

San Diego Botanic Garden Docent/Volunteer Meeting

June 4, 2014

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 am and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Liz Rozecki identified the items on the plant raffle table, including several plants used in the 2014 SDBG entry at the Del Mar Fair. Early bird and overflow parking door prizes were awarded to members whose numbers were selected by raffle.

The minutes of the previous meeting on May 7, 2014 were approved as listed on the Docent website.

Treasurer's Report

Tandy Pfost reported that the Docent Fund had a balance of \$1832.96 at the beginning of 2014. Raffle ticket profits in May totaled \$103.00. Refreshment donations were \$8.00 and expenses were \$30.00 for a May total of minus \$22.00. Year to date totals for refreshments after expenses and including a carryover of \$80.21 from 2013 make a total for the refreshment fund of \$26.92.

The ending balance as of May 2014 was \$1573.34 for the Docent Fund. This included disbursements for a communications radio and four garden carts for the Garden.

Chairperson's Report

Peter and Margaret Jones, chairpersons, and their entire group that created and built the SDBG display for the 2014 San Diego County Fair were presented to the membership and applauded for their efforts. This group has already been recognized with a Best Display Theme award and a \$3,500 prize from the Fair's Garden Show judges for the exhibit and has received special placement in the display area. The fair runs from June 7 through July 6, 2014.

Kitty Sparrow announced that there would be no Docent Executive Board meeting in June because the Docent Society is dark in July.

It was also reported that Robin Hermann still needs help at the monthly meeting with setup and cleanup for the refreshment area. Contact Robin if you are interested

The **Volunteer Appreciation Dinner** will be held August 1 from 4:30 to 7:30 in the Ecke Building. Please RSVP if you plan to come. Because this event includes dinner, it is very important to have a correct attendance number. This event will take place before the August general meeting (there is no July general meeting), so please do not wait to RSVP.

Those interested in local history were reminded of upcoming classes at the Kumeyaay Community College by the Sycuan Cultural Department. Classes in Kumeyaay tools and pottery will be held in June.

Coordinator & Committee Reports

Botanic Book Buddies: Barbara Farley announced that the next meeting of the group will be Wednesday, June 11 at 12 noon in the Lawn House. 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: Mary Roper thanked volunteers who helped with the recent pond study program. Diana Goforth told of a tour led by SDBG docents at the Encinitas Community and Senior Center. Stacy

Fattaleh announced that the June 12 meeting will feature SDBG Education and Events Coordinator, Sam Beukema, who will give a guided tour of the new sculptures in the Garden.

Garden Beautification: Barry Martin encouraged everyone to join in the Garden Beautification efforts. Help is especially needed now because the amount of effort that has gone into the county fair display has shared volunteer efforts with other activities.

Fall Plant Sale: Preliminary meetings are underway and growers are being contacted by the committee. Docents were requested not to contact growers on their own. In order to avoid confusion, the Plant Sale Committee needs to be the only line of contact to growers. Job descriptions will be ready for presentation at the August meeting.

Stacy Fattaleh encouraged members to plant succulents now for the Plant Sale. Three small, diverse succulents per one-gallon pot will make an attractive arrangement by October. The Fall Plant Sale is scheduled for October 18 and 19. There will be sign-up sheets available at the August general meeting.

Gift Shop: Polo shirts were sold at the meeting at a special \$20 discount price to Docents and Volunteers.

Trips: There are no trips scheduled in June or July. In August the trip will be to the Living Coast Discovery Center in Chula Vista to visit the salt marsh wetlands. It will be held on Tuesday, August 12 and persons wanting to carpool should be at the garden at 9 am.

DIT: Linda Stewart presented two new docents, who have just completed training. They are Ed and Pam Beimel, adding another husband-wife couple to our Docent group.

New docent classes will begin Thursday, September 11.

Milestones: Sue Ruddick and Fran Spath introduced members who have completed the 90- and 200-hour milestones. These persons are listed on the back of the meeting agenda for each meeting. All received a round of applause.

Plant of the Month: Paul Redeker introduced the plant of the month, *Parkinsonia* x 'Desert Museum', or palo verde.

Docent/Volunteer of the Month: Mary Cozza introduced Jane Hunt, the June Volunteer of the Month.

SDBG Staff Reports

President: Julian Duval reminded members that on Saturday, June 7, the Encinitas Rotary Wine Festival held at the Garden will host approximately 1,000 people. This fundraiser supports twenty-one charity and non-profit organizations including SDBG.

The San Diego Horticultural Society holds its monthly meeting Monday, June 9. SDBG President Julian Duval will receive recognition as the Society's Horticulturalist of the Year. The meeting is at the Del Mar Fairgrounds at 5:30 pm. Jim Farley, President and CEO of the Leichtag Foundation, will introduce Julian.

Julian related that he had spoken at the Encinitas City Council about the proposed Education and Events Pavilion to be built at SDBG. He said that he spoke to the possibility of deeding the land that this building will sit on to the Garden as a deed-restricted property if the Garden can raise funds to construct the building. Julian said that converting the Garden property to deed-restricted status, that is, property that cannot be used for any other use in the future, and thus creating future stability for SDBG, is critical to attracting financial support for the Garden's future projects.

Operations: Pat Hammer thanked everyone who participated in monitoring the Garden during First Tuesdays.

Pat reminded members that the Volunteer Appreciation Dinner is August 1 and asked people to please RSVP to Victoria Johnson at x201.

She reminded members that if they attend the San Diego Horticultural Society meeting to support Julian as Horticulturalist of the Year, they could also see the SDBG exhibit at the Garden Show that same night.

Pat noted the passing of long-time docent Dave Montag and expressed appreciation for his service and said that condolences had been sent to the family in the name of the Garden.

Education & Events: Sam Beukema thanked all for making the Chocolate Festival, held May 10, a success and introduced Carol Eblen for special commendation for her efforts. Carol reviewed the activities held during the festival.

Sam reminded members that this Thursday and every Thursday through August 28 is Family Fun Night at the Garden. These events will be held in the Hamilton Children's Garden and the Garden will remain open until 8 pm. A sign-up list was available for members interested in volunteering their time for these events.

There were also sign-up lists available for the upcoming Insect Festival, to be held July 13 and 14 from 10 am to 4 pm.

Hamilton Children's Garden: Susanne Brueckner announced that volunteers are still needed for the Fairy Festival on June 21 in the Hamilton Children's Garden. Sign-up sheets were available.

Development: Nancy Kelly announced that SDBG has received support from several sources including: a grant announced by the Rancho Santa Fe Rotary Club for \$1000 in support of Family Fun Nights, a \$2250 grant to support general operating support from the Arthur and Jeanette Pratt Memorial Fund, and a grant of \$2500 from the Enterprise Holding Foundation for general operating support.

Program: The program for this meeting was the semi-annual potluck luncheon.

Respectfully submitted,
Nan Criqui, Secretary

