

San Diego Botanic Garden Docent/Volunteer Meeting November 4, 2015

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 am by Chairperson Jane Hunt and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

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

The minutes of the October 7, 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.

Chairperson and Committee Reports

Volunteer signups were requested for the upcoming Free Tuesday on December 1, for the Garden of Lights in December, and for construction of a parade float for the Encinitas Holiday Parade.

Fall Plant Sale: Stacey Fattaleh reviewed the Fall Plant Sale and thanked all the Docents and Volunteers who participated from the planning stages and work with participating nurseries through advertising, unloading, setup, pricing, sales, special activities, bake sale, lunches, Botanic Attic, book sale, policing the area, office work and closing. She offered congratulations and thanks to all.

The 2015 Plant Sale brought in more than \$50,000.

Thelma Montag thanked all bake sale volunteers and noted that there is quite a bit of food left, which will be used for refreshments at future Docent/Volunteer meetings.

Ken Hayward thanked all book sale volunteers and stated that the sale made more than \$130.00 profit.

Botanic Book Buddies: December 9 will be the next meeting of this group and will feature the book *Full Measure* by T. Jefferson Parker. Mr. Parker will speak to the group and answer questions by phone. The meeting is at 12 noon in the Lawn House.

Welcome Center: Any members interested in working in the Welcome Center, and who have been trained in the POS system, were asked to contact Cheryl Mergenthaler at cmergenthaler@SDBGarden.org

Tour Guides: The next meeting is November 12 at 10 am in the Larabee House. The speaker will be Mary Roper talking about plant adaptations (unless her jury duties intervene). Alternatively, the meeting will feature a round-table discussion of the experience of being an SDBG tour guide. The January 2016 program will feature a discussion of San Diego native plants.

Mary Roper announced that SDBG has entered into a special program that will involve all second graders in the Carlsbad School District. They will visit the Garden in school groups to participate in studies of desert and rain forest environments. Volunteers are needed for these programs.

Garden of Lights: The craft teams for the GOL will have a craft preparation day on Tuesday, November 24 at 10 am in the Ecke Building. All volunteers are welcome and are encouraged to bring their own scissors. Team leaders for GOL crafts are still needed for several dates. Contact Mary Roper or Sam Beukema if interested.

Garden Beautification: Peter Jones announced the following dates for this activity:

Saturday, November 7	Bamboo Garden with Barry Martin & Rick Traficant
Saturday, November 14	Subtropical Fruit Garden with June Andersen
Saturday, November 21	Gardening with Peter Jones. Location TBA
Saturday, November 28	Thanksgiving weekend. No gardening planned
Wednesday, November 11	Power Wednesday in HGC. All team captains and workers join efforts. Snacks and potluck lunch

Someone is always in the Garden on Wednesday and Saturday mornings. If interested, ask at the Welcome Center for the location of this person/group.

There is an opening for a Garden Beautification leader in the area of Incredible Edibles in HGC.

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. Lunch at Brett's BBQ Restaurant will follow the last tour. This trip is limited to six cars and carpooling is mandatory. Meet in the SDBG parking lot at 9:20 for 9:40 departure. Persons who do not wish to have lunch can be dropped off at the Garden after the tours.

There will be no trip in December. Suggestions for trips for 2016 can be sent via email to Carol Eblen, Evon MacKinnon or Peggy Overland.

Sign-up forms have a new feature, which is a release of liability for SDBG for any accidents that may occur on a trip. SDBG's insurance now demands this level of legal protection.

Programs: The December program will feature Jane Boler, Donna Golich, Pam Elliot, and Jason Kubrock making holiday arrangements. The arrangements will be auctioned to members following the demonstration.

Milestones: Six docents and six volunteers achieved the 90-hour mark this past month. Nine docents and one volunteer achieved the 200-hour mark. Four docents achieved the 400 hour level. Sue Ruddick announced the Docent members and Fran Spath announced the volunteer members.

Docents at Large: Linda Wagner and Allan Dodds were introduced to the meeting. Any suggestions or complaints should be brought to them for presentation to the DEB.

Plant of the Month: Paul Redeker introduced the plant of the month, the Ribbon Bush or *Hypoestes aristata*.

Volunteer of the Month: The volunteer of the month, Barb Farley, was introduced by Elf Mitton.

Staff Reports

Director: Julian Duval congratulated Barb Farley for her years of dedication to SDBG as a Docent. He also congratulated Stacy Fattaleh for her role as Chairperson of the Fall Plant Sale. He also noted the hard work of many Docents and Volunteers that made this year's sale a success. Julian noted that the SDBG plant sale is unique in the special relationship it maintains with the local growers who support the garden with their very generous donations of plants for the fundraiser.

Operations: Pat Hammer announced that Volunteer June Andersen will be honored November 12 as the Volunteer of the Year at the 2015 North County Philanthropic Council Volunteer Awards Luncheon. June has volunteered at the Garden for more than 35 years.

Pat also announced that Operations Manager Allison Nye will soon be leaving SDBG. She and her husband will be moving. Pat thanked her for her important work with the Garden.

Education & Events: Sam Beukema thanked Stacy Fattaleh and Jane Hunt for their major efforts in support of the Fall Plant Sale.

He reminded members to sign up for jobs at the Garden of Lights and announced that there will be trainings on November 10, 17 and 18 for those interested in being servers in the mulled-wine booth. He also announced a traffic safety meeting to hone traffic directing skills and leadership for traffic management at the Garden of Lights. The meeting is at one pm following the luncheon and bazaar today.

HCG & SOW: Susanne Brueckner thanked everyone who helped with the Family Fall Festival.

Marketing: Lisa Reynolds announced that a meeting of people interested in helping create the SDBG float for the Encinitas Holiday Parade will be held following the December general meeting from 12 noon to 3 pm.

Membership: Jill Kastrup noted that volunteers are needed for the annual benefactor dinner and the Garden of Lights preview. Contact Nicole Miller-Coleman if interested.

Members who help staff with membership activities were thanked.

SDBG received 24 new membership applications at the recent Orchid Clinic, 56 membership applications during the Fall Plant Sale and 33 applications during the Family Fall Festival.

The annual fundraising appeal for SDBG will begin soon and reach out to 8,000 people through mail and email solicitations.

Half price holiday memberships to SDBG will go on sale beginning this week and continuing through December 18. They can be purchased by members as gifts for family or friends.

Noted

Robert Kopfstein announced an upcoming trip to Puerto Vallarta in March 7-12, 2016 with Sterling Tours. Gardens visited will feature cycads, orchids, palms, anthuriums and other tropicals. Members should contact Robert for more information.

Program: The annual holiday bazaar and potluck lunch followed the general meeting. A photo collage from the Fall Plant Sale was screened for the enjoyment of the diners.

Respectfully submitted,
Nan Criqui, Secretary