

SDBG Docent-Volunteer Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, April 3, 2019

9.32 am. Call to Order and Pledge

Announcements Allan Dodds, Chair. Reminder to submit names for VOM nominations.

Susan and Allan attended the SDBG Board of Trustees Annual Retreat held at the Huntington Gardens in Pasadena. Discussion centered on how to create a new strategic 5 year plan for the Garden. Went through the process on how to do a plan. There will likely be surveys and/or focus groups involving both Docents and Volunteers. The strategic plan needs to be almost complete before the Garden can start on a new Master Plan.

Allan will be gone from April 10 to June 5. Susan will chair in his absence.

Plant of the Month. Tony Gurnoe introduced the plant of the month, *Melianthus major*, (Honey Bush). It is a native of South Africa and grows in rugged rocky areas and also thrives in the San Diego coastal area. The nectar is black and poisonous. Grows very quickly, and has unusual foliage. Tony thanked Jeremy for the important work he is undertaking in helping to identify all plants in the Garden. Tony is working on new path upgrades.

Early Bird and Overflow Parking Drawings

March Minutes - Linda Cooper, Secretary. Minutes are approved as distributed.

Treasurer's Report - Gail Earnest. Cash on hand after paying for Opportunity Drawing and Refreshment expenses is \$3,266.14.

Dates to Remember - See back page and Garden Website for current listings

Volunteer of the Month - Pat Linton introduced by Liz Tesolin. Pat was raised in Illinois and New Jersey, and worked as an ethics research compliance officer. She is active in the Garden of Lights, the Fall Plant Sale, garden tours, and at the Larabee house.

Opportunity Drawing - Ed Beimel and Jane Wilkerson

Coordinator and Committee Reports - Susan Starr, Vice Chair.

Propagation - Stacy Fattaleh. Plea for plant cuttings for the large rainbow that will be in the Fair exhibit. The Fall Plant Sale will be October 19th and 20th; planning meetings will be the 2nd Wed each month. Please join! Think of donations for Botanic Attic and save fruit and jars for Allison Hiers.

Tour Guides - Mike Blanco. Next meeting is April 11, at 10 AM in Ecke. Following the business meeting, Jeff Clingan will discuss "Birding in Our Garden". Jeff is also leading some of the bird tours here.

Last month was a presentation on weaving by Alison Hiers. Mark Lippard is away and there is a need for 2 tour guides for the next children's tour.

Garden Beautification - Faith Meakin, Anna Dreiling, and Barry Martin. Faith announced there is a big need for more gardeners. Team Leaders are needed in the South Africa and Native Plants/Native People gardens. Saturday gardening; Team Leaders need to let Faith know what they want done in their garden. This month, there will be no gardening the weekend of Art Fest,

April 13th. Springt Party with Bunny is on April 20, ok to garden. Will hope to work in Hamilton Garden the last Saturday of the month.

Botanic Book Buddies - Barb Farley. The meeting is next Wed at noon in the Lawn House. They will be reading Invention of Nature by Andrea Wulf. Barb thanked the volunteers who worked the very busy Free Tuesday yesterday!

Trip Trio - Carol Eblen, Evon MacKinnon, and Peggy Overland. Peggy - Two gardens were visited last week in Solana beach and two more coming up on April 26 in La Costa. One of these belongs to Claudia Cooper, a landscape designer. Meet at the Garden at 9:30, there is a lunch after. Please sign up today.

Docents at Large - Shahla Dreyer and Liz Tesolin. Shahla will be visiting various gardens on Wednesdays if you have a need in your garden or suggestions. Shahla is in the Undersea garden until 10 am. VOM Forms are in the back of the room and also on the website.

Milestones - Sue Ruddick and Fran Spath (see over). Bette Childs has reached 2000 hours. She became a Docent in 2009. Please remember to submit your hours at the end of each month. Fran thanked the nametag team.

Directory - Nick Ruddick. New Directory ready to pick up today. Please send any corrections to Nick. Docents in good standing and Volunteers with more than 40 hours are listed in the Directory.

Fair - Robert Kopstein - updates on the Fair. SDBG can win \$1,000 in awards. Next month he will be taking volunteers' names to work in one of the two exhibits. One exhibit will feature cycads and the other succulents. Robert needs the following items donated for the Dibble house exhibit: A small table, a rocking chair, a 3-prong pitchfork and a small dog house. Diana Burke supplied the ruby red shoes. Work will begin by May 6th and must be finished by May 21st. Fair opens May 31.

Staff Reports - Jill Gardner. Happy volunteer appreciation month! SDBG has been nominated to be among the USA Today's top 10 Best Botanical Gardens. You can vote every day! Directories will be in the West Wing after today.

Susanne Brueckner - Got Green event attendance was low but had positive feedback and attracted a new audience. ArtFest will be April 13 and 14 with 32 artists. The Spring Party with Bunny is April 20. Volunteer spots are already filled. The upcoming Sculpture in the Garden exhibition will feature 15 sculptures this year. Installation will begin in May and continue through the month.

Misty Washington Gourd and Basket weaving classes the weekend of May 4-5. Sign ups on website. Michael Wilken-Robertson will be speaking on Wed. April 17 at 7pm in the Ecke building on Kumeyaay Ethnobotany; understanding the interdependence of the native plants and the Kumeyaay people. Books available in the Gift Shop. Sign up on the website.

Lisa Reynolds - KFMB Channel 8 will be at the Garden on Monday to promote April events, as well as San Diego Magazine.

Please vote SDBG as best botanical garden in the USA Today Poll. Vote each day!

Other Business - Allan

Candy Sharda has flyers for the San Dieguito Garden Club plant sale May 4th at the 1883 Schoolhouse in Encinitas.

Allan reminded members that the Directory is for the private use of members and staff and

not to be shared with others. Dispose of last year's Directory with this in mind.

Break for Refreshments Lucille Brown and Lin Holzinger.

Speaker Program René van Rems will tell us how to make “**European Floral Home Décor**”, with home grown foliage and flowers. Introduced by Kathryn Blankinship.

Meeting Adjourned at 12:04 PM

Respectfully submitted by Linda Cooper, Secretary