

San Diego Botanic Garden Docent/Volunteer Meeting February 3, 2016

The meeting was called to order by Docent Chairperson Jane Hunt and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Early bird and overflow parking raffles were held.

Liz Rozycki, SDBG horticultural manager, introduced the plants on the plant raffle table. This month's plants represented native and drought tolerant plants featured at SDBG. Liz also addressed the damage done by the recent high winds to Garden foliage including the downing of several trees.

The minutes of the previous meeting of January 6, 2016 were approved as listed on the Docent website.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Tandy Pfost reported that Docent Funds showed a profit of \$825.00 for the 2015 calendar year. She also stated that the Docent Fund had a balance of \$2039.17 at the beginning of January 2016. The ending balance for January 2016 was \$2072.17. Raffle tickets netted a post-expense balance of \$93.00 in January and the refreshment fund balance was a minus -\$60.00

Sign-up sheets for volunteer activities available at the meeting included: Paw Walk on February 20, Free Tuesday on March 1, Spring Planting Jubilee and Tomato Sale 19-20, Make-a-Wish event on March 25, and Spring Party with Bunny on March 26.

Coordinator and Committee Reports

Botanic Book Buddies: The next meeting of this group is Wednesday, February 10 at 12 noon in the Lawn House. The book selection is *A Walk in the Woods* by Bill Bryson. At the April meeting, the group will discuss *Deep* by James Nestor. Sarah Clayton will be chairing these meetings during the absence of Barb Farley. Elf Mitton gave a report of Barb's ongoing recovery from surgery.

Welcome Center: The Welcome Center can always use help from qualified docents (trained on the POS system). Contact Cheryl Mergenthaler at CMergenthaler@sdbgarden.org if you are interested.

Tour Guides: Stacy Fattaleh announced that the next meeting of this group is Thursday, February 11 at 10 am in the Larabee House. The program will be given by Joie Reavis who will speak on *Permaculture in the Garden*. The March meeting will feature Margaret Jones who will discuss *Topiaries and Much More*. Mary Roper reiterated that meetings are the second Thursday of each month. She also stated that help is needed with scouting programs in the Garden.

Directory: Susan Starr is currently working to compile the 2016 SDBG *Docent and Volunteer Information Directory*. Anyone who wishes to make changes to their information should email

Susan at susanstarr1@gmail.com The directory includes all Docents (who completed 80 hours of service the previous year) and Volunteers who have completed more than 40 hours of service. Susan passed a clipboard for all present to check their name and information.

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

Saturday, February 6	Bamboo Garden with Barry Martin & Rick Traficant
Saturday, February 13	Subtropical Fruit Garden with June Andersen
Saturday, February 20	no gardening because of Paw Walk (contact Peter if you wish to garden on this date)
Saturday, February 27	Larabee Beds of Lawn House Garden with Sally Sandler

Wednesday, February 17 will be a **Power Wednesday**. All team captains and team members will meet in the Fire Safety Garden from 9 am - 12 noon. Bring snacks to share. Anyone with ideas for this garden should contact Paul Redeker at: predeker@sdbgarden.org

Terrific Trips: Evon MacKinnon announced that the next meeting of the trip group is on February 29. Carpooling is encouraged as usual. The group will meet at 8:45 in the SDBG parking lot. The trip will feature Patrick Anderson's garden in Fallbrook, followed by a trip to Waterwise Nursery in Bonsall. This trip is not for people who have trouble walking distances or have serious allergies to dogs. Evon encouraged members to make use of the docent website calendar, as all information compiled by Carol Eblen is listed there.

DITs: Six new docent members were announced. They include: Will Willis, Sally Willis, Lucinda Kemmis-Guymon, Mary Johnson, Chris Schmidt and Mike Henry. Linda Stewart announced that the new DIT program has 5 members.

All members are invited to join DIT training classes. The Botany Basics class in this series will be held Thursday, February 11.

Milestones: Sue Ruddick announced that the posting of cumulative hours for all Docents for 2015 is now online. Also lifetime hours totals and totals for the last ten years are available. Current milestone records are listed on the back of the monthly meeting agenda. There were no volunteer totals this month because Fran Spath was absent. They will be available in March.

Docents at Large: Allan Dodds and Linda Wagner were introduced. Any questions, ideas, complaints, etc. should be brought to these members for presentation to the Docent Executive Board.

Plant of the Month: Paul Redeker introduced the Plant of the Month, *Erica canaliculata* 'Rosea' or Pink Heat.

Volunteer of the Month: Volunteer of the Month Tandy Pfof was introduced by Kathryn Blankinship.

Staff Reports

Operations: Pat Hammer thanked all members who helped in the Garden following the devastation caused by the recent winds. Much needed work was done by these volunteers.

Development: Tracie Barham announced that the Directors of Large Gardens, a branch of the American Professional Garden Association will be holding their annual meeting at SDBG. This is an important honor for a smaller-sized garden like SDBG.

She also announced that SDBG has received \$100,000 from Price Philanthropies for the Dickinson Family Education Conservatory. The Dickinson Foundation has paid off the entire pledge of \$1,000,000.

Membership: A new membership assistant, Chelsea Rubino, was introduced. She will be working with Senior Membership Manager Jill Kastrup.

The membership department needs volunteers to work at the membership table at upcoming events. ArtFest and Spring Planting Jubilee and Tomato Sale were mentioned.

Gala in the Garden: The Gala has been set for September 10, 2016. The coordinator will be Doreen Prager.

Education & Events: Sam Beukema reminded members that the Paw Walk is Saturday, February 20 and more volunteers are needed. March 19-20 will be the Spring Planting Jubilee and Tomato Sale and volunteer sign-up sheets were available for this event. ArtFest this year will be April 9-10.

Sam also mentioned that the San Diego ArtGuild paintings on the walls of the Ecke Building are currently for sale. Also the last opportunity to buy 2015 garden sculpture featured at SDBG is approaching.

HGC/SOW: Susanne Brueckner announced that the Make a Wish Egg Hunt will be held March 25. Spring Party with Bunny will take place in Seeds of Wonder on March 26. Both these events need volunteers.

Marketing: Lisa Reynolds stated that February is Museum Month and reminded members that 40 different museums, including SDBG, participate in this program. People who visit Macy's department store can get passes worth a 20% discount on admissions.

Program: The monthly program, which follows the business meeting, was led by UC Riverside professor Alan McHughen, a molecular geneticist, who spoke on crop improvement, environmental sustainability and government regulations that control the safety of genetically engineered crops.

Respectfully submitted,
Nan Criqui, Secretary

