

San Diego Botanic Garden Docent/Volunteer Meeting Minutes

August 5, 2015

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Jane Hunt at 9:30 am followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

The minutes of the June 3, 2015 meeting were approved as listed on the Docent website.

Treasurer's Report: Tandy Pfof reported that since there was no meeting in July, the Docent Fund had the same balances as reported in June.

Chairperson and Committee Reports

Jane Hunt showed off the new aprons. There are two styles and they will be embroidered with the SDBG logo in white. She will order 12 of each and they will be loaned out for use in the Garden.

Leslie Duval reported on an upcoming trip to Ensenada departing November 5th, 2015. Twelve people have signed up and there is room for 24. The price is \$1,170.

Leslie needs someone new to manage the jams and jellies table at the Fall Plant sale this year. She showed a poster of the cover of the book about Sam the tortoise. The book will be for sale at the plant sale.

Gala in the Garden: Kathy Hoffman filled in for Susan Starr. They are still looking for volunteers for the Gala. Even though many volunteers have signed up, there are a few vacancies left. The sign up sheets are also available on the website.

Committee reports

Mary Friestedt reminded the group about Botanic Book Buddies which will meet in the Larrabee House at noon on August 12, 2015. The book being reviewed is *Botany of Desire* by Michael Pollan.

Liz Woodward invited volunteers to participate in the Master Gardeners Program which begins Sept. 16th. Stacy thanked Liz for all her help over the years co-chairing the Fall Plant Sale.

Tour Guides - Stacy Fattaleh thanked Diana Goforth for her work with programs. Diana will soon lead a tour of sculpture in the garden.

New Docent, Rhana Kozak, will be leading a new program, Deep Nature Connection.

Garden Beautification - Peter Jones announced that we have 30 new volunteers. He pointed out the new wind chime in the Bamboo Garden crafted by two new volunteers. Peter thanked June Andersen for her work in the Sub-tropical Fruit Garden. He announced that Paul Redeker is helping with the Saturday work parties by having a staff horticulturist there to share their expertise with the volunteers.

DIT - Linda Stewart introduced new Docent, Rhana Kozak. She announced that there are 19 new volunteers signed up for the Docent training. She thanked Lisa Reynolds for placing ads and putting out publicity to bring in the record number of volunteers.

Trip Trio – Evon MacKinnon is looking for the person who bought a DVD when the group was visiting the Virginia Robinson Garden in Beverly Hills recently. They were not able to pay at the time due to system difficulties but need to send in the money now.

This month's tour will be of Katie Pellsek's garden and another one she designed for Janette Freeman. It takes place on Tuesday, August 18th. Participants should meet at SDBG by 9:30am to carpool to Solana Beach. The tour starts at 10am. Lunch will be at California Pizza Kitchen in Solana Beach. A new tour to *Finch Frolic Permaculture Garden*, in Fallbrook, was offered in September, but there is limited space. The price is \$15 and they can accommodate only 15 people. It's a two-hour tour.

Milestones: Sue Ruddick announced the Milestone awards for Docents totaling 26. Fran Spath announced 8 Volunteer Milestone awards. Fran also reminded those volunteers who are taking the DIT class to report their hours under Volunteer Hours.

Paul Redeker introduced the plant of the month, *Thevetia peruviana* - Yellow Oleander.

Volunteers of the Month: Faith Meakin (July). Introduced by Kathy Anderson.
Kathy Hoffman (August). Introduced by Mary Roper.

Staff Reports

Director – Julian Duval welcomed the new volunteers. He announced a new trip to Madagascar a year from now. Ades and Gish Nursery is closing and will not be able to sponsor the Garden at the plant sale this year but they donated a number of plants. Last Wednesday the brand new shuttle burst into flame and was totally consumed. No one was harmed. Since it was so close to the edge of the Garden near Quail Gardens Drive, the Encinitas Fire Department was able to come over the fence and contain it before it spread any farther than the African Garden where it started.

Operations - Pat Hammer welcomed the new people who were at the meeting. She reminded everyone about the Volunteer Appreciation Dinner on August 14th, 2015. Starting in September, Free Tuesday will be for County residents only. Other guests will be charged admission. Pat asks that everyone use their swipe cards when working at the Garden.

Development – Nancy Kelly announced that the County of San Diego has approved a \$10,000 Community Enhancement Program (CEP) grant in support of 2015's Garden of Lights. In recognition of this support, the County of San Diego will be recognized as The Presenting Sponsor of Garden of Lights. \$500 was received from the Rancho Santa Fe Rotary Club Foundation in support of Thursday Family Fun Nights. The Fox Foundation donated \$3,900 for general operations. The big news is that our Gala Sponsorship goal was \$101,500 and to date \$104,000 has been raised. Nancy thanked all who have signed up to volunteer for the Gala. Jessica Brandon will be leaving the Garden for another position and Cynthia Clark-Porter will be stepping in to co-ordinate event participation. Jessica thanked everyone for their support. Silent Auction donation deadline is August 21, 2015. Please fill out the forms. Cynthia thanked those who have already signed up. An email will go out letting people know when the orientation meeting will be held.

Education and Events: Sam Beukema reported that the Insect Festival had the highest attendance ever. They almost ran out of parking. The Double Takes, Art/Photo show, is up in the Ecke Building. Mary Roper will be doing a puppet show at Family Fun Night on Thursday, August 6th. Sam listed all the classes for November.

Lisa Reynolds thanked Mo Price for leading a Garden tour for the Encinitas Chamber of Commerce. She encouraged the volunteers to visit the new coffee cart and meet the staff.

Stacy Fattaleh encouraged volunteers to sign up and show up to volunteer at the Fall Plant Sale, root drought tolerant plants and come the week of the plant sale. She is looking for items for the Botanic Attic and the silent auction. She offered new postcard flyers, available to hand out in the community.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:05am

Program: Following the break for refreshments, David Garmon, President and Founding Director of Tubb Canyon Desert Conservancy gave a slide show presentation and discussed his organization's approach to dealing with Sahara mustard, "Pursuing the ubiquitous *Brassica tournefortii*". He was accompanied by UC Irvine graduate student, Daniel Winkler.

Respectfully submitted,
Suzanne Carneiro, for Nan Criqui