



President's Message

Susan Ronan

With the new year, we have a new treasurer, so a big, warm welcome to Tom Cylkowski. The updates in our banking accounts to add Tom and remove Jaya Kaelberer have been completed. Jaya has prepared a budget for 2025 that the board will review and revise by our next club meeting. Janice Hale and Janet Palmer will review the annual financials for 2024, making sure all receipts match all expenditures. Your board takes seriously its fiduciary responsibilities to all our members. Jaya has done a truly outstanding job as treasurer for the five years she has held the position and has been dedicated to keeping our club above water financially. Thank you, Jaya, for your dedication and good humor!

Please review our monthly financial reports yourself so you can get a good idea of what it takes to make our club successful. I want to point out that when you look at the annual income totals, please note that we had more than \$48,000 added by the new Ragle Scholarship account which makes us look as if we have plenty of surplus funds. However, it is a dedicated account which we merely manage under our 501(c)(3), just as we do the Safari Park and Japanese Friendship Garden accounts. These accounts are restricted to those purposes alone and cannot be accessed by the club for any other use. Please review Tom's budget (prepared with help from Jaya) and address any question you may have to Tom through our website.

January in my garden is a partially sunny but also a somewhat overcast and wet place. It's important to have your touch familiar with moist soil. I have almost nothing that needs daily watering now. The usually thirsty Japanese black pine one-year-olds in 2-inch pots are even staying moist for three or four days, as are the older plants too. A newly repotted 8-year-old JBP is watched every day for signs of drying since it doesn't really hold much moisture in new soil.

If I can point to any one thing in the garden that will predict success or failure with your bonsai trees, it is watering, so pay close attention to each plant as each one's needs will differ. I have been practicing the art of bonsai for 10 years and I'm finally learning how and when to water. Take heart, because spring is just around the corner and once again your trees' needs will change.

(Continued on Page 3)



Upcoming meeting

Feb. 2, 2025

Room 101, Casa del Prado
in Balboa Park

Tom Vuong
presentation
See page 2

Bonsai classes

February beginner's class
date change
See Page 4.

Feature Article

How to protect your
repotted trees
By Charlie Mosse
See pages 6-7.

*"A hunch is creativity
trying to tell you
something."*

– Frank Capra

Bonsai Task Calendar for San Diego County

www.sandiegobonsaiclub.com

Visit our website for
information on private
instructors and other
resources to advance your
bonsai skills.

Tom Vuong will rejoin the San Diego Bonsai Club for our February meeting. In what is sure to be an exciting presentation, Tom will demonstrate early development steps with a very common and easy-to-find variety of juniper, the procumbens nana. Nanas are great material that are receptive to the various techniques budding tree-smiths will utilize to make great bonsai with strong, well-growing root stock in our climate.

A Southern California bonsai professional from the Orange County area, Tom is one of the best examples locally of what true passion can lead to. He has no oyakata (master) who trained him and is self-taught. Formerly a car mechanic, Tom realized his passion for bonsai early in life and has developed it for over 30 years.

Well-known for his work in collecting and developing yamadori material as well as putting BIG bends in trees, Tom has a gift for being able to see what the tree can look like in the far future and start building towards that vision. He provided the trees we used for the Yannick Kiggen and Bjorn Bjorholm demonstrations at last year's Bonsai Blast, so please be sure to thank him for helping us put on a great event. Here is a link to Tom's incredible garden:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AEI0Z7EMUi4>.

Members who participated in Tom's April 2024 black pine grafting class are encouraged to bring their grafted trees back in for this meeting. Once Tom finishes his presentation we will get together as a group and apply some air layers that took to the cork bark grafts from last session.

I highly recommend as you leave this presentation to stop by a nursery or to contact local member Skyler Eppler from Green Gardens Nursery in Pacific Beach to pick up some similar material and immediately put to use what you will learn. Now is the time to lay groundwork for a bright future.

I have two more junipers available for members to purchase for this demonstration. Cost is \$125 each, which covers the material and instruction from Tom on development. I am planning on having Tom back either at the end of the year or early 2026 to work on this group of trees again so the club can see the next steps in development.

Please be prepared to bring this material back to those meetings so we can continue their development. I will be at the February meeting early to sell these trees. Cash or check payment to the club is ideal.

Be sure to bring your tool kit and wire supplies if you plan on participating in this workshop.



Tom Vuong shows off one of his outstanding procumbens nana juniper designs

Feb. 2 meeting schedule

NOTE: The February beginners' class has been rescheduled to Feb. 9 at 8:30 a.m. in Room 104

| | |
|----------------------|--|
| 8:15a.m. – 10:15 am | Gary Jones intermediate juniper class, Room 101 Louie Montecillo shimpaku itoigawa juniper workshop, Room 101 |
| 9 a.m. – 10:15 a.m. | Tool sales, Room 101 Bonsai assistance, Room 101 Library open, Room 104 |
| 10:30 a.m. – 11 a.m. | Business meeting, Room 101 |
| 11 a.m.- 12:30 p.m. | Presentation by Tom Vuong, Room 101 |
| 12:30-1 p.m. | Raffle & potluck, Room 101 |
| 1 p.m.-3 p.m. | Tom Vuong cork bark pine air layering workshop, Room 101 |

Intermediate juniper class schedule for 2025

The second session of the year-long intermediate juniper class conducted by Gary Jones will be held at the Feb. 2 meeting. According to Gary, this session will be a continuation of the initial work started at the January meeting, with the focus on the root system, structure and wiring of participants' trees.

Other class sessions during the year will be held at the following meetings and cover the topics listed:

- **March 9:** Repotting trees that are ready for repotting. Not all will be and we'll look at why and discuss wiring and fertilization.
- **June 1:** How has the tree changed since the start of the growing season and what comes next.
- **Sept. 14:** What are our trees doing, health-wise, color, vigor, structure? What should we be looking towards?
- **Nov. 9:** Can we repot now? Major work, deadwood, lime sulfur and what to do over winter.

President's message: Continued from Page 1

The SDBC logo t-shirt order has been delivered, so please be sure to pick yours up from the tool table at our next meeting. Thanks to Ignacio De La Torre for completing the t-shirt order and to Brenda Myers and Jake Shaver for distributing them.

Administrator Fred Miyahara has made changes to the Ragle Scholarship qualifications, which you will find posted on our website. The amount of the award has been raised to \$500 and the limit of 10 years of bonsai practice has been removed, so the award is now open to everyone. The call for entries will take place in June and the award will be given in September. Members of all Southern California clubs are eligible to enter.



Pick up your t-shirt order from the tool table at the next meeting

Education: Bill Graham, Vice President of Education

The new year 2025 came in with a lot of dry air. My deepest sympathies go out to any and all that have connections to the Los Angeles wildfires. Several members of the bonsai community there have been greatly affected, with some losing everything. Please keep them in your thoughts and prayers. Our weather has been windy, chilly and dry. Continue your winter maintenance and get ready for repotting season. With the recent winds, be especially aware of your watering requirements. Deciduous trees should be starting to wake up and water use will increase.

PLEASE NOTE THERE ARE SEVERAL CHANGES TO THE UPCOMING SCHEDULE!

The February meeting date has changed to Feb. 2 due to another group having a show on our regularly scheduled date. Unfortunately, I and many of the instructors are already committed to an out-of-town event and will not be present.

Due to the lack of instructors on Feb. 2, the February beginners' class will be held on Feb. 9 in Room 104 at 8:30 a.m. Please do your best to attend.

Because of the change in dates and my inability to attend the February meeting, the April-June-July beginners' class will go on sale at the MARCH Meeting. Due to the overwhelming demand, I will be holding a drawing at the March meeting for those interested in getting a slot in the class. You must be present to enter.

Winter Beginners Class: Chinese elm – Ulmus parvifolia – Carla Marasco

Jan. 12 – Feb. 9 – March 9

In the rescheduled second session of the beginners' class you will learn more about the botany of your Chinese 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. **SOLD OUT!**

Intermediate Workshops

February: Juniperus chinensis shimpaku – Itoigawa – Louie Montecillo

We have some very nice itoigawa shimpaku that were grown by Ed Clark. They have 1-inch-plus trunks and are ready for your styling. Louie Montecillo, an up-and-coming instructor in the club, will lead the workshop. He was a participant in the GSBF Rising Stars competition at the 2023 GSBF Rendezvous and created a beautiful tree. **SOLD OUT!**

March – Chrysanthemum root over rock – John Jackson

In March we are going to have something very different and exciting. John Jackson will lead us in workshop to create root over rock chrysanthemums. If you were at the November meeting, you saw the example that John created almost 40 years ago. It is truly a stunning and beautiful bonsai. When it is in full bloom, it is a mass of small flowers and a sight to behold! We will be using Japanese chrysanthemums that John has started specifically for this workshop. They have nice long roots and will be excellent for root over rock. This class is limited to 11 participants. **SOLD OUT!**

April – urban yamadori Buxus sp. common boxwood

We have some nice urban yamadori common boxwoods. These trees have been out of the ground since 2018, are very well established and are ready for styling. They have nice trunks and a lot of potential. They will go on sale at the March meeting. Cost will be \$45.

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Education: (Continued from page 4)

May – no class – meeting at the San Diego Zoo Safari Park.

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. **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 unless otherwise specified.** We do not start a waiting list until after the sign-up sheet has been put out at the meeting and filled. **All beginning classes, workshops and skills classes are taught from 8:30 to 10:15 a.m. on club meeting days at Balboa Park unless otherwise specified.** 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 wfgraham3rd@gmail.com.

Upcoming events and activities: Phaedra Ehling, Vice President for Special Projects

Bonsai-A-Thon, Saturday, Feb. 22

February brings our annual trip to the Bonsai-A-Thon, the fundraiser for the [Golden State Bonsai Federation Collection at the Huntington](#) (GSBFC). The Bonsai-A-Thon is the largest bonsai event in Southern California, held at the Huntington Botanical Gardens' Brody Botanical Center in San Marino.

In addition to the spectacular Huntington Bonsai gardens, many activities are planned, including a benefit drawing; live and silent auctions; vendors selling top-quality tools, pots, trees and other merchandise; bonsai master styling demonstrations with auctions of styled trees; tours of the new Japanese Heritage House; tours of the Chinese Garden and Penjing Court; and a backstage tour of the Huntington bonsai nursery.

Advance registration is required for this event. Free tickets are only available to current members. See details on our [website](#). Email your questions to [B-A-T 2025 questions - VP Special Projects](#).

BUS TRIP SOLD OUT: We have sold all seats on the bus. If you have already registered, you should receive a confirmation email by Feb. 1. Additional emails with detailed information and your e-ticket(s) for the event will be sent out approximately one week before the event.

SELF-DRIVERS: If you have already signed up through the club, you will receive detailed information and your e-ticket(s) for the event approximately one week before the event. If you did not sign up at the meeting, please note that reservations and tickets are required for admission. Each member may reserve only one free ticket for one day, Saturday, Feb. 22 or Sunday, Feb. 23 using the links on our [website](#). The registration deadline for our club members is Monday, Feb. 3.

2025 Spring Show, Saturday and Sunday, April 26-27

Our Spring Show is coming up soon. Sign-up sheets for volunteers will be available at the March 9 meeting. Preliminary activities will begin on Thursday, April 25 with setup the next day. If you have questions, are interested in displaying for the first time, or would like to help with planning, please email [VP Special Projects](#).

Save the dates:

Friendship through Bonsai Celebration Bus Trip – Saturday, April 19

Bonsai Pavilion picnic at the SD Zoo Safari Park – Sunday, May 4

Repotting season has been in full swing and will remain a priority for another month for all conifers, broadleaf evergreens (not warm-season plants), and deciduous trees. Because our spring starts earlier now, getting repotting done soon is very important. Following is a link to Bob Hale's video on soils and repotting:

<https://www.sandiegobonsaiclub.com/2019-2021-videos.html>

Protection of repotted plants is of concern when unseasonably warm weather occurs before a repotted plant's roots get established. If that happens to a newly repotted tree, until the weather returns to normal, simply place the tree in a spot with one to two hours less direct sun and consider a less windy spot or create a wind block.

Wind is the sneaky soil desiccator. If you cannot move a tree to a better location, then cover it using an old, thin bed sheet or lightweight frost protection cloth. Those two items can be placed directly on the tree for several days. This also works with established plants during heat waves and heat spikes.



Charlie Mosse

Note: Warm-season plants such as ficus, olive, bougainvillea, Brazilian rain tree, jade varieties, elephant's foot/mini-jade (portulacaria), are best repotted, air-layered, grafted or defoliated from June through mid-September. The warmer the weather, the faster they recover.

At the January meeting Michael Roberts discussed and showed us how to do initial cuts on Chinese elms from nursery stock. He explained that the elm is a vigorous grower and will grow a lot in the early spring, if not before. They are semi-evergreen and commonly show bud color as early as mid-January. Some of mine are showing color as of Jan. 15. Fertilizing elms after trimming and pruning for early season growth was not covered so I called Michael to ask about his fertilizer program for fall, winter and spring so as to avoid large leaves and long internodes. Elms and many other deciduous trees store a lot of energy in the fall and into early winter. They use that energy for the first flush of growth. A developing tree will need more fertilizer than one in refinement.

Michael's fertilizing program is a half-dose of Osmocote in the fall and a half dose in the spring. That can vary with rainfall amounts and temperature. Many club members do a similar light fertilizing in the fall, but no fertilizing until about May, depending on the rate of growth required and the color of the leaf. Off-green leaves signal a need for nitrogen. We discussed that larger chuhin-sized elms (generally larger than 12 inches) will require more fertilizer than the smaller-sized kifu (8-12 inches) and shohin (less than 8 inches) elms. The other consideration is whether a tree is in development and being pushed or in refinement where smaller leaves and shorter internodes are the goal. We will be able to ask Michael more detailed questions during the follow up demos in late spring and fall on the same trees. It is a great learning experience for all to see the evolution of the elms.

Leaf size and internode length can be controlled by fertilizing. Fertilizing in the spring will grow larger leaves and longer internodes. Larger leaves are OK when a tree is in development, whereas smaller leaves are important for refinement stages like preparing a tree for a show or judging. Cutting back on fertilizer helps to reduce leaf size. This is particularly important for the shohin-sized and kifu-sized trees. Proportionality

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of tree size to leaf size matters. Controlling leaf size and internode length can be complicated at first. Please ask for help at meetings, on the SDBC Facebook page or SDBC website. Many will have the same questions. Two other things that affect leaf size and internode length are percentage of shade and the size of the pot. An elm can grow in full sun, which will help keep the leaf size small and internode length shorter. Additional shade may be needed July through October. Then simply move the tree into filtered shade, say about 30%, or morning and afternoon sun only with shade from about 12 noon to 3 p.m. Fertilizing and sun/shade nuancing will become more important as the elms develop. When a tree is in development like those Michael presented, large leaves are not really an issue since the big leaves will supply the tree with lots of food for growth and health in the early years of development. Smaller leaves can be grown in subsequent years.

Enhancing your soil

The bonsai soils we use for repotting trees are pretty much devoid of life, which means they don't have a good quantity of live microbes. Akadama has a very tiny bit of life and bark has some life, and both need moisture and inoculation by some means. They lack beneficial fungi, bacteria and other compounds created as soil matures with the use of organic fertilizers, and roots exude chemicals as we have learned about the rhizosphere around the active root areas, which is around the root tips and root hairs. To enhance the microbe population in the soil, there are different ways to speed up the process. This task is simple and easy to do. It does not take a lot to inoculate the soil once. Ways to inoculate are:

- Add a small amount of worm castings to the soil mix before or after repotting.
- Add mycorrhizae additives, usually dry mixes.
- Add a small quantity of the old soil mix in with the new soil. Be sure the soil is free of root aphids, and that the old mix did support a healthy tree.
- After flushing the soil mix post-repot, water in a very dilute solution fish/kelp or just kelp. Use about ½ tsp per gallon to inoculate the soil.
- Sprinkle a teaspoon of a quality organic fertilizer like Espoma's Holly-tone or Dr. Earth Life.
- I prefer using a very diluted solution of fish/kelp. **Note:** The fertilizer is of no value to the plant yet because the new roots have not yet started to grow. But the solution will feed the microbes and help them to multiply. I do this at repot time, then again in about 2-3 weeks so that the fertilizer is available to the new roots as they begin to regrow. This extra step is not an absolute necessity but has been helpful for promoting faster root growth once the new roots have started to grow.

Diagnosing tree issues from photos

When sending photos to anyone, to our website, to our Facebook site or any other social media, photo clarity counts to help get a good answer. Here are tips for getting the best results.

- Use a solid-colored backdrop to help the image stand out, with no background clutter.
- Avoid direct sunlight or strong lighting on the foliage/stems. That reduces shine and the photo is clearer.
- Use a high-resolution setting in your phone or camera; photo detail remains sharp when zooming in.

The person looking at the photos usually must zoom in to clearly observe the symptoms or insect present. Zooming in enhances any problems with the photo such as glare, a cluttered background and increased pixelating, aka fuzziness, if the original photo is low resolution. If you can't increase the resolution, at least use a solid background and avoid direct light and sun. Send the photo anyway. Having a photo is better than not having one.

With what passes for winter in San Diego in full swing, the January SDBC meeting provided some valuable advice about what members can do this time of year with their deciduous trees. Michael Roberts, a bonsai expert from the Los Angeles area, presented a program on growing and designing broom-style bonsai, highlighted by his demonstrations with large Chinese elms.

Michael explained that deciduous trees are good candidates for broom style design, which features a large, rounded canopy formed by multiple branches. It's especially appropriate, he said, for trees with straight trunks. To illustrate options for broom style trees, Michael showed several examples taken from "Practical Guide to Bonsai Styles of the World," a book he recommended (available in the SDBC library) for those interested in this particular design approach.

A broom-style bonsai can have a single trunk or multiple trunks, he said, "but the important thing is to have a big, rounded canopy." Branching should start one-third to one-half of the way up the trunk, with twigging at the end of the branch structures.



Michael prepares to cut unnecessary branches from an elm bonsai that was deadheaded about a year earlier



Michael Roberts supervises as Tom Cylkowski (L) and Matt Jillson saw off roots in preparation for repotting of a

Another design key is "to keep the branches going to the outside."

Michael was assisted by First Vice President Matt Jillson in working to reduce unnecessary branches that had grown from a deadheaded elm whose trunk was about three to four inches in diameter. The first step, he said, is to cut what branches you know you don't need – especially lower branches and those growing downward. What you're striving for, Michael said, is to keep three to five branches that are equal in size and are growing upward.

In the most dramatic part of the presentation, Michael showed how to transfer a large elm from a 15-gallon plastic pot into a square wooden growing box. Using an electric reciprocating saw, the top 20 inches of the trunk was cut off, then the bottom two-thirds of the base also was sliced off while still in the pot.

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January meeting recap: Continued from Page 8

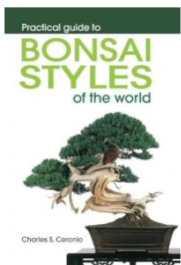
The remaining roots were then trimmed and repotted into the wooden grow box, which Michael said he prefers to use rather than a round plastic pot. “The idea is to get the roots growing laterally, not circular,” he said. The top of the repotted root ball should be positioned about a half-inch above the level of the box.

Other key points Michael made during his presentation:

- Elms are incredibly forgiving trees; if you start working on a style and it’s not looking good, you can cut it back and start again.
- In addition to Chinese elms, cork bark and Seiju elms are good candidates for broom-style designs. A flame-style triangular design is often seen on trees with a double trunk.
- He fertilizes his trees all year long, primarily using seaweed and fish emulsion, but also Osmocote.

Library: Sonya Holmquist, Librarian

We now have the book recommended by last month's presenter Michael Roberts, “Practical Guide to Bonsai Styles of the World,” by Charles S. Ceronio.



The book is divided into two parts: The art of bonsai and bonsai styles. According to Ceronio, it is composition and design that separate bonsai from potted plants. He discusses 10 basic art concepts applicable to bonsai: Impact, focal point, proportion, depth of field, harmony, line movement, rhythm, balance, silhouette and contrast.

These concepts are illustrated in the many line drawings of the basic styles of bonsai and their many variations. I highly recommend the book for beginners and, as Michael said, those interested in trying new styles.

Zoo Safari Park Bonsai Pavilion: Mark Edgar, Liaison

SDBC volunteers at the Zoo Safari Park Bonsai Pavilion in December again were given the opportunity to help decorate the San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance’s award-winning Rose Parade float in Pasadena.

Among those who took advantage of the offer to volunteer were Sue and Keith Carter (photo at right), who helped apply some of the floral decorations on a giant tiger that was one of the featured zoo animals on the float. The SDZWA float wound up winning the top Sweepstakes Award for the second consecutive year.



Thank you: Susan Ronan, President

Thanks for your refreshment table contributions: John & Margaret Jackson, Brian Jackson, Tony & Adrian Mangina, Eric Gripp and Julia Chow.

Thank you for donations to the raffle table: John Holloway, John & Margaret Jackson, Jenny Chin, Cindy Pecile, Charlie & Sylvia Mosse, Cristina Vargas Far, Nazim Colak, 'lyn Stevenson, Fred Miyahara, Keith & Sue Carter and Ryan Crossley.

Membership: Cindy Pecile, Vice President, Membership

Please welcome the following new club members who joined in December 2024 and January 2025.

| | | |
|--------------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| Olga Blankson | Koby Blankson | James VanDusen |
| Irina Axelrod | Tracy D'Ambrosi | Mark Hammer |
| Meghan Gilliatt | Martha Krones | Jaime Delgado |
| Jennifer Wolschlag | Keith Leyva | Mari Angulo |
| Linda Angulo | Maribel Clerk | Louise Andrews |
| Uma Mangina | Sally Provow | Christine Callaway |
| Ken Callaway | Julia Bozarth | Amalia Rose |
| Josh Brown | Gregory Hann | |

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS: All current members should renew their membership for 2025 if they plan to continue with the club. Our bylaws state that ***“Annual dues are due and payable Jan. 1 of each year. Any member whose dues are unpaid by March 31 will be dropped from membership.”***

If you plan on participating in club events – taking classes, traveling on bus trips, volunteering at the Safari Park or Japanese Friendship Garden, volunteering or selling items at the shows, you must be a current member of the club.

You can renew your membership or join as a new member:

- In person at a club meeting. You can pay with cash, check, or credit card.
- On the San Diego Bonsai Club website using the payment portal.
(<https://www.sandiegobonsaiclub.com/membership.html>)

Club dues will remain at \$30 for an individual and each additional family member is \$5. New members who joined between Sept. 1, 2024 through Dec. 31, 2024 do not have to renew their membership until the end of 2025 for the 2026 calendar year.

If any of your contact information has recently changed or you are unsure as to the status of your membership, please email me at sandiegobonsaiclub@gmail.com.

Current club membership stands at 300 members.

Monthly treasurer's report & 2025 budget: Tom Cylkowski, Treasurer

| SAN DIEGO BONSAI CLUB - TREASURER'S REPORT | | | | | |
|---|------------------|------------------|----------------|--|-----------------|
| Jaya Kaelberer as of 31 December 2024 | | | | | |
| Accounts have been reconciled with Union Bank statements | | | | | |
| All accounts are separate. Expenses/income cannot be moved between them | | | | | |
| BANK ACCOUNT BALANCES (Balance sheet) | | Current | | | |
| Larry Ragle Scholarship Fund | | \$45,037 | | | |
| SDBC Checking | | \$79,529 | | | |
| CD \$20K 02/28/24 | | \$0 | | | |
| Japanese Friendship Garden | | \$3,933 | | | |
| Bonsai Pavillon Checking | | \$20,359 | | | |
| TOTAL FUNDS: | | \$148,859 | | | |
| SDBC Income | | | | | |
| | Current | Previous | Change | Description | budget |
| Total CD Interest | \$752 | \$752 | \$0 | no change from previous month | |
| Total Donation Income | \$6,317 | \$6,317 | \$0 | no change from previous month | \$ 1,750 |
| Total Education Income | \$15,064 | \$14,402 | \$662 | \$837: workshops, -\$175 workshop refund | \$ 13,100 |
| Total Grant Qualcomm | \$1,250 | \$1,250 | \$0 | no change from previous month | \$ 500 |
| Total Larry Ragle Scholarship Income | \$44,964 | \$44,429 | \$535 | \$535: Sale of tree | \$ - |
| Total Membership Income | \$11,850 | \$10,915 | \$935 | Club dues | \$ 11,000 |
| Total Monthly Program | \$1,348 | \$1,106 | \$243 | Guest artist workshops | \$ 320 |
| Total Raffle & Auction | \$12,086 | \$11,919 | \$167 | \$167: mtg raffle | \$ 17,900 |
| Total Show Income | \$9,432 | \$9,432 | \$0 | no change from previous month | \$ 12,500 |
| Total Special Projects Income | \$5,243 | \$5,165 | \$78 | \$78: silhouettes | \$ 2,000 |
| Total Tool Sales | \$6,260 | \$5,739 | \$521 | Tool sales | \$ 5,200 |
| Total SDBC Income | \$114,565 | \$111,424 | \$3,140 | | \$64,270 |
| SDBC Expenses | | | | | |
| | | Previous | Change | | budget |
| Total Bonsai Pavillon | \$4,869 | \$4,720 | \$150 | cut paste, sealant, etc | \$ 8,500 |
| Total Education | \$12,709 | \$12,362 | \$346 | \$78: Apex, \$347: cost of water | \$ 11,050 |
| Total Japanese Friendship Garden | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | no change from previous month | \$ 450 |
| Total Larry Ragle Scholarship Fund | \$1,000 | \$1,000 | \$0 | no change from previous month | \$ - |
| Total Library | \$95 | \$95 | \$0 | no change from previous month | \$ 200 |
| Mas Takanashi Grant | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | no change from previous month | \$ 500 |
| Total Membership | \$3,090 | \$2,631 | \$460 | Member Badges | \$ 1,500 |
| Total Monthly Program | \$10,205 | \$8,058 | \$2,148 | \$842: demo trees, \$1100 Jonas wkshp, \$206: Mtg food/bev | \$ 9,750 |
| Total Newsletter | \$1,985 | \$1,880 | \$104 | \$45: mailchimp, \$59: newsletter printing | \$ 1,400 |
| Power of One Scholarship | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | no change from previous month | \$ 320 |
| Total Reconciliation Discrepancies | \$337 | \$337 | \$0 | no change from previous month | \$ - |
| Total SDBC Club Expenses | \$6,707 | \$6,615 | \$92 | \$55: Wayne lord gift, \$37: background checks | \$ 5,920 |
| Total SDBC Fall Show | \$1,392 | \$1,392 | \$0 | no change from previous month | \$ 800 |
| Total SDBC Spring Show | \$3,047 | \$3,047 | \$0 | no change from previous month | \$ 3,650 |
| Total Special Projects | \$8,109 | \$8,109 | \$0 | no change from previous month | \$ 10,850 |
| Total Taxes | \$7,142 | \$7,112 | \$30 | no change from previous month | \$ 4,380 |
| Total Tool Table Expenses | \$4,662 | \$4,096 | \$567 | replish tools | \$ 5,000 |
| Total SDBC Expense | \$65,349 | \$61,453 | | | \$64,270 |
| Net SDBC Income (Loss) | \$49,215 | \$49,972 | | | \$0 |
| Larry Ragle Income | \$44,964 | | | | |
| Larry Ragle Expense | \$1,000 | | | | |
| Larry Ragle Net income | \$43,964 | | | | |
| Net income w/o Larry Ragle | \$5,252 | | | | |

2025 SDBC budget

| INCOME | | EXPENSE | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------|-----------------|
| Safari Park Bonsai Pavilion | \$4,750 | Safari Park Bonsai Pavilion | \$4,750 |
| CD interest | 1,920 | Education | 13,800 |
| Donations | 1,600 | Japanese Friendship Garden | 350 |
| Education | 15,150 | Larry Ragle Scholarships | 2,000 |
| Larry Ragle Scholarship | 1,000 | Library | 120 |
| Membership | 11,000 | Mas Takanashi Grant | 500 |
| Qualcomm grant | 1,500 | Membership | 3,050 |
| Monthly program | 3,000 | Monthly programs | 11,000 |
| Raffle & auction | 8,050 | Newsletter | 2,050 |
| Shows | 12,000 | SDBC club expenses | 7,930 |
| Special projects | 3,000 | Fall show | 1,500 |
| Tool Table sales | 5,600 | Spring show | 3,565 |
| TOTAL INCOME | \$68,570 | Special Projects | 9,350 |
| | | Taxes | 4,605 |
| | | Tool table | 4,000 |
| | | TOTAL EXPENSES | \$68,570 |

Jan. 12, 2025 Club Meeting Minutes: Carla Marasco, Secretary

The meeting was called to order at 10:30 a.m.

President Susan Ronan

- Charlie Mosse has written an article on bonsai for California Garden magazine
- We need new editors for the Bonsai Wire newsletter
- Remember to sign in at the membership table for our meetings
- The Baikoen Bonsai Club has canceled the Winter Silhouettes event due to the closure of the Los Angeles Arboretum because of the devastating wildfires.
- The club's t-shirt orders are in. Please pick them up from the tool table.

Board reports and additional information

- First Vice President (Matt Jillson)
 - Introduced our presenter, Michael Roberts
- Vice President for Special Projects (Phaedra Ehring)
 - Because of the cancellation of the Winter Silhouettes event, those who paid for the bus trip to attend will receive a refund.
 - If you are planning on attending the Bonsai-A-Thon bus trip in February, sign-ups now have now begun. Admission to the Huntington Gardens is included for club members (including self-drivers), Cost to ride the bus is \$40 per person. Pick-up is 7 a.m. at Balboa Park and 7:30 a.m. in Carlsbad. See the club website for details
- Treasurer (Tom Cylkowski)
 - There is approximately \$150,000 in all the club accounts.
- Coordinator of Educational Curriculum (Bob Hale)
 - Upcoming education programs are:
 - January-February-March beginners' class series on Chinese elms is being taught by Carla Marasco. It is sold out.
 - The February beginners' class has been rescheduled to Feb. 9, a week after the regular club meeting.
 - The next beginners' class begins in April. There will be 25 spots available.
 - April workshop: John Jackson will do a root over rock chrysanthemum. There will be 11 spots available.

VP Membership (Cindy Pecile)

- Our membership for 2024 peaked at 689 members. Renewals are still being collected for 2025.

Safari Park (John Jackson)

- Club members volunteer and maintain trees and the garden grounds. To volunteer, you must be a member for at least one year. If interested in volunteering at the park, speak with Mark Edgar and he will get you the started toward becoming eligible.

Presentation by Michael Roberts on creating broom style elms

Jan. 14, 2025 Board Meeting Minutes: Carla Marasco, Secretary

President Susan Ronan called the Zoom meeting to order at 6:42 p.m.

In attendance: Susan Ronan (President), Matt Jillson (First Vice President), Phaedra Ehring (Vice President for Special Projects), Tom Cylkowski (Treasurer), Cindy Pecile (Vice President for Membership) and Carla Marasco (Secretary) **Not attending:** Ignacio De La Torre (Past President), Bill Graham, Vice President for Education.

General Topics

- Welcome to Tom Cylkowski, who is attending his first meeting as treasurer
- Discussion about consideration of money market accounts
- The audio-visual team is asking for an inexpensive laptop. The board will review options available and make a decision on what is needed to run presentations.
- Janice Hale will review the end of the year financial records for 2024
- SDBC's 60th anniversary is approaching and the club will need to form a committee to organize. We are looking to hold an event at the Zoo Safari Park
- We have put in for a room reservation for Oct. 19 when Japanese bonsai master Hiroyoshi Yamaji will be here. We may see if Jonas Dupuich can also attend if he is available

Board reports

Tom Cylkowski (Treasurer)

- The 2025 budget is ready for board review. He is considering separating accounts into three separate budgets to make sure funds are kept in the correct accounts and budgets are accurate for each individually.
- Tax prep is starting for the 2024 year

Matt Jillson (First Vice President)

Upcoming programs and topics are:

- February: Tom Vuong, stages of bonsai development and big bends
- March: Will Baddeley, shari and jin development
- April: Michael Roberts, developing show-worthy trees (Part 2)
- May: Annual Bonsai Pavilion picnic
- June: Cesar Ordoñez, yamadori olive development
- July: California Bonsai Society traveling artist
- August: Michael Roberts, developing show-worthy trees (Part 3)
- End of the year: Eric Schrader

Cindy Pecile (Vice President for Membership)

- Membership renewals started in January and will be considered late as of March 31. Membership must be current to participate in club events.
- There are 300 current members
- A total of 134 members signed in for the January meeting

Phaedra Ehring (Vice President for Special Projects)

- The Bonsai-A-Thon is Feb. 22. Someone will fill in to take final bookings. Deadline is Feb. 9.
- Signups for the Spring Show in April will start at the March meeting
- The upcoming schedule includes our meeting will on April 13, then a bus trip to David & June Nguy's Day of Friendship on April 19. The following weekend is our Spring Show, which will be followed by the Safari Park workday on May 3 (four events in a row)
- The Spring Show will need coverage during Phaedra's absence

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

SDBC Upcoming Meetings and Activities: DATES AND TIMES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE

| Month | Date(s) | Location | Rooms |
|-------------------|----------|-----------------|---------------|
| February meeting | Feb. 2 | Casa del Prado | 101 and 104 |
| March meeting | March 9 | Casa del Prado | 101 and 104 |
| April meeting | April 13 | Casa del Prado | 101 and 104 |
| May meeting | May 4 | Zoo Safari Park | Annual picnic |
| June meeting | June 1 | Casa del Prado | 101 and 104 |
| July meeting | July 13 | Casa del Prado | 101 and 104 |
| August meeting | Aug. 10 | Casa del Prado | 101 and 104 |
| September meeting | Sept. 14 | Casa del Prado | 101 and 104 |
| October meeting | Oct. 19 | TBD | TBD |
| November meeting | Nov. 9 | Casa del Prado | 101 and 104 |
| December meeting | Dec. 14 | Casa del Prado | 101 and 104 |

*SDBC meetings are subject to availability of the rooms in Casa Del Prado. Our preferred date for the second Sunday of each month sometimes conflicts with other clubs show or special event, so we choose an alternative day.

Shows & Sales

Spring show: Setup April 25, show April 26-27

Fall show: Setup Sept. 26, show Sept. 27-28

Bus trips:

Bonsai-a-Thon: Saturday, Feb. 22

Friendship through Bonsai: Saturday, April 19

Japanese Friendship Garden bonsai workdays: Wednesdays; contact Neil Auwarter for volunteer information.

San Diego Zoo Safari Park Bonsai Pavilion workdays: 1st and 3rd Saturdays of the month; contact Mark Edgar for volunteer information.

Statewide events: See the Golden State Bonsai Federation website: <http://www.gsbfbonsai.org/>

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San Diego Bonsai Club Board

| | |
|--------------------|----------------------|
| President: | Susan Ronan |
| 1st Vice President | Matt Jillson |
| Secretary: | Carla Marasco |
| Treasurer: | Tom Cylkowski |

| | |
|----------------------|----------------------------|
| VP Special Projects: | Phaedra Ehring |
| VP Education: | Bill Graham |
| VP Membership: | Cindy Pecile |
| Past President: | Ignacio De La Torre |

Appointed Positions

| | |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| Refreshment Coordinators: | Adrian & Tony Mangina |
| Publicity: | Keith Carter |
| Sunshine Chair: | Susan Baker |
| Librarian & Historian: | Sonya Holmquist |
| Help Corner: | John Voss |
| Tool Sales Managers: | Brenda Myers Jake Shaver |
| You Tube: Photographer: | Carla Marasco |
| Audio Visual: | Michael Bird |
| Webmaster: | Janice Hale |
| Coordinator of Education Curriculum: | Bob Hale |
| The Bonsai Wire Editors: | Sally Dischinger Steve Dischinger |

Japanese Friendship Garden

| | |
|-----------------|---------------------------|
| Bonsai Curator: | Neil Auwarter |
| Liaison: | Barbara French-Lee |

Japanese Friendship Garden bonsai workdays: Wednesdays; contact Neil Auwarter for volunteer information

Safari Park Bonsai Pavilion

| | |
|--------------------|----------------------|
| Curator: | John Jackson |
| Assistant Curator: | Dennis Wagner |
| Liaison: | Mark Edgar |

San Diego Zoo Safari Park Bonsai Pavilion workdays: 1st and 3rd Saturdays of the month; contact Mark Edgar for volunteer information

See the [club website](#) for contact information.



February
2025
The Bonsai Wire

San Diego Bonsai Club
P.O. Box 86037
San Diego 92138

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