

Summer '86

Santa Susana Mountain Park Association

Newsletter

CRITICAL BOND ISSUE

Proposition 43, on your June 3rd ballot, will have a very large impact on the future of the Santa Susana Mountain Park. The "Community Parklands Act of 1986" provides for a bond issue of one hundred million dollars to "provide funds for acquiring, developing, improving, rehabilitating, or restoring urgently needed local and regional parks, beaches, recreational areas and facilities, and historical resources."

As you can see by the wording, the SSMP fulfills several of the criteria for funding and would be eligible for monies from this bond issue. We implore you to vote YES on Proposition 43. Our park is in jeopardy!

SSMPA IMPERILED!

MORE MEMBER INVOLVEMENT NEEDED!

Sylvia Bryant has been in contact with Bill Tanner of Senator Ed Davis' office. He has told us that "Chatsworth Park will be OK, but that everyone was waiting to see what happens to Proposition 43 on June 3rd." The drastic cuts in the federal budget do affect the grants needed to buy up adjacent property being offered to private developers. We MUST find a way to prevent our beautiful lands, wildlife and historical sites from becoming just pictures in somebody's book of memories!

Tanner advised us to "broaden our base". This means getting more members and people willing to work on the various committees to raise funds, attend crucial hearings, write letters, make phone calls, and generally make our presence known to those who don't know of us and re-enforce our wishes and needs to those who do. Pay your dues... but don't stop there! Get your friends, neighbors and relatives to join the SSMPA. We need a membership chairperson who is willing to devote a few hours a month to contacting potential members and helping the SSMPA grow to the organization it has the potential to be.

We need Visitor Center docents (only three hours a month of your time)! We need volunteers to help produce and mail this newsletter! We need people to line up speakers (or be speakers) for our quarterly program meetings! We need hike leaders! We need people to help with refreshments! We need people to phone members to remind them of meetings and other events! We need people to write letters to our legislators and government officials! We need people to contact the media about SSMPA events and happenings!

You'll notice the word "people" occurs several times in the above paragraph! Well, you're people! HELP US OUT! We need "People Power" to help with getting the jobs done. If you do not help, you will find yourselves living in an "urban jungle", surrounded by glass and concrete. Your children, and their children, will never know the joys of walking a forest trail, or watching a Steller's Jay argue with a Golden-Mantled Ground Squirrel over possession of a pinon nut, or simply having a picnic under a shady two-hundred year old live oak tree! We are facing crises on every hand. Just look around you. The Garden of the Gods is up for sale, as well as eighty-eight other acres adjacent to our park. Are we going to follow in the wake of Woodland Hills, which is beginning to look like Century City, which is beginning to look like the Loop in Chicago, which is beginning to look like... Ad nauseum! This is YOUR town! These are YOUR hills! This is YOUR ASSOCIATION! Please help! Please!

NEW '86/'87 BOARD

At the March 17th meeting, a new slate of officers was elected for 1986/1987 Board of Directors of the SSMPA. Your board (some new, some returning) for the coming year:

President - Doug Wobser 21025 Lassen St #119 Chatsworth 91311 882-4688	Vice-President - Sylvia Bryant 9901 Lurline Av #125 Chatsworth 91311 341-5820
Secretary - Linda Stone 11416 Cree Tr Chatsworth 91311 998-3196	Treasurer - Pauline Aue 11417 Cree Tr Chatsworth 91311 341-5872
Founder - Jan Hinkston 8657 Valley Flores Dr Canoga Park 91304 884-9610	Member-at-Large - Barbara Coffman 8611 Eatough Av Canoga Park 91304 347-5603
Member-at-Large - Dan Cooper 9565 Reseda Bl Northridge 91324 882-7925	Member-at-Large - Pat Levin 10010-3 Larwin Av Chatsworth 91311 998-3391
Member-at-Large - Nancy Razanski 22149 James Allen Ct Chatsworth 91311 341-3512	Member-at-Large - Ed Tabor 7240 Shirley Av Reseda 91335 349-8037

The board meets at 7:30 pm on the first Monday of each month at Jan Hinkston's house and any SSMPA member is invited to attend to watch and listen to the meeting.

EXPANDING HORIZONS

The SSMPA is preparing a proposal, to be submitted to the State of California, to extend the boundaries of the Santa Susana Mountain Park westward to include the Hope property in Simi Valley. Some of you may know the property, which used to be part of "Corriganville", the movie ranch owned by Ray "Crash" Corrigan. As there are some of the old western town sets remaining, it would really be a jewel in the crown of the park. The proposal would also rename the park as the "Santa Susana State Historical Park".

We have contacted Assemblywoman Kathie Wright, telling her of our desire for the state to purchase the Hope land.

We have also wired the Honorable Patrick Johnson, Chairman of the Assembly Ways and Means Committee in Sacramento, to inform him of our support for the appropriations put before the House for the fiscal year 1986/87 budget for the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy.

AUDUBON BIRD WALKS

In March, the San Fernando Valley Chapter of the National Audubon Society inaugurated a monthly bird walk in and around Chatsworth Park South. The walks begin at the Community Center parking lot, as do our docent-led hikes. There is no charge, so come on out on the second Saturday of each month at 8:30 am and commune with our fine feathered friends. You'll love it!

AD HOC COMMITTEE MEETS

On March 31st, an ad hoc committee met in Councilman Joel Wachs' Studio City office to discuss the closing of the National Park Service's Land Acquisition Office in Woodland Hills. Also under discussion was needed funding for the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy. The meeting was chaired by Jerome C. Daniel, Chairman Emeritus of the Federation of Hillside and Canyon Homeowners Association. In attendance were Doug Wobser and Sylvia Bryant, representing the SSMPA, and Glenn Bailey, representing the Foundation for the Preservation of the Santa Susanas.

The meeting was successful in that, in little more than an hour, the committee established their goals and set out a course of action to accomplish and to achieve those goals - to restore funding to the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area (SMMNRA) and the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy (SMMC).

Re the closing of the SMMNRA Land Acquisition Office, the committee opted to attack the larger problem - to restore to the federal budget the sum of \$22 million for land acquisition. To this end it was suggested that the attendees, and their respective organizations, write letters, send telegrams and telephone Senator James McClure of Idaho, Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, and Senator Pete Wilson asking for restoration of the funding. It was also suggested that letters be written to anyone in the federal government who might be able to effect a positive result. (E.g.: NPS Director William Penn Mott.) It was also requested that Congressman Tony Beilenson be contacted to let him know that his efforts on behalf of this cause were appreciated.

As to the funding for the SMMC (or lack thereof), perhaps a short explanation of the problem would be in order.

The SMMC faces a state budget devoid of any funds for running the agency whereas in 1985 the Governor funded \$350,000 for that purpose. In addition, no funding was provided for land acquisition, whereas last year the Governor funded \$15.4 million for that purpose. The SMMC also needs \$1.25 million in funds to continue the Non-profit Grant Program which has been beneficial to 38 grant recipients (including the SSMPA) doing important work in the Santa Monica Mountains Zone (which encompasses the Santa Susanas) over the past year.

The committee decided to have its attendees (and their organizations) contact State Senator Robert Presley, as well as other state legislators, to point out that there wasn't one penny in SB 1717 (Maddy) earmarked for agricultural land preservation and urban open space, but there should be! The bill (SB 1717) is a \$5 million bond issue, ostensibly for those purposes. The committee is asking for \$30 million for the SMMC to complete its programs until its 1990 termination date.

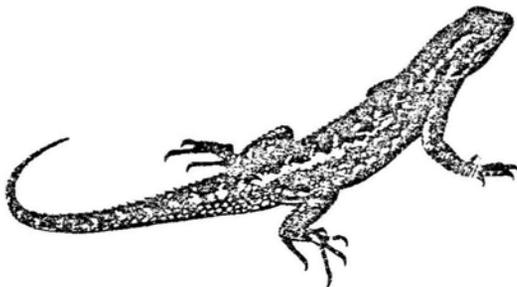
It was also agreed that a media event, in the form of a "Rally for the Mountains" would be beneficial to the causes under discussion. A separate article about this rally appears elsewhere in this issue.

On behalf of the SSMPA, Sylvia Bryant has written letters to several key legislators and government officials about our concerns in these matters. We have also received a copy of a letter drafted by several of our U.S. Senators and Congresspersons to William Penn Mott, Director of the National Park Service, supporting retention of the Land Acquisition Office in Woodland Hills and opposing its relocation to San Francisco. This letter also requests NPS monies for further land acquisition in the Santa Monica Mountains Zone.

CLEAN-UP '86

We are indeed grateful to all those who donated their time and energies to "Clean-Up '86" in February. For those of you who just got back from six months in the Antarctic, "Clean-Up '86" was a task force of volunteers who hauled some of our less-than-historical artifacts (beer cans, very used vacuum cleaners, auto carcasses, etc.) out of the park.

Special thanks are extended to Troop 101 of the Boy Scouts and their leader, Daylon Dean. A VERY SPECIAL tip of the hat to Scout Kevin Okelberry, who organized the cleanup as a project toward his Explorer rating! When the Scouts get through with him, we could use him as Governor of California!!!



RALLY FOR THE MOUNTAINS

The Temescal Canyon Association, the Pacific Palisades Residents Association and the Santa Monica Mountains Citizens Leadership Coalition are sponsoring a "Rally for the Mountains" on Sunday, May 18th, at Temescal Canyon Park at 12:00 noon. They hope to call attention to the urgent need for funding for both the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area and the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy so that they can keep their doors open, their land acquisition offices functioning and their programs continuing throughout the Santa Monica Mountains and the Rim of the Valley Corridor. Jerome C. Daniel, Chairman Emeritus of the Federation of Hillside and Canyon Homeowners Association, Inc. and principal organizer of the Coalition notes, "Our legislators in Sacramento and Washington D.C. have to be reminded of our priorities. If we don't convince them of our need to acquire, preserve and protect parkland now, our children won't have any later."

The rally will feature docent-led walks, entertainment, booths from various organizations and comments from legislators and community leaders on their feelings about the mountains and the budget. All are welcome to come and celebrate our mountain parks at the corner of Sunset Boulevard and Temescal Canyon Road in the Pacific Palisades. Bring a blanket and a picnic lunch, and learn what you can do to help the mountains.

For further information, contact Jerome C. Daniel (818) 708-2150 or Phil Leacock, of the Temescal Canyon Assn. at (213) 454-4188.

The date on your mailing label indicates when your membership expires. Members whose dates are prior to 86-06(June 86) are requested to renew at this time. Thank you.

ENCLOSED ARE MY ANNUAL DUES FOR (check one): RENEWAL NEW MEMBERSHIP
CATAGORY (check one): INDIVIDUAL (\$10) FAMILY (\$15) STUDENT or SENIOR (\$5)
 SUPPORTING (\$25) BUSINESS (\$25) LIFE MEMBER (\$100)

NAME _____ TELEPHONE _____

ADDRESS _____ CITY/ZIP _____

I am interested in participating on the following committees or helping in the following ways:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> ART WORK (Do art work and/or lettering on posters, displays, etc.) | <input type="checkbox"/> BOOTHS, INFORMATION TABLES (At fairs, shopping malls, etc.) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> DOCENT (SSMPA Visitor Center, 3 hrs/mo.) | <input type="checkbox"/> HIKE LEADER (Requires Sierra Club "O" Rating.) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> HOSPITALITY (Greet people at meetings.) | <input type="checkbox"/> MEMBERSHIP (Contact new, potential or expired members; help keep membership records.) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> PHOTOGRAPHY (Nature, events, meetings, news releases, etc.) | <input type="checkbox"/> HISTORY (Assist SSMPA Historian in maintaining records, scrapbooks, awards, etc.) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> PUBLICITY (Write and mail press releases on meetings, events, outings, etc.) | <input type="checkbox"/> PUBLICATIONS (Assist with writing, typing, composing, printing and/or mailing newsletter.) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> PROGRAMS (Help plan programs; suggest program subjects.) | <input type="checkbox"/> PHONE COMMITTEE (Contact members by phone for special events, meetings, etc.) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SPEAKING (Either at SSMPA meetings or on behalf of SSMPA to other organizations.) | <input type="checkbox"/> CORRESPONDENCE (Writing letters to legislators, government officials, other organizations, etc.) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (Describe) _____ | |

What sort of programs, meetings, social events, publications and information interest you the most?

What is your occupation? _____

What are your hobbies? _____

If new member, how did you hear of SSMPA? _____

Please complete and return this entire form, with check made payable to SSMPA, to: SSMPA Membership
P.O. Box 4831

PLEASE DO NOT SEND CASH!

Chatsworth, CA 91311