

San Diego Botanic Garden Docent/Volunteer Meeting February 5, 2014

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

The minutes of the previous meeting on January 8, 2014 were approved as listed on the Docent website.

Liz Rozycki identified the items on the plant raffle table. Carol Eblen won the early bird raffle and Joan Herskowitz won the raffle for members who parked in the overflow lot.

Treasurer's Report

Tandy Pfost reported that the Docent Fund has a balance of \$1977.65 as of February 1, 2014. The total collected in raffle tickets was \$74.00 in January and the total collected for refreshments was \$99.69 minus \$29.00 in January expenses for a monthly total of \$70.69. After subtraction of negative carryover from 2013, this brings the refreshment fund almost back to even, but still showing a deficit of minus \$9.52.

Chairperson's Report

Kitty Sparrow announced that the long-anticipated refurbishing of the women's public restrooms adjacent to the gift shop will be accomplished in 2014. The format for the Volunteer Appreciation Event also will see changes this year. Selection and service of food are items under consideration.

Susan Starr stated that the 2014 volume of the Docent and Volunteer Information Directory will be available in April. It will include all docents, docents-in-training, and volunteers with more than 40 hours of service credit. Everyone with more than 2000 hours will receive special recognition. Anyone who has changes that they would like to have made to their entry, please email Susan. A sheet for listing changes was also provided at the meeting.

The Docent Executive Board will meet at 10 am Wednesday, February 12, 2014 in the lawn house.

Anyone having unused seed packets who would like to donate them to the Incredible Edibles project was asked to put them on top of the mini refrigerator in the west wing building.

Coordinator and Committee Reports

Book Buddies

Sarah Clayton reminded us that the next meeting of Book Buddies is Wednesday, February 12 in the Lawn House. The book selection is, "The Language of Flowers" by Vanessa Diffenbaugh. The selection for the Wednesday, April 9 meeting will be "*Under a Wild Sky: John James Audubon and the Making of The Birds of America*" by William Souder.

Tour Guides

Diane Goforth announced that the next meeting of the Tour Guides group is Thursday, February 13. Stacy Gaudet told us that the program includes a behind-the-scenes look at the propagation area, the fire safety garden, and a visit to Sam, the resident tortoise. Mary Roper stated that there are many children's tour coming up and that volunteers are needed to lead them. Training materials for children's tours will be made available on the Docent website. Future meetings will include a talk by Sally Sandler about the early history of SDBG and a talk by Julian Duval about his favorite aspects of the Garden.

Monthly Trip

Peggy Overland announced a visit to the San Diego Water Conservation Garden lead by SDBG's Director of Horticulture Paul Redeker on Wednesday, February 19 at 10 am. Car pools will leave the Garden around 9 to 9:10 am. After the tour the group will visit Planter's Paradise, where members will be able to buy garden pottery. After the trip, the group will lunch at the Sunshine and Succulent Café.

The Thursday, April 3 tour will be to the garden of Dannie McLaughlin in Olivenhain.

Garden Beautification

Peter Jones stated that Friday, February 7 there will be a volunteer orientation meeting. All members are invited to attend.

Dianna Burke will take over as the leader of the Lawn Garden beautification group this month. Peter Jones is stepping down as leader of the bamboo garden and will now be leader of the old world desert garden group.

Garden beautification on Saturday, February 15 will center on the Herb Garden in preparation for the Herb Festival on March 15-16. The Children's Garden will also welcome work crews this day.

Milestones

Sue Ruddick is replacing Suzanne Carneiro as recorder of docent hours. Fran Spath will continue as recorder of volunteer hours. Fran thanked both Sue and Nick Ruddick for their help in this time-consuming process. Nick has the final list of hours for 2013 and will be downloading and printing this list soon.

Members receiving Milestones awards were announced by Suzanne and also listed on the back page of the meeting agenda.

Docents in Training

Linda Stewart said that a new series of Docent in Training classes will begin Thursday, February 6. Five people are currently signed up for these sessions. The Thursday class will be held in the Ecke Building at 9:30 am. DITs should bring a snack and will be required to pay for the sessions at this meeting.

Docent/Volunteer of the Month

Pam Jara received the Docent of the Month award for January, which was presented to her by Margaret Jones. The February Docent of the Month was Susan Starr who was introduced by Linda Stewart.

Plant of the Month

Paul Redeker introduced the Plant of the Month, *Banksia blechnifolia* also known as Southern Blechnum Banksia.

SDBG Staff Reports

President: Julian Duval reported that at the annual meeting of the SDBG Foundation on Saturday, January 25, the bylaws of the organization were changed to mandate statutory instead of non-statutory voting in the election of board members. The vote was 75 yes to 10 no. This means that in the future board members will be elected by the current board and not by the membership at large.

Julian raised a major problem that needs a future solution. The Garden leases much of its land: 30 percent from the county and 40 percent from the City of Encinitas. There must be deed restrictions on the land in order to meet the requirements of prospective donors who require stability into the future for the Garden property so that the land cannot be sold from under the Garden's proprietorship.

Development: Tracie Barham reported on a challenge grant to fund an Educational and Events Building at SDBG. The Donald C. and Elizabeth M. Dickenson Foundation has donated one million dollars, which must be matched by three million dollars by the end of 2014. Currently there is \$400,000 in the matching fund.

Nancy Kelly reported on the progress of the SDBG Annual Fund. \$33,000 of a proposed \$49,000 has currently been raised.

The date for the 2014 Gala in the Garden has been set for September 6. The honoree for this year will be Eric Larson the Executive Director of the San Diego Farm Bureau.

Education & Events: Sam Beukema reminded members to be aware of the great diversity of excellent classes offered at SDBG. *Outstanding Trees of San Diego* and *Watercolor Botanica*, are among those coming soon.

Sam also announced signups for the Herb Festival/Bromeliad Bonanza/Tomatomania weekend coming up on March 15-16.

Seeds of Wonder: Susanne Brueckner reported that Lady Bug Day will be Friday, April 5. The Make-a-Wish Easter Egg Hunt will be held Friday April 18 from 11 am to 12:30 pm. Saturday, April 19 will be the Spring Party with Bunny. Volunteers are needed for all of these activities.

There will be a meeting on Saturday, June 21 in preparation for the Fairy Festival. Craft activities team leaders need to attend.

Marketing & Public Relations: Sally Sandler will be working with Jodie Wiebusch on outreach to the community. They will be working specifically with social media like Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram to provide a presence for SDBG. If you have any garden news, articles, photos, etc., please email Jodie at jwiebusch@sdbgarden.org.

There is an outreach team forming and volunteers are needed to attend community events.

Program: Following an intermission for snacks and chat members were treated to a presentation by Nicholas Paoni, a neighbor of SDBG. His presentation was titled *Photo Opportunities in the Garden Using Photos from SDBG*.

Respectfully submitted,
Nan Criqui, secretary