



SANTA SUSANA MOUNTAIN PARK ASSOCIATION

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

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

Email: mail@ssmpa.com

Incorporated August 31, 1971

Website: www.ssmpa.com

FALL – THIRD QUARTER, 2012 Newsletter

Volume 42.30

SSMPA COMMUNITY MEETINGS: 7:15 pm

(Community Meetings are 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)

SSMPA's Museum Collection: Our collection of local Native American artifacts, exhibit posters, nests, past newsletters with historical information of the area, have been in storage at a local elementary school. We were notified that school attendance had grown and the space was now needed for a special tutoring room. I sent out a "RED ALERT" e-blast explaining that we had to move quickly to relocate. The response from so many of you, your concern, was heartwarming. THANK YOU to everyone! Many of the suggestions were good and we followed up.

Alfred Mazza, Chumash Indian Museum Manager, Lang Ranch-Thousand Oaks, and Arlene Bernholtz suggested we contact the Leonis Adobe in Calabasas. Teena Takata and I met with Michelle Covello, Curator and Diane Ramadan, Museum Director and we collectively agreed the Leonis Adobe Museum is a good home for our collection.

Michelle and Diane reported to us that over 12,000 school children visit the Leonis Adobe Museum each year and our materials on loan will serve as an education tool. On the east side of the Sagebrush Cantina the Leonis Adobe-Calabasas Creek Park has a new installation of Chumash huts with hosted ceremonies conducted by Alfred Mazza and Greywolf of the Lang Ranch. You can view the happenings at the Leonis Adobe Museum on their website:
www.leonisadobemuseum.org

Special gratitude to Alfred Mazza, Arlene Bernholtz, Linda Parks, Supr. Ventura; Marie Burdick, Valley Watercolor Society, Tim Belfield, Maggie Kestly, Justin Weiss and Merri Whitelock at CSUN; Wendy Gladstone- Valley Cultural Center; Sophia Wong; Shelley Birenbaum; Dave Beauvais, Oakie Estate; Christine Walsh, Elaine Trogman-SFV Sierra Club, Betsy Landis, Shelly Birenbaum, Craig Baker, Donna Timlin, Bob Goldberg; Alma Hernandez, Director and Chris Ferris, Principal at Our Community School and Michelle Covello and Diane Ramada, Leonis Adobe Museum. And, others responded with first names only but THANK YOU ALL!

SSMPA SEPT. MEMBERSHIP DRIVE - See Page 4

Monday, September 24: Because of Rosh Hashana holiday, SSMPA's community Sept. meeting is the 4th Monday not the normal 3rd Monday. **The Great L.A. River Cleanup** Presenter: **Karin Flores, Outreach and CleanUp Coordinator**, Friends of the Los Angeles River (FOLAR) FOLAR, founded in 1986, is dedicated to protect and restore the natural and historic heritage of the Los Angeles River and its riparian habitat through inclusive planning, education and wise stewardship. A lot has been achieved and on-going community projects and future goals will be covered by Karin Flores. www.folar.org

Monday, October 15: Reconstructing Espiritu: A Chumash Woman in 19th Century Calabasas: Presenter: **Susan Kinkella**, Professor of History at Moorpark College (American History, Native American History, and Women in American History) Professor Kinkella will discuss her research on Espiritu Leonis, a Chumash woman who lived during times of great transition and upheaval in 19th Century California. Espiritu's story illustrates the difficulties and triumphs that women experienced as they negotiated within and beyond the "appropriate" roles of race and gender. The realities of historical research in local context will also be explored.

Monday, November 19: Early Warner Brothers Studios: by E.J. Stephens and Marc Wanamaker: Presenter: **E.J. Stephens**, Historian and author, E.J. Stephens, will discuss the history of Warner Studios (1920's to 1950's) from the 110-acre Burbank film factory, the making of the Warner Bros. film moguls, filming the Westerns shot on location at Iverson Ranch such as the Lone Ranger (1956) and others in the Chatsworth area. His book is available on Amazon.

Chatsworth Nature Preserve

The Chatsworth Nature Preserve, (CNP) formerly Chatsworth Reservoir, is the largest City of Los Angeles open space preserve. CNP extends over 1300 acres and is an integral part of the proposed Rim of the Valley Wildlife Corridor. It teems with wildlife, more than 200 species of birds are on the site including **Residents:** Greater Roadrunner, California Quail, sapsuckers, woodpeckers, herons and egrets; **Migratory birds:** Canada Geese, variety of ducks and shorebirds, Western Meadowlarks; **Raptors:** Ferruginous Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, Prairie Falcon, Long-eared Owl, and many others; **Amphibians and Reptiles** include: Western spadefoot toad, slender salamander, western skink, ring-necked snake, red racer and much more; **Larger animals:** desert cottontail rabbits, gray fox, coyotes, raccoons, and occasional visits of bobcats, cougars and mule deer. The CNP habitat includes oak woodland and savanna, riparian areas, chaparral, grassland, and a once beautifully maintained ecology pond.

History of CNP: Former Los Angeles City Councilman Hal Bernson, and other community leaders, worked together to create the "Chatsworth Nature Preserve" all 1325 acres protected under City Ordinance No. 169723, 1994, limited to a Nature Preserve and accessory uses only. In recent years the CNP in LA City District 12, former councilman, Greig Smith, negotiated with the Department of Recreation and Parks (RAP) on future management. A variety of plans were considered by modifying the existing seasonal wetlands and adjacent areas, 44 acres on the southwest side of the preserve. The mitigation included an environmental easement to ensure the wetlands are protected in perpetuity. The transfer of this area from DWP to RAP is part of the proposal with all associated costs initially borne by Republic Services (formerly BFI.) Long-term plans involve transferring the 44 acres and remaining CNP acres, approximately 96, through another mitigation plan and ultimate transfer to RAP. DWP will continue to own-manage the remaining acreage, which includes the Ecology Pond.

The Ecology Pond began to dry up over the hot summer months. The newly formed Chatsworth Nature Preserve Coalition (CNP Coalition), community residents, and others began a campaign to have the Ecology Pond refilled by making phone calls and writing letters to DWP and making calls to Mitchell Englander's office, Council District 12. The pond was refilled the end of July but there is great concern about the immediate damage to the surrounding marsh, habitat for the birds, and future maintenance of both the Ecology Pond and the entire Nature Preserve.

Article: Carla Bollinger, SSMPA Newsletter and Mark Osokow, SFV Audubon Society and delegates to CNP Coalition

HIKES and OTHER ACTIVITIES

Welcome Walks: Refer to SSMPA website for updates: www.ssmpla.com, the Foundation for the Preservation of Santa Susana Mountains www.fpssm.org and Facebook: Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park. 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 Encinos SHP 818.784.4849 | e: 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 :

Rancho Simi Trail Blazers: www.simitrailblazers.com : activities/index.html

Allied Artists: www.allied-artists.com Art exhibits: Sept. 30, Sunday, 11 am to 5 pm Malibu Nature Preserve Art Exhibit: 33905 PCH and Oct. 28, Sunday, 10 am to 4 pm, Will Rogers State Park, 1501 Will Rogers Park Rd, Pacific Palisades: Art all media of local mountains and seashore.

SFV Audubon: www.sfvaudubong.org Meetings and Bird Walks for Families

Sierra Club: www.angeles.sierraclub.org/sfv/ Meetings, Hikes, Local Environmental Issues

PIONEER DAYS: Chatsworth Historical Society: October 7, Sunday 11 – 4 pm. At the Historic Acre see Chatsworth as it was in the early days of 1888 when the town was formed. Games and Chores of Yore will be available for the kids to experience. This year the Virginia Watson Museum display will focus on Stoney Point, Historic-Cultural Landmark #132. E-mail: chatsworthhistory@gmail.com and/or call 818-882-5614 for regular museum hours.

Historical Societies: Chatsworth: www.historicalsocieties.net; Canoga-Owensmouth: www.co-hs.org; Leonis Adobe: www.leonisadobemuseum.org; SFV: www.sfvhs.com;

PEARL G. TURBUSH

June 26, 1916 – June 22, 2012

With sadness we announce the passing of Pearl G. Turbush. She served as the Santa Susana Mountain Park Association (SSMPA) president from 1977 – 1979 and later as the Foundation for the Preservation of the Santa Susana Mountains (FPSSM) president from 2002 – 2010.

Pearl worked alongside the SSMPA/FPSSM Founder, Janice Hinkston, fighting to create the Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park (SSPSHP). A Daily News 2003 article titled, "Supporters of ailing historic park hire lobbyist to woo Sacramento cash" quotes Turbush. "We felt we were being cheated by Sacramento" with reference to her as an environmentalist and park champion. She was passionate, smart and fought for over forty years with local and state politicians for every inch of SSPSHP. SSMPA and FPSSM are indebted to Pearl Turbush for all her years of dedicated service to the Chatsworth and Simi Valley communities for saving and protecting our local history and beautiful park.

Services were held on June 26, 2012 The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, on a motion by Supervisor Michael Antonovich, adjourned its July 3, 2012 meeting in memory of Pearl Turbush.

-- Carla Bollinger

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UPDATE!! UPDATE!! CHATSWORTH PARK SOUTH

Tom Nachtrab, new SSMPA Board Member, reports an update to the status of the long-closed Chatsworth Park South (CPS) but there is little to celebrate. Yes, the City did complete removal of brush from the park in Mid-August, a fire prevention measure. But prospects for re-opening of any portions of the park are now more distant than ever.

Tom discovered that the Department of Toxic Substance Control (DTSC) delayed its DUE DATE for the completion of a Remedial Action Plan for Chatsworth Park South by almost a year (from July 30, 2012 to July 19, 2013.) This deferral of the plan apparently means that we cannot expect any actual clean-up work to begin before August 2013 at the earliest. The due date of the plan was revised by the DTSC and the City of Los Angeles project team in June 2012, only about a month after DTSC's update to the Chatsworth Community Coordinating Council on April 23, 2012.

Why the delay of a year? According to a DTSC spokesperson: "Some of the determining factors included funding issues, budgets, and a comprehensive evaluation of potential remediation methods and plans available for the Site."

The CPS closed on Valentine's Day, 2008 because of Roy Rogers' skeet ranch that operated over 50 years ago. No one has ever reported illness at this location from the clay pigeon targets and lead shotgun pellets in the ground. Chatsworth Park South has been closed for 1,659 days, as of September 1, 2012

- Tom Nachtrab

2012/2013 SSMPA Board of Directors

President: Teena Takata

Vice President: John Luker

Treasurer: Diana Dixon-Davis

Recording Secretary: Vanessa Watters

Website Master and Newsletter Layout: Warren Stone

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Member-Newsletter E-List/Hospitality: Robert "Bob" Dager

Member-at-Large and Archaeologist: Albert Knight

Member-at-Large: Tom Nachtrab

Member-at-Large: Noa Rishe

Member-at-Large: Iman Jafarynejad

Welcome new BOD members! *Tom Nachtrab, Noa Rishe, Iman Jafarynejad and Vanessa Watters*

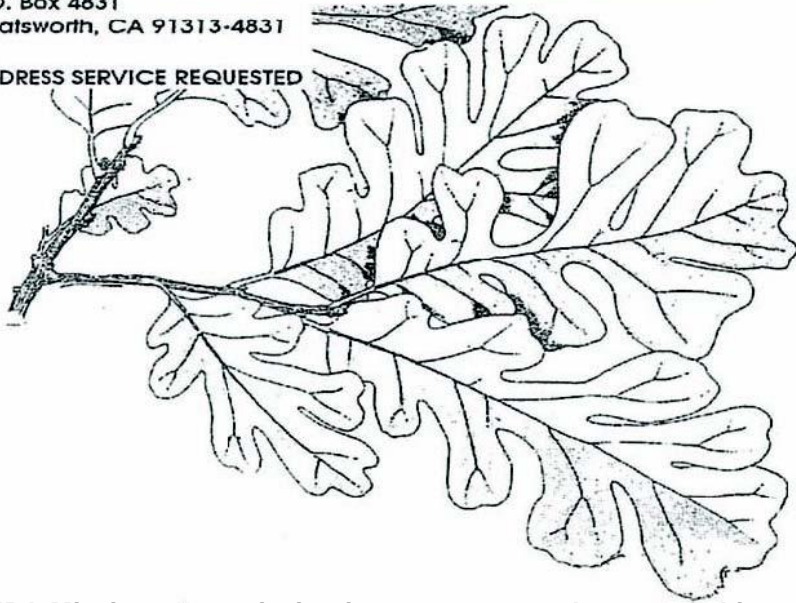
Carrizo Plain

Looking north
the San Andreas ripples up your right hand side
like an offset spine.
Flanked by the trembling hills of the Temblor Range
on the valley floor
a piece of displaced sky
where Sandhill cranes whoop it up in winter.
The Calientes crackle in summer heat;
in late autumn antelope and elk
amble from the canyon shadows into the slanting December light.
This is where the condor soared.
They ate offal and multiplied.
Euroamericans arrived
stole the condors' eggs
poisoned their dead prey
struck them from the sky.
Once again the great birds
tilt and wheel through the blue:
empty spaces welcome their return.

--Robert Pavlik, San Luis Obispo, CA

Santa Susana Mountain Park Association &
Foundation for the Preservation of the Santa Susana Mountains
P.O. Box 4831
Chatsworth, CA 91313-4831

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



SSMPA Mission: Our mission is to preserve and protect habitats for plants and animals native to the location to our area, preserve unique geological formations, and sites of ethnological, archaeological, and historic interest, particularly in the Simi Hills and Santa Susana Mountains. 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.

SSMPA SEPTEMBER MEMBERSHIP DRIVE YOUR 2012 / 2013 MEMBERSHIP IS DUE!

With your membership renewal and/or donations, you help in providing SSMPA continued success from providing free community meetings, advocacy for open space/nature preserves, keeping local parks open and funded, acquiring land parcels to protect wildlife corridors and park space for humans, preserving Chatsworth and surrounding area's local history, cultural and archaeological sites.

SSMPA membership is a voice in your community.

Thank you new 2012 Life Members: Matt Weintraub, Judy Strother Taylor and Sari Small
We appreciate all membership renewals, donations and T'shirt orders.

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 "Supporting SSMPA"): Let us know your size when you mail in your check.

PLEASE SEND IN YOUR MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL TODAY OR NEW MEMBERS ...

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 91313-4831

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. Your e-mail address is exclusively used for the SSMPA newsletter and community announcements. Note: If you must receive your newsletter via snail-mail, please send an additional \$10.00.

Thank you for your support!