



## Santa Susana Mountain Park Association

Volume 39  
Issue 6

*September 2009 Newsletter*

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

Website: SSMPA.com E-Mail: Mail@SSMPA

### **Honors for Jan Miller**

SSMPA Board Members at their August Board Meeting honored Jan Miller, past president, who has devoted years of his time and energy to preserve and protect the Santa Susana Mountains/Simi Hills habitat and wildlife corridor and be a dedicated steward of the Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park. He attended numerous community meetings working with local representatives, environmental organizations, local events such as Pioneer Days, Pumpkin Festival, Earth Day cleanup-festivities, Canadian Geese Counts in the Chatsworth Nature Preserve, and presiding over the SSMPA general and board meetings. Jan Miller continues to serve on the SSMPA Board and volunteers his time as needed.



### **Santa Susana Mountain Park Association Community Meeting**

Monday, September 21, 2009 at 7:15 pm

This month's speaker will be Art Langton, San Fernando Valley Audubon Society. He will present a photo-slide collection/discussion migratory and local birds observed in the Chatsworth Nature Preserve and surrounding area.

SSMPA Community Meetings take place every 3rd Monday, September through November and January through May (or June) at the Rockpointe Clubhouse, 22300 Devonshir Street, Chatsworth, 91311, on the south side, 1 block before the entrance to Chatsworth Park South. Our program meetings begin at 7:15 pm and conclude at 9:00 pm.

**ANNUAL PIONEER DAY - SUNDAY OCTOBER 4, 2009 11:00 am TO 4:00 pm @ Home Road Acre, Chatsworth Park South. Info: 818-882-5614/historical societies.net. Presented by Chatsworth Historical Society. Donations: Adults-\$4, Children-\$1 (Free for Kids under 5) Part your car @ Chatsworth Train Depot(10038 Old Depot Plaza Road) and use the free shuttle service, every 15 mins from 11 am to 4 pm**

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.

AS THIS IS FIRE SEASON AND BECAUSE OF THE EVENTS SURROUNDING THE STATION FIRE, YOUR EDITOR HAS DECIDED TO REPRINT THE FOLLOWING ARTICLE:

From the very informative presentation by Captain Daum of the Los Angeles County Chatsworth Lake Fire Station given at the SSMPA May 2008 General Meeting

#### FIRE SAFETY CHECKLIST

##### LANDSCAPE (ORNAMENTAL)

1. Remove all flammable vegetation or other combustible growth within 30 feet of any structure or within 50 feet of any structure in areas determined to be high hazard. Single trees, ornamental shrubbery or cultivated ground covers may be permitted provided they are maintained in such a manner that they do not readily transmit fire from native vegetation to the structure.
2. Special attention should be given to the use and maintenance of ornamental plants known or thought to be high hazard plants when used in close proximity to structures. Some of these plants are, but not limited to, Acacia, Cedar, Cypress, Eucalyptus, Juniper, Pine, and Pampas Grass. Such plantings should be properly maintained and are not allowed to be in mass plantings in such a manner that they could transmit fire from the native growth to any structure.
3. Thin out or remove additional vegetation an additional 70 feet from the structure for a total of 100 feet. The inspecting officer, with the approval of the Fire Chief, may require an additional 100 feet for a total clearance of 200 feet because of a high fire hazard.
4. Space trees and shrubs a minimum of 15 feet or three times their diameter from other shrubs. Trees should be spaced to allow a minimum of thirty feet between canopies at maturity.
5. For trees taller than 18 feet, prune lower branches within 6 feet of the ground.
6. For trees and shrubs of less than 18 feet, prune lower branches to one third of their height.
7. Choose landscaping plants that are fire resistive.
8. Maintain all plants by regularly removing dead branches, leaves, and related materials.

##### YARD

1. Stack wood at least 30 feet from structures; remove flammable vegetation within 10 feet of the woodpile.
2. Remove all stacks of construction materials, pine needles, leaves, and debris.
3. Locate fixed butane/propane tanks at least 10 feet from any structure and give them 10 feet of clearance.

##### ROOF

1. Remove dead branches overhanging your roof.
2. Clean all dead leaves from your roof and rain gutters.
3. Cover your chimney outlet with a spark arrestor consisting of a metal or non-flammable screen of 1/2 inch or smaller mesh.

Defensible Space NOTE: small lots may make these clearance distances impossible. You are only responsible to clear up to your property line. Clearance of property adjacent to your lot is the responsibility of the property owner.

##### HOME ACCESS:

Identify at least 2 exit routes from your neighborhood.  
Post road signs to show traffic restrictions such as dead-end roads and height & weight limits.  
Clear back flammable vegetation at least 10 ft. from roads and driveways  
Cut overhanging tree branches about roads to provide minimum 16ft. of clearance  
Make sure street names and numbers are visible at intersections.  
Additional information and flyers can be obtained from the Fire Department.

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 - 1,100' elevation gain)

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 - 450' elevation gain)

NOTE: This hike is divided into two groups with two leaders: one for beginners and the other for intermediate hikers.

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 - 1,100' elevation gain)

October Activities

October 3rd

The Hummingbird Trail and Rocky Peak-4.6 MRT - Moderate to Strenuous (1,000' elevation gain) or 8 MRT - Moderate to Strenuous (1750' elevation gain). Meet at 8 AM at the Hummingbird Ranch Trailhead. You have the option of hiking only the Hummingbird Trail, or continuing on to Rocky Peak. From Highway 118 Simi Valley Freeway, exit on Kuehner Drive and go north. Trailhead is on the right. Bring 2 - 3 quarts of water and lunch. Wear boots.

October 10th

Serrano Canyon\*(no dogs)-8 MRT - Moderate (700' elevation gain) Follows the Sycamore Canyon trail for about 1.5 miles, then to the junction with Serrano Canyon Trail. The Serrano trail takes you east into a densely wooded narrow canyon, with a lovely seasonal stream criss-crossing the trail numerous times, and abundant wildlife. As the trail begins to gain elevation and move north away from the stream, a stunning vista begins to emerge. Gently rolling grasslands set against the steep outlines of Boney Mountain. Simply wonderful! The trail traverses the grassland, passing an abandoned aluminum shack, our suggested turn around point. Meet at 8 AM near Donut Delite at the corner of Madera and Royal. Bring 2 - 3 quarts of water and a snack. Wear boots. Note: There is a \$10 per car parking fee at the trailhead.

THERE IS AN E-MAIL WITH TERRIFIC GRAPHICS THAT DETAILS HIKE Website: Communityhikingclub.org Zullebear@aol.com ATTN: Dianne

UPCOMING HIKES

Bring water, lunch, lugsoles, hat, sunscreen.

RAIN CANCELS



STAGECOACH TRAIL

Stagecoach Trail: Meet 9:00 am. 3rd Sunday of each Month, months November through June. No hiking in the summer-earl fall due to hot weather. Interpretative hike into history of Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park. Hike is a 3 to 4-1/2 mile loop (400' gain) up the historic Stagecoach Trail. Directions: From Topanga Cyn. Blvd., turn west on Devonshire St., to Larwin Avenue about 200 feet south of Devonshire on right. Meet at park entrance on Larwin Avenue. Park on street. Leader: Lee Baum (818-341-1850/ Sierra Club-Santa Susana Mtns. Task Force Outing.)



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 (\$15.00) Individual (\$15.00)
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**IT'S FOR THE BIRDS!**

**OH THOSE PELI's**

Musings from Lake Wohlford/Escondido by: Remi Bresnan

Unlike the brown pelicans of ocean that do their majestic flights riding the updrafts of incoming waves and soaring high to the sky, dive bombing back into the water for a meal in which they hardly miss, the White Pelicans are fresh water bound. They don't dive for their prey, they sit and sleep in the mud flats at the end of the lake that way the coyotes can't get to them because coyote's boney little legs sink in the mire of it all. Good goat thinking on the peli's part ay, but what's really unique is that several of them paddle out in the lake at a time, make a circle then proceed to tighten it up, thereby herding fish to a shallow area and feast. Too bad they don't know how to barbeque, I'd invite them over to my patio.

**ATTRACTING BIRDS TO YOUR BACKYARD**

Excerpt from Daily News/The Associated Press

The most effective way to attract a large variety of birds is to put out separate feeders for each food reports the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Here is a guide matching birds with their favorite foods:

- Cracked corn: ducks, geese, quail, mourning doves
- Nyjer: finches, pine siskins, chickadees, dark-eyed juncos, redpolls, doves, and sparrows
- Nectar: hummingbirds, cardinals, thrushes, orioles, tanagers, finches
- Fruit: orioles, mockingbirds, cedar waxwings, tanagers, bluebirds, jays, cardinals, thrushes
- Peanuts: woodpeckers, chickadees and titmice
- Millet: doves, blackbirds, sparrows, juncos, towhees.

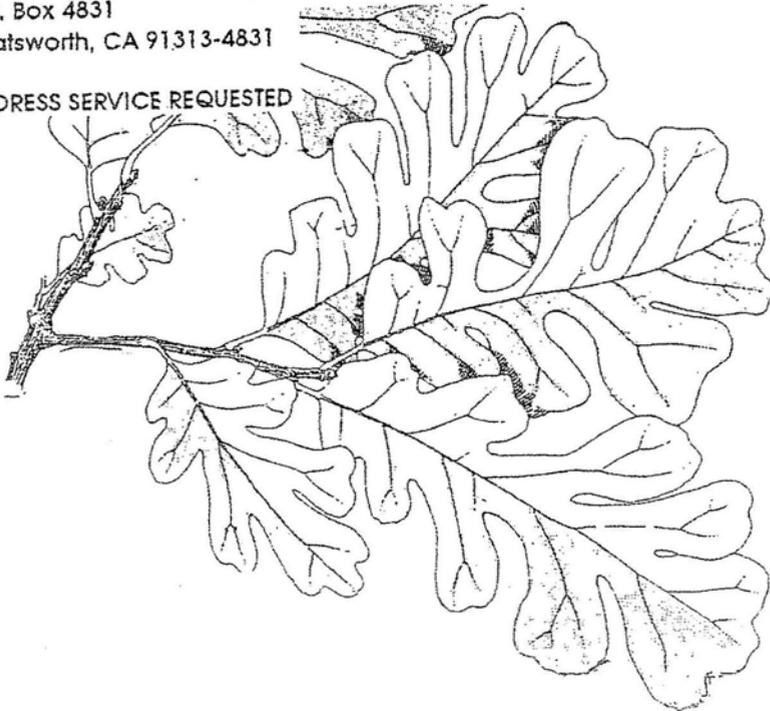
According to Elaine Cole, president of Cole's Wild Bird Products Co., Kennesaw, GA, "Birds can benefit from an additional food source in winter, but the really good time to feed is spring going into summer. They've got a lot of chicks just coming out of the nest and the adults will bring them to the feeders."

And, during the summer, especially in a drought, having a bird fountain can draw birds to your backyard almost as much as having food.

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** Your editor has a new computer machine, which has the capability of doing the newsletter then E-Mailing it to all of you who have provided your E-Mail addresses. Unfortunately, I have **been** experiencing a slight learning curve, which necessitated sending this edition snail mail. I anticipate, with practice, being able to E-Mail the October edition. In the meantime, I thank you for your patience. Also, a reminder, effective September 1 the new dues schedule takes effect.

Santa Susana Mountain Park Association &  
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