



## Santa Susana Mountain Park Association

Volume 29, Issue 4

# April 1999 Newsletter

A Non-Profit Organization  
Incorporated August 31, 1971

### Chatsworth Reservoir Hearing

By Dorian Keyser

The Los Angeles City Council hearing on the fate of the Chatsworth Nature Preserve/Reservoir was finally held in City Hall on March 23, 1999. DWP Commission President Rick Caruso and General Manager David Freeman submitted, but did not discuss, the "Chatsworth Reservoir Site Concept Study" report, which was prepared by an outside contractor. SSMPA members Diana Dixon-Davis, Dorian Keyser, Chris Van Schaack and Rosemarie White testified at the hearing.

The report considers seven potential scenarios, including retaining the facility in its present state, with controlled public access but with no development or active sports. However, since the public did not have any role in preparing the report or access to copies prior to the meeting, our testimony was primarily limited to stating this fact and that none of us had been included as participants of the study, despite promises that we would be.

Post-hearing review of the Concept Study revealed it does not include any reasons for retaining the Nature Preserve as is, despite studies of birds and other animals who are found there, the preserve's vegetation, archaeology, geology, and the routes that animals utilize to travel to and from the preserve.

Despite these deficiencies, we think that the L.A. City Council will vote to retain the Chatsworth Nature Preserve in its present status with controlled access. However, it is not yet clear that its management will be given to the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, even though we think that this is the best thing to do. Hopefully, everything will be firm in about one month. ❀

### April 19th Program

Archaeologist Bonnie Sharpe will bring the wonders of ancient American Indian architecture and way of life to our April 19 meeting with her slide presentation of the Chaco Canyon site in northwest New Mexico.

Bonnie, who is chair of the Sierra Club of California Executive Committee, will comment on the highly stylized masonry of the pueblos constructed 1,000 years ago of precisely cut sandstone pieces reinforced by pine beams. She will also mention evidence that this advanced civilization traded with Mexico.

As a leader of service trips to Chaco for the past 12 years, Bonnie will describe and show pictures of her volunteers' work there, including dating specimens (they are taught how to do this), making signs, planting, weeding and building fences to keep wild horses from damaging the remains of the Anasazi community.

Dorian and I visited this National Monument in the San Juan basin last October and highly recommend this opportunity to see and hear what Bonnie has to offer. The General Membership Meeting starts at 7:00 p.m. at Rockpointe Recreation Center, 22300 Devonshire, Chatsworth (south side of street), one block before entry to Chatsworth Park South. Bonnie's program starts at 7:30 p.m.

Submitted by Dalia Keyser. ❀

# Plaque's 60th Anniversary Commemorated

By Nancy Razanski, FPSSM President

On Saturday, March 20, 1999, the Foundation for the Preservation of the Santa Susana Mountains hosted the 60th Anniversary of the placing of the Old State Coach Trail Plaque by the Topango Parlor #269 Chapter of the Native Daughters of the Golden West, back on March 17, 1939. Due to rainy weather, the event took place in the Chatsworth Park South gym.

One highlight of the celebration was the presence of two of the original Native Daughters responsible for the plaque. One was the nearly 92-year-old Dorothy Johnson Pogue and the other was her younger cousin Charlotte Johnson Apuzzo. These Native Daughters are descendants of Anne Johnson, the first Anglo child born in Chatsworth, not to mention in the entire San Fernando Valley. Virginia Watson arranged for them to come.

Another highlight was the unveiling of the new Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park sign by the State Park Superintendent of the Topanga sector, Randy Sederquist. This sign was one of several that the FPSSM financed through a grant last May 1998.

We were entertained by Dave Murphy's blue grass band, The Chaparral (brought to us by Kevin Wachs). SSMPA's new President Judy Garris demonstrated how to play a Chumash flute.



Scaling the Devil's Slide

Artist William Razanski autographed prints of his watercolor entitled "Scaling the Devil's Slide." SFV Audubon's Art Langston offered the use of his telescope to view the plaque (hikes to the plaque were cancelled due to the weather).

Other groups with booths at the event were the SSMPA, the Chatsworth Historical Society, the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution (Chatsworth chapter), the Chatsworth Women's Club and the SFV Woodcarvers Guild.

Generous donors were Chris Van Schaack (of the Tarweed Nursery) who donated 5 native plants for

our free drawing and Bea Berman of the Chatsworth Historical Society who brought a homemade cake. Further donors of food or drink were Casa de Carlos, Country Deli, Los Toros, Ralph's Market, Taste of Scandinavia, Vons, and Whole Foods Market. ❁

## Slide Show on the History of the Stage Coach Trail

On Wednesday, April 14, 1999, Barbara Coffman will present her slide show on the history of stage coach travel in the San Fernando area, and particularly in the Santa Susana Pass.

The slide show presentation will take place at 7:30 p.m. at the old fire station at 7248 Owensmouth Street, Canoga Park (next to the Canoga Park library).

The event is sponsored by the Canoga Park Historical Society. Everyone is welcome. ❁



Many thanks to Randy Perras, Manager of the Topanga Canyon/Roscoe Office Depot, for the donation of printing services, i.e., the duplication of our newsletter. We appreciate it!

Along with the Wildflowers slide show presented by Milt McAuley, the last General Membership meeting saw the election of new Directors of the SSMPA Executive Board, listed below.

### SSMPA Executive Board

Judy Garris, President	818-346-7654
Dorian Keyser, Vice President	818-345-3795
vacant (your name?), Recording Secretary	
Susan Gerke, Treasurer	818-704-9304
Patti Milow, Corresponding Secretary	818-992-7757
Glenn Bailey, Member-At-Large	818-344-1992
Terrie Brady, Member-At-Large	818-349-8889
Bette Butler, Member-At-Large	818-700-0220
Diana Dixon-Davis, Member-At-Large	818-341-4242
Holly Huff, Member-At-Large	805-526-0961
Doreen Rusen, Member-At-Large	818-360-0894

# April Hikes

Stagecoach Trail and Exploration Series hikes are offered by the Santa Susana Mountain Task Force (SSMTF) of the Sierra Club and publicized by the SSMPA and the Foundation for the Preservation of the Santa Susana Mountains (FPSSM).

## Stagecoach Trail Hikes

SSMTF hikes are conducted every *Sunday*, October - June (except for very rainy days) from the parking lot of Chatsworth Park South Recreation Building, located at the western end of Devonshire Street, about one mile west of Topanga Canyon Boulevard.

Hikers meet at 9:00 a.m. with the hike leader for the 4-mile (700 ft. gain) loop up the Stagecoach Trail in the hills west of the park. Bring water and a snack in a back or hip pack. Lug sole shoes or sturdy, closed shoes, and a hat are advised. All hike leaders are knowledgeable and experienced.

### Stagecoach Trail Hike Leaders

First Sunday: Barbara Coffman  
Second Sunday: Judy Garris  
Third Sunday: Lindsay Wilhelm  
Fourth Sunday: Lee Baum

## Mormon Canyon to Limekiln Canyon, continued

north end of Tampa for rideshare to the trailhead. Wear lugsoles; bring water, food for 4 to share, plate, cup and utensils. Call Judy Garris at (818) 346-7654 for more information.

## Other Hikes in the Santa Susanas

### Mission Peak Moonlight Hike

*Wednesday, April 28, 1999.* A moderately paced, 5-mile, 1200-foot gain/loss, hike to view the city lights of the San Fernando Valley. Meet at the trailhead at 7:00 p.m. Take the 118 Freeway to Balboa Blvd., go north about 2 miles to Sesnon, then west about 1 mile to Neon Way, then turn right, go to the end and park. Wear lugsoles; bring water. Rain cancels. Leaders are Casey Bialas (805-251-4619) and Henry Schultz (805-296-3748), both of the Santa Clarita Sierra Club.

### Wildflower Walk

*Sunday, May 2, 1999.* Walk with Milt McAuley in Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park. Meet at 9:00 a.m. at Chatsworth Park South Recreation Building parking lot (western end of Devonshire Street in Chatsworth). Leader is Barbara Coffman, (818) 347-5603.

## Santa Susana Exploration Series

### Sunday, April 25, 1999 - Mormon Canyon to Limekiln Canyon Potluck

This will be an easy-paced, 5-mile walk, 600-foot gain, to cow pastures and view. Learn native plants and their uses. Lunch at "overlook." Meet at 9:00 a.m. at



## SANTA SUSANA MOUNTAIN PARK ASSOCIATION

WE INVITE YOU TO JOIN / RENEW / REJOIN S.S.M.P.A.

Investing in the future of our communities and its resources is probably one of the best expenditures of our time and efforts. Return this cutoff with your contributions to help ensure our futures. Please make checks payable to SSMPA and send to SSMPA, P.O. Box 4831, Chatsworth, CA 91313-4831.



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Please send in your dues if you wish to continue your SSMPA membership  
and continue to receive our newsletter.

If the expiration date on the label is marked in blue, payment of your membership dues is due this month.  
If the expiration date is marked in green, payment of your dues will be due next month.

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Foundation for the Preservation of  
the Santa Susana Mountains  
P.O. Box 4831  
Chatsworth, CA 91313-4831

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