

**San Diego Botanic Garden Docent/Volunteer Meeting  
January 6, 2016**

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

New Operations Manager, Kristina Metzger was introduced to the membership.

Liz Rozycki, horticulture manager, introduced the plants on the plant raffle table. All the plants displayed are available in the plant sale shop division of the Gift Shop in a new section called Garden Grown.

Early bird and overflow parking raffles were held.

The minutes of the previous meeting of December 2, 2015 were approved as listed on the Docent website.

No **Treasurer's Report** was given.

Signups for volunteers were available for the following:

Docent Trip	January 8
Free Tuesday	February 2
Garden Traffic/Parking Team	February 13 (meeting)
Paw Walk	February 20

Elf Milton reported that long-time Docent Barb Farley is home-bound with a broken leg and slowly moving toward healing. Cards are suggested.

**Chairperson and Committee Reports**

**Book Buddies:** The next meeting of Book Buddies is February 10 at 10 am in the Lawn House. The group is reading *A Walk in the Woods* by Bill Bryson. All are welcome; a bag lunch is suggested.

**Welcome Center:** The Welcome Center needs help. Interested persons who are trained on the point-of-sale system and would like to work should contact Cheryl Mergenthaler: CMergerthaler@SDBGarden.org

**Tour Guides:** The next meeting of the Tour Guides will be January 14 at 10 am in the Larabee House. The program will feature the native plants of San Diego that are represented at SDBG. The February program will feature a talk on permaculture.

Mary Roper thanked all who helped with children's crafts during the December Garden of Lights.

**Garden Beautification:** Margaret Jones announced the Garden Beautification schedule for February.

Saturday, January 2

Bamboo Garden, with Barry Martin & Rick Traficant

Saturday, January 9  
Saturday, January 16  
Saturday, January 23  
Saturday, January 30

Subtropical Fruit Garden with June Andersen  
Gardening with Peter Jones  
TBA  
Natives with Shari Harrold & Kay Worley

The Incredible Edibles group has a new team leader. Greg Hunter is taking over this group which will meet on Wednesday mornings.

All volunteers who helped take down lights following the GOL were thanked.

**Volunteer Orientation:** There will be a volunteer orientation on January 29 at 9:30 in the Ecke Building.

**Staff Reports** (reported out of usual order because of a timing conflict)

**President:** Julian Duval thanked all volunteers for their work during the December Garden of Lights. He stated that the 2015 festivities were record-breaking.

From February 24 through 27 the Garden will host a meeting of the Directors of Large Gardens, a group which includes the largest gardens in North America. Julian stated that this is a very special honor for SDBG.

Two capital projects will reach major milestones in the next years. The Dickinson Family Education Conservatory will break ground during the first quarter of 2016 and ribbon cutting is expected for the first half of 2017. Also 2.1 million in funds in county support will enable the building of a horticulture and maintenance complex which will enable the Larabee House to be refurbished. Also the Lawn House will be remodeled into an interpretative center for the Garden.

**Operations:** Pat Hammer announced that four Garden employees have been promoted to senior management level. They include: Sergio Bautista, Liz Rozycki, Sam Beukema, and Susanne Brueckner.

Pat also thanked all workers for their help during the Garden of Lights.

Greta Ott was introduced as the new accounting assistant.

**Education & Events:** Sam Beukema announced that a total of \$235,000 was raised during the Garden of Lights. He also stated that over 175,000 lights were used this year and more than 20,000 visitors attended the event.

**Development:** Nicole Miller-Coleman announced that the honoree for the 2016 Gala in the Garden has been chosen and will be local garden writer and editor, Nan Sterman.

The SDBG annual meeting will held January 23 and all members are encouraged to attend. Jim Farley will be the guest speaker and will discuss long-term planning for garden expansion. The meeting will be at 10 am.

Nicole also announced the departure of Membership Associate Stasi Kubrock. A replacement for this position is being sought.

### **Chairperson and Committee Reports** (continued)

**Terrific Trips:** Friday, January 8 the group will meet at SDBG at 9:45 am for a visit to Julian Duval's "Bonsai Pot" garden and a visit with Sam the tortoise. Then they will travel to Patti Fitchen's garden followed by lunch. The trip will go forward "rain or shine".

Evon MacKinnon told members that the Trio Trip has now completed 61 trips to 86 different venues with only 1 duplication. Suggestions were sought for future trips.

A sign-up sheet for the February trip to Patrick Anderson's Garden in Fallbrook was available. The garden features succulents. The date is Monday, February 29, meeting at SDBG at 8:45 am. This garden is not handicapped accessible.

All trips are listed in the Docent website with details and phone numbers for additional information.

**IT:** Nick Ruddick thanked all for timely recording of volunteer hours and asked for patience in overcoming occasional computer system "glitches". A new system is being installed, which will be more reliable, but it will not generate a confirmation email like the present system.

Spreadsheets of cumulative hour totals are generated often, but are not automatically compiled each month.

**Milestones:** Fran Spath and Sue Ruddick introduced the milestone achievements for volunteers and docents, respectively. They both thanked members for their timely reporting. January 31 will be the closing date for accepting 2015 hours so members are encouraged to act quickly. Members were asked to enter hours only once per month.

Forty hours are needed by Volunteers and 80 hours by Docents to be listed in the Docent and Volunteer Information Directory.

**DIT:** Linda Stewart introduced Docents from the latest graduating class. 23 people completed the class and seven have already become Docents. Five were present to be introduced. New docents include: Susan Gjerstet, Greg Hunter, Jen-Jen Lin, Phoenix Love, Mary Mulyhill, Karin Peterson, and Laila Rahman. New classes will begin soon. Persons wanting to join the class need to complete 10 hours of volunteer work before they apply.

Handouts from the December 3, 2015 meeting were available from Mary Friestedt at the meeting.

**Volunteer of the Month:** The Volunteer of the Month, Diana Goforth, was introduced by Carol Ann Lewin.

There was no **Plant of the Month**. The Plant Raffle was held as usual.

**Noted:**

**Trip:** Robert Kopfstein reminded members of the trip to Puerto Vallarta March 7-12. The maximum is 12 persons. A few spaces are left. Robert has more information.

**Traffic:** Sam Beukema will lead a mini-course for people interested in directing traffic within SDBG. The meeting is Wednesday, February 13 in the Larabee House at 11 am. Sign-up sheets were provided.

**Kitchen Tools:** Sue Papreck announced that the SDBG kitchen is in need of kitchenwares. New or lightly used items are acceptable. Items such as flatware, knives, serving trays, and preparation tools are needed.

**Program:** Bette Childs introduced local landscape professional and author of *Life After Lawns*, Bill Schnetz, who spoke on the subject of landscaping using less water.

Respectfully submitted,  
Nan Criqui, Secretary