

BONSAI WIRE

February 2021

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San Diego Bonsai Club

www.sandiegobonsaiclub.com

P.O. Box 86037 San Diego CA 92138



President's Message:

Sue Carter, President and CEO

Hello Fellow Club Members. I want to take this month's column to tell you a little about former SDBC member Joannie Berkwitz. Many of you met Joannie recently when she took on the huge job of helping Ted and Shirley Schwartz liquidate Ted's sizeable bonsai collection when his health no longer allowed him to maintain and enjoy his beautiful trees. Members of the San Diego Bonsai Club benefitted from Joannie's labors by being the first to learn about and participate in the sale of Ted's collection. Joannie said the sale was highly successful, and Shirley was extremely pleased. In addition to all this work, Joannie has written an article in this month's *The Bonsai Wire* about Ted, so those of us who never got to meet him can learn about this amazing man.

Joanie has been involved in bonsai for over twenty years, including having served as the Secretary of SDBC, and as the Registrar of several Golden State Bonsai Federation conventions. Joanie also wrote articles for Golden Statements for a few seasons. Her small collection is primarily shohin, with an emphasis on deciduous and flowering bonsai. Although not currently active in the club, she maintains an interest, and worked on Ted's collection for over twenty years. Joanie's current passions are collecting and restoring old British cars, and she is the President of the San Diego British Car Club Council. It won't surprise you to find out that she also loves doll house miniatures and antique clocks. For Joanie, each hobby is a journey, and the excitement of diving in and learning, is rewarding. Joannie welcomes any comments and can be reached at [Joan Berkwitz <mold40@roadrunner.com>](mailto:Joan.Berkwitz@mold40@roadrunner.com).

Appointed Positions – Thank you, thank you, thank you. The San Diego Bonsai Club boasts wonderful volunteers whose joint contributions help make our club the absolute best in the nation (and that's not just my opinion). Among our many volunteers are the members who hold appointed positions. These position holders provide valuable services that keep our club members and the public informed of club activities; keep club history and remember others in times of sorrow or joy; at meetings allow us to buy tools, check out books, participate in raffles, hear and see close ups of presentations, and enjoy refreshments.

Please join with me in thanking the current Appointed Position holders: Ron Kaelberer, Darryl and Christine Elmer, Sonya Holmquist, Paul Lawrence, Susan Baker, Keith Carter, Sally and Steve Dischinger, Shirley Kavanaugh, Christian Reha and, new to the role of Audio-Visual Coordinator, Bryan Schroeder. I'd also like to thank Christina Vargas, who has volunteered for many years as the Refreshment Coordinator. Christina is stepping down from this role, so once meetings start again, we'll be looking for one or two people to replace her. Thank you, Christina. **I hope you all have a very good month and stay safe.**

*Gardening is the slowest
of performing arts*

Feature Article see page 3

"Tribute to Theodore
Schwartz" by Joan Berkwitz

Safari Park Bonsai Pavilion

Is now reopened See page 5



Repotting time



Education: Bill Graham, VP Education

Here comes February and personally, I am glad to have January be over! The hurricane force winds really beat my trees up, took 4 panels out of my greenhouse and all-around wreaked havoc in my yard. Then when I was just recovering from that we had cold,

rain and hail! What a month!! Enjoy the free water but still pay attention to your trees and do not let them dry out. Now is the time to start your repotting. Once the weather clears a little bit get to work! I have already started and have a lot more to go.

Classes are still cancelled until further notice. Until then, there is great information to be found on the web at sites like

- Jonas Dupuich's website and blog <https://bonsaitonight.com> ,
- Ryan Neil's website <https://www.bonsaimirai.com>
- Bjorn Bjorholm's website <https://bjornbjorholm.com>
- Bonsai Nut <https://www.bonsainut.com>
- Bonsai4Me <http://bonsai4me.com/index.html>
- Bonsai Empire at <https://www.bonsaiempire.com>... Information, tools and other bonsai related material
- Eastern Leaf is at <https://www.easternleaf.com> by San Diego Bonsai Club member, Jason Chan.
- Walter Pall, <http://walter-pall-bonsai.blogspot.com>
- BonsaiHunk http://www.bonsaihunk.us/public_html/

I look forward to when we can meet again and resume our classes!

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

Library: Sonya Holmquist, Librarian

Members, you have the opportunity to check out and return material from/to our library. Email your requests to me at sonyaanneh@gmail.com and I'll contact you about availability

and delivery. A list of most of our collection can be found on our website (<https://www.sandiegobonsaiclub.com/club-library.html>). We also have recent issues of Bonsai Focus, International Bonsai, and Bonsai & Stone Appreciation.

Teachers: Several San Diego Bonsai Club members have offered to teach bonsai. This service is independent of the Bonsai Club. Detailed background information for each teacher can be found on the club website under RESOURCES. Contact the teacher for further details.

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

Feature Article: Theodore Schwartz by Joan Berkwitz

If you were in San Diego Bonsai Club in the early 2000's, you would have noticed a tall, lanky, quiet man with a grin, who always sat in the front row to watch the demonstrations. He sometimes brought out a serious camera to take photos. You probably would have known that he was essentially blind, and that he was heavily into bonsai. He was understood to have big trees, and a generous budget. He stopped coming to the club eventually, as his blindness and weakness progressed. However, not many knew who Ted Schwartz actually was.



Theodore Schwartz and Paliu Maloat, founder of the Paliu Movement, in Central Park, New York, 1970

Although Ted has not passed, he is deeply afflicted by dementia these days, and all memory of his trees has been taken from him. The passion of his life since retiring, bonsai was a consuming interest that filled his days with sunshine and contentment. When he stopped coming out to his trees, it was the end of an era.

Theodore Schwartz was born in 1928, to a working-class family. His father made women's corsets, among other businesses. Ted remembered sleeping in a big bed with his siblings, in the crowded housing of Philadelphia. A dedicated

learner, he was eventually enrolled as a bright, intense pre-Med student on a scholarship, when an accident caused damage to his nervous system. He fell into a

coma, on a feeding tube, and woke up blind. After struggling and slowly working his way back to health and some limited vision, the Blind Institute came to him and told him that if he changed his course of study, they would supply him with the Braille books and readers required to finish his degrees. Always focused and intense, he chose Anthropology, with an emphasis on language, as he had an excellent memory for the spoken word. Completing those courses, as a post graduate student he was recruited to become Margaret Mead's assistant in Papua New Guinea. Papua New Guinea, and one particular island, Manus, would become his focus of study for the next decades.

Ted, always bold and undeterred, lugged a huge reel to reel tape recorder and a generator to run it, all over Papua New Guinea, oftentimes in a canoe that he had hand built. That country has the most distinct languages per capita of any place on Earth, and Ted was determined to record those languages, as well as interview and observe the people and their culture. As Margaret Mead's assistant, he was the first Western man to come to many of those villages. He was there from the early 1960's until his last trip in 1990.

Although we cannot cover all of Ted's exploits and legacy, a simple Google search will bring up many citations, videos, and publications about and by him. His published work, and later the reel to reels, have now been preserved at the UC San Diego Library Archives as the Schwartz Library Collection Endowment for Melanesian/Anthropology Studies. He retired from UCSD as a Professor Emeritus.

After retiring, Ted began his pursuit of bonsai art. Although at this point legally and functionally blind, Ted would use a white background and a camera to hike up the contrast on the trees that he worked on, doing much of the pruning and styling by memory and feel. He was mostly interested in large trees, for obvious reasons, and he loved California junipers and Japanese Black Pines. Unable to do some of the more delicate work, and to repot, Ted asked people to come and help him. Many of the Club members worked with Ted,



though sometimes it was hard to reconcile conflicts between Ted's choices of styling, and the other bonsai artist's vision. I was the last of Ted's helpers, working with him for more than a decade. What began as an occasional visit, became regular workdays, and gradually he depended on me to do the majority of the work. He would sit and tell me stories from his life in Manus, while I trimmed and repotted. When he chose a particular potting angle, or branch placement, I learned to accept it, as they were his trees, and it was his artistic vision. Though he perceived them mostly as two dimensional, and explored them by touch, he had definite preferences about their shapes. His reality was different than mine, so for his collection, his reality ruled.

Ted loved going on bus trips to conventions and shows. Some of you may remember him playing his harmonica (to mixed reviews) on the bus rides. He loved music and enjoyed playing.

As his bonsai collection grew, Ted generously donated two of his best trees to the Bonsai Pavilion at the Safari Park, and a Zelkova to the Japanese Friendship Garden in Balboa Park. His Foemina juniper grove and Bald Cypress grove are both crowd pleasers in the Pavilion. A flowering Ume will now be planted in his name, in the landscape of the Pavilion.



Foemina Juniper grove



Bald Cypress grove

When his wife Shirley determined that Ted could no longer remember his trees, and he hadn't been out to see them in almost a year, we held a sale. Club members came at appointed times, to purchased Ted's trees with enthusiasm. Although they desperately needed repotting and feeding, the trees all sold out by the end of the weekend, as well as his tools, pots, books, and even some of his benches.

It is a comforting and moving feeling, to know that Ted's beloved trees, his burning passion for bonsai, are now spread out into many new owner's collections. Where I could, I communicated the provenance of each tree, putting them into historical context. From the Potato Vine sold to him by Mas Takanashi, to the huge California juniper carved by Kenji Miyata, the trees continue Ted's legacy, and they serve to remind us that we are only caretakers of our trees, the lucky recipients of the skills of previous generations, and in our turn, we will bequeath them to new enthusiasts of this ancient Art.

Bonsai Pavilion at Safari Park:

Lyn Stevenson, Liaison

It is great to be able to share good news from the Bonsai Pavilion! The Zoo and Safari Park were reopened to the public on Saturday, January 30th! Permission was also granted for our volunteers to return on a limited basis (six volunteers at a time)! Consequently, six of our team requested entrance on the Reopening Saturday. The volunteers were all concerned as to what had happened there during the close down time. And good news! The Horticulture Department and Staff had assured us that they would keep tabs on the Pavilion during our absence with necessary watering and brush clearance and they did! What a wonderful surprise for all. . . Our Pavilion had survived beautifully!

Another added piece of good news for the Pavilion! Long time SDBC member Ted Schwartz held a Bonsai Sale recently at his home that was enjoyed by many SDBC and Pavilion bonsaiists. Joanie Berkwitz has been assisting Ted for some time with his collection and she also bought a wonderful flowering Ume (Apricot) and donated to the Pavilion in Ted's



Flowering Ume (Apricot) donated in honor of Theodore Schwartz.



The masked men are Mark Edger and John Jackson repotting the Schwartz Ume (Apricot)

name. It will be a unique and first Ume in the collection. Our deep appreciation to Ted and to Joanie for this gift. Ted had also donated two other bonsai to the Pavilion earlier (see feature article page 4). His generosity is greatly appreciated and enjoyed by all.

The Volunteers have now jumped right into their Pavilion activities. More trash was collected, the ponds were cleared of debris, weeding was done, the new pedestals were also cleaned, as well as the bonsai pots. There was even time to repot Mas Takanashi's California Juniper. We will be needing a new supply of goodies for the refrigerator and will need to get a supply of bottled water in the closet for future workdays, but those needs are fairly routine at the Pavilion.

Even though, we are still on restrictions due to the Covid mandates. We will now have limited access to the grounds from now on so we can now continue to volunteer and care for our precious Pavilion and Bonsai.

Our thanks to the Horticulture Department at Safari Park for helping us during this critical time. We now look forward to sharing the Pavilion Garden and Bonsai to all the visitors.

It will be nice to see our San Diego Club members visiting there too!

Please note:

The Bonsai Wire (TBW) is published monthly by the San Diego Bonsai Club (SDBC) except for May. TBW and the SDBC logo are properties of SDBC. Articles are provided by SDBC members. Any articles submitted by non-SDBC members—if published—become property of SDBC. All submitted articles are subject to editing. No part of this publication may be reproduced without written permission from the SDBC



Board Minutes: by Carla Marasco Secretary

January 12, 2021 SDBC Board Meeting President Sue Carter called the Zoom meeting to order at 6:34pm

In attendance: Sue Carter (President), Ignacio De La Torre (First VP), Bill Graham (VP for Education), Markel Farley (VP for Special Projects), Jaya Kaelberer (Treasurer), Uday Pandey (Membership), Carla Marasco (Secretary), Barbara French-Lee (Past President)

OFFICER REPORTS

- Programs (Ignacio De La Torre)
 - › Hoping to schedule a Facebook live event with Bob Hale towards the end of January or Beginning of February to cover re-potting and other things that can be done this time of the year and also possibly have a garden tour. Next live event to be scheduled 6-8 weeks later to cover things that can be done during Spring.
- Education (Bill Graham)
 - › There will be another workday scheduled with volunteers to finish the re-potting of the club Junipers in mid-February
 - › There are no classes planned at this time due to COVID-19, but several links have been added to the Wire for members to enjoy in the meantime.
- Special Projects (Markel Farley)
 - › Looking for some Virtual events to engage members while COVID-19 restrictions are in place
- Membership (Uday Pandey)
 - › There were 6 renewals since December
 - › New people are joining on Facebook
- Treasurer (Jaya Kaelberer)
 - › Sales Tax for Oct/Nov/Dec was paid (for sold elm trees)
 - › Membership income is steady along with donations (\$4K Pavilion donations/\$2K General Club donations)
 - › When expressing gratitude for donations, names will be mentioned, but donation will be kept private
 - › Amazon. Smile donates a percentage of the purchase to the club. In order to make members aware, we will mention this purchase option in next Bonsai Wire.
 - › The Budget for 2021 will be sent out by end of the week for review
 - › The 2020 Annual Audit will be done virtually by Jaya Kaelberer, Carla Marasco & Julia Chang
- Miscellaneous Club Topics (Sue Carter)
 - › 2021 Goals will be discussed and set during the January board meeting. These items will include future classes, speakers, shows, trips, supply sales and how we will start back up after the COVID-19 regulations are lifted.
 - › Junk e-mails are sometimes received. Members with emails listed on SDBC website & the Bonsai Wire should be cautious and not open suspicious emails.
 - › Help for new Board members to understand their new roles will be available if needed.
 - › It was agreed by all that starting in January 2021 the Board Meetings will continue to be on Zoom on the 2nd Tuesday, every other month from 6:30pm-7:30pm. Once everything opens back up meeting more frequently will be evaluated.
- Other Items (Barbara French-Lee)
 - › The Japanese Friendship Garden has been closed so as a way to help raise money for the Park, Fred Miyahara has offered to do a Zoom class in February for the Garden. Proceeds will go directly to the Park. Unlike this event, our Club Zoom events are primarily to engage our members not as a source of income.
- Other Items (Sue Carter)
 - › Ted Schwartz's bonsai collection will be offered for sale. Once email flyer is received, information will be forwarded to club members. Appointments will accommodate a maximum of 5 visitors at a time for tree purchases.
 - › Some 2021 goals were discussed & assigned for next steps
 - By-laws to be updated (last update 2009) (changes to include new online board meeting process & other changes) (Barbara French-Lee & Ignacio De La Torre)
 - Documents to be gathered, organized, digitized and placed in a central location (Sue Carter, Carla Marasco & Markel Farley)
 - Website to be updated and process to be created to ensure current information is online, Add links such as Pest Control
 - Develop new ways to encourage engagement with club members
 -

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30pm.

Results of 2020 financial audit of SDBC accounts



San Diego Bonsai Club
P. O. Box 86037
San Diego, CA 92138-6037

5 February 2021

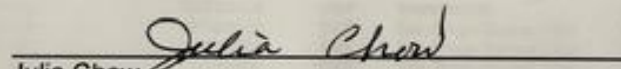
San Diego Bonsai Club Board and Membership

We have reviewed and tested the 2020 accounting records of the San Diego Bonsai Club, the Japanese Friendship Garden, and the San Diego Zoo Safari Park Bonsai Pavilion. Our sampling of income and expenses, as well as a review of the reconciliation of bank statements, PayPal and The Square records, resulted in accurate findings. It is our opinion that the records fairly represent the financial position of the San Diego Bonsai Club and Bonsai Pavilion as of December 31, 2020.

Sincerely,

2020 Financial Audit Committee


Carla Marasco


Julia Chow

Treasurers Report: Jaya Kaelberer, Treasurer

SAN DIEGO BONSAI CLUB - TREASURER'S REPORT			
Jaya Kaelberer as of December 31, 2020			
Accounts have been reconciled with Union Bank statements			
BANK ACCOUNT BALANCES			
		Change from m/e November	
SDBC Checking	\$41,685	Decrease of \$204.01	
Japanese Friendship Garden	\$2,343		
Bonsai Pavilion Checking	\$11,513	Increase of \$500 Donation	
TOTAL FUNDS:	\$55,542	Was \$55,246, Increase of \$296	
The following income statements have been split between SDBC and Pavilion.			
This highlights the \$14k moved from SDBC to Pavilion - an expense in the SDBC and an income in the Pavilion account			
SDBC Income			
	Actuals	Change from m/e November	budget
Total Donation Income	\$1,157	+\$550: \$50 1st prize tree decr donation, \$500 Pav donation	\$ 2,775
Total Education Income	\$1,999		\$ 8,250
Total Membership Income	\$4,130	+\$121, 3 single, 1double	\$ 6,500
Guest Artist Workshops	\$0		\$ 1,750
Total Raffle & Auction	\$728		\$ 8,400
Spring and fall show income	\$0		\$ 8,500
Total Special Projects Income	\$1,461		\$ 5,600
Total Tool Sales	\$1,312		\$ 2,800
Total SDBC Income	\$10,789	Was \$10,118, increased by \$671	\$44,575
SDBC Expenses			
		Change from m/e November	budget
Moved to Pavilion checking	\$14,500	\$500: corrected Pavilion donation error	
Donations and contributions	\$0		\$ 150
Total Education	\$4,495		\$ 7,850
Total Japanese Friendship Garden	\$1,957		\$ 3,000
Total Library	\$213	\$92: 1 year Bonsai Focus subscription	\$ 250
Total Mas Takamashi Grant	\$110		\$ 1,800
Total Membership	\$476	\$21 mailchimp fees	\$ 900
Total Monthly Program	\$1,122		\$ 5,900
Total Newsletter	\$545	+\$62, 2 months newsletter printing	\$ 700
Total SDBC Club Expenses			
Total GSBF Liability Insurance	\$1,760		\$ 1,600
Other	\$1,280	+\$50, first prize tree decorating, \$150 license to sell stock	\$ 3,300
San Diego Fair	\$0		\$ 200
Power of one scholarship	\$0		\$ 150
Total SDBC Spring Show	\$154		\$ 1,825
Total Fall show			\$ 550
Total Special Projects	\$1,560		\$ 4,500
Total Taxes	\$525		\$ 3,700
Total Tool Table Expenses	\$225		\$2,200
Total SDBC Expense	\$28,923	Was \$28,048, expense increased by \$875	\$38,575
Net SDBC Income (Loss)	(\$18,134)	Was -\$17,930, net income decreased by \$204	
Pavilion Income			
	Actuals	Change from m/e November	
Donations to PPP 2020	\$6,350		\$ 5,000
Bonsai Pavilion Donation	\$1,000	\$500: Donation to Pavilion general	\$ -
Moved from SDBC checking	\$14,000		\$ 14,000
Total Pavilion Income	\$21,350	Was \$20,850, increased by \$500	\$19,000
Pavilion Expense			
Total Maintenance & Improvements	\$434		\$ 500
Pavilion Capital Improvements	\$0		\$ 3,500
Supplies	\$0		\$ 500
Total Pavilion Pedestal Project	\$22,426		\$ 20,500
Total pavilion expense	\$22,860		\$25,000
Net Pavilion Income (Loss)	-\$1,510	Was -\$2,010, Net income increased by \$500	
Net SDBC and Pavilion Income (loss)	(\$19,644)	Was -\$19,940. Net income increased by \$296	
Net SDBC Income (loss) w/o Pedestal project	(\$3,634)		
Net Pavilion Income (loss) w/o Pedestal Project	\$566		
Net SDBC and Pavilion Income (loss) w/o Pedestal Proj	(\$3,068)		

San Diego Club Board

President:	Sue Carter susangcarter2004@att.net
1st Vice President:	Ignacio De La Torre igdlt@att.net
Secretary:	Carla Marasco adorebycarla@yahoo.com
Treasurer:	Jaya Kaelberer jaya.littletree@cox.net

VP Special Projects	Markel Farley Mr.Farley.M@gmail.com
VP Education:	Bill Graham wfgraham3rd@gmail.com
VP Membership:	Udaykant Pandey udaykant@gmail.com
Past President:	Barbara French-Lee barbflee@hotmail.com

Appointed Positions

Refreshment Coordinator:	TBD
Publicity:	Keith Carter kcarter315@att.net
Sunshine Chair:	Susan Baker baker@susanMbaker.com
Librarian & Historian:	Sonya Holmquist sonyaanneh@gmail.com
Tool Sales Manager:	Darryl & Christine Elmer droadie@sbcglobal.net Members

The Bonsai Wire Editor:	Sally Dischinger disch002@umn.edu Steve Dischinger sdischi@hotmail.com
The Bonsai Wire Postal Distributor:	Shirley Kavanaugh, Jr
Instagram Coordinator:	Christian Reha christianreha@gmail.com
Audio Visual:	Bryan Schroeder bryan.e@gmail.com
Webmaster:	Ron Kaelberer rkaelberer@cox.net

Japanese Friendship Garden

Bonsai Curator:	Neil Auwarter neilauwarter@hotmail.com
Liaison :	Barbara French-Lee barbflee@hotmail.com

Safari Park Bonsai Pavilion

Curator:	John Jackson bonsaijohn@cox.net
Assistant Curator:	Dennis Wagner denisW@cox.net
Liaison:	'lyn Stevenson inthegrove@cox.net



Did you know

From Bonsai Magazine Volume XXXVI Number 6. November/December 1997.

QUESTION: What is chelated iron? I've read about iron deficiency and its cure, chelated iron. Because I didn't know (and still do not know) what chelated iron is I turned to a technical dictionary. It states that chelated iron is iron that has been treated with a chelating agent. Great! What is a chelating agent?

RESPONSE: Chelating agents are compound that can "grab" onto another molecule (usually a metal ion) and hold it in their own molecular structure. The word "chelate" comes from the Greek "chele" meaning a claw. The molecular structure of some chelates actually resembles a claw holding the metal ion. The chelate holds the metal ion, in this case iron, through two or more bonds, based on the variance of the metal ion, on or inside the chelate's molecule.

Two such common chelating agents are EDTA (ethylene diamine tetracetic acid) and sodium citrate. Both of these chelating agents can be added to blood in blood banks to prevent blood from coagulating. The citrate or EDTA molecule chelate the calcium ions dissolved in the blood that are involved in one of the steps in the cascade sequence of clotting. The citrate or EDT molecules "pulls" the calcium ions from the blood solutions and interrupts the normal clotting cascade reaction and the blood therefore does not coagulate and can then be used for transfusions.

EDTA also happens to be the chelating agent for iron found in such fertilizers as Miracle-Gro and Peter's. EDTA is probably the most common chelating agent in use. *Andy, New Jersey USA*



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