

San Diego Botanic Garden Docent/Volunteer Meeting February 4, 2015

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

Liz Rozycki introduced the items on the plant table, and early bird and overflow parking raffles were held. This month's table featured perennial plants from the Garden.

The minutes of the general meeting of January 7, 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 January 2015. The January income from the monthly plant raffle was \$86.00. Donations for refreshments in January totaled \$11.28 and expenses were \$42.00 for a total of minus \$30.72. The closing balance in the Docent funds for January 2015 was \$1,269.72.

Tandy asked for suggestions for projects to be funded by Docent money in 2015.

Tandy also thanked Robin Hermann for her service in managing the refreshment program for the monthly general meetings. Members are encouraged to bring home-baked items and/or fruits and vegetables to share during this time.

A collection jar was passed for contributions to the ongoing refreshment fund.

Chairperson and Committee Reports

Susan Starr reported that a new *Docent and Volunteer Information Directory* is in progress for 2015. It is expected to be available by the April general meeting. Susan is taking suggestions for the color of the 2015 booklet.

Susan provided copies of the 2014 directory for members to check their 2014 entry and make changes if needed. New docents were asked to add their addresses to the name and phone number already listed. The book lists all docents, DITS, and all volunteers who have logged more than 40 hours.

New volunteers can contact Susan to be added to the email list for important information updates.

New Dates for Holiday Potluck: Chairperson Jane Hunt announced that the annual holiday pot luck and craft bazaar will be moved to the November general meeting (from the December one) for both 2015 and 2016 because of conflicts with other events. Craft contributors are being notified of the change.

Whale Watching Trip: Dave Ehrlinger announced an SDBG sponsored trip to Baja California scheduled for March 25 through April 4, 2015. The trip will include driving through Baja and visiting biological hotspots, beaches, missions and other cultural sites, experiencing Mexican

cultural life and two days of whale watching. Participants will fly back to the U.S. Prices will be \$2500.00 for double occupancy and a 15-person minimum is needed. Dave shared handouts at the meeting and more information can be had online on the SDBG website.

Amazon Smile: Nancy Kelly presented a new way to support the Garden through the Amazon Smile program. Members can go online to smile.amazon.com to sign up. Members will then do their online shopping in a special section of Amazon (same products) in which 0.5% of all their purchases will go to the charity of their choice.

Botanic Book Buddies: The next meeting of this group is Wednesday, February 11 at 10 am in the Lawn House. The selection is *Evolution for Everybody* by David Sloan Wilson. A bag lunch is suggested.

Tour Guides: The next meeting for tour guides is Thursday, February 8 in the Larabee House at 10 am. The program will be led by Docent Allan Dodds, who will be discussing endangered species growing here at SDBG.

The program for the March meeting will be a talk on cycads by Robert Kopfstein.

On Thursday, February 26 from 3:30 to 4:30 pm the American Public Gardens Association will be meeting at SDBG. Two to three docents are needed to help with the event. Contact Diana Goforth if interested.

Members were reminded that tour guide meetings are not just for active tour guides. All are welcome and the programs are informative. Docent hours can also be earned by attending these meetings.

Terrific Trips: Carol Eblen reported that 35 members attended the January trip to Sunshine Care in Poway. She stated that the trip was excellent and very much enjoyed by members.

The next trip is Monday March 9. Two gardens in Solana Beach will be visited and there will be lunch following the visits at Tony's Jacal in Solana Beach. The lunch will be a special for the group and will feature an all-inclusive meal for \$14.00. Meet at the Garden by 9:30 for carpooling. More information is available on the Docent website. A signup sheet was provided at the meeting.

The April trip will be to two different gardens in Escondido on Friday, April 10.

Evon MacKinnon announced a save-the-date trip event to Robinson Gardens in Beverly Hills. The estate was the home of the family who founded the Robinson Department Store chain. The trip will be May 28 by bus. Interested members need to sign up at the March meeting.

Garden Beautification: Peter Jones announced the schedule for beautification events in February. All are held from 9 am to noon.

Saturday, February 7	Bamboo Garden (Barry Martin, Rick Traficant)
Saturday, February 14	Subtropical Fruit Garden (June Anderson)
Wednesday, February 21	Herb Garden (Faith Meakin)
Saturday, February 28	California Natives/Gardenscapes (Shari Harrold, Kay Worley)

DIT: Linda Stewart introduced Judy Walters, new Docent. Linda announced that the new Docent training has 15 members. Those in the audience were introduced.

Free Tuesday: Rosemary Stafford noted that there was a signup sheet at the meeting for members interested in working at the March Free Tuesday.

Noted: The Horticultural Society of America and the San Diego Floral Association will present *Landscaping with Herbs*, on February 18 at the Anderson's Nursery in Poway at 6:30 pm.

Encinitas Environmental Day will be May 17 from 10 am to 3 pm at the Leichtag (Ecke) Ranch. More information is available on the SDBG website.

Director of Horticulture, Paul Redeker, is featured in a new video on the SDBG website.

The Garden has a new intern, Kara Mayfield, who will be here through February.

Plant of the Month: The plant of the month for February is *Coreopsis gigantea*. Paul Redeker discussed its attributes.

Milestones: Fran Spath announced that the volunteer hour tabulation for 2014 is officially closed. She reminded volunteers that they need to serve 40 hours during 2015 to qualify for inclusion in the 2016 *Docent and Volunteer Information Directory*. Volunteers have only two places to submit hours: the Welcome Center or online.

Sue Ruddick stated that the 2014 Docent hours spreadsheet currently shown on the website is up to date as of January 31st. If anyone has questions about their 2014 hours, please contact her. Sue also announced that two Docents have reached the 2,000 hour category: Mary Cozza and Mei-Mei Lai. They received a round of applause at the meeting.

Basket Guild: The Misti Washington Gourd and Basket Guild will be celebrating its 12th year in 2015. Saturday and Sunday, May 2 and 3, SDBG will host the *Gourd and Basket weekend at San Diego Botanic Garden*. The event needs two volunteers to drive the shuttles, from 7:45 am to 5 pm both days. Interested members can sign up for this activity.

The monthly plant raffle was held and a selection items were won by members.

Staff Reports

Operations: Pat Hammer announced that a new coffee cart will be coming soon. Two finalists are begin reviewed. Emphasis will be on healthy choices in food and good coffee. Additional tables are being added for guests to sit and enjoy the Garden while they snack.

Development: Tracie Barham stated that the Dickinson Family Education Campaign has raised more than two million dollars toward its three million dollar goal.

Education: Sam Beukema said that several sculptures on display in the Garden have been sold. All the sculptures are for sale and part of the profits benefits the Garden.

Sam reminded members that the Spring Garden Festival & Tomatomania will be held Saturday, March 14 and Sunday March 15. Also upcoming is the Art Fest which will be held Saturday and Sunday, April 11 and 12. More information about all these activities can be found on the SDBG website.

Events: Stephanie Wilson stated that a new batch of name badges and scan cards are ready to be picket up by docents and volunteers.

Seeds of Wonder: Susanne Bruckner reported on several upcoming activities for children and families. On Friday, April 3, the Make a Wish foundation will again be hosting an event in the Garden for the 19th year. Food servers and gate greater are needed. On Saturday, April 4 ,the annual *Spring Party with Bunny* will be held in the Seeds of Wonder area. There will be crafts and a petting zoo included.

Ladybug Day will be held on April 18. Volunteers are needed to guide ladybug search teams, and at the arts and crafts and science stations.

More information on all events can be found on the SDBG website.

Commercial Photography: Volunteers are asked to observe and report any questionable commercial photography shoots in the Garden. All professional photographers must have registered with staff and paid appropriate fees. If they have done this, photographic shoots will be carrying documentation.

Garden Calendar: Again in 2015, there will be a photo contest for the SDBG 2016 calendar. Everyone is encouraged to enter their work to be part of the project.

Volunteer of the Month: This month's Volunteer of the Month presentation was one of great emotion. This month two of the Garden's longest and most active docents were honored. The award went to John Starr and to Nadine Starr, who passed away in December, 2014. John was introduced by Dave Ehrlinger and a memorial message was given for Nadine by Thelma Montag. John received a standing ovation and many heartfelt good wishes.

Program: The business meeting and refreshment break were followed by a program presented by Tara Fuad, Educational Director of the San Elijo Lagoon Conservancy.

Respectfully submitted
Nan Criqui, Secretary