

SAN DIEGO BOTANIC GARDEN DOCENT/VOLUNTEER MONTHLY MEETING
June 6, 2012
MINUTES

10:00 a.m. Call to order and pledge of allegiance.

Minutes of the May 2, 2012 meeting were approved as presented.

Liz Rozycki presented the plants on the raffle table and introduce the summer interns – Kelsi Jarosz and Harvey Bernstein.

CHAIR REPORT AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

- ✧ Liz Woodward thanked everyone for participating in the uAttend processing.
- ✧ The names of those reaching volunteer hours milestones in June were read and listed on the back of the Agenda. Liz also mentioned that details about upcoming events and classes could be found on the reverse of the Agenda.
- ✧ The next Volunteer Orientation will be on Saturday, July 28 from 9:30 – noon.
- ✧ The Grand Re-Opening of the Native Plants Native People trail will be on Saturday, July 21, starting with a VIP breakfast at 9 am and a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony at 10:30. Volunteers are needed to help set up for this event and bake cookies. Please sign up today. Mary Roper will be organizing crafts. Contact Cheryl Mergenthaler with questions.
- ✧ The Botanic Book Buddies will meet on June 13 at noon in the Lawn House to discuss "The Fruit Hunters" by Adam Leith Gollner. Bring a brown bag lunch. The next book selection "Flora Mirabilis: How Plants Have Shaped World Knowledge, Wealth and Beauty" by Catherine Herbert Howell will be discussed on August 8.
- ✧ A new Docent League Representative is needed to attend quarterly meetings. Please see/talk to Liz if you are interested.
- ✧ Tandy Pfost will be relieving Joyce Sapp of her duties as Treasurer of the Docents' Society.
- ✧ A Nominating Committee, comprising Liz Woodward, Sally Sandler and Linda Stewart, has been formed. Open positions include Vice Chair, Secretary, Hospitality Coordinator, Board Members at Large (2), Programs and Propagation Nursery Coordinator. Please contact any of the members of the Nominating committee if you are interested in being considered for any of these positions.
- ✧ A question regarding the recording of hours after the 2000 Milestone Award has been achieved was brought to the attention of the Docent Executive Board. Liz clarified that it is very important for those who have this status to continue to record their hours as it helps the Gardens in a variety of ways, especially when applying for grants. Additionally the Docent or Volunteer is still eligible for the Milestone rewards of guest passes, gift certificates and SDBG membership if they document hours at the 90, 200, and 400 levels annually.
- ✧ There is no General Meeting in July. In August Julian Duval will be giving a presentation on future plans for SDBG. Stacy Gaudet asked for a show of hands about the frequency of Programs. It will stay as it is for now.
- ✧ Those who had not been receiving emails about upcoming meetings were also asked to raise their hands and contact Emy Meiorin to verify that their information was up to

date. Please email or call Emy with any directory information changes you may have. Emy may be reached on 760 274 5618 or at emeiorin@pacbell.net. All of the e-blasts are posted to the Docent website – www.sdbgdocents.org.

COORDINATOR AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

- ✧ Linda Stewart presented new Docents Martha Epler, Rita Marsa and Sally Ann Thomas with their badges and certificates. All new Docents will be honored by being first in line at the Pot Luck Luncheon today. Recognition was given to all those who have taught or worked with the Docent Training Program this year.
- ✧ Garden Beautification. Details of the upcoming Saturday work parties for the month of June were listed on the Agenda. Thanks to all who participate – keep up the good work.
- ✧ Trip Trio. There are still spaces on the bus for the trip to the LA Arboretum on Thursday, June 21. The cost is \$30. The bus departs from SDBG at 7:30 am. On Thursday, August 23 at 9 am there will be a reciprocal tour of the San Dieguito River Park. Sign up today. Check the website for more details.
- ✧ Tour Guides. Anne Spindel thanked all those who had stepped in at the last minute to help with a large party of school children who had turned up for a tour last week. The next tour guide meeting is on Thursday, June 14 at 10 am in the Larabee House.
- ✧ Docents' Website. Nick Ruddick announced that the old website will be closed down shortly. Please transfer any information you have there to the new one asap. The fix for the problem with recording hours online has not been completely successful but please continue to post your hours.
- ✧ Fall Plant Sale. The Fall Plant Sale Committee meets the second Wednesday of every month at 10 am in the West Wing conference room. There will be no meeting in July. We will be trying out some new things this year – selling edible plants that we hope to have grown ourselves and having guest speakers/presentations on the Sunday to encourage return shoppers. Please be on the look out for potential Botanic Attic items in garage sales, start saving your books and magazines and if you have fruit consider making jams or jellies.

VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH – Rita Marsa – introduced by Liz Woodward.

PLANT OF THE MONTH – *Eriogonum fasciculatum* (California Buckwheat) Dave Ehrlinger brought in a sample of this plant. White flowers appear in late spring, gradually turning pink in summer, then rust colored in fall. It is just coming into bloom, and grows to be about 4 – 5 feet high and almost as wide. Dave also talked about the *Eriogonum giganteum* (St. Catherine's Lace), which looks great in dried flower arrangements and lasts for years! Both plants are native to California and can be found in California Gardenscapes.

SDBG STAFF REPORTS

- ✧ Julian Duval said how much all the help given at the Chocolate Festival was appreciated. A record number of new memberships were sold – 88. Everyone is encouraged to come for the re-opening of the Native Plants Native People area.

\$50,000 has been spent on upgrading it, mostly on signage. The Admissions Booth remodel is coming along as is the one to the Gift Shop. There are still 7 spots open on the Singapore/Vietnam trip. The Encinitas Rotary Wine Festival was held in the Children's Hamilton Garden. It seemed to go well. If you attended and have any feedback please contact Julian. The Gala will be held in the HCG for the first time this year. A columnist with The Huffington Post created a list of the 10 most spectacular gardens in the world and SDBG was ranked 9th after Versailles!

- ✧ Pat Hammer thanked everyone for going through the fingerprinting process and gave special recognition to Michael Wolfington for collaborating with a local company to get this set up. SDBG's insurance company has required that a system be put in place to better track who is on the premises. Once the system is fully operational staff, volunteers and docents will be able to check in and out. Machines will be located in all the buildings to facilitate this. Following up on an e-blast sent out earlier this month Pat stressed the importance about being careful not to leave things lying around the Gardens that could be dangerous to our visitors – particularly young ones.
- ✧ Diana Goforth stated that the Chocolate Festival was the perfect event and Carol Eblen thanked all who made the day such a great success. Diana noted that there are lots of sign ups today for events and classes coming up in the next couple of months. Many of the new sculptures are in place in the Garden and a reception will be held at the beginning of July. Volunteers are needed to help with the Insect Festival, some of the Family Fun Nights and Garden Expressions of Art which is a really great way to show off our Gardens.
- ✧ Jennifer Turner-Minotti reported that Olive Hill Greenhouses was giving \$10,000 in sponsorship for the Gala. Eight Auction Committee members are needed and the Gala Committee will be meeting this Friday, June 8, at 10 am. Some of the most successful auction items at the Gala have come from Docent classes. Please consider putting together an auction item. Whatever you donate should fall into one of the following categories: gardening, food and wine, entertainment, family and children, travel. If you are interested in volunteering at the Gala please sign up today.
- ✧ Suzanne Brueckner will be on vacation for a couple of weeks and could use some help with the Seeds of Wonder programs at the end of July and beginning of August. If interested please sign-up today.
- ✧ Linda Davis – Sign-up if you are available to help with the Fairy Festival on Saturday, June 23 from 9 – 12.

OTHER BUSINESS

The Master Gardener Plant Sale takes place on Saturday, June 16 from 10 am to 3pm at the Casa del Prado in Balboa Park.

Plant raffle.

Potluck luncheon.

Meeting adjourned at 11:15 am.

Respectfully submitted
Sarah Clayton

