

To begin the new year on a horticultural and ecological high note, the SCHS invited Scott Logan, a graphic artist and wildlife photographer to present a unique program focused on his recent work serving as the Gottlieb Native Garden's naturalist. For over five years, he has been documenting its wildlife, coordinating university research projects and monitoring the overall health of the garden, revealing the astonishing range of biodiversity that's capable of thriving in our backyards when the right plants and habitat are established.

The webinar, titled "Planting California Natives Created A Wildlife Oasis!" drew heavily on the wildlife he documented in his new book, *The Gottlieb Native Garden: An Intimate Wildlife Journey*. The book includes fauna ranging from insects to higher order predators such as raptors. In addition to showing beautiful still photographs featuring some of the 500+ species he has identified in the Gottlieb garden, Logan also showed wildlife videos from cameras he has set up in various locations on the property, which sits above a canyon in Beverly Hills.

During the 1990s, in an effort to conserve water and provide habitat for wildlife, Susan and Dan Gottlieb began converting their one-acre "traditional" garden to one filled with California native plants. The result was the now-renowned urban oasis that has been a

haven for researchers, educators and a broad range of environmental groups. Because the garden is known for the immense numbers of hummingbirds it attracts, it has become a major research site for the UC Davis Hummingbird Health and Conservation Program. Logan is a collaborator with the UC Davis program and is also a partner in Wild Wings Ecology, which caters to the needs of wild bird lovers throughout Los Angeles.

As an avid birder, Logan has identified 108 species of birds (including several varieties of hummers) in the garden to date. Some appear only seasonally, others return year after year (or their offspring do), but most are permanent residents. Additionally, he has identified 25 species of mammals, including nine kinds of bats. His presentation highlighted everything from tiny aphids, spiders, wasps, beetles, bees, butterflies and moths, to lizards, frogs, snakes, skunks, raccoons, squirrels, coyote, deer, songbirds, owls, hawks, bobcats and occasionally even a mountain lion.

Logan did note that majority of the species, especially the insects and birds, have a wide-ranging habitat throughout Los Angeles, and home gardeners can attract them by planting California natives in their yards, as well as providing water sources for them. This will not only create a healthy ecosystem, but also help support the over 500 species of

native bees found in Los Angeles county, which have been outpaced in population growth by the European honey bee, currently the dominant species. A few of the native plants Logan recommended to attract a variety of wildlife were toyon, manzanitas, sages and buckwheats.

This inspiring presentation led to a lengthy and informative question and answer session (archived on YouTube following Logan's program), and one lucky listener also received a copy of Logan's book, *The Gottlieb Native Garden: An Intimate Wildlife Journey* during our monthly giveaway. For the rest of us, the book is available for purchase online from Wild Wings Backyard Nature at [www.wildwingsla.com](http://www.wildwingsla.com) and also through the Gottlieb garden website at [www.thegottliebnativegarden.com](http://www.thegottliebnativegarden.com).

✂ Sabine Steinmetz

To watch this program on YouTube, click the following link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ATtXDbZADOU>

## SCHS MONTHLY GARDEN SHARE

The days are getting longer as we inch towards spring, so let's

- Start seeds for leafy greens, onions, peas & assorted herbs
- Finish planting California natives by end of the month
- Plant bare-root roses, berries and fruit trees
- Apply first round of fertilizer to citrus trees to get on schedule
- Prune winter-flowering shrubs that are finished blooming
- Begin weeding now to get ahead of the burst coming in spring!

✂ Sabine Steinmetz

## IN MEMORIAM

### David Verity

Photo by Laurel Woodley



The SCHS is saddened to report on the recent passing of David Verity, a very well-known and highly-respected figure in Southern California horticulture circles.

He was also a leader in the SCHS for many years and was named the Horticulturist of the Year in 1981. He was 90.

Verity is perhaps best known for being the manager of the Mildred E. Mathias Botanical Garden at UCLA for most of the

33 years he worked there, beginning as a nurseryman in 1959. As manager, he assisted Mathias while she was still the director, and together they propagated seeds that she collected in her travels, and expanded the garden's plant collection, which currently numbers over 3,000 specimens.

Additionally, Verity will long be remembered for his plant breeding work and the many hybrids he introduced, including aloes, monkey flowers and cupheas. The varieties named for him are still in popular use, especially in today's drought-tolerant gardens.

Many of us at the SCHS will fondly remember Verity personally, but his greater legacy will live on in the gardens he has influenced well beyond his native Los Angeles.

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