

SDBG Docent-Volunteer General Meeting Minutes

February 5, 2020

9.30 am. Call to Order and Pledge.

Garden Updates - Jill Gardner, Volunteer Manager:

Plant of the Month – John Clements reviewed *Stenocarpus sinuatus*, otherwise known as the Firewheel tree, an Australian rainforest tree in the Protea family. It can be found in the Australia Garden.

Staff Updates & Introductions - Jill Gardner welcomed two new employees. Ashley Grable, is the new Corporate and Community Relations Manager and will work in the Philanthropy Department to expand community services.

Sammy Jones is a new full time gardener as well as caretaker of the Heritage Museum. Eric Evans, Visitor Services Associate, is now a full time gardener.

Sign ups: Over 85 people have trained to be a new Conservatory Ambassador. There will be more training coming, including learning more about the Conservatory plants. Sign ups will be listed on sign up genius.

Upcoming Garden Ed. Sessions Jeremy will speak on Feb 19 at 8:30 am in the Conservatory on what makes a Botanic Garden. In depth information for all.

Michael Fisher - Visitor Services and Docent/Volunteer involvement. Please interact with visitors if appropriate and answer questions if possible. Training on this will be coming. Points to consider are the following: 1. Values of the Garden - Be present and acknowledge the visitor. 2. Playful, engage the visitor. 3. Make their day, contribute to someone else's life. 4. Choose your attitude, be pleasant to all.

Appreciation presentation to Allan. Cards and a gift were presented to Allan Dodds for his dedicated service as Chair of the Docent Society last year.

Volunteer Updates - Susan Starr, Chair

Susan thanked Faith Meakin who has stepped down from one of the Garden Beautification Chairs, and Liz Woodward as outgoing Docent Training Coordinator. Dianna Burke was also thanked for replacing Faith in GB.

VOM Reminder: Please refer names to Susan Gjerset or fill out forms from the website.

Announcements.

Reminder that all activities and event dates are listed on the website.

Barbara Sands of Master Gardeners is organizing a field trip to Crested Butte Colorado for the annual Wildflower Festival on July 21, 2020. It will be self-pay with an estimated cost of \$1500 per person. For information please contact Barbara at barbsands2gmail.com

Early Bird and Overflow Parking Drawings

Approval of Minutes - Linda Cooper, Secretary. The minutes were approved as distributed.

Treasurer's Report - Gail Earnest. Update on expenditures. Balance on January 1st of \$4104.71 with an ending balance of \$3608.12 to date. Items purchased last month with Docent Society funds were hose reels and hose nozzles, microphones, and a garden cart for the Plant Nursery at the Gift Shop. Upcoming purchase of 7 tables for approximately \$950 is next.

Volunteer of the Month – Jeff Clingan was introduced by Shahla Dreyer. Originally from Arkansas, Jeff is married to Len and has 2 children and 6 grandchildren. Retired from the Air Force after 27 years, Jeff has been an exceptionally involved Volunteer and Docent since 2018. Garden Events, children's educational programs and leading tours are among his favorites. Along with baking!

Opportunity Drawing - Ed Beime

Coordinator Reports (Jeff Clingan, Vice-Chair)

Recognitions

New Docents - Jeff Clingan. New Docents Ruth Levor and Beverly Siow were recognized. Only 2 left to become docents from last fall's class. The new Docent class started last week. Jeff also recognized all new volunteers in attendance.

Milestones - Sue Ruddick and Fran Spath. Sue thanked all for submitting their hours for 2019. Fran, reminder to submit all hours for one month together. Weekend hours double for the Welcome Center, Gift Shop, Saturday Tour and Conservatory Ambassador.

Tour Guides - Mike Blanco. Next meeting is Thursday, Feb 13 at 10 AM in Ecke. There will be an interactive discussion on Children's tours, with experienced tour guides. SIAS/Adaptation. New microphones available for those giving tours. There will be 15 tours in March alone and 22 slots are unfilled. A great need for more new tour guides.

Garden Beautification - Anna Dreiling, Dianna Burke, and Barry Martin

Anna, GB dates and information are listed on the Website. The new GB area will be held next Saturday, Feb. 8th in one of the sections of the upper South American Garden. The Lawn Garden needs someone to help out while Dianna Burke is away.

Free Tuesday - Barb Farley. Thank you to all working Free Tuesdays.

Botanic Book Buddies - Barb Farley. The next meeting will be next Wednesday afternoon in the Lawn House. They will review *Two In the Far North* by Margaret Murie, one of the foremost advocates for wilderness preservation in the 20th century. In April the book will be *The Forgotten Peninsula* by Joseph Wood Krutch, a Baja naturalist. Robert Kopfstein will bring some of his photos and speak of his experiences there.

Trip Trio - Carol Eblen, Evon MacKinnon, and Peggy Overland. Carol, Friday, March 6th will be a tour of Karen Groot's garden in Olivenhain. Meet in the Garden parking lot at 9:30. Optional to bring your lunch. There will be sign ups for tour at the March 4th meeting.

Docents at Large - Shahla Dreyer and Liz Tesolin

Shahla - forms for VOM nominations are in the West Wing. Send suggestions, for things to use the Docent Society funds for, to either Shahla or Liz.

Meeting Adjourned at 10:35 am

Linda Cooper, Secretary

Break for Refreshments - Lucille Brown

Speaker Program: Strategic Planning at SDBG.