

## **San Diego Botanic Garden Docent/Volunteer Meeting May 7, 2014**

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

The minutes of the previous meeting on April 2, 2014 were approved as listed on the Docent website.

Liz Rozecki identified the items on the plant raffle table. One early-bird ticket holder and one overflow-parking ticket holder were selected in the door prize drawings.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Tandy Pfost reported that the Docent Fund had a balance of \$1,832.96 at the beginning of 2014. Raffle tickets profits in April totaled \$88.00 for a yearly total of \$383.12. Refreshment donations in April totaled \$87.89 and expenses were \$40.00 for a total of \$47.89 plus 2013 carryover for a total of 48.92. The balance in the Docent Fund at the end of April was \$1,492.34.

Tandy reported that \$852.87 had been spent on Docent funded projects for the Garden so far in 2014, including purchase of four garden carts and a communications radio.

### **Chairperson's Report**

Kitty Sparrow reminded members to pick up their 2014 *Docent and Volunteer Information Directory* at this meeting or in the West Wing.

She reported that the annual Volunteer Appreciation Dinner will be held on August 1 in the Ecke building. Only Docents and Volunteers are eligible to attend.

The monthly Docent Executive Board meeting will be held Wednesday, May 21 in the Lawn House at 10 am. Members are asked to present ideas for future Volunteer of the Month nominees to Kitty Sparrow or Jane Hunt before this meeting.

Changes to the *Operating Regulations of San Diego Botanic Garden Docent Society* were presented for a vote of the membership. The changes were accepted by a unanimous vote.

Barbara Farley announced that Welcome Center staff still need help on the weekends in May through July, particularly on Sundays.

### **Coordinator & Committee Reports**

**Botanic Book Buddies:** New Book Buddies chairperson Barbara Farley announced that the next meeting of the group is Wednesday, June 11 at 12 noon. The book for the month is *Wild: From Lost to Found on the Pacific Crest Trail* by Cheryl Strayed. Members are encouraged to bring a bag lunch.

**Tour Guides:** Stacy Fattaleh and Diana Goforth announced a tour guide meeting on Thursday, May 8 at 10 am in the Larabee House. The speaker will address the subject of how to balance your life with rocks. All are invited.

**Trips:** Carol Eblen reminded members that the May 23 tours will be to the gardens of Geri Hone in Encinitas, which features many recycled items, and the garden of Susan Kartzke in Vista. Members are invited to bring bag lunches to enjoy in the Kartzke garden. Carpoolers meet at SDBG at 9:30 am. Those driving themselves can check the Docent website for the addresses. The first tour begins at 10 am. A sign-up sheet was provided at the meeting.

**Chocolate Festival:** Carol Eblen reminded members that the Chocolate Festival is Saturday, May 10. There is still a need for one cart-driver volunteer, two volunteers to work in admissions, and roving ticket sellers.

**Garden Beautification:** Updated monthly information about work parties in the garden is available on the Docent website. May 17 is the New World Garden with Bill Searles. The remainder of the month will be devoted to the SDBG presentation for the San Diego County Fair.

Peter Jones thanked Sally Sandler for the new lamps being installed in the Lawn Garden and the undergrounding of electric lines there.

**SDBG Exhibit at San Diego County Fair:** Margaret Jones announced that the SDBG exhibit won a prize for the Best Display Theme, which carries a \$3,500.00 reward. The SDBG exhibit will be prominently displayed in the presentation area. The working group putting together this effort needs more help in the coming month. Work parties will begin on May 19.

**Milestones:** Sue Ruddick and Fran Spath announced the new 90-hour milestone winners. They are listed on the back page of the agenda for the monthly general meeting. They reminded Docents and Volunteers to sign in when entering and leaving the Garden. The new swipe technology does not replace recording of hours and is for Garden safety only.

**Volunteer of the Month:** The May awardee for this honor is Karen May. She was introduced by Barbara Osthaus.

**Plant of the Month:** Paul Redeker discussed *Brugmansia versicolor*, or angel's trumpet. It can be found in the Lawn Garden.

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

### **SDBG Staff Reports**

**President:** Julian Duval thanked everyone working on the display for the San Diego County Fair. He also thanked Sally Sandler for her help providing for the undergrounding

of lines and purchasing new lamps for the Lawn Garden. Karen May was thanked for her years of work for the Garden.

Julian announced that SDBG is partnering with like-minded groups in the area to form the Encinitas Education Cluster (EC3). The group looks forward to creating an interrelated group of organizations that will work together creating community-wide benefits.

Julian Duval was recognized by SDBG members for his nomination as the Horticulturalist of the Year.

**Operations:** Pat Hammer thanked Rosemary Stafford for her help on Free Tuesdays and noted that more help will be needed throughout the summer months.

Heather Spadone is retiring as buyer for the Gift Shop. Kellie Cassell and Jill Treadwell Svendsen will be joining the Gift Shop in this capacity.

**Education & Events:** Sam Beukema thanked members who participated in ArtFest. He reported that there will be a youth division in the Quick Draw Contest next year.

He announced that Carol Eblen participated in a TV promo for the Chocolate Festival.

**Seeds of Wonder:** Susanne Brueckner reported that the Easter Egg Hunt, the Spring Party with Bunny and Lady Bug Day were all held successfully. The upcoming Fairy Festival to be held on June 21 still needs volunteer help. There will be a work party for the Fairy Festival on May 14 from 9-1. It will meet at the Ecke Building.

**Development:** Nancy Kelly stated that the Garden received 41 gifts totaling \$3,000 during the *Give BIG San Diego* 24-hour, online event hosted by The San Diego Foundation. SDBG was also awarded an additional \$540 from the Foundation.

Mary Roper and Sandy Shapiro will be traveling to Ohio this summer to attend a Children & Youth Symposium.

Sponsorship for the fall *Gala in the Garden* has reached \$18,000.

**Development:** Jessica Brandon stated that she has tickets for the Encinitas Wine Festival.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 am.

**Program:** Sally Sandler presented an illustrated talk about the history of the Ecke family and their neighbors and other local pioneers in the Encinitas coastal area.

Respectfully submitted,  
Nan Criqui, Secretary