

San Diego Botanic Garden General Meeting June 3, 2015

The meeting was called to order at 10:05 by Chairperson Jane Hunt and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

The minutes of the May 6, 2015 meeting were approved as listed on the Docent website.

Treasurer's Report

Tandy Pfof reported that the Docent Fund had a balance of \$1,214.44 at the beginning of 2015. The ending balance for May 2015 is \$1,688.81. Raffle tickets netted a year-to-date balance of \$479.00 in May and the year-to-date expenses for refreshments are -\$4.63.

Dates to Note

There is no general meeting in July and no DEB meeting in June.
The next general meeting will be August 5.

Free Tuesdays will occur on July 7 and August 4. Volunteer help is always needed and appreciated.

Thursday Family Fun Nights continue through the summer to August 27.

The annual **Fairy Festival** is on June 20. Volunteers are still needed in crafts, admissions and ticket sales. Also there is a work party on June 12 at 10 am and another on June 19 at 11 am in the Ecke Building.

The **Insect Festival** is upcoming on July 25-26.

Fall Plant Sale meetings will be held on June 10 and July 8. Anyone interested in helping plan this event is invited.

The **Encinitas Rotary Wine and Food Festival** will take place June 6 from 4-8:30 pm.

The annual **Volunteer Appreciation Dinner** is set for August 14 from 4-7 pm.

Chairperson and Committee Reports

Book Buddies: The Botanic Book Buddies will meet in the Larabee House (not the Lawn House) on June 10 at noon. The book selection is *The Drunken Botanist* by Amy Stewart.

Welcome Center: Cheryl Mergenthaler is taking charge of Welcome Center signups. The Welcome Center calendar is now available online on the Docent website. Cheryl can be emailed directly at cmrgenthather@sdbgarden.org to schedule time. The Welcome Center always needs workers. Volunteers should email Cheryl to schedule an orientation, which must be completed before signup.

Tour Guides: The next meeting of the Tour Guides will be June 11 at 10 am in the Larabee House. Jack Russell will speak on "*Help Save the Bees*". The August program will feature the new SDBG sculptures. There will be no July meeting.

Marilyn Nelson was thanked for her guided walk in the Overlook succulent garden. Also Diana Goforth received thanks for her guided walk featuring SDBG's drought tolerant trees. Anyone with suggestions for upcoming program topics should contact Stacy Fattaleh Gaudet

Mary Roper announced a Pond Study program on Tuesday, June 16. Signup sheets were available for volunteer sign-ups. Morning and afternoon spaces are available.

Garden Beautification: The following dates are from 9 am to 12 noon.

Saturday, June 6	Bamboo Garden (Barry Martin and Rick Traficant)
Saturday, June 13	Subtropical Fruit Garden (June Anderson)
Saturday, June 20	Fairy Festival - no gardening
Saturday; June 27	Gardening with Peter Jones (location TBA)

Peter Jones announced that there are now 16 new volunteers in Garden Beautification. The next orientation for this group is Friday, July 31. Peter reminded members to come any Wednesday or Saturday morning at 9 am to volunteer.

DIT: Linda Stewart introduced the latest group of new Docents. These included: Kathy Duval, Gail Earnest, Linda Case, Dawne Dickinson, Harriet Halpern, Elaine Lawless, Deborah Brenner, and Lucille Brown.

Linda stated that volunteer badges can be found on the counter in the West Wing. New Docent classes will begin September 10 and run every-other-week for 10 weeks. Linda also thanked all Docents who participate in DIT training classes.

Milestones: Twelve docents and four volunteers reached their 90 hour milestone this month, and two docents attained 200 hours. Fran Spath congratulated all volunteers who have taken the training and become Docents this year. Members were reminded to record all their hours, as these numbers are used by SDBG in grant writing and other activities

Gala in the Garden: Susan Starr reminded members that the Gala will be on September 12 this year. The theme is Deep Roots: Growth and Gardens. There will be many opportunities to volunteer. Sign-ups are also available this year online.

Volunteer of the Month: Alice Pratt, the Volunteer of the Month was introduced by Peter Jones.

Staff Reports

President: Julian Duval reminded members that the **Encinitas Rotary Wine & Food Festival**, to be held Saturday June 6 in the Garden, supports 20 different non-profit organizations, including SDBG. All the money made is donated to these causes. He also reminded everyone of the **Gala in the Garden** on September 12, which is the Garden's major fundraiser.

Julian also spoke of how proposed water restrictions might affect the Garden. He stated that he felt the San Dieguito Water District was sensitive to SDBG's specific situation. The garden has dozens of water stations and not enough water pressure to run them simultaneously twice a week as mandated, so SDBG will be allowed to rotate on its current schedule. Garden ponds, which are also important animal habitat, will not be drained. Also SDBG already uses recycled water in many areas and is an example of good water use practices overall.

Julian explained that SDBG did not have a presence at the San Diego County Fair this year because there were no volunteers available to take on this enormous job.

Operations: Pat Hammer stated that there were cards to sign for Barbara Farley, who recently underwent surgery and is recovering.

The new Food Cart was inspected recently and it is expected to open within the next week. Initial service will be limited, but it will eventually carry many lunch options and snacks.

The new shuttle, which can hold up to 14 people, will be in action soon. It will run two days per week and will follow a defined route taking into account the limited turning circle and allowance for adequate height clearance.

Development: Tracie Barham announced a \$3,400 grant from the Rancho Santa Fe Garden Club to help underwrite the 2015 Insect Festival. She also stated that the City of Encinitas and the Mizel Foundation have approved a 2015-16 grant allocation \$3,500 for partial support Thursday Family Fun Night. This event also always needs volunteers on the nights of the event.

There is still one more month (June) to visit Jimbo's grocery stores and participate in Jimbo's Wooden Nickel Program. For each reusable bag you use, you will receive a wooden nickel, which can be deposited in one of four donation boxes. Please choose the box for SDBG.

SDBG gardener, Chris Garcia, was thanked for leading a tour for a Members Appreciation Activity at the Garden.

The Gala in the Garden now has a total of \$57,000 toward a sponsorship goal of \$101,500.

Education and Events: Sam Beukema told members that the Chocolate Festival was a great success and revenue booster, and tallied the highest one-day attendance in garden history. This annual event always occurs the Saturday before Mother's Day.

The final phase of installation of the new sculptures is progressing well and the **Sculpture Reception** will be held on June 14 from 11-12 noon.

Volunteer sign-ups were requested, to assist at the upcoming Insect Festival on July 25-26.

Sam also mentioned that there are many interesting classes available in the near future, including Mosaic Garden Jewels, Building a Succulent Wall, and a Watercolor Botanical Pour Workshop

Hamilton Children's Garden and Seeds of Wonder

Susanne Brueckner announced a new staff member who will help with children's art programs. Her name is Susan Hughes and she is a practicing fine artist.

There is a new chicken coop in the Eucalyptus Grove, near Seeds of Wonder.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30.

Program: The annual spring potluck lunch was held following the business meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Nan Criqui, Secretary