

The Bonsai Wire

Volume 40, Issue 7

August, 2014



Message from the President

Thanks to Jim Barrett for a superb presentation about "slab" bonsai pot-making. SDBC members could not talk enough about how Jim's demonstration was so interesting.

Thank you to our volunteers during our July events, especially to our two bonsai experts who represented our Club during "bonsai day" at the Fair: John Jackson outside SDBC booth and Abe Far at the "information" booth.

According to the "bonsai ideas..." column last month, your bonsai collection will be in "slow growth" during the summer months. Since there will be less pruning, by personal experience, it is time to catch up with some of the neglected activities: weeding, styling of the nursery stocks purchased earlier, and checking of air-layered branches during spring for possible transplanting. Weeding is important; by not removing the weeds around your bonsai, they will take away the nutrient intended for your bonsai.

Bonsai aids: Running out of shade for your sunlight-sensitive collection? Local "bulk stores" sell shade cloth for reasonable prices. Although this type of shade is designed as a picnic shade, these triangular pieces can protect your sunlight-sensitive collection

during the summer months. Need a cart to carry your bonsai items to and from Club meetings? The same bulk stores sell folding carts or dollies.

Want to get involved? Our Fall Show is just around the corner. Set up for the show, one of the most labor-intensive of the event, is Thursday and Friday Sept. 25th & 26th. We also need numerous volunteers during the show and during tear-down on Sunday. Need to sell or buy bonsai items? This is the time and place. Read more about our show and other activities in the next pages of this newsletter.

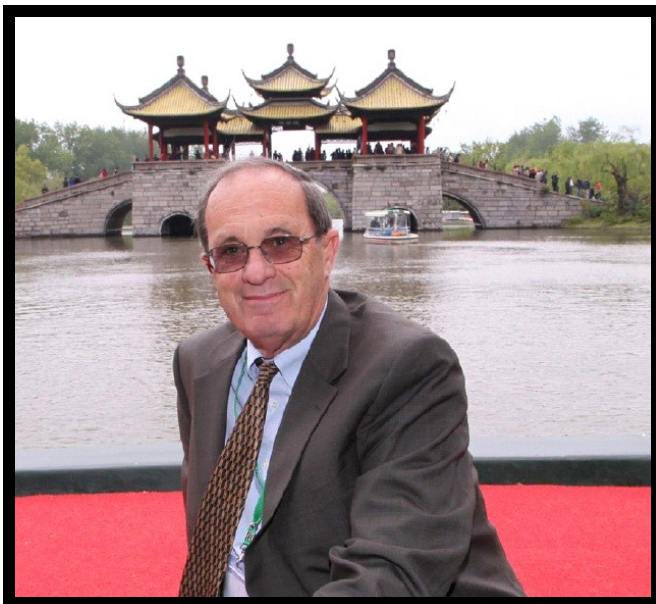
Announcements...

Starting next month, our Club will provide our members, one member a month, a table to display his/her bonsai collection. The display will only be available if our Club is meeting in room 101. This will also be announced during this month's meeting, and an sign-up sheet will be available.

Dan Sola, President

Enjoy Bonsai - Learn More

This Month's Program



Dr. Thomas S. Elias

We are honored to have Tom Elias presenting the Chinese art of penjing to our club at the August meeting. Among his many accomplishments, Tom's resume includes President of the National Bonsai Foundation, President of Bonsai Clubs International and Board Member of the National Arboretum.

Penjing literally means "tray plant." Using artificially dwarfed trees and shrubs, these arrangements are created in special trays or pots. Often, rocks, miniature ceramic structures, and figurines are added to give the proper scales as part of the natural scenery.

Bonsai and penjing are closely related art forms. Elements of penjing migrated to Japan and eventually became known as bonsai. In the past, penjing took on unusual shapes that were symbolic, and sometimes the styling of early penjing was far from the natural form of the plants used. Over time, bonsai slowly began to adapt a more naturalistic, free flowing style. More recently, some penjing have also come to embrace a style that echoes nature as well.

Bob Hale, 1st Vice President

Inside this Edition

President's Message p-1
August Program p-2
Editors Note p-2
Club Officer Information p-2
Education Report p-3
July Meeting Report p-3
Club Meeting Minutes p-4
Bonsai Ideas p-5
Membership Updates p-5
Refreshments and Benefits Updates p-5
SDBC Pavilion p-6
Special Events & Announcements p-7
Calendar of Events p-8
Meeting Agenda p-8

www.sandiegobonsaiclub.com

Guest Editor's Note

Back in January we were asked to fill some very big shoes as officers of SDBC. For years we'd been coming to the club meetings, taking classes and helping out a bit at the shows. Flying under the radar so to speak. Becoming officers has been an eye opening experience. It is absolutely amazing to see how hard your fellow club members work to make this club a success. Take a look below and see the list of people who make SDBC function. There are others just as involved who's names are not on that list. We are asking you all to become involved. Sign up to help at the shows, become a volunteer at the Bonsai Pavilion or Japanese Friendship Garden, come along on the field trips, bring a snack or a benefit drawing item to the meeting. Every little action from you makes a huge difference.

Bob Hale, 1st Vice President and
Janice Hale, VP Special Projects
TBW Guest Editors



The Bonsai Wire (TBW) is published monthly by the San Diego Bonsai Club (SDBC) except for May. TBW and the SDBC logo are properties of SDBC. Articles are provided by SDBC members. Any articles submitted by non-SDBC members—if published—become property of SDBC. All submitted articles are subject to editing. No part of this publication may be reproduced without written permission from the SDBC Board.

San Diego Bonsai Club Volunteers

- President: Dan Sola
dsola1@san.rr.com
- 1st Vice President: Bob Hale
bobhale42@gmail.com
- VP for Educ: Barbara French-Lee
barbflee@hotmail.com
- VP for Special Projects : Janice Hale
janicehale42@gmail.com
- Treasurer: Allan Edwin
aedwin@san.rr.com
- VP for Membership: David Choy
drdavidchoy@hotmail.com
- Corporate Secretary: Brenda Crann
brendacrann@gmail.com
- Past President: Abe Far
abe_far@yahoo.com
- Japanese Friendship Garden,
Bonsai Curator: Open
Liaison: Barbara French-Lee
- Bonsai Pavilion, Safari Park
Curator: John Jackson
bonsaijohn@cox.net
Assistant Curator: Dennis Wagner
denisW@cox.net
Liaison: 'lyn Stevenson
inthegrove@cox.net
- Web Master: Eric Jacobson
eric_ks@yahoo.com
- Tool Sales Manager: Bob Hale
- Benefit Drawing Mgr: John Polo
jfpolo@excite.com
- Sunshine Chair: Joan Holliday
joanholliday@san.rr.com
- Librarian: Steve Clemons
sclemons88@gmail.com
- Refreshment Coordinators:
Sonya Holmquist - sholmquist3@cox.net
Meg Polo - megpolo@hotmail.com
- Publicity: Jaya Kaelberer, Armand
Byrant
- Audio/Visual—John Polo/ Janice Hale/
Andrew Choy
- Historian: David Choy
- The Bonsai Wire Editor: Dave Barker
dtbarker_sd@yahoo.com
- The Bonsai Wire printed copy
distributor—Shirley Kavanaugh, Jr

July Program Review

Bug Alert!!!

The **Gold Spotted Oak Borer** has moved into San Diego County and is threatening the oaks, especially the California Black Oak and Coast Live Oak. Some clues it may be in your oaks is a weakening of the top of the tree and very small "D" shape holes in the bark. They do not immediately kill the tree but the borers weaken the tree and continue to grow under the bark. Without intervention the tree dies in 3 years. You can go to **WWW.GSOB.ORG** for management ideas.

Beginning Class

August Beginning Class: Japanese garden juniper; this will be a very busy and exciting month as we will have two Beginning Classes starting at the same time. Many new members joined and we had double the amount of requests to take a class. One of our lead teachers will be Gary Jones and the other teacher will be John Voss. Both excellent teachers. One of the classes will be held in Room 101 in the back of the room, to the right of the stage, and the other class in Room 104. All materials will be supplied for the class. You can check-in in Room 104 or Room 101. There is room for everyone who signed up. These classes are filled. Second session of this class will be in September. Third session will be in November.

August Workshop

Oak Workshop: John Jackson will teach this workshop using older oaks of several varieties. Bring your tools, wire will be provided. This workshop is full.

Upcoming Workshops

Air-Layering Workshop September 14th: In September Dan Sola will be teaching a class on air-layering. Air-layering is a propagation technique where you create roots on a portion of a tree you would like to keep. After root development this portion of the tree is removed and can be immediately potted. A great technique to use when there is a special tree whose qualities you like and you want a more developed trunk and branch on the new tree.

Bring the tree(s) you would like to air-layer and a knife. Cost: \$15. You can sign up for this class via PayPal on our website, www.sandiegobonsaiclub.com or at our August meeting.

Barb French-Lee, VPEducation

Jim Barrett provided an interesting demonstration during our July meeting by hand building a shallow oval medium sized pot suitable for a group planting or saikei.

He first pressed clay into the mold creating the feet of the pot. Then using slabs of clay that had been formed prior to the demonstration he created the sides and bottom of the pot. These were pressed into the mold and then further "pounded" together with a small "sand bag" to insure no air pockets remained where the clay slabs were joined. Excess clay was trimmed along the top of the mold in preparation for adding the lip of the pot. The lip of the pot was formed by adding coils of clay around the rim of the mold and shaping the lip with hand tools. Temporary columns of clay were added to support the pot prior to flipping the mold. The mold was then flipped and removed exposing the bottom of the pot.

Jim made the whole process look easy but then he has made hundreds, or is that thousands of pots! Some unnamed lucky club member has discreetly purchased the pot to be personally autographed by Jim. We will all be seeing this pot and many more when Jim visits us again at the Fall Bonsai Show in September. Jim was assisted by Jason Turner and both are sure to have some beautiful pottery for sale at the show.

Bob Hale, 1st Vice President



Thank you Jim for a great demonstration!



San Diego Bonsai Club

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Members

July 13, 2014



1. Call to Order: The regular meeting of the membership of the San Diego Bonsai Club was called to order at 10:30a.m. by Dan Sola, President. It was confirmed that a quorum was present.
2. Approval of Minutes: The minutes from the June 9, 2014 meeting were approved as published.
3. President's Remarks: Thank you for a great job in June. We won First place at the San Diego County Fair. Special thanks for Abe Far and John Jackson for demonstrating at the Fair on July 5th. We were looking for a volunteer to go to the GBSF Convention in Sacramento; SDBC will subsidize \$350.00 a special drawing was announced during the meeting and the winner was Christina Far.
4. Admission of New Members: David Choy, VP for Membership: Our membership keeps growing we had 13 new members this month. Our newest member was acknowledged: Taylor Christensen.
5. Board Member Reports:
 - Bob Hale, 1st VP, reported: A pot making demonstration by Jim Barrett ; Tom Elias will be demonstrating Penjing in August; Shirley Kavanaugh will featuring Mame in September. In October the club will be at Lake Poway for our picnic. In November Gary Jones' Monterey Cypress demo/power point presentation.
 - Allan Edwin, Treasurer, reported: Spring Show successfully sold \$8,400 in plants, which the SDBC got 15%. Finished the first half of the books; Pavilion is fine, expenses have been low then we just finished the Backdrop for the trees.
 - Barbara French-Lee, VP Education, reported: We made \$800.00 in prizes at the SD County Fair for the Club. Next month there are two beginner's class start; we have 40 people who want to take the beginners class; Gary Jones and John Voss will be teaching. Workshop on Old Oaks with John Jackson is full. In September there will be an Air-layering workshop with Dan Sola the cost \$15.00 bring a tree and a knife.
 - Janice Hale, VP Special Projects, reported: Our trip for July 26th to Fuji Bonsai Nursery, Green Product Sales (pots) and Lindsey Shiba's Mt. Fuji Garden Center (\$40/person). Our Fall Show will be held September 27th and 28th with set up on Thursday September 25th and tree sale tables set up on Friday September 26th. Sign-up sheets will be at the next meeting. We will have children's table in the courtyard again.
6. Appointed Positions Reports:
 - John Jackson, Safari Park Bonsai Pavilion Curator, reported: To the new members volunteering at the Pavilion is a good way to learn; see 'lyn Stevenson if you would like to volunteer at the Pavilion.
7. Old Business: Revised By-Laws were voted on and passed.
8. New Business: none
9. Announcements:
 - Abe Far- Convention time for the GSBF and American Bonsai Society, we don't compete we share knowledge. We are proud to announce the Bonsai college; it will be a 4 year program thru the Bonsai Garden at Lake Merritt next to Huntington Gardens. I highly recommend to subscribe to GSBF magazine, *The Golden Statements*.
10. July 2014 Program: Bob Hale introduced Jim Barrett who demonstrated "slab method" of building a bonsai pot.
11. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 12:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted: Brenda Crann, Secretary

Summer Surveillance-Slow Growth, More Care

The drought that we are experiencing in our San Diego area is apparent and we are reminded of that in the daily news and parched lawns. So, how do we bonsai experts and enthusiasts keep our trees in such good condition? We create the microclimates that provide shade and humidity as well as either hand water or depend on an automated watering system. Take a minute or two to recall the efforts that you have put into building or procuring the following; benches or stands for your trees, shade cover, watering systems, maintenance areas, an inventory of pots, soils, and tools. Tell me you aren't hooked on bonsai!!!

As mentioned in last month's newsletter, this is not the best time to consider transplanting. But there are some exceptions, see the July newsletter for that list. Material that had recently been defoliated, such as Maple, Olive, Privet, Zelcova and Ginkgo can also be transplanted just prior to the re-emergence of the new growth. Remember that transplanting of any material during these warm months is risky but it can be done if proper after-care is taken. Keep trees and soil cool and not too wet. Generally speaking, anything done during the summer months should be done with restraint and proper attention given to the effect of warm weather.

Watering is an important summer responsibility. Warm summer breezes encourage increased moisture expiration through healthy leaf surfaces. For balanced plant health consider increasing your watering schedules to consistently renew this moisture. Avoid wetting the leaves during the warm days for two good reasons; leaf burn and fungus. Excessive moisture in the crotch of leaf clusters or on their undersides creates environments ideal for the formation of fungus and the related health threatening damage.

If only trees could talk -- they do! They exhibit signs that tell you how they feel. Consider these indicators when you are troubled by 'tree problems'. Misshapen leaves--upward curling of the leaf margins into a cup is a classic symptom of damage from either a sucking insect, a disease organism or a possible overspray of a herbicide. Investigate the cause and apply insecticide or fungicide as required.

Color indicators of plant problems--either a nutrient deficiency in the soil or a problem with the root system that is unable to absorb the plant nutrients. The type of color display is important. A pattern of progressive yellowing of new leaves suggests a nitrogen or iron deficiency. Iron chlorosis will show on new leaves. Nitrogen deficiency affects the older leaves. Investigate the cause and apply fertilizer as required.

Feeding is an important part of the bonsai regimen. The article in the July newsletter provided information on a proper summertime feeding strategy. If you did not feed in July, consider reviewing those details for your August routine. In general, if your plants appear to be stressed due to the heat then reduce your feeding formula to half strength. Particular care must be given to

Pomegranates, Olives and other warm climate, tropical material that continues to grow during this period. If you fed your trees in July and are experiencing growth, keep a watch out on the wire that you have placed on your bonsai. Growth spurts can quickly cause scaring and damage of the bark or trunk.

Watch your sunshine exposure. This is the time of year to move leafy deciduous trees out of full sun and into shaded or partially shaded areas to protect the leaf surfaces and fine root-age. Rotate all material on a regular basis for even light exposure. Check the general shape of everything.

Bonsaiists develop a feeling for their trees--perhaps not as a child or family member but a commitment is undertaken for their care and well being. Once you have invested time and energy into keeping a bonsai alive, you will understand this relationship. In this hectic, active world, we don't take enough time to sit back, reflect, and watch the sun set, stroll through a forest or garden, and just enjoy nature. Fortunately, bonsai involvement gives us an outlet. We are drawn into and are captivated by this natural world. Ignore the distractions that appear to be all around us and reflect on the marvel of a growing, creative art that allows us to enjoy part of the good world that surrounds us. We are a lucky people.

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.

New Members

Please welcome our new members: [Carol L. Castro](#), [Greg Balourdas](#), [Nazim Colak](#), [Tim Brownlee](#), [Andrew Carneiro](#), [Sandra Barnum](#) and [John Clich](#).

David Choy, VP of Membership

July Refreshment Donations

Many thanks to the folks that brought refreshments to the July meeting. The members bringing refreshments included: [Barbara French-Lee](#), [Sonya Holmquist](#), [Janice Hale](#), [Dan Sola](#), [Charlie Mosse](#), [Michale Sykes](#), [Meg Polo](#), [Susan Baker](#), [Shirley Kavanaugh](#), [Abe Far](#), [John & Margare Jackson](#), [Marcella Perez](#), [Harlan & Mary Ann Price](#), [Joan Holliday](#), [Roger Ziegelman](#), and [Mark Ravenscroft](#).

Sonya Holmquist and Meg Polo, Food Coordinators

July Benefit Drawing Donations

A big thank you to of of you that brought in items for the benefit drawing table to the July meeting: [Ken Bross](#), [Dan Sola](#), [John Voss](#), [Iyn Stevenson](#), [Scott Flack](#), [Charlie Mosse](#), [Morlee Scotzin](#), [Dave Woodall](#), [Abe & Christina Far](#), [Shirley Kavanaugh](#), [John & Margaret Jackson](#), [Julia Chimento](#), [Terri Petrescu](#) and [Gary Jones](#).

John Polo, Benefit Drawing Coordinator

San Diego Bonsai Club Pavilion at the Safari Park

The mid year tabulation of volunteer donations of time and talent for the Bonsai Pavilion at the Safari Park are indeed significant. Currently, there are 48 members involved in the efforts at the Pavilion. From January through June of this year, these volunteers donated 1,402 hours at the Pavilion for an average over 230 hours each month. Certainly, these statistics are impressive and worthy of the attention of our SDBC members. The bonsai collection is truly beautiful and enjoyed by all the visitors to the Pavilion each day. It is also a tribute to the SDBC for the continued emphasis on this unique priority project.

It's summer vacation time but the volunteers continue to commit themselves to the care of the valuable collection of donated bonsai and to the tranquil garden surrounding them. Many thanks for July help to: [Neil Auwarter](#), [Ken Bross](#), [Armand Bryant](#), [Alan Burrows](#), [Julia Chow](#), [Cathy & Mark Edgar](#), [Jeff Geringer](#), [Bob & Janice Hale](#), [Sonja Holmquist](#), [Curator John Jackson](#), [Jim Kirchmer](#), [Janie & Ron Ogdon](#), [Janet & Ron Palmer](#), [Jon & Terri Petrescu](#), [Sally Prestele](#), [Harlan & Mary Ann Price](#), [Ilyn Stevenson](#), [John Voss](#), [Dennis Wagner](#), [Mark Walters](#), and [Dave Woodall](#). This month, we also welcome our newest volunteer, [Taylor Christensen](#).

The culinary talents of our valuable volunteers are extra reasons for us to take our summer breaks too: chocolate cake, donuts, tea muffins, apple strudel, blueberry bread, summer melons, and other fruits are great accompaniments for the lemonade and water coolers.

Added kudos this month to Mary Ann for repairing the drape that hangs in front of the work area and to Ron Ogdon for donning his hip boots to clean out the debris in the ponds. We even were able to repot a very mature bougainvillea and a ficus group planting along with much bonsai and garden grooming, fertilizing, trimming, and repairing of moss covers.

We hope you are bringing your summer company- family and friends- to the Safari Park and especially to visit the Bonsai Pavilion. The Pavilion is open whenever the Safari Park is open and the hours are extended during the summer. Volunteers are scheduled on the first and third Saturdays for work sessions but several of them can be found at the Pavilion at other days and times too. If SDBC members would like special docent tours within the Pavilion with their guests, just contact one of the volunteers and we will try to oblige.

Ilyn Stevenson, SDBC - Safari Park Liaison



Chopstick in hand, Armand takes on the ficus forest.



It takes two to repot this tree. Well done John and Ken!

HAIKU - By Marty Mann

When one views his trees
The illusion of sight must
Feel wind and warm sun

Special Events

Our “shop-till-you-drop” bus trip July 26th was deemed a success. We managed to fill the entire cargo bay and part of the seating area of our tour bus with trees and pottery from Roy Nagatoshi’s Fuji Bonsai Nursery in Sylmar, Green Product Sales in the City of Industry, and Lindsay Shiba’s Mount Fuji Garden Center in Upland. Here is a photo of



Nisei Week Japanese Festival August 16, 2014

On Saturday, August 16th, we will take two rental vans to the Japanese American Cultural & Community Center in Los Angeles to view a beautiful bonsai exhibit hosted by Nanpu-Kai for the centennial celebration of John Naka’s birth. Our own ‘lyn Stevenson, Fred Miyahara, Michael Sykes and Glenn Jensen will have trees displayed at the exhibit.

We will depart the Balboa Park pick-up location at 8:00am and the Carlsbad pick-up location at 8:30am. The cost for your seat in the vans is \$30. A sign-up sheet and maps to the pick-up locations will be available at the August meeting. You can also sign up for trip via PayPal on our club’s website, www.sandiegobonsaiclub.com.

GSBF Convention October 30th—November 2nd, 2014

The Golden State Bonsai Federation and the American Bonsai Society have partnered to bring you the Bonsai Visions of the West Convention. Please visit the GSBF website, www.gsbf-bonsai.org and check out the workshops, seminars, critiques and wonderful activities being offered at this years convention. This promises to be a breathtaking event and...the prices aren’t bad. Join me in Sacramento at the GSBF Convention October 30th-November 2nd.

Abe Far, GSBF President

Fall Bonsai Show Sept 27-28, 2014

Our club puts on a spectacular Bonsai Show twice a year. The members of our club truly impress and inspire our guests, and each other, with their beautiful bonsai trees.

The Fall show will be held September 27th and 28th, with set up on Thursday September 25th. We will bring in the bonsai trees and sale table items on Friday September 26th. Sign up sheets for a myriad of tasks will be available at the August meeting. Please volunteer to help. We need you and your beautiful trees!

During the show, we have a sale table where members can sell trees and bonsai related items to the public. A portion of the monies collected is donated to the club. This is a significant source of income for the club, so come ask us how to sell your bonsai stock, pottery or viewing stones.

If you are a novice and are a little hesitant about displaying your bonsai tree, please bring it to the club’s meetings in August or September to have one of our more experienced bonsai artists give you advice and maybe a little encouragement. Bonus, you’ll receive a copper SDBC pin when you display your first tree! FYI, we could use the donation of a bag or two of potting soil for the Kid’s Table. Was that fun last show or what?!!?

Janice Hale, VP for Special Projects

Amazon Smile

Don’t forget to support the San Diego Bonsai Club by shopping at smile.amazon.com. Amazon will donate 0.5% of the purchase price to the San Diego Bonsai Club. Please see our website, www.sandiegobonsaiclub.com for further information.

San Diego Bonsai Club, Inc.
 PO Box 86037
 San Diego, CA 92138-6037



ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

San Diego Bonsai Club Calendar of Events

August 10th Meeting, Sunday
 Tom Elias, "Penjing"

August 16th, Saturday

SDBC Workday at Safari Park, 9 am to 12 pm

August 16th, Saturday

Nisei Week Field Trip

September 6th, Saturday & September 20th Saturday

SDBC Workday at Safari Park, 9 am to 12 pm

September 14th Meeting, Sunday

Shirley Kavanaugh, Miniature Bonsai

September 27th and 28th, Saturday & Sunday

SDBC Fall Bonsai Show

October 4th, Saturday & October 18th Saturday

SDBC Workday at Safari Park, 9 am to 12 pm

October 12th, Sunday

Club Picnic at Lake Poway

November 1st, Saturday & November 15th Saturday

SDBC Workday at Safari Park, 9 am to 12 pm

November 9th, Sunday

Gary Jones, Monterey Cypress

August 10, 2014
 Balboa Park, Room 101
 Casa Del Prado

Meeting Agenda

| Time | Activity | Room |
|-------------|------------------|-----------|
| 08:30-10:15 | Beginning Class | 101 & 104 |
| 08:30-10:15 | Oak Workshop | 101 |
| 09:30-10:15 | 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 |