



# SANTA SUSANA MOUNTAIN PARK ASSOCIATION

*Dedicated to the Preservation of the Santa Susana Mountains and Simi Hills*

*A Non-Profit 501(c)(4) Organization*

*Incorporated August 31, 1971*

*Website: [www.ssmpa.com](http://www.ssmpa.com)*

*Email: [mail@ssmpa.com](mailto:mail@ssmpa.com)*

## Second Quarter, 2012 Newsletter

Volume 42.10

**Community Meetings: 7:15 pm Free to SSMPA Members and Public**

**Rockpointe Clubhouse: 22300 Devonshire Street, Chatsworth, CA 91311**

**(On the south side, one block before entrance to Chatsworth Park South)**

**Monday, April 16**

**SSMPA Community Meeting: Presenter: Albert Knight, SSMPA**

**Board Member and Archaeologist: Covering Archaeological and Ethnography studies of west San Fernando Valley, including Chumash Rock Art and sites, and SSFL cultural resources.**

Albert Knight attended the annual meeting of the Society for California Archaeology, a symposium of studies, papers, and analysis of archaeological sites and collections from the west San Fernando Valley region. He will report on the following topics covered at the symposium:

Archaeological legacy of **John Romani** (Dan Larson of Compass Rose); **Burro Flats**: Archaeological collections from Burro Flats (Chester King); **Rock Art sites** in eastern Simi Hills (Albert Knight); Analysis of recent excavation at a site near **Chatsworth Lake** (Colleen Delany-Rivera of CA State Univ); Overview of **cultural resources at SSFL** (Stephen Bryne of Science Applications International Corporation); Archaeologist and Native American consultation during the **SSFL Area IV radiological characterization 2010-2012** (Richard Guttenberg of John Minch and Associates); Ethnography of the west San Fernando Valley (John Johnson of the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History Anthropology); and a **Joint California State Parks and Moorpark College survey at a site in Chatsworth** (Barbara Tejada of Pacific Legacy, Inc.)

**Monday, May 21**

**Saving Native Plants – One Garden at a Time**

**Presenter: Alan Pollack, Audubon Society, Sierra Club**

Create a native plant, natural drought tolerant landscape to make your yard wildlife friendly. Reduce your water bill while attracting the pollinators, bees, birds, and butterflies, and small critters in your wildlife habitat and sustainable garden. Pollack, trained by the National Wildlife Federation, became a Backyard Wildlife Steward combining with his love of gardening and wildlife. He shares his knowledge by giving free landscape consultation/community presentations.

### OTHER ACTIVITIES - EVENTS

**April 15, Sunday:**

Earth Day Celebration – Chatsworth Nature Preserve

Good family fun – free! Organizations: Herpetologist, SSMPA, Audubon Society, Chatsworth Neighborhood Council, other groups and special guests: Mati Waiya, Chumash Ceremonial Leader, and Aztec Dance Group. Interpretive hikes around ecology pond throughout the day: 10a.m. to 3p.m.

**April 29, Sunday:**

A Garden Festival sponsored by Chatsworth Historical Society: Homestead Acre:

Minnie Palmer's Cottage and Virginia Watson Historical Museum: Afternoon Tea, Garden Clubs, Arts & Crafts, Bake Sale, Rose Garden, Live Plant sale. Info: 818-882-5614 Shuttle bus from Chatsworth Train Depo. 11a.m. to 4p.m.

**Sunday, April 22,**

11:00-5:00 [www.allied-artists.com](http://www.allied-artists.com)

Allied Artists: Art Exhibit at Headwaters Corner in Calabasas; 3815 Old Topanga Canyon Rd.:

**Sat./April 30**

Simi Valley Blues Festival: Hummingbird Nest Ranch: 2940 Kuehner Dr., Check website for fee and details:

[www.simiblues.org](http://www.simiblues.org)

Updates check website: [www.ssmpa.com](http://www.ssmpa.com)

## HIKES

**Welcome Walks:** Refer to SSMPA website for updates: [www.ssmpa.com](http://www.ssmpa.com) and Facebook: Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park. SSMPA-Foundation Interpretative hike leaders: Dale Chaloukian, Elizabeth Harris, John Luker, Teena Takata, and Peter Ullrich.

**SSPSHP Volunteer Hikes:** Contact: Jennifer Dandurand, park interpretive specialist, volunteer coordinator, Los Enci-nos SHP 818.784.4849 | e: [jdandurand@parks.ca.gov](mailto:jdandurand@parks.ca.gov) schedule: w: 1:30-5:30; th, sa: 9-5:30; su: 1-5:30 (off: m,tu,f)

**Stagecoach Trail:** Meet 9:00 a.m., 3rd Sunday of each month ( Nov. – June) No hiking in summer-early fall due to hot weather. An interpretive hike into the history of Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park: Hike is 3 to 4-1/2 mile loop up the historic Stagecoach Trail. Meet at park entrance on Larwin Ave. Park on street. Leader: Lee Baum (818-341-1850) Sierra Club-Santa Susana Mtns. Task Force : Apr 15, May 20, June 17 In interpretive hike into the history of Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park: Hike is 3 to 4-1/2 mile loop up the historic Stagecoach Trail. Meet at park entrance on Larwin Ave. Park on street. Leader: Lee Baum (818-341-1850) Sierra Club-Santa Susana Mtns. Task Force :

**Rancho Simi Trail Blazers:** [www.simitrailblazers.com](http://www.simitrailblazers.com) : [activities/index.html](http://activities/index.html)

### Saying Goodbye to Woody Smeck

All living things are connected and no one understands this better than Woody Smeck, Superintendent, National Park Service, Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area (SMMNRA). We thank Woody Smeck for all his 21 years of service in helping preserve the wildlife corridor and human trails as part of the "Rim of the Valley Trail" between the Santa Monica Mountains, Simi Hills, and the Santa Susana Mtns. When Woody leaves his position March 30, 2012 his deep footprints will remain. Our best wishes for his success in his promotion to Deputy Superintendent of Yosemite National Park. We send our gratitude for all his accomplishments as Superintendent of the SMMRA and support of SSMPA.

### SANTA SUSANA MOUNTAIN PARK ASSOCIATION (SSMPA) 501c(4) and FOUNDATION FOR THE PRESERVATION OF THE SANTA SUSANA MOUNTAINS (FPSSM) (501c(3))

Jan Hinkston, founder of SSMPA, 1970, spearheaded the campaign for the formation of the Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park (SSPSHP). The initial goals of the SSMPA were to save the historic Stagecoach Trail property and develop a large regional and historic state park in the Santa Susana Mountains-Simi Hills. In the course of 28 years, working with many other dedicated people, her vision became a reality in 1998 when the SSPSHP became a 670 acre state park. This historic park has significant cultural and historic sites from the Old Stagecoach Road/Devils Slide, evidence of Native American prehistoric habitation, Bannock rock quarry, man-built railroad tunnels, historic Old Santa Susana Pass Road, and sandstone outcroppings that were the natural backdrops for thousands of Western Oaters. Hinkston realized that there was a need to form a tax-deductible partner to hold land and accept large donations. In 1974 the Foundation for the Preservation of the Santa Susana Mountains (FPSSM) hereafter referred to as "Foundation" was formed to serve this need. Both the SSMPA and FPSSM worked together to create the SSPSHP and continue the expansion of the park site. The Foundation became less active in the past decade but still working with SSMPA on various park needs. In 2009 with the announcement of state budget cutbacks, SSPSHP, was one of the historic parks earmarked for closure. SSMPA's Board Members began meeting with State Park Rangers to set up a volunteer program to keep SSPSHP open. The program was a tremendous success. However, state funding continued to slide into the abyss so a grassroots campaign and the Bill AB42 to keep parks open through Coordinating Volunteer Groups, has made it possible to keep SSPSHP open. In 2010, the Foundation was reenergized to work with state parks to move the responsibility of the SSPSHP volunteer program from SSMPA to the Foundation. The Foundation filed paperwork to convert it to a State Co-operating Agency; actively working State Parks on operating agreements that will give unprecedented control of State Park assets to a non-profit organization. The Foundation does not ask or receive membership dues since it is a directorship, comprised of a Board of Directors. This is a tax-deductible donation non-profit organization.

SSMPA is a non-profit relying on membership dues and donations (non-tax deductible.) The joint goal of SSMPA and the Foundation is to serve as stewards of the SSPSHP. SSMPA mission is shown on page 4 of this newsletter

Special recognition to Warren and Linda Stone who helped the Foundation Board during the transitional period. A special thank you to Nancy Razanski for her years of service, leadership and assistance in making the Foundation available to operate the volunteer program as a State Co-operating Agency. We also extend special recognition to Pearl Turbush, former president of the Foundation, and Glenn Bailey for all their years of service with the Foundation and SSMPA.



## Buckwheat (*Eriogonum fasciculatum*)

Pancakes happen to be one of my favorite breakfast meals. When I learned that Buckwheat grew wild and plentiful in the Santa Susana Mountains-Simi Hills and throughout the Southwest, my saliva glands ran amuck thinking about Buckwheat Pancakes. Wrong buckwheat! Buckwheat (*Fagopyrum*) is a crop grain plant grown in the eastern United States and other parts of the world although not actually in the “wheat” family.

California Buckwheat, or referred to as Wild-Buckwheat and/or Flat-top Buckwheat, one of 120 Buckwheat species, grows wild and crazy in our local chaparral and deserts. This native evergreen has stem growth 2 to 4 feet tall and shrub 2 to 5 feet wide. The stems are long with narrow-leaves (minimizes water loss.) The leaves are green above and white-woolly beneath. Buckwheat decorates our foothills, canyons and sandstone rock formations; in spring the plant flower blooms are white and pink and in summer-fall the flowers change to a burnt sienna-brown. During the spring months, bees are busy extracting nectar from the pink and white blooms that make a delicious Buckwheat honey (can be poured on your pancakes.)

The perennial buckwheat plant provides nectar sources for beneficial insects when planted next to agricultural crops. Xerophyte plants like Buckwheat, adaptable to drought conditions, are a good choice for low-water landscaping. The benefit of Buckwheat shrubs for home gardens are low maintenance, seasonal plant-bloom color changes, attracts bees, butterflies, and provides birds a lovely home.

Southern California Native Americans, Chumash and Tataviam, for various purposes used native Buckwheat as a food and for medicinal purposes. The leaves and stems were boiled and made as a tea, an anti-inflammatory, to relieve coughs and colds, headaches and soothe stomach aches. As a food, the small seeds were gathered in late spring-early summer when the flowers turned to a rust color. Ripen seeds were then ground and eaten and/or roasted with acorns or mixed in cakes or porridge.

California Buckwheat grows abundant locally in the Santa Susana Mountain-Simi Hills chaparral with sages, Woolly Blue-Curls, Creosote Bush, Chamise, Ceanothus (California Lilac) and the rare Santa Susana Tarplant. The xerophytic native plants/chaparral with deep roots contribute to preventing slope landslide by holding the sandy and clay loam in place. As housing development moves into our foothills greater is the risk of landslides as native plants are replaced with watered lawns and non-native foliage. Article and art: Carla Lauren Bollinger

### SSMPA Board of Directors and Committee Chairpersons

President: Teena Takata	Vice President: John Luker
Treasurer: Diana Dixon-Davis	Recording Secretary: Dr. Elizabeth Harris
Website Master and Newsletter Layout: Warren Stone	Program Chair, Newsletter Editor, Publicity: Carla Bollinger
Member-Newsletter E-List/Hospitality: Robert “Bob” Dager	Member-at-Large and Archaeologist: Albert Knight

### Foundation Board Members 2011-2012

President: John C. Luker,	Vice President: Glenn Bailey
Treasurer: Teena Takata	Secretary: Dr. Elizabeth Harris
Members-at-Large: Dale Chaloukian, Lorie Lawrence, Nick Maggiore, Robert “Bob” Dager	

**This year, Boeing, NASA and DOE will host a number of bus tours and walking tours of the SSFL.** If you would like to join one of our tours, call 818-466-8163 to hear the updated tour schedule. Space is limited and RSVPs are taken on a first come, first service basis. Your attendance will be confirmed two weeks prior to your tour date. For security purposes, children must be over age 12 and all tour attendees must be US citizens - call for details.

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



**Thank You to former Board Members who have ended their board membership in 2011.**

All of you contributed so much in years of SSMPA Board Member service and accomplishments:

Jack Unger, serving as President, (2008-2011); Chris Beauvais, serving as Newsletter Editor (2007 – 2011) and Reid Bogert, serving as Member-at-Large and handling many special projects (2004 – 2011) We wish you all the best!

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**EXTRA EXTRA READ ALL ABOUT IT!** California State Parks Foundation donated \$21,000 to the Foundation to keep SSP-SHP open for another year; this allows the Foundation time to fundraise for future need.

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**SSMPA Mission:** Our mission is to serve as stewards of the Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park (SSPSHP) and surrounding areas and to continue to preserve and protect habitats for plants and animals native to the location, unique geological formations, and sites of ethnological, archaeological, and historic interest. We also seek to provide passive recreational and environmental education opportunities, support the acquisition of new public parks, and open space and conservation easements, expand existing natural parks, and to participate in the planning of park infrastructure and programs.

**SANTA SUSANA MOUNTAIN PARK ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION**

Newsletters are sent via e-mail ... we need your e-mail address and updates.

If you haven't sent your membership renewal for the 2011/2012 season, please send now. We accept donations and/or Individual and Family Life Membership any time! **IMPORTANT:** If you need to continue receiving your SSMPA Newsletter via U.S. mail, please send an additional \$10.00 with your membership renewal or if you are a Life Member.

Newsletters are mailed 1st Quarter (Jan-Feb-March) 2nd Quarter (April-May) 3rd/4th Quarter (Sept.-Oct.-Nov.)

Community Meetings are not held in Jun-July-Aug and Dec. Special Announcements will be sent as needed. SSMPA is supported through your membership contribution and fundraising events. Your contribution helps SSMPA provide services to the community, acquire land parcels to protect open space/wildlife corridor, support SSPSHP and other projects.

With your membership SSMPA survives and thrives!

Sign up for a LIFE MEMBERSHIP and/or a DONATION OF \$50.00 and receive a FREE SSMPA/CHUMASH designed Organic Cotton T-SHIRT (image on [www.ssmpa.com](http://www.ssmpa.com) "Supporting SSMPA"): Let us know your size when you mail in your check.

Membership dues: ( ) \$20.00 for individuals ( ) \$25.00 for a Family ( ) \$30.00 for a business or organization ( ) \$150.00 for Individual Life Membership ( ) \$200.00 for a Family Life Membership. Make your check payable to SSMPA and mail to SSMPA, P.O. Box 4831, Chatsworth, CA 91311 **ACCEPTING MEMBERSHIP FOR 2012/2013 NOW!**

Please be sure to fill in the following information:

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Special interests or skills you have and if you would like to volunteer for any activities: \_\_\_\_\_

**IMPORTANT:** Please send today your e-mail address or changes to your e-mail address to board member, Robert "Bob" Dager: [bobdager@att.net](mailto:bobdager@att.net). Your e-mail address is exclusively used for the SSMPA newsletter and community announcements. Thank you for your support!