

San Diego Botanic Garden Docent/Volunteer General Meeting June 1, 2016

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Jane Hunt at 10:00 am. The minutes of the May 4, 2016 meeting were approved as listed on the Docent website.

The early bird and overflow parking raffles and the plant sale were not held today because of the potluck luncheon following the meeting.

Treasurer's Report

Tandy Pfost reported that Docent Funds had a balance of \$2039.17 at the beginning of 2016. The ending balance for May was \$2,214.88. Raffle tickets netted a post-expense balance of \$504.00 and the refreshment fund balance was minus (-\$63.35).

Chairperson's Report

Signups: Volunteer signup was available for the following activities: Free Tuesdays on June 7, July 5, and August 2; Family Fun Nights from Thursday, June 2 through August 25; the Fairy Festival on June 18; the Insect and Lady Bug Festival on July 23-24; the Summer Jazz Concert on August 2; and ongoing meetings and construction of the SDBG Del Mar Fair display.

Directory: Vice chairperson Mary Friestedt asked members to please pick up their copies of the *Docent and Volunteer Information Directory* today, if they have not gotten them. Directories will be available in the Welcome Center, but members were requested to get them asap.

Free Tuesdays: Rosemary Stafford stressed the need for volunteers on these days. Extra hands are needed to protect the Garden plantings, protect visitors from accidents, and protect SDBG from liability issues. She thanked many individuals for their efforts. Members who can work during Tuesday hours were asked to signup today or email Rosemary at staffordr@att.net

A get-well card was circulated for docent Elf Mitton. Chairperson Jane Hunt read a thank-you note to the membership from Robin Hermann.

The Volunteer Appreciation Dinner will be August 19. This treat will be for docents and volunteers only this year. No guests please. A theme for this event will be announced soon.

Plant of Month: Director of Horticulture Paul Redeker introduced the June plant, *Calocephalus brownii*, also known as Cushion Bush.

San Diego County Fair: Chairperson Robert Kopfstein thanked all members who have worked on the SDBG fair display. During the Fair, "meet and greet" volunteers will be needed; they will get free passes to the fair. There is a meeting today following the potluck for interested members.

Committee Reports

Botanic Book Buddies: This group will meet Wednesday, June 8 in the Lawn House at 12 noon. The book selection is *Pilgrim at Tinker Creek* by Anne Dillard. The selection for the book club meeting on August 10 is *The Snow Child* by Eowyn Ivey.

Tour Guides: The next meeting for this group is Thursday, June 9 in the Ecke Building. (Please note this change in venue.) This month's program will be exclusively for current tour guides and will feature Paul Redeker discussing the Australia area of the Garden. Mary Roper stated that there will be upcoming training sessions specifically for learning to give tours with kids.

Terrific Trips: Evon MacKinnon announced that the June 6 garden tours will be to the homes of Jocelyn Scott and Pam Jara. Car pools will leave SDBG at 9 am for the first tour at 10 am. Lunch is planned for the Hamburger Factory in Poway.

Fall Plant Sale: Stacy Fattaleh encouraged members to begin propagating plants and collecting "stuff" for the Botanic Attic to be sold at the Fall Plant Sale. (These items can be brought to the Garden Monday, October 10.) Stacy will be presenting a new T-shirt logo in August.

The Fall Plant Sale committee meets every Wednesday in the Ecke building. The next meeting is June 8.

Garden Beautification: Peter Jones thanked new volunteers to these groups and also thanked many hard-working long-time members. He mentioned special gardening needs in the butterfly garden, incredible edibles, the Mediterranean garden, and the old and new world desert gardens. Dates and locations for work-parties can be found on the docent website.

The following are work party dates for June:

Saturday, June 4:	Bamboo Garden with Barry Martin & Rick Traficant
Saturday, June 11:	Subtropical Fruit Garden with June Andersen
Saturday, June 18	Fairy Festival - no gardening
Saturday, June 25:	Bamboo Garden with Barry Martin & Rick Traficant

DIT: Linda Stewart announced that the current session of docent training was her last and that the job will be taken over in September by Liz Woodward. The new classes will begin on September 8.

IT: Nick Ruddick announced changes to the docent and volunteer hours recording process. The docent website can be found at: sdbgdocents.org

Milestones: Sue Ruddick announced that there were 15 docents who completed 90 hours of service and three docents who completed 200 hours of service as of the end of May. One volunteer also completed 90 service hours.

VOM: Ann Hoeppner is the June Volunteer of the Month. She was introduced by Mary Friestedt.

Gala: Susan Starr reported that the Gala in the Garden is Saturday, September 10. Set-up for this event will take place on the 8th and 9th. There will be signup sheets online for this event.

Susan and Kathy Hoffman will send email to members with the link for this website. Members were requested to please volunteer for this important event.

Kathy Hoffman stated that the Gala is a unique eco-steward/eco-manager event, with no trash created. All leftover items will be recycled.

Staff Reports

President: Julian Duval stated SDBG will have a new Director of Development in place by the August docent/volunteer general meeting.

He also announced a continuation of the Blue Star program that allows active military and their families free Garden access during the summer months.

Julian thanked Robert Kopfstein for his work with SDBG's display for the San Diego County Fair.

Education: Sam Beukema spoke of the great success of the May 7 Chocolate Festival. He also discussed the difficulties with parking at heavily attended events and possible mitigation. Docent Carol Eblen, chair of planning for the Chocolate Festival, thanked the many members who helped make the event a success.

HCG/SOW: Susanne Brueckner spoke about volunteer needs for the upcoming Fairy Festival.

Marketing and Public Relations: Lisa Reynolds reported that the SDBG Chocolate Festival was mentioned in USA Today as one of the top 10 things to do nationwide on Mothers' Day. The event was also mentioned on Channel 10 news and weather.

Program: Today's program was the annual spring potluck luncheon for members. This event directly followed the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Nan Criqui, secretary