

**San Diego Botanic Garden Docent/Volunteer Meeting
April 2, 2014**

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

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

Liz Rozycki identified the items on the plant raffle table. Early bird and overflow-parking door prizes were awarded.

Treasurer's Report

Tandy Pfost announced that the Docent Fund had a balance of \$1832.96 at the beginning of March and a balance of \$1824.42 at the end of March. The March raffle raised \$103.12 for a year to date total of \$295.12 after expenses. March donations to refreshments were \$16.00 and March expenses were \$20.00. After adding carryover from the previous month, the refreshment fund showed a positive total \$0.03.

A radio for docent use and four new larger, longer garden carts have been purchased with profits from the Docent fund.

Chairperson's Report

Liz Rozycki, working with Sarah Clayton, has compiled a list of garden tools needed for Docent work in the garden. Included are a hose reel, six pruners, two hose hangers, hose nozzles and hoses. Kitty Sparrow asked for a vote of the Docent body in favor of purchasing these items with Docent funds. The vote was unanimous for purchase.

A nominating committee composed of Sally Sander, Sarah Clayton, and Sue Papreck was announced by Kitty to select a slate of candidates for all Docent offices for 2015. Voting on these positions will occur in the fall of 2014.

The next meeting of the Docent Executive Board (DEB) is set for April 16, 2014 at 10 am in the Lawn House.

Docent and Volunteer Information Directory: The 2014 directory was available at the meeting for all members. Susan Starr asked for any changes or corrections to be emailed to her.

Susan also reminded members that all docents and volunteers are encouraged to join the email information list. This service provides members with updates and late breaking news about SDBG between meetings.

Operating Regulations of the San Diego Botanic Garden Docent Society: This is the official name of the bylaws document under which the Docent society operates, and it has undergone a major update. Kitty Sparrow announced that members could read the revised document on the Docent website. A copy was also posted at the meeting, and a copy will be available on the Docent bulletin board. The new document will be presented at the May 2014 general meeting for approval by the Docent body.

The Docent League of San Diego will visit SDBG on Monday, April 7. SDBG docents are welcome to join this event. Interested people should contact Carol Ann Lewin. The signup is limited to 50 people and the fee for lunch is \$10.00

Coordinator & Committee Reports

Botanic Book Buddies: Sarah Clayton announced that this group will meet Wednesday, April 9 at 12 noon in the Lawn House. This month's book is *Under A Wild Sky: John James Audubon and the Making of The Birds of America*. Members are encouraged to bring a bag lunch.

Tour Guides: Stacy Fattaleh, Diana Goforth and Mary Roper discussed the next tour guides meeting to be held Thursday, April 10. Each part of the garden will be visited and there will be time for members to ask questions at each stop. Anyone interested in becoming a tour guide should attend these monthly meetings.

Saturday April 5 is **Ladybug Day**. This year participants will work with research teams from Cornell University looking specifically for the 9-spot ladybug in different areas of the garden. There will be craft activities for children, and also children can create flower bouquets to take home.

Monthly Trip: Evon MacKinnon and Carol Eblen announced tomorrow's trip (April 3) to the garden of Dannie McLaughlin in Olivenhain. This will be followed by lunch at Brett's Barbeque in Encinitas. A large group is scheduled to attend so please contact Evon or Carol if you have signed up for lunch and are not planning to come. Car pools will meet at the Garden at 9:30, or members can meet at the McLaughlin home at 10 am. Please wait at the bottom of the driveway for all to arrive.

The May trip will include two gardens. The first is a mystery garden in Encinitas which features saved and recycled items. The second is the garden of Susan Kartzke in Vista. Members may share their own bag lunches at the Kartzke garden.

Garden Beautification: Barry Martin announced changes in the monthly schedule for garden beautification. Saturday, April 5 has been changed to Subtropical Fruit with June Andersen; Saturday, April 12 will now be Bamboo with Barry Martin and Rick Traficant. The April 19 and 26 meetings will remain the same. The 19th will be held at HCG and the 26th at California Natives/California Gardenscape.

Docents in Training: Linda Stewart announced a change in recording hours for DITs. The hours spent in the Docent classes (3.5 hours in each class) will now be eligible to count toward the 80 hours required annually for Docent membership.

Milestones: Sue Ruddick and Fran Spath announced the new recipients of the 90-hour Milestone award. Members who serve 90 hours or more in a year receive four guest passes. The names of these individuals are printed on the back of the agenda for the monthly meeting. Seven people received this honor at the April meeting.

Welcome Center: Cheryl Mergenthaler reported that help is needed in the Welcome Center. Weekend slots are the primary need. There are two shifts on Saturday and Sunday, and they need to be staffed with two people at all times. Interested members should contact Cheryl. The Welcome Center includes three staff members and needs an additional 15-20 volunteers.

The new swipe cards should be used within the garden. Please do not hold up the admission line at the Welcome Center to swipe in. Five spots within the garden are available for this purpose.

On Wednesdays, docents may use the far lane for entrance, but are asked to slow down and wait to be acknowledged by the person in the Welcome Center. Also please park in overflow parking for the monthly meeting.

Docents are advised that anyone working in the Welcome Center or the Gift Shop on weekends earns double hours.

Volunteer of the Month: Bette Childs was the Volunteer of the Month for April. She was introduced by Dr. Wendy Graham.

Plant of the Month: Director of Horticulture Paul Redeker introduced the Plant of the Month, the Tree Fuchsia, *Schotia brachypetala*.

SDBG Staff Reports

President: Julian Duval encouraged Docents to volunteer in the Welcome Center.

He also spoke about an upcoming trip to Cuba in November 2014, which is sponsored by SDBG. He stated that nine people had already signed up and that the limit would be twelve. Therefore, anyone interested should look into this opportunity now.

Julian told members that an arrangement with the Leichtag Foundation has been reached, which will allow SDBG to use greenhouses on Ecke property that is adjacent to the Garden. This will greatly increase the Garden's ability to grow greenhouse-dependent plants.

Education & Events: Sam Beukema reported that the March 15-16, 2014 Herb Festival/Spring Plant Sale/Tomatomania/Bromeliad Bonanza was a very successful event with good attendance by the public. Especially popular was the new Kids' Zone.

Sam reminded members that ArtFest will be held April 12-13 and will include a fine arts show, art demonstrations, a quick-draw contest, and an Asian art show.

Carol Eblen reminded everyone that the Chocolate Festival will be held May 10 and will include food, children's activities, music, gift vendors and lots and lots of chocolate.

Development: Jessica Brandon introduced the 11th Annual Encinitas Rotary Wine Festival to be held at SDBG on Saturday, June 7 in the Hamilton Children's Garden. Food, music, and a silent auction and raffle highlight the event. A percentage of the money collected goes back to the Garden. If you buy tickets, remember to designate SDBG as a recipient.

Marketing: Jodie Wiebusch stated she is still looking for members who are interested in being outreach volunteers.

She reminded members that during May 16-18 SDBG will celebrate Endangered Species Days. There will be birding tours lead by the San Diego Audubon Society and free admission to Audubon Society and the Living Coast Discovery Center members, who also will be conducting various events during the weekend.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:37 am.

Program: The monthly program was a talk by Leichtag Foundation sponsored SDBG intern Avi Asnkow, who discussed the Food Justice program and other programs of the Leichtag Foundation.

Respectfully submitted,
Nan Criqui, Secretary