

Santa Susana Mountain Park Association



MARCH 1995

SSMPA GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING - MONDAY, 7:00PM, March 20
Glendale Federal Bank Community Room
21821 Devonshire St., Chatsworth
MELISSA LOVELADY will narrate her slide show presentation of the Juan Baitista DeAnza Treks of 1774 and 1776 from Mexico to San Francisco. Our speaker is an equestrian with a long history of working for the preservation of historic trails and other environmental issues.

CALENDAR

GENERAL MEETING MARCH 20 Slide Program, annual elections
SIERRA CLUB PUBLIC HIKES Every Sunday, Chatsworth Park So. Visitors Center, 9:00AM [Hike leader needed one Sun. a month starting in Oct.]
SANTA SUSANA DOCENTS Educational school tours led approximately once a month, various days.
VISITOR CENTER DOCENTS Open first, third and fourth Sundays, 12:30-3:00 PM. [Volunteers needed second and fifth Sunday]
CITY WIDE GENERAL PLAN/Framework - HEARING AND WORKSHOP, TUES, MAR 21, 4:30-8:00 PM, CANOGA PARK HIGH SCHOOL [Good place to speak up about Eagles Nest, Rim of the Valley Project]
SSMPA's FIRST EVER TRAIL REPAIR DAY SAT. - APRIL 1

ANNUAL ELECTIONS March is our traditional election month. We are extremely happy to announce that Glen Bailey, long time member and current board member has accepted the nomination for president. We are grateful for the longtime dedication of so many of our board, but we would sure love to see some new people stepping forward! If you have any interest in supporting this organization as a board member, please call me. Barbara Coffman 347-5 603
Also, we wish to extend our thanks to our retiring board member Jim Riley, treasurer. Jim did an excellent job for us, and will be greatly missed.

SSMPAs SILVER ANNIVERSARY November, 1970 was the founding date of SSMPA. In celebration of this event we are proposing to renovate our visitors center with the volunteer help of professional designer Robert Bougeon. Our goal is to celebrate our anniversary with an open house in our "New" center!

EAGLES NEST Its time to write to your letters regarding a proposed zone change to allow development in the section of the Simi Hills known as Eagles Nest. A developers plan proposing a 19 house subdivision in this area adjacent to our future State Historic Park has been submitted. Letters should be sent to CITY PLANNING DEPT. refer - DEIR 3 91-0308-ZC [Sub]. Copies of the DEIR are available at Chatsworth Library. Letters must be received by Mar. 27. Loss of this land to developers would result in the disruption of the wildlife corridor and destruction of more of irreplaceable wilderness area.

TRAIL MAINTENANCE Those of you who hike in our park are no doubt aware of the terrible state of our trails due to three extremely wet winters. Since there is no government money available for trail maintenance, we are adding trail work to our repertory of activities! We have enlisted the services of the Simi Valley Trail Blazers in this project, and are delighted to have their experience and support at work for us. Any members of our group who are interested in joining us in this event on Saturday, April 1, are asked to call immediately as the city is requesting a list of names as a part of the permit process. Barbara Coffman 347-5603



SANTA SUSANA DOCENTS The Santa Susana Docents are busy providing nature/history walks for elementary school children at Chatsworth Park South. We have received many compliments on our program from the children and adults who have been involved.

Our program consists of a walking tour of five "stations" positioned around the perimeter of the park, with about twenty minutes spent at each station. This is accomplished in groups of 12-15 children with each docent, plus one adult from the visiting school. The topics covered include our various plant and animal communities, geology, ecology, Native American culture and local history.

We have an experienced crew of docents, most of whom have been instrumental in the development of our program. They offer a variety of background knowledge and experiences. Jan Hinkston, is a retired kindergarten teacher and the foremost expert on our park. Kent Kellegrew, also a retired elementary teacher, couples his exuberance and creative storytelling techniques to bring to life his tales of the area. Janet Lazik is a former Junior High teacher and our master motivator of adults, as well as children. Pat Levin, a retired adaptive PE teacher, provides great expertise in creative techniques for managing the children and encouraging their thoughts. Eleanor Rembaum, a retired art teacher, shares her enthusiasm at our Native American games station. Jim Riley is a college math professor and our resident plant expert. Chatsworth historian Virginia Watson provides an expert historical perspective in her presentation at the Visitor Center. Cindy Wilder, a nursery school teacher, shares her interest in Native American culture and acts as coordinator for the group. Julie Brodhag came along last week for the first time and wants to get involved. She recently completed an ornithology [birds] course and is excited to share her knowledge with us.

We are already seeing that the impact of our program is reaching beyond the children to their friends and families. Since outreach is one of our goals, we hope to involve more people who will eventually become members. WE NEED MORE DOCENTS. We need people to work directly with the children, but we also need people to help us organize and coordinate the program. Please call Cindy Wilder at 818-998-0563 to discuss how you can become involved.

___Senior or Student (\$5.00) ___Individual (\$10.00) ___Family \$15.00)
 ___Business or Organization (\$25.00) ___Life Member (\$100.00)

NAME _____ PHONE () _____

ADDRESS _____ CITY/ZIP _____

Special interests/Expertise _____

Checks payable to: SSMPA Please mail to the address below:

DATED MATERIAL

Non-Profit Org
 U S Postage
 PAID
 Van Nuys, Ca
 Permit No. 761

FOUNDATION FOR THE PRESERVATION
 OF THE SANTA SUSANA MOUNTAINS
 P.O. Box 4831
 Chatsworth, Ca. 91313-4831