

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

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

The minutes of the previous meeting on February 5, 2014 were approved as listed on the Docent website.

Leslie Randall identified the items on the plant raffle table. One early-bird ticket and one overflow-parking ticket-holder were chosen as winners.

Treasurer's Report

Tandy Pfost reported that the Docent Fund had a balance of \$2,109.20 as of the end of February 2014. The total collected in raffle tickets in February was \$118 and the refreshment fund showed a balance of \$4.03.

Profits from Docent collected funds were used to purchase a radio to be dedicated specifically for Docent use in the Garden. The purchase price was \$384.

Chairperson's Report

Susan Starr reported that the new 2014 Docent and Volunteer Information Directory is nearing completion and final updates and changes are currently being finalized. Changes could be made at the meeting. Changes can also be emailed to Susan at susanstarr1@gmail.com.

Leslie Duval and Dianna Burke asked for donations of jam jars and sugar for use by the group who make jams and jellies for sale at the fall plant sale. Docent class groups also are encouraged to consider making a donation for the auction at the fall *Gala in the Garden*. Please let Dianna know if you are interested in either activity. Members were asked to freeze and save fresh fruit for the jams and jellies.

Rosemary Stafford announced that there was a sign-up sheet for members interested in helping on Free Tuesdays. Next Tuesday (March 12) will coincide with spring break for many local schools and Garden admission is expected to be high.

The Docent Executive Board will meet in the Lawn House on Wednesday, March 19 at 10 am.

Coordinator & Committee Reports

Botanic Book Buddies: Sarah Clayton stated that because April is Audubon month Book Buddies will be reading books by John James Audubon. The recommended book is *Under A Wild Sky* by William Souder. Other books about John James Audubon may be substituted for this book, if readers desire. The meeting will be held April 9 at 12 pm in the Lawn House. Members are encouraged to bring a bag lunch.

Tour Guides: Diana Goforth announced that there is a tour guide meeting March 13 at 10 am in the Larabee House. Stacy Gaudet told members that SDBG Director Julian Duval will speak about the early years of the Garden and its evolution. He will also guide members to his four favorite spots in the Garden and discuss each one.

Mary Roper announced that there is a pond study program involving local kindergarten students on April 24 (and again in May). Mary suggested that this activity is an excellent way for members new to being tour guides to sharpen their skills as the program is limited to the pond area.

Trip Trio: Evon Mackinnon said that the monthly trip April 3 is to the garden of Dannie McLaughlin in Olivenhain. This garden appeared in San Diego Home & Garden Magazine in September. Members can meet at the site at 10 am (please wait for all to arrive) or meet at the Garden at 9:30 am to carpool. The address is 3133 Circa de Tierra. There is ample parking on the street by the home.

Lunch will be at Brett's Barbeque on El Camino Real in Encinitas. Please be sure to RSVP and to let Evon know if you need to cancel.

Carol Eblen announced that on the Friday, May 23 there are two gardens on the tour, one in Carlsbad and one in Vista

Garden Beautification: Peter Jones announced the following workdays for garden beautification in March:

March 8: Subtropical fruit – June Anderson

March 15: Herb festival – no work parties

March 22: California natives/California gardenscapes – Sharon Clay-Rose and Shari Harrold

March 29: Bamboo – Barry Martin and Rick Traficant

IT: Nick Ruddick let members know that the website for recording docent and volunteer hours does not need a password.

Milestones: Sue Ruddick will be taking over the job of recording docent hours and Fran Spath will handle volunteer hours. Members are reminded that hours for the current month are due on the 26th of that month. Members were encouraged to record their hours electronically on the website. Lifetime hours and totals for 2013 are now in the website.

Volunteer of the Month: The March awardee is Heather Spadone. Heather handles all displays and all buying for the gift shop. She was introduced by Roberta Dotson.

Plant of the Month: *Clivia miniata* (the yellow cultivar) was introduced by Paul Redeker as the plant of the month for March.

Plant Raffle: Kitty Sparrow announced the winners of the plant raffle.

SDBG Staff Reports:

Operations: Pat Hammer reported that swipe cards for docents and volunteers are now available. All volunteer personnel are required to carry a card and swipe in and out whenever they enter or leave the garden from this time forward. Swipe technology is located in the Ecke, Larabee, west wing, gift shop, and welcome center buildings. Cards can be picked up in the west wing building.

Pat stressed that these cards are for personal and Garden safety and will not replace the individual recording of docent or volunteer hours.

Point of sale technology, which will replace the old style cash register in the gift shop, will be installed on March 17 and go into effect on March 18. The gift shop will be closed on March 17 for the upgrade.

The gift shop needs more staffing. Anyone who would like to work there should contact Roberta Dotson.

Cheryl Mergenthaler will be training the new Admissions staff.

Education & Events: Sam Beukema reported that the PAW walk this year attracted 655 people and their pets. This is up from 350 last year. Sam thanked all the members who worked during the event for making it a success.

The Herb Festival/Spring Plant Sale/Tomatomania/Bromeliad Bonanza, to be held March 15-16, will feature a Kid Zone with pony rides, a petting zoo and crafts. All events except the Kid Zone will be held in the upper parking lot. The Kid Zone will be in the eucalyptus grove. This year's speaker is nature, children, and gardening author Sharon Lovejoy.

ArtFest is set for April 12-13 from 9 am to 5 pm and will feature fine arts, Asian art, and a quick-draw contest. More than 20 artists will be showing and selling their work.

The Spring Party with Bunny to be held April 19 still needs more volunteers.

Sam urged all members to check the activities table or go online to the many upcoming classes being presented at SDBG.

Development: Nancy Kelly announced that the Garden had received a 5000-dollar donation from Gold Level Member and Corporate Partner Heidi Gilchrist.

The recipient of the Paul Ecke Jr Award of Excellence, to be presented at the fall 2014 *Gala in the Garden*, will be Eric Larson, Executive Director of the San Diego Farm Bureau. Mo Ecke will be the Honorary Chairperson of this event.

San Diego Fair Project: Margaret and Peter Jones discussed SDBG's entry in the San Diego County Fair. The theme for the fair this year is *Fab Fair* in honor of the 50th anniversary of the Beatles first tour of the U.S. The theme of the garden show is *Flower Power*. The theme of the SDBG entry is *Ob-La- Di, Ob-La-Da*. The entry will have an "everybody's garden" motif--a garden in reach of all and including children's articles and recyclables.

Margaret and Peter are asking for the following donations for this project: recycled items (can show wear), umbrellas, composter, wooden wheelbarrow, weathered terra-cotta pots, and patio-sized fruit trees. Members are asked to take a photo of the item to be donated and email it to Margaret or Peter.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:23 pm.

Program: Following a break for refreshments, John Frenken, superintendent of the Encinitas Park and Beach offices, discussed the layout and plant pallet of the new 44-acre community park.

Respectfully submitted
Nan Criqui, secretary