

San Diego Botanic Garden Docent/Volunteer Monthly Meeting

August 1, 2012

Minutes

9:30 a.m. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance.

Plant Raffle Table presented by Liz Rozycki.

Door Prize Drawing won by Joanne Brouk.

Minutes of June 6, 2012 Meeting were approved.

Chair Report and Announcements

- The names of the Docents and Volunteers reaching the 90 and 200 hour milestones were read and detailed on the reverse of the Agenda. Contact Cheryl Mergenthaler if you need to check on the hours you've submitted. An accumulative list is published every six months and if you submit your hours online then you receive an email noting the hours logged which allows you to keep a running total.
- Volunteer Appreciation Dinner is on Friday, August 24, 4 to 8 p.m., RSVP before August 20 to Michael or Pat.
- Botanic Book Buddies meets at noon on August 8 in the Lawn House to discuss "Flora Mirabilis: How Plants Have Shaped World Knowledge, Wealth & Beauty" by Catherine Herbert Howell. At that meeting the next three books to be read will be selected. Bring a brown bag lunch.
- The Nominating Committee met twice over the summer and the slate of proposed Officers and Coordinators is almost complete. The person who spoke to Liz Woodward following the June General meeting about the position of Propagation Coordinator should contact her.
- The next Volunteer Orientation will be held on Thursday, October 25, 9:30 a.m. to noon.
- More Gala Volunteers are needed – see sign-up sheet for vacancies.
- Those going on the trip to South East Asia needing visas for Vietnam and Cambodia should see Cheryl Hedgpeth who is in back of room today.
- Applications for the RSVP (Retired Senior Volunteer Program) are on the sign up table. Please complete one and join today. Anyone over the age of 60 may apply and is encouraged to do so for several reasons, not least because it allows you to credit for volunteer hours twice – here at the Gardens and also with the County. These hours are important when making grant applications and also help when applying for other things that will improve the lives of Seniors living in the County.
- Garden Beautification will meet in the Hamilton Children's Garden on Friday August 8 from 9 am to noon.
- Those who logged 400+ volunteer hours in 2011 were eligible for the drawing of a pair of free tickets to the Gala (Ken Hayward, Robin Hermann, Margaret Jones, Peter Jones, Lan Lin, Barry Martin, Marilyn Nelson, Joyce Sapp, Jane Soher, Kitty Sparrow, Linda Stewart, Elsbeth Yin and Sandy Shapiro). Joyce Sapp was the lucky winner.
- Pat Welsh will be the speaker at our September meeting - 'Planting Fall Bulbs for Spring Bloom'. Pat now limits her speaking engagements so it is an honor to have her presenting to us. Copies of her books will be on sale.
- The Program in October is on Favorite Plants. Please step up and let us know about plants that you love in your garden. Why does that plant thrill and delight you? Send a list of 2 - 5 plants to Liz Woodward before September 21.

Coordinator & Committee Reports

- Congratulations to the four newest docents: Pam Jara, Joy Lappe, Suzanne Carneiro and Joanne Brouk. The fall session of the New Docent Training Classes begins on September 6.
- The Trip Trio have organized a reciprocal tour at the San Dieguito River Park on August 23. Meet in the SDBG parking lot at 8:30 am. We will be hiking the Dust Devil Trail which will take about an hour and a half. There is no place to sit down on the tour. Wear comfortable shoes, bring a hat and water. We will go out for lunch afterward. Car pooling encouraged. Sign up today. Check the Docent website for details.
- The next Tour Guides Meeting will be at 10am on August 9 in the Larabee House. Diana Goforth will be giving a tour of all the new sculptures in the Gardens. August 18 a guide is

needed for the Saturday tour.

- 18 people attended the Volunteer Orientation on July 28. Many thanks to all those who helped. Garden Beautification for this month: August 4 - Australia, August 18 - Sub-tropical Fruit Garden, August 18 – Bamboo and August 25 – Hamilton Children's Garden. Lynne McCall needs help in Seeds of Wonder over the next few months. Please contact Peter Jones or Sally Sandler if interested.
- Nick Ruddick commented on the new sound system for the Ecke Building which is really helpful for those who are hard of hearing. The Docent Website is only as useful as info that goes on it. There is a link from the Docent Website to the RSVP one.
- Volunteers who have fulfilled their minimum hours requirement are eligible to go on the eblast emailing list. Contact Emy Meiorin to be included.
- The next meeting for the Fall Plant Sale committee is on Wednesday, August 8 at 10 am. Plans are coming along nicely. Sign up today for positions – the times on the sign up sheets may change a little. Those interested in driving or calling should contact Elf Mitton. Start saving items for the Botanic Attic. Focusing on edibles, we are asking Docents and Volunteers to help grow cool season veggies to sell: broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, chard, kale, kohlrabi, lettuce, peas, and spinach. Check the Master Gardeners' website for "how to" details.

Volunteers of the Month – Liz Woodward introduced Emy Meiorin, Docent of the Month for July. Mary Manaster, Volunteer of the month for August was introduced by Bobbi Hirschhoff.

Plant of the Month – Dave Ehrlinger brought samples of *Aristolochia gigantea* (Brazilian Dutchman's Pipe, Giant Pelican Flower), an attention getting, landmark plant in the Gardens. This is currently in flower and may be seen in the Herb Garden. The large vine can grow up to 50 feet tall and is pollinated by flies that like the smell of Lemon Pledge! It is propagated from cuttings.

Plant Raffle – drawing.

SDBG Staff Reports

- Pat Hammer stated that everyone who volunteers at the Gardens is invited to the Volunteer Appreciation Dinner to be held on Friday, August 24, starting at 4 pm, in the Hamilton Children's Garden. Please RSVP to Michael or Pat asap. The new Weddings Administrator, Jennifer Bergen, was introduced. This is now a full time position and she will be on site five days a week.
- Diana Goforth reported that the Insect Festival was great and thanked all those who helped. Thanks also to those who helped with the reception for opening of the new sculpture exhibition in the Gardens. Family Fun Nights are being well attended. Please sign up today to help. The Garden Expressions of Art Festival will take place from 9 am – 5 pm on August 11 & 12. The honored guest for this event is Isabelle Greene. Join us on Saturday at 3 pm for her presentation "Beauty is the Truth: Designing with Land" Lesley Randall is offering a series of Botanical Art classes in August and September. Sign up today. Please sign up also to help with the Orchid Fair.
- Tracie Barham announced that Jill Kastrup has been promoted to Membership Manager, replacing Paula Isley. Membership currently stands at 5800 households. Sponsorship for the Gala is coming in over budget at \$94,500 which is very exciting.

Other Business

- Sunday, August 5 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. 'Plastic Ocean' by Captain Charles Moore @ Oceanside Civic Center.
- Please take and distribute bookmarks advertising the San Diego Master Gardeners' Fall Seminar, in El Cajon on October 6.

The meeting adjourned at 10:40 for refreshments and sign-ups followed by a presentation by Julian Duval on the Future of San Diego Botanic Garden.

Respectfully submitted
Sarah Clayton, Secretary