

## **San Diego Botanic Garden Docent/Volunteer Meeting March 4, 2015**

The meeting was called to order by vice-chairperson Mary Friestedt at 9:35 am and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

The items on the plant table were identified by Liz Rozycki. Ed Beimel selected raffle winners for the Early Bird and Overflow Parking categories who were rewarded with free passes to the Garden.

The minutes of the general meeting of February 4, 2015 were approved as listed on the Docent website.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Tandy Pfost reported that the Docent fund had a balance of \$1,214.44 at the beginning of 2015 and a closing balance of \$1,445.43 at the end of February. The February income from the plant raffle was \$101.00, bringing the yearly total to \$187.00

Tandy stated that no projects were currently being funded and suggestions were being accepted.

### **Chairperson and Committee Reports**

**Book Buddies:** Barb Farley stated that the next book for the group is *Flight Behavior* by Barbara Kingsolver. The meeting will be held on April 8 at 12 noon in the Lawn House. A bag lunch is suggested.

**Tour Guides:** The program for the Thursday, March 12 meeting is Robert Kopfstein who will discuss cycads. The group meets at 10 am in the Larabee House. All members—not just those involved in giving tours—are invited to the monthly meeting. The group is looking for more volunteers and people interested in working with Scout groups.

**Garden Beautification:** Peter Jones invited all members to join in this program. Meetings in March are on the following days:

Saturday, March 7	Bamboo Garden (Barry Martin and Rick Traficant)
Saturday, March 14	Spring Garden Festival - no Garden Beautification today
Saturday, March 21	New World Desert Garden (Bill Searles and Peter Jones)
Saturday, March 28	California Natives/Gardenscapes (Shari Harrold and Kay Worley)

**Docents at Large:** Linda Wagner and Allan Dodds were introduced as the new Docents-at-Large. Any questions or issues members have can be discussed with them, and they will carry the information to the DEB meetings.

**Free Tuesdays:** April 7 is the next Free Tuesday at SDBG. Members were encouraged to sign up to help in the garden on this busy day.

**Terrific Trips:** The next trip is Monday, March 9. Two gardens in Solana Beach will be visited; those of Carla Gilbert and Tina Zucker. There will be lunch following the visits at Tony's

Jacal in Solana Beach featuring an all-inclusive meal for \$14.00. Meet at the Garden by 9:30 am for carpooling. More information is available on the Docent website.

The April trip will visit two different gardens in Escondido on Friday, April 10. A bus trip to Beverly Hills on May 28 to visit the historic Virginia Robinson Gardens is planned. There is a \$40 charge for this trip.

**2015 Directory:** Susan Starr said that the 2015 *SDBG Docent and Volunteer Information Directory* is almost finished and will go to press in one more week. Email her with changes at: susanstarr1@gmail.com.

**Milestones:** Sue Ruddick announced the Docent Milestones.

**Plant of the Month:** Paul Redeker announced the plant of the month, *Rhus lentii* or pink-flowering sumac, also called Lentisco. The monthly plant raffle was held.

The California Gardenscapes area is getting new interpretative signage.

**Volunteer of the Month:** The volunteer of the month was Kathryn Blankinship. She was introduced by Mary Friestedt.

## **Staff Reports**

**President:** Julian Duval announced the official ribbon cutting for new water catchment basins in the Seeds of Wonder area.

Fundraising for the Dickinson Family Education Conservatory is going well. Only \$70,000 more needs to be raised of the \$3,000,000 challenge grant after a recent pledge of \$100,000 by the Ecke Foundation.

The SDBG sponsored trip to Baja California slated for March 25 through April 4, 2015 still needs five more individuals to sign up. If the quota can't be met this week, the trip will be canceled.

**Operations:** Pat Hammer asked members to remember not to park in the '15-minute only' spaces in the parking lot.

Pat announced that a partnership between the Garden and Employment Services Options has been made and this company will begin supplying coffee cart service very soon.

**Education and Events:** Sam Beukema announced that the annual Paw Walk drew a record crowd of dogs and their owners to the Garden.

The Spring Garden Festival still has a few spots that need to be filled by volunteers. Sign-up sheets were provided.

**Marketing and Public Relations:** Lisa Reynolds stated that Art Fest is in need of volunteers. Signup sheets were provided.

Deadline for submissions of photography for the 2016 SDBG calendar is June 30, 2015.

**Seeds of Wonder:** Susanne Brueckner announced that help was needed for spring programs for this area. Bags of craft items to be assembled were available for interested members to finish in order to help these events.

**Noted:** The American Public Garden Association visited SDBG. Volunteers who helped were thanked.

There will be a free tour of the California Gardenscapes area led by Chris Garcia on May 19.

San Diego Horticultural Society's *Gardens Then & Now* garden tour event is April 11.

Encinitas Garden Festival and Tour is April 18. It is celebrating its 10th anniversary. Profits go to programs for Encinitas residents.

The Master Gardener annual spring seminar is March 21 at the San Diego County Operations Facility.

**Program:** Steve Farrar from M2 Ingredients/Mushroom Matrix presented a program about the many aspects of producing and using mushrooms.

Respectfully submitted,

Nan Criqui, Secretary