

# The Bonsai Wire

Volume 42, Issue 11

November, 2016

## Message from the President



The Poway picnic was a great opportunity to pick up some bonsai bargains. We missed John Polo's lively salesmanship during the auction, but Gary Jones carried the day, auctioning off about seventy items. In addition, a similar number of items were sold through the silent action. The potluck lunch was varied, plentiful, and delicious. With great weather and great people, all in all we had a great time.

I ran across an article the other day: "Bonsai: Walking the Thin Line Between Life and Death". Included within the article is a video "American Shokunin" by Ryan Bush. Shokunin is a Japanese word used to describe an individual that aspires to become a master in their particular craft or art form. American Shokunin gives you

a glimpse at the philosophical thinking of Ryan Neil, as he pursues perfection in bonsai. It describes the inherent challenges and aspirations that come along with the pursuit for bonsai mastery. I highly recommend watching the inspirational 7 minute video. Go to [vimeo.com](http://vimeo.com) and search for American Shokunin.

**Bob Hale, President**

## Nominations to 2017 SDIBC Board

Bob Hale President  
Charlie Mosse, 1st VP  
Bill Graham, VP Education  
Nazim Colak, VP Membership  
Janice Hale, VP Special Projects  
Marcella Perez, Treasurer  
Veronica Perondi, Secretary

## This Month's Program

Mel Ikeda is a master of raft style bonsai. Anyone lucky enough to have seen him create a raft bonsai at the 2016 Winter Silhouettes styling competition will tell you he is a real crowd pleaser.

Raft style is another method for creating a forest bonsai or multi-trunk looking bonsai, except it is created from a single tree. The tree is trimmed so that the best branches are pretty much on one side of the tree and the root ball is trimmed on the down facing side. This style is challenging but a lot of fun. All of this will be expertly demonstrated by Mr. Ikeda.

**Charlie Mosse, 1st VP**

For more detail on the process of creating raft-style bonsai, check out the July, 2015 Dai Ichi Bonsai Kai newsletter re-capping a demo Mel did. Here is the link: <http://artofsaikei.com/dibk/gazette/0715-GAZETTE-30-07.pdf>



**Mel Ikeda**  
at Kofu Bonsai Kai  
Demo

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

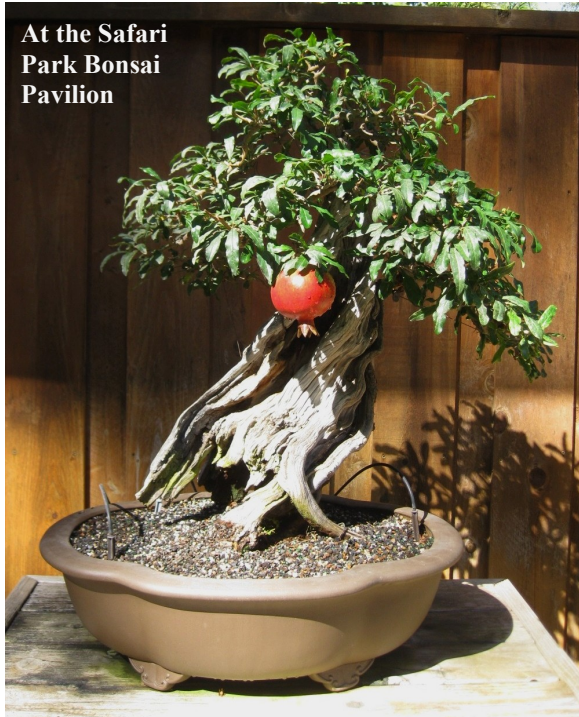
## Editor's Note

In the spirit of Thanksgiving, I want to thank the 2016 SDBC board members for all they do for the club, and for providing the great content for the newsletter! And I want to thank Dan Sola and Charlie Mosse for contributing great pictures documenting club activities throughout the year for the newsletter. Also, thanks to 'lyn Stevenson and Barbara French-Lee for providing monthly updates on the bonsai collections at the Safari Park and Japanese Friendship Garden. And last, Shirley Kavanaugh, who faithfully mails out the hard copy to a some members each month.

Dave Barker  
TBW Editor

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

At the Safari  
Park Bonsai  
Pavilion



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**BEGINNING CLASS:** November is our last Juniper session; you will complete wiring of the tree and then re-pot your tree into bonsai soil and pot. Now the 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.

**UPCOMING BEGINNING CLASS:** 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.

**NOVEMBER FOLLOW-UP:** 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 development of your trees, the health of your trees, and next steps for your trees.

**NOVEMBER WORKSHOP WITH MEL IKEDA:** Mel will be conducting a workshop on raft style bonsai in November after his demonstration at the meeting. The workshop will start at 12 noon and take approximately one and one-half hours. The workshop is now closed, but all are welcome as silent observers.

For all people taking the Raft Style Workshop please be sure and come for the demo on Raft Style by Mel Ikeda in the morning as that will make it easier when he helps you create your own. Remember to bring your tools including pliers, gloves to protect your hands, a small knife for scraping the bark and money to purchase the growing boxes (at cost). Soil, tree, wire and rooting hormone will be provided.

Barb French-Lee,  
VP for Education

Our Fall Show had many beautiful bonsai, both large and small. Below are a sampling from the largest to the smallest, with the full set of photos available for viewing on the club website.





# San Diego Bonsai Club

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Members  
October 9, 2016



1. **Call to Order:** The regular meeting of the membership of the San Diego Bonsai Club was called to order at 10:32 at Poway Lake by Bob Hale, President. It was confirmed that a quorum was present. Acknowledgement of all past SDBC presidents.
2. **Approval of Minutes:** The minutes from the September 11, 2016 meeting were approved as published.
3. **Nazim Colak, VP for Membership:** There were 18 new members.
4. **Board Member Reports:**
  - **Charlie Mosse 1st Vice president,** reported: November demonstration will be by Mel Ikeda on Raft Style bonsai and in December we will have our styling competition. In January, we will be repotting instead of a demonstration; We may have a workshop with Sean Smith on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday. In February, David Nguy demonstrating bending Juniper. Kathy Shaner will be at our July meeting with additional possible workshops.
  - **Peter Chong, Treasurer,** reported: Our Fall Show Sales were \$8,380.00 and our Net \$2,080.86 In September, our Income was \$4,495.07 and our Expenses were \$2,675.47 Net \$1,819.60 The balance for SDBC account is \$38,530.89 and for the Pavilion \$17,376.81
  - **Barbara French-Lee, Vice President, Education,** reported: 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 by Mel Ikeda there will be a Raft workshop that will begin at noon.
  - **Janice Hale, Special Projects,** reported: . Two trips in 2017 so far are the January 14 trip to the Silhouettes show at the LA Arboretum (with a bonsai nursery stop). And on February 25<sup>th</sup> there is a trip to the Bonsai-A-thon at the Huntington Library. Cost for each trip: \$40.00
5. **Appointed Position Reports:**
  - **John Jackson, Curator for Safari Park Pavilion** reported: Thanks to all of the volunteers. We have installed the sign for the Shohin display.
  - **Glenn Jensen, Curator for JFG;** reported: On October 5, the Japanese Friendship Garden had an Educational Program: SDBC members participated. We have requested more space and stands for the bonsai exhibit at the Garden and an offsite area to store and grow trees not on display.
6. **Old Business:** None
7. **New Business:** Abe Far and Dan Sola are the nomination committee for 2017 Board Members. The Nominations are: Bob Hale President; Charlie Mosse, 1<sup>st</sup> VP; ; William Graham, VP Education; Nazim Colak, VP for Membership; Janice Hale, VP Special Projects; Marcella Perez, Treasurer: and Veronica Perondi, Secretary. Our own Janice Hale received the Jim Barrett "Golden Chopstick" award. Jim has given out only 8 in the last 15 years. Congratulations to Janice; it is well deserved!
8. **Announcements: Bob Hale, President:** Thanked all the Member of the Board for all the work they do.
9. **Program: Auction.**
10. **Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 10:53am.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Crann Secretary

Someone we haven't seen in a while showed up at the Fall Show; it was none other than SDBC lifetime member Larry Upp.





## Fall Show Demos

The club has been encouraging more hands-on bonsai work by including more instruction and demonstration during the show. We had inside workshops for club



members utilizing experts like Peter Macasieb at the Spring Show and then Ted Matson at the Fall Show. Ted instructed 2 workshops and also did the Saturday demonstration for the public, and did his usual fabulous presentation.

All of the workshop participants got much done, which is one of Ted's trademarks. So the club had almost continuous bonsai work being done inside on Saturday.

On Sunday Jim Barrett and Gary Jones conducted the inside demonstration. We also had more members doing outside



demos at the show to hopefully grab the interest of even more of the passing public to come in and see the show. Abe Far, Cristina Vargas, John Jackson, Mark and Cathy



Edgar and Ken Bross wowed passersby while working on their own trees and explaining bonsai.

## October Meeting and Picnic

The San Diego Bonsai Club had its annual Fall picnic and auction at Lake Poway on a beautiful sunny day. After the club meeting, the picnic began with tons of



food. After the eating was done, the fun began as Gary Jones did his usual stellar job as auctioneer, with help from his able assistants Aisha Colak, Bob Hale, and Bill Graham.

After the auction, all that was left was paying up. Thanks to Janice Hale, Peter Chong, and Charlie Mosse for handling the financial transactions.

And thanks to all members who donated items to the auction and to all members who opened their pocketbooks to make this event a big success.





# San Diego Bonsai Club Pavilion at the Safari Park

October volunteers at the SDBC Bonsai Pavilion at Safari Park included: **Neil Auwarter, Dave Barker, Ken Bross, Julia Chow, Cathy & Mark Edgar, Sonya Holmquist, John Jackson, Jaya Kaelberer, Janet and Ron Palmer, Marcella Perez, Sally Prestele, Jesus Rivera, Chusub Sresthadatta, 'lyn Stevenson, and Dave Woodall.** We all welcomed new volunteers **Clara and Ron Roberts** to our volunteer team also and they began with assignments from Curator John immediately. Refreshments were generously donated by Julia, Marcella, Cathy, John, Jesus, Chusub, Jaya. and 'lyn. A huge thank you to Dave Woodall for his generous cash donation to the Pavilion; he donated all his receipts from the recent sale at our Fall Show to the Pavilion Fund.



At the recent Zoo and Park Volunteers meeting, Andy Schucker, who is in charge of the all the volunteer services at Safari Park, mentioned trees and shrubs that are in jeopardy of extinction just like some animals. The Zoo and Park are working on projects to continue propagating some of these valuable plant materials, especially noted were cycads and Tecate Cypress. We have a Tecate Cypress in the garden near the waterfall in the Bonsai Pavilion; it has been there for several years. We will learn more about this project in the future and keep informed.

Tecate Cypress is a great tree for bonsaiists to discover, propagate, and style. Remember that this is a plant species that is being threatened by extinction! Let's help to protect it!

We are getting ready for fall and winter transplanting in the garden areas and, of course, several of the potted bonsai. These may be moved into different pots or have the soils changed. We update the entries for changes in

each tree in our inventory books.

Volunteer hours that our volunteers have accrued working in the Bonsai Pavilion are regularly forwarded to the Zoo and Safari Park Volunteer Offices. Volunteers with over 50 hours in the Pavilion for 2016 will be honored at a special Safari Park Party in December.

November is a special month in the USA for many public thanksgiving announcements . . . we join in that custom and especially thank the San Diego Bonsai Club, the Safari Park Horticulture Department, the Zoo and Park Volunteers Offices, and most especially, the dedicated, credentialed Bonsai Pavilion volunteers for participating in the workdays all year long in support and maintenance of this unique and wonderful Bonsai Pavilion facility at the Safari Park.



'lyn Stevenson, SDBC-Safari Park Liaison

## Japanese Friendship Garden

Volunteers from SDBC are continuing to improve the bonsai collection at the Japanese Friendship Garden. Here they are working on a purple flowering Bougainvillea.

[They must be taking a break at the time of the picture!]



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## New Members

Please welcome our new members: **Jim Spence, Miles Thiel, Lucio Mendoza, Lucio Alan Mendoza, Pat Siler, Larry Pitts, Robert Guel, Eunmi Guel, Michael Guel, Lauren Guel, David Guel, Olga Casey, William Cruz, Helen Williams, William K. Cruz, Maria Rosa Halpern, Alvin Halpern, Clarita Riusech, Jose Riusech, and Rowena Ross.**

**Nazim Colak, VP of Membership**

## National Bonsai Foundation

The National Bonsai Foundation in Washington D.C. recently announced the celebration of the 40th Anniversary of the National Bonsai and Penjing Museum's collections. At the same time it announced the retirement of Supervisory Curator, Jack Sustic. A former assistant at the collection, Michael James, will be Jack's replacement, making for a smooth transition. We wish both Jack and Michael continued success in their new ventures.

## December Program

The holidays are fast approaching and so is the annual styling competition. This year we will use the same variety of plants as Mel Ikeda will use in the November demonstration, the Leyland Cypress. This variety has soft foliage, is fast growing, is easy to wire, jin or shari. We need 3-4 teams for the styling. The trees will be available for previewing at the November meeting. Let Bob Hale or Charlie Mosse know if you have a two person team.

## Get Well

San Diego Bonsai Club is a large extended family, so we share kind thoughts and messages beyond our Bonsai lives. There are several members that we need to keep in our thoughts and prayers as they work through some difficult ailments, including Ruth and Marty Mann, Janie and Ron Ogdon, Larry Upp, and Ko Tsushima. We send them our love and good wishes.

If there are others that we have not heard about, please let our Sunshine Chair, Susan Baker ([baker@susanMbaker.com](mailto:baker@susanMbaker.com)), or our Bonsai Wire editor, Dave Barker ([dtbarker\\_sd@yahoo.com](mailto:dtbarker_sd@yahoo.com)), know so we can extend get well wishes or sympathy notes for loved ones and their families.

## Special Events

### *Silhouettes Trip – January 14, 2017*

Baikoen Bonsai Kenkyukai will be conducting its annual Winter Silhouettes show at the Los Angeles Arboretum in Arcadia, California. This show is 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 next Club 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 its 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, returning to Balboa Park at 7:00pm. The cost for your seat on the full sized bus is \$40.



Find a little time to 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 next Club 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*

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

## San Diego Bonsai Club Calendar of Events

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 7th and January 21st Saturday  
 SDBC Workdays at Safari Park , 9 am to 12 pm

January 8th Sunday  
 Club Meeting  
 Potting Extravaganza

January 14, 2017 Saturday  
 Silhouettes Trip to LA Arboretum

February 25, 2017 Saturday  
 Bonsai-a-thon  
 Huntington Library and Gardens

Sunday, November 13, 2016  
 Balboa Park, Room 101  
 Casa Del Prado

### Meeting Agenda

	Time	Activity	Room
	08:30– 10:20	Beginning Class	104
	08:45– 10:20	Follow-up with Michael	101
	08:45 - 10:20	Follow-up with Fred	101
	09:30– 10:20	Library Open	104
	10:30-11:00	Business Meeting	101
	11:00-12:00	Demonstration	101
	12:00	Lunch	101
	12:15	Benefit Drawing	101
	12:00	Workshop with Mel Ikeda	101