

## **San Diego Botanic Garden Docent/Volunteer General Meeting May 4, 2016**

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Jane Hunt at 9:35 am and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Jane passed around a memory book for Pat Hammer that members could sign during the meeting. She also showed a gift to be presented to Pat. Pat will be retiring from her position of Director of Operations on May 13. At the end of the meeting Jane Hunt spoke of Pat Hammer's contributions to the Garden and Pat gave a farewell speech. Pat also was also feted with a special cake in her honor.

Raffle table plants were introduced by Senior Horticultural Manager Liz Rozycki. Early bird and overflow parking raffles were held.

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

### **Treasurer's Report**

Tandy Pfost reported that Docent Funds has a balance of \$2039.17 at the beginning of 2016. The ending balance for April was \$2763.56. Raffle tickets netted a post-expense balance of \$413.00 and the refreshment fund balance was \$6.39.

### **Committee Reports**

**Signups:** Signup sheets for Free Tuesday on June 7; Family Fun Nights on June 2 through August 25; the Palm, Cycad, Bamboo, and Tropical Plant Sale on May 28; and the Fairy Festival on June 18 were available at this meeting. Rosemary Stafford asked for help with the Free Tuesday scheduled for June 7.

**Directory:** Susan Starr stated that many 2016 directories are still available. Members who haven't gotten one yet were encouraged to pick it up at the meeting. Directories are also available in the Welcome Center.

**Botanic Book Buddies:** This group will meet Wednesday, June 8 at 12 noon in the Lawn House. The book selection is *Pilgrim at Tinker Creek* by Anne Dillard.

**Welcome Center:** There are openings in the May schedule. Members trained on the POS system are asked to volunteer. Persons wishing to be trained should contact Cheryl Mergenthaler at [CMergenthaler@SDBGarden.org](mailto:CMergenthaler@SDBGarden.org)

**Tour Guides:** The May meeting of this group will be held Thursday, May 12 in the Ecke Building at 10 am. Members should note that this is a change in location and will be in effect for the remainder of the year. Butterflies are the subject of the program.

There are tour guide opportunities for members interested in station tours for children. These feature the volunteer staying in one location (and presenting one subject), while the children move from station-to-station.

**Fall Plant Sale:** The first committee meeting for those who would like to help with planning the Fall Plant Sale is Wednesday, May 11 at 10 am in the West Wing conference room.

Stacy Fattaleh announced that the Fall Plant Sale needs a new logo. Ideas are welcome. Old plant-sale T-shirts will be on sale for \$10.

**Garden Beautification:** Peter Jones announced a Volunteer Orientation meeting set for May 14 at 9 am. The beatification dates are listed below. All meet from 9 am to 12 noon.

Saturday, May 7	Chocolate Festival - no meetings
Saturday, May 14	Subtropical Fruit Garden with June Andersen
Saturday, May 21	Bamboo Garden with Barry Martin & Rick Traficant
Saturday, May 28	Australian Garden with Barry Martin & Rick Traficant

The Mexican Garden has three new team captains. They are Shari Harrold, [saharrold@cox.net](mailto:saharrold@cox.net), Barb Osthaus, [bgost@sbcglobal.net](mailto:bgost@sbcglobal.net) and Karen May, [keyb76@gmail.com](mailto:keyb76@gmail.com)

**Trips:** The May 17 trip will meet at the Garden at 9:30 to carpool. The featured gardens belong to Liz Woodward and Robin Colvey. Peggy Overland will be in charge of this trip. This trip is filled. The June 6 trip will visit the gardens of Pam Jara and Jocelyn Scott in Poway and will meet at the Garden at 9 am.

**Chocolate Festival:** This event is scheduled for Saturday, May 7. Setup will be on Friday.

**Milestones:** Sue Ruddick announced that 16 docents have reached the 90-hour milestone and two others have worked more than 200 hours. Fran Spath stated that three volunteers have reached the 90-hour mark. Hours must be sent in a week in advance to be listed in the agenda for the following month's general meeting.

**DIT:** Linda Stewart introduced two new docents. They are Mary May and Karen Mortenson.

**Plant of the Month:** Paul Redeker introduced the Plant of the Month, *Dudleya brittonii*.

Paul also announced a new gardener for SDBG, Jeremy Bugarchich.

**VOM:** The May volunteer of the Month is Judy Focht, who was introduced by Roberta Dotson.

**Del Mar Fair:** Robert Kopfstein gave an update on planning for the SDBG presentation in garden competition. There is a meeting today following the program portion of the monthly general meeting. The theme of the fair is 'Mad About the Fair' and the SDBG theme is Welcome to Wonderland. A topiary bunny has been created. Other projects include a caterpillar on a topiary mushroom. Robert stated that extra people are needed on Free Tuesday to protect the rabbit from over-friendly visitors.

The monthly **plant raffle** was held.

**Staff Reports:**

**President:** Julian Duval noted the major changes taking place at SDBG. He expressed thanks to retiring Director of Operations Pat Hammer for many years of service to the Garden. The new person in this position is Ian Cole, recent past director of the National Tropical Botanical Garden in Hana, Maui.

Tracie Barham, Director of Development and Jill Kastrup, Senior Membership Manager have resigned and searches for replacements are underway.

Julian also noted that SDBG is the second largest generator of visitors to Encinitas, after Moonlight Beach.

**Education:** Sam Beukema announced the success of the recent ArtFest and thanked all for their help. He also announced that the new sculptures are being installed in the Garden. Upcoming events include the Insect Festival, Thursday Family Fun Nights, and the Del Mar Fair.

**SOW/HCG:** Susanne Brueckner announced that more than 700 elementary school students will be visiting the Garden in May and June for special classes. Volunteer help is needed. She also needs help with the Fairy Festival.

**Marketing:** Lisa Reynolds asked all to take flyers for the Chocolate Festival and distribute them locally.

**Program:** Bette Childs introduced Bill Evarts, author and professional photographer, who gave a photo presentation of Baja California and the Anza Borrego desert.

Respectfully submitted,  
Nan Criqui, Secretary