



the griffith reporter

the newsletter of friends of griffith park/summer 2017



Raptor Nesting Survey – Not Just for the Birds

**plus Public Access to Public Parks • Volunteer Activities in Griffith Park
Ten Years After the Fire • Fern Dell's *Faux Bois***

thoughts from the president

A big part of creating a healthy and sustainable organization is a robust board of directors with "new blood" continually being added. Per Friends of Griffith Park by-laws, officer terms are limited and I served two three-year terms as president. I am honored to announce that Marian Dodge – also a founding member of our organization – is assuming the presidential role with a proven track record. I will continue to be just as active as Vice President, Science and Conservation. Welcome Madam President Marian!

~Gerry Hans



At the Earth Day event, RAP Forestry's Leon Boroditsky gave a brief demonstration on proper planting techniques, then teams of volunteers went to work!

Volunteers = Value Multiplied Friends of Griffith Park has always valued its volunteers, but wait until you find out just how valuable you are!

We have the best volunteers – ever. Whenever we send out a call for volunteers, you show up no matter how dirty the job: mulching trees in Fern Dell, pulling weeds and watering in Fern Canyon, planting trees in Pecan Grove and Fern Dell, painting out graffiti in the Old Zoo. Perhaps that's part of the draw; you can go out and play in the dirt and your mother won't yell at you for coming home dirty. But I prefer to think that the draw is the sense of satisfaction you get at the end of the project when you can stand back and admire your handiwork. "I planted those trees." "That redwood tree has a better chance to survive because I spread mulch around it." "Native wildflowers are thriving because I pulled the invasive weeds growing around them."

We encourage you to visit your project a few months later, or years later, to see how it's doing. I helped plant a couple of oak trees after the devastating Griffith Park fire of 2007. (See story p.8.) Every time I walk by, I look up to see how they are doing and watch them grow. My little oak tree, about the diameter of my thumb and five feet high when we planted it, is now a handsome oak five inches in diameter and about 15 feet high. It will be providing valuable shade and habitat for decades to come.

This year Laura Howe, Vice President of Volunteer Services, has organized a steady stream of projects and you have responded with gusto. In January we took advantage of the recent welcome rains and planted 20 trees in two small picnic areas just west of Wilson/Harding Golf Courses. In March FoGP did a larger tree planting in the Pecan Grove picnic area on the north side of the park near LA Live Steamers. A group of enthusiastic Boy Scouts and their parents repaired the little footbridge in Fern Dell.

One hundred forty volunteers celebrated Earth Day by using a new sustainable method of planting 150 trees around the Fern Dell parking lot where numerous trees were lost to the drought. Conservation Corps experts and Recreation and Parks forestry supervisor Leon trained our volunteers to plant small trees with their own "cocoon" of water to sustain the trees for their first six months in the ground.

on the cover: Great Horned Owl and two fledglings are part of the Griffith Park Raptor Survey

Friends hosted Friends of the Los Angeles River's annual cleanup at the Bette Davis Picnic Area where more than 600 volunteers picked trash out of the river.

The Trust for Public Land released a report* on The Economic Benefits of the public park and recreation system in the City of Los Angeles, CA on May 23. The report was created in partnership with the Department of Recreation and Parks. Everyone thinks that parks are valuable, but their economists analyzed various aspects of parks to establish a monetary value for what parks provide. One of the aspects that the economists studied was how much time and money residents donate to their parks annually. Volunteer hours were valued at \$27.60. The report found that \$12.5 million worth of volunteer time and financial contributions were donated to Los Angeles parks in 2015. Wow! Now that's for all the parks in the city, but since Griffith is the biggest, a significant chunk of that must be for Griffith Park.

And the benefits go both ways. Not only do the parks benefit, but you benefit and society benefits. Every tree you plant removes pollutants from the air so the air you breathe is cleaner. Every piece of trash you pull out of the river removes pollutants from the water giving us cleaner water. The physical activity of working on a volunteer project makes you healthier and reduces your health care costs. The camaraderie of working together is a social activity that contributes to your mental well being, another way to reduce your health care costs. Volunteering in the park is a real win-win.

So stand up and take a bow. Give yourself a big pat on the back, and don't forget to high five your buddy.

The value of FoGP volunteer team – priceless.



~Marian Dodge

*The full Economic Benefits report is available at www.tpl.org/econbenefits-losangeles

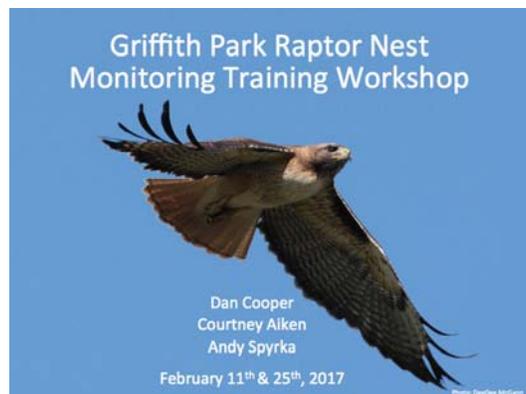


Raptor Nesting Survey Not Just for the Birds Gerry Hans

Yet another survey is being added to the continuing series of our “Griffith Park Natural History Survey” portfolio. Three local biologists and over 30 “citizen science” volunteers are surveying hawk and owl nests in Griffith Park and surrounds. Training sessions were conducted by the biologists beginning in early February just prior to raptors building new nests or improving their nests made of large sticks from previous years. Raptor pairs, often mating for life, sometimes return to the same nests for as long as a decade.

This survey marks the first of its kind in Griffith Park and in Los Angeles. It’s modeled after a successful nesting raptor survey at Irvine Ranch Conservancy, and fortunately biologist Courtney Aiken now brings her Irvine Ranch hands-on experience to our survey area.

During the two training sessions, there was an emphasis on professional monitoring practices in order to avoid flushing birds from nests or disturbing them in any way. Maintaining a safe distance is the most important factor, but other criteria include the length of the visit, and sounds to which the nesting birds may not be accustomed. Photography is not recommended when monitoring nests, unless at a far-away, safe distance. Often common sense dictates, and an observer can tell if a nesting parent bird seems threatened or perturbed.



Raptor Training Cover photo: DeeDee McGann

Trained observers were initially tasked with locating nests, with quite a few nests already spotted or known even before February. Each nest was given an ID number and assigned to volunteers for regular visits throughout the nesting season. At the training sessions, volunteers learned all about nesting stages, including nest building, incubating, brooding, branching, and fledging. Volunteers took notes regarding nesting stages and periodically reported to the biologists who logged the information into a central database.

At the end of the nesting season, the survey will provide insights into the level of reproductive success, through metrics such as survival rates from one stage to the next, all the way to fledging. Each species will have its own results. Other interesting facts will be learned, for exam-

ple, which species are more likely to nest in residential versus natural habitat areas.

Over 20 active raptor nests are currently being monitored in Griffith Park, and some already have fledged birds. Residential areas surrounding the park are also strongholds for raptors, and with a surplus of willing volunteers the survey has incorporated another 20 nests outside the park! The most common nesting species is the Red-tailed hawk, followed by Cooper’s hawk and Great Horned owl. Red-shouldered hawk nests have proven low in numbers and no kestrel (a falcon) nests were ever located.

On Thursday, June 15th, the three biologists, Friends’ scientific director Dan Cooper, Courtney Aiken and Andy Spyrka gave a panel discussion about the ongoing project at the first of Friends’ Summer Lecture Series. A more formal presentation of the Raptor Nesting Survey will be presented this fall, at the end of the survey.

Raptors grace the skies of Griffith Park and many residential portions of Los Angeles. Just as important, we value them as nature’s best way for balancing pests, such as rodents. Our citizen science volunteers should be proud of their contribution to science. And for all of them, taking part in this survey has been an amazing and rewarding educational experience.

Taking a Firm Stand on Public Access Gerry Hans

Friends of Griffith Park, Griffith J. Griffith Charitable Trust, and Oaks Homeowners jointly filed a Motion to Intervene in the Los Angeles Superior Court case, Sunset Ranch Hollywood Stables vs City of Los Angeles, this past May 1st. The filing challenges the decision made by the City of Los Angeles on March 13th to completely close access to the Hollyridge Trail from Beachwood Canyon, in response to a Court Order on February 3rd. The Hollyridge Trail via Beachwood Canyon provides an easy and short route to a fantastic view of the Hollywood Sign. While it is frequented by many tourists, it is also a regular route for seasoned hikers and local residents of Beachwood. The closure of the trail was effective on April 18th and, according to the City, the closure is permanent.

The news was surprising for various reasons, but mostly because it seems to directly contradict the judge's actual ruling in the Sunset Ranch case. In this case, Judge Elizabeth Feffer determined that Sunset Ranch does not have an exclusive right to the access road that leads to the trailhead and cannot exclude members of the public from that easement, and that the City must provide public pedestrian access to the Hollyridge Trail at a point "as close as practicable" to the Beachwood Gate. The City's "Joint Stipulation" with attorneys for Sunset Ranch provides for access from a point "1500 feet away" to the east at Bronson Canyon, as reported to the judge. However, it is actually 2.7 miles away for



Help Fund Legal Efforts to Reopen the Beachwood Trailhead

Friends of Griffith Park, the Griffith J. Griffith Charitable Trust, and the Oaks Homeowners Association are supporting a legal challenge to the closure of the Beachwood Trailhead. But attorneys cost money and their resources are not inexhaustible. If you would like to support the legal challenge in a more concrete way, please consider helping fund our effort. Since Friends of Griffith Park is taking the lead, send a check in whatever amount you can afford, made out to Friends of Griffith Park and indicate on the memo line: *Keep Beachwood Trailhead Open Legal Fund*. Your contribution will be restricted to that purpose only. Thank you. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

Friends of Griffith Park
P.O. Box 27573
L.A., CA 90027-0573



Griffith Park – 120 Years and Counting On December 16th, 2016, LA Recreation and Parks management, community leaders and many Angelenos came together to celebrate an auspicious event – Griffith J. Griffith's gift to Los Angeles, given this day in 1896. In honor of the event RAP's Griffith Superintendent, Joe Salaiques, was presented with a Los Angeles City proclamation by CD 4 Councilmember David Ryu.

At the same event, young Benji Greenwald's contribution to Friends of Griffith Park was recognized by Gerry Hans who presented him with a Certificate of Appreciation on behalf of the FoGP.

bottom photo from left: Gerry Hans, Benji, his parents Jason and Corey and CD 4's David Ryu



people, although it's only 1,500 feet for birds. The two canyons parallel each other closely, but are treacherously deep with a steep ridgeline and Camp

Hollywood between them.

The Motion to Intervene is a legal action to gain standing and become additional parties in the existing lawsuit with

an interest in the outcome. The reasons for the Motion to Intervene include: the elimination of the access to Griffith Park, a public park, at a much-used access point; creation of a grave public-safety risk in adjoining communities; improper transfer of public land to a private party; and more. The petitioners claim the city misled the court and tried to "stipulate away" rights held by the public for the public good.

The closure of the Beachwood access to the Hollyridge Trailhead creates a dangerous precedent that could lead to the closure of other access points to the park in the future. With strong conviction, the Griffith J. Griffith Charitable Trust joined Friends in the filing since the decision to end pedestrian access to Griffith Park from Beachwood Canyon flies in the face of Colonel Griffith's stated principle of open access for park patrons.

LA Department of Recreation and Parks General Manager Mike Shull has over the years assured the Park's adjoining communities that he wants to keep entrances to Griffith Park – specifically the entrance in Beachwood Canyon – open to the public.

Since the closure on April 18th, concepts for allowing Beachwood Canyon access to the park have been proposed. One such plan provides for a very simple opening to the right of the existing gate. The opening would connect to either a sensitively-constructed switchback trail or a pre-fabricated stair system which would lead directly to the Hollyridge Trail, a mere hundred feet away. This seems more in keeping with the judge's Court Order!

Major trailheads with wide trails or fire roads are important in order to provide the public with safe hiking routes while protecting the park's rich habitat and wildlife. Hollyridge Trail is one of them.

While global solutions to calm the adverse impacts of tourism to residential areas are seriously needed, closing one of the park's important access points takes a step backwards and at the same time compromises obvious principles. There is no question much more energy should be spent on such permanent solutions, and FoGP will continue to be involved in the process.



Griffith Park Superintendent Joe Salaiques welcomes volunteers to the Earth Day planting while FoGP's Volunteer Coordinator Laura Howe looks on



Earth Day in Griffith Park – Focus on Planting Trees

Over the past several years we've been discussing the long California drought and its impact on Griffith Park and with Earth Day quickly approaching, FoGP Volunteer Coordinator Laura Howe joined forces with RAP and LADWP to come up with a project that would achieve two goals: involve members of the community and create a positive impact on a parkland filled with stressed or dying trees.

The solution: plant 150 trees in an especially hard-hit area of

Fern Dell, using a new cocoon technology which will continue to water young saplings for up to six months.

The effort garnered 140 volunteers from area schools as well as individuals from the LA community, and working as teams, the work went quickly and all trees were in the ground within a few hours. The best part of the day – getting dirty and knowing that in 20 years, you could point to one of the trees and say, "You see that tree? I planted it!"



RAP's Tracy James and Stefanie Smith, FoGP's Marian Dodge and FoGP Volunteer Mary Proteau



A Multitude of Projects Designed to Enhance Griffith Park

Friends of Griffith Park volunteers have been mulching, weeding, watering, painting out graffiti and working in partnership with other non-profits and organizations to help with Park enhancement efforts. We work with schools to bring inner city students into the park, helping students understand the importance of protecting wildlife and parkland. Recently, FoGP and

RAP worked with Boy Scout Troop 301 to rebuild the pedestrian footbridge in lower Fern Dell.

If you or your organization are interested in volunteering in the park, please contact us: <http://www.friendsofgriffithpark.org/get-involved/volunteer/>



FOLAR's Annual LA River Cleanup



Tree Planting in NYC NYC Picnic Areas 1&2



Inspiring Connections Outdoors hikes



Fern Canyon Watering



FOLAR's Annual LA River Cleanup



Tree Planting in NYC Picnic Area



Fern Dell Mulching



Tree Planting in Pecan Grove



Tree Planting in Pecan Grove



Boy Scout Troop 301 Footbridge Project



Inspiring Connections Outdoors hikes



Fern Canyon Weeding



Boy Scout Jon Cho receives award

Griffith Park Fire – Ten Years Later

Marian Dodge

Griffith Park looked very different ten years ago. On May 8, 2007 a brush fire broke out in the park near the tennis courts. While there are frequent small fires in the park, this one was different; strong winds carried the fire all the way to the historic merry-go-round. Then the wind shifted and the fire headed southwest towards the residential areas. More than 300 homes in Los Feliz were evacuated. Thanks to the rapid response of LA Fire Department and mutual aid from several neighboring communities, the fire was kept out of the residential area with the exception of damage to one roof.

Griffith Park itself was not so fortunate; 817 acres of chaparral burned to the ground. The park looked like a barren lunar landscape from the Griffith Observatory and the Greek Theatre east to the merry-go-round.

Then-Recreation and Parks (RAP) General Manager Jon Kirk Mukri wisely organized a team of fire recovery specialists to assess the damage and plan for recovery. The team included not only numerous city agencies but LA County Fire Department, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), the US Forest Service, the National Park Service, CA Dept. of Fish and Game, LA Conservation Corps, and the University of California.



The Griffith Park Fire Recovery Team's goal was to develop a fire recovery plan that was science- and data-based. The first order of business was to clear roadways of debris and hazardous materials and evaluate environmental damage.

The USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service assisted the city by creating a fire intensity map from aerial photos of the burn area to identify the impact of the fire on soil productivity, wildlife, and infrastructure. Biologists took soil samples from different locations throughout the burn area. They found lots of seeds there just waiting for some rain to fall to make them sprout. Scientists determined that the chaparral and mixed scrub plant communities would likely recover on their own over the next ten years.

While scientists were analyzing and strategizing, Mother Nature was already hard at work. Chaparral plants have evolved to thrive in our Southern California conditions of drought and fire. Laurel sumac sometimes has a bad reputation because it is so flammable, but it also has deep roots in order to survive our long hot summers. This attribute makes it a good plant for erosion control. Within a month after the fire the charred sumacs already had a foot of bright green new growth, a welcome sign in the sea of gray ash. →



Annual Christmas Bird Count was held Monday, January 2nd. A handful of hardy souls, including biologist Dan Cooper with Cooper Ecological Monitoring, Inc., FoGP's Gerry Hans, plus a few Park Rangers and some very avid birders met at Trails Café in the Fern Dell area for this event.

On May 6th, bird aficionados once again descended on Trails Café for **Bird LA Day in Griffith Park** with leader Don White who began the hike with a brief discussion of bird species in the Park. Cooper's and Red-tailed hawks, Mourning Doves, Anna's and Allen's Hummingbirds, Acorn and Nuttall's Woodpeckers, Black Phoebes were among the many bird species either spotted or heard high in the Park canopy.

There was another welcome sign. The fire burned all the brush that had accumulated in the catch basins built by the WPA during the Great Depression. These elegant stone structures had been concealed beneath a dense growth of brush. To restore them to functioning catch basins, RAP immediately cleaned out the decades of debris that had accumulated behind the walls.

A major concern after a fire is erosion control. Without plants to hold the soil in place a little rain has the potential to wash tons of mud downhill, wash out roads and trails, and pour into residential areas. A heavy-duty helicopter was brought in to spray the burn area with hydromulch, which forms a protective layer over the soil, absorbing rainwater and preventing the buildup of water in the burnt soil area that could lead to landslides. Because it had already been determined that there were plenty of native seeds in the soil, no seeds were added to the hydromulch when it was applied.

To further protect against erosion, k-rail was strategically placed in areas identified by risk assessment as being at risk of mud flow damage: the Greek Theatre, Vermont Ave., the tennis courts, Roosevelt Golf Course, Commonwealth Nursery, Tregnan Golf Course, Crystal Springs Drive, etc.

All of their analysis, preparation, and hard work paid off. Erosion damage within the park was reduced to a minimum and there was no mud flow damage in the surrounding neighborhood. Scientists predicted chaparral in Griffith Park would recover on its own in ten



Page 8 photos from top left: As the fire raged across the Park, amateur photographers rushed into areas to document the flames, despite pleas from LAFD to stay away. Well into the night, flames and smoke could be seen for miles around, including from neighboring Atwater Village.

Page 9 from top, right: Gazing east toward Glendale from Dante's View, damage to surrounding hillsides was devastating. In 2017, the view is significantly greener. Remnants of 1930s-era CCC projects were exposed for the first time in decades.



years. It's been ten years now. How do you think Mother Nature is doing?

The first day of spring 2009, just two years after the fire, the steep slopes of the park were covered with a profusion of wildflowers. A preliminary study done by Cooper Ecological Monitoring, Inc. five years after the fire revealed the chaparral was recovering well. The area north of the tennis courts, where the fire started, had recovered. Throughout the burn area grasses, wildflowers, shrubs like laurel sumac, deer weed and toyon had returned. One advantage of fire is that it clears the ground to give rarer plants like eucrypta a chance to resprout. A disadvantage is that invasive nonnatives like tumbleweed and castor can take over a denuded area. The native coast live oaks, black walnut, and Mexican elderberry were coming back. The charred slope below Dante's View was carpeted with native coast buckwheat, California sagebrush, and black sage. All Mother Nature needed was a little more time for the vegetation to reach full size.

Today, ten years after the fire, Griffith Park is thriving once again. Its native plants bided their time during the drought years. With last winter's good rainfall they have sprung to life with enthusiasm. It's a natural cycle that repeats itself again and again in California.

Even as park recovery continues, several beetle infestations are raising serious concerns about the ongoing health of trees in Griffith Park. FoGP continues to follow the story with interest, and is helping to plant trees which will aid in the long recovery.

save the dates for these upcoming events

July 13 FoGP's Summer Lecture Series with Richard Stanley at the Los Feliz Branch Library

Richard Stanley will talk about
"The Origin of Parks"



1874 Hillhurst Ave., 90027

Doors open at 6:30 / Lecture from 6:45 to 7:45 p.m.

Aug. 17 FoGP's Summer Lecture Series with Mike Eberts at the Los Feliz Branch Library



Mike Eberts will be discussing the 1933 fire in Griffith Park and long-term impacts.

1874 Hillhurst Ave., 90027
Doors open at 6:30
Lecture from 6:45 to 7:45 p.m.



P-22 DAY & URBAN WILDLIFE WEEK

Sun., Oct. 22, 2017 / 11a-4p
Shane's Inspiration

4801 Crystal Springs Dr., LA 90027

Good Bye to Abandoned Water Tank 116 Gerry Hans



Friends of Griffith Park funded the removal of water tank #116 just west of the Griffith Observatory, abandoned over three decades ago. Park Superintendent Joe Salacies was so impressed with the recovered viewshed where the tank once stood, he called Gerry Hans in excitement the first day it was gone!

As hoped, Friends' initiative set a precedent for RAP to move for-

ward with the removal of four other unused and derelict tanks. Abandoned tanks, along with unused buildings and other infrastructure have become a magnet for bad behavior such as graffiti. Maintenance costs of these nuisance tanks and liability risks are both huge for the city. The bidding process for the removal of the remaining four tanks is complete. According to Joe Salacies, they will be nothing but recycled metal very soon!

Support FoGP's Ongoing Efforts to Protect the Park

Join us today... friendsofgriffithpark.org



Beth Pratt-Bergstrom at Skylight Books

On Friday, March 24, 2017 Friends of Griffith Park and Skylight Books in Los Feliz presented California Director for the National Wildlife Federation, Beth Pratt-Bergstrom discussing her recently authored book "When Mountain Lions Are Neighbors."

Beth likes to acknowledge that she has the best job in the world as her work affords her opportunities to work with a multitude of different species including condors, porpoises, pika, foxes, and of course, mountain lions. At the same time she gets to work with pretty amazing people whose sole purpose is to help wildlife thrive.

Beth discussed the plight of animals isolated by freeways, as they often become victims when they attempt to cross. She also talked about a project she's embraced - construction of a wildlife overpass near Liberty Canyon in Agoura Hills. When completed, this bridge will serve to protect a variety of species, creating habitat connectivity across the 101 freeway.

Beth will be taking part in the upcoming **Urban Wildlife Week & P-22 Day** in Griffith Park on Sun., Oct. 22. FoGP will keep you posted as information becomes available. Make plans to come meet her!

The Real Story of *Faux Bois*

Richard Stanley



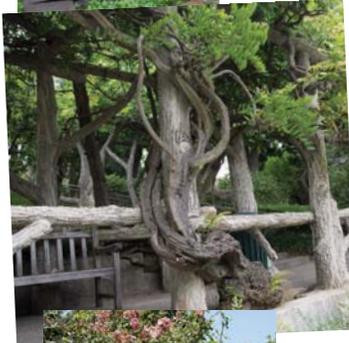
My maternal grandfather never owned a car. A city-dweller, he walked everywhere, including the mile or so to work downtown Monday through Friday during most of the four seasons of Reading, Pennsylvania. He enjoyed walking: sunny side of the street in winter; shady side in summer. Passing every lady on the sidewalk meant a quick tip of his hat, a Panama between Memorial Day and Labor Day and a brown fedora the rest of the year. On his days off, he would walk alone on one of about five various several-mile-long laps through Charles Evans Cemetery, which was a block away and the county's first (1846) and largest "rural cemetery" (over 100 acres).

Every Sunday, my brother and I accompanied him on a tour of his mysterious park. The proper entrance was a grand russet sandstone Gothic *porte cochère*. High curbs on either side of the brick drive allowed sheltered carriage access. Inside, lay a riotous necropolis of small structures, from pyramids to temples; enormous trees with iron nameplates; pavilions; statues of infants to infantry and even, furniture. The furniture was built to last of cast iron, steel wire and "wood" as hard and cold as the cheek of a marble weeping angel. But was it wood?

As a child, I was fascinated by what I later learned was "*faux bois*", or false wood handmade of cement and steel. What also intrigued me was why anyone would want to have furniture in a cemetery. Isn't everyone lying down, underground?

My grandfather's park was born of the 19th century. Before the 1830s, the dead were buried in churchyards, usually in towns and cities. As cities grew with the Industrial Revolution, the churchyards filled up, despite the digging deeper and reuse of graves. Land became too expensive close to town to add onto old cemeteries. Epidemics led to the need to bury the dead in an area safely removed from the living. Unlike churchyards, rural cemeteries were nonsectarian. The emergence of middle class leisure time allowed the living to visit the last residences of their dead in a pastoral, contemplative landscape that was patterned on the naturalistic gardens of English country houses. Rural cemeteries became places where the living picnicked or raced carriages as well as meditated upon the threshold of the present to the future. Romanitcists, Transcendentalists and Pantheists were drawn to the idea of the rural cemetery as a place apart from worldly concerns. Rural cemeteries embraced early ideas about urban planning and public park design in an era when parks and art were enjoyed by elites only.

Visitors to rural cemeteries needed outdoor furniture, then a novel idea. Cast iron and steel, in the forms of wire and rods, were adapted to furniture design. By the mid-1800s, French inventors were applying cement mixtures to armatures of steel rods and wire. Initially, the idea was to produce large urns and containers that were too challenging to make of ceramic. Inspired by natural forms, craftsmen shaped "*ferrocement*" into furniture, railings, bridges and other garden appurtenances according to their own personal sense of style and whim.



By the early 20th century, cemeteries became "memorial parks", or "lawn cemeteries", built on smoothly-graded sites to accommodate the needs of the masses and minimal maintenance. Gone were unique above-ground monuments in favor of standardized ground-level plaques that would not impede lawn mowers. Features such as walkways, flower beds, water features, resting places, even trees, were kept to a bare minimum, lest valuable burial plots be unsold.

Faux bois remained fashionable until World War II in the United States and Europe. In Los Angeles, one may see a good deal of *faux bois* in Griffith Park's Fern Dell. Most of this *faux bois* shows decades of use and is in need of major restoration. In places, bare steel re-bar hints at what once was. Much of the original *faux bois* has been replaced with pipe railings. Part of Friends of Griffith Park's proposed restoration of Fern Dell would include *faux bois* restoration.

Across the country, vintage *faux bois* is being restored and new applications are being created by present-day gardeners, sculptors and pool contractors. The Huntington Library Botanical Gardens have recently restored its famed *faux bois* wisteria trellis between the Japanese and rose gardens. The Huntington restorer, Terry Eagan, discovered that air pockets are the primary cause of deterioration. Air pockets in poorly-applied cement can fill with water, rusting the interior steel. The rusting steel swells and cracks the cement.

Perhaps the most famous use of the *faux bois* technique anywhere is Simon Rodia's Watts Towers here in Los Angeles. The *faux bois*-style technique is not innovative, but the result is uniquely Modern. Rodia worked over 30 years building nearly-100-foot towers of steel rebar, wire mesh and cement embedded with found bits of tile, glass, mirrors, porcelain figurines and seashells. Many items were given to him by supportive local residents. Impressions from objects pressed into the wet cement abound. One man's life's passion, the Watts Towers are the grandest example of outsider art.

Join Richard Stanley on July 13th at the Los Feliz Branch Library for a talk on "*The Origin of Parks*. More information available on our website.

Show your support for Friends of Griffith Park!

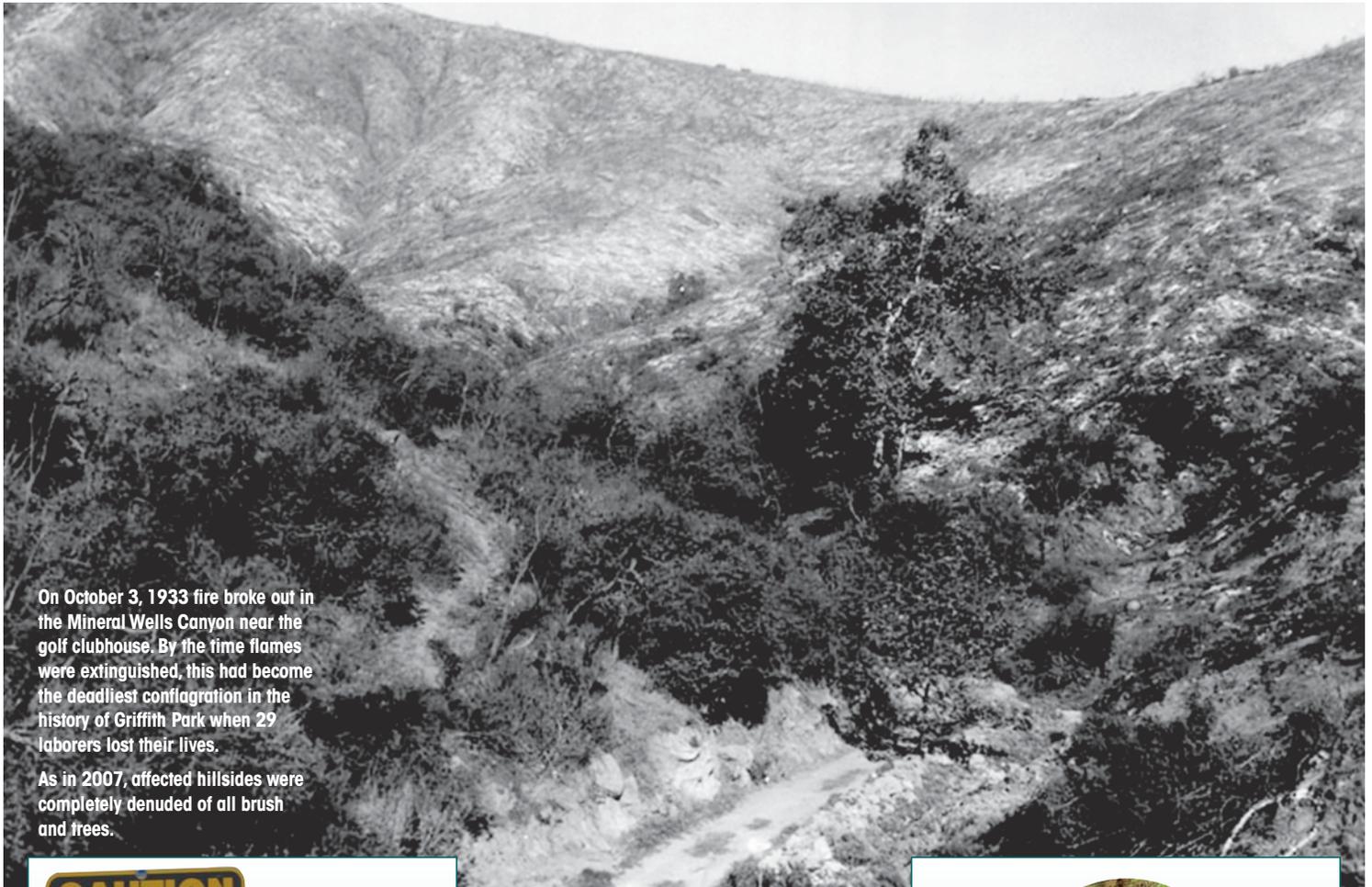


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It's easy to look and stay cool in our 100% cotton T-shirts and hats. They're available at our e-store.

Check it out at friendsofgriffithpark.org



On October 3, 1933 fire broke out in the Mineral Wells Canyon near the golf clubhouse. By the time flames were extinguished, this had become the deadliest conflagration in the history of Griffith Park when 29 laborers lost their lives.

As in 2007, affected hillsides were completely denuded of all brush and trees.



CAUTION SIGNS exist for your protection, the safety of your pets, and preservation of park habitat.

You're asked to remain on designated trails as erosion or rattlesnake encounters can really ruin a good hike.

Stay on Trails & Stay Safe!

Join Friends of Griffith Park

You can help protect the park for future generations!

Sign up today at friendsofgriffithpark.org



When you see this sign, it means Friends of Griffith Park is doing volunteer work somewhere in the area. It's easy to get involved... Sign up online, or pitch in if you see the group.