

San Diego Botanic Garden General Meeting April 6, 2016

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Jane Hunt at 9:29 am and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Raffle table plants were introduced by SDBG curator Lesley Randall. Early bird and overflow parking raffles were held with winners getting free guest passes to the Garden.

Minutes of the previous meeting of March 2, 2016 were approved as listed on the Docent website.

Treasurer's Report

Tandy Pfost reported that Docent Funds had a balance of \$2039.17 at the beginning of 2016. This included a deposit of \$305.00 for the profits from the December 2015 general meeting auction of floral displays. The ending balance for March was \$2,763.56. Raffle tickets netted a post-expense balance of \$413.00 in March and the refreshment fund balance was \$6.39.

Signup sheets for volunteer activities available at the meeting included: Free Tuesday on May 3, ArtFest on April 9-10, and the Chocolate Festival scheduled for May 7.

Directory: Susan Starr introduced the new 2016 *Docent and Volunteer Information Directory*. She was given an ovation for the many hours of work she puts into this booklet. The Directory includes all Docents (with 80 hours of service), DITs and volunteers (with 40 hours of service) during the previous year.

Botanic Book Buddies: Barbara Farley announced that the April meeting of this group will be at 11 am (not the usual 12 noon) in the Lawn House. The book is *Deep* by James Nestor. A short video in free diving will be shown at 11 am with a discussion led by Ann Hoepfner.

Welcome Center: There are openings in April. Members trained in the POS system were asked to volunteer. Members who would like to work in the Welcome Center, but are not trained in POS, should contact Cheryl Mergenthaler at CMergenthaler@SDBGarden.org. April 12, 9-1 and April 16, 9-1 are dates on which help is especially needed.

Tour Guides: The next meeting of this group is April 14 at 10 am in the Larabee House. The program will feature a talk on orchids by June Andersen. The May meeting will feature a lecture on butterflies.

Mary Roper reported on the successful completion of the *Science in a Satchel* program, which was presented to all second graders in the Carlsbad school district.

Garden Beautification: Peter Jones announced that SDBG will be participating in the San Diego County Fair garden display competition. Robert Kopfstein has volunteered to chair this project. The theme of this year's competition is *Wonderland* (as in Alice). A white rabbit topiary is already being grown. Work will begin around May 23 and finish by the first week of June for those interested in volunteering.

Shari Harrold has volunteered to take over management of the Mexican Garden (See below for the April 16 work party.)

Work times for the dates listed below are from 9 until 12 noon.

Saturday, April 2	Bamboo Garden, Barry Martin & Rick Traficant
Saturday, April 9	Subtropical Fruit Garden, June Andersen
Saturday, April 16	Mexican Garden, Shari Harrold
Saturday, April 23	Australian Garden, Barry Martin & Rick Traficant
Saturday, April 30	New World Desert Garden, Peter Jones

Terrific Trips: Carol Eblen announced new rules for these popular outings. The tours are attracting up to 50 or 60 participants, which is too many for most gardens to accommodate. From now on, the hosts of the garden tours will decide how many people (and cars) their properties can accommodate. The trips will be strictly limited to Docents and Volunteers - no guests. All signups will be at the monthly meeting - no online signups. Members who sign up must go to the complete tour or tours. An average of about 30 people is the anticipated number.

The next tour will be Tuesday, May 17 to the gardens of Tammy Schwab and Liz Woodward. Meet at SDBG at 9:30 to form carpools. This tour is limited to 30 people and 8 cars. Bring a sack lunch to enjoy at Liz Woodward's garden. Liz will supply drinks. Stacy Fattaleh and Allan Dodds, who have been the most faithful carpool participants in the past and Docent chairperson Jane Hunt will be given permanent places on the list. All other attendees will be on a first-come, first-served basis.

Chocolate Festival: The 13th annual Chocolate Festival is set for Saturday, May 7 (with setup on Friday, May 6 at 9:30 am). Saturday there will be both am and pm shifts of volunteers. Saturday is the day before Mother's Day, which makes the festival a good family outing.

Milestones: Sue Ruddick announced that five docents reached the 90-hour milestone in March. Their names are listed on the back of the meeting agenda.

Docents at Large: Linda Wagner & Allan Dodds were introduced at the meeting. Any ideas, questions or complaints that members would like addressed by the Docent Executive Board should be taken to these two members.

Hospitality Coordinator: Chairperson Jane Hunt asked for members interested in taking over the job of Hospitality Coordinator and managing presentation of the monthly refreshment break to please contact her.

Plant of the Month: Paul Redeker introduced the Plant of the Month, *Asclepias spp.* or milkweed, the host plant for the Monarch butterfly. SDBG is on the migration path of the western monarch from Canada to Mexico and the Garden provides this plant for these migrating visitors.

Volunteer of the Month: Mary Cozza introduced Dan Petersen, the April Volunteer of the Month.

Staff Reports:

President: Julian Duval thanked all for their services on Free Tuesday. This day is so busy that it requires much patience and care from Docents and Volunteers to manage the crowds.

There will be a class sponsored by Continuing Education at Mira Costa College on Friday, April 8 at 1 pm led by Leslie Duval, which will feature information about SBDG's Sam the Tortoise.

Julian spoke of Ian Cole, who will replace Pat Hammer as Director of Operations. Ian Cole is currently Director of the National Botanical Gardens of Hawaii in Maui and is a specialist in breadfruit. Pat Hammer will retire in mid-May.

Development: Tracie Barham spoke of her nine years of service to SDBG as Director of Development and the wonderful experiences she has had working here. Tracie will be leaving and the search for her replacement is currently underway. Tracie is leaving to accept a position as Executive Director of San Diego Coast Keepers.

New to SDBG are Chelsea Rubino who will assume the roll of Membership Assistant and Rachel Azhocar who will become Development Assistant.

Membership: Sam Beukema announced that attendance at the Spring Planting Jubilee and Tomato Sale was the best in several years. Upcoming events include ArtFest on April 9-10 and the Chocolate Festival on May 7.

SOW/HCG: Susanne Brueckner thanked everyone who helped with recent children's programs including Spring Party with Bunny and the Make a Wish Egg Hunt. This year's Fairy Festival will be June 18 and volunteers will be needed.

Noted:

Marketing & Public Relations: Lisa Reynolds announced that volunteers were needed to help with a booth at the Encinitas Eco Festival on May 15.

Fall Plant Sale: Stacy Fattaleh announced that now is the time to begin growing plants for the Fall Plant Sale.

Gala in the Garden: Items for the silent auction at this event will be needed. Handmade items and specialty plant items made by Docents and Volunteers are big sellers, so anyone interested in participating was encouraged to begin now.

Program: After the refreshment break, members enjoyed a program led by Mary Friestedt. She showed slides and spoke about unusual herbs, their characteristics, uses and how to grow them.

Respectfully submitted,
Nan Criqui, Secretary

