

THERE IS AN E-MAIL WITH TERRIFIC GRAPHICS THAT DETAILS HIKES THROUGH DECEMBER 2007  
[Zuliebear@aol.com](mailto:Zuliebear@aol.com)  
ATTN: Dianne



### STAGECOACH TRAIL

STAGECOACH TRAIL - 9:00AM. INTERPRETATIVE HIKE INTO HISTORY OF SANTA SUSANA PASS STATE HISTORIC PARK. MEET AT 9:00AM FIR A 2 1/2 MI (400' GAIN) LOOP UP THE STAGECOACH TRAIL. FROM TOPANGA CANYON BLVD., TURN W. ON DEVONSHIRE STREET, DRIVE INTO CHATSWORTH PARK S. TO PARKING LOT NEXT TO THE AUDITORIUM. LEADER: LEE BAUM (818-341-1850/SIERRA CLUB-SANTA SUSANA MTNS TASK FORCE OUTING). STAGECOACH TRAIL HIKES WILL BE ON THE 3<sup>RD</sup> SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH, STARTING OCTOBER.



## Santa Susana Mountain Park Association

invites you to JOIN / RENEW (circle one).

Investing in the future of our communities and its resources is probably one of the best expenditures of our time and efforts. Return this cutoff with your contribution lend your support. Make your check payable to SSMPA and send to SSMPA, P.O. Box 4831, Chatsworth, CA 91313-4831.

- Senior or Student ((\$10.00)
- Individual (\$15.00)
- Family (\$20.00)
- Life Member (\$150.00)
- Business / Organization (\$30.00)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
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 City / State / Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Special Interest / Expertise: \_\_\_\_\_

# Tests confirm high lead levels at Chatsworth Park South

By Dana Bartholomew, Staff Writer Article Last Updated: 02/29/2008 09:18:17 PM PST

## CHATSWORTH -

One-third of the soil tested last month at the shuttered Chatsworth Park South contains enough lead to exceed state standards for home and child play areas, according to a report.

The city closed the 80-acre park Feb. 14 after state toxic regulators warned of a positive test for lead at a former skeet range there.

An environmental consultant hired by the city found that one-third of the samples it took from the park two weeks ago contained lead at or exceeding health standards.

"If a child were to get that soil in their system, by putting it in their mouth ... it could have adverse health effects," said Paul Davis, environmental specialist for the Department of Recreation and Parks.

"Which means we need to take note and do something about it."

The consultant, California Environmental of Camarillo, found lead in 23 of 66 soil samples at or exceeding 150 milligrams per kilogram in 23 of 66 samples - the limit set by the California Environmental Protection Agency for residential and children's play areas.

The samples - taken from 4 inches to 1 foot deep on a grassy glade on the site of a former gun and skeet range up against the Santa Susana Mountains - tested positive for lead, Davis said.

More lead was found in a drainage ditch in the park.

On Friday, the state Department of Toxic Substances Control, which will oversee potential park cleanup, requested that the city take more tests.

"We continue to have the health and safety of our park users as our first concern and will immediately start the additional testing," said parks General Manager Jon Kirk Mukri in a statement.

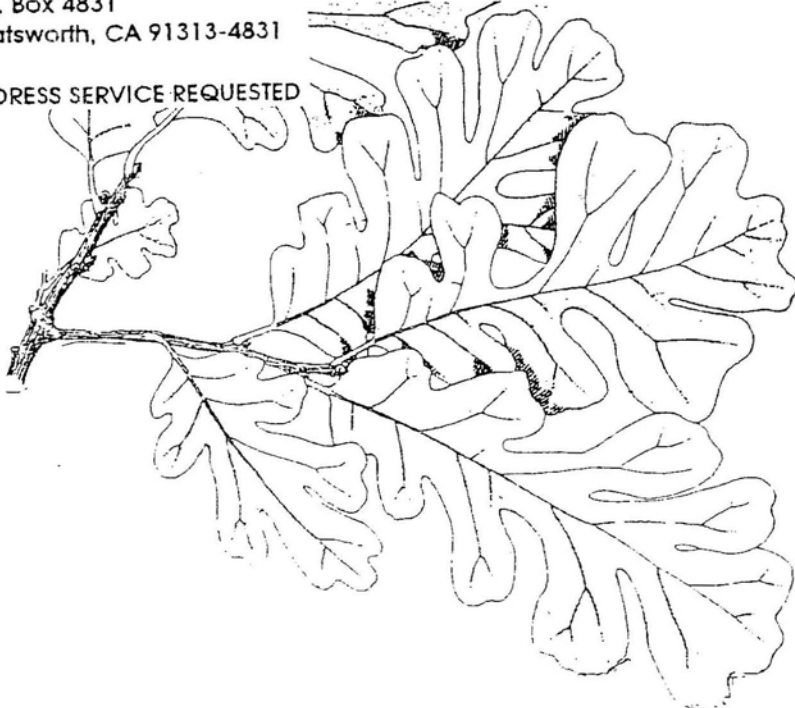
Testing will begin Monday north of the park community center at 22360 Devonshire St. Results are expected the following week.

City officials said they hope to fence off contaminated areas and soon reopen clean portions of the park. Plans for the park will be announced when soil tests are completed.

"The main intent is to get those areas permanently restricted so the public is protected in every way," Davis said.

Santa Susana Mountain Park Association &  
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