

**San Diego Botanic Garden Docent/Volunteer Meeting  
March 7, 2018**

**9:28 Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance**

**Plant of the Month** – Tony Gurnoe. Tony introduced Rachel Sadowski, a new SDBG gardener. Plant of the Month: Baja Milkwort (*Polygala apopetala*) from the New World Desert Garden.

**Early Bird and Overflow Parking Drawing**

**February Minutes.** Approved as distributed.

**Treasurer's Report** – Tandy Pfost. Balance at end of February was \$2928.

**Dates to Remember** – See back page and Garden website for complete listings.

**Website Report** – Nick Ruddick. Review of Docent/Volunteer website, [www.sdbgdocents.org](http://www.sdbgdocents.org). Things to note: links to Sign up Genius to sign up for events; the People page (password required. Password is in Directory or email Nick); searchable Bloom Board index; Volunteer of the Month suggestion form. Revised Docent/Volunteer job descriptions will be added soon. Reminder: DIT's should enter hours under Volunteers Hours. 45,826 hours put in by Docents/Volunteers last year.

**Volunteer of the Month** – Elaine Lawless introduced by Stacy Fattaleh.

**Plant Raffle**

**Gala Report** – Donna Cancel. Silent Auction would like additional volunteers for their committee. Also welcome suggestions of new businesses and organizations that the committee could approach for donations.

**Directory** – Linda Stewart. Passed around a "final" draft of the 2018 Directory for corrections. Docents with 80 or more hours in 2017 who are SDBG Members, and Volunteers with 40 or more hours in 2017, will be listed in the Directory. New Directory will be ready in April; for Garden use only. Be sure to shred before discarding old Directories. If you are not getting meeting announcements, please let Linda know so she can add you to the Google Groups mailing list.

**Coordinator and Committee Reports**

**Docent Training** – Liz Woodward. If you are a Docent and want to drop in on a training class, check with Liz first to be sure there is room. Kathy Aubin from 2017 class has completed her training and achieved Docent status.

**Tour Guides** – Mike Blanco. Sally Sandler announced a new volunteer opportunity, to be a guide in the Larabee House on free Tuesday, from 10-12 or 12-2. This opportunity is open to anyone interested in Garden history, not just tour guides. If you are interested, come to the training session at the Tour Guides meeting on April 12 at 10 a.m. in Ecke. Anne Hoeppner suggested recruiting volunteers to translate Larabee house information into other languages. Mike Blanco encouraged everyone to take advantage of the training materials in the Tour Guides section of the Docent/Volunteer Website.

**Botanic Book Buddies** – Barb Farley. Next meeting April 11, Lawn House, at noon. Reading Wallace Stegner's *Angle of Repose*. See the website for upcoming books.

**Free Tuesdays** – Barb Farley. A few openings in Hamilton Garden.

**Garden Beautification** – Barry Martin. Really need help in Seeds of Wonder and Native Plants.

**Milestones** – Sue Ruddick and Fran Spath. Remember to pick up your awards; in the Welcome Center after the meeting. Sue has the list if you have questions. Also a reminder that DIT's should submit hours to Fran. New Volunteer name tags are in the back and will be in the West Wing after the meeting.

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

**Trip Trio** - Peggy Overland. Trip to Escondido Gardens on Tuesday, March 13. Sign up list on the table. Next trip will be Tuesday April 10, visiting Wendy Graham and Sam Beukema's gardens.

### **Staff Reports**

**C. Zollars**. Spring Reception is a week from Friday; Nan Sterman will be speaking.

**Julian Duval**. Many thanks to Bill Rawlings for SOW playhouse. Baobab sculpture will begin as soon as contract is finished. Capital funds to move staff out of Larabee and Lawn House have been received; goal to have it finished in December.

Conservatory is progressing well and hope to have it open in June; fund raising is continuing as costs have risen. Search for Julian's replacement is underway. Sam Beukema has been appointed Director of Operations and Susanne Brueckner is now the Director of Education. Still a few openings on the April trip to Ensenada and the September trip to the Galapagos.

**Sam Beukema** – thanks to everyone.

**Jill Gardner** – a few openings remain for the Spring Planting Jubilee, Art Fest, and Chocolate Festival.

**Lisa Reynolds** – has flyers to post for Spring Planting Jubilee. Jubilee attendees can enter an opportunity drawing for a personal visit with Sam the Tortoise.

**Tony Gurnoe** – Jeremy Bugarchich promoted to Curator of Collections (from Collections Gardener). SDBG is applying for Cycad Collection certification. SDBG is participating in the UC Cooperative Extension pollinator trial. Community College students now must meet a work requirement to obtain certification; SDBG is assembling a package of internships aimed at this group, but applications will be open to all.

### **Old and New Business**

Bill Rawlings: new playhouse in SOW finished. Thanks to all for their contributions. We need to raise \$17,000 and have \$11,000 pledged already. See Carolyn Zollars if you can help.

Please mark April 5 at 2:30 on your calendars for our Celebration of Peter Jones.

Sam the Tortoise's 54<sup>th</sup> birthday party is March 24 from 10am-1pm. RSVP to Leslie Duval if you plan to come.

**Program:** Dave Ehrlinger "The Early Years of San Diego Botanic Garden: A Photographic Essay."