

**San Diego Botanic Garden Docent/Volunteer Meeting
October 2, 2013**

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

Joe DeWolf identified the items on the plant raffle table. Anne Spindel won the Early Bird Raffle. Jane Hunt and Grace Anne Swanson each won two guest passes in the special drawing for attendees who parked in the overflow lot.

The minutes of the previous meeting of September 4, 2013 were approved as presented.

Treasurer's Report

Tandy Pfof announced that the refreshment expenses for the month of September were minus \$58.75 and that the refreshment category now shows a loss for the year of \$92.21. Kitty Sparrow repeated her request again this month for suggestions to improve expenditures for refreshments and ask attendees to please donate to the refreshment fund jar next month.

Tandy also reported that the total Docent Society Fund has a balance of \$1,866.53. She requested suggestions be presented as to how to spend this amount for the benefit of the Garden. Stacy Gaudet suggested that some of the monies go to buying more carts for the Fall Plant Sale and other venues that need carts. Stacy stated that Wiedner's Gardens would not be donating carts for use at this year's Fall Plant Sale so the current need is high. It was decided that this suggestion would be taken up at the next meeting of the DEB.

Chairperson's Report

Kitty Sparrow reported Botanic Book Buddies news for Sarah Clayton. The next meeting will be October 9 at 12 noon at the Lawn House. The book selection is *Cadillac Desert* by Marc Reisner, which concerns the history of water rights in the western United States. The following meeting will be held December 11 and the selection is "The Dirty Life," by Kristin Kimball.

Kitty announced that Barbara Farley no longer needs help in admissions on October 5.

The Docent Executive Board (DEB) meeting for October has been changed to October 23rd so that it will not interfere with set-up for the Fall Plant Sale.

Coordinator and Committee Reports

Tour Guides

Anne Spindel stated that the next meeting of the Tour Guides will be October 10 and will expand the subject of today's program, *Bring on the Birds*, by featuring a walking tour of the Garden to identify local species of birds. Check on the website to see where the meeting will be held, either the Ecke or Larabee buildings.

Anne encouraged all tour guides and others to gather copies of all their best tour materials so that they can be included in a planned digital library of tour-guide information. Any material that is still relevant regardless of age will be appreciated. Bring these materials to the October 10 meeting.

Trip Trio

Evon MacKinnon announced that the next tour is of the Fallbrook residence of Gary Vincent and Wanda Malen. This October 24 tour will include cactus and succulent gardens, conifers, a teahouse, and a greenhouse constructed by the residents. The tour will begin at 10 am, and it is not necessary to car pool. People interested in joining the tour can get directions from Evon and go directly to the site. If you wish to car pool, please meet at 9 am at the Gardens. Lunch will follow the tour at a local country club. Please list lunch preference on the sign-up sheet as there are very specific selections.

Carol Eblen presented the trip information for November 7. This trip will include the Norma and Ron McAfee home, which features succulents and a creek bed (it was recently photographed by Debra Lee Baldwin, author of Designing with Succulents) and also the home of Sue Richardson, which features shade gardens, an artist's studio and ironwork and pots for sale. Both residences are in Oceanside. A lunch will probably follow, at a site yet to be determined. No parking problems are expected on these tours.

There will be no garden tours in December.

Garden Beautification

Work parties at the Garden for October are listed online. They will meet 9 am to 12 noon in the designated area. Peter Jones thanked Faith Meakin and Peggy Bruce for their work as garden beautification leaders in the Herb Garden. He especially thanked all who volunteered (30+) at the Saturday, September 28 workday in the Herb Garden. Margaret Jones and the SDBG staff members who participated also received thanks for their special efforts.

Milestones

Suzanne Carneiro congratulated the docents and volunteers who achieved Milestones in September. They are listed on the meeting agenda for October.

Suzanne said that it is not necessary to report hours each month, but reminded all that if this causes someone to bypass a cumulative award (and go on to the next level) this intervening award will not be given. Please follow-up if you don't get a response from Suzanne when you submit hours as this means that she may not have received them. Please check your spam filter and also check whether your own email is correctly entered on the on-line hours reporting form.

Fall Plant Sale

As an introduction to the 2013 Fall Plant Sale (October 19-20), Liz Woodward presented a movie she made featuring scenes from the 2012 Fall Plant Sale. There were many smiles and laughs in the audience as members recognized their own and friends' efforts caught on film during the organization, presentation, and cleanup of this successful event.

Liz reminded members to bring in books for the book sale, gardening items for Botanic Attic, and jams and jellies to sell. She also mentioned that bakery items were needed to sell individually during the 2013 event.

A special request was made for carts of all kinds to be used during the Fall Plant Sale. One of the biggest suppliers of carts in previous years will not be participating this year and the need for carts for customers to transport their purchases will be even greater than usual. Donations (returned after the event) of any type of wheeled vehicle capable of moving plants from the purchase area to the parking lot will be welcomed.

Stacy Gaudet discussed the correct process of receiving donations of plants from large donors during the setup week (October 14-18). These are: put all the donated items in one place, wrap a pink tape around the entire donation, fill out a green slip and be sure to include the name of the donor, and attach the green slip to the pink tape.

The audience was directed to address any questions about the workings of the Fall Plant Sale to Stacy after the meeting.

It was noted that the goal for the upcoming Fall Plant Sale is a profit of \$50,000.

Docent Training

Linda Stewart announced that there are now 11 members of the Docent In Training (DIT) class for fall 2013. She introduced the members of the training class who were present at the meeting.

Linda stated that Sarah Clayton is looking for books about local botanical events and people to add to the list for Book Buddies. She mentioned early histories of SDBG and also works by or about Kate Sessions and her role in the building of Balboa Park as examples.

Garden of Lights – Crafts

Mary Roper announced that there will be a craft preparation day on November 8 from 10 am to 1 pm for the purpose of preparing all the items necessary for the children's craft projects that are a nightly part of the Garden of Lights. You do not have to be a volunteer at the event to attend the meeting and help with cutting, assembling, sorting, etc. of craft items.

Mary also noted that she is taking donations of pinecones and also festive stickers for children's holiday crafts.

There will be a *Build a Fairy Garden* class on Sunday, November 10, from 2 to 4 pm. This is a good project to make and give to a child or make together with a child. Accessories for the garden (such as fairy tables and chairs, and fairies) can be purchased in the SDBG gift shop.

Photography Opportunity

Nick Ruddick announced that there are currently 66 docents who have had their photos taken and listed in the on-line photo directory on the Docent web site. He said that photos would be taken after the business meeting and before the program today. It is hoped that those persons not listed will take the opportunity to have their photos taken and added to this helpful resource.

Volunteer of the Month

The July volunteer of the month, Peggy Bruce, was officially introduced and recognized today by Margaret Jones. The October Volunteer of the Month is Karen O'Neill. Roberta Dotson introduced her. Both members received warm congratulations.

Plant of the Month

Dave Ehrlinger introduced the Plant of the Month, the Tree Jasmine, *Rademachera ignea*. He then introduced Paul Redeker, the new Director of Horticulture, who presented a second plant of the month, the Mexican bush sage, *Salvia leucantha*. Dave, the outgoing Director of Horticulture at the Garden, then received a standing ovation from members for his more than 11 years of dedicated service to SDBG.

Plant Raffle

The monthly plant raffle was held with several members taking home plants, books, or hand-made jewelry.

SDBG Staff Reports

President's Message: Julian Duval encouraged all members to get involved in the Fall Plant Sale 2013 and congratulated members on their work in previous successful sales.

Operations: Pat Hammer introduced the new Marketing and Public Relations Manager, Jodie Wiebusch.

Education and Events: Sam Beukema reminded everyone of the upcoming array of classes to be presented in October at the Garden. These include classes in making succulent wreaths or turtles, managing backyard chickens, new plants for southern California, and watercolor journaling.

Sam also noted that volunteers are still needed for the Orchid Festival on October 5-6. He also encouraged everyone to sign up for activities during the Garden of Lights and noted that sign-up sheets were available at the meeting.

Development: The *Gala in the Garden* held September 7, 2013 has netted \$118,000 for the Garden. Part of this money will be used to buy a new tractor. All persons who worked during the Gala were thanked for their efforts.

Jessica Brandon was introduced as the new Development Special Events Coordinator.

Members were reminded that membership in the Garden will become more expensive beginning in November 2013. Members were encouraged to renew early if they wish to take advantage of the current membership fees.

San Diego Gas & Electric Company has awarded the Garden a grant for \$10,000. The Bamboo Garden at SDBG has received accreditation from the Institute of Tropical Bamboo.

Jimbo's Market has added the Garden to their October through December 2013 wooden nickel charity/environmental program. Shoppers will be able to donate five cents to the garden for each cloth bag they bring from home, rather than using paper or plastic.

Following refreshments, the monthly program featured Bert and Sharon Kersey giving an informative presentation, which included showing their video, *Bring on the Birds*.

Respectfully submitted,
Nan Criqui