



# The Bonsai Wine

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

Volume 46, Issue 4

April 2020



## Message from the President

*Sue Carter, SDBC President*

I'm sad to announce that the April 5th Bonsai Club meeting and the April Spring Show, 4/25-26 have been canceled. All future SDBC activities, including those at SD Zoo Safari Park and Japanese Friendship Garden, will depend on decisions by governing authorities.

Our personal worlds are shrinking, and we're all becoming aware of the mass closures and the associated terms "shelter-in-place" and "social distancing." Stay away from people? How can we? We all have multiple communities we belong to -- our families, our neighbors and friends, our churches and places of worship, our favorite watering holes and coffee shops, our clubs and special interest groups. For me, adhering to the requirements for physical distance from these important people in my life is the most difficult part of the challenges brought

on by this pandemic. So how can we be proactive? Jaya shared that her French language study group is holding their meetings on Facetime. I loved that idea, so my book club is planning the same thing. My weekly walks with my girlfriends have been replaced with a weekly Facetime chat. What are you doing to combat the isolation and loneliness that can be brought on by this never-before-experienced crisis? Stay in touch, share what's going on with you, stay connected to others. Your mental and emotional health depends on it and it reminds us we are all in this together.

What's SDBC thinking about now?

Some wonderful ideas are circulating about how SDBC can use social media to help keep us connected with our shared interest in bonsai and maintain the special friendships we've established through this club. These ideas include:

- Creating a virtual show where members can display their favorite trees and bonsai items;
- Setting up a private Facebook page for members to ask questions and get advice from our experts;
- Expanding our website with online forums for bonsai discussion and learning;
- Doing online garden tours so members can see the beautiful bonsai gardens our members maintain.

Right now, these are percolating ideas. It takes planning and organization and know-how and commitment and enthusiasm to make these things happen. Lucky for us, our club has all of this in spades within our membership. Stay tuned!

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# Membership renewal still outstanding!

*Udaykant Pandey, SDBC VP of Membership*

Members who have not paid for the current year are considered in arrears and are not eligible to participate in club activities. 195 members are yet to renew their membership this year. I encourage these members to renew their membership and enjoy all the perks and privileges that the club offers. Renewals can be done online on the club website or in person during the club meeting. We accept payment by cash, check and card. The dues remain at \$30 for an individual and \$35 for two members of a family. Any additional family members are \$5 each. I would like to remind all readers that you must have active membership to be able to participate in club activities such as beginners' classes, workshops and access to sale table during shows, bus trip, Club Picnics etc.

Please welcome new members Isabella and Austin McGuyer. With these additions we now have 270 current members.

## CANCELLED:

- April SDBC Meeting  
April 5, 2020
- Spring Show and Sale  
April 25-26, 2020

See the President's message on Page 1 for more details.

## SDBC Website:

[sandiegobonsaiclub.com](http://sandiegobonsaiclub.com)

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## SDBC Elected Officers & Appointed Positions:

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#### Liaison:

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#### Liaison:

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# Repotting best practices from March guest speaker Bob Pressler

*Keith Carter*

We've all watched bonsai demonstrations in which the presenter, in a rush to wrap up the meeting, speeds through the potting process into the last 10 minutes of the presentation.

Well, there's a lot more to a successful potting procedure than that, according to Bob Pressler, who gave SDBC members attending the March meeting a thorough explanation of all that goes into potting (and repotting) a bonsai so that the tree will grow healthy and vigorous.

"Repotting is one of the most important components of keeping trees alive," he said.

Owner of the Kimura Nursery in Northridge and current president of the California Bonsai Society, Pressler repotted two junipers – a mature, styled tree already in a bonsai pot and an 8- to 10-year-old San Jose juniper grown from a cutting that was in a nursery pot.

When to repot depends on the tree, Pressler said. "It's all about how well it's draining." Rather than have a specific schedule, he repots "when the trees tell me to." A telltale sign that it's time to repot: When water sits on the surface of the soil and doesn't drain through.

If you've decided a tree is due for repotting, the next consideration is the time of year. "Repotting is stressful for the tree, so it's important to do it at the right time," he said.

For junipers and other evergreens, the best time is March or early April. You can start as early as November and repot through May, if the tree is in good health. For first-time repotting – typically when you perform the most drastic work on the roots – it's best to repot at the optimum calendar time. Deciduous trees can be transplanted in January. For tropical trees such as ficus, bougainvillea and olives, he waits until the weather is warmer, in May, June or July.

Pressler warned that before taking the tree out of its current pot, be sure to have everything you need ready to go. Taking time to rummage around for tools or other materials when the tree's roots are exposed can cause

them to dry out.

Once the tree is out of the pot, scrape off any moss on top and loosen the compacted soil under it. Then start at the top of the root ball and comb the existing soil outward to make room for new soil. Loosen the soil around the lower root ball and trim the roots to fit the pot you're putting it into. When trimming roots, the older roots are darker color; newer roots are red or brown.

"Cutting generates room for new soil and generates new roots," he said. "Every time you repot, you get rid of older roots and encourage new roots."

For his bonsai, Pressler uses a soil mix made up of equal parts pumice, lava rock and akadama. On shohin or deciduous trees, he uses a larger share of akadama.

After setting the tree into the pot and filling it with soil, use chopsticks to find voids around the roots and work the soil into those holes. Once that's complete, immerse the newly repotted tree in a tub of water and let it drain, then apply a top dressing of sphagnum moss and green moss dust.

Fertilizing can be done for newly potted jumpers from January until May or June. For deciduous trees, wait until the first growth emerges and hardens off in spring before fertilizing. Pressler doesn't apply Vitamin B or supplements such as SuperThrive to his trees.

"I like to keep it simple," he said. "I want the tree to be able to thrive on benign neglect."

Pressler donated the smaller tree to the club and it was auctioned off for a winning bid of \$165.



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.**

**March Raffle:**

Jenny K Chin, Charlie & Sylvia Mosse, Abe & Christina Vargas, Ron & Janet Palmer, Sue & Keith Carter, David & Cathy Szabo, Nazim Colak, Paul Lawrence, Shirley Kavanaugh, John Black.

**March Refreshments:**

Susan Baker, Wayne Lord, Frances Suen, Julia Chow, Jenny K Chin, Charlie & Sylvia Mosse, Abe & Christina Far, Sue & Keith Carter, Shirley Kavanaugh, Sally Dischinger.



# SDBC Education:

Bill Graham, SDBC VP of Education

Welcome to April! It has been a rainy March. I hope your trees enjoyed the free water! In this tough and trying time, please look to take care of yourselves and your loved ones. Due to the closures and cancellations we are going to have to make many changes to our upcoming schedules. Please see below for our plans.

## Beginning Classes:



Due to the cancellation of the April Meeting, our second Beginning Class of the year will not start until the **JUNE** meeting. We have a couple of options to finish the class. I will discuss with the instructor and you, the students at the June class. **There is no May class as we have our meeting and picnic at the Safari Park.** There are spots still available. You can sign up on our website, [www.sandiegobonsaiclub.com](http://www.sandiegobonsaiclub.com), or I will have the sheets at the May meeting. You will be working on some very nice boxwoods. This will be a great class!

*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

### April Workshop - Heavy Bending

This class is cancelled. Due to the time frame, the work we were planning to do is not viable in June, our next opportunity to meet. I will work with the Treasurer to get reimbursements to all of the students that signed up. I apologize and hope to hold this class next year.



### May

No workshop in May!! We will be at our annual picnic at the Safari Park!!

## June Workshop - Accent Plants and Kusamono

We have a little different and exciting workshop scheduled for June. Cathy Edgar is going to lead another class in the creation of **accent plants** and **kusamono**. Cathy has many years' experience creating these small and delicate designs. All of her trees at our shows are accompanied by accent plants of her own design and creation.



Cathy has gone so far as to have a complete display of just accent plants and kusamono that was truly a pleasure to see. She provides many examples for sale at our shows and they are always a hit, selling out quickly.

Due to the extreme popularity of this class, I will hold a raffle at the **MAY** meeting to determine who will be the students. You will need to be present to enter and win.

## July Workshop - Silver Berry - Elaeagnus pungens

We have a workshop with some nice Silver Berry that Abe Far will be leading. We will be pruning, wiring and potting at these trees in to some basic grow pots. If you were at the January Meeting you saw Roy Nagatoshi work one of these trees and start a really nice bonsai. This is the same stock that Roy used and really has some nice potential. The sign-up sheets will start at the May meeting at the Safari Park. The class is limited to 5 students.

## 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](mailto:wfgraham3rd@gmail.com).

# San Diego Bonsai

## Basics: Managing Deciduous Growth

*John Jackson and Charlie Mosse*

Any container grown plant's growth is managed mostly by trimming and fertilizing. Watering can affect growth management but not to as great a degree as trimming and fertilizing. Watering bonsai is critical so it best not to allow the soil moisture to vary too much, particularly with deciduous and semi-deciduous trees.

Wiring caution: Deciduous and semi-deciduous trees have thin bark that is easily damaged, especially Japanese Maples. Deciduous bark is best shown without "rustic" marks or scars. These can be easily imparted onto thin barked trees. Most of the time the scars are there for a very long time, many times never disappearing. If one does wire a deciduous tree, special care and technique must be applied. Wire is almost always applied less tightly than with conifers and is removed much sooner than with conifers. It is best to get guidance from an experienced person before you wire a deciduous tree.

A deciduous tree's branching structure is best pruned, trimmed and wired when dormant to prepare it for spring growth. Everything is very easy to see and evaluate. One can clearly observe branch clusters, broken branches, branch ends that have become too large, and incorrect branch spacing such that these defective branches can be removed or re-positioned by wiring. A very important issue to look for, as branches are constantly trimmed, are branches that lose their taper and begin to look unnatural. This requires removal of the thickened branch ends and start the growth of a new branch leader. Decisions are so much easier when a tree is bare. These problems can be addressed with one of the club's experienced members.

Deciduous trees will grow rapidly from early spring into early summer, gradually slowing and hardening off in the summer. One must manage their fast, continuous growth regularly during this time period, more so than with conifers. If regular trimming is not done, the tree will become wild looking and wasted growth will go off in unwanted places (such as branch crotches) into the upper part the tree where growth is naturally more dominant and vigorous. Keeping the growth under control in the top 1/3 or so of the tree will guide more energy into the lower branches keeping them stronger. Lower branches, many times, are inadvertently allowed to weaken when the top growth is not controlled. A weakened branch is more susceptible to insects like

borers, die-back of twigging and even branch death can occur if allowed to suffer for too long.

One can very easily control the direction of this new growth by cutting back to 2 to 4 nodes/leaves (usually 2) as was done during dormancy, rather than wiring. Cut back to buds that are growing in the desired direction. If you cut back very close to the leaf/bud, it will grow at a greater angle away from the branch, or, if you cut further away, say about 1/8" + from the existing leaf/bud, it will grow at a lower angle with the branch. This is known as clip-n-grow...choosing buds that grow in the direction you want them to grow. Also, buds growing out of the top or bottom of branches will need to be eliminated as the tree grows. Deciduous trees properly trimmed allow for good air circulation which aids in tree health, reducing disease/insect issues and improves foliar pest control and feeding.

Guiding branches is mostly done to the left or to the right. There are times when up and down are needed to guide a branch into a blank space or give it some natural vertical movement. The same technique as above is done for guiding branches vertically.

At times branches will need to be thickened. The fastest way to do this is to let the branch grow without trimming even though it may look wild. You can fatten branches at different rates by controlling how far/fast a branch runs out. This can be a good time to wire a long branch for movement.

Fertilizing: Do not fertilize an older tree in the spring if it is in refinement (refinement meaning that smaller leaves, shorter internodes and finer twigging are desired), or if you just want to slow the growth. Wait until early summer to fertilize with a low amount of fertilizer. If you are needing to push growth, fertilize light to medium in the spring and again in early summer. Slower releasing organic fertilizers are best since deciduous trees do respond with abundant growth when fertilized with chemical fertilizers.

Deciduous and semi-deciduous trees do have species specific information and tricks regarding trimming and pinching. An example is that Elms are managed differently than Japanese Maples which are different than Trident Maples. This is also true of most deciduous species.

Feel free to ask any of the club's experienced members for more detailed advice about your particular tree(s) needs. Other good sources are Bonsai Tonight by Jonas Dupuich since he grows many deciduous trees. Use the following link to Omiya Bonsai Museum for photos of several incredible, exquisite deciduous trees. Observe the ramification and branch growth angles from the

*Continued on Page 9*



# SAN DIEGO BONSAI PAVILION

## SAFARI PARK



Amid all the concerns about the current coronavirus and the falling stock market, we have wonderful continuing good news to share with SDBC members and friends about our Bonsai Pavilion. The attendance of guests and participation of our volunteers has been record breaking for the past two and 1/2 months! It is wonderful to announce our record quarter 2020!

Our treasury of bonsai talent is keeping the bonsai and the Pavilion in wonderful condition through the much appreciated rainy days of March too. Many thanks to the March volunteers: Julia Chow, Sally & Steve Dischinger, Cathy & Mark Edgar, Markel Farley, Chuck Fasilis, Roberto Herrera, Jim Kirchmer, Sonya Holmquist, John Jackson, Janet & Ron Liggett, Sandi Marasco, Charlie Mosse, Janet & Ron Palmer, Shawn & Yvette Palmer, Udaykant Pandey, Wendy Pollock, Sally Prestele, Clare & Ron Roberts, Dan Sola, 'lyn Stevenson, John Voss, Dennis Wagner, Dave Woodall, and Ken Zito. John Jackson and Dischinger supplied some extra refreshments also. Many thanks!

A very special visitor to the Pavilion on March 7th was Lindsey Shiba who donated a very large, impressive Liquid Amber Bonsai to the SDBC and the Pavillion. He personally delivered it and Curator John and several volunteers helped unload and place it on a show pedestal. With these current rains and beautiful sunny days in between the tree is starting to leaf out already. Many, many thanks to Lindsey! (See photos)



*Lindsay Shiba and John Jackson. Lindsay's incredible donation is a testament to the excellent work that is done under John's direction by the volunteers. Donations in large part are based on trust which is based on the quality of care and appearance of the trees at the pavilion.*



*Lindsay Shiba generously donated a beautiful, stately Liquidambar Orientalis, Oriental Sweetgum. This tree is over 50 years old. The nebari is over 10" and the trunk base is over 6"!!!*

Curator John's large Liquid Amber has now been moved to the new pedestal at the front entrance of the Pavilion. It is on display on top of the new prototype pedestal. Pavilion volunteers want to place about 40 more of these pedestals in different heights throughout the Pavilion. (See photos) Jim Kirchmer has arranged for the County Supervisor's Office Representative to see the Pavilion and the reasons for our request for a grant. Since the County was helpful in our initial requests when we were under construction eight years ago, we are hopeful that they will support this project also. Mark Edgar has been the lead person for procuring the materials for the pedestals. There are several others working to make this a successful endeavor for the Pavilion. Remember to thank all of them for the extra hours and talents they are volunteering!





*John, Claire and Ken working new soil around the root ball of John's Pomegranate. Another opportunity for volunteers to work some very special trees at the pavilion.*

The bonsai volunteers have been trimming and potting several bonsai at each work session. The trees are responding to this wet March with rapid growing — the rain and sunshine combination are perfect conditions right now as bonsaiists all know!

Since the Zoo and Park are closing on March 16th, we will not have the work day on March 21st as previously announced. As soon as we receive an re-open date



*The Pomegranate is back on the display table. Planted a bit lower in the pot and moss re-applied to the soil.*

from the Safari Park, we will again proceed. We are at the Safari Park as tenants of space and we abide by the same open schedule as our landlord. Never fear, there will be close attention to the bonsai water schedule during this closure.

We are still planning to have the SDBC meeting at the Pavilion on May 17th.



*Black weed cloth was put down and the rocks put back in a natural way. The black area will be filled in with *Dymondia silver carpet* (*Dymondia margaretae*), a hardy, tight growing ground cover with a small yellow flower.*



*Wider view showing the new pedestal and impressive bonsai and how it has the visual impact of the entrance. Adding to the view is the double trunked Hisayasu Olive on a large pedestal in the background. There are plans for more improvements to other spots in the entry area to make the whole entry very memorable.*

Photos courtesy of Charlie Mosse





*Neil Auwarter, JFG Curator*

Greetings, cherished SDBC friends. The Japanese Friendship Garden's COVID-19 closure on March 16 sadly corresponded with what would have been the first day of the JFG Cherry Blossom Week. JFG office staff are now working remotely from home, but garden staff will continue to maintain the garden. Staff will water the bonsai collection during the closure, and I will visit Wednesday & Saturday mornings to quickly check on the health of the trees.

Three new display pedestals were installed just before the closure. New to the display area is the Chinese Elm Jim Barrett donated after displaying it in the Fall show (see photo). Thanks, Jim! And recently repotted in a Jim Barrett pot is the Harry Eijsermans Bald Cypress (see photo).

Please keep yourself and others safe, enjoy springtime in your garden, and look forward to seeing each other when this has passed!



*JFG bonsai collection, with one of three new display pedestals visible, lower right*



*Harry Eijsermans Bald Cypress, repotted in Jim Barrett pot*





*Jim Barrett Chinese Elm, donated September 2019*

bottom to the top of the trees. <https://bonsaitonight.com/2020/03/24/highlights-from-the-omiya-bonsai-museums-garden/>. The SDBC publishes photos from Winter Silhouettes which can be seen on our web site, Resources, Photos, 2020 Winter Silhouettes. Type in Winter Silhouettes in Google and you will find other winter silhouette shows. Other sources are Bonsai Mirai with Ryan Neil has some very good podcasts and videos about deciduous trees particularly one with Dennis Vojtillaoth, Walter Pall from Europe, Bjorn Bjorholm of Eisei-en Bonsai and William Valavanis of International Bonsai.

## San Diego Bonsai Club Treasurer's Report 1/1/20 - 2/29/20

*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.

Accounts are reconciled with Union Bank statements.

BANK ACCOUNT BALANCE		
	SDBC Checking	\$57,806.01
	Japanese Friendship Garden	\$1,834.64
	Bonsai Pavilion Checking	\$13,023.31
<b>TOTAL FUNDS:</b>		<b>\$72,663.96</b>
REVENUE		
	Total Donation Income	\$31.61
	Total Education Income	\$1,085.10
	Total Membership Income	\$2,483.02
	Total Raffle & Auction	\$370.37
	Total Special Projects Income	\$984.56
	Total Tool Sales	\$398.86
<b>TOTAL INCOME:</b>		<b>\$5,353.52</b>

EXPENSES		
	Total Education	\$1,644.31
	Total JFG	\$656.96
	Total Library	\$121.90
	Total Mas Takanashi Grant	\$110.25
	Total Membership	\$340.31
	Total Monthly Program	\$500.00
	Total Newsletter	\$63.57
	Total SDBC Club Expenses	\$2,296.64
	Total Spring Show	\$83.71
	Total Special Projects	\$1,560.00
	Total Taxes	\$273.00
	Total Tool Table Expenses	\$224.95
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES:</b>		<b>\$7,875.60</b>
<b>NET INCOME (LOSS):</b>		<b><u>-\$2,522.08</u></b>

# SDBC Mtg, Minutes

*Keith Carter*

## March Meeting

1. Call to Order/Determine Quorum:
  - Susan Carter called the meeting to order at 10:30 am. A quorum was confirmed.
2. Approval of February 2020 Minutes:
  - Minutes approved as printed in The Bonsai Wire.
3. Presidents Remarks:
  - Susan Carter stated that the July 12th SDBC membership meeting will be held in the Japanese Friendship Gardens.
4. Board Member Reports:
  - 1st VP Program, Ignacio De La Torre: At the July membership meeting at the JFG Jason Chan will be the presenter. Bob Pressler will be the presenter today. For the April meeting John Voss will be the presenter and he has 3 secret techniques to share. May is at the safari park. In June Fred Miyahara will do a demonstration with Japanese Black pines.
  - VP Education, Bill Graham: Susan Ronan did her final beginners class with olives today. Bob Hale will be doing a beginner's class using boxwoods in April, June and July and there are 3 open spots for that class. Fred will be doing a class with Japanese Black Pines in March. John Voss will be doing a heavy bending class in April. There is a morning and afternoon session. There is one spot left. In June is the Kathy Edgar accent class. Because of such an interest the spots will be raffled off. The 1st 10 names get in. In July is the silverberry class with Abe.
  - VP Special Events, Abe Far: Members please sign in for helping at the spring show. Talk with Mark Edgar if you want to show a tree. Tickets are available for tree vendors for the April plant sale. The bus trip to the Sequoia's has been cancelled. It will be reconsidered at a later date. In August there is a trip to little Tokyo.
  - VP Membership, Udaykant Pandey: New club members have a star on their name tags. This is to help current members know this so that when they see new members they can greet them and offer information about the club. Members need to pay this year's annual membership fee. Currently we have 265 members paid and 197 members need to pay. We welcomed 6 new club members. Please make sure every who attends today signs in.
  - Treasurer, Jaya Kaelberer: Jaya discussed that so far the club has some extra purchases of books, bus rental, some maple trees over the past month.
5. Committee Reports:
  - Neil stated that they found a pedestal at the gardens and it will be set up soon for displaying trees.
  - John Jackson reported a good turnout of 26 people at the Safari Park. They have a new prototype to be used for bonsai presentation that includes a new table, irrigation and landscaping. They currently are applying for a grant to fund these efforts.
6. Reports from Appointed Positions:
  - None.
7. Unfinished Business
  - No old business.
8. New Business
  - Barbara French Lee updated us on the Del Mar Fair. This year the fair will allow us to do a bonsai presentation outside. They will also help us by setting up the outside display. Barbara is trying to get this year's theme to be in honor of John Naka. She is looking for ideas on how to do this from our club members. This year's fair theme is 'heroes' and John Naka is our bonsai hero. Trees for judging will again be displayed inside as was done in 2019.
9. Announcements:
  - None.
10. Meeting adjourned at 11:30 am.
11. Program Introduction:
  - Program Introduction by Ignacio of our presenter Bob Pressler. This is the #2 in our back to basics presentation. Bob currently is president of the California Bonsai Society. He has been around bonsai for more than 50 years. He has studied with many highly qualified bonsai teachers. He teaches many bonsai classes. He is a landscaper. Today's class will focus on the repotting of bonsai trees.

## SDBC Board Meeting Minutes -

### March 10, 2020

1. Call to Order
  - The regular meeting of the San Diego Bonsai Club board of directors was called to order at 6:39 p.m. by President Sue Carter. A quorum was confirmed present. In attendance were Sue Carter, Ignacio De La Torre, Abe Far, Uday Pandey, Jaya Kaelberer, Bill Graham, Barbara French-Lee and Keith Carter (acting secretary). Guests in attendance were John Jackson, Mark Edgar and Jim and Susan Kirchmer.
2. Discussion and resolution for Neighborhood Reinvestment Program grant for Zoo Safari Park pedestal project.
  - Mark Edgar presented plans for construction of pedestals for trees at the pavilion. The plans call for construction of 42 pedestals at a cost of approximately \$22,000 for materials. Another \$5,000 is budgeted for labor, but that expense may be not be necessary if adequate volunteer labor is made available. He said the Safari Park may be able to provide help from their volunteers, some of whom have construction experience.
  - Jim Kirchmer said he is preparing a grant application that will be submitted as quickly as possible to the county. The grant will ask for \$23,342 for materials and \$5,000 for outside labor. He thinks the pavilion might actually receive \$10,000 to \$15,000. He is meeting with a county representative on March 26 to get feedback on the strength of the application. He expects to have final word on the grant by May.
  - Mark requested that the board authorize spending \$6,000 from the pavilion's account with the club now to order the blocks and start initial work on the project. The committee at a later date may ask the



board to consider allocating another \$5,000. Jaya reported that the club currently has between \$12,000 and \$13,000 in the Safari Park account.

- Board members discussed other fund-raising options for the project. Bill Graham suggested selling sponsorship plaques or erecting a name board for donors. John Jackson said the committee would like to set up a Go Fund Me account to raise funds for the pavilion.
- Bill Graham made a motion to release \$6,000 from the Safari Park fund for the pedestal project. It was seconded by Abe Far. The motion was unanimously approved.
- Bill made a motion authorizing Jim Kirchmer to proceed with the county grant application. Barbara French-Lee seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.

### 3. Officers' reports

- VP for Special Events Abe Far: Plans are in place for the April show and dinner. After discussion of food options, the board consensus was that Mediterranean food should be provided for the dinner. He said that demonstrations are arranged for Saturday and Sunday, and the show tables are full. Mark Edgar, who is show chairman, will direct the Thursday setup. He said he is looking to find additional trees for the Saturday night auction. Abe said he did not believe it was necessary for the board to meet in April prior to the show. After discussion, members agreed to cancel its scheduled April board meeting.
- First VP Ignacio De La Torre: Speakers have been lined up for most of year, with only August and September dates open. Bill will contact Jonas Dupuich to see if he's available either of those months, although his appearances cost more. The club can sell workshop spots with Jonas before and after meeting, however, to recoup some of those extra expenses. Ignacio has discussed a carving demonstration with Gary Nanson, who also can do workshops. Cheryl Manning is the November demonstrator. Barbara suggested putting Kathy Shaner on the list for early 2021. Sue suggested inviting Lindsay Shiba to do a rock planting demonstration with a possible workshop.
- VP for Education Bill Graham: The August workshop will be large olives.
- VP for Membership Uday Pandey: Attendance has been good so far this year: 89 attendees in January, 94 in February and 86 in March. There have been 36 new members and 138 renewals in 2020. Right now the club has 260 members current for this year. Another 198 have not renewed.
- Uday met with newsletter editor Katie Borton in January to discuss the website and use of Mailchimp to communicate with members. Katie currently stores photos and past content for Bonsai Wire in her personal account. She suggested that the club should explore arranging for a centralized repository online for this data.
- Sue proposed that the club pay for an

upgraded Mailchimp account to also allow the VP Membership and President access so they can update the mailing list with new members and can send out messages to members immediately when necessary. The current free account used by Katie does not allow access to others. Discussion ensued about whether additional access was needed and what level of access should be made available.

- Bill made a motion to approve \$20 a month to pay for Mailchimp access for the Newsletter Editor, President and VP for Membership. It was seconded by Ignacio. The motion was passed unanimously.
- Sue agreed to organize a committee to study the website and document management and storage. She will invite new member Olivia George, Webmaster Ron Kaelberer, Uday and Katie to participate. She will ask Olivia, who has experience with website design, to review our current website and suggest possible enhancements.
- Treasurer Jaya Kaelberer: Copies of the 2020 budget were distributed. There was one update: \$2,800 in tool table sales was added to the income total.
- Uday said one of the questions he has is how much leeway board members have to spend under their own budgets. Abe said that in the past, the board has said expenditures up to \$250 do not have to come before the board if that is within the approved budget. The board consensus was that officers have approval authority for specific line items within their budgeted amounts, but that large or out of the ordinary expenditures even if within the budget should be reported to the board.
- Sue suggested that each new board should be able to set its own policy for expenditures as part of its yearly budget approval process. The consensus was that it might be appropriate that such spending guidelines be included in a procedural manual. No vote was taken at this time.
- Immediate Past President Barbara French-Lee: Barbara reported on plans for the San Diego County Fair. The fair will provide booth space, but the club will need to design content for the booth.
- The board unanimously approved a motion for Barbara to proceed with planning for the fair booth and to spend up to \$200 in the initial effort.

### 4. Adjournment

- The meeting was adjourned at 8:43 p.m. The next board meeting will be May 19.

San Diego Bonsai Club, Inc.

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

## Next Mtg. Agenda:

*The April Meeting is cancelled due to CDC guidelines and social distancing mandate from State of California. See President's message on Page 1 for more details.*

## SDBC Upcoming Events:

Apr 5 (Sun)	John Voss
Apr 25-26 (Sat-Sun)	SDBC Spring Show & Sale
May 17 (Sun)	SDBC Picnic at Safari Park
Jun 6-7 (Sat-Sun)	Sequoia National Park Trip
Jun 14 (Sun)	Fred Miyahara
July 12 (Sun)	Jason Chan at Japanese Friendship Garden

Currently, the planned May picnic at the Safari Park and later activities are on the books. Keep an eye out for additional updates as we get closer to May.