



The Bonsai Wire

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

Volume 43, Issue 7

July, 2017



Message from the President

Bob Hale, SDBC President

Can you see the New Horizon in bonsai? It's coming soon, October 25-29, 2017, to the Riverside Convention Center, when the Golden State Bonsai Federation holds it's 40th Convention. This is your opportunity to meet some of the premier bonsai artists in the world including the headliners, **David Nguy**, **Boon Manakitivipart**, and from Edogawa Tokyo, Japan, **Mr. Kunio Kobayashi**. This year there are over 20 workshops available, as well as informative critiques and seminars. There will be two special excursions. One to the Canyon Crest Winery, and the other is a tour of three private bonsai collections. There will be a juried bonsai show, a viewing stone exhibit, and everyone's favorite, a large vendor area.

Continued on Page 2

In This Issue

President's Message	1
Program Preview: July	1
Club Officer Information	2
Website Update	2
Education Updates	4
Bonsai Ideas	5
New Members	5
Recap of Program: June	6
Fall Bonsai Show	6
Japanese Friendship Garden Update	7
Amazon Smile Reminder	7
SDBC Bonsai Pavilion at Safari Park	8
Preview of August Program	9
Upcoming Trip: Nisei Week	9
San Diego County Fair Review	10
Additions to the Library	10
Preview of Sep-Dec Programs	11
GSBF 40th Annual Convention	11
July Meeting Agenda	11
Calendar of Upcoming Events	12

Next Meeting: 7/9

Charlie Mosse, SDBC 1st VP

This month we have **Kathy Shaner**. Last month I wrote a few things about **Kathy**, and now here is a bit more. **Kathy Shaner's** bonsai story began in the early 80's. She studied under many reputable bonsai instructors throughout California over a ten year span.



At some point she was drawn to, and was accepted by, **Yasuo Mitsuya** of Toyohashi, Japan for a 5 year internship that would begin her career as a bonsai master. She was the first American, and woman to become a certified bonsai professional recognized by the professional bonsai growers branch of the Nippon Bonsai Association.

She has been a highly respected and sought after

Continued on Page 3

Continued from Page 1

I have been very fortunate to attend several GSBF conventions and look forward this year to learning new techniques, listening to various bonsai artists, meeting old friends and making new friends, and forming a special bond with members from our own club. One of my most exiting three minutes in bonsai was during a 2015 workshop with **David Nguy**. All work stopped in the room and everyone watched in awe as **David** threw his entire body into twisting an enormous branch of my California juniper 180 degrees. **David** expanded my horizon by demonstrating a technique I didn't know was possible. And yes, the tree is still alive!

I hope you can join us for the weekend and learn what is over the New Horizon.

See Page 11 for more information.

SDBC Website Highlights:

Eric Jacobson, Webmaster

- Photos and winning entries for the SD Fair. sandiegobonsaiclub.com/san-diego-fair.html
- Members can now reserve seats for the August Nisei Week bus trip. The trip will include a stop at the Fuji Bonsai Nursery in Sylmar. sandiegobonsaiclub.com/nisei-week-bus-trip.html
- The October GSBF convention in Riverside has registration opening July 1 at 8am. The workshops book up very quickly. Linked from the SDBC home page or gsbfconvention.org

sandiegobonsaiclub.com

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'lyn Stevenson - inthegrove@cox.net



The Golden State Bonsai Federation Bonsai Garden at Lake Merritt, which is curated by Kathy Shaner.

Continued from Page 1

professional for thirty years and has provided more than just practice following the “rules” of bonsai. **Kathy** loves working on whatever tree a club member wants to work with. She can fine tune a tree for world class exhibition, or bring into focus a trouble maker and give it a new life. **Kathy** is the Curator for the Bonsai Garden at Lake Merritt (BGLM) and sensei for the Redwood Empire Bonsai Society (REBS). She teaches, cares for peoples bonsai, conducts classes and workshops, headlines conventions, all of this across the country. Supported by all of her experience, the following sums up where she is today in a quote from the Puget Sound Bonsai Association, “I feel freedom; I am not constrained as we were years ago. Our training gave us great information, but now I can follow nature. I am more interested in how nature would have influenced the tree. For years Bonsai culture was about no change. Now we can focus on what makes them healthier, how I can be influenced by what is natural to their species.”

This month she will be styling a Prostrata Juniper originally grown by **John Voss**. The tree was purchased for the purpose of this presentation and then to be donated by the club to the Huntington Garden for their annual Bonsai-A-Thon fundraiser benefitting the Bonsai collection.

There are workshop times still open for Sunday morning and afternoon, and also for Monday morning and afternoon. This a terrific opportunity to learn from one of the best instructors in the country; she knows trees and infinitely understands bonsai. For those of you who

have seen **Kathy** in action, you know what I mean. You can email me at chasmosse@gmail.com or call 619-851-7187 to reserve a time. Cost for Sunday is \$25 (1/2 hour) and \$40 (50 minutes) for Monday. If a time slot remains open, then anyone who has already signed up can pay for an extra time slot. **Joan Holiday** has offered to have the Monday workshop at her house where **Kathy** will be staying during her time here in San Diego. More info about Monday will be sent to those signed up for that day.



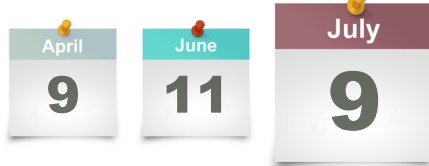
Ms. Shaner workshops a Prostrata Juniper.

SDBC Education:

Bill Graham, SDBC VP of Education

July is here and so continues the warm weather. Be aware of your watering needs and keep working on your Tropicals, now is the time!

Beginning Classes:



The second Beginners Class of 2017 is progressing well and this is the third and final session on your pomegranates. You will be finishing any wiring and trimming and will be transplanting your trees in to bonsai training pots. This class will show you how to wire a tree in to a pot and the techniques used to ensure your tree is placed correctly in your pot.

This will be an exciting class and you will get to see your tree to start looking like a bonsai!



The pomegranate trees are drastically pruned at the June 11 class: BEFORE and AFTER.



The third Beginners Class of the year will start in August and take us through the end of the year. Please note the scheduling of this class. We have some very nice Junipers that have had some early work done to them. This is very nice material that will make some great bonsai. Due to the cost level of material there is an increased cost to this class. The instructors will be **Mark and Cathy Edgar**.



There are a couple of spots still available and the sign-up sheet will be at the July meeting. The cost is \$50.00.



A Shimpaku Juniper by Cathy and Mark Edgar at this year's Spring Show.

July Workshop – Urban Yamadori Boxwoods

The July workshop will be some very nice collected boxwoods. These have been out of the ground and in pots for about three years. They are excellent material and will make exciting bonsai! **John Voss** will be the teacher. Class will start at 0830 in Room 104



August Workshop – Tray Landscaping (Penjing)

We have an exciting program scheduled. Our own Queen of Shohin, **Shirley Kavanaugh**, will be teaching how to create a miniature tray landscape, using a marble tray, small olive trees, rocks and a few other items. If you have ever seen Shirley work, you know how cool and exciting this will be!

There are a few spots left the sign-up sheet will be at the July Meeting. The cost is \$125.00 and limited to seven (7) attendees.



A Penjing by 'lyn Stevenson displayed at this year's Spring Show.

Reminder

A reminder that all beginning classes, workshops and skills classes are taught from 8:30am to 10:15am 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.

Suggestion Box

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.

New Members

Nazim Colak, SDBC VP of Membership

Please welcome our new members: **Joseph Batie, Alan Wilson, Isaac Chavez, Andrea Wagman Christian, Junita McCann, Paul Guidice, Jenny Zhan, Robert (Mickey) Finch, Linda Espon.**

Bonsai Ideas

by **Marty Mann**

The summer months of July and August, bring a period of slow growth and relative inactive changes in bonsai. However, it should be remembered that the trunk and branches continue to swell and develop. Watch the wires applied in spring in order to prevent unsightly and destructive cuts.

Potted trees build up considerable heat and a lack of moisture allows fine roots to dry. During this period it's a good practice to water less but more often to replace the expiration of moisture by drying winds on leaf surfaces. Resist the tendency to overwater when you see the signs of distress in the form of wilt or needle drop. Test the soil regularly to be sure it is actually drying out before you arbitrarily soak it again. For balanced plant health moisture must be consistently renewed.

Daytime water adhering to leaves can literally cook them and cause severe leaf burn. If overhead watering is unavoidable, do so early in the morning to give time for surface evaporation.

Be reminded that summer vacationing puts an additional burden on your 'bonsai sitters'. Try forming a mutual watering pact with fellow bonsaists. You do for them when you can and they will do for you. It's a great working arrangement and considerably safer than trusting your 'babies' to strangers.

Don't trust your automatic watering system without the back-up of someone who can check from time to time to audit its functions.

Summer is the time to monitor the Shari and Jin portions of the styled trees. Apply a second application of lime-sulfur (Orthorix Dormant Spray) to the dampened dead wood areas to protect against wood rot. Avoid seepage of this chemical into the soil and root area. Avoid live wood surfaces.

Leaf pruning should begin in late June or early July. Healthy deciduous trees which have recently been well fed may be defoliated now. This timing gives trees an opportunity to recover and begin the formation of a secondary set of leaves. Most deciduous varieties benefit from this activity if it is not done too often. Biannually is best. Be sure to protect the new growth by keeping trees cool.

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Continued on Page 11

June Program in Review

Charlie Mosse, SDBC 1st VP

The SDBC meeting at the Japanese Friendship Garden was a rousing success with approximately 100 members attending. A huge thanks to all for making the meeting at The Garden run smoothly. We are grateful to the JFG staff for such a great job of preparation with chairs, tables and shade. Mother Nature also contributed with a beautiful day.

Frederic Hewitt, Program Coordinator of the Japanese Friendship Garden led several tours of the garden for SDBC members and explained the Japanese feeling for beauty - simplicity, freedom, irregularity and "the art of imperfection - wabi sabi". The Zen Meditation Garden was a highlight of his tours for our members.



The meeting took place amidst The Garden's permanent collection of antiques.

Mr. Hewitt was also the speaker for a less formal SDBC meeting, and gave an informative and interesting summary of the history of the JFG as well as upcoming development plans and initiatives. Many of the attendees were first time visitors to The Garden and learned a great deal. Likewise, **Mr. Hewitt** gained a better understanding of the scope and size of the SDBC. Several upcoming events at The Garden were mentioned, which can benefit from club volunteers to teach about bonsai. (See page 7)

The bonsai trees on display were showing very nicely. They are in excellent condition now and vastly improved with much thanks to the expertise of **Glenn Jensen**. **Fred Miyahara** is also a significant contributor to the collection by assisting us with care of the Japanese Black Pines. With the coming establishment of a growing area, the collection and presentation will improve more.



The current Bonsai display at The Garden.

The San Diego Bonsai Club bonsai collection contributes to the Japanese Friendship Garden sense of beauty and to the delight of the many visitors we meet. We, the SDBC and the volunteers, are honored to be a part of The Garden.

Fall Bonsai Show

Janice Hale, V.P. Special Projects

I have to say again how impressed I was with the beautiful bonsai trees and accent plants that you all had on display during our Spring Show. I hope you enjoyed seeing the photos of your treasurers in the summer issue of Golden Statements Magazine. Mr. **Fred Miyahara's** bougainvillea made the cover!

With the success of the fabulous Spring Show behind us it's time to look ahead and see if we can out do ourselves with a spectacular Fall Show.

We'll set up room 101 on Thursday Sept 21st, bring our displays and sale table items on Friday Sept 22nd. Doors will open for the show at 10:00am Saturday and Sunday Sept 23rd -24th. The sales table donations from our club members are the number one source of income for the Club. So start looking at your collection of trees, pots and bonsai related items that you'd like to sell.

Be sure to mark your calendars
for the Fall Bonsai Show:

Sep. 23-24, 2017!



Update from the Japanese Friendship Garden

Volunteer Opportunities

If you attended the June meeting, you got to meet **Frederick Hewitt**, Program Coordinator for the Japanese Friendship Garden. **Mr. Hewitt** mentioned several events that are coming up at The Garden, which will include opportunities for guests to learn about bonsai. Volunteers who can speak or teach about bonsai will be greatly appreciated.

- **Tue OR Wed, Jul 18, 19 at 2pm**

Summer camp lecture or activity for summer camp students grades 3-5. Hands on would be optimal, but The Garden is trying to keep the budget to a minimum. Perhaps sharing pruning of a few trees? Let Mr. Hewitt know what is possible, otherwise just a lecture of our own bonsai shall suffice. Check with Barbara French-Lee for confirmation.

- **Sat, Aug 5 from 1-4pm**

Encinitas Library Japanese festival is looking for booths to teach about Japanese culture, if SDBC wants to participate. This event is not affiliated with JFG, but involves various Japanese community organizations. PLEASE LET **MR. HEWITT** KNOW IMMEDIATELY since the organizers want to lock down their booth RSVPs.

- **Wed, Oct 4, from 5-7pm**

Teacher's night out, an open house for public school teachers to see Balboa Park museums and the best educational curricula they have to offer. I hope to have SDBC represented at one of our booths.

- **Weds, 10am - 12pm, Sep 20, Oct 4, 11, 19, and 26.**

Docent Training session looking for a Bonsai expert to teach an intensive 2 hour primer about bonsai on any one of the dates listed above. Please RSVP early to get your desired time slot!

Unless otherwise directed, please contact **Mr. Hewitt** at programs@niwa.org if you are interested in volunteering.

Katie Borton, The Bonsai Wire Editor

Smile.Amazon.com Donations

Janice Hale, V.P. Special Projects

Did you know you can support SDBC with your Amazon purchases? It's very simple! Select the San Diego Bonsai Club and Amazon Smile will donate .5% of your purchase to the Club. All prices remain the same as they would be otherwise. Go to smile.amazon.com and sign up.



SAN DIEGO BONSAI PAVILION

SAFARI PARK



Volunteer Days at the Safari Park

Special thanks always to our volunteers at the Bonsai Pavilion! June's list included: *Neil Auwarter, Ken Bros, Julia Chow, Cathy & Mark Edgar, Bob & Janice Hale, Sonya Holmquist, John Jackson, Jaya Kaelberer, Jim Kirchmer, Charlie Mosse, Janet & Ron Palmer, Sally Prestele, Clare & Ron Roberts, 'Iyn Stevenson, Yoichiro Suemori, Dennis Wagner, Mark Walters, and Dave Woodall.* Several of our Safari Park volunteers were also helping at the S.D. Fair SDBC exhibit which made them super volunteers! The special summer treats of *John's* "hi-energy" donuts, wonderful home

area. There will be another series of roads - some temporary - for the construction. Our volunteers will still have access to the Pavilion via our usual back entrance and parking and road but the front Takanashi Gate will be closed to visitors until further notice. Fortunately, SDBC members had the opportunity to enjoy the Pavilion at the May meeting. We will keep the club apprised of the Park's progress and also relay significant photos from the Pavilion.

New Additions

The major black pine transplant that *Dennis* directed, along with juniper plantings etc., from the area near the torii entrance have all been successfully transplanted to the inside of the Pavilion along our meandering river and at an area near the waterfall. Several newly planted azaleas are also blooming beautifully near the river edge now. Curator *John* is continuing the preparation for the cement work which we will be doing while the Pavilion is closed to public access.



Jaya Kaelberer and Bob Hale doing some summer bonsai trimming at the Bonsai Pavilion

grown fruits, morning coffee, lemonade, and the stash of waters, and other goodies in our closet refrigerator kept everyone hydrated in the warmer June weather. Thank you all Volunteers!

Under Construction

The unusual preparation for the temporary closing of the Pavilion was a priority in June. As reported last month at the meeting and in the Bonsai Wire, the Safari Park will be doing some major new additions for an Australian exhibit in the open spaces above the Bonsai Pavilion



Janice Hale, Neil Auwarter, Janet Palmer, and Ken Bros under the shaded work area at the rear of the Bonsai Pavilion

Donations

Careful planning and continued fundraising are both paramount too. Donations are always needed! We are researching a special way to permanently acknowledge donations for this new project also similar to what was done on the Donor Plaque at the side of the Takanashi Gate.

Seven Years and Counting

As we enter our 7th year in this location of the SDBC Bonsai Pavilion, we continue to marvel at the aging beauty of the trees, the popularity of the bonsai and the tranquil garden to all visitors, and the progress and education that all of us continue to receive as we share the responsibility of this incredible collection. We have added many new members to our volunteer roster, and encourage SDBC members to join us if they want to make a further commitment to their Bonsai avocation.

'lyn Stevenson,

Liaison for SDBC Bonsai Pavilion and Safari Park

Coming in August

Charlie Mosse, SDBC 1st VP

Ficus! August is the middle of Ficus season and other "warm blooded" plants like Bougainvillea and Olives. Ficus season runs from June through September, when one can do heavy work on Ficus and get fast, excellent response from their trees. This is the best time to do major root pruning, defoliation, cuttings, air layering and grafting. May and October are still good months but not quite as good for heavy work like major re-pots and defoliation. Ficus will respond but more slowly, which is generally not a problem. When defoliating, many times the new leaves are even reduced in size. Just be careful of the watering. The day time temperatures are important as are the nighttime temperatures. Ficus prefer temps above 80 during the day and 60-65 at night. The warmer and more humid, the better.

John Jackson will be conducting a demonstration on the trees we started to work on last year. One is a Ficus microcarpa, aka the 'nitida' type and a Ficus benjamina. They should be ready for re-potting into bonsai containers, if not, they will be further styled by John. Developing a bonsai is a process so we are following these trees from initial styling through potting.

There will be Ficus help in the morning, nothing formal, just bring in a tree and get some assistance from 8:30 to 10:25. This is a great time to work on Ficus. If you do not have Ficus or need Ficus help, bring anything you want. There is always help to be had in the morning.

Nisei Week:

Saturday, August 26th

Janice Hale, V.P. Special Projects

Our annual bus trip to Little Tokyo in Los Angeles for the Nisei Week celebration will be Saturday, August 26th. Our full-sized tour bus will take us to the Japanese American Cultural and Community Center in Little Tokyo where we can view the Nanpu Kai Bonsai Exhibit as well as other cultural arts. There are plenty of interesting shops and restaurants around the JACCC where we can shop and find a tasty snack.



**NISEI WEEK™
Foundation**

We will then head to Sylmar and visit **Roy Nagatosh's** Fuji Nursery. Here you can find a large assortment of pre-bonsai and bonsai-in-training. This is a great place for our novice members to pick up great bonsai stock at great prices.

The festival was started in 1934 during the depression by second-generation Japanese Americans who wanted to help attract more business to the Little Tokyo area.

For an interesting history of Nisei Week, visit:
niseiweek.org/about-us/history/

The cost for the bus will be \$40 per person. We will leave the Balboa Park staging area at 8:00am, the Carlsbad staging area at 8:30am and return to Balboa Park by 8:00pm. Please feel free to bring your family or friends. You can reserve your seat(s) on the bus now via the club's website: sandiebobonsaiclub.com or sign up at the Club meeting.



The Japanese American Cultural and Community Center in Little Tokyo.

Another Successful Year at the San Diego County Fair

Sonya Holmquist

On June 14 Club volunteers led three workshop/demonstrations at the Flower & Garden Show Stage. Ten participants, mostly new club members, received one-on-one instruction and styled, wired, and potted their



A Palmer Oak at the SDBC County Fair Display.

own junipers, while audience members looked on, asked questions and were inspired. Thanks to **Gary Jones** for providing the trees and to **Abe Far**, **Barbara French-Lee**, **Janice Hale**, **Sonya Holmquist**, and **Gary Jones** who served as instructors and moderators.



Thanks again to all the Club members who served on the planning and watering teams: **Brenda Crann**, **Cathy Edgar**, **Mark Edgar**, **Bob Hale**, **Janice Hale**, **Sonya Holmquist**, **Susan Hull**, **John Jackson**, **Gary Jones**, **Sylvia Mosse**, **Charlie Mosse**, **Peter Chong**, **Janet Palmer**, **Ron Palmer**, and **Dennis Wagner**.

A special thank you to **Eric Jacobson** for creating a separate web page for our participation in the Fair – check it out for more photos and a list of Club members who won awards for their bonsai and tray landscapes.

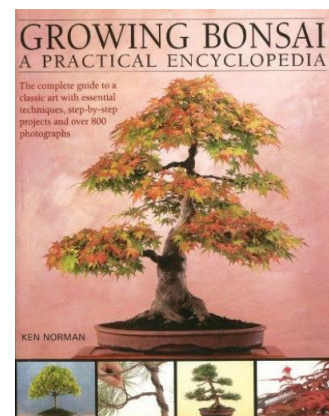
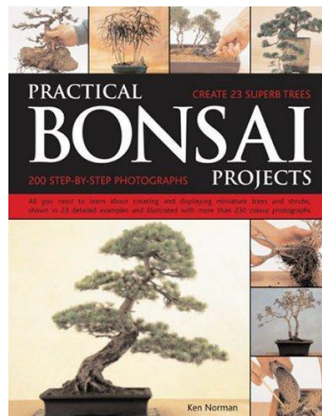
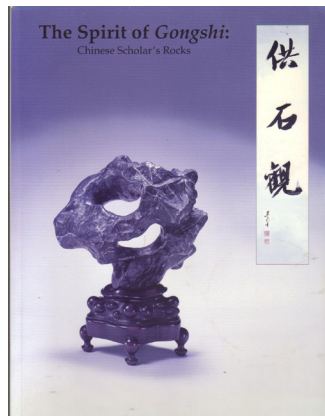
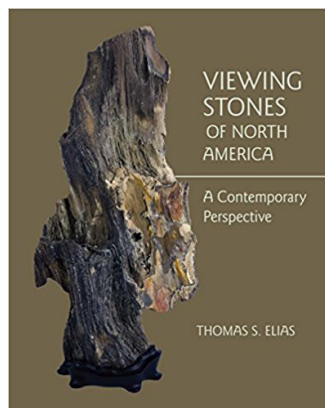
New Additions to the Library

Sonya Holmquist, SDBC Librarian

We have several new additions to the library, courtesy of our former librarian, **Steve Clemons**, and **Tom Elias**:

- Viewing Stones of North America, A Contemporary Perspective by **Thomas S. Elias**;
- The Spirit of Gongshi: Chinese Scholar Rocks by **Kemin Hu**;
- Practical Bonsai Projects: Create 23 Superb Trees by **Ken Norman**;
- Growing Bonsai: A Practical Encyclopedia by **Ken Norman**.

The Norman books are excellent books for beginners covering styles and techniques with many easy to follow projects.



Upcoming Programs

Charlie Mosse, SDBC 1st VP

September

September is Fall Show month. No presentation is planned at this time. If you are going to show a tree or trees and want some help setting up your display, bring in your tree, stand, slab, accent plant for some assistance.

October

October is the picnic and auction at Lake Poway. Fun, food and friends. Keep the date open.

November

November we will have **Jonas Dupuich**. This is also the month that **Fred** usually works with our JBPs. **Fred** has offered to work with **Jonas** who is also a top notch JBP instructor and with other varieties as well. Workshops with Jonas will be offered on Saturday the 11th and Sunday the 12th. Details later.

December

December is the styling competition!

Continued from Page 5

is best. Be sure to protect the new growth by keeping trees in a cool shaded area until they have hardened and regained size and strength. Continue regular pinching of new growing tips prevents excessively long internodes.

With the beginning of summer most transplanting must be curtailed. some material such as pomegranates, tropical ficus, cotoneaster, bamboo, palms, wisteria and pyracantha can be repotted during the warmer months, however, don't allow the fine feeding roots to be exposed to drying air. A good technique is to mist the roots and dust them with a fine soil mix, as a coating. This protects them during the repotting process. Warm sunny weather stimulates root growth and helps the trees become well established.

This article has been extracted from the published book called "Bonsai Ideas"® by Marty Mann. Material is not to be copied without publisher or author's permission.

2017 GSBF Convention: Bonsai New Horizon

Janice Hale, V.P. Special Projects



- Online registration for the Golden State Bonsai Federation convention opens 8:00am, July 1, 2017.
- The convention will be held at the Riverside Convention Center October 25-29, 2017.
- Special convention rates of \$119 (plus tax) will be available at The Marriott across from the convention center.
- Sign up soon for your workshops, seminars, critiques and excursions, as well as your hotel room, by visiting gsbfconvention.org.

Next Mtg. Agenda: July 9 at the Prado Room 101

8:30 - 10:30 am

Beginner Class (Room 104)

8:30 - 10:30 am

Individ. Workshops w/ K. Shaner

10:30 - 11:00 am

Business Meeting

11:00 am - 12:00 pm

Presentation - Kathy Shaner

12:00 pm

Raffle and Refreshment

1:00 - 3:00 pm

Individ. Workshops w/ K. Shaner

San Diego Bonsai Club, Inc.
PO Box 86037
San Diego, CA 92138-6037



ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED



Jim Perondi & David Barker, two hard working club volunteers, at the Spring Show. Thanks Dave, for your contribution as outgoing Editor of The Bonsai Wire! You will be missed. Come back and see us when you are back in San Diego!

SDBC Upcoming Events:

Jul 9th (Sun)	Regular Mtg: Kathy Shaner
July 15 (Sat)	Safari Park Work Day
August 5 (Sat)	Safari Park Work Day
Aug 13th (Sun)	Regular Mtg: Ficus with John Jackson
Aug 19 (Sat)	Safari Park Work Day
Sep 2 (Sat)	Safari Park Work Day
Aug 26th (Sat)	Nisei Week Trip
Sep 10th (Sun)	Prep for Fall Show
Sep 16 (Sat)	Safari Park Work Day
Sep 23-24th (Sat-Sun)	Fall Bonsai Show
Oct 8th (Sun)	Picnic at Lake Poway
Nov 12th (Sun)	Regular Mtg: Pines with Jonas Dupuich
Dec 10th (Sun)	Regular Mtg: Styling Competition