

**San Diego Botanic Garden Docent-Volunteer Meeting  
February 1, 2017**

*Meeting called to order at 9:31 a.m.*

**Mary Friestedt** welcomed the new Docent-in-training class and read a thank you note from Liz Rozycki for the commemorative watering can and monetary gift she received from docents and volunteers on her retirement.

**Plant Raffle Table** – Paul Redeker & Jeremy Bugarchich. Coastal Woollybush, *Adenanthos sericeus*, is plant of the month.

**January Minutes** – Approved. (Moved by Mo Price and seconded by Alison Hiers).

**Treasurer's Report** – Tandy Pfost. January year-to-date balance is \$2591.25

**Coordinator and Committee Reports**

**Docent Training** – Liz Woodward. Welcomed 19 new Docents-in-training. Introduced two new Docents who recently completed their training: Amy Freeman and Barb Redlitz.

**Tour Guides** – Stephanie Wilson introduced Greg Hunter and Mike Blanco, the new Tour Guide leaders and thanked Stacy Fattaleh, Diana Goforth and Mary Roper for their service. Greg Hunter reported that his goal is to add 12 new tour guides by April. Paul Redeker will be the speaker at the next Tour Guide meeting on Feb. 9 in the Ecke Building.

**Directory** – Linda Stewart. Passed around Directories for updating. Encouraged everyone to accept email invitations to join the listserv. Invitations expire in about 10 days; contact Linda if you need a new one.

**Botanic Book Buddies** – Barb Farley. *Sowing Seeds of Wonder* by Sally Sandler will be discussed at noon on Feb 8 in the Lawn House. All are welcome, even if they have not read the book.

**History Team** – Patti Fitchen. History Team is experimenting with having someone in the Larabee House on Free Tuesday mornings. Sign at Welcome Center will indicate if a volunteer is in Larabee.

**Garden Beautification** – Peter Jones

Garden beautification dates for Saturdays in Feb. All dates are from 9 am to noon:

Saturday, February 4: Bamboo Garden with Mary Cozza

Saturday, February 11: Subtropical Fruit Garden with June Andersen

Saturday, February 18: Paw Walk event – no gardening today

Saturday, February 25: Hamilton Children's Garden with Charlie Garren

**Free Tuesdays** – Rosemary Stafford. Need help in Hamilton a.m. and p.m. beginning in March. In February, need someone for pond area.

**Milestones** – Sue Ruddick and Fran Spath. Thanks to everyone for sending in 2016 hours and Jan 2017 hours. Nametags for new volunteers are on filing cabinet in the Office. Fran reminded volunteers that they need to work 40 hours in a calendar year to be included in the following year's Directory.

**Volunteer of the Month** – Candy Sharda introduced by Susan Gjerset.

**Trip Trio** – Carol Eblen. Feb. 24 will be a reciprocal tour of the San Diego Zoo. We are limited to 30 people and Docents have priority.

**Paul Redeker:** Jeremy Bugarchich has been appointed to the position of Collections Gardener (a modified version of the Curator position previously held by Lesley Randall). Jeremy is developing a team of volunteers to work with Conservatory Plants as they arrive. Propagation is being re-oriented to emphasize rare and unique plants for events such as the Fall Plant Sale and for the Gift Shop Nursery. Need someone to lead the Monday a.m. propagation team; see Jill Gardner if you can help. Also looking for more propagation volunteers. No experience necessary.

**Welcome Center** – Alan Dodds: Please email Cheryl Mergenthaler at [mergenthaler@sdbgarden.org](mailto:mergenthaler@sdbgarden.org) if you are trained and able to help.

## Old Business

**Hours Evaluation Team** – Mo Price (Chair), Gail Earnest, Charlie Garren and Jane Hunt were asked to form a team to follow up on last month's discussion of reducing the required number of yearly hours for Docents from 80 to 60. After reviewing data on Docent hours provided by Sue and Nick Ruddick, the team recommended not changing the hours requirement. 75% of Docents work between 80 and 300 hours a year, and 93% meet their hours' requirement. Those who do not often have a medical issue affecting them or a family member. The recommendation met with applause. The Team will bring additional data to the next General Meeting. Everyone is encouraged to read the Docent Society Operating Regulations on the Docent website (under Docs), including the valuable FAQ on hours which appears at the end.

## Staff Reports

**Julian Duval:** Egyptian tapestry exhibit will be here through March. 20% of proceeds go to SDBG. 30% of the remainder goes to artists themselves. Sam the Tortoise will be on display at the Spring Planting Jubilee and Plant Sale; there will be a contest to guess his weight.

**Ian Cole:** interviewing for new Operations Manager. Hope to have someone by end of the week.

**Carolyn:** Snap shot of the year distributed at the SDGB Annual Meeting noted that there were 35,000 docent/volunteer hours last year. Staff worked over 55,000 hours. Financials will be on the web site soon.

**Sam Beukema:** Feb 18 is Paw Walk. Docents and Volunteers will be able to sign up online for Spring Jubilee and Plant Sale and for Art Fest. Look for an email signup invitation from Jill Gardner. Ann Hoepfner noted that on Sunday, Mar. 12, Solana Center is holding a free composting workshop at the Gardens.

**Jill Gardner:** To make it easier to volunteer, SDBG is moving to online sign-up process; paper sign-up sheets will continue to be available at meetings as well. Doreen Prager is seeking a chair or co-chairs for the Gala Silent Auction. Please let Jill know if you can help in the Gift Shop Nursery, especially on Wednesdays. New Volunteer Orientation on Friday, Feb 3, 9:30 to 12:00.

**Doreen Prager:** Gala is Sept. 9. If interested in serving on any Gala Committees, please let her know.

**Lisa Reynolds:** February is Macy's Museum month. Pick up passports at Macy's to receive half-priced entrance for 40 different museums throughout San Diego County, including SDBG.

## New Business

**Mary Friestedt:** Please sign the get-well card for Stacy Fattaleh, who is having surgery today.

Leslie Duval's book, *Too Big to Lose* is an award winner.

**Linda Stewart:** Master Gardeners' September 6-16 trip to Europe is now open to SDBG Docents/Volunteers. See Linda for more information.

**Dianna Burke**– Misti Washington Gourd and Basket Guild meets at Gardens in May. More information on the SDBG Web site. Classes fill fast.

*Meeting adjourned 10:45.*

Respectfully submitted by Susan Starr, Secretary.