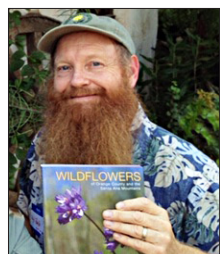
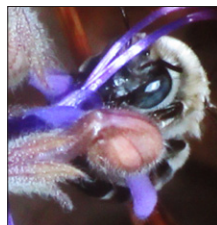


The SCHS was entertained and educated in July by Robert “Bob” Allen, who spoke on Southern California’s native pollinators and their impact on our ecology. By combining his personal interests, studies and research as an entomologist, botanist, instructor, and nature photographer, Bob was able to present a program that gave life to scientific data, often through his beautiful photographs.



The slide show began with a basic introduction to the process of pollination, including details about its various mechanisms, and he dispelled some common fallacies (e.g., the misconception that butterflies and honeybees are major pollinators). Bob then spoke about beetles, flies, butterflies, moths, ants, and wasps, as well as various types of bees and the ways in which they all pollinate specific types of plants. He also explained that only the estimated 1,600+ native bee species, who evolved alongside our native plants and have the necessary structures and behaviors required for effective pollination, are the most successful at pollinating those native plants.

Bob proceeded to share relevant facts about native pollinators – who they are, and how they operate. He explained the difference between long-tongued and short-tongued bees, sweat bees, leaf-cutters and others, as well as the fact



that most bees are solitary ground dwellers. He also showed his own incredible photos illustrating this diversity, as well as a very brief video showing a native bee being hit in the abdomen by pollen that is “exploding” from a solanum flower. Because research suggests that flowers of native plants are up to four times more attractive to native bees than non-native flowers, Bob suggested that gardeners incorporate as many native plants into their gardens as possible. He used the slide below to explain the benefits of this approach vs. planting a predominantly non-native garden:

STERILE GARDEN	NATURALISTIC GARDEN
NON-NATIVE PLANTS	NATIVE PLANTS
NON-NATIVE PESTS	VERY FEW PESTS
☂ PESTICIDES!	🦋 NO PESTICIDES
MINDLESS MAINTENANCE (WEEDING, DEADHEADING; MOW, BLOW, & GO)	SOME MAINTENANCE (WEEDING, DEADHEADING; NO MOW, NO BLOW, NO GO)
NO CONNECTION TO THE LAND	STRONG CONNECTION TO THE LAND
NOT USED BY OTHER LIFEFORMS = NO HABITAT = NO BIODIVERSITY	USED BY OTHER LIFEFORMS = HABITAT! = BIODIVERSITY!

After his presentation, Bob encouraged people to learn about native bees by getting out of manicured gardens to observe bees in the wild, and also recommended visiting the Pollinator Partnership website at: www.pollinator.org. For those interested in learning more, Bob is the author of the field guide *Wildflowers of Orange County and the Santa Ana Mountains* (published 2013 and also relevant to much of the L.A. basin), which is available from the Orange County chapter of the California Native Plant Society at: <https://www.occnps.org/wildflower-book.html>.

🌀 Sabine Steinmetz

SCHS VISITS L.A. ZOO'S BOTANICAL TREASURES

On July 13, SCHS members were treated to a behind-the-scenes horticultural tour at the Los Angeles Zoo and Botanical Gardens in the hours before it opened to the public. Hosted by SCHS member and zoo employee, Sandy Masuo, attendees were told how the zoo feeds its many herbivores with plants grown on the grounds whenever possible; what the animals’ most popular “browsing” foods are (including ficus, mulberry, acacia and Chinese elm); and insight into how the zoo tries to create environments that simulate the animals’ native habitats, while using plants they will not be likely to destroy. She then introduced attendees to a group of docents who split guests into groups to tour and explore the zoo grounds.

Docents Landes Bell, Kate Gaman, Teri Hoffman, Francie Klein and Rita Lossett, led visitors to botanical specimens including *Xanthorrhoea*, *Jubaea chilensis*, several *Stenocarpus*, and *Metasequoia glyptostroboides* among others, before rendezvousing at Bonnie’s Edible Garden. Established in 1989, this garden grows plants to help enrich the lives of the animals. Docent Paulette Heath provided guests with history and some trivia, including that corn stalks (minus the corn) are a favorite of the elephants. After the tour concluded, visitors were able to explore the entire zoo on their own to see both animals and plants – perhaps with a fresh perspective.



Photo by: Sabine Steinmetz

We would like to thank the SCHS board and Sandy Masuo for arranging this unique tour, and to give special recognition and appreciation to the wonderful docents who came in early on a Saturday morning to provide SCHS members with horticultural insights about the zoo. To see a photo album of the tour, please visit our Facebook page.

🌀 Sabine Steinmetz

SHARING SECRETS

In July we were curious about:

What garden get-aways do you recommend visiting during the summer?



Mildred Matthias Botanical Gardens on the UCLA campus.

- Joan Mead

Around L.A. there’s the Arboretum, and Huntington Gardens is always a must. Further north Lotusland in Montecito or Seaside Gardens in Carpinteria, and to the south San Diego Wild Animal Park. That last one’s a roar and snore – best to make it a sleepover!

- Gary Kamisher

Frederik Meijer Gardens and Sculpture Park in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

- Jessica Carlson

Self-Realization Fellowship in Pacific Palisades and San Diego Botanic Garden in Encinitas (formerly Quail Gardens).

- Joan Borgman

Santa Barbara Botanic Garden - all seasons to understand what your native garden will look like year ‘round – and my garden!

- Suzanna

Thanks for these wonderful suggestions - one of which would make a great road trip!