

## **San Diego Botanic Garden Docent/Volunteer Meeting January 7, 2015**

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

Early bird and overflow raffles were held and winners were rewarded with free passes to the Garden.

The items on the plant table were identified by Chris Garcia. The plant raffle was held and winners selected their choices from the plants displayed on the table.

The minutes of the general meeting of December 3, 2014 were approved as listed on the Docent website.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Tandy Pfost reported that the Docent fund had a balance \$1832.96 at the beginning of 2014 and a balance of \$1,214.44 as the end of December 2014. Raffle tickets for the year netted \$939.00. Projects funded with docent money in 2014 included 2 communications radios (\$767.90), 4 garden carts (\$468.97), garden tools (\$415.78), and garden burlap (\$88.70)

Anyone with suggestions for projects that might be funded by Docent money in 2015 was asked to present their suggestions.

### **Chairperson and Committee Reports**

Jane Hunt asked members to make a quarterly commitment to help Robin Hermann with set up/clean up at the monthly general meetings. A sign-up sheet was made available.

**Botanic Book Buddies:** Barb Farley stated that the book for the next meeting is *Evolution for Everyone* by David Sloan Wilson. Book Buddies meets the second Wednesday of even-numbered months in the Lawn House at 12 noon. A bag lunch is suggested.

Barb also asked members to sign up for work in the Welcome Center. Help is always needed for this Garden task.

**Tour Guides:** Tour Guides meet the second Thursday of every month in the Larabee House at 10 am. The program for January 8 includes viewing the documentary, *What Plants Say*, which provides a novel way of viewing plants. The February 12th meeting will be a talk by Docent Allan Dodds. All are invited whether they are currently active tour leaders or not.

**Terrific Trips:** Peggy Overland stated that the January trip will be Thursday, January 22 to Sunshine Care Assisted Living in Poway. The campus of this facility includes 32 acres of organic gardens, greenhouses and community gardens. Car pools will leave SDBG at 9:15. Individual drivers were warned that there is limited parking on site. The tour will be followed by lunch at a local restaurant.

**Garden Beautification:** Peter Jones announced that focus will be on the Hamilton Children's Garden in January with a Power Wednesday scheduled for January 14. The gates at HCG will be open for this activity. Regular gatherings of the beautification teams are listed below.

Saturday January 3:	Hamilton Children's Garden (Peter Jones)
Saturday January 10:	Subtropical Fruit Garden (June Anderson)
Wednesday, January 14:	Hamilton Children's Garden
Saturday, January 17:	Bamboo Garden (Barry Martin, Rick Traficant)
Saturday, January 24:	California Natives/Gardenscape (Shari Harrold, Kay Worley)
Saturday, January 31:	To be announced

**Volunteer Orientation:** There will be a Volunteer Orientation on Friday, January 16 at 9:30 am in the Ecke Building.

**DIT:** Linda Stewart introduced the graduates of the fall Docent class. Eight new members have joined the Docent body.

A new series of Docent classes begins on January 29. Brochures are available. The classes will meet every other Thursday. A \$50.00 sign-up is required. There are currently five people on the waiting list.

Linda encouraged all new Docents to attend the upcoming Power Wednesday.

**Milestones:** Docent and Volunteer milestone awardees were announced by Sue Ruddick and Fran Spath. Nineteen docents and 12 volunteers were honored for achieving 90, 200, or 400 hour commitments.

Members were reminded to always record hours because this information is used by Garden management for operations and marketing purposes as well as for individual records.

Incoming president Jane Hunt thanked all docents and volunteers for their work for the benefit of the Garden.

**Plant of the Month:** Paul Redeker introduced *Acacia podalyriifolia*, the Pearl Acacia, the January Plant of the Month.

**Volunteer of Month:** Rita Campbell and Sue Smith, fondly known as the "bird ladies" were honored for the hours they have given the Garden leading birding walks and recording information about local bird populations. Members are reminded that there is a birding walk each first Monday of the month at 8 am. The group meets in the parking lot by the Native Plants/Native Peoples trailhead.

## **SDBG Staff Reports**

**President:** Julian Duval thanked Rita Campbell and Sue Smith for "opening a whole new world of birds in the Garden", and encouraged members to stay for the program after the break.

Julian reported that 2014 was a great year for SDBG. More than 240,000 paid admissions were recorded making it the second best year in Garden history. The Garden of Lights in 2014 was the best yet and Julian thanked all who participated.

The SDBG Annual Meeting will be held January 25 from 8:30-10:30 am. The speaker will be Dr. Peter Raven, Missouri Botanical Garden director.

Julian also noted the passing of two beloved members of the SDBG family, Nadine Starr and Ron McAfee.

**Operations:** Pat Hammer thanked everyone for their help in making the Garden of Lights a success. She also stated that over 25,000 hours were recorded by volunteers in the Garden in 2014.

Pat also introduced Stephanie Wilson, a new staff member who will be Operations & Events Assistant and who, among other duties, will manage large tour groups for the Garden.

**Education & Events:** Sam Beukema reported that more than \$189,000 was made during the 2014 Garden of Lights, which was more than 2013 and also more than expected.

He announced that the Third Annual Paw Walk will be held Saturday, February 21.

Lisa Reynolds thanked Mary Roper for her efforts in creating puppet shows held in the children's crafts area during the Garden of Lights. She also reported that a new *Quail Tracks* will be out soon and that SDBG 2015 calendars are still available and on sale.

**Development:** Tracie Barham reported on the campaign for the Dickinson Family Education Conservatory. The time for SDBG to raise funds for a matching grant has been extended through 2015. Currently the Garden has raised \$2,115,000 and needs to raise another 90,000 to meet its goal. She also announced a bequest by Patricia White of \$100,000 to SDBG.

Nancy Kelly announced several projects that are underway, including a \$5,000 grant from the Ellen G. & Edward G. Wong Family Foundation to fund five week-long summer camps for children in 2015. Also a County of San Diego Neighborhood Reinvestment Program (NRP) grant will fund a dedicated refreshment area for the Garden, as well as tables, umbrellas, chairs and signage with a \$20,000 grant. Another \$3,000 grant from the Heller Foundation of San Diego will be used for general operating support.

**Program:** The program for January was a talk and slide show titled, *Birds at San Diego Botanic Garden* given by Rita Campbell and Sue Smith, both birders who are involved in leading walks and managing data about birds within SDBG's footprint. The women were also named co-Volunteers of the Month for January 2015.

Respectfully submitted  
Nan Criqui, Secretary