



May

Santa Susana Mountain Park Association

2009

Newsletter

A Non-Profit 501(c)(4) Organization
Incorporated August 31, 1971

Volume 39 Issue 5



Thefts from Vehicles on the Rise

Recently, several cars have been broken into at hiking trailheads and parking lots in general around Simi Valley, including Flanagan and Evening Sky Drive. It's happening all over the city. According to police, 92 vehicle break-ins were reported in Simi between Dec. 10 and Jan. 30th. Purses, wallets and bags were targeted in more than 70 percent of the thefts.



GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

May 18, 2009

GUEST SPEAKER TO BE ANNOUNCED

Although the speaker is yet to be named, as always the meeting will be interesting, probably educational, fun and free drinks and snacks.

Last month your editor fell in love with Richard, a gorgeous California King Snake and friend of our guest speaker, Karma Graham. You just never know who you will meet at our meetings!



Words to the Wise

Don't leave anything of value visible in your car at the trailhead or anywhere else you park, for that matter. These thefts are crimes of opportunity. It takes just a second for a thief to break a window and be off with the goods.

From the Rancho Simi Trail Blazers
Newsletter March 2009

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



SEND US YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS: chrisssmpa@gmail.com This allows us to notify you of last minute news and changes in our meetings. SSMPA is also working on Saving Trees by e-mailing our newsletter rather than mailing - postage increases in May from .42 to .44 first class mail.

The purposes of the Santa Susana Mountain Park Association are the protection, preservation, restoration, and enhancement of the Santa Susana Mountains and Simi Hills as open space lands and wildlife corridors linking the Los Padres National Forest and San Gabriel Mountains, including the Angeles National Forest, to the Santa Monica Mountains; as habitats for plants and animals native to the Santa Susana Mountains and the Simi Hills; as locales of unique geologic formations; as sites of ethnological, archaeological and historical interests; to provide passive recreational opportunities and environmental education opportunities; and, to support the acquisition of new public parks, open space and conservation easements, the expansion of existing parks, participate in the planning of park infrastructure and programs, and support said programs.

Drought Tolerance



Compiled by the Theodore Payne Foundation for Wildflowers and Native Plants, Inc.

We heard that California native plants are drought tolerant but what images does that really conjure? To some it's, lush plants that require no water all summer long, to others it's weeds and cactus. Well, to native California plant gardens the easiest way to think of drought tolerance is how the East-coasters think of winter and their gardens. The summer in the west is really like the winter in the east for the plants here-- it's the tough season. The season when many go dormant through specialized techniques. For instance, take the White Flowering Currant (*Ribes indecorum*) pictured to the right. This picture was shot in September after a brutal summer. Your inclination as mine would be to pull it out for the green barrel-- a casualty of summer, right? Well, guess again! With the morning dew in October the miracle of life comes back to the currant. This is known as going drought or stress deciduous. And the White Flowering Currant is a star in this field.

Drought tolerance is a learned behavior. It's understood by mature native plants, but the plants you pick up at the nursery are babies and it will be 2-3 years before they can handle the summers all by themselves. And with that said, extremely hot and dry years, even adult native plants will need help.... after all, **all plants** do need **some** water, some time. Where the "forget the watering" rule will usually apply is in the winter and spring when nature will do all the work.

That having been said, it's important to note that there are some plants that want NO summer water at all, such as certain chaparral natives. If you've been unfortunate enough to start your young native plants in a below-average rainfall year, then you will need to supplement the rain to bring up the soil moisture level around the area, then permit the usual drying out after spring (through the summer). Mulch is often very important for success. This is why it's important to learn a little about the natural plant communities from which your plants hail, and appropriately group plants with similar watering requirements.

One important thing to remember is that many of the super drought tolerant plants (especially currants & gooseberries) may appear dead by the fall. Give them some time before removing them. Often times you won't see any growth until December.

SSMPA NOW HAS BEAUTIFUL BLACK T-SHIRTS. NATURAL FIBER, RED AND WHITE CUMASH DESIGN. VARIOUS SIZES. PRICES: UP TO XL - \$20.00 XXL - \$22.00

ORDER FORM:

Name _____

Address _____

E-Mail address _____

SIZE(S) _____ HOW MANY _____ TOTAL _____

IF YOU WANT THE SHIRT(S) MAILED, PLEASE ADD \$3.00 SHIPPING FEE OR YOU MAY PICK UP THE SHIRT(S) AT THE JUNE GENERAL MEETING

Mail this form to: SSMPA
P.O. Box 4831
Chatsworth, CA 91311-4831

Thank you for renewing your SSMPA membership: Anne Rose Brooks-Life Member, Willem & Cheryl Rietveld, Carl Wilkening(2 years), Micael McIntyre, Al Cutt. PLEASE NOTE: WHEN SENDING YOUR RENEWAL, PLEASE INDICATE YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS IF YOU HAVE ONE.

Regularly Scheduled Hikes

(Hikes are canceled if it rains. There are no hikes on holidays.)

Rancho Simi Trailblazers

Sunday Evening - Rocky Peak

Meet at 4 PM at the Rocky Peak trailhead at the end of Rocky Peak Road on the Santa Susana Pass.

(Meet at 5 PM during daylight savings time.) (Strenuous - 4.8 MRT - 1,100' elevation gain)

Tuesday Evening - Long Canyon

Meet at 6:30 PM in the Long Canyon parking lot. Directions: Take First Street South. Continue when the road's name changes to Long Canyon Road. The parking lot is at the intersection of Long Canyon Road and Wood Ranch Parkway. (Easy to Moderate - 3.0 MRT - 450' elevation gain)

Thursday Evening - The Chumash Trail

Meet at 6 PM at Chumash trailhead. Directions: Take the 118 Freeway to Yosemite exit. Go north on Yosemite and turn right on Flanagan Dr. The trailhead is at the end of Flanagan Drive. (Moderate to Strenuous - 5.2 MRT - 1,100' elevation gain)

UPCOMING HIKE
Bring water, lunch,
lugsoles, hat, sunscreen.
RAIN CANCELS

HERE IS AN E-MAIL
WITH TERRIFIC GRAPHICS
THAT DETAILS HIKE
Website: Communityhikingclub.org
Juliebear@aol.com
ATTN: Dianne

May Activities

April 28th - May 3rd Las Vegas Hike-A-Palooza*

Valley of Fire, Red Rock Canyon, Mt. Charleston, the Stratosphere Hotel & More

May 9th Sisar Canyon to White Ledge*

Moderate 9 MRT (2000' elevation gain)

Follow a creek up to the California Bay Laurel trees of the White Ledge campsite in the Topatopa Mountains. Bring 2 to 3 quarts of water, layered clothing, and lunch. Wear boots. Meet at 8 AM near Donut Delite near the corner of Madera and Royal.

May 16th Malibu Creek State Park*

Moderate 6-8 MRT (600 - 900' elevation gain)

Hike to the old M*A*S*H site. Countless movies have been filmed in this park. Several options on the way, depending on the desires of the group. We'll see Century Lake and the Rock Pool. Meet at 8 AM near Donut Delite at the corner of Madera and Royal. Bring 2 to 3 quarts of water and a snack. Wear boots.

May 23rd Mt. McCoy Trail and the Reagan Library

3.6 MRT - Moderate (700' elevation gain)

Hike up to an isolated knoll in a 200 acre open space region at the western end of Simi Valley. At the summit (1,325') is a white cross, erected in 1941, and a 360 degree view. From there it's about another half mile to the Regan Library. Bring a snack and 2 to 3 quarts of water. Wear boots. Meet at 8 AM near Donut Delite at the corner of Madera and Royal.

May 30th & 31st San Antonio Ski Hut - Mt. Baldy

6 MRT - Strenuous overnighiter. (2,200' elevation gain)

It doesn't get much better than this! The Hut is at the base of Mt. San Antonio (Mt. Baldy) at 8,200'. It might be listed as strenuous, but it's really not that bad. We'll only do 3 miles the first day and we have all day to do it. Coming back the next day is all down hill. For those who want a real challenge, you can hike to the top of Mt. Baldy, using the Hut as your base camp. Even the view from the outhouse is spectacular. We'll spend the night in the hut. All you need to bring is food, your sleeping bag, good boots and 2 to 3 quarts of water. We will cook our food on the hut's wood burning stove. The cost is \$10 if you are a Sierra Club Member, and \$15 for non-members, payable to the Sierra Club host. You must be a member of the Simi Valley Trailblazers to attend. You must make your reservations no later than May 16th. Space is limited, so it's best to sign up early. To make your reservations, click [here](#) to email Mark. We'll meet at 7 AM, at the Stearns Street Park & Ride.

June Activities

June 13th Matilija Falls*

Moderate - 9 MRT (950' elevation gain)

Hike up Matilija Creek, passing two waterfalls, turtle ponds and swimming holes. Meet at 8 AM near Donut Delite at the corner of Madera and Royal. Bring 2 - 3 quarts of water, a snack and a pair of shoes/sandals that you don't mind getting wet. Wear boots.

June 17th



STAGECOACH TRAIL

STAGECOACH TRAIL - 9:00AM. INTERPRETATIVE HIKE INTO HISTORY OF SANTA SUSANA PASS STATE HISTORIC PARK. MEET AT 9:00AM FOR A 2 1/2 MI (400' GAIN) LOOP UP THE STAGECOACH TRAIL. Corrections: change Trail head (meeting place) to park entrance on Larwin Ave. about 200 feet south of DEVONSHIRE on right. Park on Street. LEADER: LEE BAUM (818-341-1850/ SIERRA CLUB-SANTA SUSANA MTNS TASK FORCE OUTING). STAGECOACH TRAIL HIKE WILL BE ON THE 3RD SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH, STARTING OCTOBER.



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: _____



Santa Susana Mountain Park Association

Officers:

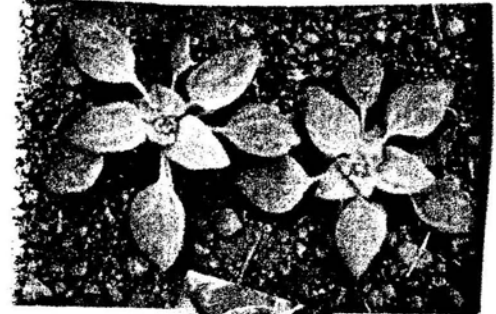
| | | | |
|----------------|-------------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| President | Jack Unger | Members at Large: | Newsletter Ed |
| Vice President | John Luker | Warren Stone | Chris Beauvais |
| Secretary | Teena Takata | Reid Bogert | Honorary Member |
| Treasurer | Diana Dixon-Davis | Jan Miller | Jan Hinkston |
| Back up Sec | Carla Henry | Patty Miller | |

Minutes of Election of Board of Directors for April 20, 2009

Santa Susana Mountain Park Association

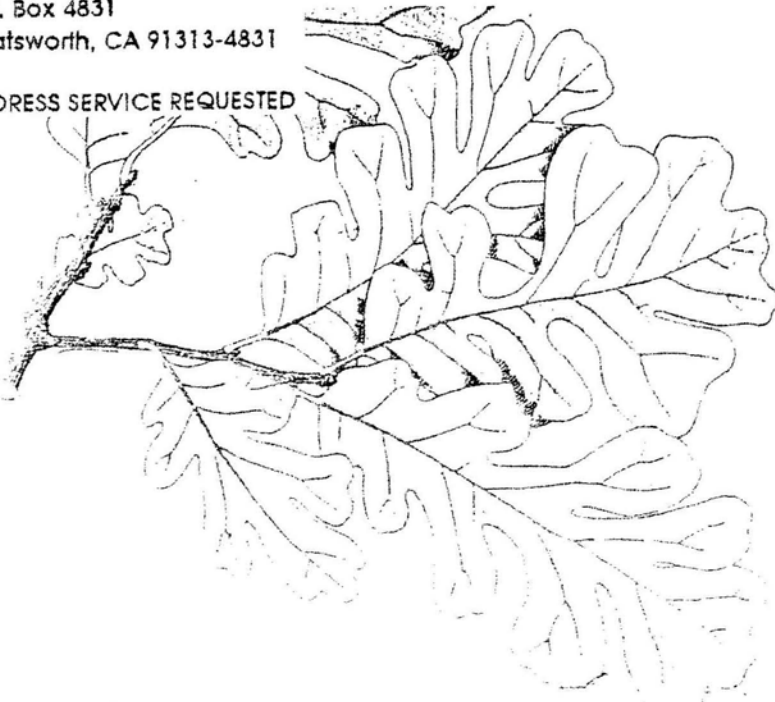
The election of the Santa Susana Mountain Park Association was held. Judy Garris withdrew as a candidate for the Board prior to the election. The candidates for election. The candidates listed on the ballot were unopposed and were elected by voice vote. Patty Miller was a write in candidate, and was included, and elected, in the voice vote. The Board of Directors for the 2009/2010 term are:

- President: Jack Unger
- Vice President: John Luker
- Rec. Secretary: Teena Takata
- Treasurer: Diana Dixon-Davis
- Backup Secretary: Carla Henry
- Member at Large/Newsletter: Chris Beauvais
- Member at Large: Reid Bogert
- Member at Large: Warren Stone
- Member at Large: Patty Miller
- Member at Large: Jan Miller
- Honorary Member: Jan Hinkston



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 |
|--|

LIFE Member
Nancy Razanski
22149 James Alan Circle
Chatsworth CA 91311-2051

9131132051 0016

