

The Bonsai Wire

Volume 41, Issue 10

November, 2015



Message from the President

We had another superb fund-raising picnic in Lake Poway. Thank you to our volunteers and those who donated items for auction, food, and especially to our Master Chef, Abe Far. He prepared another sumptuous meal for our Club.

As we all know, we have two Federal holidays this month: Veterans' Day and Thanksgiving Day. For Veterans' Day, please take a moment to reflect and to honor the men and women who served the United States Armed Forces—keeping and protecting our freedom. As a member of this august club, and as a veteran, I know first-hand and understand the sacrifices service members endure during their active service. Thanksgiving Day is, traditionally, a celebration of bountiful harvest. Most of us now celebrate the occasion as a family gathering time, and the day after, "black Friday," as the start of the Christmas shopping season.

Are you ready to repot your bonsai? If this extended summer continues, it may not be an ideal time to disturb the roots of your prize specimens. If you cannot wait until Spring, as recommended by Bonsai Basics, make sure the pot and the soil mix are ready. This will prevent bonsai

roots from drying during the repotting. Water it immediately and keep it in the shade. From my personal experience in San Diego, ficus and succulents such as *Portulacaria afra* may be repotted anytime of the year.

Announcements.

December Meeting: Please bring your small "Christmas trees" next month. We will have a table to display them.

Field trip: Our Silhouettes trip will be Saturday, January 16th. We are planning on using a bus for this trip. There will be more leg room and more storage space for bonsai hunters as we will be stopping at a couple of nurseries.

Election: Per Article VI, Section 2c of our By-laws, November membership meeting will be the election of Club Officers. We will elect the following officers, as presented by the Nominating Committee during our October meeting: President, Robert Hale; First VP, Charlie Mosse; VP for Education, Barbara French-Lee; VP for Special Projects, Janice Hale; VP for Membership, Nazim Colak; Secretary, Brenda Crann; and Treasurer, Peter Chong. We appreciate their service to our Club.

Dan Sola, President

This Month's Program

This month Ted Matson will be doing a presentation on Crepe Myrtle, a tree that has a lot to offer to any bonsai collector. Ted will cover culture and care, along with some styling/design work, to show some specific techniques that apply to this species--which is a great one for our climate. He will bring along true dwarfs, some semi-dwarfs and a standard so that the Club will be able to see all of the possibilities.

Ted began studying bonsai in 1979 in San Francisco and has studied with many of the leading masters in Southern California. Today he serves as a curatorial administrator of education, volunteer and communications programs for the joint bonsai collections at The Huntington. He is also an in-demand demonstrator. Ted has conducted numerous programs, as well as workshops, at several bonsai conventions and conferences, and often appears as a headliner/featured artist for major bonsai events.

Bob Hale, 1st VP



Ted Matson

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San Diego Bonsai Club Website
www.sandiegobonsaiclub.com

Editor's Note

I want to thank Gary Jones for his series on the club's lifetime members, which gave insightful background of these people we look up to as models and mentors. How they got into bonsai through a friend or relative or just saw an ad is like most of our experience. I was also surprised that there is such variety of favorite bonsai—from pines to flowering bonsai to elms to grewias, though nobody mentioned my favorite—figus. But they all seemed excited by new members who are willing to learn, and they all are willing to help us improve our understanding and practice of bonsai. They are role models for sure.

Dave Barker,

50 Years of
Cultivating the
Art of Bonsai
In San Diego



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NOVEMBER BEGINNING CLASS: This is our last Juniper session; you will complete wiring of the tree and then repot your tree into bonsai soil and pot. Now the little juniper you received four months ago begins to look like a bonsai tree. Also remember you can always bring it back to the Club for advice whenever you want. The juniper will move into a dormant period soon for our San Diego winter and then in early Spring start feeding your tree with a balanced fertilizer.

WORKSHOP: Fred Miyahara, Glenn Jensen and Michael Sykes will host a design workshop for 10 lucky Club members in November. Each participant can bring up to 2 trees, each of the teachers will give 2 minutes of styling advice to each participant on each of their trees. Kathy Edgar will be the time-keeper to keep everyone on time. It will be interesting to see the various design ideas on the different trees. Many thanks to our teachers who are willing to share their ideas in three minutes.

This is not to take away the understanding that tree design can evolve over time and circumstances of the growth of the tree. Hopefully the participants can appreciate a variety of possibilities for their tree and chose the styling that most speaks to them. Styling a tree over time is not a stagnant decision but evolves as the tree changes, as well as the owner or caretaker. For this workshop enjoy the play of ideas from our Masters.

The workshop starts at 8:30am, but we request that the participants arrive by 8:15 and set their trees up on the tables so we are ready to begin at 8:30am SHARP.

UPCOMING CLASSES: In November there will be sign-up sheets available for the Beginner Class with Elms which takes place in January, February and March at 8:30am in Room 104. Cost: \$40.

There will also be a Workshop sign-up sheet for a grafting class in January taught by Fred Miyahara using approach, side veneer and thread grafts. Cost: \$ 15

DECEMBER EDUCATION: This will be a follow-up for all prior Foemina Juniper classes taught by Michael Sykes and all prior Black Pine classes taught by Fred Miyahara. The teachers want to talk with you about the health of your trees and next steps.

NEW EDUCATION OPPORTUNITY: John Voss has offered to lead a bonsai study group starting in January. For new members, this is usually a group of Club members who have taken the basic beginner classes and want to take their bonsai and their skills to a higher level by meeting on a regular basis to work on trees they already

have, buying new trees to work on, and learning new bonsai techniques. They would meet with John after the raffle is over at the regular Club meeting and stay for an hour or two with the purpose of working on trees.

If you are not in a study group, I strongly urge you to give this a try. Most all Club members whose skills have grown after the initial beginning classes have been in a study group at one time or another. John has agreed to take up to 5 people in the group. We have Room 101 and 104 until 3pm so the group members can decide how long they want to work. I will have a sign-up sheet at the November meeting.

Barbara French-Lee, VP for Education

Happenings at the SDBC



Pictures from
the October
Meeting/
Picnic/
Auction





San Diego Bonsai Club

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Members
October 11, 2015



1. **Call to Order:** The regular meeting of the membership of the San Diego Bonsai Club was called to order at 11:00 a.m. in Lake Poway by Dan Sola, President. It was confirmed that a quorum was present.
2. **Approval of Minutes:** The minutes from the September 13, 2015 meeting were approved as published.
President's Remarks: Dan thanked the membership for another superb Fall Show. It was another product of our hard-working members, and it was a successful fund-raising event. Some Club members worked from Thursday's set-up, show operation, and Sunday evening tear-down; it was like clock-work and almost flawless. Old and new members worked together for the benefit of San Diego Bonsai Club. If you helped, you know who you are and know what you did. Due a long list of names and may have errors of omission, they will not be listed here. A great paycheck to all is a pat on the back and a great THANK YOU.
3. **Admission of New members, Sonya Holmquist, VP for Membership:** Sonya introduced 10 new members.
4. **Board Member Reports:**
 - **Bob Hale 1st Vice president,** reported: In November, we may have Ted Matson as our presenter; in December, we will have our Christmas Party and bonsai competition. Still working on 2016 demonstrators.
 - **Peter Chong, Treasurer,** reported: In September, our Income is \$7228.14.28, and our expenses were \$5994.15; our Net Profit is \$1233.99. The balance for SDBC account is \$25,787.09 and for the Pavilion is \$15057.27.
 - **Barbara French-Lee, VP, Education,** reported: In November, there will be a Design workshop with three Bonsai Masters: Glenn Jensen, Michael Sykes, and Fred Miyahara. For December follow up, bring your Pines and Foemina from previous classes with Fred Miyahara and Michael Sykes.
 - **Janice Hale, VP, Special Projects:** The Winter Silhouettes will be on January 16, 2016; the cost will be \$40.00, stopping at two nurseries. The Bonsai-A-Thon will on February 27, 2016; the cost will be \$40.00.
5. **Appointed Position Reports:**
 - **John Jackson, Safari Park Pavilion Curator;** reported: Thanks to the volunteers. Next working Saturday we will have demonstrations for the public.
6. **Old Business:** None
7. **New Business:** Eric Jacobson, member of Nominating Committee announced the candidates for 2016 Board Members: Treasurer - Peter Chong, Secretary - Brenda Crann, VP Special Projects - Janice Hale, VP Membership - Nazim Colak, VP of Education - Barbara French-Lee, 1st VP - Charlie Mosse, and President - Bob Hale. There were no nominations from the floor.
8. **Announcements: President Dan Sola** announced: Reminder of 2016 meeting changes—In March 2016, our club meeting will be on the 27th, which is the fourth Sunday of the month. Also in June 2016, our meeting will be on the 2nd Sunday, but we will be meeting in Room 104.
9. **Program:** At 11:20 a.m., First VP, Bob Hale started the fund-raising auction.
10. **Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 11:20 a.m.

Respectfully submitted, Brenda Crann Secretary

SDBC Honoree - Abe Far

Abe Far was first introduced to bonsai when he went to see this young man named David who was interested in dating his daughter. In David's back yard were these little trees. "What are these?" he asked. "Those are bonsai!" said David. Well Abe liked these little trees so much that



he went out and bought some nursery stock and started cutting and repotting to make his own little bonsai. David came over one day and asked Abe, "What are these little shrubs?" Abe told him they were his bonsai. No, no, no David told him, "You've got to join the San Diego Bonsai Club!" And join the club he did in 1994. David married his daughter, they have two children and now they all enjoy Abe's bonsai!

When Abe joined SDBC, he took on the refreshment service and handled the coffee and doughnuts for two years. Abe went on to become treasurer, and finally president of SDBC. One thing led to the next and Abe became involved with the Golden State Bonsai Federation. He started working as Trustee at large, then Trustee-District E, Membership, Education Chair, Insurance, Vice-President and currently is President of the GSBF. Abe encourages everyone to become involved with the club and he demonstrates his words with his own participation. It is his joy that there are so many new members in our club. And with his involvement in GSBF, he sees clubs growing all over the state.

When Abe joined, he with Michael Sykes started learning with Lew Buller. Since then, he has learned from many teachers - Ted Matson, Ernie Kuo, Ben Oki, Kathy Shaner, and in workshops at conventions. He stresses the importance of continuing to learn. He knows that expertise comes from doing; the more we play and study, the better we become.

In 1998, Abe got involved with Shohin and the Shohin group, an extension of the SDBC. The group met at Lucinda Grove's home and various bonsai artists would come to teach members more about the small variety of bonsai. Now the group has about 21 members and shows their trees at our Spring and Fall Shows.

His favorite trees are fruiting and flowering varieties

like kumquat and azalea. One of Abe's disasters was the loss of an azalea that he couldn't stop from slowly diminishing in vigor and beauty over four years. What he would give to figure out how to grow azaleas in our area.

For Abe, bonsai is an art-form that continues to grow and change as the year progresses. And it is an activity that gives back to relieve the stress of the day, bring peace to the moment and pleasure to spending time with his wife, Christina. For him, it is rewarding to share this art with others who have come to learn.

Gary Jones, Show Chairman

Christmas Styling Competition

We have our annual Christmas Styling competition in December, but the competition starts in November with the formation of four styling teams. Contact Bob Hale at the November meeting if you have a potential team. Each team will get a chance to see the tree they will be styling ahead of time at the November meeting, so they can get a head start of their styling strategy.

Shohin Study Group

Ted Matson, the speaker at the November SDBC meeting, provided the Shohin Group instruction in August, so some of the members will be able to get follow-up advice from Ted after the general meeting. Ted will have time to work one-on-one with 6 members on trees worked on in August, keeping them on a good path to becoming quality shohin.

Also, a trip is planned to Los Angeles in mid-November to have a shohin workshop with Peter Macasieb. We will be learning more of the skills needed to create a quality shohin. Shohin are small, making branch placement, trunk and branch taper and even positioning of leaves and needles more difficult than "normal" sized bonsai. While many of the same rules apply, it takes more practice and patience to create a quality shohin. Even the growing of shohin has some differences from other larger bonsai.

Shohin Study Group members, as are all club members, encouraged to bring in their trees to the Help area from 9:00 to 10:20. The assistance is free and can help keep your trees on track, get you past the ever puzzling styling decisions, and solve specific care problems. Bonsai need regular attention, not just for care, but also for how the tree grows and how the styling evolves over time.

Charlie Mosse, SDBC member

San Diego Bonsai Club Pavilion at the Safari Park

October was a beautiful and active time at the Pavilion. We had a great turnout of volunteers who accomplished so much, as they always do! The October Pavilion volunteers also welcomed another new SDBC member, **Mike Shelly**, who has recently moved back to San Diego from the East, and a guest and donator of several bonsai to the Pavilion, **Brian Jackson**. They both joined in the Pavilion activities with **Neil Auwarter, Julia Chow, Cathy & Mark Edgar, Jeff Geringer, Bob & Janice Hale, Sonya Holmquist, John Jackson, Jim Kirchner, Jaya Kaelberer, Jim Lane, Charlie Mosse, Janie & Ron Ogdon, Janet & Ron Palmer, Marcella Perez, Sally Prestele, Harlan & Mary Ann Price, 'lyn Stevenson, John Voss, Dennis Wagner, Mark Walters, Dave Woodall, and Roger Ziegelman**.

Delicious donations were supplied by Charlie, Marcella, Curator John, Cathy, Janet, Julia and 'lyn along with treats from the Park's Volunteer Office (which we keep in the closet refrigerator). Robert Thurston from the Park's Horticulture Dept. donated an African evergreen, *Scotia afra*, which is a two feet tall stock now and will be kept in the work area for future styling. Harlan Price added another \$100 to his past donations which are included on the Honor Board at the entrance to the Pavilion. It is wonderful to have these generous donors who are also great volunteers. THANK YOU always to these special people!

Our October 17th workday was one of the three days during the year at the Safari Park in which we provide a program for interested Park visitors, employees, and other Zoo-Park volunteers to do demonstrations of some of the work we do with the bonsai. This time, we repotted a large seiju elm, did trimming and styling of an olive and juniper, and Curator John did some clever grinding and shaping of a new apex on a very large juniper. The guests are always appreciative, ask lots of questions, and are often surprised that bonsai are actually "garden" trees and are not their own special species of plant materials.

Work this month included adding some minor trenches and secondary drains in the work area, and much bonsai trimming, shaping, and pruning continued by all the volunteers. Jeff and Dennis did major trimming on pines and Tecate cypress that we maintain in the garden area within our Pavilion. And Ron Ogdon again donned his tall boots and did some great pond cleanup.

Watering is always a major concern at the Pavilion and the Safari Staff are most helpful but we must continuous-

ly check and revamp any problem lines, drippers, and spitters that can clog up or pop off or lose proper pressure. Our aim is to have the Pavilion "show ready" all the time! This past month, visitors took note of the blooming and fruiting pomegranates and bougainvillea.

Besides participation at the SDBC Show and the SDBC October Picnic-Auction, several of our volunteers visited the Artisan's Cup Exhibition in Oregon and the Pacific Bonsai Museum in Washington. Former SDBC-Pavilion Volunteers, Tom Anglewicz and Florentina Cruz, who now reside in Colorado sent their regards to SDBC friends while they were there also. Several volunteers will also be in Riverside for the GSBF Convention at the end of October. Outgoing GSBF President Abe Far, is an active SDBC member former SDBC President and volunteer and Pavilion supporter. . .we congratulate ABE!

We are anxious for November and more planning and transplanting . . . we also invite SDBC and San Pu Kai members to join the volunteers at the Bonsai Pavilion in Safari Park. We learn, share, and accomplish much!

'lyn Stevenson, SDBC-Safari Park Liason

Maude Laracy Remembered

Our long-time club member and friend, Maude Laracy, passed away on Friday, October 23rd. She was at home with her children and grandchildren by her side, and she went peacefully. There was a private family service for her at Fort Rosecrans.

Maude Laracy was there at the beginning in 1965 when the Club was first formed and was a lifetime member of the SDBC. She shared her story with us in the June, 2015 issue of the newsletter.

Maude was one of those people you were always delighted to see; she would light up a room. Even at an advanced age, she was full of energy, enthusiasm, and curiosity.

The Club extends its heartfelt sympathy to her family and assures them that her many friends at the Club will miss her.



New Members

Please welcome our new members: **John Terell and Mike and Katy Boswell**.

Sonya Holmquist, VP of Membership

Also, we will be accepting membership renewals for 2016 starting with the November meeting.

Library News

As mentioned last month, Steve Clemons, the SDBC librarian, is seeking two assistant librarians to help out in the library. An assistant librarian would be responsible for opening the library and assisting members from 9:30 am—10:20 am on club meeting days once every couple of months. Send an email to Steve Clemons if you are interested at sclemons88@gmail.com or stop by the library before the November meeting.

Special Events

Winter Silhouettes Show – January 16, 2016

Our first field trip of 2016 will be to the Winter Silhouettes Show at the Los Angeles Arboretum held by our friends, Baikoen Bonsai Kenkyukai. Bonsai, all deciduous, are shown in their leafless state; no place to hide a cross branch or negative taper here! A few trees may still have some fall fruit on the branch or may have the start of their spring blossoms. The members of Baikoen Bonsai Kenkyukai host a fantastic potluck dinner and we provide the dessert. Dinner is followed by a fun raffle and auction. To add to the fun, we will stop at a bonsai nursery on our way to the show. Transportation will be via a full sized tour bus. The bus will leave the Balboa Park staging area at 11:00am and the Carlsbad staging area at 11:30am, returning to San Diego before 11:00pm. Club members, you can also bring your family and friends! The cost is \$40 per person, along with a dessert to share at the potluck. You can sign up via PayPal from our website, www.sandiegobonsaiclub.com or at the club meeting.

2016 Bonsai-A-Thon – February 27, 2016

In February we'll be off to The Huntington Library and Botanical Gardens to enjoy the 2016 Bonsai-A-Thon! The Bonsai-A-Thon is the annual fund-raising event for the Golden State Bonsai Federation Collection at The Huntington. There will be demonstrations by noted bonsai masters, bonsai exhibits, a large vendor area, a raffle and a very lively auction. For a list of the demonstrators, visit www.gsbfhuntington.com. A perk of the Bonsai

-A-Thon...you also obtain free admission for the day to the Huntington Library and Botanical Gardens. Our tour bus will depart the Balboa Park staging area at 7:00am and the Carlsbad staging area at 7:30am. The cost per person for the bus is \$40. Club members, feel free to invite your family and friends. Please sign up via PayPal from our website, www.sandiegobonsaiclub.com or at the club meeting.

Janice Hale, V.P. Special Projects

Artisan's Cup Exhibition

Cathy and I spent the week of September 25-27 at the Artisan's Cup in Portland, Oregon. It was a fun, but hectic week of volunteering in Ryan Neil's garden (clean up duty), helping with show setup/tear down, helping during the show, and actually attending the show. The display was unlike any bonsai show we have attended or seen in books. About 70 trees of all types were on display.

Entrants were from all over the USA. All the display benches were custom made to show the trees in a very unique way. The show room was completely dark. The display benches, backdrops, and even the carpet was black. Each tree was lit by three or four spotlights. The effect was stunning. Depending on the viewing angle, the slotted back drops permitted a glimpse of other trees across the room. The effect was like looking through a dark forest. Photography was challenging and the picture below does not do the show justice.

The winning tree (pictured below) was a Rocky Mountain juniper owned by Randy Knight, who is an accomplished collector of yamadori trees. In case you are wondering, the stand that the tree is on does indeed have only three legs with the missing leg under the heaviest part of the tree. The stand was custom made for the tree and has a metal infrastructure that balances the tree. The accent "plant" was a pair of petrified buffalo horns (pictured lower right) that seemed to reflect American bonsai.

Mark
Edgar,
SDBC
member



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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

San Diego Bonsai Club Calendar of Events

November 7th Saturday and Nov 21st, Saturday

SDBC Workday at Safari Park , 9 am to 12 pm

November 8th Sunday

Club Meeting—Ted Matson

December 5th Saturday and Dec 19th, Saturday

SDBC Workday at Safari Park , 9 am to 12 pm

December 13th Sunday

Club Meeting—Annual Styling Competition

January 1, 2016 Happy New Year!

January 2nd Saturday and Jan 16th, Saturday

SDBC Workday at Safari Park , 9 am to 12 pm

January 10th Sunday

Club Meeting

January 16th, Saturday

Winter Silhouettes Show Trip

L.A. Arboretum in Arcadia

February 14th Sunday

Club Meeting

Sunday, November 8, 2015
 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	Styling Workshop	101
	09:00 - 10:20	Get Help w/ your Bonsai	101
	09:30– 10:20	Library Open	104
	10:30-11:00	Business Meeting	101
	11:00-12:30	Demonstration	101
	12:30	Lunch	101
	12:45	Benefit Drawing	101

Fall Show pictures are now on the SDBC Website!