

SANTA SUSANA MOUNTAIN PARK ASSOCIATION

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

A Non-Profet 501(c)(4) Oraganiztion
Website: www.ssmpa.com

Incorporated August 31, 1971
Email: mail@ssmpa.com



March 2011 Newsletter

Volume 41.3

Santa Susana Mountain Park Association

Community Meeting March 21, 2011 7:15 PM

**Presenter: Kathleen Semple Delaney, PhD, Ecologist, National Parks Service (NPS)
Researcher - Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area (SMMNRA)**

Wildlife Populations (flying and crawling) are finding navigation between habitat areas of the Santa Monica Mountains ... Simi Hills ... Santa Susana Mountains is risky business. Urbanization, freeways, and fragmented landscapes can limit animal movements resulting in a lack of population connectivity. The study of habitat fragmentation in this region is a study Delaney worked on as a joint project with NPR/SMMNRA and Robert N. Fisher, USGS Western Ecology Research Center, and Seth P.D. Riley, Wildlife Ecologist for National Park Service – Thousand Oaks. The research/study focused on a genetics study of Wrentit, Western Fence Lizard and three local lizard species reporting the consequences of habitat fragmentation that results in inbreeding, loss of genetic diversity and local extinction. The study supports the need to protect the wildlife corridor/open space, native plants, trees, and chaparral to ensure that birds and other animals in our region will continue to survive

(Community Meetings are Free to the Public)

Rockpointe Clubhouse: 22300 Devonshire Street, Chatsworth CA 91311

SSPSHP Volunteers events in March 2011

--Nature Hike: 2.6--Saturday, March 5th 9:00am

Meet at Lilac Lane Destination: Most likely the Manson caves area

Leader: Dale

Note the time and location change!

--Nature Hike: 2.7--Saturday, March 12th 9:30am

Meet at Larwin

Leader: Peter

--Nature Hike: 2.8--Sunday, March 27th 9:30am

Meet at Larwin

Leader: Teena

**Some of these hikes may be more strenuous than others. If you would like more details about the hike difficulty level, themes, or destination, please let me know. Questions? Call or email! Jennifer Dandurand park interpretive specialist | volunteer coordinator los encinos shp | santa susana pass shp
t: 818.784.4849 | f: 818.784.0621 | e: jdandurand@parks.ca.gov
schedule: w: 1:30-5:30; th, sa: 9-5:30; su: 1-5:30 [off: m, tu, f]



**SSMPA and California State Parks Celebrate the
Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park (SSPSHP) Volunteer Program and Awards Presentation**

Because the SSPSHP Volunteer Program in it's first year, 2010, a tremendous success, SSMPA and CA State Parks 2010, the first year of the SSPSHP Volunteer Program was a tremendous success. SSMPA and CA State Parks celebrated this success and honored the volunteers at a dinner and awards ceremony at the Silver Panda on January 29th

California State Parks recognized the following Volunteers.

John Luker, SSMPA, Vice President: CA State Parks Volunteer Medallion for Superior Achievement
 Teena Takata, SSMPA, Secretary: CA State Parks Poppy Award
 Peter Ullrich, SSPSHP Volunteer: CA State Parks Poppy Award

Ron Shafer, who at the time was the head of the Southern District for California State Parks, approached John Luker in the summer of 2009 with the general concept of creating a volunteer group to help preserve SSPSHP and would help the Park stay open through California 's budget crisis. John Luker, Teena Takata, and Jack Unger attended a key meeting with Ron and other key Park employees and worked on the concepts to start the volunteer group for the SSPSHP. Many people in the community have volunteered hours of their time and leadership starting our volunteer program. John and Teena led hikes the first year, and Peter Ullrich found a special niche leading the graffiti cleanup group. These activities and others only happened with much active assistance from local State Parks officials. As our second year continues, Peter has led most of our spring hikes and Dale Chaloukian is leading his first hike in March. Other activities include continuing work on getting the Visitor Center ready for the public, and signage for the Park. The SSPSHP volunteer program has received state-wide attention in the Parks system, and appears to have a bright future as a key method to preserve public access for our cherished SSPSHP.

CA State Parks officials, Sean Woods, Lee Hawkins, Karma Graham, and Jennifer Dandurand, joined in the festivities and awards presentation. Glenn Bailey, SSMPA past President, and Nancy Razanski Foundation for the Preservation of the Santa Susana Mountains and SSMPA life members joined in the celebration.

The celebration honored all the volunteers who donate their time to keep SSPSHP open for the public to enjoy. Special recognition was given to volunteers who donated over 200 hours and received special CA State Park Passes: John Luker, Peter Ullrich, and George Madrid. Recognized: Volunteers who donated over 150 hours: David Johnson, Donna Madrid, Stephanie Storey, Nadia Marie Harding, Dale Chaloukian. People who have graduated from the Topanga Docent training in addition to the SSPSHP training: Peter Ullrich, Dale Chaloukian, Warren Stone, Linda Stone, and Bob Dager.

SSMPA Directo, Elizabeth Harris, built a Facebook volunteer hiking announcement page that keeps everyone updated on all the events.

All SSMPA Directors have worked closely with California State Parks personnel to make the Volunteer Program a success. Directors have contributed time, energy, training, food, announcement writing and moral support and encouragement to the State Park Volunteers.

John Luker BRAVO! BRAVO!

Recipient of the San Fernando Valley Audubon Society Annual Conservation Award

John Luker , SSMPA Vice President, Board Director, has been selected by the San Fernando Valley Audubon Society to receive its Annual Conservation Award. The award will be presented at the Audubon Society's Annual Awards Dinner, Friday, March 11, beginning at 6 p.m. at the Airtel Plaza Hotel near Van Nuys airport. Audubon Society Members and Non-Members are invited to attend the event. For complete details and reservations, see the SFVAS newsletter, the Phainopepla, <www.sfvaudubon.org> or contact: Mark Osokow, <mark.osokow@sfvaudubon.org>

2011/2012 SSMPA Board of Directors Election Ballot

SSMPA members currently paid as of March 2011, can vote for the candidates on the ballot or you can write in the names of the candidate(s) of your choice. You can either mail your ballot or bring it to the Community Meeting on Monday, April 18, 2011.

Instructions: Cut out the ballot. If you are an individual member, indicate your votes using one of the ballots below. If you have a family membership, indicate your votes on both ballots. Mail this ballot page to SSMPA, P.O. Box 4831, Chatsworth, CA 91313-4831 so it is received at the P.O. Box no later than April 18, 2011 or bring the ballot to the April meeting.

BALLOT - SSMPA BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2011/2012

The Elections Committee of the Santa Susana Mountain Park Association has considered and approved the following candidates for the 2011/2012 SSMPA Board of Directors. Please vote for ONE candidate for each of the following offices by circling the printed name. You can vote for up to five MEMBER-AT-LARGE candidates. You can also write in a candidate (even yourself) using the "Write-In" lines at the bottom.

Ballot 1

PRESIDENT: Teena Takata

VICE PRESIDENT: John Luker

RECORDING SECRETARY: Dr. Elizabeth Harris

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY: Carla Bollinger

TREASURER: Diana Dixon-Davis,

MEMBER AT LARGE: Chris Beauvais

MEMBER AT LARGE: Bob Dager

MEMBER AT LARGE: Albert Knight

MEMBER-AT-LARGE: Warren Stone

MEMBER AT LARGE: Jack Unger

WRITE-IN CANDIDATE (NAME & OFFICE): _____

WRITE-IN CANDIDATE (NAME & OFFICE): _____

Ballot 2

PRESIDENT: Teena Takata

VICE PRESIDENT: John Luker

RECORDING SECRETARY: Dr. Elizabeth Harris

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY: Carla Bollinger

TREASURER: Diana Dixon-Davis,

MEMBER AT LARGE: Chris Beauvais

MEMBER AT LARGE: Bob Dager

MEMBER AT LARGE: Albert Knight

MEMBER-AT-LARGE: Warren Stone

MEMBER-AT-LARGE: Jack Unger

Janice Hinkston Memorial

A Memorial, Tribute, and Celebration of Jan's Life March 25, 2011

(Jan's birthday – she would have been 84 years old)

Memorial Service: Friday, March 25, 3 p.m.

Memorial Location: Homestead Acre in Chatsworth Park South

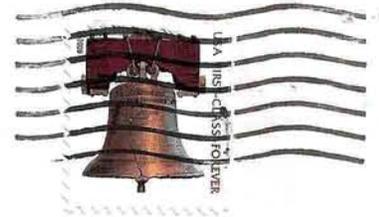
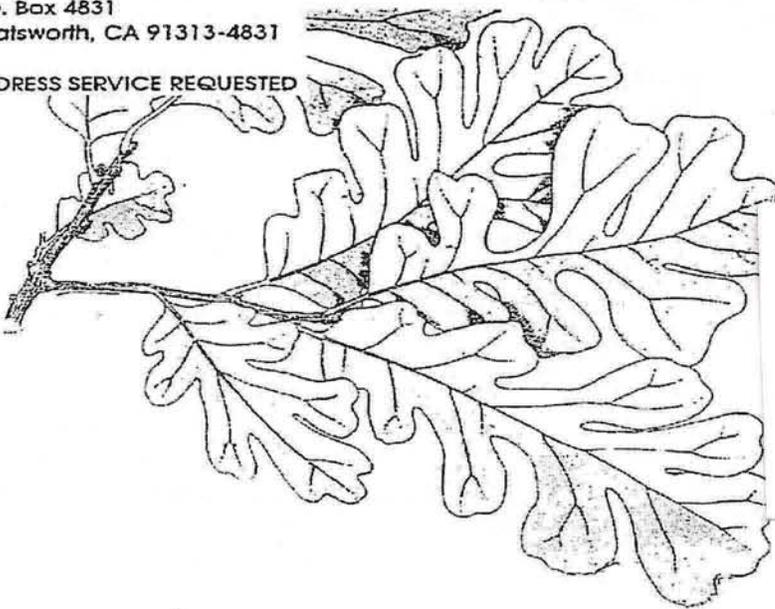
(Light refreshments will be served.)

After the Memorial Service there will be a short hike in the SSPSH in the vicinity of the two oaks in the upper meadow area (closest trailheads are at Lilac Lane and Santa Susana Pass Road.

Hike leaders will be available to guide memorial attendees on the hike after the service.

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 serve as stewards of the Santa Susana Pass State Historical Park (SSPSHP) and surrounding areas and to continue to preserve and protect habitats for plants and animals native to the location, unique geological formations, and sites of ethnological, archaeological, and historic interest. 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 Board of Directors

Jack Unger - President
John Luker - Vice President
Diana Dixon-Davis, Treasurer
Teena Takata - Secretary
Chris Beauvais, Member-at-Large
Carla Bollinger, Member-at-Large
Reid Bogert, Member-at-Large
Robert Dagers, Member-at-Large
Dr. Elizabeth Harris, Member-at-Large
Warren Stone, Member-at-Large

Retractions

November 2010 Newsletter, We learned of a whopping mistake made in our "Celebrating 40th Anniversary" section ...

It's come to my attention
In your paper there was mention
Someone I know had died
And that someone was(?) me.
So please print a retraction
Because I'm still in action,
Happy as a clam, busy as a bee
Retired and living right next door
In Somewhere AZ.

Jean Searle

January/February 2011 Newsletter, SSMPA Membership section...

Statement: All funds spent over \$250.00 are proposed at general meetings for membership approval. The amount was increased to \$500.00 and approved by General Membership and is written in our revised By-Laws, Revised, October 2009, ARTICLE III, Section 3