

SCHS members and guests who attended the April meeting at the Huntington Library, Art Collections, and Botanical Gardens were treated to a most unique program. Scott Kleinrock, currently the Conservation Programs Manager at the Chino Basin Water Conservation District, was the Landscape Design and Planning Coordinator at the Huntington during the installation of the Brody California Garden, which was the focus of his presentation.

Attendees were met at the entrance by Kleinrock, who guided them through the various areas of the entry garden while simultaneously talking about design concepts, intent, history and the realities involved in creating the 6.5-acre landscape. He explained that mediterranean climate species were selected as the focus because they were not yet well-represented at the Huntington and would be both appropriate and timely choices for a Southern California botanical garden. He spoke about desires and compromises while beginning his walk-through in the picnic area by the bus drop-off, which appeared nearly full-grown despite being installed just two years ago.

The tour continued into the main “California” garden where Kleinrock talked about hardscaping, soil, irrigation and how the gardens are maintained by one full-time gardener and one part-time head gardener. Kleinrock explained how some plant selections were chosen for their short life spans, to serve as “stand-ins” while other plants were maturing. He also said that this landscape was “trying to walk the line between order and chaos”, and that in



a garden comprised of plants allowed to grow naturally, it is important for visitors to perceive the intent behind the selections. Interesting potted specimens, cozy nooks to sit in, and vignettes with classic mediterranean fruit trees referencing the agricultural history of the Huntington are all meant to inspire those who stroll through.

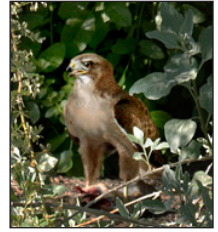
The final section, called the “Celebration Garden” serves as a transition landscape to the main grounds. Colorful annual and perennial planters border a simple water feature which is another subtle reminder of the garden’s conservation aspect. From there, visitors were led to the Brody Botanical Center, where Kleinrock continued his presentation with a slide show about the chronological development of the garden. He covered topics including soil remediation, working within city requirements, as well as the reasoning behind specific plant selections and acquisitions.

Kleinrock gave his audience much food for thought about garden design in general and at the Huntington in particular, which he felt represented “an old paradigm meeting a new paradigm in a compatible way.” Judging from the attendees’ applause and an enthusiastic question and answer session, the presentation was educational, enlightening, inspirational and over much too soon.

🌀 Sabine Steinmetz

SEEKING OUT URBAN WILDLIFE

Dan Cooper, a biologist, recently started a volunteer project with Friends of Griffith Park to map and monitor nesting raptors in the park and surrounding areas, including east to South Pasadena, downtown/Hollywood area to the 10 Fwy and westward to the 405 Fwy. The northern boundary is where the 118 Fwy intersects the San Fernando Valley. If you’re interested in participating and know of any raptor nests within this general area, email Dan at dan@cooperecological.com. To protect these nesting raptors, he will not be publicizing the locations of any known nest sites outside of the volunteer core of people. You can follow his work at the Facebook group “LARaptors”. Thanks for sharing this project goes to Scott Logan of Wild Wings Nature Store: www.wildwingsla.com.



🌀 Marilee Kuhlmann

L.A. DWP OFFERS FREE LANDSCAPING CLASSES

Beginning this month, and running through the end of 2017, the DWP is offering FREE introductory California Friendly Landscape Training (CFLT) classes to LADWP customers throughout the city. For more information about class content, dates and locations, visit www.ladwp.com/landscapeclasses. Reserve your space by emailing waterconservation@ladwp.com or by calling 1-800-544-4498, extension 5. *California Friendly*, a guide to maintenance is also available as a free download at: www.bewaterwise.com/GMG.shtml

🌀 Yvonne Savio

SHARING SECRETS RESPONSES

What wildlife does your garden attract? Intentionally or not...

I have a small garden on a hill near Forest Lawn in Glendale. Due to my bountiful compost heap, skunks, raccoons and squirrels are frequent visitors. On the prettier (and nicer smelling) side of the yard, my salvias attract hummingbirds galore! My cat and I love to watch them dart about from our window. I’ve seen a coyote at the foot of my steps a couple of times, but he never comes into the yard.

- New Member

Over the years we’ve increasingly adjusted our garden to accommodate wildlife, such as insects, worms, birds and reptiles. Birds that feed and nest here include Anna’s and Costa’s hummingbirds, California towhee, pigeons, crows and phoebes. I love watching birds from our office window, particularly the tiny bushtits who descend on shrubs as a fast-moving gang, cleaning all the twigs and branches of bugs and departing within 10 minutes.

We also have Western fence and alligator lizards, and occasionally I’ll turn over a rock and see a skink. Alas, we also get rats, possums and raccoons. The latter have visited our fortified raised water tank and tried to make a meal. They’ve done damage, but our fish and plants survived the trauma.

Returning butterflies include painted ladies, sulphurs, western tiger swallowtails, little skippers, and occasionally monarchs. We also keep wild bees in our roof, and in the keeping of bees, have begun noticing how many wild bee species come into our yard.

So, “intentionally or not”: it’s all by design and it’s all, also, by chance. It’s alive, and we’ll do what it takes to keep it going.

- Anonymous

I’m happy to welcome all kinds of native (and a few non-native) birds to my garden. However, the band-tailed pigeons are really poor guests - always dumping the feeder, knocking things over and pooping. I don’t think training is an option...

- Anonymous