

GLSDS Meeting Minutes

2/21/2016

1:30PM at MBG

Mariel Tribby gave our group a presentation: 'Mission Not Impossible: Perennial Borders.' Mariel manages the Bavarian, Alpine and Rock Gardens at MBG, and is working in a wild sourcing project that has identified three Biodiversity Hotspots; 1) The Caucasus, 2) Altar Sayer and 3) The Carpathian Region. These 3 areas have somewhat similar weather to that here in St. Louis and MBG wild sources plant seeds from these regions, especially of endangered species, to test and see if they can grow here.

For each of these 3 Hotspots Mariel showed us photos of the climate, topography typical flora and how many species had been identified there, how many were endemic, and how many rare or endangered. Research botanists from MBG and other botanical institutions collect seeds from these areas. She spoke to us of controls for this type of research; The Garden can't release seeds from these plants, because they are brought into the US under strict USDA controls to try and prevent escapees that may be invasive or carry some type of disease. She mentioned that one of the forbs she had growing in the Perennial Border by the Linnaean Greenhouse had to be removed because it had been found to be invasive in another botanical garden. Many gardeners in our group really liked some of the flowers she showed us and had wanted to know where we might get seeds. She said it takes years to get something approved for commercial sale.

Mariel spoke of the challenges she faces in implementing this program, and some things she might like to do in the future, like adding interpretive signage, and increasing the number of endemic, rare and threatened species in the Garden. The group found her presentation fascinating.

Cindy Haeffner opened our business meeting at 3:05pm. Minutes of the January Meeting were accepted, the motion by Dave Niswonger and seconded by Lynn Slackman.

Peter McAdams gave the treasurer's report.

Old Business. Lynn Slackman gave the status for the World Daffodil Convention. We have an allotment of rooms at the hotel, 222 registered with 130 registered for the convention. We are up to the limit on buses. After 3/1 registration cost goes up. Tours are confirmed at MBG, the herbarium and library (40 only). Bob Skaggs discussed prizes and asked for ideas for games on the bus. Cindy has help lined up for the last two weekends in March for labeling at the farm. Peter noted that his place is open as an ADS demonstration garden for any of the attendees.

New Business. Jason identified the nominating committee of Pam Hardy, Rob Donnelly and Charles Pickens.

We then reviewed the WDC schedule:

Wednesday, 4/5 Registration desk opens at 9AM. The hotel will be keeping the Versailles II room at 55 degrees for the length of the show to preserve the flowers. At 5 PM there will be a Welcome Reception with snacks. Vendors will be setting up in the lobby outside the Versailles room with Ringhaddy doing a commercial display. There is a welcome reception from 5-6PM with snacks. Individuals will be staging their daffodils as long as needed.

Thursday, 4/7 Tours for MBG and Bellefontaine Cemetery leave from the hotel. Judges and clerks meet at 9:30 before the actual judging session which runs from 10AM to 12 with a buffet lunch for judges and clerks starting at 11:30. The show is open to the public from 1-5PM. Awards banquet is from 7-9PM.

Friday, 4/8 The Show is open to the public from 10AM to 3 PM with docents from MBG and the Master Gardeners. The Herman tour leaves the hotel at 8AM and returns at 10PM.

Saturday, 4/9 Symposiums run from 8-11:15 on the Lobby level of the hotel. The MBG tour is in the afternoon. Banquet is from 7-9PM and Show tear down immediately after.

Sunday, 4/10 Flora tour runs from the hotel at 8AM returning at 5PM, including lunch. Banquet is at 5:30PM.

Door prizes – Marlene Katz won the ceramic, Gary Knehans won the \$25 gift certificate, Peter McAdams, Mary Susan Greenwalt and Rosemary Hopson won plants.

After reviewing the Convention schedule the meeting was adjourned. An additional meeting will be held March 13 to go over details for the convention.

Respectfully submitted,

Vaughn Meister