

Park Services, Dept. of Recreation and Parks

# Griffith Park News and Updates

March, 2022



## Hello from The Park Services Office

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Blondie at Griffith  
Observatory - 1977



Photo by Richard Creamer

*“Sometimes you  
will never know  
the value of a  
moment, until it  
becomes a  
memory”*

*– Dr. Seuss*

# Updates from Stefanie Smith, Superintendent of Griffith Region

- **Earth Day Event 4/23/22** – Celebrate Earth Day with Council District 4, LA City Department of Recreation and Parks and Friends of Griffith Park. Come volunteer for a few hours as we plant 100 ferns in historic Fern Dell from 8:30 am - 11:30 am, followed by a nature hike with Courtney McCammon, Urban Ecologist! For more info and to RSVP: [volunteer@friendsofgriffithpark.org](mailto:volunteer@friendsofgriffithpark.org)
- Please join the **Griffith Park Advisory Board (GPAB)** on the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of the month for detailed discussions about all matter in Griffith Park. Agenda is posted [here](#) 72 hours before a scheduled meeting. Online meeting this month is March 24<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm
- Parkline is still suspended at this time. Bronson Caves remain closed due to safety concerns.



- **Family Nature Club is back** – and, in partnership with LA Department of Recreation and Parks, we’re exploring beyond the Zoo! Join us for FREE nature play on the last Saturday of every month. Family Nature Club participants will spend the morning enjoying loosely structured outdoor play – exploring nature through art and building, observation and imagination. Families, caregivers and children of all ages are welcome. No registration is required. Family Nature Club is facilitated by L.A. Zoo Learning and Engagement staff. Off Griffith Park Drive, near Merry-Go-Round and Shane’s Inspiration playground. [Click here for Google Mas location and directions.](#)
- **Greek Theatre** season begins in April! [Check out the upcoming calendar of events.](#)



**Council District 4** has hired **Xanthe Scheps** as their new field deputy serving *Griffith Park, Silver Lake, Los Feliz & Hollywood United Neighborhood Council* areas!

[xanthe.scheps@lacity.org](mailto:xanthe.scheps@lacity.org)



- P-22 has been busy, check him out [here!](#)
- Love Griffith Park? Why not become a member of [The Friends of Griffith Park?](#)
- The Department of Recreation and Parks hired a 3<sup>rd</sup> party veterinarian to assess each pony and petting zoo animal at the Griffith Park Pony ride concession. The veterinarian presented her findings and recommendations to the Department's Board of Commissioners last month and will be following up to ensure that her findings have been addressed.
- **Updates from our Park Rangers:** Please stay on designated trails and hike with plenty of water for you *and* your dog.
- Independent Shakespeare Co. filmed this performance in Griffith Park, check it out [here.](#)



- **Griffith Observatory:** Every three months, the Observatory marks the change of season with live programs at local noon (in the Gottlieb Transit Corridor) and sunset (on the West Terrace).

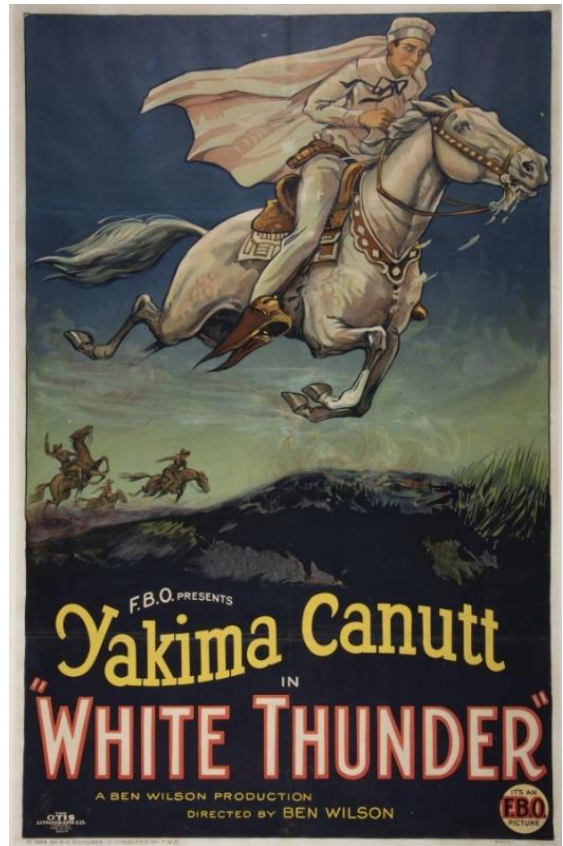
- **The Autry Museum of the Southwest – The Autry has great programs and exhibitions.**

*The silent West*

*Ongoing*

*The Autry in Griffith Park*

*Featuring highlights of American West-themed posters from silent film era, The Silent West shows the varied range of the industry prior to “talkies” and the consolidation of the studio system. The posters showcase a stunning art form in a remarkable era of commercial lithography, This small exhibition also reveals the cinematic West of the 1910’s and 1920’s to be quite modern, engaging topics still relevant to the real West. Although a large proportion of silent films themselves are lost, posters reflect film artists and entrepreneurs experimenting with a new medium. Women and people of color served as writers, directors, stunt performers, and other creators in greater number than in later movies.*



### ***Park Services is Hiring!***

*We are currently looking for committed individuals to work part time with our traffic team or in our rental facilities, especially on weekends.*

*For information regarding part time employment with our rental facilities please contact: [noe.gonzalez@lacity.org](mailto:noe.gonzalez@lacity.org)*

*For information regarding part time employment with our traffic team please contact: [anthony.gallo@lacity.org](mailto:anthony.gallo@lacity.org)*

## Updates from Griffith Park Urban Ecologist, Courtney McCammon

What is that in the sky? Is it a plane? No! It's your friendly neighbor hawk. Spring is here and the sixth year of the LA Raptor Study has taken flight. With over 500 nests being tracked all over Los Angeles, including many LA City Recreation and Parks (RAP) managed parks, it is the most comprehensive study of its kind in the region. The study, commissioned by the Friends of Griffith Park, uses citizen scientists to collect the data and monitor hawk nests in remote and urban habitats alike. LA City Recreation and Parks has been an important partner to the LA Raptor Study in allowing citizen scientists to monitor in sometimes off-limits parts of Griffith Park, Elysian, and Debs Park to name a few. The hawk nest locations are shared with RAP to assist in managing parks and open space in a responsible way. The Maintenance staff, Forestry staff, and Film Division are all aware of the raptor nesting locations so that when brush clearance, tree trimming, or film shoots occur they are not disrupting our native fauna.

The most common diurnal and nocturnal species you will see in the parks include Red-tailed hawk, Red-shouldered hawk, Cooper's hawk, and Great Horned Owl. Most hawk species re-use their nests each year except for the Great Horned Owl that uses the nests of other raptors. Each year, the pair will defend their territory and begin their courtship behavior before settling down in the nest to have chicks. The number of chicks varies widely but a single clutch can have anywhere from two to six chicks. Cooper's hawks are known to have the largest clutch size out of the hawk species. Hawks are especially sensitive during the nesting season and can abandon their nest or chicks, so it is important that we monitor them and work to protect them.

Hawks are vital to the ecosystem within our parks and the City of Los Angeles as a whole. They are referred to as "apex predators" because they are at the top of the food chain with no real predators of their own. Also known as "nature's pest control", raptors have the ability to control prey populations of some animals humans regularly call pests. Protecting them and maintaining the park will in turn help us humans with our pest management. Lastly, hawks are important indicators of environmental changes. Their breeding habits can tell important stories in relation to climate change, precipitation in any given year, human disturbance, and even the COVID-19 pandemic. Please, be on the lookout for our friends in the sky when you are in the parks! Please contact Courtney if you want to learn more about monitoring a hawk nest in the park!

### **Wildlife Resources:**

Hawk/Owl/Falcon: Ojai Raptor Center (805) 649-6884

Water Birds: Int'l Bird Rescue (310) 514-2573

Other Wildlife: California Wildlife Center (818) 222-2658

*Look forward to updates from Courtney in all future newsletters.*



# FLASHBACK



While there are a few intriguing historic photographs of “park police officers” posing in Griffith Park in the early 20th century, the true roots of the Los Angeles Park Ranger program are much more modern. Since formation of the City’s park system, even with acquisition of major regional parks like Griffith Park and Elysian Park, park maintenance personnel handled relations with park patrons, and called in rescue workers, fire fighters, or law enforcement as needed. A 1950s public relations program sent a uniformed “ranger” with mascot “Parky” the kangaroo out on weekends to promote good behavior among park users. Finally in 1965, four actual Park Rangers were appointed, each with special knowledge and a focused assignment: government liaison, local history and geology, botany, and administration. These first four learned fundamentals of search and rescue, fire-fighting, civil defense, self-defense, public speaking, and first aid. They were stationed in Griffith Park and deployed all over the City to provide community outreach about the parks and conservation. They conducted nature walks and campfire programs. The successful program grew to 23 Rangers by 1970, stationed among eight regional parks. These first multi-disciplinary Rangers – naturalists, rescuers, and public relations specialists – set the standard for many of the expectations which the public holds for Los Angeles Park Rangers

**Stefanie Smith, Superintendent of Griffith Region**  
[stefanie.smith@lacity.org](mailto:stefanie.smith@lacity.org)

**Sean Hinton, Park Services Operations**  
[sean.hinton@lacity.org](mailto:sean.hinton@lacity.org)

**Anthony Gallo, Traffic and Tennis inquiries**  
[anthony.gallo@lacity.org](mailto:anthony.gallo@lacity.org)

**Tracy James, General inquiries, add/remove name from newsletter**  
[tracy.james@lacity.org](mailto:tracy.james@lacity.org)

**Urban Ecologist, Griffith Region**  
[rap-urban-ecologist@lacity.org](mailto:rap-urban-ecologist@lacity.org)

**No smoking in the Park!**  
**Fines up to \$1,000.00**

**Park Rangers: (323) 644-6661**

**Follow the Park Rangers on social media:**

IG: @lacityparkrangers

Twitter: @lacityrangers

FB: City of Los Angeles Park Rangers

