

## **San Diego Botanic Garden Volunteer Meeting April 1, 2015**

The meeting was called to order at 9:35 am by chairperson Jane Hunt and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Liz Rozycki identified the items on the plant table. This month's selections were all water-wise plants and are currently 10% off in the SDBG Gift Shop.

Early bird and overflow raffles were held.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Tandy Pfost reported that the Docent Fund had a balance of \$1,214.44 at the beginning of 2015. The ending balance for March 2015 was \$1,508.16. The March total for raffle tickets was \$114.00 and the refreshment budget had a total of -\$7.28 for the year.

Tandy stated that suggestions for how to spend the docent monies for the benefit of SDBG were being solicited.

### **Chairperson and Committee Reports**

**Botanic Book Buddies:** Barbara Farley stated that the next meeting of the group is Wednesday, April 8 at 12 noon in the Lawn House. The book is *Flight Behavior* by Barbara Kingsolver. A bag lunch is suggested.

Barbara also announced that there are still dates that need to be filled in April and May in the **Welcome Center** and asked for volunteers for this activity.

**Free Tuesdays:** Rosemary Stafford asked for volunteers to work on the Garden's Free Tuesdays on April 7 and May 5. A signup sheet was provided.

**Tour Guides:** Stacy Fattaleh Gaudet offered a thank-you to Robert Kopfstein for his lecture on cycads in March. Tour Guides will meet on April 9 at 10 am in the Larabee House for a program about the Overlook Succulent Garden by Marilyn Nelson. Tour Guide meetings are open to all and a good way to learn more about the Garden.

It was mentioned that Ladybug Day, held in conjunction with a study by Cornell University, will be held April 5 from 10 am to 12:30 pm. Volunteer help is still needed.

**Terrific Trips:** The April trip is to Escondido to visit two gardens. The first features drought tolerant succulents and the second is a hillside garden. Bring a bag lunch to enjoy at the second garden. Both gardens are on cul-de-sacs so it is requested that people carpool if possible. Meet at the Garden at 9 am for a 9:15 departure. The tour begins at 10 am.

The May 28 trip is a bus trip to the Virginia Robinson Gardens in Beverly Hills. The gardens comprise six acres of plantings. Lunch will follow at the Cheesecake Factory. This trip has a price of \$40.00 for the tour.

**Propagation:** The Monday group is looking for volunteers. Hours are 9 or 9:30 am to noon. Volunteers are asked to email Deb Batey if they plan to work on a Monday date so she has a head count.

**Beautification:** Peter Jones thanked everyone who helps with the Garden Beautification program. He encouraged more members to volunteer. Regular work parties are in place for Wednesday and Saturday

mornings. Sandy Shapiro stated that volunteers can also work individually after they have some experience working with the groups. He will be sending out email blasts about what spots need help. Information about specific dates and areas can be found on the docent website.

**DIT:** Linda Stewart introduced new docent Shahla Dreyer. There are currently 15 DITs and another 8 DITs waiting to complete their coursework. A new Docent in Training session will begin in September and will meet every other Thursday.

**At Large:** Allan Dodds asked that anyone with concerns about SDBG issues please contact the Docents at Large (Allan Dodds and Linda Wagner). They will convey issues to the Docent Executive Board.

**Docent and Volunteer Information Directory:** Susan Starr delivered the new 2015 Directories at the meeting. The new directory includes all docents, volunteers with more than 40 hours, and DITs. It also includes a calendar of events and other information.

**Milestones:** Sue Ruddick stated that three new docents have reached the 90-hour milestone. These people are listed on the back page of the monthly agenda. Fran Spath requested volunteers to total their hours without separating travel time and work in different garden areas - one number is sufficient.

**Volunteer of the Month:** Faith Meakin introduced the April Volunteer of the Month, Suzanne Carneiro.

**Plant of the Month:** Paul Redeker introduced the Plant of the Month, *Radermachera ignea*, or tree jasmine.

The Plant Raffle was held.

## **Staff Reports**

**President:** Julian Duval gave members an update on the current SDBG trip to Baja California led by Dave Ehrlinger.

Julian stressed the therapeutic value of the Garden. He reminded members that the Garden was open free for a month after 9/11. He asked for support for the Easter Hunt with Bunny, now in its 20th year, to be held in conjunction with the Make-a-Wish Foundation.

Julian also updated the group on the activities of the E3 Cluster and announced meetings to be held April 14 and 16 about traffic calming activities in the SDBG neighborhood on Saxony Road and Quail Gardens Drive. The April 16 meeting will be held in the Ecke Building at the Garden.

**Development:** Tracie Barham announced a gift of \$100,000 from Ann Hunter-Welborn and David Welborn. This gift leaves SDBG with only \$564,000 remaining to the goal of \$3,000,000 for a challenge grant for the Dickinson Family Education Conservancy.

Nancy Kelly stated that SDBG will again be featured at Jimbo's grocery in its bag saving program. Bring your own bags and receive a nickel token for each one. SDBG is one of the three charities patrons can choose to receive their token donation between April 1 and June 30, 2015.

The Encinitas Rotary will again be holding their **Wine and Cheese Festival** at SDBG on Saturday, June 6 from 5 pm to 8 pm. A portion of ticket proceeds will help to support the Garden.

**Operations:** Pat Hammer announced that Operations Manager Michelle Kinney is leaving the Garden for a new job with the Leichtag Foundation. The new Operations Manager will be Allison Nye, currently with the La Jolla Music Society, who will start work the week of April 6, 2015.

Pat thanked everyone for helping make the Spring Plant Sale a success. She also noted that discussions are underway to improve the availability of water for volunteers at future events.

Members were reminded of volunteer opportunities at both **ArtFest** on April 11 and 12 from 9 am to 5 pm and the **Chocolate Festival** on May 9 from 10 am to 4pm. Volunteers are needed for many activities. Flyers for ArtFest are available for members to take and give to local businesses.

**Education:** Sam Beukema reminded members that there are many upcoming enrichment classes including building a living wall/vertical garden, All classes are listed online on the SDBG website.

Sam also made available free T-shirts from the Paw Walk event.

**Noted:**

The last day to submit photos for the 2016 SDBG calendar will be June 30.

Liz Woodward announced that the Encinitas Garden Festival on April 18 will visit 23 gardens. Sandy Shapiro stated that this is the 10th anniversary of this event. Some of the profits benefit SDBG.

Diana Burke and Leslie Duval asked for persons interested in making jam and jelly for the Fall Plant Sale to begin to prepare. Donations of cash or fresh fruit are appreciated by this group.

Robert Kopfstein is looking for interested volunteers to train in the care of bromeliads. The Garden is getting a new donation for its permanent collection.

**Program:** Julian and Leslie Duval and Sally Foster share their experiences from the November 2014 trip to Cuba, "A People to People Experience".

Respectfully submitted,  
Nan Criqui, Secretary