

San Diego Botanic Garden Docent and Volunteer Meeting March 1, 2017

The meeting was called to order at 9:35 am

Mary Friestedt announced that two long time Docents, Allys Smith and Catherine Siemens, had recently passed away.

Plant Raffle Table – Jeremy Olin and Jeremy Bugarchich. Plant of month is *Fuchsia paniculata*, native to Mexico.

February minutes. Approved as corrected (M. Price moved and J. Hunt seconded)

Treasurer's Report – Tandy Pfost. \$2729 balance at the end of February.

Dates to Remember – Solana Center for Environmental Innovation will hold a Composting Workshop March 12, 1-3. Register at solanacenter.org.

Gala Committee – Doreen Prager, Special Events Coordinator; Rene Van Rems, Gala Creative Director; and Jim Ruecker, Gala Chair, presented a brief video of last year's Gala. 2017 will be the 18th Annual Gala. Ann Hunter-Welborn and David Welborn are the honorees. Docents and Volunteers are encouraged to join the Gala Committee and/or the Silent Auction Committee. See Doreen for details.

Coordinator and Committee Reports

Docent Training – Liz Woodward. Beginning in the fall, Dave Ehrlinger will replace Mary Friestedt as the instructor for Succulents, Mary Friestedt will replace Mary Roper for Native Plants, and Ian Cole will replace Peter Jones for Bamboo. Please let Liz know in advance if you want to audit a class or need to make one up, so she can be sure there is a space for you (space in Larabee is very limited).

Tour Guides – Mike Blanco and Greg Hunter. Next meeting: March 8 at 10 am. Herb Garden tour with Faith Meakin and Kathy Anderson. Tour Guides would like to feature different areas of the garden at each meeting; team captains are encouraged to volunteer to provide a tour of their area.

Directory – Linda Stewart. March 1 is the last day to submit changes for listings in the new Directory.

Botanic Book Buddies – Barb Farley. Next meeting is April 12 at noon in Lawn House. Will discuss *Unstoppable* by Bill Nye (on climate change).

Garden Beautification and History – Sally Sandler and Stacy Fattaleh

Garden beautification dates for Saturdays in March. All dates are from 9 to noon

Saturday, March 4: Bamboo Garden with Barry Martin and Mary Cozza

Saturday, March 11: Subtropical Fruit Garden with June Andersen

Saturday, March 18: Spring Festival – no gardening today

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

History Notes – Stacy Fattaleh. Mildred MacPherson was a close friend of Ruth Larabee's. Born in 1918, she was a certified landscape architect, a founding member of the Quail Gardens Foundation Board, and Chair of the Garden's Landscape Committee. When she died in 1973, she gave a bequest to install the waterfall. Full report will be available on the Docent website, under Tour Guides.

Milestones – Fran Spath and Sue Ruddick – No milestones this month. Reminders: hours are not recorded in real time; DIT hours need to be reported as Volunteer Hours. New nametags will now be available at the check-in table each month.

Volunteer of the Month – Patti Fitchen could not attend today. She will be honored next month.

Trip Trio – Peggy Overland. April 20 tour of Dave and Claire Ehrlinger's and Kay Worley's gardens.

Welcome Center – Please email Cheryl Mergenthaler (cmergenthaler@sdbgarden.org) if you have been trained and are able to help.

Free Tuesday – Rosemary Stafford. Sign-up sheet for April is available. Thank you for volunteering.

Old Business

Hours Evaluation Report – Mary Friestedt. Thanked Mo Price, Gail Earnest, Jane Hunt, & Charlie Garren for their report. Most Docents work well over 80 hours; the majority of volunteers work

between 1 and 59 hours. 50% of Volunteer hours and 31% of Docent hours are spent in the Garden. The charts distributed at the meeting, along with supporting documentation, can be found on the Docent web site, under 'Hours Analysis – 2016' on the 'Hours' tab.

Staff Reports

Julian Duval – Working on raising the last \$400,000 for the Conservatory and getting the building permit. Grading is done. The project to move staff out of Larabee and the Lawn house, funded by the County, is moving ahead slowly. 13 of the Egyptian tapestries on display in Ecke have been sold.

Ian Cole – introduced Michael Fisher, the new Operations Administrative Assistant.

Lisa Reynolds – Press release for guessing Sam the Tortoise's weight just went out. Starts today and goes through March 22; Sam will be weighed at the Spring Planting Jubilee. Docents and volunteers cannot participate in public contest.

Sam Beukema - 350 people signed up for the Feb. 18 Paw Walk, held in collaboration with the Rancho Coastal Humane society. Sign-up sheets are available for Spring Planting Jubilee and Tomato Sale, March 18/19, and ArtFest April 8/9.

Carol Eblen – Chocolate Festival will be Sat. May 13. Please sign up.

Jill Gardner – Establishing an outreach team to provide information on SDBG at local events, such as the Encinitas EcoFest and the Solana Beach Fiesta del Sol; please see her if you are interested. The Propagation Team is putting together a list of all those who are on, or would like to be on, the Team. Please sign-up and provide your contact information.

Paul Redecker - need volunteers for the Incredible Edibles team.

New Business

Robert Kopfstein – Theme of this year's Del Mar Fair, June 3 to July 5, is "When the West is Fun". SDBG garden display theme is "Route 66." Looking for a couple of carpenters to help construct the exhibit. In mid-May will need volunteers to place plants and then in June/July will need volunteers at the Exhibit. The latter receive free entry to the Fair.

Alison Hiers - making jam for the Fall Plant Sale. If you have fruit or jars to make jam, please give them to her. Any size jar is fine.

Meeting adjourned at 10:54.

Respectfully submitted, Susan Starr, Secretary