

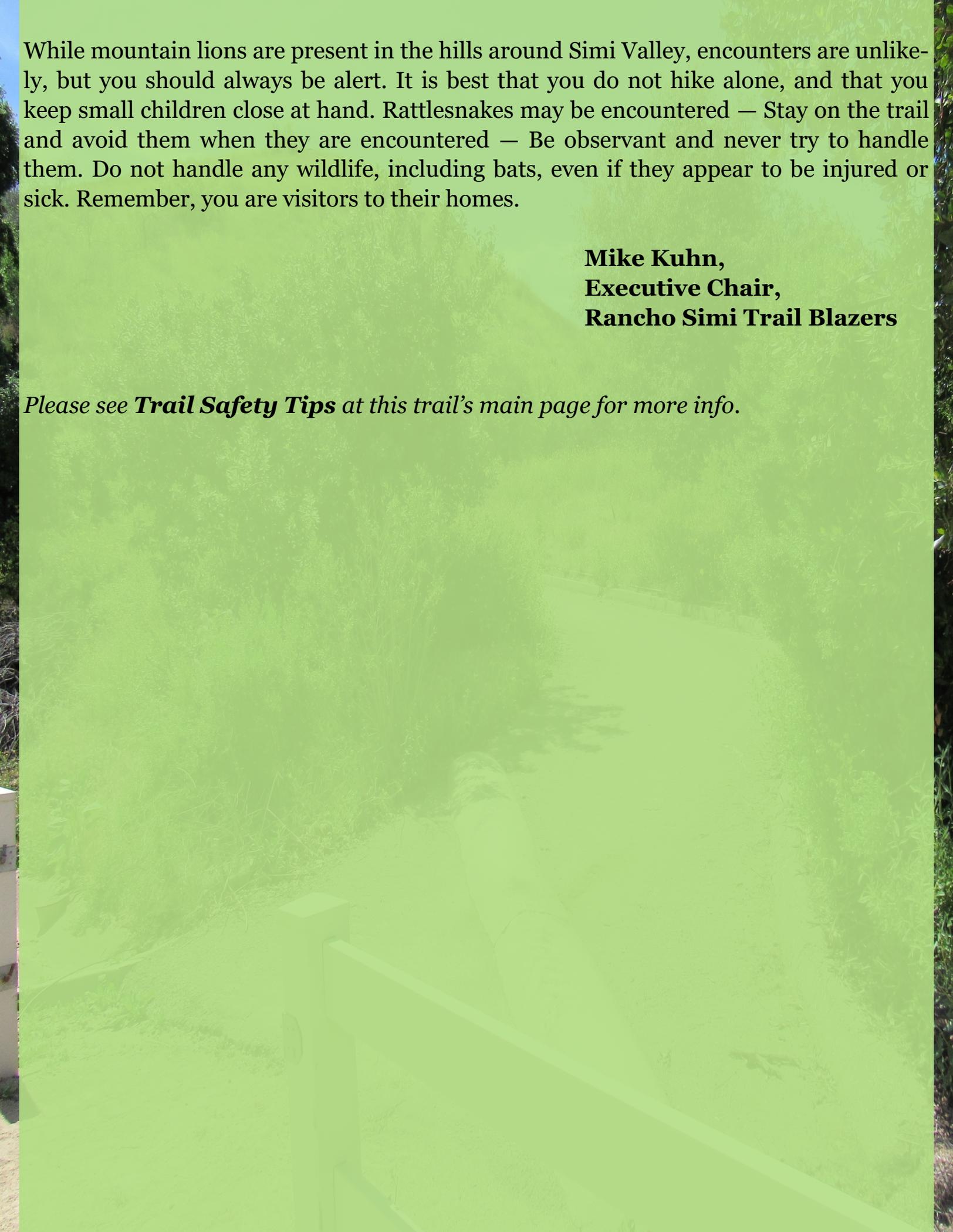
Wood Ranch Trail

The Trail: The trail extends westerly from Coyote Hills Park (on Valley Gate Road) to the north-south segment, which extends from a trailhead off of Humboldt Road, west of Grinnel Court, south over a high ridge to the “T” intersection with the Canyon View Trail (extending to the east and west on top of the ridge) down to Long Canyon Road. The overall trail length is more than one and a third miles one way. Parking is available on the east side of Humboldt Road opposite the trailhead, on the north side of the street at Coyote Hills Park and at the parking lot southwest of the intersection of Long Canyon Road and Wood Ranch Parkway.

The trail affords excellent views of Simi Valley and its surrounding hills. The hike involves an elevation gain of about 700 feet overall. Much of that is quite steep. However, not all portions of the trail need to be hiked on any single visit. The trail segment from Coyote Hills Park to the north-south segment intersection and back, to this writer, the most interesting and has the greatest variety of plants.

Plant Life: The plant life along the trail is consistent with the Coastal Sage Scrub Plant Association. My survey was conducted on May 14 and 15, 2020. Plants, as encountered from the Coyote Hills Park include coyote brush, Mediterranean mustard, California sagebrush, purple sage, blue elderberry, red brome, bush sunflower, coast live oak, cobweb thistle, prickly pear, toyon, tree tobacco (from Brazil and very toxic), mule fat, horehound, purple nightshade, California everlasting, elegant clarkia, popcorn flower, deerweed, Indian pink, Italian, sow, and milk thistles, branching phacelia, woolly blue curl, yucca, bush monkey flower, ripgut brome, white sage, common fiddleneck, soap plant, bush mallow, California buckwheat, wishbone bush, bindweed, morning glory, prickly pear, black sage, wild cucumber, chamise, prickly poppy, dodder, western ragweed, silver puffs, sawtooth golden bush, narrow leaved bedstraw, sweet fennel, wild oats, golden star, spring vetch, wild rhubarb, golden tops, narrow-leaved milkweed, golden fleece, gum plant, re-stem filagree, collar lupine, annual bur-sage, rose snapdragon, fountain grass, arroyo willow, Spanish clover, vinegar weed, wild gourd, turkey Mullein, Russian thistle, telegraph weed. A few of these plants were represented by only one or two individuals.

Animal Life: Animals that may be seen along the trail or their tracks observed include: birds, such as turkey vulture, rarely - a golden eagle, red-tailed and red-shouldered hawks, great-horned, barn and burrowing owls, California quail, mourning dove, scrub jay, Anna’s hummingbird, common flicker, mockingbird, common crow and raven, California towhee, white-crowned and English sparrows; reptiles, such as southern Pacific rattlesnake, San Diego gopher snake, California king snake, and Great Basin fence lizard; and mammals, such as brush and cottontail rabbits, California ground squirrels, Botta’s pocket gopher, agile kangaroo rat, deer mice, dusky woodrat, coyote, gray fox, ringtail cat (not a cat but related to the raccoon, however, rarely seen), southern California weasel, raccoon, striped skunk, bobcat, mountain lion and mule deer.



While mountain lions are present in the hills around Simi Valley, encounters are unlikely, but you should always be alert. It is best that you do not hike alone, and that you keep small children close at hand. Rattlesnakes may be encountered — Stay on the trail and avoid them when they are encountered — Be observant and never try to handle them. Do not handle any wildlife, including bats, even if they appear to be injured or sick. Remember, you are visitors to their homes.

**Mike Kuhn,
Executive Chair,
Rancho Simi Trail Blazers**

*Please see **Trail Safety Tips** at this trail's main page for more info.*