

The Bonsai Wire

Volume 40, Issue 9

October, 2014



Message from the President

The amazing Shirley Kavanaugh—with her helpers Julia and Meg—gave up her secrets on how to create and maintain the tiniest bonsai called “mame.” She deserves a big thank you for both her demonstrations at the September meeting and at our Fall Show.

Numerous hard-working volunteers gave us another fun and wonderful September event—our Fall Show: “bravo zulu” to all. The efforts by our volunteers did not escape a notable observation by the president of Bonsai Clubs International (BCI), Dr. Tom Elias: “Your club is certainly one of the most active and progressive in the U.S. It was a pleasure to attend your last meeting and make a presentation. I hope someday we can return with another program.” Credit goes to our many fantastic volunteers.

Members are joining every month, and our membership application does not include information on new member’s background or expertise. Our Club has numerous activities (mentioned in the newsletter, the website, and during our monthly meetings) that can use members’ talents. If you—especially new members—want to get involved, please contact me or any of our Club officers

and volunteers listed on page 2 of this newsletter. We can help get you plugged into areas where your talents can best be used.

Why the push for our new members to get involved? The continued success of any volunteer organization is dependent on all its members moving it forward in a right direction—as mentioned by the President of BCI.

The last day of summer was September 22. Some may be tempted to repot, transplant, or dig that favorite old tree or bush in the corner of your yard. Think twice. The fluctuating weather in our region in October, those dry “Santa Ana” winds, are not conducive to the above mentioned bonsai activities.

Announcements...

Please review the information below and on page 8 about our Poway Lake picnic. If you are not a resident of Poway, be prepared to pay \$5.00 to enter the lake area. Also note there is a new parking policy around the Prado building in Balboa Park. Parking spaces have been re-arranged and new times allotted to park.

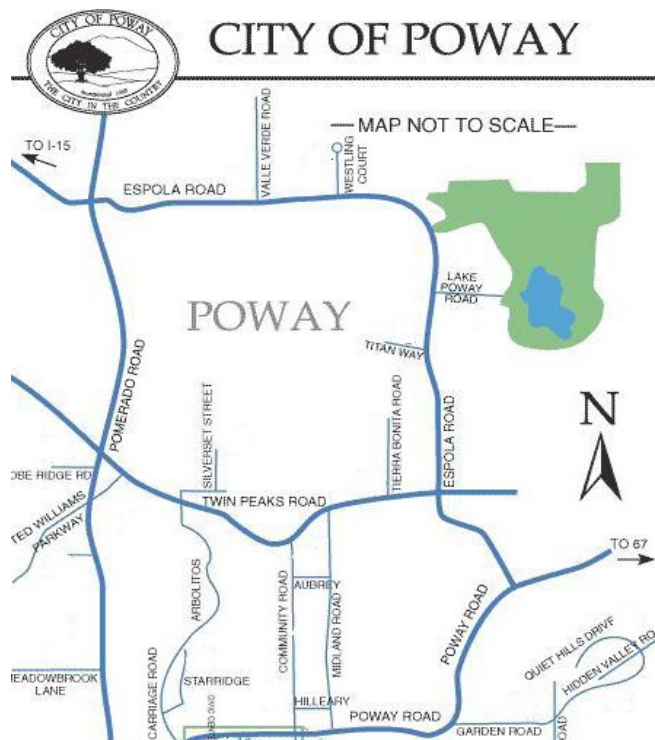
Dan Sola, President

This Month's Program

October 12th is the fall picnic, auction, general meeting and all-around terrific time at Lake Poway. There are always lots of trees and pots and other bonsai related items, but one can also donate other items like bonsai stands, gift baskets, wine, tools, tool bags, and just about anything that people can use or enjoy. As he has done the last couple of years, Abe Far will be serving up delicious barbeque as the entrée and everyone else will be contributing appetizers and desserts. If you want to attend but have not yet signed up, send an email to Bob Hale (bobhale42@gmail.com), so we have an accurate head count. General arrival and auction check-in will be at 10 am and the meeting will be at 11 am. Volunteers to set up the tables for food and auction items should arrive at 9:30.

Directions: From Espola Rd., turn east onto Lake Poway Rd. Proceed up the hill and pay the fee of \$5 (if not a Poway resident) at the entrance kiosk. Follow the main road as it curves gently to the right. At just over 100 yards are 4 parking aisles on the left. The Lake Concession building is on the left. A large shaded picnic table area and a building on the right is where the picnic will be.

For GPS or Google Maps: Lake Poway Park, 14644 Lake Poway Rd, Poway, CA.



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San Diego Bonsai Club Website
www.sandiegobonsaiclub.com

Editor's Note

The Spring and Fall shows are always great events that bring the art of Bonsai to the San Diego community. This year we had over 6,000 visitors combined for the two shows. Putting on the show requires members bringing great trees to display and an understanding of displaying bonsai—thanks to all those members who showed trees. All the trees can be viewed on our club website soon.

But a particular thank you goes to Janice Hale, our VP of Special Events, who coordinated both events flawlessly. Her energy and enthusiasm kept all of us volunteers on track during the setup, two days of the show, and tear down.

Dave Barker, TBW Editor

Enjoy
Bonsai
- Learn
More



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There is no beginning class in October (we'll see you at the Club's picnic in Poway). The last Beginning Class will be in **November** when the trees will be finished with styling and then repotted in a bonsai pot.

In November, we will have the sign-up sheets available for the next Beginning Class starting in January; cost for the class is \$40.

Upcoming Skills Class

In November, Michael Sykes will teach a class on wiring. Learn how and when to use raffia; how to protect the tree with tubing; how to make the wiring both attractive and effective. This is a great opportunity to bring a tree you are unsure about how to wire and get some direction from a bonsai master.

Wire will be provided.

Cost: \$10.

Barbara French-Lee, VP Education

Some photos from the two beginning classes



And the Air-layering Skills Class



Shirley Kavanaugh gave us a big lesson on small bonsai. Mame bonsai, those tiny bonsai that are less than six inches, are tough to keep alive. But Shirley has some trees that have been in training since 2001. One of her secrets to success is repotting yearly. She demonstrated her technique with the potting of a Kingsville boxwood tree. Shirley placed the mesh normally placed within the pot on the bottom of the pot and then wires up through the mesh. She cautioned that trees such as boxwoods do not like to have their roots tweaked, so remove all soil gently. Put them in water to get all soil off. A second secret—SHARP scissors for root pruning. These little guys depend on very few roots so the roots have to be treated well.

Unlike larger bonsai, mame grow fine in commercial bonsai potting soil that holds moisture. Make a cone of soil in the center of the pot then place the tree in the pot and –secret three—rotate the tree around to fit the roots into the pot, trimming the roots as necessary. Wire the tree into the pot and add soil as needed. Water and put moss on half of pot to hold in soil. Style the tree by removing foliage that is pointing down, dead or large leaves, and any foliage that is causing excessive shading.

That is half the battle. The second half is her secrets to watering. Shirley brought in her plastic shoebox half-filled with hydroponic balls. The mame sit on top of the balls, high enough for the foliage to get air circulation, but providing moisture. Shirley waters three times a day and uses Superthrive. Her closing remark to the club: "Mame are no trouble at all, except to keep them alive."

Don't forget that SDBC has an extensive library of Bonsai material and helpful librarian Steve Clemons there to assist you.





San Diego Bonsai Club

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Members
September 14, 2014



1. **Call to Order:** The regular meeting of the membership of the San Diego Bonsai Club was called to order at 10:30 a.m. by Dan Sola, President. It was confirmed that a quorum was present.
2. **Approval of Minutes:** The minutes from the August 10, 2014 meeting were approved as published.
3. **President's Remarks:** Thanked all volunteers and appointed positions and board members for a successful month. Dr Tom Elias acknowledged that our club is one of the most active clubs in United States and would like to return to do another presentation; he is the President of the Bonsai Clubs International. Our VP for Membership David Choy resigned due to new business opportunity; Sonya Holmquist will be our new VP of Membership for the rest of 2014 and was approved by the Board. Dan also acknowledged the presence of GSBF president, Abe Farr, and past SDBC presidents. Any issues with events or activities, please bring to VP or committee members. The *Golden Statements* has an article of our Spring Show; a thank you Janice Hale, VP for Special Events, for submitting the article.
4. **Sonya Holmquist, Vice President Admission of New Members,** announced: two new members, Smitha Kulkarni and Chusub Sresthadatta. New volunteers for kitchen will be needed.
5. **Board Member Reports:**

Bob Hale, 1st Vice President, reported: Next month our meeting is at Poway Lake Picnic area; Abe Farr has volunteered to prepare the food. Bring items for auction. There is a \$5.00 charge to get into Poway Lake. In November, Gary Jones will be demonstrating Monterey Cypress; members can sign up for the workshop and will be working on trees while the demonstration is going on; the cost will be \$40.00. December will be our bonsai competition with four teams, two persons in each team; the trees will be Big Dave Junipers. Today, Shirley Kavanaugh will be demonstrating Mame.

Allen Edwin, Treasurer, reported: Our club runs on a cash flow basis, and our checkbook is our P&L. SDBC has \$7,000 and Pavilion has \$11,000. Our Pavilion has spent \$3,100; our club is running a \$924 surplus.

Barbara French-Lee, Vice President, Education: Two beginner's classes had their 2nd class; November workshop will be on wiring with Michael Sykes; congratulations to Dave Barker our newest recipient of the Mas Taskanshi Grant. Barbara requested to meet with teachers to review and to update Mas Taskanshi grant.

Janice Hale, Vice President Special Projects: Fall Show set up is Sep. 25th starting 4:00 pm; Friday 26th bring trees and sale items; need more volunteers and tree displays. We need novice and beginner trees.

6. **Appointed Position Reports:**

Lyn Stevenson, Safari Park Pavilion Appointed Position, reported: We meet on 1st/3rd Saturday of each month. We will have a planning meeting; the board needs plans to how we will be spending money. Safari Park wants us to do more programs for 2015; four dates have been given us so there also will be planning for programs.

7. **Old Business:** None
8. **New Business:** None
9. **Announcements:** Dan Sola- SDBC board created a fund raising committee-plus to raise money for the club; Janice Hale is Chair, Abe Farr and Patrick O'Brien; Lyn Stevenson-declined. Abe Farr is the Chair of the nominating committee; the committee has been established.
10. **August 2014 Program—** Bob Hale introduced our Club member Shirley Kavanaugh will demonstrate creating and maintaining Mame bonsai.
11. **Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 12:05 p.m.

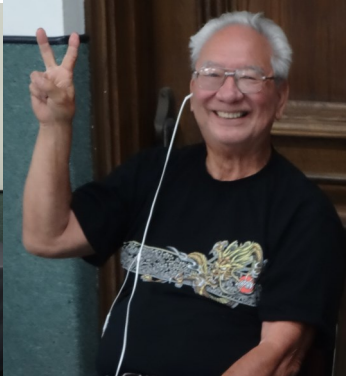
Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Crann, Secretary

San Diego Bonsai Club Fall Show in Pictures



First time Displays for Nasim and Allan



San Diego Bonsai Club Pavilion at the Safari Park

There are now **50** active volunteers in the Bonsai Pavilion at Safari Park. . . some are more regular than others but all are appreciated! A running tab of everyone's hours is posted on the Pavilion closet bulletin board and is forwarded to the Zoo/Spark Volunteer Offices for their records also. Special thanks always to these dedicated Bonsai people. Since the beginning of 2014, volunteers have donated over **1,800** hours to maintaining and improving our bonsai collection and our lovely garden surrounding and within the Pavilion.

September volunteers included: **Susan Baker, Armand Bryant, Alan Burrows, Cathy & Mark Edgar, Jeff Gerringer, Sonya Holmquist, John Jackson, Jaya Kaelberer, Jim Kirchmer, Charlie Mosse, Janet & Ron Palmer, Sally Prestele, Harlan & Mary Ann Price, Dan Sola, 'lyn Stevenson, John Voss, Dennis Wagner, Mark Walters, and Dave Woodall.**

Three new summer volunteers also joined: **Peter Chong, Taylor Christensen, and Marcella Perez.** Delicious refreshments were supplied by **John Jackson, Cathy Edgar, Marcella Perez, Harlan & Mary Ann Price, 'lyn Stevenson, and Mark Walters.** Special thanks to each of you!!!



Curator John Jackson complimented all the volunteers on the appearance of the Pavilion and especially the bonsai care that was done while he was vacationing in Alaska during the very warm days of the past weeks here. September work included regular cleaning of the ponds, paths, bonsai tables, bonsai trimming, wire care (some wires on and some off), reworking some water lines and drippers, etc. At the September 20th work session, we also took a short refreshment and meeting break to discuss future possible 2015 projects and plans

and different members offered to be responsible for getting estimates regarding costs and possible needed contractors.

After discussion with the Safari Park Horticulture Department, we have also committed our volunteers to present five educational programs to Safari Park visitors on five selected Saturdays during 2015. This is another part of our original "Goals and Objectives" in constructing the Pavilion in a way that would afford the space to accommodate students or visitors to programs and classes. The Park will help coordinate these events and we will announce the specific dates, times, and topics early in 2015. We will welcome Bonsai Club members to attend also. We will definitely continue our annual SDBC May meeting at Safari Park.

A shohin bonsai from the Pavilion was exhibited at the SDBC Fall Show as part of the tribute to deceased SDBC member, Bob Meyer. It was a donation that Bob had made to the Pavilion collection prior to his death in August. He was also a financial contributor to the Pavilion and Bonsai special friend to many.

We encourage all SDBC and San Pu Kai members to visit the Pavilion and thank the volunteers at meetings and at the Park for their ongoing dedication. More volunteers are cordially invited to participate as well.

'lyn Stevenson

SDBC-Safari Park Liaison



New Members

Please welcome our new members: [Tien Nguyen](#), [Smitha Kulkarni](#), and [Chusub Sresthadatta](#), [James Walsh](#), [Susan Ronan](#), [Kevin Lizarraga](#), [Fritz and Christl Reisch](#), and [Tess Pino](#).

[Sonya Holmquist](#), VP of Membership

Refreshments

Many thanks to the folks that brought refreshments to the August meeting. The members bringing refreshments included: [Pep Sumabat](#), [Charlie Mosse](#), [Abe and Christina Far](#), [Sonya Holmquist](#), [Janice Hale](#), [Susan Baker](#), [Marty and Ruth Mann](#), [Harlan and Mary Ann Price](#), [Alegria Moreno-Armenta](#), [Shirley Kavanaugh](#), [Sue and Dennis Wagner](#), and [Susan Mae Hill](#).

[Sonya Holmquist](#) and [Meg Polo](#), Food Coordinators

Sonya and Meg have done an admirable job as food coordinators and have now taken on added responsibilities in the Club. As they move on, we will need new volunteers in the food area. Let one of the Board members know if you would be willing to assist with this job in the future.

Benefit Drawing

A big thank you to the folks that brought in items for the raffle table to the August meeting: [Susan Mae Hill](#), [Steve Clemons](#), [Scott Flack](#), [John Polo](#), [Charlie Mosse](#), [Dave Barker](#), [Ken Bross](#), [Thien Huh](#), [Dave Woodall](#), [Abe and Christina Far](#), [Marty Mann](#), [Paul and Lisa Welby](#), [Harlan and Mary Ann Price](#), [Fred Miyahara](#), [Dennis Wagner](#), [Ilyn Stevenson](#), [Melinda Trizinsky](#), and [SDBC](#).

Special Events

October Picnic

The club meeting this month will be at Lake Poway. Plan to arrive between 10 and 10:30 to check in any items you brought for the auction, to look at what everyone else brought, and /or to socialize in the beautiful surroundings.

GSBF Convention

The Golden State Bonsai Federation Convention - "Bonsai Visions of the West" is in Sacramento from October 30th to November 2nd. Check out the workshops, seminars, critiques and activities being offered at the GSBF website, www.gsbf-bonsai.org.



SDBC WEBSITE

The San Diego Bonsai Club website at www.sandiegobonsaiclub.com is full of information and pictures. Coming soon will be the photos of the trees from the Fall Show. Be sure to check it out!

Redwood Empire Bonsai Society Show

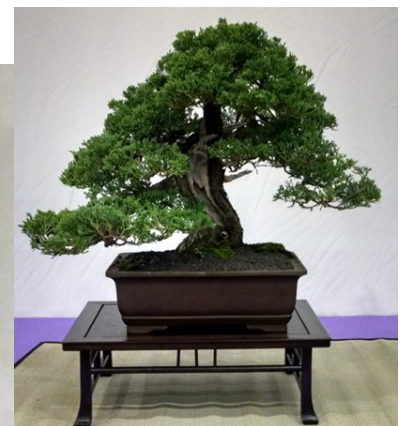
One of the fun activities in bonsai is visiting other club's bonsai shows. Our club has regular trips to the shows in southern California. Cathy and Mark Edgar recently visited the Redwood Empire Bonsai Society (REBS) show in Santa Rosa and provided a report on it. The full report is on our club website, but here are a few highlights:

- The REBS August bonsai show is one of the largest in the USA, showing more than 200 high quality bonsai.
- Bob Shimon, the show chairman, had about 20 trees in the exhibit, the most impressive being a magnificent Sierra Juniper (see photo on page 2).

- Jim Gremel took Cathy and Mark around the exhibit, regaling them with stories about his trees including one tree that has its current form due to an encounter Jim had with SDBC member Fred Miyahara many years ago. Fred suggested that grafting shimpaku foliage would be the best course for the tree, and Fred was right.



- Another interesting tree at the exhibit was one worked on with John Naka many years ago. John's 1979 vision of the tree in a drawing was on display with the tree 35 years later as shown below.



San Diego Bonsai Club, Inc.
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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

San Diego Bonsai Club Calendar of Events

October 4th Saturday and October 18th Saturday
 SDBC Workday at Safari Park , 9 am to 12 pm

October 12th Sunday
 Club meeting picnic and auction at Lake Poway.

October 30th, Thursday—November 2nd, Sunday
 Golden State Bonsai Federation and American
 Bonsai Society Convention, "Bonsai Visions of
 the West," in Sacramento
 Visit www.gsbf-bonsai.org for details.

November 1st Saturday and Nov. 15th Saturday
 SDBC Workday at Safari Park , 9 am to 12 pm

November 9th Sunday
 Gary Jones, Monterey Cypress

December 6th Saturday and Dec. 20th Saturday
 SDBC Workday at Safari Park , 9 am to 12 pm

December 14th Sunday
 Annual Styling Competition

Sunday, October 12th, 2014
 Lake Poway

Meeting Agenda

<u>Time</u>	<u>Activity</u>	<u>Room</u>
9:30 am	Set up Crew Arrives	
10:00 am	General Arrival, Check in auction items, Place food in dining area	
11:00 am	Club meeting	
11:30 am	Live auction—food & drink items	
11:40	Lunch	
12:00 pm	Live Auction—continued	
1:00 pm	Clean-up	

October meeting, picnic, and auction is at Poway Lake—Don't miss it !