

# The Bonsai Wire

Volume 42, Issue 10

October, 2016

## Message from the President

Well, the Club had another great bonsai show. There were plenty of beautiful bonsai trees to admire. But I am always struck by the fellowship between the club members, guests, and visitors sharing comments, ideas, and stories about bonsai. Ted Matson gave a great demonstration on a juniper that will be auctioned at a future Club event. And who can forget the used tree salesmen, Gary Jones and side kick Jim Barrett, giving their pitch on trees from the sale table. Several junior club members displayed their trees for the first time, reflecting skills beyond expectation. Shirley, the queen of tray landscaping, showed us how it is done. There was the occasional



disagreement between dogs and people, but all things considered the public had a great experience. These are my memories of a busy weekend.

So now we roll into October. What fun and new experiences can we look forward to at the Poway Lake picnic and auction? Why not come and find out? If you have not signed up, contact Charlie Mosse ([chasmosse@gmail.com](mailto:chasmosse@gmail.com)) or Janice Hale ([janicehale42@gmail.com](mailto:janicehale42@gmail.com)) to let us know you are coming.

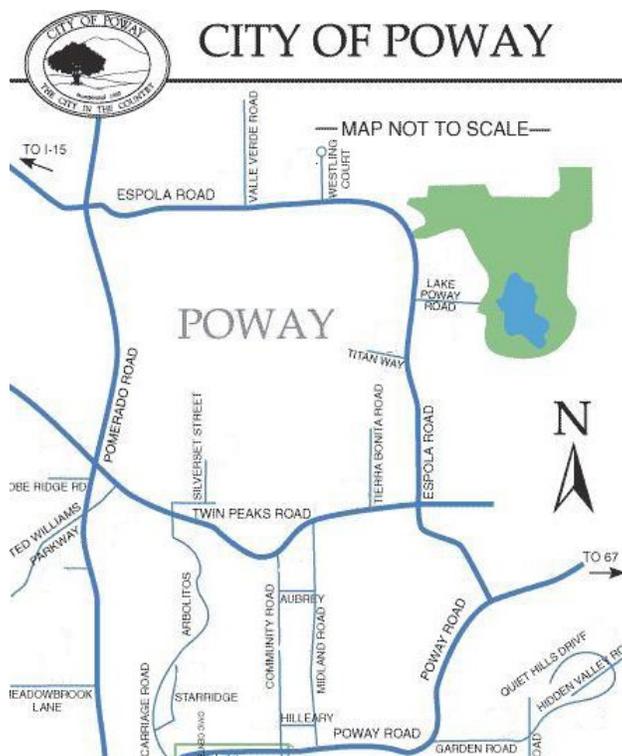
Bob Hale, President

## This Month's Program

We will all be at the Lake Poway Annual Picnic and live auction on October 9th. Good food, great time to relax and lots of bonsai and related items from which to choose to bid on at the auction. See you there!!

General arrival and auction check-in will be at 9:30- 10 am and the meeting will be at 10:30 am. Volunteers to set up the tables for food and auction items should arrive at 9:00. The entrée will be a honey-baked ham with everyone else contributing an appetizer or dessert. The auction will start after the meeting and include club members' donations of trees and pots and other bonsai-related items, as well as other items like tools, tool bags, wine, etc. If you want to attend but have not yet signed up, send an email to Janice Hale ([janicehale42@gmail.com](mailto:janicehale42@gmail.com)), so we have an accurate count.

Directions: From Espola Rd., turn east onto Lake Poway Rd. Proceed up the hill and pay the fee of \$5 (if not a Poway resident) at the entrance kiosk. Follow the main road as it curves gently to the right. At just over 100 yards are 4 parking aisles on the left near the Lake Concession building. Turning up one of the aisles, the large shaded picnic table area and a building on the right is where the picnic will be. For GPS: Lake Poway Park, 14644 Lake Poway Rd, Poway, CA.



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San Diego Bonsai Club Website  
[www.sandiegobonsaiclub.com](http://www.sandiegobonsaiclub.com)

## Editor's Note

Thanks to all for another great Bonsai show. It was great to see participation by members of all ages, from Aisha Colak to Dave Woodall, and all levels of experience from newcomer Ray to old-timers John, Fred, and Gary. Thanks to all the volunteers who put in time from the Thursday afternoon setup to the Sunday evening teardown and all those who exhibited trees; your help made the show a great exhibit of the beauty of bonsai for the San Diego public to enjoy.

Special thanks to Bob Hale, who did an admirable job filling in for Janice.

Dave Barker  
TBW Editor

Bonsai combines  
the beauty of  
manmade  
sculpture  
with the harmony  
and perfection of  
nature



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**BEGINNING CLASS:** There is no beginning class in October (we'll see you at the Club's picnic in Poway). In this heat be sure to keep your tree well watered. If your tree needed more soil to cover the feeder roots be sure you have been able to get them covered to protect them. We will be repotting in November in a bonsai grow pot.

**NOVEMBER WORKSHOP WITH MEL IKEDA:** Mel will be conducting a workshop on raft style bonsai in November after a presentation at the meeting. The workshop will start at 12 noon and take approximately one and one-half hours. Cost of the workshop will be \$40 and include the cost of tree, soil, wire and rooting powder. Steve Clemens has offered to make the boxes at cost to hold the tree. We will be using 5 gallon Juniper procumbens 'nana'. Mel prefers this type of tree for creating a raft style bonsai in Southern California. Mel will be assisted by two of our master teachers - Glenn Jensen and John Jackson.

The last day for class sign-up will be October 9. If you signed up but have not paid, please pay for the class as soon as possible. Payment for the wood boxes will be made at the workshop. If you would like to make your own box, please call or email me for size.

Barb French-Lee, VP for Education

## Fall Show Demo and Workshop with Ted Matson

Ted did his usual terrific job of teaching bonsai. Each of the 8 members brought in several trees for varying degrees of help, from shohin to very large trees. Ted helped to solve many issues by systematically going through a process to figure out the issue and then solve it. That in itself is very educational. Then doing the work creates a longer lasting memory for future reference.

Between the morning and afternoon workshops, the demonstration was Ted styling a San Jose Juniper that had been propagated and then grown and trained for 22 years by Big Dave Rochester. Again Ted went through the process of analyzing the tree for the proper front. Two fronts were evident so Ted had to choose. During the styling, Ted talked about Junipers in general and conveyed several tips:

- Jin creation is easiest to create in the summer when the sap is flowing and the bark is softer and easier to remove.
- Wire jin into position or to add movement immediately when newly exposed wood is still pliable.
- Wait to apply lime-sulfur until jin and shari wood is

dry. It absorbs better.

- When wiring branches, use a slightly heavier wire than needed to avoid the possibility of the wire not holding the branch in position. Not holding means repeated bending that can injure or kill the branch or having to add an extra wire to assist the weaker wire. More working risks, more broken branches and twigs.
- Use jin pliers to help bend wire/branch. When foliage on plants gets thicker, less soft, the plants are transitioning to root growth and branches will be thickening and hardening.
- In alkaline soils, fir bark breaks down faster than in acid soil causing the binding of nitrogen. If using fir bark in the soil mix, one needs feed more to avoid slow down of growth and loss of color.

Charlie Mosse, 1st VP

## US National Bonsai Exhibition

The 5th biennial US National Bonsai Exhibition was held in Rochester, New York on September 10 and 11. Almost 300 excellent bonsai trees from all over the USA were presented in an indoor soccer field (complete with artificial turf and gigantic ceiling fans). More than 20 trees made the journey from the West Coast via a truck and a similar number of trees came from Florida (many ficus and buttonwoods). The variety and quality of the trees was very interesting, especially for someone from the West Coast. A creative display from Texas depicted a Bayou scene with a cypress forest, moss on the trees, a river, a boat, and even a working fog machine. This display was enhanced by the fact that the inside of the soccer building had to be 95°F and 80-90% humidity due to a heatwave on Saturday. Sunday was MUCH cooler. The tree winning Best of Show was a yamadori Mountain Hemlock from the Pacific Northwest belonging to a student of Ryan Neil (see below). The best shohin display is shown on page 2.

Mark  
Edgar,  
Club  
Member





# San Diego Bonsai Club

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Members  
September 11, 2016



1. **Call to Order:** The regular meeting of the membership of the San Diego Bonsai Club was called to order at 10:30 in Balboa Park by Bob Hale, President. It was confirmed that a quorum was present. A moment of silence in remembrance of the 15-year anniversary of 9/11. Acknowledgement of all past SDBC presidents.
2. **Approval of Minutes:** The minutes from the August 14, 2016 meeting were approved as published.
3. **Nazim Colak, VP for Membership, reported:** There were 4 new members.
4. **Board Member Reports:**
  - **Bob Hale for Charlie Mosse 1st Vice president, reported:** October is our SDBC Picnic/Auction/Meeting, November presentation will be Mel Ikeda on Raft Style bonsai, and in December we will have our styling competition. During the Fall Show Ted Matson will have a workshop for our club members. In January, we will have a grand soil repotting instead of a demonstration. Bring your trees; the club will provide soil here.
  - Peter Chong, Treasurer, reported: In August our Income was \$1548.50 and our expenses were \$1274.60; our Net Income \$273.90 The balance for SDBC account is \$35,488.28 and for the Pavilion \$16,963.42.
  - **Barbara French-Lee, Vice President, Education, reported:** Gary Jones beginner's class on Junipers will be repotting in November. Also in November Michael Sykes would like to have the students that took his Large (15 gallon) Foemina Class to bring your trees back. Fred Miyahara would also like the past Pines Classes to bring their Pines in November. After the demonstration with Mel Ikeda, there will be a Raft workshop that will begin at noon. The workshop will use procumbens nana junipers and will be open to 10 members. The cost is \$40.00 and you will need to bring your own wooden box. Glenn Jensen will be assisting at the workshop as well.
  - **Janice Hale, Special Projects, reported:** October is our SDBC Picnic "rain or shine." Set up will be at 9:00am. Arrive at 10:00 (or earlier) and our Club meeting will start at 10:30am. We will have Honey Baked Ham main course, but sign up for potluck items. Our Fall Show dates are September 24 & 25 2016. Our set up will start on September 22, 2016; bring your trees to show on the 23rd and any items that you want to sell. Also bring your money as well for our sale. SDBC members only on Friday night for the Sale. Save the date of January 14 for Silhouettes show at the LA Arboretum with a bonsai nursery stop. The Bonsai-A-thon at the Huntington Library is February 25th. The cost is \$40 for each trip.
5. **Appointed Position Reports:**
  - **Ilyn Stevenson, Liaison for Safari Park Pavilion reported:** Several of our members went to the Bonsai Convention in New York. We are still meeting 1st & 3rd Saturdays every month and we have several books that we use to record what we have done to each tree; each time we report we log it in our books. We are working on obtaining a grant for the areas which we are needing to expand for handicap access. The San Diego County Board of Supervisors was out to the Pavilion reviewing those areas; we received some good advice.
  - **Glenn Jensen, Curator for JFG; reported:** No report made
6. **Old Business:** None
7. **New Business:** Ron Palmer will be retiring from Tool Sales; he has been in this position for 2 years we need a new volunteer for this position.
8. **Announcements:** Bob Hale, President: Thanked all the Member of the Board for all the work they do.
9. **Program:** Dr. Tom Elias, Viewing Stones.
10. **Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 10:56am.

Respectfully submitted,  
Brenda Crann Secretary



As the hot summer weather begins to fade away, the activities involving your trees include the care required before settling down for winter dormancy. Your bonsai will no longer grow very much, so the need for extensive pruning should be minimal. Since recent growth may have added girth to branches and trunks, it would be prudent to check all wired branches to see if they are set and, if they are, the wires can be removed. Check for wire cuts and remove the wire applied this past year if needed to avoid damage to the bark. New wire can be applied but avoid the curls and marks of previous efforts.

Study your trees for overall health. Look for symptoms of insects or disease damage. Leaves that are yellow along the veins on the top and signs of the dark insects on the bottom of the leaf are evidence of Scale infections. Malathion is an effective killer when applied to both sides of the leaf and repeated a week later. Powdery Mildew is a bothersome fungus that appears on moist leaf surfaces. Applications of a fungicide will keep this under control.

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

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

This is a good time to work on basic training and design. In spite of this period of slow growth, fall training can still be effective. Study your bonsai for improper branch placement – crossing branches, bar branches, up and downs and identify a plan for removing unwanted growth.

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

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

In September, we welcomed back Dr. Tom Elias, this time to talk about viewing stones (suiseki). Tom provided his usual thorough explanation of the history of the art of viewing stones in both Japan and America. There are three main classifications – stones that evoke images of landscapes, stones in the image of animals, and stones with interesting patterns. He brought examples of each type. One stone looked like a distant snow-covered mountain, one a plateau, one a mountain with waterfall, and one a Chrysanthemum stone with a flower-like imprint.



Dr. Elias showed the importance of how the stone is presented in a stand or a tray can create the sense of the landscape. And how one could change the feeling of a stone in a tray (suiban) from a mountain to an island by the placement of a tiny sailboat in the sand.

In the U.S., viewing stone enthusiasts look for whole stones only for display. In Japan, they have moved to cutting stones to enhance their beauty, mostly by finding large stones and cutting a flat bottom on a part with the most character. Dr. Elias showed pictures of his visit with a stone artisan in Japan and emphasized the most important feature of a stone is the ability to suggest an image the viewer can connect with.

Club members took the message away with them as the Fall Show had more viewing stones in displays than have been seen in recent years!



Tokonoma display at the Fall Show

## San Diego Bonsai Club Pavilion at the Safari Park

Volunteers for the summery September workdays included: **Neil Auwarter, Susan Baker, Dave Barker, Ken Bross, Alan Burrows, Julia Chow, Cathy & Mark Edgar, Bob & Janice Hale, Curator John Jackson, Jaya Kaelberer, Jim Kirchmer, Jim Lane, Carla Marasco, Charlie Mosse, Janet & Ron Palmer, Shawn Palmer, Marcella Perez, Sally Prestele, 'lyn Stevenson, Chusub Sresethadatta, Chris Straws, Dennis Wagner, Mark Walters, and Dave Woodall.** Thanks to each of them and more thanks to Janet & Ron, Marcella, Chusub, John, Jaya, Cathy, for 'lyn supplying extra delicious treats!

Shawn has researched more solutions to our continuous battle with the pond algae and donated a new product for healthy ponds that may be answering our request — anyone who has fought this battle will understand why we do not want to spend so much time keeping the ponds clear when we really want to be working with bonsai! Thanks to the volunteers who have raked, scraped, waded and donned the hip riders to clean the beautiful upper and lower ponds. The visitors and mosquito fish all approve!

We have added a gift from the SDBC Library of a souvenir book from the Washington National Federation's Naka Pavilion dedication that was held in 1990. Since we have a John Naka bonsai that he donated to our Pavilion many years ago, the booklet will be held in our inventory with the story line of his tree. The book was among the materials from RuthAnn Newman's Estate. A nice tribute to all.

The Palmers answered our earlier azalea request for our garden area along the stream. More containers of one or five gallon azaleas are also appreciated.



During our refreshment breaks, the volunteers discuss Pavilion concerns. We are trying another idea for fundraising, so for each of the last three months, we have offered a silent auction item at the SDBC meetings. Our thanks to those who donated materials as well as to the

winners of the items. We appreciate generosity of Mark Patton, Abe Far, Susan Roan, Janice Hale, 'lyn Stevenson, the Pavilion inventory and a couple of anonymous bidders for participation in donations or purchases. We will continue to test this fundraising option in future months.

It was informative to hear reports from Cathy and Mark Edgar and Curator John from their trip to New York for the juried bonsai exhibit. See page 3 for Mark's report.

In preparation for the grant submission to the San Diego County Board of Supervisors for the needed financial assistance for additional cement construction, Jim Kirchmer arranged for a representative to visit the Pavilion. She appreciated the presentations from President Bob Hale, Curator John Jackson, Grant Writer Jim Kirchmer, and Liaison 'lyn as we answered her questions and listened to her suggestions regarding the grant. Twice before in this five year old Pavilion, we have received assistance from County Board for funds and we are hopeful that they will respond once again.

The Zoo-Pavilion volunteer office is encouraging all volunteers to add to their hours for consideration of special perks at the December recognition party. We continue to keep an inventory of Pavilion hours which are submitted regularly and we welcome all SDBC members to consider joining our cadre of volunteers. It is a great



volunteer experience and offers an opportunity to learn from experienced bonsaiists. This month Mark Edgar is showing volunteers how to properly clean and trim shimpaku junipers.

'lyn Stevenson, SDBC-Safari Park Liaison

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## New Members

Please welcome our new members: **Laurie C Kruczynski, Joseph Langub, Bob Kaplan, Julia Smith, and Anthony Smith.**

**Nazim Colak, VP of Membership**

## Refreshments

Thank you to the following for your donations of refreshments to the August meeting: **Janice and Bob Hale, Chusub Srithadatta, Marcella Perez, Jaya Kaelberer, Julia Chow, Darryl and Christine Elmer, Michael Sykes, Susan Mae Hull, Cesar Velasquez, Fred Miyahara, Dennis Wagner, Katy and Mike Boswell, and Clare and Ronald Roberts.**

## SDBC Benefit Drawing

Thank you to all the members who made donations to the August benefit drawing: **Abe and Christina Far, Dan Sola, Eric Jacobson, Darryl & Christine Elmer, Janice and Bob Hale, Chusub Srithadatta, Susan Mae Hull, Steve Clemons, Nazim Colak, Aisha Colak, Fred Miyahara, John Voss, Nicholas Nociforo, and Dave Woodall.**

## Newsletter E-Mail Purge

In November, The Bonsai Wire is purging its email list of persons who do not appear to be opening the newsletter. If you are deleted and do not receive your November newsletter, you can sign up again on the club website to receive the newsletter. The sign up is in the tab labeled "newsletter" under the Resources section of the website.



## Fall Show Pictures

Pictures from the Fall Bonsai Show are now available for viewing on the club website!



## Special Events

### GSBF 39 - A Bonsai Convergence

The Golden State Bonsai Federation 2016 Convention will be held October 27-30, 2016 at the Double Tree by Hilton, 2001 Point West Way, Sacramento. Special room rates for the convention will be available. Convention registration opened July 1, 2016. Please check the website for openings in workshops and lectures. For more information visit the the GSBF website: [www.gsbf-bonsai.org](http://www.gsbf-bonsai.org)

### Silhouettes Trip - January 14, 2017

Baikoen Bonsai Kenkyukai will be conducting its annual Winter Silhouettes show at the Los Angeles Arboretum. This is a show comprised entirely of deciduous trees in their winter, leafless form. We will join our hosts for a wonderful potluck dinner, benefit drawing and auction. Our job that night is to provide the dessert. The bus will leave Balboa Park at 11:00am with another pick up in Carlsbad at 11:30am, returning to Balboa Park at 11:00pm. We will stop along the way at a bonsai nursery for some retail therapy. The cost for your seat on the full sized bus is \$40. Remember, we are each asked to bring a dessert to share at the dinner.

A sign up list will be available at the November Meeting. Or you can sign up now on our Club's website: [www.sandiegobonsaiclub.com](http://www.sandiegobonsaiclub.com)

### 2017 Bonsai-A-Thon February 25, 2017

The Golden State Bonsai Federation Collection at The Huntington is holding it's annual fund raising event February 25-26th, 2017. The Bonsai-A-Thon includes a bonsai show, demos by bonsai masters, great vendor sales area, fun benefit drawing and auction. We will leave Balboa Park at 7:00am with another pick up in Carlsbad at 7:30 am, returning to Balboa Park at 7:00 pm. The cost for your seat on the full sized bus is \$40.

If you can pull yourself away from the Bonsai-A-Thon, you can take a stroll through The Huntington Library, Art Collections and Botanical Gardens. You'll want to make sure to visit the Japanese Garden and see the beautiful bonsai collection.

A sign up list will be available at the November Meeting. Or you can sign up now on our Club's website: [www.sandiegobonsaiclub.com](http://www.sandiegobonsaiclub.com)

*Janice Hale, VP for Special Projects*

San Diego Bonsai Club, Inc.  
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 San Diego, CA 92138-6037



ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

## San Diego Bonsai Club Calendar of Events

October 9th Sunday

Club picnic and auction at Lake Poway.

October 15th Saturday

SDBC Workdays at Safari Park , 9 am to 12 pm

October 27-30, Thursday –Sunday

GSBF Convention  
 Sacramento, CA

November 5th and November 19th Saturday

SDBC Workdays at Safari Park , 9 am to 12 pm

November 13th Sunday

Club Meeting  
 Mel Ikeda—Raft Style Bonsai

December 3rd and December 17th Saturday

SDBC Workdays at Safari Park , 9 am to 12 pm

December 11th Sunday

Club Meeting  
 Design Competition

January 14, 2017 Saturday

Silhouettes Trip to LA Arboretum

Sunday, October 9, 2016  
 Lake Poway

### Meeting Agenda

Time	Activity	Room
9:00 am	Set up Crew Arrives	
9:30 -10 am	General Arrival, Check in auction items, Place food in dining area	
10:30 am	Club meeting	
11:00 am	Live auction	
Lunch	( when auctioneer needs a break)	
After Lunch	Live Auction—continued	
1:00 pm	Auction Checkout and Clean-up	