

The Bonsai Wire

Volume 41, Issue 5

June, 2015



Message from the President

It was an outstanding San Diego Bonsai Club 50-year celebration and Spring Show. The 50-year celebration was a great milestone for our club—with numerous members involved. From set-up to tear-down and activities in between and those behind the scenes, Club members selflessly gave their time and resources for the benefit of San Diego Bonsai Club. We had long-time members and new members working together with an abundance of smiles along the way. Some of the activities were tiring, but we managed to make it interesting and fun. Our guests from other bonsai clubs—from north, east, and south of us—praised the wonderful 50-year celebration.

We have had other events during the last two months, in which our Club members participated: Garden Party of the Century in Balboa Park, Silent Auction in Safari Park, and Asian Pacific Islander event in the VA Hospital in La Jolla. On behalf of the Board of Directors, thank you for all your hard work and donations, and your continued support and dedication to San Diego Bonsai Club. The names of all hard-working members are not listed to ensure no one is left out. You know who you are, and I tip my hat off to all of you. Great job and well done!

Announcements

Our San Diego County Fair committee has been working in the planning and building another winning booth—with beautiful display items from our members. SDBC booth and bonsai competition watering crew is in place and will maintain bonsai display in good order.

Congratulations to all who entered this year's bonsai competition at this year's "A Fair To Remember." If you are at the Fair, make sure to visit the bonsai area and enjoy the exhibits.

Wednesday, June 17th is "Bonsai Day" at the Fair. Two of our members will make bonsai presentations in the Flower and Garden Show area: Glenn Jensen at 1:00 p.m. and Abe Far at 3:00 p.m. We also will have volunteers present at the SDBC booth from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. to display and work on bonsai and answer questions.

Our meeting this month will be Sunday, June 28th in room 101 instead of our normal meeting date. Please mark your calendars and plan ahead.

Dan Sola, President

This Month's Program

For this month's program Bob Hale will be presenting Cork Bark Oak (*Quercus suber*), one of the great underrated species of bonsai. These trees tend to form massive trunks with rough textured bark. They are easy to grow and style, back budding and leafing out vigorously during the growing season. The species of oak most suitable for bonsai are not native to Japan, which may explain why Oaks have not been a traditional species of tree for bonsai.

The tradition of using oaks for bonsai actually originated here in California in the 1950s. Living in California we have all grown up with oaks and can appreciate their strength, resilience, and incredible beauty.



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San Diego Bonsai Club Website
www.sandiegobonsaiclub.com

Spring Show Thank You

I want to thank all the members of the SDBC for their support and assistance with the Spring Bonsai Show. In my opinion, it was a fantastic display of member's talents and passion for bonsai. From beginners to undeniable masters, the trees were distinguished, artistic, and breathtaking! As a 50 year old club, we have carried the vision created by the founders to the public and honored the art of bonsai here in southern California.

My extreme gratitude to all of you who contributed in some way to the success of the show. It is easy to forget why we participate at this level, and these shows remind us of the beauty we are learning to create.

My special gratitude to Sonya for all her help. She was a rock of support, can do spirit and energy. This club is very lucky to have her inspiration and passion. It is an important part, saying thank you, that keeps workers coming back to help again when we do it. Thank you,

Gary Jones, Bonsai Show Coordinator

50 Years of
Cultivating the
Art of Bonsai In
San Diego



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Beginning Class: In the next beginning class, the second of the Olive series, Martha Choy will be teaching style development and wiring of your Olive (*Olea europaea*). Again note that we meet **June 28th** and in July we have the third beginning class, and this will be the class where you pot up your tree. The class is in Room 104.

At the June meeting there will be sign-up sheets available for the last series of Beginning Bonsai Classes beginning in August. The class includes a book, shears, soil, pot, and a tree (several varieties of Juniper). Gary Jones will be the teacher for this class; he makes it fun and interesting. Cost is \$40.

In Room 101 there is help available to all Club members who want to ask for advice on one of their bonsai trees. The area is located in the back of Room 101 to the right of the stage.

June Workshop: Cindy Read will once again give a workshop on large boxwoods (*Buxus*). They make great bonsai material, and Cindy is an expert with boxwood. There is still room in the class. Cost \$50.

July Workshop: Shirley Kavanaugh will lead a workshop on Tray Landscape. She is the master of little trees. This workshop is filled, but if you haven't paid for the workshop yet you need to do so immediately as only people who have paid have a confirmed spot. Please go online to pay for the class. Cost is \$50.

Barbara French-Lee, VP Education

Shohin Study Group

On May 19, a small group of Shohin Study Group members went to the LA area in search of shohin stock and instructors for the Group. Success! First we stopped at Fuji Bonsai Nursery. Roy, the owner, had a lot of larger stock but also had a good inventory of potential shohin plants. Afterwards we went to the home of Peter Macasieb, who has assisted Harry Hirao in past demonstrations. Peter has developed a tremendous collection and is a sought-after shohin instructor. We have him onboard as an instructor. He will augment the expert shohin instruction of Ted Matson, who will be our guest instructor at the August Shohin Study Group meeting.

The Shohin Study Group will next meet on June 14th at the home of Abe and Cristina Far. Glenn Jensen will be the instructor as we continue styling our trees. Contact me at smosse@cox.net if you want to join in.

Charlie Mosse, Club Member

April Beginning Class



Spring Bonsai Show – Exhibits and Demonstrations



SDBC Booth at Balboa Park Garden Party



Presentation at Asian-Pacific Islander event





San Diego Bonsai Club

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Members
May 17, 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. at the Bonsai Pavilion in Safari Park by Dan Sola, President. It was confirmed that a quorum was present.
- 2. Approval of Minutes:** The minutes from the April 12, 2015 meeting were approved as published.
- 3. Sonya Holmquist, VP for Membership:** We acquired 30 new members during the Spring Show.
- 4. Board Member Reports:**
 - Bob Hale 1st Vice president,** reported: In June will be Cork Oak; in July Abe Far will discuss fertilizer, PH, soil. In August, we will have Thomas Elias President of BCI; in September Al Nelson will demonstrate on Oak; October we will have our SDBC Poway Picnic. In November, we still need to schedule a presentation; in December, we will have our Christmas Party and bonsai competition.
 - Peter Chong, Treasurer,** reported: Spring Show net was \$6,999.
 - Barbara French-Lee, Vice President, Education,** reported: In June, Cindy Read will conduct a workshop with Boxwood, and in July Shirley Kavanaugh will conduct a workshop on Tray Landscape. Our booth in San Diego County Fair will be recreating the Tea Garden that was in Balboa Park in 1915 and displaying bonsai of the trees that were in the Park in 1915.
 - Janice Hale, Special Projects:** Gave a thank you Gary Jones for chairing the Spring Show and Sonya Holmquist for all the hard work with the 50th Anniversary. A nursery trip is in the works for Fuji and Dave and June Ngyu's place and also Neisi Week in August.
- 5. Appointed Position Reports:**
 - John Jackson, Safari Park Pavilion Curator;** reported: Thanks to the volunteers, and Al Nelson donated an Oak Tree that was dug up in 1991.
 - lyn' Stevenson, Safari park Liaison:** This is our 4th year Anniversary of the Opening of the Pavilion at the Safari Park. It took 10 years of planning; we have done much work and have more to do.
 - Glenn Jensen, JFG Curator;** The collection at the Japanese Friendship Garden is small but looking good; there are currently six people who volunteer.
- 6. Old Business:** none
- 7. New Business:** June 28, 2015 will be our next SDBC meeting.
- 8. Announcements: President Dan Sola** announced: Thanks to 'lyn for making the arrangements with the Safari Park. Thanks to everyone who helped with our 50th Anniversary Spring Show; it was a remarkable event. Thanks to Sonya Holmquist for all the hard work on the Garden Party held in Balboa Park on May 9, 2015. June 17, 2015 will be Bonsai Day at the SD County Fair: 11 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. SDBC will have the information booth; Glenn Jensen will demonstrate at 1:00pm; and Abe Far will demonstrate at 3:00 p.m.
- 9. Program:** At 11:00 a.m., First VP, Bob Hale conducted SDBC's silent auction fund-raising.
- 10. Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, *Brenda Crann* Secretary

Japanese Friendship Garden (JFG)

The bonsai collection at the JFG continues to improve under the leadership of Curator Glenn Jensen. Recently, Lisa Barlett, daughter of Drs. Margaret and Nathan Carl, donated two of their trees to the collection at the JFG - a Chinese Hackberry and a Prostrata Juniper, as well as, a large cascade pot. The pot was immediately used to repot a cascade juniper donated by the Cho family. The Carls were students of John Naka, so his hands were likely on these trees. Glenn loaned his beautiful azalea to the Garden and it has been very happy there blooming continually for over a month and still going. Thanks to the volunteers who have helped this month: **Trisha Bonapace, Charlie Mosse, Julia Chow, Nancy Wilson-Ramon and Warren Tam.** A small but dedicated group.

Barbara French-Lee, Liaison to JFG





Maude Laracy is one of those members we are always delighted to see. In a couple of years, she will reach that 100 year milestone, and you would never know because she is so full of energy, enthusiasm, feistiness, and curiosity. She lights up the room.

Maude was there at the beginning in 1965 when the

Club was formed. She saw the advertisement in the newspaper and even though she didn't know why, she knew she was fascinated by bonsai and decided to join.

Maude met Mas Takanashi who asked her what type of bonsai she would like to work on. Maude replied "cascade" though she says, "I had no idea where that came from but I thought they were beautiful!" Mas brought out a cascade for her and went off to other beginners. Maude says she cut off the tip. When Mas came back around and asked her why she did that, she said she had no idea. That was her dubious beginning.

Maude accumulated a few trees and showed them in the club's shows. But in the early seventies, Maude's family gave her a potter's wheel and she was off on a tangent journey, away from the club and into pottery.

In the early nineties, Maude met Marie Schwalbach, an artist, and as they talked, Marie said she belonged to the SDBC. "My goodness", said Maude, "I used to belong to that club years ago!" Marie convinced her to come back.

Maude says she has worked with Mas Takanashi, and Fred Miyahara and the Shohin group. She and Marie worked with Stan Childs, who she exclaims, "He had wonderful trees! He was so talented."

Maude says she is inspired to see the new members taking on the service positions in the club as elder members are slowing down. She finds the Safari Park to be an amazing example of passing on the knowledge of bonsai to newer members and the public.

One of the things that moves Maude is the many hugs she receives when she comes to club activities as people love to see her. She reflects that as time goes by, she has fewer long-time friends as many have passed away and it makes her sad. But, she says, "New friends are made and old friends still contact her everyday"! It is one of the blessings of this club.

Gary Jones, Bonsai Show Coordinator

Where is the heat? Last year, the Santa Ana winds were drying the plants; this year, Spring has been dominated by May gray (and June gloom?). Pay attention to the trends in the weather to meet your bonsai's needs.

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. If nature or the bonsaiist removes this leading bud (at the tree top or branch end), 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. Lateral growth develops twiggyness and the intricate quality of design that makes a mature bonsai compact, small and bushy.

Consider the light conditions of each tree. Keep all trees evenly exposed to the warming rays of sunshine and stronger light. Develop a habit of turning each tree on the bench frequently. Be particularly watchful of trees that are backed by a light wall or fence. Strong light reflection can induce excess back growth or, in certain conditions, will burn young growth due to reflected heat. Keeping material in a sheltered or shaded area produces lanky and weak growth, but protects deciduous trees from burning if the weather becomes unusually warm. Conversely, conifers and junipers thrive in a well-lighted area and produce firmer, greener foliage. Compensate for the benefits of good light condition by adjusting the watering schedules.

As the weather improves, the growth of the undesirable population of aphids, green flies, spider mites, white flies and scale increases. If Junipers appear to be yellowing or looking sickly, suspect spider mites. In Pines, if there is evidence of a white woolly substance in the interior of the tree, suspect borers. Insects suck plant juices and cause considerable damage. Mites are quite small and can be easily discovered by shaking a branch over a white surface and watching the tiny red spots move. Be attentive to regular application of insecticides and miticides. Apply Malathion for insects or, if you have other insecticides that you have used in the past, please read the labels. Warm weather increases the productivity of various fungus infections. Use general-purpose fungicides to avoid damage from mildew and leaf spot. A drop or two of a mild soap solution or other wetting agents in the formula improves effectiveness. Enjoy the summer!

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

San Diego Bonsai Club Pavilion at the Safari Park

It has been a beautiful, busy spring thus far for the volunteers at the Safari Park Bonsai Pavilion. Volunteers in April and May included: **Neil Auwarter, Susan Baker, Julia Chow, Peter Choy, Cathy & Mark Edgar, Jeff Gerringer, Bob & Janice Hale, Sonya Holmquist, Curator John Jackson, Jaya Kaelberer, Jim & Sue Kirchmer, Lin Koelmel, Charlie Mosse, Janie & Ron Ogdon, Janet & Ron Palmer, Marcella Perez, Jon & Terri Petrescu, Sally Prestele, Harlan & Mary Ann Price, Dan Sola, 'Ilyn Stevenson, Charlie Tamm, John Voss, Dennis Wagner, Mark Walters, Dave Woodall and Roger Ziegelman.** Delicious goodies were provided by Janice, Cathy, John, 'Ilyn, Janet, Jaya, Marcella, Mary Ann, and Charlie.



Springtime projects included purchasing and spreading new bark, peeler polls, and gravel throughout the garden and extensive trimming of the garden plants along with special bonsai maintenance. Bonsai are often moved around in the Pavilion for better sun or shade locations. The volunteers put in extra hours so that the Pavilion was in pristine condition for the May SDBC meeting, picnic, and silent auction.

This was the first year to host the SDBC meeting in the Pavilion for this celebration instead of using the Park's Kapanda Pavilion, and everyone enjoyed this venue and the ideal weather. The Park's Horticulture Department helped with tables, chairs, and umbrellas which fit comfortably for the 100+ attendees. SDBC's microphone and banners were most helpful. The silent auction was a complete and profitable sell-out success! Many thanks to all who donated items, purchased bonsais, books, and other materials.

Celebrating the Bonsai Pavilion's fourth anniversary



has been gratifying and enjoyable for the SDBC, all the Safari Park guests, and especially for the dedicated cadre of bonsai volunteers. Much has been accomplished in these four years+ with other projects in the planning stages, but the main thrust of improving and enhancing the bonsai collection has remained paramount to the volunteers and SDBC. Many new bonsais have been added to the original collection that was started over 25 years ago in a much smaller area below the current location in the Safari Park.

On June 20th, we will again have a special introductory bonsai demonstration program for Park visitors in the Pavilion, similar to the program we had inaugurated in April. At the request of the Safari Park, we will also host a third program in October.

'Ilyn Stevenson, SDBC-Safari Park Liaison

The Safari Park Bonsai Pavilion recently received this magnificent coast live oak as a donation from Al Nelson. This oak was collected by Al about 1993 near Lompoc, CA. Al was clearly sad to see this tree leave his collection, but he was very happy that it was going to Safari Park and would be cared for by his long-time friend, John Jackson.



Al spent many years learning to care for collected oaks and he provided detailed instructions on the care of this tree. Al strongly emphasized that it must be repotted every two years and certainly not more than three years; otherwise, the tree will become unhappy with us. We also need to be sure that the tree gets lots of water so we installed six sprinkler heads in the pot in hopes of satisfying this tree's requirements. Al plans to present a coast live oak demonstration in September at the SDBC bonsai meeting where he will cover all aspects of coast live oaks.

Mark Edgar, Club Member

New Members

Please welcome our many new members: **Rick Adams, Maria Barbosa, Michael Shelly, Kevin & Ana Stann, Barbara and Daniel Paicopulos, Roy & Sumi Brown, Mike & Jacquie Bernard, Kelcey & Naomi Dennis, Lance Griffith, Brian Johnson, Wesley Haslett, Kody Kirk, Evan Mondragon, Don Rader, Valerie Raymond, Barry Altshule, David Cleesattle, Trevor Cornwell, Omar & Nina DeCastro, Jerry & Penny McGee, James & Judylynn Pelling, Veronica & Jim Perondi, Dick Ryerson, Steven Valdez, Steve Perry, Thalia Villasenor, Benjamin & Malynda Clair, Helen Roux, Carlos Chavarria, Alison Haas, Don and Yi KearnsNami Suemori, Yoichiro Sumori, and Marybeth Sciarretta.**

A note to new members who requested a mentor, stop by the membership table if you have not yet made a connection with your mentor. Also, note that you can be a silent observer in the beginning class, workshops or skills classes from 8:30am to 10:15am on Club meeting days.

Sonya Holmquist, VP of Membership

Refreshments

Thank you to the following members for bringing refreshments to the April meeting: **Charlie Mosse, Dennis Wagner, Mark and Cathy Edgar, Gary Jones, Tricia Bonapace, Shirley Kavanaugh, Susan Baker, Julia Chow, Janice Hale, and 'lyn Stevenson.**

SDBC Benefit Drawing

Thank you to the following for your donations to the April meeting benefit drawing: **'lyn Stevenson, Shirley Kavanaugh, Eric Jacobson, Harlan and Mary Ann Price, Aisha Colak, Dennis Wagner, Scott Flack, Charlie Mosse, Dan Sola, Janice Hale, and Ken Bross.**

Special Events

San Diego County Fair Bonsai Exhibit

If you are at the Fair, stop by and see the San Diego Bonsai Club booth. The booth is dedicated to the 1915 Panama-California Exposition in Balboa Park, giving viewers a glimpse of the Japanese Tea Pavilion at the Exposition, which included bonsai. The booth also has an exhibit of miniaturized versions of trees that were in Balboa Park in 1915, including pictures of trees that are still



standing. The SDBC booth is also next to the bonsai competition booth where many members have bonsai and tray landscapes entered into the competition.

Wednesday, June 17 has been designated "Bonsai Day" at the Fair. Glenn Jensen and Abe Far will be giving demonstrations at 1 pm and 3 pm, respectively. We will need volunteers to be present at the SDBC booth from 11 am to 5 pm to work on bonsai and courteously answer questions of the general public. Please contact Barb French-Lee (email: barblee@hotmail.com) if you would like to volunteer to help man the booth.

Southern California Area Bonsai Show

Descanso Bonsai Society will hold its 46th Annual Bonsai Show on Saturday, June 13th and Sunday, June 14th at the Descanso Gardens at 1418 Descanso Drive, La Cañada Flintridge, California. The club will host a reception on Saturday night from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. with a raffle at 8:00 p.m. A large selection of trees, pots, plants and bonsai related items will be for sale.

SDBC Website

The Bonsai Wire newsletter is restricted on space, so many articles and pictures only scratch the surface of the information available. Much more detail can usually be found on the SDBC website. For example, a complete set of pictures from the Spring Show can be found on the club website. Also, in the blog session of the website, Charlie Mosse has a much more complete description of his Shohin plant and instructor search trip to Los Angeles and the activities of the Shohin Group in general.

The SDBC website also keeps you informed about the activities of the Golden State Bonsai Federation (GSBF). By being members of the San Diego Bonsai Club, we are also members of GSBF. The website includes a link to the quarterly newsletter of the GSBF Huntington Gardens collection, GSBF bonsai study opportunities like the Harry Hirao Annual Scholarship (applications which are due July 15th), and the GSBF annual convention (there will be information on the GSBF convention starting in August).

www.sandiegobonsaiclub.com

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

San Diego Bonsai Club Calendar of Events

June 5 Friday to July 5, Sunday

San Diego County Fair—Bonsai Exhibit

June 13 Saturday and June 14, Sunday

Descanso Bonsai Club Show

June 14th, Sunday

Shohin Group Meeting

June 17, Wednesday

Bonsai Day at the San Diego County Fair

June 20, Saturday

SDBC Workday at Safari Park , 9 am to 12 pm

June 28th, Sunday

Club Meeting

July 4th(tentative) Saturday and July 18th, Saturday

SDBC Workday at Safari Park , 9 am to 12 pm

July 12th Sunday

Club Meeting

August 9th Sunday

Club Meeting

Sunday, June 28, 2015
 Balboa Park, Room 101
 Casa Del Prado

Meeting Agenda

Time	Activity	Room
08:30– 10:20	Beginning Class	104
08:30– 10:20	Boxwood Workshop	101
09:00 - 10:20	Get Help w/ your Bonsai	101
09:30– 10:20	Library Open	104
10:30-11:00	Business Meeting	101
11:00-12:30	Demonstration	101
12:30	Lunch	101
12:45	Benefit Drawing	101



Next Club Meeting is Sunday, June 28th, not the normal meeting date, so mark your calendars