

San Diego Botanic Garden Docent/Volunteer Meeting September 2, 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 plants on the raffle table.

The minutes of the August 5, 2015 meeting were approved as listed on the Docent website.

Treasurer's Report: There was no report given at this meeting.

Chairperson and Committee Reports

There are once again two radios designated for Docent use. (One radio was lost in the recent fire that destroyed the new passenger cart.) One radio is for general use and one is for the specific use of the tour guides. The tour-guide radio has an orange cover to distinguish it.

Botanic Book Buddies: There was no report given at this meeting.

Tour Guides: The next meeting of this group is Thursday, September 10 at 10 am in the Larabee House. The program will be a talk on the interrelationship between nature and good health. There will be no program in October because of the Fall Plant Sale. In November, Mary Roper will introduce a program on adaptation featuring the differences between forest and desert communities. This program will be provided to visiting second grade classes from Carlsbad schools during the next months.

Garden Beautification: Peter Jones reported that the team that worked in the Mexican Garden last Saturday (August 29) did an excellent job and the area has been greatly improved. This Saturday, September 5, teams will be working in the Bamboo Garden. There will be no beautification on September 12 because of the Gala in the Garden.

Peter asked for volunteers to help Jorge Robles with the Australian Garden.

Drawings: The early-bird and overflow parking raffle drawings were held. These prizes are two guest passes to the Garden

Terrific Trips: Carol Eblen introduced a new type of tour being held Tuesday, September 29. The trip will visit a permaculture business in Fallbrook. It will include a tour and a class that will demonstrate permaculture techniques. There will be a \$15 fee. There are spaces for only 15 people and 4 cars. Everyone must carpool from SBDG. Departure time is 8:30 am. Lunch will be mandatory because of the carpool situation and will be held at the Garden Cafe in Fallbrook. If more than 15 people are interested, members will be chosen by a drawing.

There will be no tours in October. Regular tours will resume in November.

DIT: Linda Stewart introduced new docent Linda Case. Fall Docent classes begin Thursday, September 10. Twenty-two people have signed up; the limit for this session is twenty-five. Sign-ups are still being taken in the West Wing.

Gala: Susan Starr announced a meeting of the Gala committee following the morning meeting and program at 12 noon on the patio. She stated that the response to requests for workers had been excellent.

Fall Plant Sale: Stacy Fattaleh reminded members that October 12 through 16 will be setup week for the Fall Plant Sale. Signup sheets were available at the meeting. She stated that drivers are still needed to pick up plants that week.

Thelma Montag requested baked goods for the Fall Plant Sale. Items should be brought to the lobby on Friday night before the sale or on Saturday or Sunday morning.

The new hospitality group needs volunteers to make sure facilities for volunteers are in place for the Fall Plant Sale.

Ken Hayward asked for donations of books. CDs and books-on-tape are also welcome. The book sale does not take magazines. People can also volunteer to work at the book sale.

Elf Mitton stated that calling packets for those calling donors are available and can be picked up from her.

A volunteer is needed to head the jams and jellies committee. People are also needed to sell these items at the Sale

Milestones: 90- and 200-hour milestones for Docents and Volunteers were announced by Sue Ruddick and Fran Spath. Fran has a new email address: franniem9@gmail.com There is no change to how volunteers submit hours on the website.

Volunteer of the Month: Rick Traficant was introduced as Volunteer of the Month by Barry Martin and Mary Cozza.

Plant of the Month: Paul Redeker introduced the plant of the month, the flaming sword bromeliad, *Vriesea splendens*.

Staff Reports

Gala in the Garden: Cynthia Clark Porter thanked everyone for their help with the Gala. She invited everyone to volunteer next time and also to come to the event. Cynthia received an ovation for her contributions to this event.

President: Julian Duval thanked Nancy Kelly for all her efforts.

He also thanked all who participate in the Garden Beautification groups. There are now more than 100 people involved in these activities.

He spoke about the need to remove a dangerously leaning Torrey Pine from the Garden.

A new trip to Baja California is being organized and 18 people have signed up. There is room for 22. Anyone wanting to know more can pick up a flyer in the West Wing with more information.

The Arbor Vitae Guild was mentioned by Julian as a great way to help SDBG through estate planning that benefits the Garden.

Operations: Pat Hammer welcomed the large crowd present at the meeting. She thanked everyone who volunteered at the recent First Tuesday and stated that the event went well. The Garden is now giving free admission only to county residents on Free Tuesdays. Others will pay the regular prices.

Pat also thanked Docents for using their cards for checking in and out of the Garden.

Barb Farley was given a round of applause as a welcome back from her recent absence (and in appreciation of her ongoing work for many SDBG projects).

Development: Nancy Kelly, who is leaving her position as Deputy Director of Development at the end of September, was given an ovation by members. She spoke about how important the job was to her and how much she would miss SDBG. Nicole Miller Coleman will be taking Nancy's position.

Tracie Barham announced that SDBG has almost reached its \$3,000,000 challenge goal from the Dickinson Foundation. Once the remaining \$184,000 is raised, the Dickinson Foundation will donate \$1,000,000 for the Conservatory. Tracie thanked chairman Jim Farley for his leadership, which resulted in \$200,000 in new gifts over the last two weeks. The campaign will fund a new multi-purpose facility on the SDBG campus.

Education & Events: Sam Beukema thanked all who helped with the jazz festival. He also mentioned the upcoming Orchid Clinic on October 3-4. It will include four speakers discussing the growing of orchids.

HGC & Seeds of Wonder: Susanne Brueckner announced the Fall Festival, which will be held in the morning on October 31. Volunteers are needed for many activities.

Noted:

SDBG will participate in the Carlsbad October Fest to be held at Holiday Park in Carlsbad. Nine volunteers are needed and sign-up sheets were provided.

Lisa Reynolds asked members to take bookmarks to pass out to friends to advertise the Gala in the Garden

Sandy Shapiro announced that Encinitas Community Gardens is readying a plot of land across the street from HCG. Encinitas residents interested in gardening there can contact:
<http://www.encinitascommunitygarden.org/>

Program: Bette Childs introduced Jeff Moore of Solana Succulents who discussed succulents and his new book, *Under the Spell of Succulents*. The SDBG Gift Shop sold copies of this book and Jeff Moore was available to autograph them for interested members.

Respectfully submitted,
Nan Criqui, Secretary