



The Bonsai Wire

A Monthly Newsletter of the **San Diego Bonsai Club**

Volume 46, Issue 1

January 2020



Message from the President

Sue Carter, SDBC President

Welcome to 2020! I am honored to have been elected as SDBC president for 2020. Thank you to everyone for this opportunity to serve. This year is already promising to be a great year for the San Diego Bonsai Club. The Bonsai Club board and the appointed position holders are beginning, and for holdover members continuing, the detailed behind-the-scenes work, research, and preparation to ensure our club maintains its stellar reputation as one of the most active and best teaching bonsai clubs in the U.S.

Everyone who holds an office, either elected or appointed, does so for the joy of being an active participant of this amazing club. But what makes the San Diego Bonsai Club such

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Next Meeting: 1/12

Glen Jensen

Ignacio de la Torre, 1st VP



We kick off the 2020 club presentations with a Back-To-Fundamentals series presentation delivered by one of our club elders, Glenn Jensen. Glenn will discuss "Where do I get bonsai stock and what do I look for?" This is a topic that most Bonsai students contend with. The presentation is an excellent opportunity for members,

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Bonsai Teachers List

Susan Ronan

The following is an expanded list of members who want to welcome you to their classes. Instruction may be in small groups or one-on-one according to your needs. Fee arrangements and location are to be made with the instructor. Contact each for further details.

- Nazim Colak, San Marcos - nazimcolak@yahoo.com
- Abe Far, Santee - abe_far@yahoo.com
- Ryan Haines, Hillcrest - ryanhaines88@yahoo.com
- John Jackson, Lakeside - bonsaijohn@cox.net
- Glenn Jensen, Encinitas - glenn@bajaphotographer.com
- Gary Jones, Clairemont - twoopenhands@yahoo.com
- Fred Miyahara, College Area - tmiya@cox.net
- Christian Reha, Lemon Grove, Christianreha@gmail.com
- 'lyn Stevenson, Poway - inthegrove@cox.com
- John Voss, Vista, 442-224-4423

Any member wishing to add their name to this list are welcome to contact Susan Ronan at sronanstudio@gmail.com.

SDBC Website:

sandiegobonsaiclub.com

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SDBC Elected Officers & Appointed Positions:

President:

Sue Carter – susangcarter2004@att.net

1st Vice President:

Ignacio de la Torre – igdlit@att.net

VP for Education:

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VP for Special Projects:

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Jack Graham - jgraham@drammechter.com

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Japanese Friendship Garden

Bonsai Curator:

Neil Auwarter - neilauwarter@hotmail.com

Liaison:

Barbara French-Lee - barbflee@hotmail.com

Bonsai Pavilion, Safari Park

Curator:

John Jackson - bonsaijohn@cox.net

Assistant Curator:

Dennis Wagner - denisW@cox.net

Liaison:

'lyn Stevenson - inthegrove@cox.net

Upcoming Trip:

Winter Silhouettes 56th Annual Exhibition January 18, 2020

Abe Far



Our trip to the Winter Silhouettes shows, hosted by the Baiko-En Bonsai Kenkyukai Society, will be on Saturday, January 18, 2020. This is a unique bonsai show. Since the trees have no leaves to cover any unpleasant branches, the

trees have to be perfect in structure and form to be ready for show. This will be a wonderful experience and fun trip. It will be an exciting experience for all bonsai lovers. I encourage everybody to sign up. We are invited to dinner and to participate in their demo, auction and raffle. San Diego Bonsai Club members always take some bonsai-related items and some kind of desert for the evening dinner. The cost of the trip is \$40 for SDBC members. On the way up, we will visit Green Product to get some pots and Jidai Bonsai Nursery. The bus departs from Balboa Park at 11:00 am sharp and Carlsbad at 11:30 am. We will be back in Balboa Park at 11:00 pm. Thanks to those members who are signed up and paid. I would like to collect from signed up members who have not paid at the January meeting. So far 23 members are planning to go and we have lots of room left in the bus. To sign up, please see Abe Far at our regular club meeting or call Abe Far at 619-384-0004. You may also sign up on our website: sandiegobonsaiclub.com.

Other Bonsai Activities

January 31st - February 2nd, 2020 - [17th Annual California Shohin Seminar](#), Hotel Mission De Oro 13070 S. Highway 33, Santa Nella.

It's membership renewal time!

Udaykant Pandey, SDBC VP of Membership

This is time of the year to renew your vows with the club by paying your membership dues. We will be accepting payments for membership renewals at January meeting. The dues will remain at \$30 for an individual and \$35 for two members of a family. Any additional family members are \$5 each. Members who joined during the Fall 2019 show or later are "grandfathered" in for all of 2020. Remember: You must have a current active membership to be eligible to participate in club activities such as the upcoming Winter Silhouettes trip in January and the Bonsai-A-Thon trip in February. Current active membership is also needed to attend beginners/workshop/skills classes.

Please welcome new members Margie Castro, Jason Castro, Willian McColl, Brenda Myers, Takae Ohnishi, Lei Liang, Albert Liang, Liping Tang, Brooke Wiewiora, Ryan Smith, Paul Barch. With these additions we now have 427 current members.

I would like to personally thank Keith, my predecessor, who has done a commendable job as Vice President for Membership of the club for last two years. Club membership has seen a steady increase under his stewardship. I hope to carry forward this work with the co-operation of the club members and the Board.

SDBC 2020 Officers



Barbara French-Lee, Immediate Past President, Bill Graham, VP for Education, Ignacio de la Torre, 1st VP, Uday Pandey, VP for Membership, Jack Graham, Secretary, Abe Far, VP for Special Project, Susan Carter, President, Jaya Kaelberer, Treasurer

SDBC Education:

Bill Graham, SDBC VP of Education

Welcome to 2020! I think we have another great year in the making and I look forward to spending it with you! I have Beginners Classes, Intermediate and Advanced Workshops in the pipeline. I think you will be pleased and excited when you see what is planned. I know I am!

Beginning Classes:



Our first quarter Beginning Classes for the year has a waiting list. We have Susan Ronan as lead instructor. The class will be Olea euopaea. We have some really nice small leaved olives for this class.



The class starts at 8:30 am in Room 104. Please be on time or a few minutes early to help set up the room. Observers are always welcome. Even if you did not get into the class, you can still observe and learn.

New members are always excited about taking the beginners classes, and several have asked to be put on a waiting list for the next class. If you are a new member please note that sign-up sheets for all classes and workshops are first available at the Bonsai Club meeting TWO months before the classes/workshops are held. We do not start a waiting list until after the sign-up sheet has been put out at the meeting and filled.

Intermediate Skills Workshops

January - Club Repotting

Please limit yourself to two (2) trees. **PLEASE** clean and prune your trees before bringing them in. Soil and assistance will be provided both before and after the meeting. This is a completely free gift from the club to you!

February - Grafting

Our own grafting Master, Fred Miyahara, will be hosting a grafting workshop at the February Meeting. Understock, scions, tape and bags will be provided. **You will need to bring a grafting knife.** We will be grafting Shimpaku on to Nanas. The class is limited to 6 people total. The cost is \$30.00. There are still a couple of spots left for this class. Get signed up and don't miss out!!



Fred Miyahara demonstrating grafting at a previous workshop.

March Workshop - Black Pines

We will again have our own Master of the Japanese Black Pine, Fred Miyahara, presenting a workshop. This class is limited to 6 people. We have some nice pines that were grown by Jim Barrett. Fred will bring his many years of experience and training to help guide you to your own future masterpiece. The cost is \$125.00. Sign-up sheets will be at the **January** meeting.

April Workshop - Heavy Bending

John Voss will lead a class on how to make some heavy bends on juniper prostrata. You may have seen John at one of our shows, sitting outside in the courtyard with raffia, big wire and big pliers. He likes to work on trees with long straightaways and turn them in to something with movement and interest. This class will be limited to 6 people total. Sign-up sheets will be at the **February** meeting.

Reminder

A reminder that all beginning classes, workshops and skills classes are taught from 8:30 am to 10:15 am (unless a time change is specified) on club meeting days at Balboa Park. Also, don't forget to bring any trees that you would like some help or advice on from our excellent bonsai masters at the club. Help is located in the back of room 101 to the right of the stage.

If you have any ideas that can improve our programs or have skills that you would like to share please contact me at the monthly meeting or at wfgraham3rd@gmail.com.

Upcoming Trip - Feb. 22, 2020:

Bonsai-A-Thon

Abe Far



For our bus trip in February 2020, we will visit the Huntington Library, Art Museum, and Botanical Gardens, which houses the Golden State Bonsai Federation Bonsai Collection in Southern California. The Bonsai-A-Thon is scheduled for Saturday and Sunday February 22-23. In addition to the wonderful bonsai exhibits, there will be demonstrations, workshops, and a large vendor area. At the end of each day, an auction and raffle will be held. Breakfast is served from 7:00 to 9:00 am and lunch from 12:00 to 1:30 pm at a minimal cost. Meals are open for those who wish to partake. Garden tours are scheduled at 10:00 am on both days. Our bus trip to Bonsai-A-Thon will be on Saturday, February 22, 2020. The cost is \$40 per person for club members. We will depart from Balboa Park at 7:00 am sharp and Carlsbad at 7:30 am. We will be back in Balboa Park about 7:00 pm. To sign up, please see Abe Far at our regular club meeting or call Abe Far at 619-384-0004. You may also sign up on our website: www.sandiegobonsaiclub.com. This is a fundraising event for our collection; please bring some items for the raffle and auction. Please help me to fill up the bus.

Upcoming Meeting - Continued from Page 1

especially our newer members, to understand not only the things to look for when buying plant material and how to look for them, but also how to find good affordably-priced material on which to practice and develop skills. The demonstration will address the basics of bonsai material shopping -- cost, quality, and raw vs semi-trained bonsai plants. Glenn will bring a few demonstration trees and ask the audience to select the one he will work on.

We're fortunate to have Glenn start off the year. He has been a member of California Bonsai Society since 1982 and Nampu-kai since 1992. He was a member of Kofu Bonsai Kai and has been a member of San Diego Bonsai Club since 2005.

Glenn first became aware of bonsai while a student at the USC School of Dentistry in the late 1960's when California Bonsai Society had their annual show at Exposition Park, Los Angeles. The California Junipers were so powerful, he was hooked! After graduation, Glenn was stationed in Southeast Asia at USAF Hospital, which gave him the opportunity to explore Japan. He was struck by the beauty of Japanese art, particularly bonsai. In the late 1970's, Glenn became serious about bonsai and sought out teachers. He's trained under some of the best in Bonsai. He began in 1979 with Harry Hirao and took monthly classes in his backyard until 2000. In 1982, Glenn began classes with John Naka that continued until Naka retired from teaching around 1996. He's also trained for years with Richard Ota, Frank Koge of Sho-En, and Kenji Miyata. Glenn teaches us the importance of always learning.

Glenn has previously taught classes for the club. You'll enjoy his pleasant teaching style.

SAN DIEGO BONSAI PAVILION

SAFARI PARK



The 2019 year at the Pavilion provided over 3200 volunteer hours in the care of the Bonsai and the Pavilion Garden. That represents very generous participation from about 50 of our SDBC members who also are at the Pavilion each month. All the volunteers are credentialed Zoo-Safari Park volunteers who will be renewing their I.D. credentials for 2020. Congratulations and thanks to all!

This past December, our volunteers included: Neil Auwarter, Julia Chow, Sally & Steve Dischinger, Cathy & Mark Edgar, Markel Farley, Paris Haber, Janice Hale, Sonya Holmquist, John Jackson, Jaya Kaelberer, Jim Kirchner, David Meyer, Carla Marasco, Charlie & Sylvia Mosse, Janet & Ron Palmer, Shawn & Yvette Palmer, Sally Prestele, Clare & Ron Roberts, 'lyn Stevenson, Yoichiro Suemori, Dennis Wagner, Dave Woodall, and Ken Zito. Special delicious and edible treats were provided by Jaya, Julia, John, Cathy, 'lyn, and the Dischingers.



This past year continued with added improvements and enhancements to the collection with donations and assistance from members and friends and Safari Staff. In past years, we contended with mud sliding into the Pavilion from rains but improved drains, paved paths, and cemented work areas proved to be a tremendous

benefit. Even with the heavy December rains, the Pavilion was in great condition for visitors and volunteers alike and repairs were minimal compared to the past. What a treat! We are now concentrating on improving the show tables and stands. In order to provide permanent materials - usually granite slabs - this will be an expensive project. Fundraising with grants and donations



will be requested from many potential sources.

Among particular requests for VIP individuals and groups, we enjoy sharing in depth "lectures" with these special individuals. Often these encounters are during the week and not at our usual Saturday work sessions so several volunteers come to the rescue. Usually, Curator John and a few other volunteers spend time explaining bonsai, the Pavilion work, and the art involved.

Certainly, the visitors to the Pavilion in 2019 have increased many times over. It was an inconvenience for us while the Australia Exhibit was being constructed but we now benefit from the addition of many Park visitors who are discovering this upper area at Safari Park. They are enjoying the opportunity to see and appreciate this unique bonsai collection. It is a pleasure for the



Pavilion volunteers to answer questions, educate the visitors and share information about the SDBC, etc. One of the favorite questions, "Are these real trees?" Another question, often asked, is "How old is a tree?" That question has been partially answered by some new mini signs that we have attached by the name plate of particular bonsai. We ascertain approximate ages from information supplied by the donors. Visitors have made positive comments about this added information and are in awe especially when trees are older that they are! Always surprises and always fun! Join us in 2020!



*'lyn Stevensen,
Liaison to the Pavilion at Safari Park*

an awesome, vibrant club is all of you, whether you have a title or not, who show up regularly, who volunteer your time, and give your resources to support the club's many varied activities.

Hats off to all of you! It's you who make this club great.

One of my priorities as the new president is to encourage more members – especially our newer members – to become involved in club activities.

There's an old saying that you only get out of an activity what you put into it. I can tell you from my own experience that you'll enjoy your bonsai experience much more if you get involved in the club as a volunteer in some capacity. Remember, no job is too small to make a difference.

We have many opportunities and roles in which you can contribute to the club. If you're not sure, let me know and we will find the perfect place for you.

Be sure take advantage of our upcoming trips in January. The Shohin Convention in Santa Nella, Calif. and the Winter Silhouettes at the Arboretum in Los Angeles are always interesting and enjoyable outings.

The start of the new year is a reminder that winter, even in our comparatively mild Southern California climate, can be a challenge for bonsai enthusiasts. Spraying dormant trees for bugs and diseases, repotting, watering and fertilizing are all issues that need to be addressed this time of year to keep your trees healthy and ready to grow when warmer weather arrives.

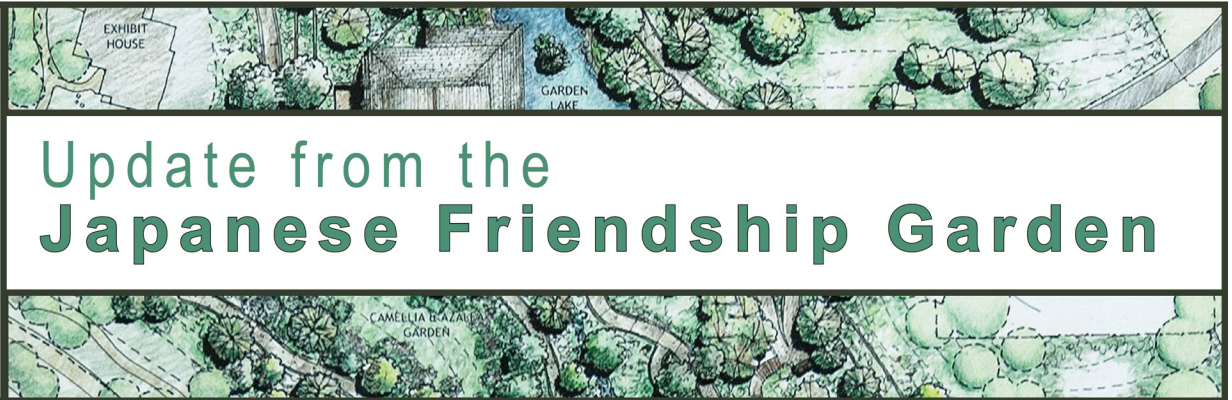
San Diego County got quite a bit of rainfall during the last couple of weeks in December. Certainly, our trees prefer natural precipitation to the salty water we normally use for irrigation, but too much of a good thing can be harmful. If a tree stays wet for too long, you may need to prop up one end of the pot for a few days to encourage drainage. If it remains too damp, prop up the other side. Too wet for too long can allow fungus or rot to set in.

It may seem like our trees need less attention in these colder months, but you still need to keep a close eye on them.

I want to extend a special thank you to Barbara French-Lee for leading our Bonsai Club as president for the past two years. Barbara's love of bonsai and her dedication to SDBC were on constant display. Thank you, Barbara for all you give to our club. And thank you, also, for coordinating the opportunity for club members to give back to our community through donations to Father Joe's Village. I'm very glad you are remaining on the board as past president.

Upcoming Pavillion Volunteer Days:

- Jan 18 • Feb 1 • Feb 15 • Mar 7 • Mar 21



Update from the Japanese Friendship Garden

Neil Auwarter, JFG Curator

Thanks to December volunteers Barbara French-Lee, Charlie Mosse, and Yoichiro “Mori” Suemori.

The trees in the garden are enjoying the rain and temperate (so far) winter. Watering has been reduced to twice per week for most trees. Re-potting season is upon us. Each re-potted tree will receive a steel cable loop (similar to the shohins at the Safari Park) for eventual use in a lock-down system.

Pictured is our recent donation from Paul “Pavel” Vicina—a huge privet. John, Mark & Cathy hauled it down from Orange County. Riddled with termite damage and fantastic gnarls, it is what Walter Pall would call a “fairytale tree”—so ugly, it’s beautiful.



Massive Paul Vicina privet

Also pictured is the first flower to break on our camellia. In the fall more than sixty flower buds were removed to avoid over-taxing the tree, leaving about a dozen to bloom. Come see them!

Finally, a funny tidbit. Have you ever gone to your bonsai bag-of-tricks to solve a non-bonsai problem? Like the fine-gauge aluminum wire currently holding my sunglasses together after a tiny hinge screw



Privet front & back, close-up with plyers for scale

disappeared? Well, last month we found rain was coming down our chimney, which has no rain cap. So while we’re waiting for a cap to be installed, I just popped a 16” round bonsai pot over the stack. (See photos.) Looks nice with the clay tile roof, no?



First camellia flower to break this season



Bonsai pot as chimney rain cap



San Diego Bonsai Club Treasurer's Report

1/1/19 - 12/28/19

Jaya Kaelberer, Treasurer

The following is a condensed income statement showing our year-to-date revenue and expenses. A detailed version will be available at the next meeting.

BANK ACCOUNT BALANCE		
	SDBC Checking	\$59,763.84
	Japanese Friendship Garden	\$2,491.60
	Bonsai Pavilion Checking	\$13,023.31
TOTAL FUNDS:		\$75,278.75
REVENUE		
	Total Donation Income	\$2,340.17
	Total Education Income	\$7,112.39
	Total Membership Income	\$6,171.36
	Total Monthly Program	\$1,589.38
	Total Raffle & Auction	\$7,977.96
	Total Show Income	\$7,613.13
	Total Special Projects Income	\$2,905.49
	Total Tool Sales	\$3,024.25
TOTAL INCOME:		\$38,734.13
EXPENSES		
	Total Bonsai Pavilion	\$3,769.45
	Total Education	\$7,519.63
	Total JFG	\$250.46
	Total Library	\$127.61
	Total Membership	\$912.07
	Total Monthly Program	\$5,655.49
	Total Newsletter	\$315.29
	Total Power of One Scholarship	\$125.00
	Total San Diego Fair	\$75.00
	Total SDBC Club Expenses	\$3,345.98
	Total GSBF Liability Insurance	\$1,466.00
	Total SDBC Spring show	\$1,392.21
	Total SDBC Fall Show	\$50.54
	Total Special Projects	\$2,030.02
	Total Taxes	\$2,644.00
	Registry of Charitable Trusts	\$175.00
	Total Tool Table Expenses	\$2,094.85
TOTAL EXPENSES:		\$31,948.60
NET INCOME (LOSS):		\$6,785.53

Library Update

Sonya Holmquist, SDBC Librarian



Recent magazines acquisitions include two copies of Bonsai Focus (Sept/Oct 2019 and Nov/Dec 2019), two copies of the Journal of the American Bonsai Society (Quarters 3 and 4, 2019) and Quarter 3, 2019 of BCI: Bonsai and Stone Appreciation. As always, each magazine contains excellent photos of prize winning bonsai and a variety of techniques. A few highlights include:

In April, John Voss will be leading a workshop on bending heavy branches. Get a head start by reviewing the Nov/Dec 2019 issue of Bonsai Focus that contains an in depth article entitled "Heavy bending: How to bend thick branches." The Qtr. 3, 2019 issue of BCI: Bonsai and Stone Appreciation discusses heavy bending on a 5-needle pine.

The BCI magazine also features accent plants shown at the 93rd Kokufu-ten exhibit. Along with photos, there is a description of the 5 major forms of display.

In the Tips and Techniques section of the Qtr. 3 issue of the Journal of the American Bonsai Society, an interesting way to find the lifeline in junipers, and thus a fool-proof way to create shari, is discussed. The Qtr. 4 issue has a long discussion of the three types of cypress: Pond cypress (*Taxodium ascendens*), Bald cypress (*Taxodium distichum*) and Montezuma cypress (*Taxodium mucronatum*). Differences in care and styling are covered.

REMINDER: If you have kept a book, magazine and/or DVD for more than two months, please return them so others may enjoy them. Thank you.

T H A N K Y O U



Thank you for all your kind donations to the raffles and refreshments for our recent meetings and events.

November Raffle Table:

Neil Auwarter, Susan Baker, Jenny K. Chin, Abe & Christina Far, Frank Guadiana, Mary Ann Harlan, Sonya Holmquist, Rita Huang, John & Margaret Jackson, Glenn Jensen, Jaya Kaelberer, Shirley Kavanaugh, Janet Liggett, Charlie Mosse, Dan Sola, Satchi Venkataraman, John Voss, Dennis Wagner

November Refreshments:

Sue & Keith Carter, Jenny K. Chin, Christine & Darryl Elmer, Abe and Christina Far, Susan Mae Hull, John & Margaret Jackson, Shirley Kavanaugh, Janet Liggett, Charlie & Sylvia Mosse

December Raffle Table:

Ken Bross, Sue & Keith Carter, Jenny K. Chin, Abe & Christina Far, John & Margaret Jackson, Gary Jones, Janet Liggett, Dan Sola, 'Lyn Stevenson, Mike Van Horn, John Voss

December Refreshments:

Susan Baker, Ken Bross, Sue & Keith Carter, Jenny K. Chin, Julia Chow, Sally Dischinger, Chris and Darryl Elmer, Abe and Christina Far, Markel Farley, Barbara French-Lee, Hollis Gulley, Susan Mae Hull, John & Margaret Jackson, Jaya Kaelberer, Janet Liggett, Wayne Lord, Sandi and Carla Marasco, Van Moch Nguyen and Rose Nguyen, Harlan and Mary Ann Price, Clare Roberts, 'Lyn Stevenson, Mike Van Horn, Dennis Wagner

SDBC Mtg, Minutes

Jack Graham, SDBC Secretary

December Meeting

1. Call to Order/Determine Quorum:
 - Barbara French-Lee called the meeting to order at 10:30 am. A quorum was confirmed.
2. Approval of October 2019 Minutes:
 - Minutes approved as printed in The Bonsai Wire.
3. Presidents Remarks:
 - Barbara French-Lee thanked everyone for a great 2019. She also welcomed all current and new board members for the 2020 year. All new and current board members were introduced to the membership.
4. Board Member Reports:
 - 1st VP Program, Gary Jones. Gary stated that the SDBC is successful when people volunteer. New blood, new volunteers helps the club to continue to improve because of these new ideas and efforts.
 - VP Education, Bill Graham. Thanks to John Jackson for doing the last session of the beginner's class. The next beginners class starts in January. Also in January is the annual repotting effort. Only bring 2 plants for repotting. February there is a grafting class scheduled with Fred, you need to supply your own grafting knife. There are 6 spots in this class. March is a Japanese Black pine class also with Fred. April is a heavy bending class. Bill Graham is reaching out for people to assist him with his SDBC plants that he keeps at his home.
 - VP Special Event, Kyle Icke (& Abe Far). January 18, 2020 is the bus trip to the Silhouette bonsai presentation in Los Angeles. February 22nd is the Bonsai A Thon. Some other proposed trips are to the Sequoias and or the GSP bonsai collection in Fresno, CA.
 - VP Membership, Keith Carter. Keith welcomed the new SDBC members. There are now 421 paid members. A reminder membership renewals are due in 2020 at \$30/year.
 - Treasurer, Jaya Kaelberer. Jaya did a great job of singing the financial report.
 - Bonsai Pavilion Liaison, 'lyn Stevenson. The Pavilion had request to procure more replacement wind socks/flags for the flag poles.
5. Committee Reports:
 - None
6. Reports from Appointed Positions:
 - None
7. Unfinished Business
 - No old business.
8. New Business
 - No new business.
9. Formal swering in of the 2020 Board members
10. Announcements:
 - None
11. Meeting adjourned at 11:30 am and the styling competition was started.

Decorated
trees
at the
December
Meeting



San Diego Bonsai Club, Inc.

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San Diego, CA 92138-6037



ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Next Mtg. Agenda:
January 12

8:00 - 8:30 am Doors open and meeting/ workshop set-up	
8:30 - 10:15 am Beginner Class 1: Olives	Prado 104
8:30 - 10:20 am Re-potting workshop	Prado 101
9:00 - 10:20 am Bonsai Assistance: John Voss	
10:30 - 11:00 am Business Meeting	
11:00 - 12:30 pm Glen Jensen's Presentation	
12:30 - 1:00 pm Raffle & Refreshment	

SDBC Upcoming Events:

Jan 12 (Sun)	Glen Jensen
Feb 9 (Sun)	TBD
Mar 8 (Sun)	Bob Pressler
Apr 5 (Sun)	John Voss

