

**San Diego Botanic Garden Docent/Volunteer Meeting
September 4, 2013**

The meeting was called to order at 9:32 and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Liz Rozycki identified the items on the plant raffle table. Linda Wagner won the Early Bird Raffle. A drawing was held for members who had parked in the overflow parking lot (to save space for guests of the Garden) and Carla Gilbert won two guest passes.

The minutes of the previous meeting of August 7, 2013 were approved as presented.

Treasurer's Report

Tandy Pfost reported that the Refreshment Fund was still in the red with a total of minus \$38.00. However, the total Docent Society Fund is currently more than \$1800.00 in the black. She reminded members to contribute ideas for projects the Docent Society might undertake with these funds, and she noted that there was an ideas box on the speaker's table for the duration of the meeting.

Chairman's Report

Kitty Sparrow stated that there was also an ideas box on the speaker's table for members to leave suggestions for Docent/Volunteer of the Month for upcoming months.

It was noted that Roberta Dotson is now stocking a selection of cork related products in the bookstore, which should please the many visitors who have asked for such items. Roberta and the bookstore crew were applauded for the work they have done since the bookstore remodel.

Kitty Sparrow reported for Sarah Clayton that the Botanic Book Buddies will meet on October 9 at 12 noon in the Lawn House. The book for this meeting is, "Cadillac Desert," by Marc Reisner, which concerns the history of water rights in the western United States. Everyone is invited to these meetings and reminded to bring a sack lunch. Email Sarah Clayton with suggestions for future books.

Barbara Farley is looking for help in the Admissions Booth on September 28, 2013. This person must already be trained.

Robin Hermann has asked for help with the preparation of snacks for the monthly meetings. She would like members to suggest more gluten-free recipes for baked goods.

Coordinator & Committee Reports

Trip Trio: Carol Eblen informed members that the size of the monthly tours has been growing and noted that the good reputation of the Garden makes it easy to convince people to share their gardens. She reminded members of the importance of attending events when they have signed up, and she indicated that a recent trip had a luncheon for which 28 people signed up, but only 12 came.

She introduced new trip procedures that will include two separate sign-ups for each trip. The first will be a "save-the-date" sign-up a month in advance of the event. The second will be closer to the date and will be the actual sign-up. It is hoped that this will help solve the no-show problem.

The next trip will be September 19. Meet at 9:15 in the Garden parking lot. The trip will include two separate signups. The first will be for a tour of Edna Harper's topiary garden and tropical garden (and includes 65 steps up a steep slope). The group will then car pool to lunch (maximum of 4-5 cars) at The Gathering restaurant and then to Specialty Produce for a tour (two groups of 10 people each). This tour requires a sign-up as it will accommodate a maximum of 20 people.

The second sign-up will be for Edna Harper's garden only and all are welcome but are still encouraged to carpool. This tour will begin at 10 am. People are asked to please wait until all have arrived to enter the garden.

Evon Mackinnon introduced future tours that will include an October 24 tour of the home of Wanda Malen and Gary Vincent and a November 7 tour of the homes of Norma and Ron McAfee and Sue Richardson. There also will be a future tour of Dannie and Craig McLaughlin's garden, which was featured in *San Diego Home and Garden* magazine in September 2013.

Tour Guides: Anne Spindel announced that the Bird Lady program set for the September meeting will be postponed until the October meeting. There is a draft being prepared for new operating procedures for the Tour Guides, and it will be available on the Docent website soon. The September meeting will be on September 12 at 10 am in the Larabee House.

Garden Beautification: Margaret Jones noted that there will be no garden beautification work on September 7 because of the Gala. September 14 will be Subtropical Fruit with June Anderson; September 21 will cover the Fire Safety Garden with Sally Sandler; September 28 will be the Herb Garden with Faith Meakin and Peggy Bruce and the South America garden with Peter Jones.

Margaret also stated that both the Hamilton Children's Garden and the Topiary team need more help.

Docent Milestones: Susan Carneiro stated that both docents and volunteers can now record their hours online. She also said that Nick Ruddick has uploaded total hours by docents/volunteers to be viewed online. Susan also stated that travel time is to be included in volunteer time when it is reported.

Susan read the list of docent and volunteers who have reached the 90 hour and 200 hour milestones. These people received awards of free guest passes.

Faith Meakin asked for help in cleaning up the volunteer lists. If you are not volunteering or know someone who has retired/resigned, please contact her.

Fall Plant Sale: Stacey Gaudet announced there would be a meeting Wednesday, September 11, at 10 am in the Ecke Building for all Fall Plant Sale volunteers. She introduced the new postcards that advertise this year's event and thanked Grace Swanson for the postcard art. The goal for the Fall Plant Sale this year is \$50,000.

All members of the Botanic Garden may bring a friend free to the Plant Sale. Also admission on Sunday all day and Monday until 12 noon will be \$5. Plants will be half price on Monday.

There will be four banners advertising the Plant Sale at various locations around Encinitas and Leucadia for two weeks before the event. One of the banners was displayed at the meeting.

Drop-off for botanic attic articles and home-grown plants will be the propagation area. People who are planning to donate jellies or jams should let Stacey know now.

Volunteers were encouraged to sign-up at the meeting for volunteer activities during the set-up week, October 14th to 18th and for the weekend of the sale, October 19th and 20th.

Plant Sale T-shirts were sold following the meeting for \$10.00.

Ken Hayward announced that people who wish to contribute to the book sale should bring in books October 1st and thereafter. Drop off is at the West Wing offices. Ken also stated that the Book Man who has supplied us with 10-20 boxes of books for the sale each year will be retiring soon, which will impact the book sale in future years.

Drop-offs of baked goods for the Fall Plant Sale will be managed by Thelma Montag and should be delivered Friday pm (10/18) and Saturday and Sunday am (10/19 and 10/20). These donations are to be left in the lobby of the Ecke Building.

The **Gift Shop** asked permission to have an unused, wheeled white cabinet and the members present agreed.

Children's Halloween Festival: Susanne Brueckner announced that help is needed with the Children's Halloween Festival. Approximately 50 children have registered to attend October 31.

New Monitor: Nick Ruddick updated the status of the new monitor in front of the Gift Shop. The cabinet is constructed of bamboo plywood and houses a 32 -inch monitor, driven by an Apple TV, showing photos of the garden. He thanked Sergio Bautista for his help with installing the connection to the Internet.

Volunteer of the Month: Sharon Metz was honored as the September Volunteer of the Month. Linda Stewart introduced her.

Plant of the Month: Dave Ehrlinger discussed the African Tulip Tree, *Spathodea campanulata*. This meeting was the last for Dave who is retiring as Director of Horticulture. Dave introduced Paul Redeker who will be the new director. Paul comes to SDBG from the Cuyamaca College Water Conservation Garden.

SDBG Staff Reports:

Operations: Pat Hammer thanked Dave Ehrlinger for his years of service to the garden as Director of Horticulture. She also thanked Roberta Dotson and the other gift shop volunteers for the job they have done in planning and executing the displays and merchandise in the remodeled building.

Pat also reminded everyone to stop and be acknowledged at the admissions booth. Please, no rolling stops. Everyone must have their presence acknowledged before they enter the Garden.

Development: Tracie Barham discussed the additional volunteer needs (cuisine set-up and service, ambassadors and eco-stewards) for the upcoming Gala. She discussed the eco-effort made by the Gala, which seeks to be a zero-waste event. She also thanked volunteers who help with the silent auction. All volunteers were asked to wear white shirts and black pants.

Membership: Jill Kastrup announced that there are now more than 6,000 members of the SDBG. She also announced that there will be an increase in membership fees beginning November 1, 2013. There will be a notice to all existing members that they can renew before this date at the current prices.

Education & Events: Sam Beukema reminded the members that there are many upcoming events. The Orchid Fair will be October 5-6; the Fall Plant Sale, October 19-20; the Cactus & Succulent Show and Sale October 26; the Halloween Party with the Big Pumpkin, October 31, and the Festival of Lights in December. There are upcoming classes that include: stress management, creating harvest meals, making succulent wreaths and managing backyard chickens.

Garden of Lights: Mary Roper announced that she will again need team leaders for the children's crafts projects presented nightly during this program. An organization meeting will be held September 20 at 10 am in the Ecke Building for all interested volunteers. Refreshments were served after the business meeting.

The monthly program featured Connie Beck, discussing "The ABC's of Planting on Slopes".

Respectfully submitted, Nan Criqui