

The Bonsai Wire

Volume 40, Issue 10

November, 2014



Message from the President

It was another fun Lake Poway picnic and superb fund-raising auction. Thank you to our volunteers who planned for and worked at our picnic, especially to Abe Far and his crew who again provided a sumptuous meal for everyone—with plenty of leftovers. Thank you to those who brought items for auction and those who brought food.

Our main objective in the art of bonsai—as one instructor admonished his students at a beginners' class—is to keep our bonsai alive. From my personal experience, where you live in San Diego county is a big factor in how you maintain your trees. Soil mix, the size and type of bonsai, frequency of watering, and the amount of shading also all make a difference. It is highly recommended, especially for newcomers, to review their notes about bonsai maintenance taken during beginners' class as the seasons change.

We have two holidays this month: Veterans Day and Thanksgiving. As we celebrate Veterans Day to honor our men and women who served our country protecting our freedom, we also give thanks that we live in a free society that is unparalleled in our world today. We also give thanks to our military men and women who are serving—sometimes away from family and friends—so that we may

continue to enjoy our freedom.

Announcements

SDBC won first place in the Golden State Bonsai Federation competition as the best Bonsai Club website in the advanced category. Congratulations go to Eric Jacobson, our webmaster. Another example of what I wrote about last month - volunteering your skills to make this a great club. Outstanding job Eric!

Election: Per Article VI, Section 2c of our by-laws, November membership meeting will be the election of the slate of candidates that was presented by our nominating committee last month: President, Dan Sola; First VP, Robert Hale; VP for Education, Barbara French-Lee; VP for Special Projects, Janice Hale; VP for Membership, Sonya Holmquist; Secretary, Brenda Crann; and Treasurer, Peter Chong. We appreciate their service to our Club.

December will have our fourth annual bonsai styling competition (see page 7) and holiday celebration. Please bring your small Christmas trees to our December meeting and be dressed for the holidays.

Dan Sola, President

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This Month's Program

At our November meeting, Gary Jones will be providing a demonstration on a Monterey Cypress. Gary has been devoted to bonsai for the past 29 years and has been a long-time member of the San Diego Bonsai Club, having held various positions in the club. He is currently one of our beginning class training instructors. He is also a mentor to many, both in the club and in the community.

Cupressus macrocarpa, commonly known as Monterey Cypress, is a species of cypress native to the Central Coast of California. Strong salt laden winds blast off the sea to contort and gnarl the trunks and branches into the eerie shapes we seem to love for bonsai. These trees are often exhibited at Central CA bonsai shows as well as at GSBF conventions. 'lyn Stevenson has an excellent example that has been exhibited at the SDBC shows and is now on display at the Safari Park bonsai pavilion (See it on page 2).

Bob Hale, 1st VP

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San Diego Bonsai Club Website
www.sandiegobonsaiclub.com

Editor's Note

This month Marty Mann's Bonsai Ideas column gives good advice for the season. Marty has been involved in Bonsai for more than 50 years, and even though he has slowed down a bit in the last several years still loves to talk "Bonsai." The tagline "Enjoy Bonsai, Learn More" that I normally use is from Marty's handwritten inscription in his book, *Bonsai Ideas*. What better way to put that sentiment into practice than bringing in your trees for follow-up. This is a great opportunity for newer members to interact with our "more seasoned" members and get great advice on the next steps in developing your tree.

Dave Barker, TBW Editor

Enjoy Bonsai, Learn More



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Beginning Class

The last session is always an exciting session when we pot up the trees we have been working on. After potting the junipers in bonsai pots you can begin to see the bonsai tree of the future. You will be putting the juniper in bonsai soil which doesn't hold water like plants in nursery soil, so it will require more careful monitoring of your watering regime. A water probe is most helpful until you get the feel of your plant's water needs. Your teacher can help you with a feeding schedule for your juniper.

Skills Class

Michael Sykes will be teaching a class on WIRING your bonsai tree. Bring a tree, or more than one, that needs to be wired but has been a challenge about how to do it correctly. Wire and raffia will be provided. There is room for a few more people. Cost: \$10.

Follow-up

Please bring the classes of 2014 Elms and Pines for your teacher to offer advice. For the pines you will need to pull needles.

Plans For 2015

BEGINNING CLASSES

January 11, February 22, March 8. 'lyn Stevenson will be teaching a class on *Ulmus parvifolia*, Elm.

April 12, June 28, July 12. Martha Choy will be teaching a class on Olives.

August 9, September 13, November 8. Gary Jones will be teaching a class on junipers.

WORKSHOPS

January 11: Grafting with Fred Miyahara

February 22: Foemina Junipers , with Michael Sykes

March 8: *Pinus thunbergii* , Pines with Fred Miyahara

April 12: Oaks, several varieties, with John Jackson

June 28: Large Boxwoods, collected, with Cindy Read

July 12: Tray Landscape with Shirley Kavanaugh

August 9: to be determined

September 13: to be determined

November 8: Design Ideas For Your Tree with Glenn Jensen, Fred Miyahara and Michael Sykes

Barbara French-Lee, VP Education

The October picnic and auction saw hundreds of items donated by club members for the auction—so many that there was not enough time to auction off all items!



Abe serving up his fine marinated and cooked-to-perfection beef and chicken



A perfect San Diego day for good food, good conversation and Bonsai



Gary Jones was again at top form as an auctioneer

Lots of bonsai trees and pots found new homes with the proceeds going to support the club. Thanks to all who made this an enjoyable and entertaining event.





San Diego Bonsai Club

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Members
October 12, 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 September 14, 2014 meeting were approved as published.
3. **President's Remarks:** Thank you to all the volunteers for the picnic, Board of Directors, and all the volunteers for the Fall Show and special thanks to Janice Hale. Thanks to Abe Farr for preparing the main dish and everyone who brought food.
4. **Board Member Reports:**
 - **Sonya Holmquist, Vice President Admission of New Members,** announced: We have 5 new members this month
 - **Bob Hale, 1st Vice President,** reported: Gary Jones will be demonstrating Monterey Cypress in November; our plan is to have demonstration and discussion during the presentation. In December, we will have our Christmas party and have our annual bonsai competition. There will be four teams to style four of Big Dave's Junipers.
 - **Allan Edwin, Treasurer,** reported: Our Fall Show was very successful we had \$7,325 in total revenue. One reason was we are taking credit cards and 55% of the sales used credit cards. The breakdown—sales of Pots and Plants generated \$6,740, Donations & Kids table raised \$460, Memberships were \$90 and excess was \$35. Also, would like to petition to raise our minimum percentage on sales to the SDBC to 20 percent.
 - **Barbara French-Lee, Vice President, Education:** Not available.
 - **Janice Hale, Vice President Special Projects:** Two trips are coming up for 2015. First, the Silhouettes show is on January 17th. We may carpool depending on the numbers of members going. On February 28, 2015 will be the trip to the Bonsai-A-Thon.
5. **Appointed Position Reports:**
 - **John Jackson, Safari Park Pavilion Curator,** reported: We just need volunteers and have improvements that we need to do. The trees and Pavilion look really good, and we are trying to get some grants worked on.
6. **Old Business:** None
7. **New Business:** None
8. **Announcements: Abe Farr-** Chair of the nominating committee – We have a list of Nominations for members of the Board. Michael Sykes read the 2015 Officer Nominees: President Dan Sola, 1st Vice President Bob Hale, Vice President of Education Barbara French-Lee, Vice President of Special Project Janice Hale, vice President of Membership Sonya Holmquist, secretary Brenda Crann, and Treasurer Peter Chong. The Nomination Committee was Abe Farr, Charlie Tamm and Michael Sykes.
9. **Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 11 :30 am.

Respectfully submitted , Brenda Crann, Secretary



Don't forget that the SDBC has an extensive library of Bonsai material and librarian Steve Clemons is there to assist you.

Ask about the Kokufu Bonsai Ten books on the bottom shelf



Following the autumnal equinox, nature allows the ever-active growth cycle of trees to slow down, to hibernate until the warmth and sunshine of spring returns. Preservation of the health and style of our trees never stops.

November is a wonderful time to really see the details of your now exposed trees. Foliage, during most of the year, obscures the skeleton branch formations of the inner tree. Now is the time to trim excess branches, as well as crossing, misplaced and malformed branches. Study the radial formation of the rootage. Study the taper of the trunk line. Concentrate on building a twiggy branch structure. Wire branches during this dormant period with great care since they are brittle during cooler weather months. Try to see trees with strong background light or a high contrast background to properly study their design, shape and position in the pot. Fully exposed deciduous material can be photographed, studied, and refined.

Preserving the health of a tree involves proper watering procedures during the dormant period in cool weather. Deciduous trees have transformed from the beautiful fall colors to barren silhouettes. Evergreen trees appear dull, inactive and unchanging. Since warm weather does occur at this time of year, potted trees must be watered regularly, but cautiously, even if brief winter rains happen. Coolness brings slow growth and periods of dormancy. Trees require only a dampening of the root zone since transpiration of moisture is essentially non-existent. Watch for prevailing and drying winds. The porosity of a good bonsai soil mix allows moisture to quickly escape a shallow pot. If you count on the regularity of an automatic timed watering system, the timing cycle should be adjusted for winter requirements.

November should end any new plant growth activity, it is a good time to let trees rest. The only exception to the fertilization recommendation might be a 0-10-10 application to flowering and fruiting material.

Reconsider the arrangement of trees on benches. Those that may have been moved into shaded areas to avoid hot summer sun can now be exposed to better light. This is an excellent time to sort out trees into first-things-first categories. Attend to those trees that require winter trimming while the branch silhouettes are easy to study. Check the rootage on all trees. Allow some surface exposure to encourage a change from soft surface tissue to the adaptation of textures similar to the outer trunk bark.

Clean up the bonsai areas. Don't allow litter and dropped leaves to accumulate since this creates a haven for insect eggs and fungus spores to thrive. Remove all

leaves, seedpods and dried flower heads from all material--whether in pots or growing containers. Particularly, check pine trees. Remove any disfigured or long needles that show brown tips.

Think about the beauty of your small trees when the New Year and growth begins again. Translate your potted trees into groups or landscape scenes as they are in nature. Reproduce the feeling of a natural scene with artistic form and balance. Bonsai is more than just potted plants.

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.

Bonsai Ideas-Retrospect

When I first started out in bonsai, seeking and finding relevant tidbits of information regarding bonsai care were exciting and exhilarating. I have learned that an expert gains knowledge over many years of being immersed, exposed to, and having direct experiences in a specific topic. Marty Mann is one of those experts in Bonsai. Extracting information from an expert can be a difficult and arduous task, but Marty has always had the gift of being able to communicate his thoughts and express his ideas in a meaningful and effective manner.

When I was the editor of *The Bonsai Wire*, Marty was very diligent at submitting his articles for our newsletter. And, we weren't his only forum. Marty also provided articles for *Golden Statements* magazine and wrote at least two books. Marty's articles are always relevant and timely and his books are a good reference for the beginner and those striving to learn more.

In closing, I would like to mention the numerous haiku poems that Marty has written. Each poem is well thought out and very minimal, the sets of words evoking a sense of serenity and tranquility.

Thank you Marty Mann for the many years of Bonsai Ideas articles, your dedication, and for the quality of the information that you have provided to the SDBC.

Mario Condit,
SDBC Member and
former TBW editor



San Diego Bonsai Club Pavilion at the Safari Park

Congratulations and many thanks to the Bonsai Pavilion Volunteers who have accumulated over 2200 hours of dedicated work in the Pavilion so far in 2014. The October volunteers include: **Neil Auwarter, Armand Bryant, Alan Burrows, Julia Chow, Cathy & Mark Edgar, Jeff Geringer, Bob & Janice Hale, Sonja Holmquist, Curator John Jackson, Jaya Kalberer, Jim Kirchmer, Charlie Mosse, Ron Ogdon, Janet & Bob Palmer, Marcella Perez, Sally Prestele, Harlan & Mary Ann Price, Dan Sola, 'lyn Stevenson, Dennis Wagner, Mark Walters, Dave Woodall, and Roger Ziegelman.** Delicious refreshments were donated by: **Julia Chow, Cathy Edgar, John Jackson, Charlie Mosse, the Palmers, the Prices, Dan Sola, and 'lyn Stevenson.** Thanks to Marty Mann for his recent donations of buckets and soils. A large Monterrey Cypress, the first bonsai of this type in the collection, was donated this month by 'lyn.

The fall weather has been unpredictable, but the volunteers were able to start some early transplanting of well established, old, large, and healthy-hardy bonsai. These projects involved many strong hands and backs. Repotting oftentimes also includes restyling as well as upgrading and upsizing of the containers from our inventory of pots. This process also involves critiques, decision making with volunteer participation, and learning. Curator John and Assistant Curator Dennis led the "hands-on" operations this month.

*****Special thanks this month for talented, artist guest, Lisa Kirchmer, (Jim's daughter-in-law), who helped sculpt and rebuild the John Naka California Juniper's rotted dead wood *nebari*. Nakasan would really be impressed too... particularly since 2014 is the commemoration of his 100th Birthday.



She also worked on the tree trunks on the Foemina Juniper Forest bonsai that Ted Schwartz had donated, fixing the deteriorated base and rotted deadwood. Her special talent is much appreciated.

Before



After



Garden wise, there was much fall pruning and maintenance. The Horticulture Department picks up all our trimmings, recyclables, and trash after each work session. Often, we have considerable amounts but the results are most satisfying for the Park and for us. Dennis did a major clean-up of the bamboo near the front entrance of the Pavilion near the beautiful, big Pine and the Pavilion name plaque also. Everyone helped reposition and switch bonsai on the tables as needed for the changing fall sun areas, cleaned pots, weeded, trimmed, and replaced mosses.

The Zoo and Park will have a Thank You Party at the Park in November for all the Zoo and Park volunteers for 2014 who have donated significant hours. There will also be an outside judging team at the Park before the end of the year for evaluations and credential assessments, so we are working diligently to keep the Pavilion and the Bonsai Collection looking its very best.

'lyn Stevenson, SDBC-Safari Park Liaison



New Members

Please welcome our new members: **Alfredo Dela Cruz, Bethany Hughes, and Kenneth Frystak**. Say hello to them at the next meeting.

Sonya Holmquist, VP of Membership

2015 Membership Renewal

Membership renewals for 2015 will be accepted starting in November. Members can renew online or drop by the membership table. Be an early bird!

Sonya Holmquist, VP of Membership

Refreshments

Many thanks to the many folks that brought appetizers and desserts to the October picnic.

Meg Polo, Food Coordinator

Sonya and Meg have done an admirable job as food coordinators and have now taken on new responsibilities in the Club. As they move on, we will need new volunteers in the food area. Let one on the Board members know if you would be willing to assist with this job in the future.

SDBC Website

The San Diego Bonsai Club's website received high praise and numerous complements from the Golden State Bonsai Federation for being "feature rich" with a "fresh new look" that has a "well thought out" resources tab. The award-winning website is full of information and pictures. Be sure to check it out at www.sandiegobonsaiclub.com

Japanese Friendship Garden

Charlie Mosse made a presentation to the docents-in-training at the Japanese Friendship Garden regarding the Clubs trees on display there. A big thank you to Charlie. There is a lot of interest from the docents when we are working there.

Three of the trees are off exhibit as they are being nurtured back to good health. Thanks to Julia Chow and Charlie Mosse who helped with the trees this past month. Our Memorandum of Agreement has been completed between the SDBC and the JFG and plans for security are ongoing. In November, date to be determined, Fred Miyahara will be helping us with the pines. Let me know if you would be interested in helping.

Barbara French-Lee, Liaison to JFG

Calling All Bonsai Artists

The December styling competition is fast approaching! The trees to be styled in December will be on display at the November meeting. Allan Edwin and Gary Jones have already signed up as a team. We are looking for three more teams. Sign up at the November meeting to give Allan and Gary some good competition!!!

Special Events

Winter Silhouettes - January 17, 2015

A bonsai show dedicated to leafless deciduous trees? That's exactly what is in store for you at the Winter Silhouettes show hosted by Baikoen Bonsai Kenkyukai at the Los Angeles Arboretum. You will enjoy an "unobstructed view" of the structure of the *nebari*, trunk and branches without all that foliage to get in the way. Seriously, this is a one-of-a-kind show. Some trees, which have dropped their leaves for the winter, still bear beautiful fruit.

This trip will include the stop at a bonsai nursery and some time to wander through the Los Angeles Arboretum. Our evening will include a delicious potluck, raffle and auction with the members of Baikoen Bonsai Kenkyukai. The cost for admission to the show...a dessert to share at the potluck. Transportation will be by van or bus depending on the number of participants and cost will be between \$30-\$40. You can sign up at the monthly club meeting.

Bonsai-A-Thon XIX - February 28, 2015

It is time to sign up for our bus trip to The Huntington Library and Botanical Gardens to enjoy the annual Bonsai-A-Thon! This is a favorite trip for all. There will be demonstrations by noted bonsai masters, bonsai exhibits, large vendor area, a raffle and an auction. This is the annual fund raising event for the GSBF Bonsai Collection housed in the Japanese Garden, so bring your check-books!

As an added bonus, you also obtain free admission for the day to the beautiful Huntington Library and Botanical Gardens. The Japanese and Chinese gardens are spectacular and the museums are outstanding. We will depart the Balboa Park bus staging area at 7:00am and the Carlsbad staging area at 7:30am. The cost for your seat on the bus is \$40. This trip is open to family and friends. You can sign up and pay at our monthly meeting, or via PayPal on our website sandiegobonsaiclub.com.

Janice Hale, VP of Special Events

San Diego Bonsai Club, Inc.
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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

San Diego Bonsai Club Calendar of Events

November 1st Saturday and Nov. 15th Saturday
 SDBC Workday at Safari Park , 9 am to 12 pm

November 9th Sunday
 Club Meeting
 Gary Jones, Monterey Cypress

December 6th Saturday and Dec. 20th Saturday
 SDBC Workday at Safari Park , 9 am to 12 pm

December 14th Sunday
 Club Meeting
 Annual Styling Competition

January 1, 2015 Happy New Year!

January 17th, Saturday
 Winter Silhouettes Show at Los Angeles
 Arboretum in Arcadia

February 28th, Saturday
 Bonsai-A-Thon XIX at Huntington Gardens in
 Pasadena

Sunday, November 9th, 2014
 Balboa Park, Room 101
 Casa Del Prado

Meeting Agenda

Time	Activity	Room
08:30-10:20	Beginning Classes	104 or courtyard
08:30-10:20	Wiring with Michael Sykes	101
08:30-10:20	Follow-up	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

Last of the Three Sessions of the Beginning Bonsai Class in November — Repotting — Don't miss it !