

**San Diego Botanic Garden Docent/Volunteer Monthly Meeting**  
**MARCH 2, 2011**  
Minutes

**9:30 am Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance**

Plant Raffle Table presented by Caitlin Levy  
Door Prize Drawing won by Ken Nikodym

**Chair Report and Announcements**

- Minutes of February 2, 2011 Meeting were approved
- Recognition of Volunteer and Docent Milestones was given.
- Total Docent Hours for 2010 = 21,111
- Upcoming Docent Training: 3/9 @10am Native Plants & People – Roper & Rose; 3/30 @ 9:30 am Desert Plants & Succulents – Flechsig & Spindel
- Next Month's Program: "Ruth & Charles Larabee" by Sally Sandler

**Coordinator & Committee Reports**

- Garden Beautification - Peter Jones thanked all who helped last Wednesday in the South African Garden. 24 people showed up and their work made a huge difference. Garden beautification Saturday March 5, 9 – 12 Old World Desert Garden; March 12, Herb Garden and Sub Tropical Fruit Trees; March 26 California Gardenscapes. There will be a Power Wednesday in April with Robert Kopfstein in the Australian Garden.
- Herb Festival - Volunteers please sign up for the Herb Festival (Mar 19-20, 9am-5pm) guest speaker Susan Belsinger culinary herbalist.
- Tour Guides - Next Tour Guides Meeting Thursday, 3/10 10 am, in Native area, reviewing plants & people. Check the online Tour Guides calendar for details of upcoming tours.
- Upcoming Trips - April 28 - firstly at Bette Childs' then Liz Woodward's where she will be providing lunch. Sign up if interested. Carpool if possible. Meet at SDBG. Tour starts at 10 am.
- Outreach - Sign up to help with the SDBG booth at the Del Mar Spring Garden Show at the Del Mar Fairgrounds, 3/4 to 3/6. Sign up early to help the Outreach team at the Coronado Flower Show, April 16 – 17.
- Admissions - Sign up to work the Admissions Booth at weekends in May and June.
- Daylily Care & Propagation - Sandy Shapiro could use some extra help – at your convenience. Contact him if interested.
- Bloom Board - A virtual bloom board is on the public and docent websites. The cumulative board on the Docents' site lists the plants in various ways by Common Names, Scientific Names, Botanical Family, Garden Location, Month in Bloom, Flower color and Height! Allan Dodds would like to give a short presentation about it next month.
- Jams and Jellies - Thanks for all the contributions so far. Quart sized jars not needed. 6 – 8 oz jelly jars please. Also donations of sugar and fruit - ask friends and neighbors.

Diana Goforth presented Jane Soher as Docent of the Month.

Dave Ehrlinger presented *Echium candicans* - Pride of Madeira as plant of the month.

**SDBG Staff Reports**

- Julian Duval - Please keep John Becker, long time volunteer and wonderful plant man, in your thoughts and prayers.
- Following a recent energy audit the Gardens may soon be replacing pumps, lights and appliances to be more energy efficient. The installation of solar panels on the south slope of the Ecke Building roof is also being seriously considered. A tour to Singapore (to visit the soon to be opened new Botanic Garden), and perhaps Bali or Vietnam is being planned for the beginning of 2012. In November the Bill Teague Scholarship Fund was established. It amounts to around \$9,000. The principal will be preserved by the SDBG Foundation.
- Pat Hammer – A message from Bernice - please consider carpooling to the Monthly Meeting and parking in the overflow car park. Thanks to Bobby Hinostro who has agreed to drive a cart to shuttle us back and forth. Free Tuesdays are impacting the Gardens significantly and more help is needed on those days. No school groups or buses are scheduled on Free Tuesdays but large groups show up anyway. Extra volunteers and docents wearing their name badges and simply being around the Gardens on those days would really make a difference. Attendance for the year 2010 was the second highest in our history with 182,194 visitors. Revenue from Admissions was up by \$10,000 in January with 11,794 visitors. The Budget Report is available in Pat's office if anyone is interested.
- Diana Goforth - Please take the flyers about upcoming classes and events and hand them out. The classes are also listed on the website. Susan Belsinger will our honored guest at the Herb Festival. See Quail Tracks for details of her talk on Saturday and cooking demonstration on Sunday. We have a sponsor for Debra Lee Baldwin's class on June 4<sup>th</sup>. Thanks to all those who contributed to the upcoming edition of Quail Tracks. Sign up today to volunteer at the Chocolate Festival – May 7<sup>th</sup>.
- Sherri Johnson – At this year's Gala on 9/10/11 we will be celebrating nature and art with honoree James Hubbell. Thanks to all who helped last year. Please sign up and become involved – people needed to chair various committees.
- Linda Davis – We have a sponsor for the Fairy Festival – June 18, 10am – 2pm. 16 oz cottage cheese cartons are needed for the Ladybug Day – May 21, 10 am – 1pm.
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**Other Business**

- Linh Tran from Retired Senior Volunteer Program – Linh gave a short presentation about the benefits of enrolling in the program and explained the many meaningful volunteer opportunities available throughout the county. See Pat Hammer for details. SDBG is one of the 135 volunteer sites. Thanks for all that you do here – volunteers are more important than ever in the present economy. Linh honored Sandy Shapiro as the RSVP Volunteer of the Month – he volunteers at 14 different places and will be considered for Volunteer of the Year. Sandy thanked Pat for being honored in this way.

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The meeting adjourned at 10:34.

Plant Raffle, break and refreshments. Sign up for volunteer opportunities.

**11 am Program** – “Protea” by Walter Parkola.

**Respectfully submitted**

**Sarah Clayton**