

The Bonsai Wire

Volume 40, Issue 5

June, 2014



Message from the President

Thank you for a superb Spring Bonsai Show, a successful silent auction at the May meeting, and other activities during the last two months. The list of members to thank is long; but I will mention the excellent Spring Show coordination by our VP Special Projects, Janice Hale.

Also thanks to all who pulled off our first children's bonsai table, the brainchild of the David Choy family, that was a hit at the Spring Show. And to John Jackson for his presentation and workshop of "maple on rock" that was entertaining and informative.

Air-layering is an inexpensive way to create a bonsai. A tall bonsai can become two, a tall bonsai can become better proportioned, a good branch on a tree in your (or a neighbor's) backyard, or nursery material can become an air-layered bonsai.

The best time to air-layer is late Spring for deciduous specimens—when the foliage has come out and the sap is flowing. From personal experience, evergreen specimens can be air-layered any time of the year. Depending on your specimen, the wait is about two to six months before you will notice roots on the layered branch.

Some references include *Plant Propagation* by The American Horticultural Society and *Bonsai Techniques I* and *Bonsai Techniques II* by John Naka. Watch the TBW Education section for information on the upcoming air-layering skills workshop.

Announcements...

The 2014 revised by-laws have been approved by SDBC Board on Sunday, 13 April 2014. An announcement was made at our May membership meeting at the Safari Park and it has been posted on our website for our members review. Per SDBC by-laws, the membership is to be given notice prior to the members voting upon these by-laws. These by-laws will be presented to SDBC members for a vote on Sunday, July 13, 2014.

The San Diego County Fair is rolling, and our SDBC booth is in place with mostly flowering bonsai to match the "Flower Power" theme. To ensure proper care and maintenance of our SDBC booth and the bonsai competition booths, an SDBC watering crew is in place.

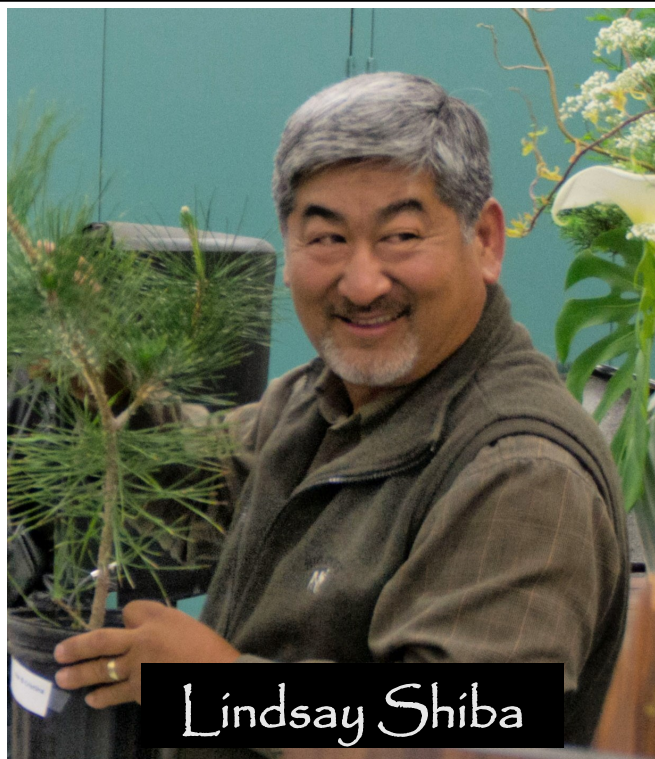
Dan Sola, President

This Month's Program

During the June meeting, Lindsay Shiba will discuss elements in the display of traditional bonsai. Displaying bonsai is an art unto itself and whether you display your bonsai formally in a show or informally in your home or backyard, a creative and compelling display will give you and everyone who views it a new appreciation for bonsai.

Lindsay began learning bonsai in 1970 from his father Katsumi Shiba. Lindsay continued his formal training under Khan Komai, who introduced Lindsay to the love of deciduous trees, accent plantings, and displaying bonsai. John Naka was one of his mentors and Harry Hirao is one of his teachers. He is a past President of California Bonsai Society, a show chairman of Baikoen Bonsai Kenkyukai's Winter Silhouettes Show, and a member of Nampukai. Lindsay also teaches workshop courses at his family's nursery—Mt. Fuji Garden Center in Upland, California.

Bob Hale, 1st VP



Lindsay Shiba

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www.sandiegobonsaiclub.com

Editor's Note

Welcome to the many new members who have recently joined the Club. I hope you all will enjoy the living art of Bonsai as much as I do. Learning is a key element of the journey—how to keep the Bonsai healthy and how to create a work of art yourself. Take advantage of the resources SDBC has to offer—the classes, the demos, the field trips, the library, and the knowledgeable club members. There are a lot of techniques mentioned in this issue—air-layering, pinching, leaf trimming, and de-candling. Feel free to ask questions because as Charlie Mosse loves to say, “the more we share, the more we learn.”

Dave Barker,
Editor

Enjoy
Bonsai
- Learn
More



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Beginning Class

This is the second class with variegated boxwoods taught by Martha Choy. This session is also a fun one as you begin to make final determinations of your tree front and begin to transform your tree by wiring branches. This session on wiring will develop an important bonsai skill. Martha, an expert, will help you learn to wire correctly.



Tight Quarters

The Club meeting on Sunday will be a 'close encounter', hopefully of the best kind, as we will all share Room 104. There will be two classes in that room from 8:30 -10:15am. Club members not in the classes are requested to socialize on the patio, be silent observers at the workshops, or take in the cactus and succulent show and sale (who have our normal Room 101) until we start our regular meeting at 10:30am. Thanks in advance for your patience.

Upcoming Workshops

June Workshop on Large Boxwoods. You will have a great opportunity to work on some beautiful older boxwoods in this workshop with Cindy Read. There are a few more spots available for this class. Check in at 8:30 to see if a spot is available. If you have signed up but not paid, you may pay by PayPal on the SDBC website or send a check to me. Only the first ten paid people will have an assured spot.

In July, we have a workshop on repotting with Ken

Bross. Ken will be teaching some repotting techniques and have a discussion of soils for your tree. And if you have a large and difficult tree to repot and need some help this would be a good opportunity to bring that tree in for an extra hand. Trees that can be repotted in July include ficus, bald cypress, buttonwood, cotoneaster, camellia, Japanese cypress, pomegranate, pyracantha, palm and tamarix. Cost is \$10. Bring your own tree and pot. You can bring your own soil or there will be Club soil you can purchase.

The scheduled follow up of 2014 Elms and 2013 Pines workshops will be held in July.

Barb French-Lee, VP Education

Contact: barbflee@hotmail.com

April Program Review

During the April program, John Jackson both demonstrated a Trident Maple root-over-rock technique and conducted a workshop at the same time. John had grown the maples for one year in special "pots" that were narrow and 18 inches deep to create long roots. The club was entertained as workshop students barerooted the trees, untangled the roots, and then attempted to simultaneously situate their tree over a rock while applying muck over the tree roots so they would cling to the rock. Plastic was placed over the muck and tied off leaving room at the top for water to penetrate the muck and roots.



The maple trees were then placed in pots (with no bottom) within a larger plastic pot filled with soil. The trees on rocks were packed tightly with sand. Over a few years the roots will extend into the soil in the large pot while also thickening and clinging to the rock as the tree grows. Eventually the sand and small pot are removed exposing the root-over-rock. Let's hope to see some of these trees back at a future club meeting in 2016!

Bob Hale, 1st VP



San Diego Bonsai Club

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Members
May 3, 2014



1. Call to Order: The regular meeting of the membership of the San Diego Bonsai Club was called to order at 10:40 a.m. by Dan Sola, President at the Safari Park Bonsai Pavilion.
2. Approval of Minutes: The minutes from the April 13, 2014 meeting were approved as published.
3. President's Remarks: Thanked Lyn' Stevenson and all volunteers for the hard work at the Bonsai Pavilion and San Diego Bonsai Spring Show. Special thanks to Janice Hale and the financial crew. We had over 4570 people visit the show; the children's table was a success special thanks to David, Martha and Andrew Choy. By laws have been posted on the SDBC website. We will make another announcement in our June meeting and vote on the revised By laws in the SDBC July meeting.
4. Board Member Reports:
 - Allan Edwin, Treasurer, reported: none
 - Bob Hale, 1st Vice President, reported: none
 - Barbara French-Lee, Vice President, Education: Need help with planning SD Fair with a Beatle theme; we need flowering Bonsai; Sonya Holmquist collecting photos of Flowering Bonsai our theme song is "A Little help from my Friends".
 - Janice Hale, Vice President Special Projects: We have a bus trip on June 15 to Descanso Bonsai Society & Sansui Kai of Southern California the cost \$40.00
 - David Choy, Vice President Membership, announced: none
5. Appointed Position Reports:
 - Lyn Stevenson, Safari Park Pavilion Curator, reported: Welcome the San Diego Bonsai Club members. We are in a transition in the park with Tiger Trail being the main focus. The waterfall in the Pavilion has been turned on. We have a good relationship with Safari Park. We have one of the best Bonsai Pavilion exhibits. We have no debt; all the work has been done thru volunteers. SDBC needs to be proud of our Pavilion and Education.
6. Old Business: None
7. New Business: None
8. Announcements: Abe Far- Great thanks to all volunteers for a world class Pavilion. Allan Edwin announced that Fred Miyahara will have a Shimpaku workshop May 17 and 18th; call Fred for details.
9. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 am.

Respectfully submitted, Brenda Crann, Secretary



SUMMER IS HERE - ARE YOU READY?

As the new spring growth develops and hardens, an important training process must begin - pinching. Pinching is the act of removing growth by the use of thumb and forefinger. This straight forward chore produces the beneficial design results. The technique which makes pinching effective is quite complex. Recognize that in a normal plant growing cycle, a plant which is living in a healthy light environment creates new stems which are growing straight up - where the most light falls. This phenomena is called apical dominance, meaning the plant is dominated by the bud at its very top.

If nature or the bonsaiist removes this leading bud, a message is conveyed to the plant. Growth in that direction is discouraged. A plant that has been pinched back will therefore sprout new branches up and down the older parts of the stem. Side branches appear when the leader is removed.

There are two types of hormones produced by the branch. KININS promote dormant side buds to grow which occurs when the leading bud is removed. By leaving the leading bud intact, the second type of hormone called an AUXIN prevents new buds from growing. Lateral growth develops twiggyness and the intricate quality of design that makes a mature bonsai compact, small and bushy.

Another important training process for late in June is leaf trimming. Most bonsaiists consider this technique necessary to reduce the size of disproportionately large leaves in order to bring them into a better relationship with a small tree. A smaller leaf will help the overall bonsai presentation to be in proper proportion with all of its elements.

Before you begin, be sure your tree is in good health and well fed at least two weeks prior to undertaking leaf trimming. Leaf trimming a deciduous bonsai can accomplish leaf size reduction. This happens when a second crop of leaves come in smaller. This creates a second spring and offers additional pleasure and renewed interest in each tree. The continued removal of large leaves can be considered necessary to maintain a neat appearance and encourage development of auxiliary buds that produces new and smaller growth.

This article has been extracted by Mario Condit from ' Bonsai Ideas'© By Marty Mann. Material is not to be copied without publisher or author's permission.

You've heard the phrase "It takes a village to raise a child," well that is what it takes to put on a great bonsai show! So many of you put in hours of your time to make this year's Spring Bonsai Show a success. From set up to tear down and everything in between, the members of this club gave 110 percent to give the public an appreciation for the art of bonsai through a beautiful show, fabulous demonstrations, and the children's table. A big thank you to the Choy Family - Andrew, Martha and David - for their conception and execution of the children's table. I'd also like to thank all of you who donated the wonderful items for the raffle and auction held after Saturday night's dinner.



In addition, I'd like to thank the Safari Park Bonsai Pavilion volunteers who donated their Safari Park guest passes to the members of Baiko-En Bonsai Kenkyukai so they could tour the Bonsai Pavilion before attending our show and dinner. Our Fall Bonsai Show is only four months away, September 27th and 28th, so start primpping those trees.

Janice Hale, VP for Special Projects

The Spring Show had demonstrations put on by volunteers such as Abe Far (right) and Shirley Kavanaugh (page 4)



San Diego Bonsai Club Pavilion at the Safari Park

Spring has arrived with the usual unpredictable weather days but we had a wonderful Third Anniversary Celebration of the new Bonsai Pavilion at Safari Park at the beginning of May.

This year, instead of the Kupanda Meeting area, we had the annual SDBC meeting and celebration at the Horticultural Round House just below and behind our Pavilion. It is a private, sheltered, and convenient facility. The Horticulture Staff supplied tables, linens, a welcome poster, centerpieces, etc. to make it most comfortable for our auction, picnic, and meeting. The silent auction



was enhanced by special items donated by **Cathy Edgar, Barbara French-Lee, John Jackson, Gary Jones, Jim Kirchmer, Marty & Ruth Mann, Rose & Van Moch Nguyen, 'lyn Stevenson, and Abe Far & Family**. Books, magazines, and pots were also donated by the Pavilion.



April and May volunteers have been most generous with their time and talents. We have had tremendous outpouring of volunteers including several new members to SDBC and San Pu Kai and to the Zoo volunteer program. Thanks especially to: **Neil Auwarter, Susan Baker, Ken Bros, Armand Bryant, Alan Burrows, Julia Chimento, Julia Chow, Steve Clemons, Cathy & Mark Edgar, Allan Edwin, Tina Flores, Barb French-Lee, Jeff Geringer, William Graham, Bob & Janice Hale, Sonya Helmquist, Eric Jacobson, John Jackson, Jaya Kaelberer, Jim Kirchmer, Charlie Mosse, Patrick O'Brien, Janie & Ron Ogdon, Janet & Ron Palmer, Sally Prestele, Harlan Price, Dan Sola, 'lyn Stevenson, Charlie Tamm,**

John Voss, Dennis Wagner, Mark Walters, Dave Woodall, and Roger Ziegelman. Welcome newcomers and many thanks to all for your contributions! Thanks also for the food items that are wonderful rewards!

Our Asian Pavilion/Bonsai collection has a new, nearby, neighbor in the World Gardens area of the Safari Park. The long awaited Tiger Trail opened in May and many of our volunteers were able to attend a special invited program and pre-showing of this most impressive exhibit. The Sumatra Tigers and our Bonsai are the Asian parts of Safari Park which is mainly African in presentations. Plant species including bamboo are seen in both our areas. A new acquisition to our Pavilion is also featured in Tiger Trail—it is Asian Rainbow Eucalyptus which is also found in the Philippines, Guinea, and Indonesia. It is a rare tree species and the Park Horticulture Department has given one to the Pavilion. We now have it in the work area and will eventually incorporate it into our Garden.

With all the impeccable maintenance that the volunteers have been doing, they have also another new construction project underway to celebrate our third year in this new facility. Jim Kirchmer arranged for the wood planking and Curator John Jackson obtained the poles and cement and several of our stronger, determined volunteers dug the 4' deep holes, mixed cement and started the framework for five new back-screens behind the six foot and eight foot long benches on the hill side of the Pavilion. With physical labor like this, who needs a gym workout!

Tedious but necessary work by other volunteers included: clearing the area of bamboo leaves caught between the river rocks, raking the paths, cleaning the pots, trimming bonsai, putting wires on some bonsai and removing wires on others, and pruning Pavilion trees. Several members also had the opportunity to learn the art of air layering on one of the Bish Estate bonsai in our work area. Curator John directed his technique; we will all watch for the results in the next months. Assistant Curator Dennis has promised to show everyone the techniques for de-candling process on several Japanese Black Pines at our June work sessions. Every work session seems to include something new and it is a pleasure to be able to work on majestic and old bonsai and garden trees. It is certainly a fun reward for all the dedicated volunteer labor at the Pavilion! If you are not a volunteer, please thank those that are. . .and, everyone is welcome to join in the fun whenever they feel inclined too! **'lyn Stevenson, SDBC - Safari Park Liaison**

New Members

Please welcome our new members: **Cesar and Ana L. Velasquez, Margaret and Angelina Short, Nelson Robles, Diego and Eduardo Junco, Angeles Carvajal, Stacey and Teresa Forcier, Brian Goddard, Kevin Bussett, Laila Kepler, Janice Beck, Ute A. Keim, Merle Ballester, Keith and Miwa Elmer, Elaine Kenniston, Lanny Chronert, Preston Wood, Raian Hager, Ludi Jalos, Fe and Rex Sumabat, Marcella C. Perez, Denise Vinole, Carol Sterpe-Windrem, Wendy Polock, Jennifer Zonzo, Hieu and Monica Le, Alyssa Morales, Robert Vinole, Curtis Windrem, Janie Beck, Christine Williams, Jimena Tejeda, Juarez Villanueva, Gil Ballester, and Lali, Rick, and Miranda Villavivencio.**

David Choy, VP of Membership

Refreshments

Many thanks to the folks that brought refreshments to the April meeting. The members bringing refreshments included: **Lauren & Annette Sanchez, Shirley Kavanaugh, Sonya Holmquist, Bob Meyer, Meg Polo, Trisha Bonapace, John & Margaret Jackson, Dennis & Sue Wagner, Charlie Mosse, Harlan & Mary Ann Price, Marty & Ruth Mann, and Abe & Christina Far.**

Sonya Holmquist and Meg Polo, Food Coordinators

Benefit Drawing

A big thank you to the folks that brought in items for the raffle table to the April meeting: **Dan Sola, Shirley Kavanaugh, Ken Bross, Bob Meyer, Roger Marr, Charlie Mosse, Dave Barker, Julia Chow, Marty Mann, Gary Jones, and San Diego Bonsai Club.**

Special Events

Educational Booth at the San Diego County Fair

Plans are well under way for the Club's booth at the Fair. Thanks to the Fair committee (Dan Sola, Brenda Crann, Mark Edgar, Janice Hale, and Sonya Holmquist) for all their help in creating a beautiful booth. Our theme is Flower Power and our song is "With a Little Help From Our Friends." Thanks also to everyone who donated trees, to John Jackson and Charlie Mosse for helping put it all together at the end, and Van Moch Nguyen for painting our Flower Power sign in English and Japanese.

July 5th is Bonsai Day at the Fair. If you would be able to work on some of your trees as well as answer questions from the public at the Fair, please let me know. We would love to have your help that day (or any other day during the Fair.) Hope you can come by and see SDBC's presence at the Fair, which runs from June 7 - July 6, 2014

Barb French-Lee, VPEducation

Father's Day Field Trip

We will be attending two bonsai shows on Sunday, June 15th (Yes, that is Father's Day). The cost is \$40/person in total for the bus rental (admission to the shows is free). The first show is at Descanso Gardens in La Canada-Flintridge put on by the Descanso Bonsai Society. The second Bonsai show is at the Sepulveda Garden Center in Encino and is sponsored by the Sansui Kai of Southern California. The bus will depart the Balboa Park pick-up location at 7:30am and the Carlsbad location at 8:00am. We will most likely be back to San Diego by 7:00pm or earlier. Please bring a snack lunch and beverage.

Sign-up at the June 8th club meeting. Depending on the level of club member interest, alternate transportation will be discussed after the close of the June meeting.

Janice Hale, VP for Special Projects

1st Annual L.A. Bonsai Swap Meet

Enjoy a day of buying, selling or swapping bonsai trees, tools, pots and paraphernalia with the Los Angeles Bonsai Community. Everybody is welcome and there is no charge to attend or participate. This event is being set up by the Los Angeles bonsai community in general and is not club sponsored.

When: Sunday June 29 from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm

Where: Jesse Owens Park

7100 White Oak Avenue, Reseda, CA 91335



Bob Hale, 1st VP, is hard at work as our club "Tool Guy"

SDBC Website

Photos from the Spring Bonsai Show are on the Club website, www.sandiegobonsaiclub.com. Click on the elm on the home page to see a slide show of the trees at the Spring Show. Also, as mentioned in the President's message, the proposed by-laws are posted under "Resources" for download and review. Lastly, many more books are now listed under "Club Library" under the "Resources" tab. You can peruse the selections and know what you want when you visit Steve Clemons and the library in Room 104.

San Diego Bonsai Club, Inc.
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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

San Diego Bonsai Club Calendar of Events

June 7th Saturday and June 21st Saturday
 SDBC Workday at Safari Park , 9am to 12pm

June 7th - July 6th
 San Diego County Fair with Bonsai exhibit

June 8th Meeting Sunday
 Regular SDBC Meeting
 Lindsay Shiba, How to display bonsai

June 15th Sunday
 Field Trip to two Bonsai shows in Los Angeles

June 29th Sunday
 Los Angeles Bonsai Swap Meet

July 5th Saturday and July 19th Saturday
 SDBC Workday at Safari Park , 9am to 12pm

July 5th Saturday
 Bonsai Day at the San Diego County Fair

July 13th Meeting Sunday
 Jim Barrett, Bonsai pot making

August 10th Meeting Sunday
 Tom Elias, "Penjing"

June 8
 Balboa Park, Room 104
 Casa Del Prado

Meeting Agenda

Time	Activity	Room
08:30-10:15	Beginning Class	104
08:30-10:15	Large Boxwood Workshop	104
09:30-10:15	Library Open	104
10:30-11:00	Business Meeting	104
11:00-12:30	Demonstration	104
12:30	Lunch	104
12:45	Benefit Drawing	104

Reminder: SDBC Meeting will be in Room 104 in June