

The Bonsai Wire

Volume 40, Issue 6

July, 2014



Message from the President

Thank you to Lindsay Shiba for his excellent presentation on how to display bonsai at the June meeting. And yes, Dr. David Choy reported a record of 45 new members. Outstanding!

Congratulations to our Fair committee—led by Barbara French-Lee. Our bonsai booth won **FIRST** place and Award of Merit. Also congratulations to the following bonsai winners with numerous prizes: John Jackson including “Best of the Fair,” Shirley Kavanaugh, and Dave Woodall.

Last month, volunteers kept SDBC moving forward—County Fair, Bonsai Pavilion, Japanese Friendship garden, classes, and others. Volunteerism. This term may not be part of the art of bonsai, but it is a big part of SDBC’s operation. After reading *No Easy Day* by Mark Owen, a team leader of “Operation Neptune Spear,” which ended the life of Osama bin Laden, this excerpt caught my attention: “I’ve been asked a question: I am not a SEAL and probably couldn’t do it if I tried, but what can I do to help?” One of the author’s answers, “Don’t just live, but live for a purpose bigger than yourself. Be an asset to your

family, community, and country.” He is referring to volunteering for a worthy cause.

SDBC has and continues to need volunteers in areas mentioned above and our big events: semi-annual shows, Poway picnic, and Safari Park picnic. I would like to encourage the newer faces among us to put in some time in any of our events. There are a lot that require no special skills, for example the set up and tear down of semi-annual shows. We also have easy tasks on the kitchen crew, security, sales, and many others. Please watch for volunteer sign-up sheets before our events. Being on the sidelines may be fun while watching a game; but in our SDBC operation, it is more fun to be actively involved.

Announcement...

Our revised by-laws will be presented to SDBC members for a vote on Sunday, July 13, 2014.

Dan Sola, President

This Month’s Program

For our July program, Jim Barrett will be demonstrating the “slab method” of hand-building a bonsai pot. With this technique, the clay is worked by hand using only simple tools without the use of a pottery wheel. Pots can be constructed simply and with a minimum of effort. In the slab method, clay is rolled to a certain thickness and pieces are cut out according to selected patterns and are then joined with thick slip pasting and coil “snakes.” The pieces (slabs) may be flat, or may be curved prior to slip pasting. Pots made by this method can be further varied by the addition of ornaments, coil pieces, or hand modeling. This technique is effective for building pots with flat or single curve surfaces such as square or rectangular shaped pots.

Jim Barrett is an elder statesman of bonsai in southern California and frequent visitor to the SDBC, but if you are new to the club, see Jim’s bio on page 7.

Bob Hale, 1st VP



Jim
Barrett
On Slab
Pot-Making

Inside this Edition

President's Message	p1
July Program	p1
Editors Note	p2
Club Officer Information	p2
Education Report	p3
June Meeting Report	p3
Club Meeting Minutes	p4
Bonsai Ideas	p5
SDBC Fair Booth Pictures	p5
SDBC Pavilion	p6
Membership Updates	p7
Refreshments and Benefits Updates	p7
Announcements	p7
Calendar of Events	p8
Meeting Agenda	p8

San Diego Bonsai Club Website
www.sandiegobonsaiclub.com

Editor's Note

As I was sitting in a rocking chair sipping ice tea and looking at my bonsai, I did as Marty Mann suggested, I sat back and appreciated them - some for their age and beauty, some for the transformation from nursery stock to bonsai, some evoking memories of places visited, and my olive that reminded me of Big Dave. Enjoy your bonsai!

Dave Barker,
TBW editor

p.s. We are still working on the email distribution problems related to web-based email security changes. If somebody you know does not receive their newsletter via email, tell them it is available on the SDBC website and have them let me know at the July meeting.

Enjoy Bonsai
- Learn More



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Beginning Class

This is the third and final session of the boxwood class. It is an interesting session as the tree you have been caring for and working on for the past several months will now begin to look like a real bonsai as you do your final trimming, wiring, and then placing it in a bonsai style pot.

NEW BEGINNING CLASS IN AUGUST. Gary Jones will be teaching this class using Junipers. A great opportunity to work on some good plant material.

Upcoming Workshops

JULY BASIC SKILLS WORKSHOP. Ken Bross will be discussing and demonstrating repotting trees. Bring a tree that you need some help with and a pot. If you have your own soil mix you can bring that or we will have soil for you to purchase. Cost of the workshop is \$10.

AUGUST WORKSHOP. The LARGE OAK WORKSHOP with John Jackson has reached its maximum and is closed.

SEPTEMBER BASIC SKILLS WORKSHOP. Dan Sola will be teaching air-layering. Bring your own tree to air-layer. This is a great propagation technique for developing new material from a tree or species that you want to reproduce. All materials will be provided. Cost: \$15.

FOLLOW-UP. It is time to check on the following trees; January 2014 class with Elms with 'lyn Stevenson and Pines with Fred Miyahara. These follow-up sessions were delayed one month because of the crowded room situation in June. Also bring any trees you have concerns about as we have many knowledgeable people available at the Bonsai Help area. Look for the sign in the back of Room 101 to the right of the stage.

FUTURE WORKSHOPS AND BASIC SKILLS. Many great beginning classes, workshops and basic skills have been planned for 2015 but I would like any suggestions you have for our classes and workshops/basic skills. Please call me, email me or tell me at the meetings. I look forward to your suggestions. Although it is only July, I begin finalizing plans for next year starting now to have them in place by the end of the year.

Barbara French-Lee, VP Education

A big thank you to Eric Jacobson, Barbara French-Lee, Allan Edwin, and Gary Jones for helping with the Education Program trees. We transplanted 95 small trees into larger pots, trimmed/pinched 125 trees and rotated about 50 trees over two work days.

Charlie Moss



Gary, Barbara, and Eric working on education program trees

June Program Review

Lindsay Shiba led a spirited discussion on showing bonsai. Bonsai are shown isolated from other bonsai, to help you clarify the picture of the tree. In a formal setting, either in a Tokonoma or in an exhibit, a bonsai may be shown with some other object to complement it and add to the overall impression of a tree in a landscape. The other object may be either a Suiseki (viewing stone), or an accent plant (a small plant in a pot), or some other ornament relevant to the time of year.

Contrast and simplicity are most important to a display. There should be contrast between the bonsai and accent stands, contrast between the bonsai and accent pots (perhaps a glazed and unglazed pot), and contrast between the bonsai and accent plant foliage. The focus of the display should be towards the center of the table. The foliage line of the bonsai should point to the accent piece and the accent piece should point towards the bonsai. When showing small or medium trees on a large table, a three point display can be implemented. In this configuration, the medium tree would be located on one side of the table and the small tree and accent grouped together on the other side of the table.

Club members provided critiques of a series of bonsai displays photos and had fun arranging a number of displays with various trees, stands, and accents provided by Lindsay, John Jackson and Cathy and Mark Edgar. Let's look forward to applying the lessons learned with Lindsay at our next show!

Bob Hale,
1st VP





San Diego Bonsai Club

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Members
June 8, 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 May 3, 2013 meeting were approved as published.
- 3) President's Remarks: Welcomed Terri and Jon Petrescu from Sedona, Az; welcomed Maude Laracy! reported that the Safari Park had a very good auction; thanked volunteers at Japanese Friendship Garden and Safari Park; thanks to the Fair booth committee - Barbara French-Lee (Chairperson), Sonya Holmquist, Brenda Crann, Janice Hale, Dan Sola, Mark Edgar, and adjunct members Dennis Wagner, Bob Hale, Charlie Mosse, and John Jackson.
- 4) Admission of New Members by David Choy, VP for Membership: the Club set a record by signing up 45 new members since the April show and sales.
- 5) Board Member Reports:
 - Bob Hale, 1st VP, reported: Lindsey Shiba will give a presentation on bonsai display today; a pot making demonstration by Jim Barrett is planned for July; August will feature Gary Jones' Monterey Cypress demo; really miniature bonsai will be presented by Shirley Kavanaugh in September; and October is the Club picnic at Lake Poway.
 - Allan Edwin, Treasurer, reported: Receipts from the April show were \$8,400, including \$1,000 from the auction and \$500 in donations; total balance in the Club and Pavilion accounts is \$22,000; expenses look good.
 - Barbara French-Lee, VP Education, reported: the Club won first place for the Fair Booth!! Also, the booth won a Merit Award, and John Jackson's Pomegranate won Best Container Plant. John also won Best of Show Bonsai; Shirley Kavanaugh won a bunch of ribbons and Dave Woodall won ribbons as well; the next beginner's class starts in August with Gary Jones as the instructor (Big Dave junipers); Ken Bross will hold a repotting workshop in July (cost \$10); the August workshop is old oaks with John Jackson (\$50); the club is working on a new contract with the Japanese Friendship Garden; please note the new pine (from Big Dave) at the Japanese Friendship Garden, which was donated by the Board.
 - Janice Hale, VP Special Projects, reported: the trip to the Bonsai shows June 15 was cancelled; a new trip planned for July 26th to Fuji Bonsai Nursery, San Gabriel Nursery, Green Product Sales (pots) and perhaps Lindsey Shiba's Mt. Fuji Garden Center (\$40/person) – must have 24 people for a big bus; a bonsai swap meet is planned for Jesse Owen's Park on June 29th starting at 10 am.
- 6) Appointed Positions Reports: John Jackson, Safari Park Bonsai Pavilion Curator, reported: thanks to all the volunteers; new backdrops behind some of the bonsai display tables are almost done; the waterfall is running better; see 'lyn Stevenson if you would like to volunteer at the Pavilion.
- 7) Old Business: none
- 8) New Business: none
- 9) Announcements: SDBC By-laws have been updated and are on the Club's website; please review the By-laws; the Membership will vote on the By-laws in July; awards for displaying a bonsai for the first time were given to Barbara French-Lee, Dan Sola, Cathy Edgar, Brenda Crann, Nelson Cortes, and Mark Edgar. Mark Edgar thanked Fred Miyahara, John Voss, Barbara French-Lee, and John Jackson for lending pots to the Club's Fair display booth.
- 10) June 2014 Program: Bob Hale introduced presenter Lindsay Shiba who showed how to display bonsai.
- 11) Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 12:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Mark Edgar for Brenda Crann, Secretary

Bonsai Ideas by Marty Mann

SUMMER SUNSHINE MEANS SLOWER GROWTH, TIME TO THINK, PLAN, AND CARE FOR YOUR TREES

The summer months of July and August bring a period of slow growth and relatively inactive changes in bonsai. However, it should be remembered that the trunk and branches continue to swell and develop. Watch the wires applied in spring in order to prevent unsightly and destructive cuts.

Watch for the threat of damage from hot summer sun and drying winds. Remember how sensitive your leafy deciduous trees can be (Maple, Hornbeam, Liquid Amber, Zelkova, Beech and Elm as well as Wisteria and Willows). Water all of your trees diligently. Feeding in the summertime means lower nitrogen. There is no point in encouraging heavy green foliage growth. Use a formula lower in nitrogen and higher in phosphorus and potash to encourage good rootage and better fall colors. Yellow color and leaf drop may indicate trees need some nitrogen or iron. This condition may also be an indication of over watering or poor drainage.

It is too late and risky to leaf prune in the hot summer months. If you wish, you can do selective pruning of large leaves, burnt leaves and the obvious unwanted elongated branches and crossing branches. Continue regular pinching of new growing tips prevents excessively long internodes.

Keep your pots from getting too hot. Roots are easily damaged by excessive heat. Potted trees build up considerable heat and a lack of moisture allows fine roots to dry. During this period it's a good practice to water less but more often to replace the expiration of moisture by drying winds on leaf surfaces. Be sure your soil stays damp at all times. Keep the humidity high and the air moving around all of your trees. Resist the tendency to overwater when you see the signs of distress in the form of wilt or needle drop. Test the soil regularly to be sure it is actually drying out before you arbitrarily soak it again. Daytime water adhering to leaves can literally cook them and cause severe leaf burn. If overhead watering is unavoidable, do so early in the morning to give time for surface evaporation.

Be reminded that summer vacationing puts an additional burden on your 'bonsai sitters'. Try forming a mutual watering pact with fellow bonsaiists. You do for them when you can and they will do for you. It's a great working arrangement and considerably safer than trusting your 'babies' to strangers. Do you have an automatic watering system? When is the last time it failed? Don't

trust your automatic watering system without the back-up of someone who can check from time to time to audit its functions.

Summer is the most wonderful time to enjoy mature bonsai when they are at the peak of their growing season and the showiest in their fine foliage. Remember, not too much hot sun and hot wind. Just sit back. Appreciate them while you can.

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

SDBC Fair Booth in Pictures



San Diego Bonsai Club Pavilion at the Safari Park

Many thanks always to the dedicated SDBC members who have volunteered their time and talent to making sure that the Bonsai Pavilion at Safari Park is a most beautiful and tranquil garden. Visitors are most complimentary as they visit and are amazed that the Pavilion is completely maintained by volunteers. June volunteers included: **Roger Ziegelman, Dave Woodall, Mark Walters, Dennis Wagner, John Voss, Chas Tamm, Ilyn Stevenson, Dan Sola, Harlan & Mary Ann Price, Sally Prestele, Jon & Terri Petrescu, Janet & Ron Palmer, Janie & Ron Ogdon, Tina Flores, Jim & Susan Kirchmer, Jaya Kaelberer, John Jackson, Sonya Holmquist, Jeff Geringer, Bob & Janice Hale, Cathy & Mark Edgar, Julia Chow, Alan Burrows, Ken Bross, Susan Baker, and Neil Auwarter.**

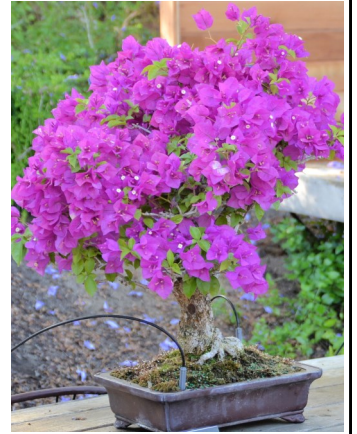
June projects beyond our usual maintenance included the construction and installation of several back boards on the hill side of the Pavilion behind the display tables. This was a capital expense that has truly enhanced that side of the Pavilion and now provides a much better viewing of those special bonsai. Special thanks to Curator John, Dennis Wagner, and Jim and Susan Kirchmer who took charge of the project and to the many volunteers who also provided their construction skills.



Volunteers are at the Pavilion on the regular first and third Saturday workdays of each month but several also come in on other days to clean the ponds, rake the paths, trim trees, stain the new wood, photograph the bonsai, etc. Some volunteers also are very generous with their culinary talents and share special homemade treats for everyone on a regular basis. These incredible and generous donations from the volunteers certainly have made this SDBC project most successful and enjoyable for all. We can never say THANK YOU enough!

This past month, Dennis shared his pine pruning and de-candling expertise with many of our newer volunteers. We have several pine bonsai in the collection but we also have many in-ground pines which are always in need of attention. Newer Bonsai techniques are helpful for all of us as we pursue this bonsai art and helping each other learn at the Pavilion is another great perk!

Since the SDBC is participating at the San Diego Fair this month, we have loaned a beautiful flowering bougainvillea bonsai from the Pavilion collection for exhibit in the SDBC booth. We want to congratulate our SDBC members and our volunteers who have also participated at the Fair. Many special awards and ribbons were awarded to those volunteers with their personal entries too. Wonderful news for all!



Ilyn Stevenson, SDBC - Safari Park Liaison



New Members

Please welcome our new members:

Robert Jerskey, Darren Mullinson, Tim Garcia, Taylor Christensen, Alegria Moreno-Armenta, Logan Ames, Arun Vijayshankar, Brent Scaletta, Romulo Gancungco, and Sheila Alfaro

David Choy, VP of Membership

Refreshments

Many thanks to the folks that brought refreshments to the June meeting. The members bringing refreshments included: **Ruth and Marty Mann, Joan Holliday, Meg Polo, Sonya Holmquist, Marcella Perez, Janice Hale, and Harry Espermaur.**

Sonya Holmquist and Meg Polo, Food Coordinators

Benefit Drawing

A big thank you to the folks that brought in items for the raffle table to the June meeting: **Charlie Mosse, Dan Sola, Abe and Christina Far, Shirley Kavanaugh, Lyn Stevenson, and Marty Mann.**

AmazonSmile

Club member Eric Jacobson noticed that Amazon has a program to support non-profit organizations. He and I obtained a listing for the San Diego Bonsai Club so that if any club member (or friend) buy from Amazon via AmazonSmile and designate the club, the club will receive a donation of 0.5% of eligible purchases. There is no fee or cost to the buyer or the club.

AmazonSmile is the same as Amazon - same products, same prices, same service. Amazon will donate 0.5% of the price of eligible AmazonSmile purchases to SDBC whenever the shopper purchases on AmazonSmile and designates SDBC. A win-win!

There is a link on the SDBC website to AmazonSmile with a more complete description of the program.

Allan Edwin, Treasurer

Jim Barrett (continued)

Always interested in ceramics, Jim Barrett has for the past three decades been making bonsai pots. His pots are always in demand at the SDBC Bonsai shows and many of us have the privilege of owning one of his pots. Jim has been a featured speaker at many conventions and has been the past president of Bonsai Clubs International, the first president of Golden State Bonsai Federation, the founding president of the Santa Anita Bonsai Society and currently serves on the American Bonsai Society's board of directors. More information about Jim Barrett is available at: <http://www.psba.us/jimbarrett.html>.

Special Events

Nursery & Pottery Field Trip

Are you ready to shop 'til you drop? Sign up now for our July 26th bus trip to two nurseries and a bonsai pottery wholesaler. The cost for your seat on the bus is \$40.

Our first stop will be at Roy Nagatoshi's Fuji Bonsai Nursery in Sylmar. There you will find a wide variety of starter trees at affordable prices. Want something a little more mature and with some style? Roy has those too. Plus, you will be able to see Roy's outstanding work with California Junipers.

The next stop will be in the City of Industry at Green Products Sales for bonsai pots. Our club has been invited to visit this distributor of bonsai pots for a special shopping experience at wholesale prices. Since our visit is only for about one and a half hours, please visit their website now and determine which pots you may be interested in seeing: www.abbonsai.com/bonsai_pottery

Finally, we will visit Lindsay Shiba's nursery in Upland, Mount Fuji Garden Center. Although this nursery is not devoted 100% to bonsai stock, we may be able to find some interesting trees. Using the knowledge we gained from Lindsay's bonsai display presentation, we can also look for some great accent plants in a new nursery.

Please arrive at the Balboa Park pick-up location by 7:15 am for a 7:30am departure. Our north county club members can catch the bus at 8:00 am at the Carlsbad pick-up location. Please bring a lunch and beverages. Also bring boxes and plastic bags to secure your trees and pottery in the bus storage area. A sign up sheet and maps for the pick up locations will be available at the July 13th meeting. You can also sign up for the trip on the club's website.

Fall Bonsai Show

Our Fall show will be held September 27th and 28th, with set up on Thursday September 25th and tree and sale tables set up on Friday September 26th. In addition to the spectacular trees displayed by the talented bonsai artists in our club, we were thrilled to have bonsai trees displayed by some of our talented novice club members at the Spring Show. It would be wonderful if we could double the number of novice trees for the Fall Show. If you are unsure or hesitant about displaying your bonsai tree, please bring it to the club's meetings in July, August or September to have our one of our more experienced bonsai artists give you advice and yes, even a little encouragement.

The Kid's Table in the courtyard was so successful, that we're going to give it another go. If you haven't already, please start rooting some cuttings or succulents to donate to the kids for their special "bonsai tree" plantings. We could also use a bag or two of potting soil.

Janice Hale, VP for Special Projects

San Diego Bonsai Club, Inc.
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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

San Diego Bonsai Club Calendar of Events

July 13th Meeting Sunday

Jim Barrett, Bonsai pot making

July 19th Saturday

SDBC Workday at Safari Park , 9 am to 12 pm

July 26st Saturday

Nursery & Pottery Field Trip (see page 7)

August 2nd Saturday and August 16th Saturday

SDBC Workday at Safari Park , 9 am to 12 pm

August 10th Meeting Sunday

Tom Elias, Penjing

September 6th Saturday and September 20th Saturday

SDBC Workday at Safari Park , 9 am to 12 pm

September 14th Sunday

Shirley Kavanaugh, Miniature Bonsai

September 27th and 28th, Saturday and Sunday

SDBC Fall Bonsai Show

October 12th Sunday

Club picnic at Lake Poway.

November 9th Sunday

Gary Jones, Monterey Cypress

July 13
 Balboa Park, Room 101
 Casa Del Prado

Meeting Agenda

	<u>Time</u>	<u>Activity</u>	<u>Room</u>
	08:30-10:20	Beginning Class	104
	08:30-10:20	Repotting with Ken Bross	101
	08:30-10:20	Follow-up Sessions	101
	09:30-10:20	Library Open	104
	10:30-11:00	Business Meeting	101
	11:00-12:30	Demonstration	101
		Tom Elias, Penjing	
	12:30	Lunch	101
	12:45	Benefit Drawing	101