

San Diego Botanic Garden Docent and Volunteer Meeting
January 3, 2018

9:30 Call to Order

Moments of silence in honor of Peter Jones

Plant of the Month – Tony Gurnoe. Tony introduced two staff members: Dylan Connolly, recently promoted to the position of SDBG Horticultural Manager and Talia Loyola, recently hired as an SDBG gardener. Plant of the Month is Mexican bush mallow - *Phymosia umbellata*

Early Bird and Overflow Parking Drawing

Approval of November Minutes (Stacy Fattaleh approved; Kathryn Blankinship seconded)

Treasurer's Report – Tandy Pfost. Had approximately \$2500 at the start of 2017; spent a little more than \$600 on coffee pots and wagons; had close to \$2700 at end of 2017.

Dates to Remember – See back page and Garden website for full listing

Coordinator and Committee Reports

Docent Training – Liz Woodward. Introduced 13 new Docents: Caren Clayton, Freely Mickus, Heather Russak, Jeff Schaffer, Joan Simon, John Griffiths, JoLynn Morice, Kathy Zito, Lin Holzinger, Linda Cooper, Marilyn Chambers, Sue Reel, William Rawlings. Next class starts January 18.

Tour Guides – Mike Blanco and Greg Hunter – Meet on Jan 11 in Ecke at 10 am; attendees will describe their favorite public garden (aside from SDBG).

Botanic Book Buddies – Barb Farley – Meet in Feb on the 2nd Wed Lawn House at noon to discuss *The Tea Girl of Hummingbird Lane*.

Free Tuesdays- Barb Farley. Thanks to everyone who helped on January 2.

Garden Beautification – Sally Sandler– All dates are from 9-12

Saturday, Jan 6: Bamboo Garden with Mary Cozza and Barry Martin

Saturday, Jan 13: Subtropical Fruit Garden with Bob Holzinger

Saturday, Jan 20: Visitors' Parking lot with Barry Martin and Tim Jara

Saturday, Jan 27: Gardening with staff – check at Welcome Center for location.

Wednesdays: Please remember that team captains are present to supervise volunteer gardeners most Wed., mornings in many locations, typically beginning at 9 am. These dates will be posted on the SDBG website at www.qbgdocents.org. If at any time you are unsure about where gardening is taking place, please inquire at the Admissions/Welcome Center booth,

Milestones – Sue Ruddick and Fran Spath. Beverly Marshall and Karen O'Neill have reached 2000 Lifetime Hours. To record hours, go directly to www.qbgdocents.org. There is no longer a link to this page from the main Garden website. Reminder: volunteers need to work 40 hours, and Docents 80 hours, in 2017 to be listed in the 2018 Directory.

Docents at Large – Stacy Fattaleh and Susan Gjerset. Nothing to report.

Volunteer of the Month. Mary May introduced by Susan Gjerset.

Trip Trio – Peggy Overland – Next tour is Tuesday, Feb 27, to Escondido to visit a container garden/nursery recommended by Julian. Leave SDBG at 9:30. Prior to

visiting the garden/nursery, there will be a tour of Queen Califia's Magical Circle. Lunch afterwards.

Plant Raffle

Staff Reports

Julian Duval – Plant sale was a big success; we made close to \$70,000. Annual meeting is Saturday January 6. Ari Novy, formerly director of the U.S. Botanic Garden and now Chief Scientist at Leichtag, will be speaking. There are still spaces on the April trip to Baja and the September trip to the Galapagos. Tapestry Exhibit returns on Monday. The Conservatory project is progressing; hope to open this summer. The County project to construct new office space for garden staff should be completed by the end of 2018. Because of age and drought, several dead Torrey Pines and the Magnolia in the Lawn Garden have to be removed.

Sam Beukema – Thanks to everyone for their help with the Garden of Lights. Garden took in \$252,000 this year (\$50,000 more than last year). Paw Walk is February 17; paper sign-ups are available.

Lisa Reynolds – Tapestry Exhibit flyers available. Please take some to post.

Carolyn Zollars - County of San Diego has provided us with sufficient funding to install exhibit quality lighting in Ecke. Hope to use some of the funds to upgrade the kitchen as well. Bill Rawlings is coordinating a project to redo the Seeds of Wonder playhouse; he has successfully approached several local businesses who will be donating much of the needed materials and labor. Project will begin the 3rd week in January and should be completed by March 1.

Ian Cole - Thanks to everyone with who helped with Gift Shop and Admissions during GOL. Working on developing safety-training sessions for volunteers and staff, with the assistance of Carol Kerridge.

Michael Fisher– Need additional shuttle drivers, especially for Saturdays. Contact him if you can help. Training available.

Jill Gardner – The December 24 Union Tribune had a special supplement on volunteers which included a tribute from SDBG to our volunteers on page 2.

Old and New Business

Alison Hiers – She will soon start making jams for next year's plant sale. Happy to accept empty jars. Also planning to pickle vegetables next year.

Candy Sharda – San Dieguito Garden Club meets monthly in Ecke. The January 24 speaker is Laura Eubanks. Non-members are welcome; \$20 in advance.

Meeting adjourned at 11:04. Speaker was Tony Gurnoe, new Director of Horticulture at SDBG.

Respectfully submitted, Susan Starr, Secretary.