

San Diego Botanic Garden Docent/Volunteer General Meeting October 7, 2015

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

The early bird and overflow parking raffles were held with winners receiving guest passes to SDBG.

Liz Rozycki identified the plants on the raffle table. Today's plants featured drought tolerant and native plants that will be for sale at the Fall Plant Sale. Today's raffle also included two tickets to a performance at the La Jolla Playhouse donated by Peter and Margaret Jones.

The minutes for the September 2, 2015 meeting were approved as listed on the Docent website.

Treasurer's Report: Tandy Pfost reported that the Docent Fund had a balance of \$1214.44 at the beginning of 2015. The ending balance for October 2015 is \$2001.67. Raffle tickets netted a year-to-date post-expense balance of \$714.00 and the year-to-date total in the refreshment fund is \$73.23 after expenses

The Docent Society needs suggestions as to what to do with its profits. Funds should be applied to projects that enhance the garden and enable the Docent program to be effective.

Chairperson and Committee Reports

Fall Plant Sale:

It was announced that SDBG Fall Plant Sale T-shirts would be for sale for \$15 after the meeting.

Stacy Fattaleh, Fall Plant Sale chairperson, stated that Monday October 12 begins the work week for the Fall Plant Sale. All volunteers are needed as much work is to be done. Lunch will not be provided this year, but members are encouraged to bring bag lunches and share a break together.

Facilities Manager Sergio Bautista needs a volunteer to ride with him in the truck on Monday through Wednesday and help to load and unload items. This will require a person with strength.

The process of logging donations was explained: group items together and surround with tape, place card listing donor with the group. Donors need to be recognized, so it is very important that this process is done correctly.

Linda Stewart announced that there is a mandatory cashier orientation to take place following the meeting. This will train volunteers in the correct use of the iPads used in sales.

Items for the Botanic Attic and the Book Sale can be brought in beginning Monday, October 12. Ken Hayward announced that media like CDs, DVDs and VHS tapes are also welcome. This year there will be major additional donations to the Botanic Attic from Cedros Gardens nursery, which recently closed.

Items for the Bake Sale should be left in the lobby on Friday through Sunday. Thelma Montag told members to sign up for bringing these items today.

Persons with large plants can call Barb Farley for home pickup.

Refreshments: Jane Hunt encouraged all members to bring food for the pre-program break on the month of their birthdays. The Refreshment budget is slim and birthday sharing is one way to augment the monthly feast. Please bring either disposable serving dishes or be prepared to take your own dishes home to wash. NO washing service will be provided in the future.

The **Holiday Potluck** will be held at the November general meeting this year (rather than December). Bring food and be prepared to enjoy the Holiday Bazaar of craft items by members.

Botanic Book Buddies: This group will meet Wednesday, October 21 (not the 14th as usual) at 12 noon in the Lawn House. This month's book is *The Genius of Place: A Biography of Frederick Law Olmsted* by Justin Martin. The December book is *Full Measure* by Jefferson T. Parker. Mr. Parker will visit with the group by telephone connection during the meeting and answer questions.

Welcome Center: Cheryl Mergenthaler needs help in the Welcome Center. Please contact her at cmergenthaler@sdbgardens.org or visit the website and look up calendars/welcome center.

Tour Guides: There will be no formal program at the October 8 meeting. Members will share stories related to this activity. There will also be signups for tours available. Mary Roper will be the speaker for the November meeting.

Garden Beautification: The October schedule is:

Saturday, October 3	Bamboo Garden with Rick Traficant and Mary Cozza
Saturday, October 10	Subtropical Fruit with June Andersen
Saturday, October 17	No organized teams today because of Fall Plant Sale
Saturday, October 24	To be determined

Saturday November 7 is the next volunteer orientation. It will be held in the Ecke Building at 9:30 am. Wednesday November 11 will be a power Wednesday for beautification in the HCG.

Terrific Trips: Thursday, November 19 will be a trip to the garden of Chuck and Joan Ades. Following that, there will be a second tour of a Mystery Garden. It is strongly suggested that members carpool from the Garden.

Directory: Susan Starr has new Directory updates available today. Susan asked all DITs to check that their entries were correct. Any changes can be sent to Susan at: susanstarr1@gmail.com

Milestones: Announced by Sue Ruddick and Fran Spath. Fourteen docents and four volunteers achieved the 90 hour mark this month. Six docents and one volunteer logged 200 or more hours. Three Docents achieved 400 hours or more. People not getting an automatic response after logging in hours on the website should check their spam and junk folders for the response. Also check your record of your hours against the spreadsheet online for accuracy.

Volunteer of the Month: Deirdre Swansen was the VOM this month. She was introduced by Linda Stewart.

Noted

November is the Holiday Bazaar and Luncheon. There is no charge for bazaar tables. Artists should be sure to sign up if interested. Members should remember to bring their holiday shopping lists.

Please bring own water bottle if you are volunteering at the Fall Plant Sale.

Leslie Duval discussed the background of SDBG's Sam the Tortoise, who is featured in her new book. The books will be for sale at Docent/Volunteer meetings, the Fall Plant Sale, and other events through the remainder of 2015.

The Fall Festival is October 31. Signups are still needed for various jobs.

Staff Reports

President: Julian Duval spoke about a trip to Huntington Gardens with other staff to choose new plants for the Dickinson Family Education Conservatory. He thanked the Huntington Gardens for their generous donations to this ongoing work.

Julian also discussed a 2.1 million dollar county project which will enable building out of the SDBG master plan in areas such as creating a staff complex, maintenance work, and increased horticultural programs.

He thanked Stacy Fattaleh for her continuing support of the Garden as chairman of the Fall Plant Sale for the last 10 years. This year was the 33rd Fall Plant Sale.

Development: Tracie Barham stated that the Garden is reaching the numbers to complete the Dickinson Family Education Conservatory challenge grant. Less than 90 thousand dollars remain to be raised. She also noted a donor bequest of one million dollars as an endowment gift through an estate plan.

Nicole Miller-Coleman stated that after two months in her new position she wanted to acknowledge the work of all the docents and volunteers who "power this garden."

The **Gala in the Garden** was the best yet and feted over 400 guests, garnered 110,000 dollars in sponsorships, and brought in over 41,000 dollars. All who volunteered were thanked for outstanding work.

Education and Events: Sam Beukema reported on the success of the Orchid Clinic and reminded all of the Orchid Show in March of 2016.

He reminded everyone to sign up for jobs during the Garden of Lights.

Marketing: Lisa Reynolds stated that a new Quail Tracks is available. She encouraged all to take Fall Plant Sale brochures and circulate them to local businesses.

The staff is looking for someone with excellent penmanship to address envelopes for special events. Interested volunteers should apply.

Respectfully submitted,
Nan Criqui, Secretary