

San Diego Botanic Garden Docent/Volunteer Meeting December 2, 2015

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 am by Chairperson Jane Hunt and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Early bird and overflow parking raffles were held.

The minutes of the previous meeting of November 4, 2015 were approved as listed on the Docent website.

Liz Rozycki, horticulture manager, introduced the plants on the plant raffle table.

It was announced that there is a SDBG feed on Instagram with videos of the Garden. Members were encouraged to visit this site.

Treasurer's Report: Tandy Pfost announced that the Docent Fund had a balance of \$1214.44 at the beginning of 2015. The ending balance for November 2015 was 2001.67. Raffle tickets netted a year-to-date post-expense balance of \$714 and the year-to-date total in the refreshment fund is \$73.23 after expenses.

Sign-ups: Sign-up sheets were available for volunteer activities at the Garden of Lights in December, Free Tuesday in January 2016, and SDBG trips in January 2016.

Chairperson and Committee Reports

Jane Hunt announced that volunteers are needed for hospitality duties at the general meetings for 2016. Two people are needed for each quarter of the year.

Botanic Book Buddies: The next meeting of the Book Buddies is December 9 at the Lawn House. The current book is *Full Measure* by T. Jefferson Parker. Mr. Parker will be visiting the meeting via phone connection and will discuss the book with members and answer general questions about his writing. Sarah Clayton will be sitting in for Barb Farley to chair this meeting.

Elf Mitton gave members an update on the progress of Barb Farley who has recently broken her leg. She indicated that Barb was resting comfortably.

The Welcome Center needs more help during the month of December and during the Garden of Lights. Interested persons who are trained on the point-of-sale system and would like to work should call: CMergenthaler@SDBGarden.org

Tour Guides: There will be an "invitation only" brunch for tour guides at the home of Kitty Sparrow on December 10 at 10 am.

Stacy Fattaleh again thanked all the volunteers who worked at the Fall Plant Sale and added to that list the volunteers who worked on the silent auction and Terry Armstrong who made a quilt for that event.

The next meeting of the Tour Guides will be Thursday, January 14 at 10 am in the Larabee House. The program will feature the native plants of San Diego that are represented at SDBG. There will be no Tour Guide meeting in December.

Mary Roper announced that volunteers are still needed for the children's crafts activities during the Garden of Lights.

Garden Beautification: Margaret Jones announced the following dates for beautification activities in December.

Saturday, December 5	Bamboo Garden with Barry Martin and Richard Traficant
Saturday, December 12	Subtropical Fruit with June Andersen
Saturday, December 19	CA Gardenscapes with Shari Harrold and Kay Worley
Saturday, December 26	No events scheduled

Terrific Trips: Friday, January 8 the group will meet at SDBG for a visit to Julian Duval's "Bonsai Pot" garden and a visit to Sam the tortoise. Then they will travel to Patti Fitchen's garden followed by lunch.

Milestones: Fran Spath announced the milestones for both Volunteers and Docents. Twelve docents and 5 volunteers achieved the 90 hour mark; 7 docents and 2 volunteers bested the 200 hour mark; and one docent achieved more than 400 hours.

The 2015 year closes out at the end of January 2016. Members are requested to report all 2015 hours by this time. Hours are used in grant writing and also for the privilege of being listed in the Docent/Volunteer Information Directory (80 hours are needed).

Docents-at-Large: Linda Wagner and Allan Dodds were introduced and members were encouraged to take any requests or ideas to them so they can be presented at the Docent Executive Board meetings.

Plant of the Month: Paul Redeker introduced *Euphorbia tirucalli*, also known as sticks-on-fire.

Volunteer of the Month: The Volunteer of the Month was Kathy Duval who was introduced by her brother, SDBG President Julian Duval.

Hospitality: Robin Hermann and Lan Lin were thanked for a tremendous job coordinating Hospitality Helpers during the 2015 year.

Coordinators for 2016 include: February/March, Pat Amador and Beverly Marshall; April/May/June, Donna Canal and Karen O'Neill; August/September, Evon MacKinnon and Peggy Overland, and October/November/December, Sue Papreck and Lucille Brown.

Staff Reports

President: Julian Duval encouraged all members to sign up for the Garden of Lights activities. He also mentioned two current projects: a gift presented by Supervisor Dave Roberts for a staff complex to be opened in 2016 and upgrades to the Larabee House in 2017; also the Dickinson Family Education Conservatory project, which will break ground in the first quarter of 2016 and open in 2017.

Julian also thanked all volunteers for their help with garden activities in 2015.

Development: Tracie Barham announced that a recent donation of \$100,000 by silent donors has completed the fundraising for the three million dollar matching grant for the Dickinson Family Education Conservatory project.

Doreen Prager has been hired as the new Development Special Events Coordinator.

Membership: Jill Kastrup announced a benefactor dinner scheduled for Thursday, December 3. She especially thanked Cheryl Mergenthaler for generous help with this event.

Jill also stated that the annual donor request letter has been sent to all members and she reminded members that gifts that go toward the general fund are tax deductible.

Also, half-priced holiday memberships are available to members for gift-giving through the holidays. They also include two guest tickets.

Education & Events: Sam Beukema announced that volunteers are still needed for the Garden of Lights in the areas of snow-hill help, mulled wine, car drivers, and crafts.

Activities of potential interest to members during the holidays were mentioned. These included Friday Nights at Liberty Station, Holiday Nights at Balboa Park, and the Encinitas Holiday Parade.

Program: Bette Childs introduced Jane Boler, Donna Golich, Pam Elliott, and Jason Kubrock who demonstrated the making of spectacular holiday floral arrangements. Following the program, the finished arrangements were auctioned off to members by Julian Duval.

Respectfully submitted,
Nan Criqui, Secretary