



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

Email: mail@ssmpa.com

Founded Nov. 20, 1970

Website: ssmpa.com

Fall 2016 Newsletter (September)

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, September 19, 2016 7:00pm

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----- Part 1 -----

Local Candidates: Open Forum

SSMPA has invited the candidates in four local races to come talk informally about their positions on environmental and conservation issues.

Come hear before it's time to cast you ballot.

We are expecting to hear 5th District County Supervisor candidate, [Darrell Park](#) and others.



----- Part 2 -----

"Off the Beaten Path" in the San Fernando Valley

Presenter: Bronwyn Ralph, Explorer and Author

"Off The Beaten Path"

is a local travel book about the wonderful treasures in the San Fernando Valley. There are **over 40 cultural landmarks, historic monuments and other points of interests** highlighted in this guide. So come take a trip and see what's in your backyard.

[Bronwyn Ralph](#) was born and raised in the San Fernando Valley and received her master's degree from CSUN. She grew up exploring the cultural landmarks in and around Los Angeles with her grandparents and parents, and developed a great appreciation for SFV's local treasures. One of her role models was Huell Howser and his series, "California Gold" which inspired her to get outdoors. His series prompted Bronwyn to write her book, "Off the Beaten Path", to highlight all the wonderful landmarks in the San Fernando Valley. For the last 13 years Bronwyn has been a docent for the Doheny Mansion in Los Angeles and has also conducted tours for the Museum of the San Fernando Valley, North Hollywood area, and the Oakridge Estate in Northridge.



Second Chance #1:

Did you miss SSMPA's standing-room-only Community Meeting in May?

Our Chatsworth Region: History and Pre-History

Albert Knight: Anthropologist, Archaeologist
and

Ray Vincent: Research Director at Chatsworth Historical Society

The West San Fernando Valley Lime Industry and Native American History



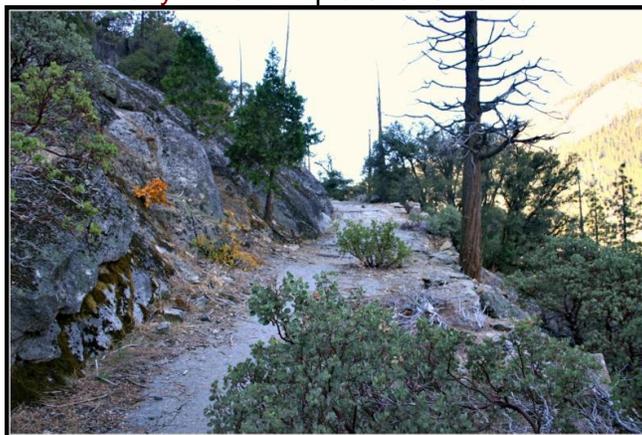
[See their presentation here](#)

Second Chance #2:

Did you miss SSMPA's Special Community Meeting in August?

The Old Wawona Stage Coach Road of Yosemite

Tony Krizan: Explorer and Author



See how the Wawona Stage Road and Chatsworth's Devil's Slide compare

[HERE](#)

Meet SSMPA's New Directors

SSMPA is very happy to have strengthened our volunteer [Board of Directors](#) this summer. We have three new Directors: **Sharon Shingai**, **Darlene Brothers-Wageman**, and **Dean Wageman**.



Our new directors bring SSMPA extensive experience in land conservation, outdoor activities, community service, and equestrian concerns.

Welcome Sharon, Darlene and Dean!



Wendi Recognized for Service to the Chatsworth Community

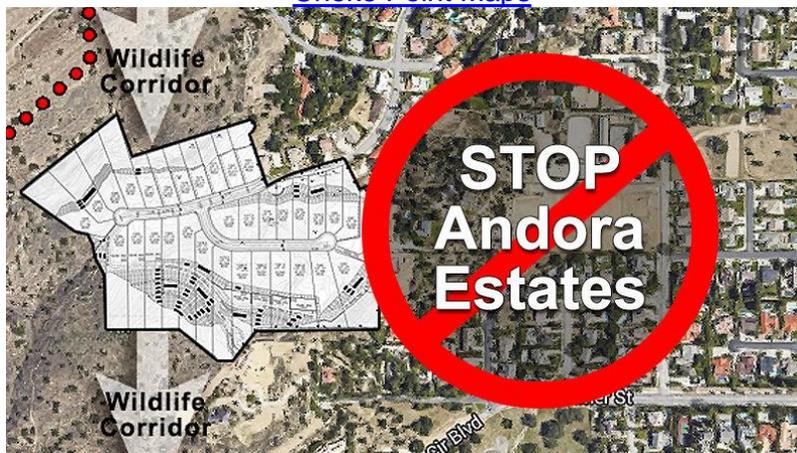
SSMPA Director **Wendi Gladstone** was honored this year with a [Chatsworth Community Coordinating Council](#) "Service to the Community" award. Wendi is an environmental education professional who has worked extensively with the Resource Conservation District of the Santa Monica Mountains. She is a board member of the Foundation for the Preservation of the Santa Susana Mountains, she is a Santa Susana Volunteer at Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park, and she is also a "Life Member" of the Chatsworth Historical Society. SSMPA is proud of Wendi and is extremely grateful for her many contributions of time, skill, and enthusiasm.



Andora Estates Development Project: Final EIR Released [Final Environmental Impact Report HERE](#)

Andora Estates proposes to build 33 houses in the canyon that connects Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park to Chatsworth Oaks Park and Chatsworth Nature Preserve.

[Notice of Public Hearing Sept 20](#)
[Choke Point Maps](#)



Andora Development Update

The Andora Avenue residential development project will be very active in September and October 2016 pursuing entitlement approvals for 33 new homes at the southern end of Andora Avenue (southwest of Lassen/Valley Circle) in Chatsworth (in the City of Los Angeles). This project is fairly unchanged from the proposal made in the draft environmental impact report and earlier proposals shown to the Chatsworth Neighborhood Council. To fit these lots into this very hilly area, the developer has proposed numerous approaches that are incompatible with stated intentions of City laws. **The City has failed to review or follow stated intentions of their various development ordinances and land use policies.** SSMPA will continue to remind the City of their stated policies. [Read More...](#)

Rim of the Valley: Moving Forward? ... We Hope

The [Rim of the Valley Corridor Study](#) is "final" and it is up to members of the U.S. Congress (Adam Schiff, Julia Brownley, Steve Knight, Brad Sherman, Barbara Boxer, Diane Feinstein, and others) to move it forward by introducing bills to be voted on.

Rim of the Valley Corridor Preservation Bill HR 5467

The text of the House version of the bill exists. <https://www.govtrack.us/congress/bills/114/hr5467/text>

It has been introduced to Congress by Representative Schiff, June 14, 2016

The boundaries are apparently defined by this [map](#):

The boundaries exclude the Sunshine Landfill and Aliso Canyon Gas works.



The map (and the unamended bill so far) includes all of Chatsworth Nature Preserve and the Santa Susana Field Laboratory.

There are some worrying reports that the Senate version of the bill may be written to exclude the Santa Susana Field Laboratory from the ROV overlay.

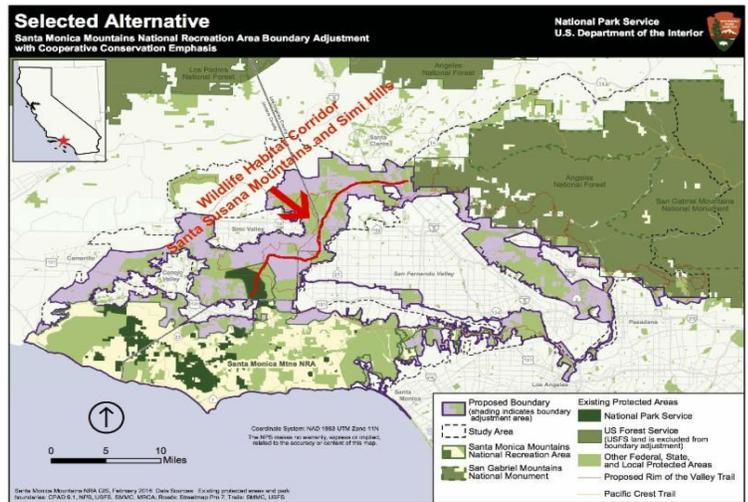
See the red line on the map below that links the San Gabriel Mountains, Santa Susana Mountains and Simi Hills, and Santa Monica Mountains. This boundary alignment potentially calls on **Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park, Chatsworth Nature Preserve, and Santa Susana Field Lab** to play major roles in maintaining a viable habitat corridor.

Useful information on the current prospects of the Rim of the Valley:

- [U.S. National Park Service](#)
- [Rim of the Valley Coalition](#)
- [Summary of Recent Public Meeting](#)
- [News Coverage of Introduction of Bill](#)

Interesting issues related to ROV:

- [City of Moorpark Wants into the ROV](#)
- [Congressman Wants Beaches Included in SMMNRA](#)



Deerlake Ranch

Reshaping the Hills for New Residential Development in the Santa Susana Mountains

[Deerlake Ranch](#) is a development of 314 houses in the Deerlake Highlands area in the southern foothills of Oat Mountain. It is just north of the Twin Lakes community, just west of Porter Ranch, and just south of the proposed [Hidden Creeks Estates](#). Check out stunning aerial photos of the area [HERE](#).

Grading of land is in full swing now for the project, which was approved years ago but delayed during the years of the weak real estate market.

See recent photos of how the grading is radically re-shaping the lay of the land in the Santa Susana Mountain foothills:



click on photo

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 either photo below to see a gallery of photos of the property.



CONSTRUCTION CONTINUES AT CHATSWORTH PARK SOUTH

Remediation work began in early April 2016 at [Chatsworth Park South](#), at the far west end of Devonshire Street. After more than eight (8) years of closure, construction work has started up.



We all know that Chatsworth Park South (City of LA) has been closed for 8- ½ years, awaiting cleanup of reported lead contamination on a portion of the acreage. The City has engaged a contractor to do remediation work (grading, capping the surface, etc.). Work was delayed in order to begin after the El Niño season 2016

Remediation is being accomplished primarily by hauling in materials (aggregate and clean soil) to serve as a one-foot cap over the soil that is contaminated with lead pellets and fragments of clay pigeons. Only some areas will have soil removed and hauled away.

[DTSC](#) says the project will span April 4 through December 13, 2016. [City Council District 12](#) tells us that everything is on schedule for finishing construction AND re-opening of the park to the public by the end of 2016.



[Click here to read the remediation plan](#)

For a timeline of the long saga of the Park's closure, see:
[SSMPA's Watch Center for Chatsworth Park South Reopening](#)

Santa Susana Field Lab Cleanup Woolsey Canyon: The Steep and Dangerous Curves of a 2 Lane Road

The **Community Advisory Group (CAG)** for the Santa Susana Field Lab (SSFL) has released a new video about the most probable haul-route that trucks will use during the completion of cleanup at SSFL.



See also ssflcag.net and facebook.com/ssflcag

Placerita Canyon Nature Center After the Sand Fire



Two SSMPA board members attended a recent local land use conference at Placerita Canyon Nature Center. This area, including all the wildlife that is on exhibit, was evacuated during the recent Sand Canyon fires. We are pleased to advise that the area immediately surrounding the Nature Center is intact. The fire fighters removed much of the branch growth on the native landscaping near the Center to make it safer during the fire, but the root systems remain, so personnel hope for a good regrowth when rains return. SCV Signal photo by Dan Watson

Although there is an unburnt forest in the immediate view area, trace odors of the fire are in the air. Trails in the area are often closed; the Forest Service is concerned about ash piles in burned areas that are several inches deep, and how rain will affect everything when it comes, and have closed many trails. Check for trail closures if you plan a hike near any burned area.

~Teena Takata

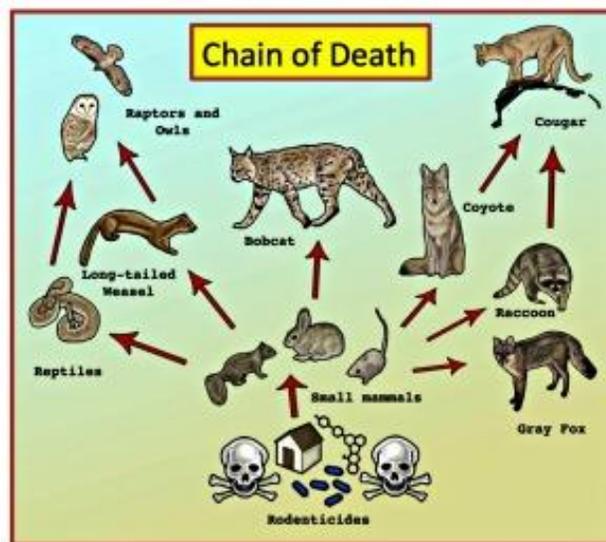
Rodent Poisons Kill Indiscriminately

The "peanut butter" that pest control companies use to attract rats to your home from a mile or more away is actually anticoagulant rat poison with a peanut butter or bacon scent. Not only are you inviting more unwanted guests to your home, but you are poisoning the entire food chain, causing death beyond the intended targets.



Rodents enter the traps, ingest anticoagulant poisons and leave the bait traps, but don't die often for several days. As they go back to the wild areas, they begin to get sick and slow down. They are bleeding to death internally.

Predators find them as easy catches and now the predator has also ingested the poison. After eating many such small animals, the predators in turn get sick, bleed internally and begin to die. Nearly every predator tested has tested positive for varying levels of rodenticides.



Understand that rodents are a natural part of the food chain for predators such as owls, hawks, foxes, snakes, raccoons, bobcats, coyotes, mountain lions, and many other animals. The "Food Chain" unfortunately has now become the "Chain of Death". Larger predators are dying a slow painful death at an alarming rate.

Instead of using poisons:

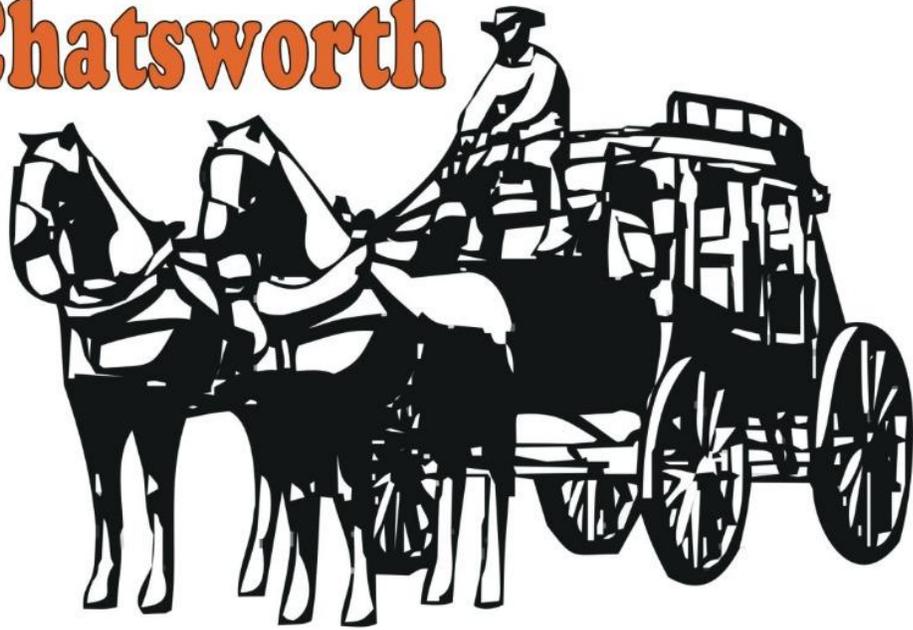
Clean up debris, low growing plants and ground cover around your home. Be sure no pet food or water is left outside or in your garage.

- Seal holes and openings to the unit or garage. Be sure all trash cans are sealed/closed tightly as well.
- Eliminate seed bird feeders.
- Rodents do not come where there is nothing to attract them.
- Be proactive and you will likely not have a problem going forward.
- If you do need pest control, ask that traps be set, but no poison/bait boxes be used.

[See also...](#) ~Wendi Gladstone

Annual Pioneer Day Festival at Homestead Acre

Chatsworth



Pioneer Day

(Click on stage driver's hat)

Chatsworth Historical Society Presents...

Pioneer Day

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 2nd, 2016

11:00 AM to 3:00 PM

HOMESTEAD ACRE

Located just inside Chatsworth Park South (West End of Devonshire Street)

10385 Shadow Oak Drive, Chatsworth, CA 91311

Details [HERE](#)

Trails Day:

Save the Date

Saturday November 5, 2016

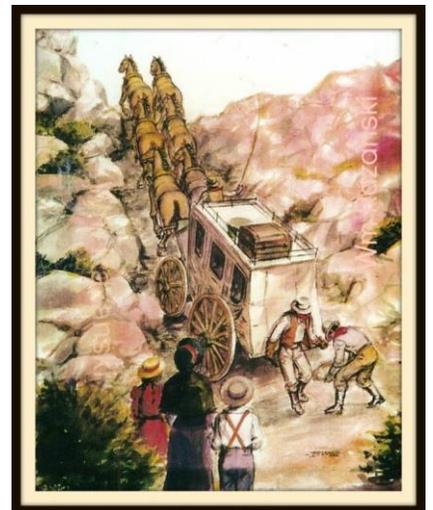
9:00am - 12:00pm

Family-friendly guided hikes

Meet at Andora Avenue entrance to **Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park**

[Details HERE](#)

Hikes and other events in the Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park are run by volunteers for State Parks. SSMPA passes on information about various activities outdoors, open space concerns, and/or certain naturalist activities to help our friends know what is happening, but does not sponsor or manage the events.



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 to us.

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:

Sharon Shingai and Bruce Snider

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.

Santa Susana Mountain Park Association (SSMPA)
P. O. Box 4831
Chatsworth, CA 91313-4831
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Mail label here



Join Our Board of 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.

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/sfv/ Meetings, hikes

SFV Audubon: 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.



