

San Diego Botanic Garden Docent/Volunteer Monthly Meeting
April 6, 2011
Minutes

9:30 a.m. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance.

Plant Raffle Table presented by Caitlin Levy.

Door Prize Drawing was won by Stacy Gaudet.

Minutes of March 2, 2011 Meeting were approved.

Chair Report and Announcements

- Daylilies are on sale today. Two for \$5 proceeds to Docent Society.
- Jay Davis has resigned as Docent Training Coordinator. Linda Stewart will be taking his place.
- Hours Recorder - position needs to be filled. The job takes about 4-5 hours per month and requires someone with Excel skills. Talk to Linda Stewart if you are interested.
- Docent Milestone Program Peter Jones (98) and Elsbeth Yin (135) were recognized.
- Next Volunteer Orientation is Thursday, April 28, 9:30am to noon. Garden Beautification Team captains may want to attend to recruit new people.
- Upcoming Docent Training: Bamboo & Subtropical Fruit, Wednesday April 27, Palms, Cycads & Rain Forest May 11. Classes start at 9:30 in the Larabee House.
- Liz Woodward emphasized the importance of sharing your stories about the gardens with visitors, family and friends. She gave an example of how another non-profit organization found a new, wealthy, and very generous benefactor using this approach.
- Suggestion box Use box for suggestions, (for volunteer of the month for example), and your comments. Alternatively email Liz or Kitty.
- Hospitality Fran Spath needs two people to help with the May meeting.
- Robin Hermann brought in a copy of the front page of the local section of the Union Tribune which featured an article about the Herb Festival.
- Next Month's Program: "The Great Pacific Garbage Patch" by Celia Kiewit.

Coordinator & Committee Reports

- San Diego County Fair – the exhibit committee comprises 13 – 15 people. The next committee meeting will be on Wednesday, May 11, at 8.45 am. The SDBG exhibit honoring Bill Teague will be a replication of some of the gardens he created here. May 23 – June 6 are building dates and extra help with construction of the exhibit will be needed. Contact Peter Jones to help.
- Garden Beautification – Peter Jones reported that the Saturday working parties are going extremely well with mothers and teenagers turning out to help. Where are the fathers? Saturday, April 30 is open if any team captain would like to take that spot and get additional volunteers that day. June Anderson is in the Fruit Garden on the 2nd Saturday of every month and would like others to join her. The Mexican Garden needs a team captain – contact Peter or Sally Sandler if interested. Susan Starr needs help in the South African Garden during the summer months. A list of the Saturday Beautification Teams will be kept in the Admissions Booth. Team captains are encouraged to attend the upcoming Volunteer Orientation.
- Tour Guides – Mary Roper will be demonstrating a General Tour at the next Tour Guides Meeting Thursday, April 14 at 10a.m. and will have a bunch of props on hand. Please go to the online Tour Guides calendar and sign up for EcoTours and Station Tours.
- Upcoming Trips – Thursday, April 28 at 10a.m. - Childs/Woodward Gardens. Carpooling is strongly recommended. Departure time from SDBG parking lot 9:45am. Liz Woodward is graciously providing lunch. If you already signed up and are unable to go be sure to let one of the Trip Trio know so Liz has an accurate head count.

- Chocolate Festival – Saturday, May 7. Sign up.

Volunteer of the Month – Tom Soher, presented by Stacy Gaudet.

Plant of the Month – Tower of Jewels (*Echium simplex*) presented by Dave Ehrlinger. This Echium has white blossoms and is not yet in full bloom. This is a good year for Sapphire Tower (*Puya Alpestris*) which can be found in the South American Garden where one or two clumps were planted back in the '60s or '70s. Look for the electric/metallic blue and green blooms in the next couple of weeks.

SDBG Staff Reports

- Julian Duval – Thank you for all that you do. Look for brand new metal trash and recycle cans in the Gardens very soon.
- Diana Goforth - Despite the weather the Herb Festival was great. Thanks to the dynamic committee and especially Kitty Sparrow. Asian Arts in the Garden, the weekend of April 16 & 17, additional help needed in Admissions. Those interested in the Gourd & Basket Weekend, April 30 and May 1, should sign up now. Sculptures in the Gardens: The current show will be deinstalled the week of April 18 and a new show will go in the first week of May for viewing June 1.
- Tracie Barham – Encinitas Rotary Wine Festival, Saturday, June 4, will be held in the Hamilton Children's Garden. Please buy tickets and choose SDBG as a beneficiary. We now have three new corporate sponsors: Landscape Network, Proflowers.com and Shea Homes. Tracie introduced Stacy Kubrock who is the new Development Assistant. There are now 5300 members – 35% more than before the HCG was opened and those signing up for the Larabee Society level of membership have grown significantly.
- Linda Davis - Ladybug Day, Saturday May 21, 10-12:30. Please sign up to help.
- Suzanne Brueckner – Sign up if you can help with the Make-a-Wish Easter Egg Hunt. The Spring Party with Bunny, Saturday, April 23 – 10-11.30 and 11.30-1.00. Thanks to Stacy Gaudet for being the Bunny again this year.

Other Business

- Dave Ehrlinger will be giving a lecture on the Plants and Flowers of Imogen Cunningham (a botanical photographer) at the Oceanside Museum of Art on Saturday, April 23 at 2p.m. Admission is complimentary for SDBG members during regular museum hours. The exhibition of her work runs through May 22.
- Ken Hayward asked people to start setting aside books and magazines for Fall Plant Sale. Put a sticker on anything you consider really valuable so it may be appraised.
- Alan Dodds presented the Bloom Board on the qbgdocents.org website.

Plant Raffle – drawing at the close of the business meeting.

10:45 to 11:00 a.m. Break – refreshments, sign up for volunteer opportunities.

11:00 a.m. Program – “Cultivating Their Place in History: The Story of Ruth & Charles Larabee” by Sally Sandler.

Respectfully submitted

Sarah Clayton