



SANTA SUSANA MOUNTAIN PARK ASSOCIATION

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

A Non-Profit 501(c)(4) Incorporated Nov. 30, 1971

Founded Nov. 20, 1970

Email: mail@ssmpa.com

Website: ssmpa.com

Spring 2017 Newsletter (April)

SSMPA COMMUNITY MEETINGS: 7:00 pm

(Community Meetings are Free to SSMPA Members and the Public.)

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

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

[\(map\)](#)

Monday, April 17, 2017 7:00pm - 8:30pm

Rockpointe Clubhouse: 22300 Devonshire Street , Chatsworth, CA 91311

Native Wildflowers and Plants of Chatsworth

Presenters: **Ann Vincent, Dottie Acker - Santa Susana Volunteers**
Photography by **Teena Takata, Ann Vincent**



Ann and Dottie will discuss dozens of local plants and flowers, with vibrant photos taken by Teena and Ann in our local hills.

Monday, Feb. 20, 2017 7:00pm - 8:30pm

Rockpointe Clubhouse: 22300 Devonshire Street, Chatsworth, CA 91311

To Be Arranged

You will receive an email announcement from SSMPA

**Open House at Chatsworth Nature Preserve
Attended by 2,000 people
Sunday April 2, 2017**



One day a year LA Department of Water and Power opens a portion of the Nature Preserve for visitation by the public. Open House 2017 was Sunday April 2, from 10 am to 3 pm.

This year the event was organized by the **Santa Susana Mountain Park Association** in cooperation with the **Los Angeles Department of Water and Power**. **Sharon Shingai** led all planning and execution activities for SSMPA. **Thank you, Sharon!**



[See slideshow.](#) [See DWP's summary](#)

In the Santa Susana Mountains:

SSMPA Supports Moratorium on Re-Opening of Aliso Canyon Gas Reservoir

California **Senate Bill 57** (Stern, Hertzberg, Wilk) is working its way through the legislative process in Sacramento. It calls for extension of the moratorium on the use of the Aliso Canyon gas storage facility until a full root-cause analysis of the 2015-16 leak is done and released to the public.

The Board of Directors of the Santa Susana Mountain Park Association (SSMPA) supports the passage of SB 57.

See SSMPA's [notice of support](#) for SB 57.

In the Simi Hills:

SSMPA Supports "Conservation of Natural Resources" Cleanup at DOE's Santa Susana Field Lab Property

The U.S. Department of Energy released in January 2017 its Draft Environmental Impact Statement for Cleanup at the Santa Susana Field Lab.

SSMPA appreciates that the U.S. Department of Energy accepted its responsibility to define the characteristics (physical, economic, environmental, etc.) of a full range of possible cleanup alternatives.

The Board of Directors of the Santa Susana Mountain Park Association (SSMPA) supports the US Department of Energy's safe and reasonable "Conservation of Natural Resources" alternative at SSFL.

See SSMPA's [notice of support](#) for DOE's alternative.

Santa Susana Field Lab Hike April 22

Boeing has made progress with the cleanup of its portion of the Santa Susana Field Lab site, and is moving towards the goal of preserving Santa Susana as **open space**.

Boeing offers hikes and bus tours of the unique terrain on which the lab lies.

The next hike is April 22, 2016 from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

[Hike Details Here](#) RSVP by April 20 to santasusanacommunitytours@boeing.com

Bus tours are scheduled throughout the summer and fall months.

<http://www.boeing.com/principles/environment/santa-susana/index.page#/tours>



Hidden Creeks Development next to Aliso Canyon

Update from the Office of the 5th District
from Los Angeles County Supervisor Kathryn Barger
on the Hidden Creeks Development Project

[Supervisor Barger](#) continues to direct staff to further the discussion on converting the [proposed Hidden Creeks Development Project](#) into dedicated open space.



She remains concerned about the viability of this project, as the property lies immediately adjacent to the **Aliso Canyon Gas Storage Facility**. Supervisor Barger believes that this is not a suitable place for a residential development. While the project is still being processed through the City of Los Angeles, the land is County-unincorporated, and the project must receive approvals from the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors.



Most importantly, the Los Angeles County Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) must also approve the project. Supervisor Barger will continue to be proactive in the process, and will work with all stakeholders to do what is in the best interest of all Chatsworth and Porter Ranch residents.

Wagemans Elected to Neighborhood Council

SSMPA congratulates both **Dean and Darlene Wageman**, SSMPA Board Directors and active members of the Chatsworth equestrian community, on their election to the Chatsworth Neighborhood Council. Dean is also ETI Corral 54 President and serves on the CNC Land Use and Equestrian Committees. Both Darlene and Dean are passionate advocates of open space, and will make wonderful additions to the CNC.

Dean and Darlene would like to thank Glenn Bailey for his tireless work and dedication through the CNC election process, and would also like to extend a special thank you to all who volunteered on Election Day.



The Wagemans have submitted a letter to Ken Bernstein, the principal City Planner at the Los Angeles Office of Historic Resources, requesting that **The Old Mission Trail** be considered for registry as a Chatsworth Cultural Landmark. **Click on the map** to see the report Dean and Darlene prepared.



We're Proud of "The Bird Lady"



SSMPA Board Member Wendi Gladstone, also known as "The Bird Lady" in Calabasas, was honored by the Calabasas Environmental Commission at their February 7th meeting. She received the Commission's 2016 Carl Gibbs Environmental Excellence Award.

Wendi was recognized for her commitment to protect the environment through environmental science programs for schools, surveying the Calabasas Lake wildlife, and educating the public on the protection of wildlife habitat.

In addition to collecting data the past five years, she shares her bird knowledge

with residents, makes note of potential hazards - like trash, poison bait boxes or standing water - that could harm birds or other wildlife, and alerts the Lake's homeowners association board and lake management of these issues.

Congratulations, Wendi!

Deerlake Ranch Development Update

Deerlake Ranch, a 314-home [residential development](#) north of the 118 between De Soto and Topanga Canyon Blvd. that is currently in the grading stages, took a big step forward March 23 and 24 when Foremost Communities, developer for the project, brought in a 250-foot crane to transport giant steel beams across Devil Canyon. Five truckloads of steel girders, the longest precast girders ever made in California, travelled all the way from Stockton and were carried up De Soto to Devonshire and then over to Canoga. The 170-foot long, 12-



foot wide trucks came between 12 a.m. and 5 a.m., and parked until the next day under the 118 freeway all the way up to the old existing bridge that is a remnant of a dam dating back to the 1920's.



The girders are 138-feet long, each weighing 175,000 pounds. For those living in the adjacent Twin Lakes community who wanted to come and watch the crane at work, Foremost provided coffee and donuts.

Deerlake Ranch was originally introduced as a 535-home development back in 2001. A community coalition formed a non-profit in 2002 called **Save Chatsworth, Inc.** for the express purpose of monitoring the approval process of this development. **Save Chatsworth** successfully negotiated for a reduction of size in the project, as well as obtaining many valuable community enhancements such as public sewers for the adjacent Twin Lakes community, extensive and improved equestrian trails and access, protected open space and other funded amenities. The reduced density benefits Chatsworth and its surrounding areas, cutting down on noise, dust, and traffic, and saving parkland.

Save Chatsworth continues today as an organization closely aligned with **SSMPA**.

~Vanessa Watters

Living with Coyotes in Your Neighborhood

Many of us live in areas coyotes frequent, so how do we co-exist with coyotes?

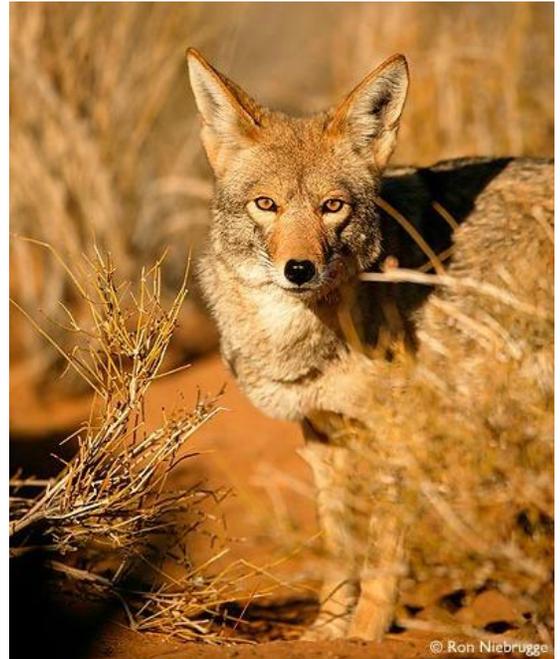
Coyotes are naturally fearful of humans, but due to encroachment on their habitat, they have adapted to finding food in developed areas. Intentional or unintentional feeding can lead to habitation and conflicts.

What can you do to discourage coyotes (as well as rats and mice)?

- Pick up fallen fruit from trees
- Enclose all vegetable gardens
- Seal all trash cans securely
- Feed pets indoors or take pet food in immediately after feeding them outdoors and clean the area
- Do not leave water outside for pets

Remember, common sense goes a long way when dealing with Coyotes. Always be present when your pet is outside in your yard. When walking in the neighborhood, keep your pet on a short leash. If you encounter Coyotes while walking in the neighborhood, use hazing techniques like waving your arms and yelling "go away coyote" and/or use noisemakers to scare them away.

~ Wendi Gladstone



Abused Land in Chatsworth

It's not a park. It's private property. But still, is there any excuse for this abuse of the land? And it's immediately adjacent to, and encroaching upon, a public park, **Chatsworth Park North.**

The City Department of Building and Safety charged the owner with the following violations in April 2016:

Grading was performed without first obtaining a permit.

Open storage of inoperable vehicles.

Rubbish, garbage, trash and debris on the premises.

Open storage within the required yards.

Orders to comply have been issued and our local Building and Safety inspector is monitoring. But it will be a long process to try to repair all the damage to the land.

Click on photo below to see a gallery of photos of the property.



THEN THE RAINS CAME

WEATHER DELAYS CHATSWORTH PARK SOUTH REMEDIATION

Remediation work began in early April 2016 at [Chatsworth Park South](#), at the far west end of Devonshire Street.

After almost nine (9) years of closure, remediation work was nearing completion.

Then the Rains Came

See an excellent post-rain [drone video](#) of the park by Chatsworth resident Larry Wolff

Chatsworth Park South (City of LA) has been closed for nine years, awaiting cleanup of reported lead contamination on a portion of the acreage. The City engaged a contractor to do remediation work (grading, capping the surface, etc.).

Click the photo below for the latest information on Re-opening of Chatsworth Park South.



For a timeline of the long saga of the Park's closure, see:

[SSMPA's Watch Center for Chatsworth Park South Reopening](#)

Speaking of rain....

The robust rains of December through February "turned on" the rarely seen waterfall in the hills above Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park.

Dozens of local hikers trekked up to "The Grotto" to see the flow, and Larry Wolff captured the action from a distance with this excellent video.



SSMPA Board of Directors to Be Elected

Our by-laws require our members to elect a Board of Directors every year. And it is now that time of year. [HERE](#) members can find a ballot, and a description of the Candidates who have agreed to serve as Directors, with our members' approval, for 2017-2018.

Or members can simply come to our [April 17, 2017 Community Meeting](#) and vote in person. If you are not

currently an SSMPA member, [here](#) is how to become one.
Our board members will remain the same next year, but there will be some changes of roles.

Join Our Board of Directors?

We have eleven Candidates. Our by-laws allow for up to fifteen Directors.



Do you support conservation?
Open space? Parks and parkland?

If you want to learn more about the possibility of joining our board, please drop a message at mail@ssmpa.com No obligation. Confidential.

One Cat's Advice

We gratefully accept your new membership, renewals, donations all year round!



Please click [HERE](#) to start or renew your membership by credit card



or fill in the membership form below and mail it.

Your membership (new and renewal) and donations help SSMPA efforts and continued success in providing free community meetings; advocacy for open space/nature preserves; keeping or reopening local parks; acquiring easement land parcels to protect native plants and habitat, wildlife corridors and park space; environmental educational opportunities; preservation of Chatsworth's and the surrounding area's historical, cultural, and archaeological sites.

If you do want to not receive your newsletter via e-mail and must receive it by snail mail, please send an additional \$10.00. If you have moved, please be sure to let us know your new address.

SSMPA MEMBERSHIP GIVES YOU A VOICE IN YOUR COMMUNITY!

THANK YOU for your recent New Memberships:
Kristen Barron, Susan Splawski, Kathleen Babilonia, Diana & Kevin Sprout

THANK YOU for your recent Lifetime Memberships:
Dottie Acker, Darlene & Dean Wageman

THANK YOU for recent Special Contributions:
Judy Joel, Melissa Lovelady

And THANK ALL OF YOU **loyal members** who have recently renewed your SSMPA Membership

Sign up for a LIFE MEMBERSHIP and/or a DONATION OF \$50.00 and receive a FREE "Cotton Blend Cool" [T-shirt](#) with a Chumash-inspired design.

Let us know your size when you mail in your check, or send an email to mail@ssmpa.com if you pay online.

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

Membership dues:

- () \$20.00 for individuals () \$150.00 for Individual Life Membership
- () \$25.00 for a family () \$200.00 for a Family Life Membership
- () \$30.00 for a business or organization

Make your check payable to SSMPA and mail to:
SSMPA, P.O. Box 4831, Chatsworth, CA 91313-4831

Please be sure to provide us the following information:

Names _____ E-mail _____

Address: _____

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

Note: If you must receive your newsletter via snail-mail, please send an additional \$10.00.

Thank you for your support!

IMPORTANT: Please send today your e-mail address ,or changes to your e-mail address, to: mail@ssmpa.com

Your e-mail address is used exclusively for SSMPA newsletter and community announcements.

HIKES

Welcome Walks: Interpretive hikes in the Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park (SSPSHP):

Facebook: [Friends of the Santa Susana Mountains](#) & fpssm.org

SSPSHP Volunteer Hikes: Contact: Jennifer Dandurand, park interpretive specialist, Los Encinos SHP: 818.784.4849;
jdandurand@parks.ca.gov

Rancho Simi Trail Blazers: www.simitrailblazers.com

Sierra Club: www.angeles.sierraclub.org/sfvg/ Meetings, hikes

SFV Audubon: <http://www.sfvaudubon.org> Meetings and Bird Walks for families

Hiking and Event Updates: ssmpa.com

SSMPA Mission

SSMPA's mission is to preserve and protect the Simi Hills, Santa Susana Mountains, and regional open space.

Contribute to SSMPA?



Use your debit / credit card or Paypal

[Click here to download our Winter 2017 newsletter](#)

Santa Susana Mountain Park Association (SSMPA)

P. O. Box 4831

Chatsworth, CA 91313-4831

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Mail label here

2016 / 2017 SSMPA Board of Directors

President, Treasurer: Teena Takata
Vice President: Tom Nachtrab
Recording Secretary: Donna Nachtrab
Director-at-Large: Vanessa Watters
Director-at-Large: Robert "Bob" Dager
Director-at-Large: Warren Stone
Director-at-Large: Wendi Gladstone
Director-at-Large: John Luker
Director-at-Large: Sharon Shingai
Director-at-Large: Darlene Brothers-Wageman
Director-at-Large: Dean Wageman