



# The Bonsai Wine

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

Volume 44, Issue 2

February 2018



## Message from the President

*Barbara French-Lee, SDBC President*

Whenever I travel outside the U.S., I always like to find bonsai of my destination country. Recently, in traveling to Myanmar, I finally found three barely surviving bonsai trees outside the museum of a famous Myanmar artist. Then in Thailand I finally found some in large pots at the Royal Palace. But the most interesting search for me has led to the little town of Nayon, outside of Quito, Ecuador, known as the plant city. This is a paradise for plant loving people, but when my son and I first went there to look for bonsai several years ago, we found only a few. The price was good so I bought one bonsai and then a few plants to develop into bonsai. Fast forward to the past year or so and the explosion of bonsai nurseries is striking. The choices of trees that are

made into bonsai amaze me, from all varieties of exotic fruit to native plants, along with plentiful junipers and cypresses. Who knew that a lemon verbena bush could become a large trunk bonsai? What you rarely see are our staples (elms and pines). Soil is always a big discussion in the bonsai world. In Ecuador, all the soil comes from the countryside, which has rich organic soil and a variety of organic rock. The soil is then combined with rice husks, sand and volcanic rock depending upon

*Continued on Page 3*

## Next Meeting: 2/11 Deciduous Trees

*Darryl Elmer, SDBC 1st VP*

This month we have an opportunity to learn from two long time San Diego Bonsai Club members *John Jackson* and *Glenn Jensen*. *John* and *Glen* will be sharing their knowledge of deciduous trees in a tag team style presentation. They will help us to understand the special needs of deciduous trees as we prepare for the rapid growth of spring. While the trees are bare is an excellent time to take a close look and make a plan for the future development of your trees. Once spring arrives, deciduous trees can and usually do grow very

*Continued on Page 9*

## In This Issue

|   |    |
|---|----|
| President's Message                     | 1  |
| Program Preview: February               | 1  |
| Club Officer Information                | 2  |
| Website Update                          | 2  |
| Other Bonsai Activities                 | 2  |
| Review of January Program               | 3  |
| Education Updates                       | 4  |
| Upcoming Trip: Bristlecone Pine Forrest | 4  |
| Japanese Friendship Garden Update       | 5  |
| Thank You                               | 6  |
| Upcoming Trip: Bonsai-a-Thon            | 6  |
| January Board Meeting Minutes           | 6  |
| Treasurer's Report                      | 7  |
| Membership Update                       | 7  |
| Spring Show                             | 7  |
| SDBC Bonsai Pavilion at Safari Park     | 8  |
| January Meeting Minutes                 | 10 |
| Program Previews: March & Beyond        | 11 |
| February Meeting Agenda                 | 12 |
| Calendar of Upcoming Events             | 12 |

# SDBC Website Highlights:

*Eric Jacobson, Webmaster*

Don't forget that you can go to the SDBC website to take care of business!

- [Renew your membership](#)
- [Sign up for the Bonsai-A-Thon Trip](#)
- Follow the Safari Park Pavillion remodel.

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

## Other Bonsai Activities

- February 17th - 18th - [GSBF Bonsai Garden at Lake Merritt](#) Annual Mammoth Auction and Sale Fundraiser, Oakland CA.
- March 24th - 25th - Bay Area Bonsai Associates 37th Annual Exhibition. Oakland CA.
- March 24th - 25th - Tucson Bonsai Society 46th Annual Exhibition. Tucson AZ.
- April 6th - 7th - [GSBF Clark Bonsai Collection](#) fund raiser. 7775 N. Friant Rd., Fresno CA.
- April 14th - 15th - [American Bonsai Association Spring Show](#). 3330 McKinley Blvd, Sacramento CA.
- April 14th - 15th - [San Jose Betsuin Bonsai Club](#) 47th Annual Spring Exhibit. 640 N. 5th St, San Jose CA.
- April 14th - 15th - [Santa Cruz Bonsai Kai](#) 30th Annual Bonsai Show. 705 Front St, Santa Cruz CA.
- April 19th - 22nd - [Gateway to Bonsai](#), Collinsville, IL.
- April 21st - 22nd - [Kusamura Bonsai Club](#) 58th Annual Show. 1305 Middlefield Rd, Palo Alto CA.

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.

## SDBC Elected Officers & Appointed Positions:

### President:

Barbara French-Lee - barbflee@hotmail.com

### 1st Vice President:

Darryl Elmer - droadie@sbcglobal.net

### VP for Education:

Bill Graham - wfgraham3rd@gmail.com

### VP for Special Projects:

Abe Far - abe\_far@yahoo.com

### Treasurer:

Janice Hale - janicehale42@gmail.com

### VP for Membership:

Keith Carter - kcarter315@att.net

### Secretary:

Nancy Wilson-Ramon -

nancy.wilson-ramon@att.net

### Past President:

Bob Hale - bobhale42@gmail.com

### Webmaster:

Eric Jacobson - eric\_ks@yahoo.com

### Tool Sales Manager:

Chris & Melissa Strows - cstrows@gmail.com

### Historian:

Sonya Holmquist - sholmquist3@cox.net

### Benefit Drawing Manager:

John Polo - jfpolo@excite.com

### Sunshine Chair:

Susan Baker - baker@susanMbaker.com

### Librarian:

Sonya Holmquist - sholmquist3@cox.net

### Refreshment Coordinator:

Sue Carter - susangcarter2004@att.net

### Publicity:

Veronica Perondi - veronicamae@me.com

### Audio Visual:

Paris Haber and David Meyer -  
[eml TBD]

### The Bonsai Wire Editor:

Katie Borton - katieborton@gmail.com

### The Bonsai Wire Postal Distributor:

Shirley Kavanaugh, Jr

### Japanese Friendship Garden

### Bonsai Curator:

Glenn Jensen - glenn@bajaphotographer.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

# January Program in Review

*Darryl Elmer, SDBC 1st VP*

Our January meeting was all about re-potting. Members were invited to bring in their trees for re-potting help. Soil, screen and tie-down wire were all provided by the club. Additional soil was available for sale on our tool table for a very reasonable price for those that wanted to continue repotting at home. Many of our advanced members were available to provide assistance to less experienced members

and answer any questions that they may have had. It was a good opportunity to learn

some of the important techniques and nuances of re-potting; also a great time to observe.



After the morning repotting session we held a short business meeting. Following our business meeting the team leaders from our December tree styling competition auctioned off the juniper that was styled by their team. There was additional time after the meeting for more members to continue re-potting.

We would like to thank those experienced members that gave of their time to assist our members with the repotting and pot selection. Their assistance was greatly appreciated.



*Bonsai Collection, Quito Botanical Garden, Ecuador*

the tree to be planted. The trees and the industry are thriving.

Until 10 years ago, most of the bonsai were brought into the country from Colombia, but that is now banned, so all recent stock have been developed in Ecuador. I met a brother and sister duo who own two nurseries.



*Nyon Nursery bonsai trees for sale, Ecuador*

They have several trees in the Bonsai collection at the Quito Botanical Garden. When I saw their side by side nurseries I thought what a wonderful bus trip that would be for our Club with their large collection on the ground and on their roof. I think we would buy them out.

Since, sadly, I'm going to miss the Shohin Convention in Santa Nella I was drawn to the Shohin bonsai in the nurseries collection. I know those who were able to go to this friendly and intimate convention had a wonderful time and came away with some great trees and good memories.

# SDBC Education:

*Bill Graham, SDBC VP of Education*

Welcome to February. We haven't had much of a winter so far, I hope you are paying attention to your trees' watering needs. We continue to have a busy schedule and I look forward to seeing the progress of our Beginners Class.

## Beginning Classes:



This will be the second of three classes. In this class you will learn more about the botany of your elm, different bonsai styles, and how to wire the trunk and branches on your tree. It will begin to look more and more like a bonsai. If you have signed up please be on time or a few minutes early. The class starts at 8:30 am in Room 104. Observers are always welcome. Even if you do not get in to 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.*

The sign-up sheet for our second quarter Beginning Class will be at the February Meeting. The class will start in April and will be Olives.

## Intermediate Skills

### Workshops

#### 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 10 people total.

#### March - JBP

We will again have our own Master of the Japanese Black Pine, *Fred Miyahara*, presenting a workshop. This class is



limited to 8 people. Fred will provide an excellent Black Pine to work on and will bring his many years of experience and training to help guide you to your own future masterpiece.

## April

We have a rare and exciting treat for April. [Tak Shimazu](#) will be our featured speaker for the month. As an added bonus, *Tak* will also lead a workshop in the afternoon with some really outstanding Shohin Shimpaku Junipers. These trees came from Tak's garden and are really outstanding material. There are 6 trees available and the cost will be \$250. The sign-up sheet will be at the February meeting. **THIS WORKSHOP WILL BE HELD IN THE AFTERNOON, AFTER THE 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](mailto:wfgraham3rd@gmail.com)

## Upcoming Trip:

Ancient Bristlecone  
Pine Forest Trip,  
July 14-15, 2018

*Abe Far, VP Special Projects*

We have a planned two-day bus trip to the Ancient Bristlecone Pine Forest in the White Mountains in Bishop, California. We will leave San Diego at 8:00 a.m. Saturday, July 14 and return on Sunday July 15 at 8:00 p.m. The cost for this trip is \$238 per person for double occupancy room, and \$320 per person for a single occupancy room. This rate includes the bus fare, hotel, Saturday night dinner, and U.S. Forest Service admission fee. Participants must fill out the form for choice of their meal and emergency contact. There will be no cancellations or refunds after June 1, 2018. Payment must be received by *Abe Far*, VP of Special Projects, by May 1, 2018.



*Glenn Jensen, JFG Bonsai Curator*

Since “winter” is still with us the trees are still asleep at the garden, this is a perfect time to repot. We repotted the beautiful Foemina forest that was generously donated by **Larry and Nina Ragel**, good friends of the bonsai community. It was time to refurbish the soil, add a small tree I had set aside just for this purpose, and to reposition the moss. These changes improved the aesthetics of the forest.

The root ball had become compacted with roots and fines. We determined that the trees did not need to be repositioned/reconfigured, so we thought we would just remove the soil from the outer 1” edge of the root ball and also create the space for the small Foemina without doing a full repot. After that procedure, we discovered that the trees were very stable. The intact forest was then removed from the pot. This allowed us to remove more old soil and open more areas for better air and water percolation. An indentation was created in the side of the root ball for the addition of the small tree.

For the curious, the new soil was 1:1:1 pumice-scoria-akadama with some collected granite added, about 5%. The soil and granite particle size was 1/16 to 3/16”, mostly 1/8” to 3/16”. The large brown particles are akadama and hyuga. The hyuga is a very hard, light weight type of pumice. It is usually a more beige color but here it is stained darker by the beneficial breakdown of the akadama. As akadama breaks down it releases nutrients, and also does add to the fine particles that settle to the bottom.

The forest looked terrific with the new tree and the more strategically placed moss. I want to thank **Mary Ann and Harlan Price, Warren Tam, Mori Suemori, Susan Ronan, Nancy Wilson-Ramon and Charlie Mosse** for making it happen.

The plans for the work area are moving along nicely. **Bob Hale** is directing the project. He and our club liaison, **Barbara French-Lee**, are working closely with the Garden since it is important that we fit in properly with the JFG’s future plans.

SAVE THE DATE!! The 13th annual Cherry Blossom Festival at the Japanese Friendship Garden will be March 9-11, from 10 am-6pm.

This is the link to the JFG website for the festival: <http://www.niwa.org/cbf18>

As always, thank you to the volunteers and the club for your support.



# Thank You!

We appreciate the refreshments that were donated for the December and January meetings by the following:

December Meeting: *Janet Liggett, 'Lyn Stevenson, Bill Graham, Christine & Darryl Elmer, Jaya Kaelberer, Bill Starks, Jenny K. Chin, John & Margaret Jackson, Ron & Janie Ogdon, Nancy Wilson-Ramon, Mark & Cathy Edgar, Abe & Christina Far, Neil Auwarter, Van Moch Nguyen, Sue & Keith Carter, Clarita & Jose Riusech.*

January Meeting: *Janet Liggett, 'Lyn Stevenson, Christine & Darryl Elmer, Bill Starks, Jenny K. Chin, John & Margaret Jackson, Mark & Cathy Edgar, Abe & Christina Far, Sue & Keith Carter, Sylvia & Charlie Mosse, Barb French-Lee, Warren & Jackie Tam, Shirley Kavanaugh, Ken Bross, Mary Ann & Harlan Price, Julia Chow, Susan Mae Hull.*

Many thanks to those who donated items for the December and January raffles:

December Meeting: *'Lyn Stevenson, Dave Woodall, Eric Jacobson, Dan Sola, Susan Baker, Jenny K. Chin, John & Margaret Jackson, Charlie Tamm, Gary Jones, Abe & Christina Far, SDBC, Janet Liggett, Sue & Keith Carter.*

January Meeting: *Joan Nies, John & Margaret Jackson, Sylvia & Charlie Mosse, John Voss, Shirley Kavanaugh, Dave Woodall, Mary Ann & Harlan Price, Dan Sola, Jenny K. Chin, Ken Bross, Abe & Christina Far.*



## Upcoming Trip: Bonsai-A-Thon at The Huntington February 24, 2018

*Abe Far, VP Special Projects*

We have a whole day trip to Huntington Garden and museum on Saturday February 24th, it is fun and educational, also there are many bonsai material vendors which you can find lots of nice bonsai materials and pots.

We still have room left in the bus, a sign-up sheet will be available at the February Club meeting, or you can sign up via our website, [ww.sandiegobonsaiclub.com](http://ww.sandiegobonsaiclub.com), Also you may call **Abe Far** at 619-384-0004

We will depart from the Balboa Park at 7:00 am and the Carlsbad at 7:30 am. We will return to Carlsbad by 6:30 pm and Balboa Park by 7:00 pm if traffic goes well.

## SDBC January Board of Directors Meeting

*Nancy Wilson-Ramón, SDBC Secretary*

The Board of Directors of the San Diego Bonsai Club met on January 4, 2018. In attendance were *Barb French-Lee, Keith Carter, Darryl Elmer, Abe Far, Bill Graham, Bob Hale, Janice Hale, Nancy Wilson-Ramón* with, guests, *Sue Carter* and *Christine Elmer*.

The following motions passed unanimously:

1. Any new members at the September show or later will receive membership for the remainder of the year and the following calendar year.
2. **Bob Hale** continue as Project Lead for the JFG Growing Area for 2018.
3. The committee for the JFG Growing Area will be made up of **Bob Hale, Glenn Jensen, John Jackson, Dennis Wagner** and **Nancy Wilson-Ramón**.
4. SDBC will subscribe to BCI, ABS, Bonsai Focus & International Bonsai magazines for the library for one year and donate \$100 to National Arboretum.
5. The SDBC will pay for dinners of board members at SDBC Board Meetings.

The next meeting is March 6th at Denny's Mira Mesa at 6:30pm.



*Michael Sykes providing a follow-up juniper workshop at his last meeting in January.*

# San Diego Bonsai Club Treasurer's Report

1/1/18 - 1/27/18

*Janice Hale, 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              | \$40,390.92 |
| Japanese Friendship Garden | 417.22      |
| Bonsai Pavilion Checking   | 12,667.12   |

**12/23/17 BANK BALANCE: \$53,475.26**

## REVENUE

|                  |          |
|------------------|----------|
| Education        | 1,241.97 |
| Membership       | 250.08   |
| Raffle & Auction | 462.36   |
| Bus Trips        | 711.44   |
| Tool Table       | 346.39   |

**TOTAL REVENUE: \$3,012.24**

## EXPENSES

|                         |          |
|-------------------------|----------|
| Bonsai Pavilion         | \$65.30  |
| Membership              | 105.82   |
| Newsletter              | 127.43   |
| SDBC Operating Expenses | 198.49   |
| Bus Trips               | 1,322.50 |
| Sales Tax               | 491.00   |

**TOTAL EXPENSES: \$2,310.54**

**NET INCOME (LOSS): \$701.70**

# San Diego Bonsai Club Spring Show

*Abe Far, VP Special Projects*

Our spring show will be on April 28 and 29. We are asking everyone to participate; our show is your show. Our show set-up is Thursday, April 26, starting at 2:00 p.m. We will bring our trees for show and items for sale on Friday afternoon, starting at 2:00 p.m. The show will be open to the public on Saturday and Sunday: 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. both days.

We will need the following help during our show: security, cashier for plant sales, guard crew at the door, membership table, show set-up, and show take down. Sign-up sheets will be at the registration table on February, March, and April meetings. Please do not hesitate; you do not have to be an expert to sign up for any of these duties.



*Volunteers Needed!*

We want to encourage everybody to sign up your bonsai beauties for the show. If you have never shown a tree, may be it is time start. If you are not sure whether your tree is ready for a show, bring it on February meeting. We will make suggestions for your bonsai. On Saturday evening, we will have social party for Club members and our guests from Southern California bonsai clubs. After the social event, we will have benefit drawings and auction. We will need donations for the benefit drawings and auction. Please remember, this is also a fund-raising event for our Club. On Sunday after we close at 5:00 p.m., we will need numerous help to take done the show; please do not forget to sign up for this task.

Enjoy the show!

## Membership Update

*Keith Carter, SDBC VP of Membership*

### New members

Welcome to the following new members to the club: *Lee Wang, Gina Feletar, Anthony Palmiotto* and *Baham (Bobby) Fariba*.

### Membership renewal time

The deadline is near for membership renewal for 2018. You can renew by going to the membership page on the SDBC website or you can pay by check, cash or credit card at the Feb. 11 meeting. Remember, you must be current in your membership to be able to participate in classes or trips.



*Club members at the nursery stop during the Winter Silhouette trip.*

# SAN DIEGO BONSAI PAVILION

# SAFARI PARK



The heavy rain downfall of almost 4 inches on Tuesday, January 9th was a great test for the recent re-construction projects in and around our Bonsai Pavilion. The new walkways inside the Pavilion survived very well and helped the Pavilion look very good and clean and safe for all. **John, Dennis,** and **Mark** immediately focused on the need for a couple more needed and larger drains which

volunteers **Neil, Jim, Allan, Ken,** and **Yoichiro** proceeded to implement. Work also continued with the cementing of the river rocks. The Safari Park Staff crews have completed the new entrance pond and liners and drains but more work continues before we can announce a re-opening date for the Pavilion to visitors. Irises and azaleas are growing well in the garden areas and the bonsai transplanting and pruning continues full strength... Thanks to all our wonderful and willing volunteers!



**John Jackson's Liquidambar in.....winter?! Already beautifully leafed out.**

We continue to try a couple of new techniques with bonsai that do not always respond well in the Pavilion and we always try to search for the ideal "right" pots for some needed transplants. Donations are gratefully accepted! It has been most helpful for the volunteers to be able to refer to our detailed inventory books and to update them each time specific work is done on one of the bonsai... Each tree in the collection has a number and a photo in the books and past history is valuable as we continue to maintain the collection. During this



**Dr. Dixon's California Juniper in the early morning glow.**

winter and closed to the public time, many of the bonsai are reversed on the tables and we have to remind ourselves that we are looking at the backs and not the fronts of the trees when we study and work on them. . .

Each month, the Volunteer Services at the SD Zoo lists the monthly birthdays of the volunteers... at the Bonsai Pavilion, we find the names of our Pavilion honorees and highlight them...

especially at our refreshment breaks... In January, our Happy Birthday Greetings went to **Neil Auwarter, Julia Chow, Janet Palmer, Jon Petrescu, Michael Shelly,** and **Roger Ziegelman** even though a couple of them weren't in attendance. Our beverages of choice have changed during the cool winter months from fresh lemonade to hot coffee, tea, and cocoa! January volunteers enjoying the switch included: **Neil Auwarter, Ken Bros, Allan Burrows, Julia Chow, Cathy & Mark Edgars, Sonya Holmquist, John Jackson, Jim Kirchmer, Janet & Ron Palmer, Sally Prestele, Clare & Ron Roberts, 'lyn Stevenson, Yoichiro**



**John Jackson in the stream bed after we cemented more rocks into place.**

*Suemori, Mark Walters, Dennis Wagner, and Dave Woodall.* Many thanks to the *Roberts, Cathy, John, Ken,* and *'lyn* for the tasty treats also.

As Curator *John Jackson* always mentions at the SDBC meetings each month, we invite members to join us as Safari Park Pavilion volunteers. The process can be begun on-line and completed with a photo and signature at the Zoo or the Safari Park... Volunteers receive an important I.D. card along with a badge and a red shirt with the Volunteer logo. Volunteers then become very special people... Thank you all!

---

*Next Meeting, Continued from Page 1*

rapidly and can very quickly get out of hand. Many will back bud, profusely, leading to an overly bushy tree. Knowing how to properly manage the trees growth is vital to being able to achieve your desired design goals.

*Glenn* and *John* will lead a small (Bring your own tree) clinic in the morning from 8:30 to 10:25 for 6 lucky people, 3 with the *Glenn* and 3 with *John*. This is an opportunity to get expert advice about your own tree's progression from one of these experienced members. Working with these experienced members will help you know what your trees need at their specific stage of development and what to expect as the tree grows. There is still some space available for this clinic so if you are interested in attending this clinic, please contact *Darryl Elmer* and reserve your spot. Don't miss this opportunity to work one on one with these experienced members.

Both *Glenn* and *John* have a long history in Bonsai and are very experienced in all aspects of Bonsai care.

*Glenn Jensen* first became aware of bonsai while a student at the USC School of Dentistry in the late 1960's. After graduation, he 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.

It wasn't until the late 1970's, however, that he became serious about his bonsai and sought out teachers. *Glenn* took monthly classes with *Harry Hirao* in his backyard from 1979 until 2000. *Harry* became a friend and mentor to *Glenn*. *Harry* passed away on July of 2015 at 98 years of age. In 1982, *Glenn* began taking classes with *John Naka* and continued until 1996. *Richard Ota* taught him a lot about plant propagation and horticulture during that period as well. *Frank Koge* of Sho-En was a special mentor to *Glenn* from 1990 until his death in 2012. For the past eleven years, *Glenn* has taken classes with *Kenji Miyata*.

*Glenn Jensen* has been a member of the California Bonsai Society since 1982 and Nam-pu-kai (one of the

oldest bonsai club in Southern California) since 1992. He has been a member of San Diego Bonsai Club since 2005 and is presently the Curator of the bonsai collection at the Japanese Friendship Garden in Balboa Park, San Diego.

*John Jackson* joined the San Diego Bonsai Club in 1976 with his Brother *Bryan*. They also joined San Pu Kai Bonsai Club where he took classes with *John Naka* for 10 years. *John* has studied under many teachers including *Harry Hirao* and *Cap Puliafico*. *John* and his brother *Brian* built the first bonsai display next to the animal hospital at the Safari Park (then known as the San Diego Wild Animal Park) in 1981. In 1985 he was put in charge of construction for the first bonsai pavilion at the park. Then in 2005 he led the construction for the current pavilion. *John* was appointed curator in 2011.

In time, *John* was invited to join the California Bonsai Society, which is an honor extended to only the best.

*John* had no trees of his own when he started so it was seven or eight years before he started showing his own trees in the shows at SDBC. Now his trees have become a big part of what has made the San Diego Bonsai Club spring and fall shows so great.

*John* takes his hobby seriously and is generous with his time and experience. That is a big part of why he has done so well as the curator for the Bonsai Pavilion at the Safari Park. His abilities to organize, teach and advise are so valuable to the volunteers that need a little guidance.

We are very fortunate to have these two experienced members as part of our club and appreciate their willingness to share their knowledge with us.



*This Callicarpa is one of many great trees on display this year at the Winter Silhouette show.*

# SDBC Mtg, Minutes

*Nancy Wilson-Ramón, SDBC Secretary*

## December Meeting

1. Call to Order: The regular meeting of the membership of the San Diego Bonsai Club was called to order at 10:34 in Casa Del Prado, Room 101, Balboa Park by President, Barbara French-Lee. It was confirmed that we have a quorum present.
  2. Michael Sykes was recognized for his contribution to the club and we wish him best in his move to Georgia. He has been a very valuable member of the club for many years and we will miss him. Michael was given a card and a gift certificate for a bonsai nursery near his new home.
  3. President's remarks: Barb is looking forward to and excited about the coming year. She reminded people that volunteers make this club work so please speak up if you want to get involved or have ideas.
  4. Approval of Minutes: The minutes from the December meeting were approved as published.
  5. Board Member Reports:
    - Keith Carter: VP for membership, reported: Four new members this month. Dues for 2018 are due. Please renew in January to avoid email blasts which will begin at the end of the month. Keith is looking for mentors for new members.
    - Bill Graham, VP for Education, reported: January: Eric Jacobson donated the trees for the beginners class which began today. It is taught by Abe. Thank you Eric! February: Grafting workshop of Shimpaku on Prostrata will be taught by Fred Miyahara. You must bring your own knife. Only 1 slot remains. March: Black Pines with Fred Miyahara. \$150 mature trees. These are very nice trees and may be the last pine class for awhile due to lack of stock. April: Tak Shimazu workshop with very nice Shohin Shimpaku \$250. Signup in February.
    - Daryl Elmer, VP Programs: January re-potting continues after meeting including auction the Holiday competition trees. February will be John Jackson and Glenn Jensen on deciduous trees and getting them ready for spring growth. How to create good ramification, when and how to heal cuts, wiring etc. Limited class of 6 people will also be held for \$15 donated to JFG. Please bring your own tree and materials. March will be wiring with David Nguy. April Tak Shimazu demo start to finish. Spring Show also in April. May will be at the JFG since the Bonsai Pavilion at the Safari Park is not going to be open.
- Janice Hale, Treasurer, reported:
    - 2018 Year-to-Date (01/14/18):
      - Checking account: \$37,465, of which \$297 is available for the Japanese Friendship Garden
      - Safari Park Bonsai Pavilion checking: \$12,990
      - Total Funds: \$50,753
      - Year-to-Date Net Loss: (\$2,021)
    - 2017 End of Year:
      - Gross Revenue for 2017: \$59,238 which includes the \$20,000 grant from the County of San Diego
      - SDBC Net Income: \$14,167
      - Bonsai Pavilion Net Loss of (\$9,297)
      - Net Loss for 2017: (\$4,871)
      - Audit committee has been formed and will report at February Meeting.
  - Abe Far, Special Projects, reported: Winter Silhouettes Bus Trip – Saturday January 13th: We visited David & June Nguy's nursery and the San Gabriel Nursery on our way to the Los Angeles Arboretum for the Baikoen Bonsai Kenkyukai's Winter Silhouettes show. Bonsai-A-Thon – Saturday February 24th: The Bonsai-A-Thon is the annual fund raising event for the Golden State Bonsai Federation Collection at the Huntington. Cost for the Trip is \$40. Please pay ASAP and we have a larger bus so to accommodate people so please communicate in advance if you change your mind about going. We will depart the Balboa Park bus staging area at 7:00am, and the Carlsbad staging area at 7:30, returning home around 7:00pm. Please bring items to donate to the raffle table. A trip to the Bristlecone Pine Forest is July 14-15. The cost estimate is \$230 per person for a double room; \$290 for single room though may change once the trip is finalized with the hotel and bus company. The bus will leave early Saturday, stay overnight in Bishop and return at 8pm Sunday. A nursery bus trip is in the planning stage to visit nurseries in Southern California. In August a bus trip is planned for Nisei Week in Los Angeles. Daryl would like suggestions and ideas for other programs people are interested in. There are

several open dates later in the year.

6. Japanese Friendship Garden Project: Bob Hale reported we are working on a growing area at the Japanese Friendship Garden. Glenn Jensen, John Jackson, Dennis Wagner, Barbara French-Lee and Nancy Wilson-Ramón are on the committee with Charlie Mosse helping out. We are in the planning stages. We will need assistance with parts of the project once we get started and will be asking for your help.
7. Appointed Position Reports:
  - John Jackson, SDBC Safari Park Bonsai Pavilion Curator, reported: The rock work and pond work is close to completion; picture on the website. The exhibit is still closed for the park reconstruction and they are scheduled for a May or June opening though delays are possible.
  - Glenn Jensen was actually at the Japanese Friendship Garden during the meeting so Barbara French-Lee reported: Glenn will be repotting the large Larry and Nina Ragel forest this Wednesday. Come and observe. Use the back gate to enter.
8. No new business.
9. Announcements:
  - John Polo needs help with raffle and auction table. Please volunteer.
  - Sue Carter announced there is a blue pot from December potluck. Also, there is plenty of cake in recognition of Michael Sykes.
  - Joe Castillo announced that there is a new kind of kelp fertilizer on the raffle table. More information will be available next month.
10. Bob Hale was recognized for all his time and effort for the club. He was given a card, recognition and a very nice pot.
11. John Voss gave a short presentation about a large San Diego Red bougainvillea. It was purchased in the early '80s at SDBC Show. He talked about the branch structure and defoliation and answered questions.
12. Raffle of Holiday Trees was conducted to everyone's enjoyment.
13. Adjourned at 11:25 am.

## Upcoming Programs

*Darryl Elmer, SDBC 1st VP*

In March we have arranged for **David Nguy** to do a presentation on wiring techniques. **David Nguy** is well known for his work with California Junipers and Black Pines. **David** has studied under people like **Harry Hirao**, **Ben Oki**, **Ernie Kuo**, as well as **Masahiko Kimura** in Japan. Well known for his skills and advanced techniques,



**David** travels the United States teaching advanced Bonsai techniques at various clubs and has been a headliner for many bonsai conventions. At Last year's convention, **David** stressed the importance of learning good wiring technique. Good wiring technique is one of the most important skills that anyone interested in Bonsai can develop. Proper wiring technique is a critical part of Bonsai development and can make the difference between an average tree and a show winning Bonsai. In addition to the presentation, there will be morning and afternoon hands on clinics on wiring. **David** and **June** will assist you with hands on instruction, guiding you through the process. There will be a sign-up sheet for these workshops in the back of the room at the February meeting. Space will be limited so don't miss this opportunity to learn or improve your wiring technique with the expert guidance of **David Nguy**.

In April, we will have **Tak Shimazu** here for a presentation and work shop. More details to come.

On May 20th, we will hold a fund raiser at the Japanese Friendship Garden in Balboa Park. More details will be provided in the future.

In July, we will have **Ted Matson** working with warm weather varieties like Crape Myrtle, Bougies, Olives and Ficus. More details to come.

In August, we will have **Jonas Dupuich** returning to continue his presentation on reverse engineering quality trees to learn how to select better nursery trees, pre-bonsai and bonsai. Selecting quality trees is not as easy as it appears but is very fundamental to getting off to a good start.

**San Diego Bonsai Club, Inc.**

**PO Box 86037**

**San Diego, CA 92138-6037**



**ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED**

## Next Mtg. Agenda:

*February 11*

|   |           |
|---|-----------|
| <b>8:30 - 10:25 am</b><br>Elms Beginner Class 2                                   | Prado 104 |
| <b>9:00 - 10:25 am</b><br>Library Open  |           |
| <b>8:30 - 10:25 am</b><br>Clinic with John Jackson &<br>Glenn Jensen              | Prado 101 |
| <b>9:00 - 10:20 am</b><br>Bonsai Assistance:<br>John Voss                         |           |
| <b>10:30 - 11:00 am</b><br>Business Meeting                                       |           |
| <b>11:00 am - 12:00 pm</b><br>Deciduous Trees with John<br>Jackson & Glenn Jensen |           |
| <b>12:00 pm</b><br>Raffle & Refreshment   |           |
|   |           |

## SDBC Upcoming Events:

|                                    |                                     |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <b>Feb 11th (Sun)</b>              | Regular Meeting:<br>Deciduous Trees |
| <b>Feb 17th (Sat)</b>              | Safari Park Work Day                |
| <b>Feb 24th-25th<br/>(Sat-Sun)</b> | Bonsai-A-Thon                       |
| <b>Mar 3rd (Sat)</b>               | Safari Park Work Day                |
| <b>Mar 9th-11th</b>                | JFG Cherry Blossom<br>Festival      |
| <b>Mar 11th (Sun)</b>              | Regular Meeting - David<br>Nguy     |
| <b>Mar 17th (Sat)</b>              | Safari Park Work Day                |
| <b>Apr 7th (Sat)</b>               | Safari Park Work Day                |
| <b>Apr 15th (Sun)</b>              | Regular Meeting:<br>Taz Shimazu     |
| <b>Apr 21 (Sat)</b>                | Safari Park Work Day                |
| <b>May 5 (Sat)</b>                 | Safari Park Work Day                |
| <b>May 19 (Sat)</b>                | Safari Park Work Day                |
| <b>June 2 (Sat)</b>                | Safari Park Work Day                |