

The Bonsai Wire

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October, 2015



Message from the President



Al Nelson gave a thorough presentation about caring for an oak, including how and when to collect an oak tree. We just hope, when you find a nice one, the owner will let you have the tree. He also donated numerous oak seedlings for our Club members to grow. A few months ago, he donated a large oak bonsai now on display in the Bonsai Pavilion in Safari Park. We thank Al for his excellent presentation and his generosity.

Our Fall Show was superb, another product of our hard-working members; it was a successful fund-raising event. One would be amazed to watch our Club members, from Thursday's set-up, show operation, and Sunday evening tear-down, it was like clock-work and almost flawless. Old and new members worked together for the benefit of San Diego Bonsai Club. If you helped, you know who you are and know what you did. Due a long list of names, and to

avoid any errors of omission, I will not list them here; but a great paycheck to all is a pat on the back and a great THANK YOU.

Although this may be "preaching to the choir," shortly after our Fall Show, our Club's fund-raising picnic auction in Lake Poway is another big event. The success of this event will also depend on our members' donations for the auction and their hard work. As in the past, our Club will provide the main dish. Please bring your favorite dessert and salad to share. And yes, our favorite master chef, Abe Far will be cooking again. An FYI—if you are not a resident of Poway, you may be charged \$5.00 to enter the Lake Poway area. More information and directions to Lake Poway are shown below and are also on our website.

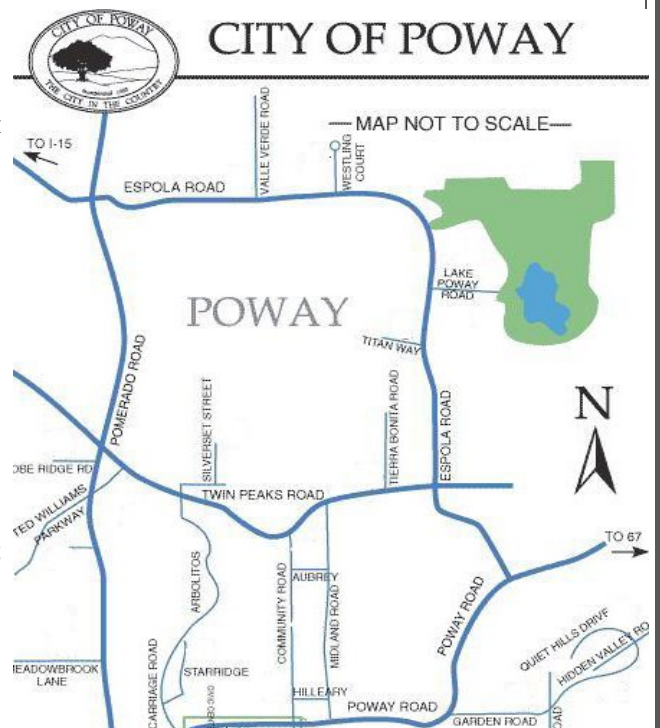
Dan Sola, President

This Month's Program

October 11th is the fall picnic, auction, general meeting and all-around good time at Lake Poway. 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. 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. The auction will start after the meeting and depends on club members' donations of trees and pots and other bonsai-related items, as well as other items like tools, tool bags, wine, gift baskets, and just about anything that people can use or enjoy. 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.

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 near the Lake Concession building. Turning up one of the aisles, the 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

I love October in San Diego — great weather and a wonderful time to get outside to enjoy the nature around us, whether it be kayaking or hiking or working on bonsai on the back patio (my favorites). Get inspired this month.

One chance to enjoy the outdoors is the October picnic/meeting/ auction at Lake Poway. Abe always puts out the tastiest kabobs, Gary is a master at running the auction, and the weather always seems perfect. Throw in bonsai and you have an ideal San Diego day. Hope to see you there. **Dave Barker, Editor**

50 Years
of
Cultivating
the
Art of
Bonsai
In
San
Diego



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BEGINNING CLASS: There is no beginning class in October (we'll see you at the Club's picnic in Poway). In November the beginning juniper class will complete the wiring of their tree and repot it in bonsai soil and a bonsai pot. It is a busy and fun morning as you begin to see your trees' potential as a bonsai.



DESIGN WORKSHOP: The Design Workshop is filled, but it will be an exciting event as three of the Club's master teachers give suggestions on design ideas for the participants' trees. Some trees may speak very clearly about a design, but others may have many design possibilities. Plan to be an observer at the workshop even if you're not bringing in a tree; you can learn a lot by observing and thinking along with the teachers.

PINES AND FOEMINAS: In December, Michael Sykes and Fred Miyahara would like anyone who has a foemina juniper or pine from one of their classes to bring it to the Club meeting in December, so they can help with your trees' progress.

Barbara French-Lee, VP for Education

A photo from Sept's repotting workshop



September Program

Al Nelson, with his assistant Howie, provided the club with a thorough understanding of oak bonsai through his presentation at the September meeting. Al covered topics including collecting, repotting, fertilizing, defoliating, and styling oak bonsai. He also discussed dealing with distressed oak trees.



Al's main tips on collecting are to preserve the moisture in the roots and tree by wrapping the roots in wet burlap once the tree is out of the ground, wrapping that with plastic wrap (like movers use), and then enclosing it in a large plastic trash bag that is sealed. Once back home and potted, he adds HB101 (or Superthrive) to his water and has had good success in keeping the collected bonsai alive.

As far as styling, Al says oaks in nature break all the bonsai rules, but are ruggedly beautiful nonetheless. He wants to create lots of "zig-zaggies" by selective pruning to make sharp movements in alternate directions including up and down. He showed how to choose the branches to cut and suggested leaving a nub on the cut branches to allow for some die back. He does not like to wire Oaks as they grow fast and marks do not go away. If branches need to come down he uses fishing weights and if branches need to go up he uses a chopstick as a brace until set.

Oaks need to be potted in a deeper pot than other bonsai because of the large tap root. Al says "go half again" for the depth.

The entire presentation is available on the club website in case you missed it or want to revisit some of the finer points of collecting, repotting, fertilizing, defoliating, and styling oak bonsai.



San Diego Bonsai Club

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Members
September 13, 2015



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. Balboa Park by Dan Sola, President. It was confirmed that a quorum was present.
2. **Approval of Minutes:** The minutes from the August 9, 2015 meeting were approved as published.
3. **President's remarks:** Dan gave thanks to our members who gave another successful month of activities. Credit is given to all those who gave time and other resources—large and small. It is proof that the success of any volunteer organization depends on the contributions of its members, a BRAVO ZULO to all who help last month.
4. **Acknowledge Bonsai dignitaries:** Dan recognized the presence of the following dignitaries: GSBF President and a Past President of our Club, Abe Far. Dan also recognized the presence of our SDBC Past presidents.
5. **Sonya Holmquist, VP for Membership:** Two new members, Charles and Fujiko Gordon, were introduced.
6. **Board Member Reports:**
 - **Bob Hale 1st Vice president, reported:** We will have our SDBC Poway Picnic on October 11th. In November, we may have Ted Matson as our presenter; in December, we will have our Christmas Party and bonsai competition.
 - **Peter Chong, Treasurer, reported:** In August, our income was \$2233.28 and our expenses were \$2465.31 with a Net Loss \$232.03. The balance for SDBC account is \$24,076.01 and for the Pavilion \$14,891.27. There was a revised figures for June 2015: was \$3110.00 and expenses \$835.07; our Profit was \$2,274.93.
 - **Barbara French-Lee, Vice President, Education, reported:** In November, there will be a Design workshop with three Bonsai Masters: Glenn Jensen, Michael Sykes, and Fred Miyahara, with only 10 spaces at the cost \$15. Starting in January 2016, John Voss will start a small study group of three people to help club members with their trees.
 - **Janice Hale, Special Projects:** The Winter Silhouettes will be on January 16, 2016. The Bonsai-A-Thon will be on February 27, 2016, with a bus already reserved. The GSF Convention will begin October 29- November 1.
7. **Appointed Position Reports:**
 - **John Jackson, Safari Park Pavilion Curator, reported:** Thanks to the volunteers. The drains have finally been put in after 5 five months by the Safari Park.
 - **Glenn Jensen, JFG Curator, reported:** We continue to make progress. The JFG is seeking Museum Accreditation, and they are leading tours that go by our trees which is good exposure for our club; people are asking about our bonsai trees, classes we offer. Thank you to Barbara French Lee for all the hard work with negotiating and her diplomacy with the JFG. Thank you to our core of volunteers Charles Mosse, Nancy Wilson-Ramon, Mori, Trisha Bonapace, Julia Show, Warren Tam and Fred Miyahara.
 - **Abe Far, Chair of Nominating Committee:** All positions are open to club members (in good standing) for the Board of Directors for 2016. Slate of candidates will be presented at our October meeting.
8. **Old Business:** None.
9. **New Business:** None.
10. **Announcements:** President Dan Sola announced that in March 2016, our club meeting will be on the 27th which is the fourth Sunday. Also our June 2016 our meeting will be on the 2nd Sunday, but we will be meeting in Room 104.
11. **Program:** At 11:00 a.m., First VP, Bob Hale introduced Al Nelson his presentation was on Oak Trees.
12. **Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Brenda Crann Secretary

As the hot summer weather begins to fade away, the activities involving your trees include the care required before settling down for winter dormancy. Your bonsai will no longer grow very much so the need for extensive pruning should be minimal. Since recent growth may have added girth to branches and trunks, it would be prudent to check all wired branches to see if they are set and, if they are, the wires can be removed.

Light conditions begin to change. Trees which have had full sun exposure find themselves in more shade. So, watch the location of trees at this time of year and rotate them into more favorable light exposures allowing them to continue storing strength and food for the winter.

Fall is an excellent time to gather tree seeds as they ripen. Oak tree acorns, pine tree cones and varieties of maple seeds are in profusion, an excellent source for over-wintering in the refrigerator for stratification. They may then be planted in early spring for new nursery seedlings.

Water selectively. Junipers and other conifers use moisture at a rate much greater than deciduous trees that are just going into dormancy. Don't overwater or underwater, just keep the soil moist. Remove most of the moss that may still be on potted trees to allow more aeration and moisture penetration into the soil. Of particular importance, don't forget to keep azaleas moist since this is the period when the new buds are being set for next year's flowers.

Maintenance wise, keep most deciduous trees out of the bright sunshine, especially those that had been defoliated a few months ago and have new young leaves. Even as they mature and drop for natural fall defoliation, they are quite tender. Keep them cool and moist to prevent additional winter re-sprouting. Pinching and pruning is still an important training requirement. Do not do any severe pruning, however, since the slow-down of winter growth will not permit the tree to recover from any trauma. Trim deciduous trees to remove long internodes of summer growth. Remove old hanging fruit and seedpods. If berries continue to hang on they may be allowed to stay until spring since they do not drain any strength from the tree.

Reflect on your work over the year to shape and care for your bonsai. Each bonsai is an element of living art, and we should enjoy the pleasure of their representation of nature. Have fun as you work on your bonsai in your daily care routines.

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



San Diego Bonsai Club Pavilion at the Safari Park

September volunteers at the Bonsai Pavilion welcomed two new members to the group: **Jim Lane**, a long ago SDBC member, has rejoined the Club and is also now a Pavilion volunteer. Likewise, **Susie (Chusub) Sresthadatta** is with us now again. They received welcomes and sharing with September volunteers: **Neil Auwarter, Susan Baker, Julia Chow, Cathy & Mark Edgar, Jeff Geringer, Bob & Janice Hale, Sonya Holmquist, Curator John Jackson, Charlie & Sylvia Mosse, Janet & Ron Palmer, Marcella Perez, Sally Prestele, Harlan & MaryAnn Price, 'lyn Stevenson, John Voss, Dennis Wagner, Mark Walters, and Dave Woodall.**

At our September 5th work day, Curator John and the team started placing the benches in our newest work area. We also had a volunteer meeting and enjoyed the new floor fan that the Mosses brought in and the ice creams and other wonderful surprises that have been stocked in our refrigerator by the Safari Park Volunteer Office. Special treats were also brought in by Julia,



Chusub, Charlie, Cathy, Marcella, Curator John and 'lyn. Thanks to Bob Hale for delivering the pomegranate bonsai and a Harry Hirao stone to the SDBC Fall show. Marcella has donated hand soaps for our working sink and 'lyn added two more leaf rakes to our collection of garden equipment. Our volunteers are generous with their

time and talent and many added surprises each month. Congratulations and thanks always for making the Pavilion and the Bonsai a true show place for all the Safari Park visitors.

Cary Sharp, the Safari Park Horticulturist, is working with us to protect the Pavilion from any El Nino rains that could inundate the Pavilion. More drains have been added, grading and propping up the area behind the tool sheds with straw batting rolls is anticipated and other needed protection is being provided. He also shared the estimates for future cementing of the work areas and a walkway throughout the Pavilion. It is a project for which we will need additional funding with grants and donations since it will be more than we have currently at our

disposal.

Much has been done in the four years that our new Pavilion has been open but there are more things envisioned for the future too. As we all know, Bonsai Art is ongoing and changing as with the trees themselves. We need to keep the bonsai, the pots that contain them, and the Pavilion that is their environment, always moving forward too. And, of course, we never stop learning and enjoying this ancient art! Come and visit the Pavilion often and volunteer whenever you are inspired!

'lyn Stevenson, SDBC-Safari Park Liason

Fall Show



Plant sales

Bonsai Exhibits



Security



Outside Demonstrations



Membership Table & Inside demo

New Members

Please welcome our new members: **Kayle and Nancy Williamson, Michael Avila and Maria Llacza, Kimball Taylor, Stephanie and Rosa Negrillo, and Jose J. Garcia.**

Sonya Holmquist, VP of Membership

Refreshments

Thank you to the following members for bringing refreshments to the August meeting: **Ofelia Vidal, Abe and Christina Far, Shirley Kavanaugh, Bill Starks, Janet Liggett, Tina Flores, Janice and Bob Hale, Mariela Gonzales, and Susan Mae Hull.**

SDBC Benefit Drawing

Thank you to the following for your donations to the August meeting benefit drawing: **Nazim and Aisha Colak, Abe and Christina Far, Shirley Kavanaugh, Eric Jacobson, Dan Sola, Gary Jones, John and Margaret Jackson, Peter Chong, John Voss, Mark Walters, and Ken Bross.**

Website News

The SDBC website not only has a youtube video of Al Nelson's demonstration on oak bonsai, but also his source list, all the supplies he mentioned in the video.

Library News

Steve Clemons, the SDBC librarian, is seeking two assistant librarians to help out in the library. The library has a wealth of information available to club members. An assistant librarian would be responsible for opening the library and assisting members from 9:30 am—10:20 am on club meeting days once every couple of months. Send an email to Steve Clemons if you are interested at sclemons88@gmail.com or stop by the library before the November meeting.

National Bonsai and Penjing Museum

A remarkable 390-year-old white pine located near the entrance of the museum recently got national media attention as a survivor of the Hiroshima bombing. The tree was gifted to the United States for its bicentennial celebration in 1976, but its age was not known until 2001 when two grandson's of the Mr. Yamaki, the tree's owner during WWII, visited the U.S. in search of the tree they had heard about their whole lives. This tree was cared for by one family for generations!

The tree inspired a new children's book, "The Peace

Tree from Hiroshima: The Little Bonsai with a Big Story" by Sandra Moore, which received the Silver Evergreen Medal for World Peace. The book teaches that bonsai fosters compassion and a deep respect for life. By nurturing bonsai, we learn the essence and dignity of life, and life becomes more meaningful.

More details can be found in the August 4th edition of Smithsonian magazine and the August 3rd edition of the Washington Post.

Special Events

Fall Show

The Spring and Fall shows are always great events that let us share the art of Bonsai with the San Diego community. Putting on the show requires members bringing great trees to display and members working in all aspects from setup to teardown and everything in between.

Congratulations to all the exhibitors and volunteers for a



great Fall Bonsai Show. A special thank you to our 2015 Show Chairman, Gary Jones, whose dedication to this Club is truly inspiring, giving so much of his time and talent. Our hats are off to you, sir!

Please check the SDBC website for photos of the Fall Show bonsai and other photos of the exhibition.

2015 GSBF Bonsai Fusion Convention

The GSBF Bonsai Fusion Convention, to be held at the Riverside Convention Center, on October 29-November 1, 2015 is fast approaching. You can register online or print out and mail in the registration forms from the GSBF convention website www.gsbfcconvention.org/ to go one day or for the entire four day extravaganza (at a discount). Wonderful bonsai artists like Bjorn Bjorholm and John Wang will be offering workshops and/or seminars, as well as our own Martha Choy and Fred Miyahara. In conjunction with the convention the Hyatt Place Riverside/ Downtown and the Mission Inn Hotel and Spa have special room rates of \$99. You will receive a special code for the hotels after you register for the convention.

Janice Hale, V.P. Special Projects



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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

San Diego Bonsai Club Calendar of Events

October 3rd Saturday and October 17th, Saturday

SDBC Workday at Safari Park , 9 am to 12 pm

October 11th Sunday

Club Meeting at Lake Poway (picnic & auction)

See page 1 for directions to Lake Poway

October 29th, Thursday - November 1st, Sunday

Golden State Bonsai Federation Convention,
 "Bonsai Fusion," in Riverside.

November 7th Saturday and Nov 21st, Saturday

SDBC Workday at Safari Park , 9 am to 12 pm

November 8th Sunday

Club Meeting—Ted Matson

December 5th Saturday and Dec 19th, Saturday

SDBC Workday at Safari Park , 9 am to 12 pm

December 13th Sunday

Club Meeting—Annual Styling Competition

Sunday, October 11, 2015
 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	
12 ish pm	Lunch (when BBQ is ready)	
After Lunch	Live Auction—continued	
1:15 pm	Auction Checkout and Clean-up	