

San Diego Botanic Garden Docent/Volunteer Monthly Meeting
February 1, 2012
Minutes

9:31 Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance.
Plant Raffle Table presented by Liz Rozycki.
Door Prize Drawing – won by Phyllis Flechsig.
Minutes of the January Meeting were approved by consent.

CHAIR ANNOUNCEMENTS

- ñ Milestones for Docents and Volunteers for January were recognized.
- ñ Beginning this year a new directory will be handed out each April. Updates should be submitted to Emy Meiorin. Robin Hermann, Docent Coordinator, will be checking on the status of those currently listed and making changes where needed. All docent and volunteer hours for 2011 should be submitted by February 8, 2012 at the latest.
- ñ The first meeting of the Botanic Book Buddies will be held on Wednesday, February 8 @ noon in the Lawn House. Bring a brown bag lunch.
- ñ A nominating committee will be formed in May. If you are interested in being on the committee contact Liz Woodward. Liz gave a brief description of what the Docents' Society Chairperson, Vice Chair and Secretary do and how many hours a month are spent in fulfilling their duties. At subsequent General Meetings she will give brief job descriptions for the other positions on the Docent Executive Board.
- ñ Upcoming program for March – Healing Gardens by Chris Garcia. Contact Stacy Gaudet if you have any specific questions you would like addressed by the guest speakers at the May meeting. Two Chinese herbalists will be giving a presentation on arthritis, aspects of aging and the fountain of youth.

COORDINATOR AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

- ñ New docents Tandy Pfost and Diane Tindal were presented with their pins and certificates by Linda Stewart. Spring classes for Docent Training begin February 9.
- ñ The Trip Trio reported that the Salk Institute trip was incredible and thanked Wendy Graham and her husband, Tom. The next tour, on Thursday, March 1, is to Linda Wagner's and Mary Rouch's gardens with lunch afterward. Check the website for details. Meet at SDBG at 9:15 to carpool. Use Mapquest for directions if you are driving on your own rather than car-pooling. Sign up today for a tour at Torrey Pines State Park led by Sharon and Steve Rose on April 16. Meet in the SDBG parking lot at 9:15 am. There will be no charge for parking at Torrey Pines because it is a reciprocal tour. Lunch afterward. A trip to the LA Arboretum in May or June is being planned.
- ñ Anne Spindel announced that all the Tours for February are covered. Everyone is invited to brush up and learn at next week's meeting, Thursday, February 9, at 10 am in the Larabee when Liz Woodward will be presenting Botany Boot Camp.
- ñ Sign-up today to work at the Welcome Center, aka the Admissions Booth, in March and April.
- ñ Garden Beautification Teams will be working in Seeds of Wonder on February 4, Subtropical Fruit on the 11, Herb Garden on the 18 and in California Natives on the 25. Sally Sandler is looking for two people to take over as Team Captains in the Herb Garden.

VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH - Fran and Robert Hinostro were recognized.

PLANT DRAWING & PLANT OF THE MONTH - Del Mar Manzanita (*Arctostaphylos glandulosa* ssp. *Crassifolia*) This federally endangered species grows naturally here on the grounds and can be found at the Overlook to the east of the boardwalk and also in the Native Plants, Native People area of the Gardens in the north east corner of the trail. The plants are labeled. It is in the Azalea and Rhododendron family, an evergreen with attractive bark, found on sandstone and hard to propagate.

SDBG STAFF REPORTS

- ñ Julian Duval offered his congratulations to Tandy and Diane, Robert and Fran. The trustees' retreat was very interesting and informative. One of the trustees has donated money which will allow us to make some improvements to the Gift Shop. This will include a sun room addition to expand the interior space, upgrading the perimeter fence around the plant sale area, painting a new floor and possibly

moving the portable Gift Cart into that area. Work is underway making improvements in Native Plants, Native People. The Baja trip departs on March 1. The pre-trip dinner will take place on February 20.

- ñ Pat Hammer apologized for taking two people from us - hiring docents Mary Lou Morgan and Cheryl Mergenthaler to work in the Admissions Booth. Carla Gilbert is back as a volunteer. Pat said that she is working towards photo name tags that will allow staff and volunteers to scan in and out. There have been problems with volunteers coming in on week-ends that do not stop at the booth and sign in/out and lately the staff has noticed "other" people in the Garden on the week-end who may not even be a volunteer. Some come in (any day) and roll through the second entry lane and wave at the admissions people but the admissions people do not always know who they are or where they are going. **AND** many continue to come in the exit at the top of the hill. Some volunteers come in with guests to visit the Garden when they are not working and expect to be admitted for free. As we work to clean up some very lax admissions procedures everyone is being reminded of the rules and policies. These rules need to be enforced for safety and security of the Garden and everyone here. The goal is to know who is on the property at all times. In the meantime Pat stated that the rules for access to the Gardens must be adhered to by everyone. Specifically:

1. **ALL** Docents and Volunteers must stop at the Admissions booth and declare they are here to volunteer and give their name no matter what job, where they are working or what day it is.

2. On week-ends, **ALL** Volunteers and Docents must stop at the Admissions booth and also sign in at the booth unless they are here for a specific events such as GOL, Chocolate Festival, Plant Sale etc.

3. If there is an organized work party scheduled for a week-end, it must be listed on the week-end papers in advance. **ALL** Volunteers must either sign in on the list provided by the work party organizer or sign in on a regular sign in sheet.

4. **ALL** Docents and Volunteers must stop at Admissions and speak to the person on duty there. They can no longer use the second lane, wave to the person in the Booth and keep on rolling by.

5. All volunteers and their guests who are not members of the Garden must pay to visit the Garden when they are **not** working.

6. **NO ONE** should enter the exit lane and bypass the Admissions booth. If this happens the driver will be given a "First Time Warning." and sent back to the Admissions booth to sign in. They will be told that the next time we will be calling the police to have their vehicle towed away as they are entering the Garden illegally.

Everyone is encouraged to car-pool, use the overflow car park and shuttle when attending the Docent/Volunteer Meetings.

- ñ Tracie Barham reported that we have received two grants – one for \$1500 from the Encinitas Garden Festival Committee which will be used to do some repairs and upgrades in SOW and HCG. The Dickinson Foundation has provided about \$40,000 which will be used to make upgrades to the nursery and Gift Shop. The year-end appeal brought in close to \$27,000 – we had budgeted for \$25,000. Janet Kister, former Garden trustee, will be honored at the Gala which takes place on September 8 and for the first time will be held in the HCG. We are looking for someone to co-chair the Gala and a co-chair for new Cuisines. A chairperson for a new sub-committee that will be promoting Gala ticket sales through our cuisine vendors is also needed. Gift membership sales increased by 45 over last year. Membership ambassadors are needed. A spring reception thanking all Larabee, Benefactor and Corporate members & kicking off the Herb Festival, Spring Plant Sale and Tomatomania will take place on Friday, March 16, @ 5pm in the Ecke Building. At this event there will be a short talk by Scott Daigre of Tomatomania and a pre sale of tomato plants.
- ñ Sign up today with Michael Wolfington if you are interested in attending the Valentine's Day evening event - \$75 per couple.
- ñ Diana Goforth directed everyone's attention to the upcoming classes which are now listed on the back of the Agenda together with upcoming activities. To save paper flyers for these events are being printed on half sheets. Everyone is encouraged to attend a discussion with the artists from 10 – 12pm on March

3, as part of the Through the Eyes of an Artist event. Sign up opportunities today for the Herb Festival, Spring Plant Sale and Tomatomania – March 17 & 18, 9 am – 5 pm.

ñ Linda Davis asked for volunteers to sign up to help with the Ladybug Day, April 21, 10 – 12:30pm.

ñ Suzanne Brueckner asked for help at the Make a Wish Foundation's egg hunt on April 6 and also on April 7 at the annual Spring Party with bunny – from 9:30 – 11:00 and 11:00 – 1:00. 12 volunteers needed.

OTHER BUSINESS

ñ Email Terry Armstrong to help with embroidering aprons for the Gift Shop.

ñ Pick up plant cuttings today from Margaret Jones. Also see her if interested in openings on the Topiary and Undersea Garden Teams.

ñ See Mo Price if you can help with the San Dieguito Art Guild & Garden Tour – May 12 & 13.

ñ February 18 4pm Dana Point Ocean Institute program – Captain Charles Moore – 'Plastic Ocean'.

Meeting adjourned at 10:50 am.

Program – Plants of the Holy Land featuring Jerusalem Botanic Garden by Anne Spindel.

Respectfully submitted

Sarah Clayton