

Santa Susana Mountain Park Association

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A Non-Profit 501(c)(4) Organization
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February 2001 Newsletter

Good-Natured Side of Santa Susanas Lies on North Face

By Myron Levin,
Times Staff Writer
Reprinted from L.A. Times,
September 1, 1986

The Santa Susana Mountains rise above Chatsworth, Northridge and Granada Hills to form the highest part of the rim of the San Fernando Valley. But as mountains go, they're usually not much to look at. By the end of spring, the grass covering the southern slope has gone to seed and lies withering in the sun. From the Valley floor, the mountains look arid and desolate. There's a much different landscape, however, on the other side of the Santa Susanas--the side that most Valley residents never see.

Thriving Woodland

Although the northern slope won't be mistaken for Oregon, it supports dense woodland, full of bird and animal life. There are groves of the large and venerable valley oaks, the trees that have been bulldozed out of existence in much of Southern California, along with other varieties of oaks, myrtle wood, black walnut and big-leaf maple. There are thick stands of big-cone spruce--southern cousins of the Douglas fir--in the canyons and draws that fall away from the ridge.

"This is a very worthy forest," said Don Mullally, "unusually lush and rich in species." The Granada Hills resident and former biology teacher has a special affection for the privately owned area and thinks that the state should try to buy it for a park. Mullally is a senior gardener with the city Dept. of Recreation and Parks and manager of its Bee Canyon and O'Melveny parks on the eastern flank of



This issue is dedicated to our beloved friend Pauline Aue, who died of natural causes on Sunday, January 28, 2001. Three of Pauline's friends share their experience of this special person on the following page. Pauline was very active--albeit a pillar--in the Santa Susana Mountain Park Association and the Foundation for the Preservation of the Santa Susana Mountains. Her dedication to environmental causes was awe-inspiring. She loved people, nature and animals, and with quietness and grace she moved mountains--no, she saved them. When Pauline was about to speak at a meeting, the room would become silent, because everyone knew that common sense and the honest truth was going to be expressed. Pauline, this world is a better place because of you. ♥♥♥

the mountains. He cited several reasons why the northern side supports a thriving woodland. The northern slope is spared part of the broiling heat of the southern exposures. Temperatures near the top are several degrees cooler on average than on the Valley floor more than 2,000 feet below. There also is a good deal more rain each year, and even occasional light snowfalls near the summits. Moreover, Mullally said, the Santa Susanas are made up of sedimentary rock that forms a deep layer of moisture-retaining soils, which are good for growing trees. "We practically have a valley soil, which is right on top of mountains here," Mullally said.

Animal and Bird Life

There are deer, coyotes and bobcats there, and mountain lion sightings have been reported in recent years. None of these critters were encountered on a recent visit to the area, but prairie falcons, red-tailed hawks and a

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TRIBUTES TO A FRIEND

from Nancy Razanski, President Foundation for the Preservation of the Santa Susana Mountains:

I first met Pauline Aue over the phone when I was calling SSMPA members to recruit volunteers. Pauline said she could not come to meetings because she worked nights at Kaiser. She promised to help when she retired. Sure enough, after she retired she helped SSMPA and the Chatsworth Historical Society right up until her recent illness. Pauline was also an active participant in the Chatsworth Community Coordinating Council, the Theodore Payne Foundation, and the Foundation for the Preservation of the Santa Susana Mountains.

Pauline loved music. She regularly attended and enjoyed musical performances at the Kirk O' The Valley Presbyterian Church in Reseda. When her church, Chapel in the Canyon, disbanded, Pauline frequently attended Sunday services at the Kirk.

I would like to share two special episodes in Pauline's life with you. One, her dog Diff was missing for months after he was frightened by a noise and jumped out of her car. Pauline placed flyers everywhere, doing everything she could to find him. Finally, she decided to rescue Guss, a Dalmatian, from an animal shelter. Then one day, Pauline got a wonderful phone call. Her efforts had finally paid off--a dog matching Diff's description had been found. It was Diff! What a reunion! Best of all, now Pauline had two dogs!

Another episode involved her watchful eye. I was visiting Pauline at her home on Cree Trail, just north of the 118 freeway, discussing SSMPA business. Suddenly we heard a terrible crash. Even with Pauline's physical limitations, she dashed to the phone to dial 911. Only after that did we take time to look out her window to see a car lying upside down and crushed to half its size. When the rescue helicopter arrived, the "jaws of life" were required to free the passenger, who was still alive. Thanks to the quick action of Pauline, the "Sentinel on the Hill", the woman's life was saved.



from Dorian Keyser, Vice President SSMPA:

Soon after I became involved with SSMPA in 1990, I met Pauline and gradually learned of her extensive contributions as a member of SSMPA and the larger community. She was always there to help, despite her physical limitations that prevented her from hiking and participating in kindred activities. While serving on SSMPA's Board of Directors, Pauline attended almost all board and membership meetings, where she provided her clearly thought out comments and votes. Pauline would obtain the key to our meeting place, open the door and bring the refreshments. She was always in the forefront to collect signatures to petitions and to pass out literature at various locations. In 1998 she braved the hot September sun to collect signatures to our petition to save the Chatsworth Nature Preserve from development. For many years she regularly assisted in preparing our newsletter for mailing.

Most of all, Dalia and I appreciated her cheerfulness and friendship. We took every opportunity to share our homegrown fruit with her, much to her delight.

I remember her 80th birthday party at the Sage Ranch when SSMPA honored her. We will never forget her!

from Judy Garris, President SSMPA:

Pauline was always there for me. Once when I had some hesitation in writing an important environmental letter, without my asking she saw my difficulty and jumped in with the exact phrase and meaning I was trying to express and added some other important ideas. Even through her difficult times she was willing to respond to a call for help. During the Prop 12 campaign solicitation, she made a special trip to a local restaurant to obtain their support and deliver flyers. She was able to take on innumerable small but vital tasks-- for example, spending hours calling members. She was often a strong voice at board meetings when she quietly listened through all debates and then expressed a clear, intelligent thought that got right down to the bottom line.



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(continued from page 1)

turkey vulture glided overhead, while smaller birds, like the blue scrub jay, darted through the brush. A pair of acorn woodpeckers chattered in the treetops near a giant, dying valley oak, which looked as if it had been peppered with buckshot. This was the work of these resourceful birds, which use dead tree trunks for food storage, pecking holes and stowing acorns inside. Authorities disagree on whether the birds store the acorns for the acorn meat, or to trap the worms that invade the acorns. Mullally thinks that they're after worms. "They raise their own food," he explained.



Natural Panorama

Apart from the interesting woodlands, the ridge between the summits of Oat Mountain (elevation, 3,747 feet) and Mission Peak offers sweeping views in all directions. The Simi Hills and Simi Valley can be seen to the west, while the Santa Clarita Valley spreads out to the north. The Los Angeles Reservoir is prominent to the east, where the granite crests of the San Gabriels stretch into a mantle of smog and haze. During the recent visit, Mt. Hollywood loomed to the southeast, and the skyline of downtown Los Angeles was faintly visible. To the south, the view took in the crests of the Santa Monica Mountains and Catalina Island beyond, although the ocean between them was concealed in mist.

The ridgeline is privately owned and is leased for grazing cattle, oil production and communication towers. Although trails from O'Melveny Park rise up the flanks of Mission Peak, the higher ground is not open to the public. A road runs east to west along the ridge but is accessible only to oil workers and ranchers who have keys to the gates.

The area is not under immediate threat of development, and the high, steep land--riddled with earthquake faults--discourages building. But this has not deterred development in other parts of Los Angeles, Mullally noted, pressing the argument for a public park.

"I'm throwing out a challenge," he said. "Find another place that has so many ... beautiful oaks and spruce," he added, with "beautiful views in the four directions of the compass, but still only 30 minutes' drive from the city below."



L.A. County's Significant Ecological Areas (SEAs)

On Jan. 31, the Regional Planning Commission began its review of a recently completed new study of SEAs, the first update of the county's list in more than 20 years. The proposal would more than double the existing size of the county's ecological areas to 577,000 acres, including unincorporated and incorporated land, private holdings and national forest. The current 61 ecological areas, first adopted in 1980, were created to help preserve rare and uncommon plants and animals. Consultants who wrote the new study told the commission that existing areas are too fragmented to preserve

biodiversity and what is required is to combine linkages to avoid islands. The new report, which can be found at planning.co.la.ca.us/drp_revw.html, recommends consolidation of some of the ecological areas that are on unincorporated land.

Designation as a SEA does not preclude development, but it can limit the type of building that may occur, and require more protection for wildlife passages, watershed protection and ecologically sensitive agricultural practices.

Community meetings on this issue will be held locally as follows: Feb. 15, 6-8 pm, Culver City Library, 4975 Overland, Culver City; Feb. 20, 6-8 pm: Santa Clarita Community Room, Valencia Town Ctr., 24201 W. Valencia Blvd., Santa Clarita; Mar. 5, 6-8 pm: Agoura Hills Calabasas Community Ctr, 27040 Malibu Hills Rd., Calabasas. Send your comments to the Dept. of Regional Planning, General Plan Development Section, 320 W. Temple St., 13th Fl., L.A. CA 90012; phone no. (213) 974-6417, e-mail address: egmalone@planning.co.la.ca.us.

Final decisions by the Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors are not expected until about 2002.

Editor's Note: At one time the list of SEAs included the "Chatsworth Reservoir", SEA #13, which is now referred to as the Chatsworth Nature Preserve (see list & map on page 5), but it was erroneously omitted from 1999-2000 list. The list also includes the Simi Hills (#14) and the Santa Susana Pass (#21). In 1999 SSMPA submitted a nomination to the SEA Study Project Manager recommending inclusion of a vast region in the L.A. County portion of the Simi Hills and connecting properties to the Chatsworth Nature Preserve.

Upcoming SSMPA

General Membership Meetings

Monday, 2/19/01 - Slide Show Bonanza! Judy Garris will show her favorite slides on the beauty of our local hills and mountains, followed by Dorian Keyser, who in 1991 went on a safari to Kenya and Tanzania, returning with some good slides of the wildlife there. Should be a colorful show!

Monday, 3/19/01 - Jarron Lucas of the Southwest Herpetologist Society, will present a special program on reptiles and amphibians of Southern California. Jarron may bring live specimens for viewing interest.

General Membership Program Meetings take place every third Monday of the months September through November and January through May. Program meetings start at 7:15 p.m. and generally conclude by 9:00 p.m. The venue is the meeting room at the Rockpointe Recreation Center, 22300 Devonshire St., Chatsworth, on the south side of the street, one block before entering Chatsworth Park South.

All SSMPA members are encouraged to attend not only General Membership Program meetings but also Board of Directors meetings, which take place at the Chatsworth Park South Visitors Center on the first Monday of the month. Refreshments are served at program meetings.

Do you have an idea for a future program or lecturer? If so, call our program chairman, Dorian Keyser, at (818) 345-3795.

Update on Eagles Nest & Kilmer Properties

The 77-acre Kilmer property in Chatsworth was sold to a developer last October for \$2.3 million. The developer has plans to build 44 homes tightly on less than 50% of the area, saving most of it for open space, and it is expected that he will be filing his application with the City soon. The ingress and egress roads are designated and must be the same as those if and when the adjoining 47-acre Eagles Nest property is developed. The City has approved the Eagles Nest development, subject to perfecting the access. The property owner near the entrance to the proposed developments has not granted easement rights for the ingress road. The Eagles Nest property is up for sale and priced at \$7 million. On Jan. 25th, residents in the adjacent Roy Rogers neighborhood held a meeting to form a local homeowners association thereby giving them a common voice and political clout to lobby public agencies regarding these developments.

Key Parcel for the Wildlife Corridor

In an unusual land deal structured back in 1998 with the L.A. County Sanitation District, Art Eck, superintendent for the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area, recently acquired for federal parkland a 106-acre parcel, one of the last critical links to complete the wildlife corridor, a broad swath of habitat stretching about 10 miles from the Santa Susana range south to the Santa Monica Mountains. The so-called Abrams parcel, located south of the 101 Freeway near the Liberty Canyon Road off ramp, was once slated for the building of hundreds of apartments.

Cleaning up the River

California State officials on Jan. 25th unanimously adopted a plan to stop the flow of trash into the L.A. River and its tributaries. The measure will affect more than 500 square miles of urbanized land from Long Beach to the San Fernando and San Gabriel Valleys. The cities, county and Caltrans must reduce the amount of litter that pours out of their storm drains by 10% each year over 10 years. The trash limit is the result of a 2-yr. old federal consent decree, which settled a lawsuit brought by 3 environmental groups against the EPA.

Habitat Conservation Plans

In a blow to environmentalists, the California Coastal Commission backed down Jan. 10th from a request to have a say in shaping landmark habitat conservation plans. The Commission voted 6 to 5 to withdraw its request to the Commerce Dept. Ten other states have won routine approval for such requests. Habitat conservation plans allow developers to set aside large chunks of land in exchange for being able to kill endangered species and pave over their habitat elsewhere.

The commission can and has made case-by-case requests to be involved in habitat conservation plans, but it was seeking an automatic role.

More Parks, Not More Industry

Soccer parents joined forces with L.A. environmental groups on Jan. 15th to announce they will file a lawsuit to block commercial development in Taylor Yard, near the L.A. River. Their dream: a 41-acre park and soccer fields next to a 62-acre river restoration project that would add some greenery to the L.A. cityscape. Gov. Davis believed in this dream enough to commit \$45 million in state funds to use at Taylor Yard for creation of riparian habitat to nurture wildlife and acquire an adjoining parcel for playing fields. But shortly after the approval of funds, the 41 acres were bought by Florida-based Lennar Partners for commercial development. Senior defense attorney Joel Reynolds for the Natural Resources Defense Council said regarding the lawsuit, "L.A. is a city that is park-poor, having fewer parks per acre than any other community in the city."



California Bird's Habitat Protected

The coastal California gnatcatcher was granted protection last October across 800 square miles of Southern California, but developers claim the designation will hinder billion-dollar housing and road projects from L.A. to the Mexico border. Under federal court order, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service set aside sage-scrub habitat to safeguard the species. The bluish-gray-and-white birds have suffered from development that wipes out the low-growing scrub where they nest and forage for insects. Scientists say the bird's widespread distribution and visibility make it a flagship that could signal threats to other animals.

Dramatic Forest Protection

On the heels of former President Clinton declaring 58.5 million acres of the country's federal forest land off-limits to road building and most logging, Mike Dombeck, chief of the U.S. Forest Service, said he will direct supervisors to map and protect the old-growth areas remaining in every national forest after a century of logging, and develop a vision of how much old growth will be created for the future. Old growth, where logging is allowed, also would be protected. This is the first time a Forest Service chief has called for protecting all old-growth forests, and a new direction for an agency that has traditionally seen its role as producing timber.

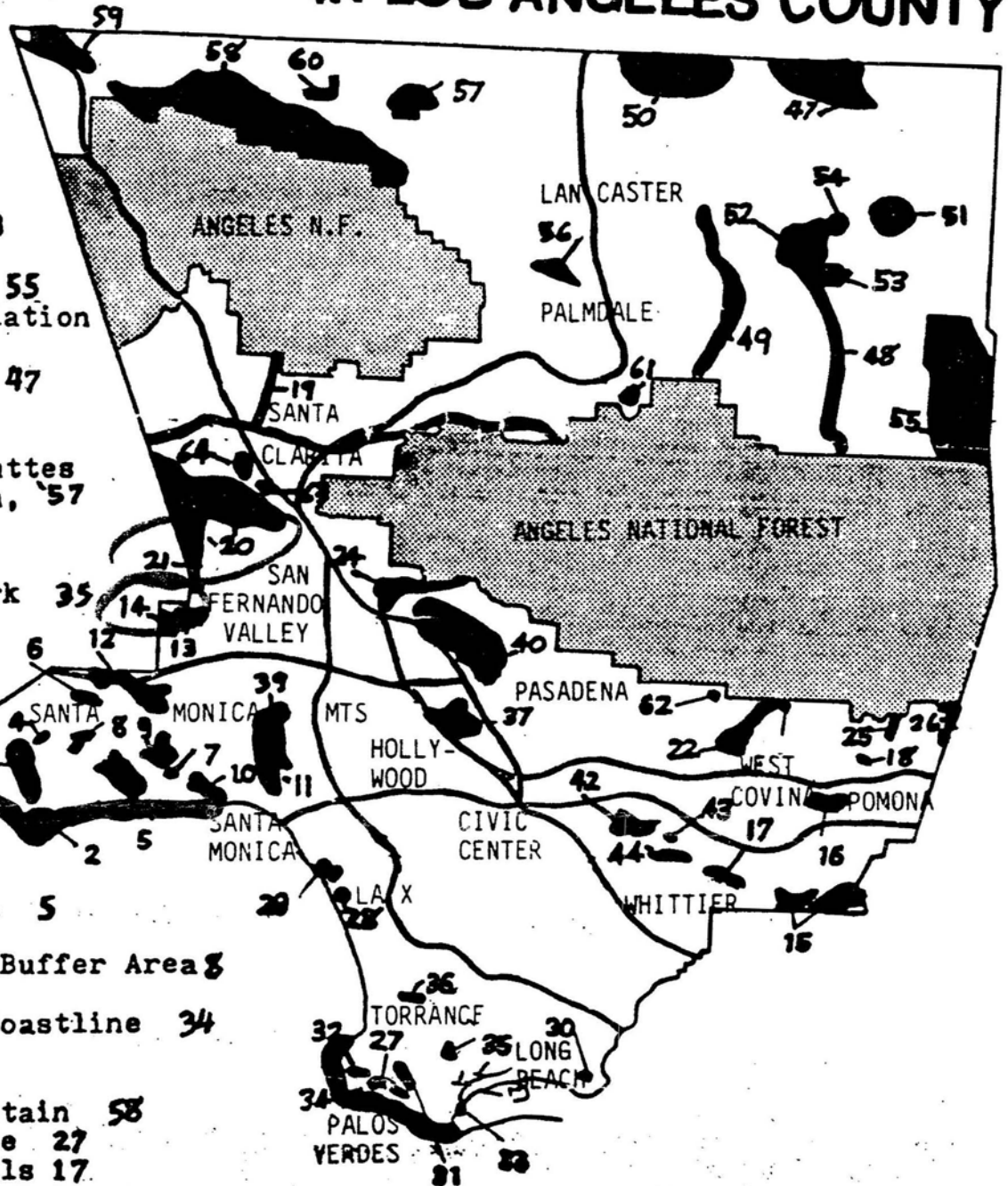
Thanks for renewing your membership to SSMPA! **Cecelia Heppes, Kimberly & Jerry Sodek, Helen Murphy, Arlen Wolkov.** Welcome to our new member: **Yvonne Karukas.** Last but not least, a special thank you for helping to get this newsletter mailed to our readers: **Jack Levin**

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

SIGNIFICANT ECOLOGICAL AREAS IN LOS ANGELES COUNTY

4 Miles

- Amarga Canyon 32
- Antelope Valley 30
- Antelope Butte 52
- Arroyo del Agua Creek 29
- Arroyo Rock Wash 48
- Arroyo San Jose 16
- Arroyo Reservoir 13
- Arroyo Creek 9
- Arroyo-Montane Transect 55
- Arroyo Densiflora Population 45
- Arroyo Glendora 45
- Arroyo Air Force Base 47
- Arroyo Segundo Dunes 28
- Arroyo Chino Reservoir 39
- Arroyo Firmont and Antelope Buttes 57
- Arroyo Plumb Grande Population, '57 62
- Arroyo Monrovia 62
- Arroyo Griffith Park 37
- Arroyo Harbor Lake Regional Park 35
- Arroyo Pacific Gulch 7
- Arroyo Joshua Tree Woodland Habitat 60
- Arroyo Kentucky Springs 61
- Arroyo Las Virgenes 6
- Arroyo Little Rock Wash 49
- Arroyo Vejoy Butte 53
- Arroyo Mon Canyon 63
- Arroyo Arroyo Marsh 36
- Arroyo San Geronimo Canyon and Lagoon 5
- Arroyo San Geronimo Coastline 1
- Arroyo San Geronimo Creek State Park Buffer Area 8
- Arroyo San Geronimo Comado Canyon 12
- Arroyo San Geronimo Los Verdes Peninsula Coastline 34
- Arroyo White Butte 54
- Arroyo Point Dume 2
- Arroyo Portal Ridge/Liebre Mountain 58
- Arroyo Portuguese Bird Landslide 27
- Arroyo Powder Canyon/Puente Hills 17
- Arroyo San Geronimo Hondo College Wildlife Sanctuary 17
- Arroyo Litter Ridge 56
- Arroyo Rolling Hills Canyons 31
- Arroyo Rosamond Lake 50
- Arroyo Saddleback Butte State Park 51
- Arroyo San Antonio Canyon Mouth 26
- Arroyo San Dimas Canyon 25
- Arroyo San Francisquito Canyon 19
- Arroyo Santa Clara River 23
- Arroyo Santa Fe Dam Floodplain 22
- Arroyo Santa Susana Mountains 20
- Arroyo Santa Susana Pass 21
- Arroyo Simi Hills 14
- Arroyo Ycamore and Turnbull Canyon 44



- Tehachapi Foothills 39
- Temescal-Rustic-Sullivan Canyons 11
- Terminal Island 33
- Tonner Canyon/Chino Hills 15
- Tujunga Valley/Hansen Dam 24
- Tuna Canyon 10
- Upper La Sierra Canyon 4
- Valley Oaks Savannah, Newhall 64
- Verdugo Mountains 40
- Way Hill 18
- Whittier Narrows 42
- Zuma Canyon 3

February 2001 Hikes

Hikers need sunscreen, lugsoles, socks, a hat & water. Serious rain cancels.

Stagecoach Trail & Exploration Series hikes are offered by Santa Susana Mountain Task Force (SSMTF) of the Sierra Club, and publicized by the SSMPA. This page also lists Rim of the Valley Hikes, sponsored by the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy and the Mountains Recreation & Conservation Authority.

Stage Coach Trail Hike

Sunday, Feb. 25. Interpretative hike into history in our Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park. Meet at 9:00 am for the 4-mile (700 ft. gain) loop up the Stage Coach Trail. Bring water and a snack in a back or hip pack. From Topanga Canyon Blvd., turn west on Devonshire and drive into Chatsworth Park South to the second parking lot by the Recreation Building. Call Lee Baum (818) 341-1850 for more info.

San Fernando Valley Audubon Society Hikes

Saturday, Feb. 10. Birdwatching hike for beginning adults and school children from 8:30 until 11:00 a.m. at the Sepulveda Basin wildlife area. Directions: Exit 405 Fwy at Burbank Blvd, go W on Burbank 1/4 mi, turn north (right) on Woodley, go 1/4 mi to first possible R turn, turn R, go 1/4 mi to wildlife area parking. Look for people with binoculars.

Sunday, Feb. 18. Bird walk in Malibu Creek State Park for beginners or buffs. Enjoy birds in habitat; learn what they eat, how they live. Meet 8 am at Malibu Creek St Pk, 2nd parking lot past last kiosk (4 mi S from Ventura Fwy on Las Virgenes Rd or 6.5 mi N from PCH on Malibu Cyn Rd.) Bring binoculars, water, snack, bird book.

Rancho Simi Trail Blazers Hikes

Thursday, Feb. 15. Meet at 6 pm at Chumash trailhead. Take 118 Fwy to Yosemite exit. Go north on

Sunday, Feb. 17. Help maintain one of Simi Valley's more scenic trails. 8 to noon. Take 118 Fwy to Kuehner exit. Meet north of freeway on Kuehner. Tools will be provided. Bring 2-3 quarts water, hat, sunscreen and gloves.

Sunday, Feb. 18. Meet 4 pm at Rocky Peak trailhead at end of Rocky Peak Rd off Santa Susana Pass. Strenuous, 5 miles RT.

Thursday, Feb. 15. Meet at 6 pm at Chumash trailhead. Take 118 Fwy to Yosemite exit. Go north on Yosemite, turn right on Flangan Dr. Trailhead is at the end of Flangan Dr. Moderate, 5 miles RT.

Sunday, Feb. 18. Meet 4 pm at Rocky Peak trailhead at end of Rocky Peak Rd off Santa Susana Pass. Strenuous, 5 miles RT.

Rim of the Valley Hikes

Sunday, Feb. 18. Easy to moderate 2.5 to 3 miles round trip, 100' elevation gain/loss, naturalist-led walk into Sage Ranch (see above directions). You will be fascinated as you explore the beauty of wildflowers and other natural features found in the backcountry. From 2:00 to 4:30 pm. (805) 492-2184.

Monday, Feb. 19. Presidents Day Family Activity hike into Happy Camp Canyon, for the young at heart. Enjoy beautiful wildflowers on your hike to the spring, the Cathedral Grove, and back. Bring water, snack and perhaps binoculars on this easy winter hike (approx. 3 miles). Directions: 14105 Broadway, Moorpark. From the 101 & 118 Freeways, take 23 north, exit New Los Angeles Avenue. Go west to 4th signal (Moorpark Ave.), turn right. Go 2.6 miles beyond the railroad crossing to a sharp left turn. Do not turn left but continue straight and make an immediate right turn onto Broadway Ave. Meet at parking lot at the end of Broadway (.4 miles from turn). (805) 529-4828.

Sunday, Feb. 25. Happy Camp and Beyond! See panoramic views of Simi Valley, Moorpark, and even to the Channel Islands! Eight miles round trip, up over 2000' (1300' gain/loss). Bring boots, lunch, binoculars & 2-3 qts. water (see above directions). (805) 529-4828.

Sunday, Feb. 25. Experience an exciting afternoon of discovery of wildflowers and Chumash native plant uses and enjoy a scenic hike in Happy Camp Canyon (see above directions). From 2:00 to 4:30 p.m. (805) 529-4828.

Sierra Club Hikes

Thursday, Feb. 15. Moderate hikers/Placerita Cyn St Pk. Moderately paced 8 mi, 1600' gain hike. Meet 8:30 am at Placerita Cyn St Pk. (From Hwy 14 E of Newhall, turn R (E) onto Placerita Cyn Rd and follow to gate.)

Thursday, Feb. 22. Moderate hikers/Rocky Peak via Chumash Trail. Moderately paced 10 mi, 1700' gain hike in Santa Susana Mtns. Meet 8 am at trailhead. From 118 Fwy in Simi Valley, exit Yosemite Ave, go N 1/2 mi to Flanagan Dr, 3/4 mi to end, park.

Sunday, Feb. 25. Towsley Peak to Mentryville. Strenuous 10 mi hike with car shuttle. Initial 1500' climb affords panoramic view of Santa Clarita woodlands and valley; ends in historic Mentryville, restored oil boomtown. Meet 9 am at entrance to Ed Davis/Towsley Cyn Pk. (Exit I-5 at Calgrove, turn L to The Old Rd, then L to park entrance.) Car shuttle required. Bring 2 qts water.

SSMPA Election for its Board of Directors

Nine of the 10 members of the present SSMPA Board of Directors will have served for the last two years when our April election occurs. About five do not intend to run again, so there will be some open seats. Serving on our Board is very fulfilling, and the service is a very positive contribution to our community. The offices are listed here, along with present officers' names. Those elected will serve until the April 2002 election. If you wish to be a candidate for a seat on the Board, call Dorian Keyser at (818) 345-3795.

SSMPA Executive Board

Judy Garris, President	818-346-7654
Dorian Keyser, Vice President	818-345-3795
Sandra Johnson, Recording Secretary	818-341-0341
Susan Gerke, Treasurer	818-704-9304
Terrie Brady, Corresponding Secretary	818-349-8889
Bette Butler, Member at Large	818-700-0220
Diana Dixon-Davis, Member at Large	818-341-4242
Holly Huff, Member at Large	805-526-0961
Patricia Milow, Member at Large	818-992-7757
Doreen Rusen, Member at Large	818-360-0894

Reprinted from the Los Angeles Times

January 10, 2001

The Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy and the city of Calabasas have jointly purchased an 81-acre parcel across from Calabasas High School, officials said.

The property, which had at one time been proposed for home development, is studded with 900 oaks and 1,000 elderberry, walnut and other trees.

The parcel, which lies south of Mulholland Highway and east of Topanga Canyon Road, was purchased for \$1 million at the end of December. Calabasas paid one-third, and the Conservancy paid the balance.

Because the property is valued at \$3 million, the sale included a significant charitable contribution, said Steve Harris, president of the Mountains Restoration Trust, which negotiated the deal.

"It's a tremendous bargain, with...\$100,000 to \$200,000 an acre as the average going price in the area," said Calabasas Councilwoman Lesley Devine.

Calabasas will use about eight acres of the property as a recreational park, said Devine. A community meeting will help determine how Calabasas will develop that area.

Most of the land will be retained in its natural state for hiking, equestrian and other uses, officials said. It represents one part of a 640-acre proposed land acquisition that has been on the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy's wish list since '93, said Paul Edelman, chief of planning and natural resources for the Conservancy.

To make the purchase, the Conservancy will use Proposition 12 funds, Edelman said. The statewide measure, approved last March, is the largest parks bond in U.S. history, providing \$2.1 billion to repair and expand local and state parks, preserve open space and wildlife habitat.



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 SSMPA and send to SSMPA, P.O. Box 4831, Chatsworth, CA 91313-4831.

- Senior or Student (\$5.00) Individual (\$10.00) Family (\$15.00)
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We encourage any member who lives in or near the Santa Susana Mountains or Simi Hills to become an active member in SSMPA's effort to protect these area's wildlife corridors. Speaking at City Planning hearings to educate about our wildlife corridors would be great, yet any type and amount of voluntary service is always appreciated. You may be able to contribute an article to the newsletter, man a table of SSMPA merchandise, participate in a committee. . . To find out how you can volunteer for the SSMPA, call Judy Garris at 818-346-7654 or Susan Gerke at 818-704-9304.

February 5, 2001, 7:30 PM Board of Director's Meeting: Chatsworth Park Visitor's Center
February 19, 2001, 7:15 PM Program Meeting: Rockpointe Recreation Center
March 5, 2001, 7:30 PM Board of Director's Meeting: Chatsworth Park Visitor's Center
March 19, 2001, 7:15 PM Program Meeting: Rockpointe Recreation Center



Thanks to the folks at the Office Depot store on Topanga Canyon Boulevard south of Victory for the donation towards the duplication of our newsletter. We very much appreciate it!

If the expiration date on your label is marked in **pink**, your SSMPA dues have **expired**. Please send in your dues if you wish to continue your SSMPA membership and to receive our newsletters. If it's already paid, kindly disregard this notice.

If the expiration date on your label is marked in **blue**, payment of your SSMPA membership dues is **due this month**.
Finally, if the expiration date is marked in **green**, payment of your dues is **requested next month**.

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