

June 2006 Newsletter

PUBLIC MEETING #2 FOR SANTA SUSANA PASS STATE HISTORIC PARK GENERAL PLAN

California State Parks (CSP) would like to invite you to the second public meeting for the Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park. The purpose of this meeting is to discuss alternative approaches for the General Plan.

The alternatives have been developed with the input received from the first Public Meeting held last January and from the on going planning and research process of the General Plan Team. The General Plan team, comprised of DPR landscape architects, resource ecologists, historians, archaeologists and park staff will be present to listen to your opinions about the alternatives.

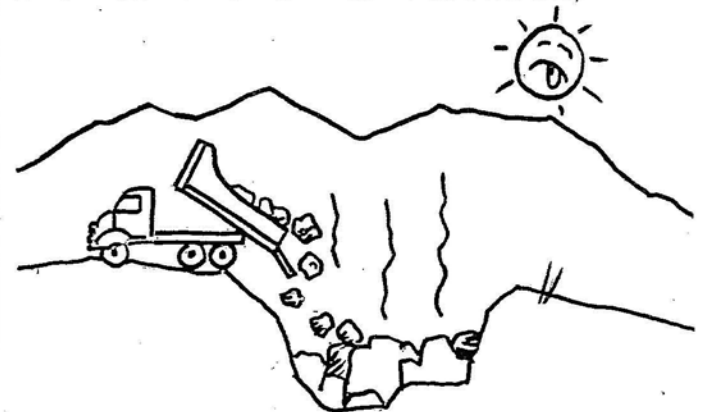
After receiving your input, the General Plan Team will formulate the single plan for the park. The team encourages the public to communicate their ideas about the alternatives and their vision for the park.

A General Plan is mandated for state parks units by the Public Resources Code. The plan becomes the primary management document for a unit of the State Park System, establishing its purpose and management direction for the future. The plan does not provide specific designs or locations of facilities but does provide a vision for the park and guidelines for future development. Meeting location:

**June 20, 2006, Tuesday
6:30 pm to 8:30 pm @
Chatsworth Park South
(Chatsworth Recreation Center-Gym)
22360 Devonshire Street
Chatsworth, CA 91311**



OUR CANYONS BEFORE ILLEGAL DUMPING...!



OUR CANYONS AFTER ILLEGAL DUMPING...!!!

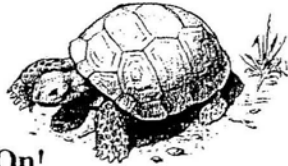
Location: Up Woolsey Canyon Road, near Sage Ranch. People ask, "If it's a dump, why aren't the laws being enforced?" The Ventura County Environmental Health Division Local Enforcement Agency stated that when and if the property owner files an application for a Registration Permit, they can proceed with regulatory action, but it's uncertain what that action will be at this point. For more information, contact Simi Valley City Council Member, Barbara Williamson, at (805) 426-0808.

An Inconvenient Truth

See it in theaters this summer! The movie will speak for itself. It communicates the urgency of global warming and the opportunity to address this threat within the decade. Why has this issue been ignored by our government? You will find out, but you will leave the theater with hope. www.climatecrisis.net

CURRENT SSMPA OFFICERS UP FOR RE-ELECTION AT JUNE MEMBERSHIP MEETING:

Jan Miller, President
Teena Takata, Vice President
Diana Dixon-Davis, Treasurer
Susan Gerke, Corresponding Secty.
Reid Bogert, Member at Large
Todd Doherty, Member at Large
Carla Henry, Member at Large
Sandra Johnson, Member at Large
Patty Miller, Member at Large
Warren Stone, Member at Large



**Old Glory Lives On!
John Quigley Joins the Celebration**

The Old Glory Oak has survived another year in its new location in Pico Canyon Park, and is leafing out in a glorious spring time green.

Although, John Laing Homes had promised to save this tree and not concrete Pico Creek, bulldozers arrived in late 2002 to knock down the magnificent 400 year old oak.. It was saved from the axe when John Quigley climbed into it on Nov. 1st, 2002 to begin a 71 day treesit that brought international media attention to the plight of the Old Glory Oak. This action became famous as one of the first ever urban treesits. An estimated 10,000 people visited from all over the country to view the oak and say hello to John.

John left the tree in 2003 after a compromise was reached to move the ancient oak to a regional park about 1/4 mile away. But tree experts worried that the oak would not survive the move. "If trees were meant to be moved, God would have given them feet", said certified oak expert Rosi Dagit. "We are cautiously optimistic about its survival," said John.

On April 21 of this year, John Quigley attended Earth Day with participants in the 2002 treesit and 5th graders from New School in Santa Monica under Old Glory's spreading branches to celebrate the oak's survival. John talked about what it was like to sit in a tree for 71 days. He also talked about the importance of trees in our world, how they clean the air and reduce CO2 emissions that cause global warming.

"Never doubt that a few committed individuals can change the world. Indeed, that is the only thing that ever does."

Margaret Mead.

**Meeting of the Santa Susana Mountain Park Association
Monday, June 19, 2006 – 7:15 p.m.**

"If I was a bird or a butterfly, would I want to even visit this yard, much less live here?"

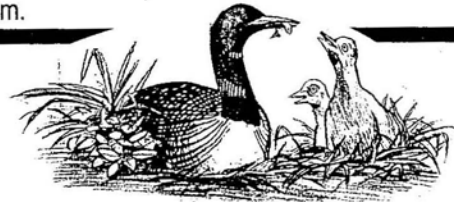
Alan Pollack

Alan Pollack, M.D., of Wildlife Care of Ventura County, will present a slide show and talk about creating backyard wildlife habitat and sustainable gardening practices. [Due to a technical problem, Dr. Pollack was unable to show his slides last month and has graciously consented to return for our June meeting.]

Alan has been a long-time member of the Sierra Club and the Nature Conservancy. After retiring from the practice of psychiatry, his interest in woodworking led to volunteer work with Habitat for Humanity for several years. For the past 8 years, he has been a volunteer with Wildlife Care of Ventura County, a non-profit all-volunteer organization whose mission is to rescue, rehabilitate and release injured and orphaned wild animals, primarily birds and small mammals. It was through them that he learned about the training given by the National Wildlife Federation to become a Backyard Wildlife Steward. Having been a life-long gardener, he was delighted to be able to wed two of his passions: the love of gardening and the love of wildlife. His yard immediately qualified as a wildlife habitat site and for the past 2 years he has given free consultations and landscape designs to homeowners, churches and schools who wish to create a garden that is attractive to wildlife as well as to humans. More recently, he has been giving presentations to various groups who are interested in the goal of preserving and restoring wildlife habitat.

PLEASE NOTE: This will be the last SSMPA membership meeting, and newsletter, until September.

SSMPA General Membership Program meetings take place every 3rd Monday September through November and January through June at the Rockpointe Clubhouse, 22300 Devonshire, Chatsworth, on the south side, 1 block before entering Chatsworth Park South. Our program meetings begin at 7:15 p.m. and conclude at 9:00 p.m.



Spring Progress Report - Chatsworth Trails Park Restoration Project

During our initial cleanup stage, we have accomplished a lot, due to the much-appreciated help of many volunteers. We have held 5 clean-up dates - and filled 4 dumpster loads of trash, cleared out vacated homeless campsites, filled 3 green waste roll-off bin with weeds and brush, removed graffiti from rocks, repaired portions of the trail, and planted a small test garden of wildflower seed.

Our spring cleanup culminated in an event, "Our Own Backyard", sponsored by Chatsworth Hills Academy for students and their families - we had over 80 volunteers who worked on weeding out invasive, non-native plant material. Dr. Jeffrey Burkhart, Fletcher Jones Professor of Biology from the University of La Verne, gave a lecture-tour about the plant and animal life in the park, discovering all kinds of interesting species along the way, including a rattlesnake! Save Chatsworth is very grateful to CHA for dedicating time and energy to this project.

This event was the last planned cleanup day for the spring. We will resume work with dates for planting in the fall and winter months ahead. Through the summer, we will continue maintenance of the areas that we have worked on, and formulate plans for the future. There will be a meeting in July to discuss plans for planting projects, so please watch for notice of that meeting date.

Please visit www.savechatsworth.org for more information, e-mail us at info@savechatsworth.org, or call (818) 464-3472.

To everyone who has volunteered time or donated supplies, thank you!

Vanessa Watters, President

**Important Announcement from the Deerlake Ranch/Vistas
at Indian Oaks Monitoring Committee
Meeting Postponed Until July 11**

After an initial organizing meeting in February, the Deerlake Ranch/Vistas at Indian Oaks Monitoring Committee appointed by Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich met in public session on April 4. It was encouraging to see so many members of the Chatsworth community turn out to hear, question and offer comments to representatives of the developers, the building contractors and the County. [For those unfamiliar with this project, it involves construction of nearly 400 homes in the hills above the 118 Freeway between Canoga Avenue and Topanga Canyon Boulevard.] Here are some of the main points from that meeting.

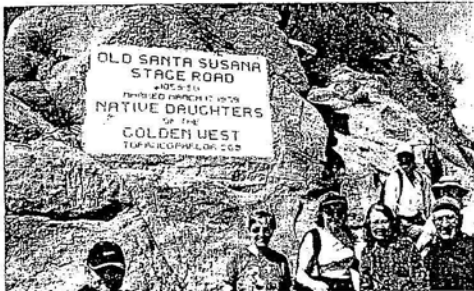
The anticipated mid-April start of construction was pushed back to early June and, as of press time, we understand it has been further delayed until late July. The first activity will be completion of a construction road from the north end of Topanga Canyon Boulevard to the south rim of Devil Canyon and installation of the south pier for the main bridge. Roughly three months later, activity will move to the top of Canoga Avenue, where road widening and installation of a temporary bridge will occur. Grading equipment will then move in to work on the project's roads and housing areas. At the same time, work will begin on the north pier of the main bridge. After one to two years, the main bridge structure will be placed by crane and, once the result is inspected and approved, all construction traffic will be moved off Canoga and onto Topanga Canyon.

Controversy arose on several matters, including the removal of several very large pine trees prior to the official start of construction, the denial of several traffic safety measures by the City's Department of Transportation, the proposed location of construction office trailers on an unrelated property at Canoga and the 118 freeway rather than on the project property, and the adequacy and safety of temporary trails to be open during the construction period. Layered on these was the perception of inadequate and misleading replies to community inquiries by the developer. These concerns were all voiced in no uncertain terms by those in attendance. It seems clear that the people of Chatsworth are going to be watching this project closely, and they will hold the developer, the builder and the County accountable for every promise, every mitigating measure and every avenue for complaint handling to which they committed.

The detailed construction schedule that had been expected at the April meeting will be available, the developer has promised, by the next Monitoring Committee meeting. Originally scheduled for Tuesday, May 23 at the Radisson Hotel (9777 Topanga Canyon Blvd.), we have just learned that this meeting is being deferred to early July at the request of the developer. The tentative date is Tuesday, July 11, but this is subject to County and Monitoring Committee concurrence. Watch the SCI and Chatsworth Neighborhood Council and Chatsworth ECHO Web sites for current scheduling information. Notices and agendas will also be posted at the Depot, the Library and the Twin Lakes Bulletin Board. We encourage all of you with an interest in this high-impact project to attend the upcoming public meeting.

Once construction begins, there will be notice boards posted at the Topanga and Canoga entrances to the project property. On these boards you will find hot-line numbers to call regarding violations, safety matters and other problems that require the immediate attention of the construction manager. Hazard Construction Group, the general contractor, has committed to respond rapidly to such issues reported to them. The involvement of alert neighbors will be a key factor in keeping the adverse impacts of this project to a minimum. *Report by Marty Woll, member of the Monitoring Committee*

Thank you for renewing your SSMPA membership, Melissa Lovelady, Judith Rothman, Jim & Elizabeth Carlin, Ann Monaco, Ellen M. Pifer, Robert D. Lisenby, Willem & Cheryl Rietveld. Welcome, New Members: Ken & Agnes Garr.



Santa Susana Mountain Park Association

invites you to **JOIN / RENEW** (circle one).

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 contribution lend your support. Make your check payable to SSMPA and send to SSMPA, P.O. Box 4831, Chatsworth, CA 91313-4831.

- Senior or Student ((\$10.00)
 Individual (\$15.00)
 Family (\$20.00)
 Life Member (\$150.00)
 Business / Organization (\$30.00)

Name: _____ **Phone:** _____
Street Address: _____ **E-mail:** _____
City / State / Zip: _____
Special Interest / Expertise: _____

UPCOMING HIKES

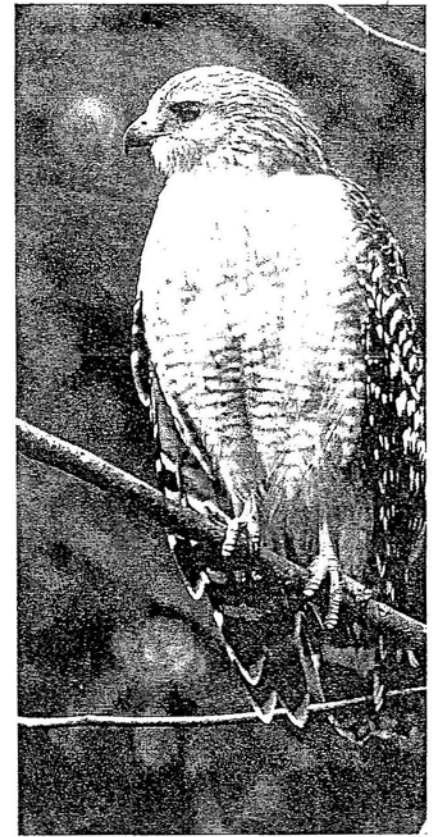
Bring water, lunch, lugsoles, hat, sunscreen. Rain cancels.

Sun., 6/18: Stagecoach Trail - 9:00 a.m. Interpretative hike into history in our Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park. Meet at 9:00 am for a 4 mi (700' gain) loop up the Stage Coach Trail. From Topanga Canyon Blvd., turn W on Devonshire, drive into Chatsworth Park S to the 2nd parking lot. Ldr: Lee Baum (818) 341-1850. *Sierra Club, Santa Susana Mtns Task Force Outing.*

Tues., 6/20: Towsley Cyn./Santa Clarita Woodlands Pk - 8:30 a.m. Moderately-paced, 4-6 mi, easy pace, 1300' gain hike with great vistas, a chilly narrows, diverse plant life and tar seeps. Meet at Ed Davis Pk, The Old Rd, Newhall (take Calgrove exit from 1-5 Fwy, W back under fwy, take The Old Rd S, R and park just inside entrance). Ldr: Marcia Harris. Asst: Ramona Dunn. *Sierra Club, San Fernando Wilderness Adventures Outing.*

Thurs., 6/22: Cold Creek to Saddle Peak - 8:00 a.m. Moderately-paced 8 mi, 1500' gain hike with valley and ocean views. Meet Stunt High trailhead (from 101 Fwy exit Valley Circle/Mullholland Dr S, R on Valmar Rd, becomes Old Topanga Cyn Rd, R on Mullholland Hwy 3-1/2 mi, L on Stunt Rd 1 mi, park on dirt shoulder on R). Bring 2 qts. water. Ldr: Bob Galletly. Asst. Nancy Krupa. *Sierra Club, Santa Monica Mtns. Task Force Outing.*

Tues., 6/27: Paramount Ranch - 8:30 a.m. 4-5 mi, easy pace. Let's explore new hikes around this movie set and beyond. Meet at the Ranch: (101 Fwy W, exit Kanan Rd L (S), L at Cornell Rd, 3 mi to sign on R side, continue to fence, park). Ldrs: Pixie Klemic. Asst.: Ramona Dunn. *Sierra Club, San Fernando Valley Outing.*



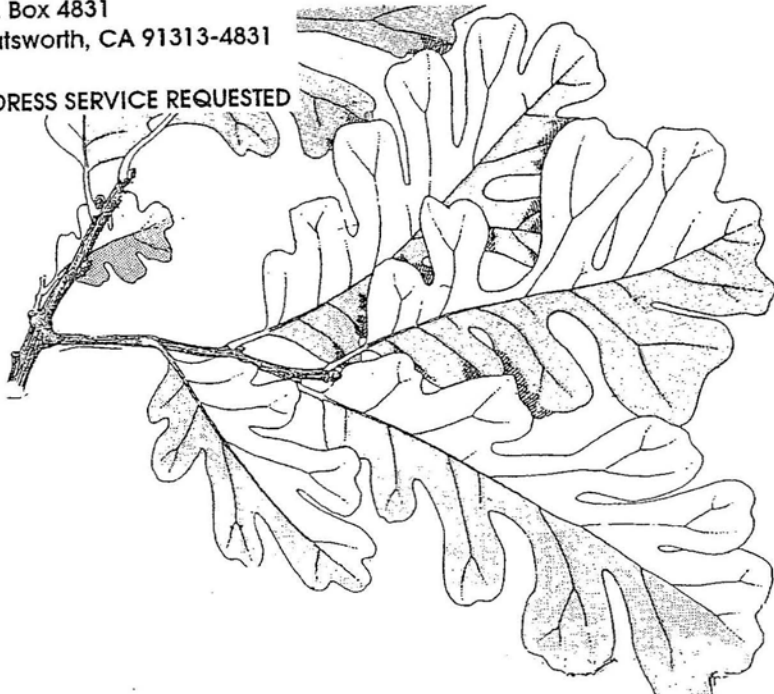
Red-shouldered hawk

AN INVITATION TO ALL LOCAL LOVERS OF TRAILS!

The Santa Susana Mountains Task Force extends an invitation to Sierra Club SFV residents who would like to get together for a fun potluck, a short nature walk, and - last but definitely not least - discussion about local hiking trails and a few issues concerning them. This get-together will serve to help keep our trails alive and well, and people continuing to enjoy themselves on them. The event will take place on Saturday, June 17th at 6:00 p.m. in Chatsworth Lake Manor. Please call Susan at (818) 704-9304 for more information, to RSVP, and to find out what to bring. We hope you can make it!

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



Non-Profit
US Postage
Paid
Van Nuys, CA
Permit No. 761