

The Bonsai Wire

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December, 2014



Message from the President

Thank You

Thank you Gary Jones for your splendid presentation about Monterey cypress—*cupressus macrocarpa*—a native California tree at the November meeting.

There are numerous members who worked diligently and gave (and continue to give) so much to our Club—including those behind the scenes: Bob and Janet Hale for donating several Monterey cypress (for our members to maintain), officers and volunteers who kept our activities fun and interesting, and everyone who made November another successful month. Thanks to all of you.

Holiday Season

It is true that time goes fast when you are having fun. It has been a fast moving and fun 2014. It seems not too long ago, we had a crowded gathering for our December 2013 meeting in room 104. It is that time again to celebrate our annual Holiday potluck and cheer our Club members competing at our bonsai competition; it will be a fun and festive event. As usual, our refreshment crew will provide a main dish for the event; please bring your favorite side dish, dessert, or other.

Announcements

Our 2015 Club Officers will be installed this month. For those who are being installed, please do not miss this meeting, and thank you for your service to our Club.

Our trip to the Winter Silhouettes will be on Saturday, January 17, 2015 (see page 7). And plan ahead, the Bonsai-A-Thon in Huntington will be Saturday, February 28, 2015 (see details on page 7).

We continue to solicit members—especially new members—to volunteer for our many activities: kitchen crew, fall and spring shows, classrooms and meeting set-up (and tear down). The success of any volunteer organization depends on the generosity of its volunteer members. Please see me or any of the new SDBC Officers about how you can contribute.

We are looking for members to display their bonsai collections next year during our meeting in room 101—including those who want their bonsai to be critiqued by our in-house experts before being displayed at our Spring or Fall show. Please see Dan Sola or Abe Far if interested.

Dan Sola, President

This Month's Program

For our December meeting, we will be having Team AG (Allan & Gary), Team Abe (Abe and surprise member), Team J (Julia Chimento & Jason Tucker), and Team Colak (Nazim and Ayse) styling "Big Dave" junipers on our stage. The teams have taken the junipers home to plan their strategy for the big day.

The junipers will be styled immediately after the club business meeting in a fast and furious trimming, wiring, and jinning session with non-stop commentary from a learned SDBC member. The resulting trees will be judged by all of the club members with an award presented to the winning team.

These trees will be auctioned off at our January club meeting.

Bob Hale, 1st VP

Holiday Bonsai

Decorate a bonsai tree for the holidays and bring it to the December meeting to share with your fellow club members.



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San Diego Bonsai Club Website
www.sandiegobonsaiclub.com

Editor's Note

Hard to believe the year is almost over as we move into the Holidays and our bonsai into their rest period. Thanks to all of the SDBC Board members who volunteered their time to make the meetings, classes, shows, special trips, and Bonsai Pavilion at Safari Park run smoothly and who contributed articles each month to TBW. And thanks to Allan Edwin for his work as Treasurer as he rotates off the Board. Great Job Guys! Dave Barker, TBW Editor



Enjoy
Bonsai,
Learn
More

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A big THANK YOU to everyone who helped teach classes and workshops this year. They are **Ilyn Stevenson, Fred Miyahara, Michael Sykes, Martha Choy, John Jackson, Cindy Read, Ken Bross, Gary Jones, John Voss, and Dan Sola**. And to all those that helped - **Alan Burrows, Mark Edgar, Andrew Choy, Nelson Cortes, Brenda Crann, Cathy Edgar, Charlie Mosse, Dennis Wagner and Dave Woodall**. And a Big Thank You to everyone who helped at the HELP and FOLLOWUP table and to those who pitched in to set up tables, clean up and help the teachers in a pinch. THANK YOU too for everyone who helped take care of the plants at the Club's area at Cindy Read's nursery—**Charlie Mosse, Gary Jones, Sonya Holmquist, Meg Polo, John Polo, Jaya Kaelberer, Ron Kaelberer, Dan Sola, Eric Jacobson and Allen Edwin**. Also a special THANKS to **Marty Mann** who donated many of his books to the Club for the Beginning Classes.

Although there is no Education Program in December, please remember to bring in any trees for the grafting class in January. Fred Miyahara will conduct the class in January but would like to see if your tree or trees are suitable for the type of graft you are interested in. Also, if you were in Michael Sykes Foemina Juniper class in February 2014, bring your tree to the December meeting for assessment and the next steps in styling.

The BEGINNING CLASS with elms, taught by Ilyn Stevenson, is filled and will start in January. There will be sign-up sheets available at the December meeting for two workshops - Fred Miyahara's January workshop on Three Types of Grafting Suitable for Bonsai Trees and Michael Sykes' February 2015 Foemina Juniper workshop.

Barbara French-Lee, VP Education

JAPANESE FRIENDSHIP GARDEN

I want to give a BIG THANKS to two very busy people who gave the volunteers at the JFG direction in the care of the San Diego Bonsai Clubs collection at the Garden. **John Jackson** and **Fred Miyahara** not only came several times this past year to give direction to the volunteers but helped teach a Bonsai Class to students at the garden this summer. Other Club members who helped teach were **Dennis Wagner, Nelson Cortes and Gary Jones**. THANKS to the following volunteers who helped at the Garden this year— **Jim Barrett, Trisha Bonapace, Julia Chimento, Julia Chow, Charlie Mosse, John Polo, Meg Polo, Dan Sola, and Melinda Trazinsky**.

Barbara French-Lee, JFG Liason

Eric Jacobson accepted his award from the Golden State Bonsai Federation for best advanced bonsai website in the State at the November meeting.



Gary Jones provided a presentation on Monterey Cypress, 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.



A drawing was held where nine lucky members won one gallon trees (**Robert Jerskey, Warren Tam, Janet Palmer, Nazim Colak, Cathy Edgar, Ron Palmer, Ron Ogdon, Sonya Holmquist, and Denise Vinole**). John Voss noted during the presentation that 15 gallon Monterey Cypress trees were available at Sunshine Gardens. Bob Hale procured a number of these trees and four trees will be available for sale at the December club meeting at \$30 each.



I'm trimmin' in the rain
Just trimmin' in the rain
What a glorious feelin'
I'm happy again...

Abe Far brought in some of his bonsai to share with the club.





San Diego Bonsai Club

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Members
November 9, 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 October 10, 2014 meeting were approved as published.
- 3. President's Remarks:** **Dan Sola**, Congratulated Eric Jacobson for his work on the SDBC website and won First Place in the GSBF website competition. Eric was presented with a certificate and artwork.
- 4. Sonya Holmquist, Membership V. P., Admission of New Members**, announced: 12 new members; Bethany and Adam Hughes, Kevin Lizarrage, Fritz and Christi Reisch, Tess Pino, Susan Ronan, James Walsh, Ken Frystak, Brent and Valerie Croyle and Edward Stokes. Membership renewals have started.
- 5. Board Member Reports:**

Bob Hale, 1st Vice President, reported: Thanked everyone for coming to the Picnic at Poway Lake; next year we may streamline and do a silent auction; Gary Jones will be presenting Monterey Cypress. Next month will be our annual bonsai styling competition with 4 teams, two persons in each team; the trees will be junipers.

Allen Edwin, Treasurer, reported: We had a successful picnic; we made \$1,635 from auction which puts us at a break even for the year, including the Pavilion expenses. End of October \$21,753 was our gross revenue; before the Picnic we were \$1,900.00 in the red, and we have now broken even.

Barbara French-Lee, Vice President, Education: This is the end of the classes for this year; teachers and volunteers were acknowledged for all of help. Classes are in the newsletter and website; First beginning class will be Elm trees with Lyn Stevenson. Fred Miyahara will have a grafting workshop; the cost is \$10.00; bring your tree in December to determine if it can be done to your tree. Follow up class on Michael Sykes Foemina will be in December.

Janice Hale, Vice President Special Projects: We have two field trips planned: Winter Silhouettes on January 17, 2015; the cost between \$30-\$40 and Bonsai-A-Thon on February 28, 2015 will be \$40.
- 6. Appointed Position Reports:**

John Jackson, Safari Park Pavilion, reported: We had lots of volunteers last week; we got a lot of things done; next time we will start re-potting in November/December.

Unfinished Business: 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 in October; there were no nominations from the floor: President, Dan Sola; First VP Bob 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 (not present). Motion was made and seconded, and it was a unanimous vote.
- 7. New Business:** For our 50th Anniversary in 2015, we have created a committee, and Eric Jacobson and John Polo will be on that committee.
- 8. Announcements:** We had a wonderful GSBF convention; encourage everyone to subscribe to the *Golden Statements* magazine; we have a four-year Bonsai School at Lake Merritt. Because our SDBC is about education, GSBF has appointed Charlie Mosse as Chair of Grants and Scholarship. SDBC acknowledge Abe Farr for his 2nd year as GSBF president.
First timer to display in our shows: Spring Show: Brenda Crann; Fall Show: Nazim Colak and his daughter and Allan Edwin;
February and June 2015 meetings will be on 4th Sundays and May 2015 meeting at the Safari Park will be on the 3rd Sunday.
- 9. November 2014 Program Bob Hale introduced:** Our Club member Gary Jones will make a presentation about Monterey Cypress.
- 10. Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Brenda Crann, Secretary

ENJOY THE HOLIDAYS, IMPROVE AND PROTECT YOUR BONSAI

Our local climate in San Diego provides us with many challenges. Even within the San Diego area, we have micro-climates that impose challenges. Some days we receive heavy rains and in the following week, we may get the low humidity Santa Ana winds. Use your creative side to figure out how to maintain moisture in your tree soil and prevent the rainy days from drowning your roots. The following provides guidance to help keep your bonsai healthy and happy.

December is a wonderful time to really see your trees. The 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 your tree with strong background light in order to study its design, shape and position in the pot. Deciduous material that is fully exposed can now be photographed to study and refine it.

This is a good time of year to concentrate on clean up. Be sure to remove all debris and remains from trimming activities to prevent buildup of breeding places for sow bugs, spiders and other insects or fungus. Removal of trash from your bonsai area is always an important practice. If old leaves hang on, take them off.

Reconsider the arrangement of trees on your benches. Those that were moved into shaded areas to avoid hot summer sun can now be exposed to better light. Consider rotating your trees to allow better light penetration. This is an excellent time to sort out trees into repotting, wiring, or trimming categories.

Bonsai feeding during the winter months will be much reduced due to the low temperatures and shorter days. Conifers and evergreen trees continue to grow in the California climate, and so require some nourishment. A light feeding of cottonseed meal (70%) and bone meal (30%) is best. Apply food only to the soil surfaces. Foliar feeding encourages green growth that can be severely damaged if a cold spell occurs

Invest some time in the care of your tools. Winter rain and general high humidity will encourage rust. Clean and sharpen them and apply a good rust inhibiting oil finish.

Since much of your potting activity will not begin until signs of spring are evident, now is the time to plan

ahead. Prepare supplies of potting soil mix, pot screens, aggregates (e.g.-volcanic rock, pumice, sand, dg, etc.) and some form of humus (i.e.-fir bark, redwood bark, peat, etc.). Clean up and organize your collection of unused pots. Be ready for spring time. Tag the trees that will require repotting in spring.

Happy New Year to you, your family and your bonsai.

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.



Club member Trisha Bonapace has been traveling around the country this year with her husband Bob and dog Dakotah. She recently sent photos of the Bonsai Exhibit at the U.S. National Arboretum in Washington, D.C. where they currently have a special exhibit of John Naka's trees. Trisha says "I just wanted to share this with you... WOW!! The best, most amazing bonsai trees I've ever seen by far."



CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

At the Pavilion, Volunteer **Mark Edgar** keeps the records and inventory of all our bonsai at the Pavilion in two large notebooks. Everyone is responsible for keeping the books updated at each work session with information about transplanting, restyling, fertilizing, and/or any detected problems. Mark has submitted this helpful review:

" The 2013/2014 repotting season at the Pavilion finished in October with repotting of two outstanding olives donated by **Cap Puliafico**, a long-time Curator of the Safari Park Bonsai Pavilion. A total of 44 trees were repotted. The highlight of the 2013/2014 repotting season was the repot-a-thon held in March 2014 where 31 volunteers repotted 14 trees. Volunteers did not get much rest because the 2014/2015 repotting season began at the November 15, 2014 Pavilion work session. Volunteers repotted seven junipers (three California Junipers, one Procumbens nana, one prostata, and two shohin shimpaku). Some of these trees were donated by **Fred Miyahara, Susan Baker, the Bish estate, and Bruce & Yaeko Hisayasu**. One California juniper, donated by **Brian Brewster**, is being trained in a wind-swept style and was repotted in a gray Tokoname pot. This coming season, volunteers will repot 31 trees – 7 down and 24 more to go. All the trees will use the Pavilion soil mix of 4 parts scoria, 4 parts pumice (Drystall), and 2 parts orchid bark. . . which has been most successful in the Pavilion environment."

Congratulations to Curator **John Jackson** and Assistant Curator **Dennis Wagner** and all the Pavilion volunteers who have continued to do these important tasks along with the many other chores of pond cleaning, pruning, weeding, pruning, wiring, styling, and general Pavilion clean-up. November Bonsai Pavilion volunteers included: **Neil Auwarter, Susan Baker, Julia Chow, Cathy & Mark Edgar, Jeff Geringer, Bob & Janice Hale, Sonya Holmquist, John Jackson, Jaya Kaelberer, Ron Palmer, Charlie Mosse, Janie & Ron Ogdon, Marcella Perez, Sally Prestele, Harlan & Mary Ann Price, Dan Sola, 'lyn Stevenson, John Voss, Dennis Wagner, Dave Woodall, and Mark Walters**. Refreshments from Susan, John, Charlie, Cathy, Marcella, and 'lyn were truly enjoyed by all. November birthday congratulations to Pavilion volunteers: **Cathy Edgar, Barbara French-Lee, Bill Graham, Jaya Kaelberer, Jim Kirchner, and John Polo**. Thanks for everyone's participation.

The Zoo-Safari Park Volunteer Recognition Party was held on November 22nd at Safari Park and volunteers were given special thanks for hours (100 to 14,000) and years (5 to 25).

The Bonsai Pavilion Volunteers are planning an informal Christmas Party after their work session on December 6th. It includes a pot luck luncheon and an optional gift exchange and has now become an annual affair held in the covered "Round House" horticultural area at the Park. A truly fun way to celebrate another enjoyable, beautiful, and successful year of accomplishments at the Bonsai Pavilion.

Harlan and Mary Ann Price and **Dave Woodall**, three of our longtime volunteers, have not only donated their time, but also have again made a monetary contribution to the Pavilion. Their names already appear on the Honor Board at the Entrance, but special thanks to the Mary Ann & Harlan for the additional \$100 gift and to Dave for his additional \$1,500 gift. Dave also has donated several beautiful bonsai to the Pavilion since its opening. These generous monetary gifts help with major capital projects and are greatly appreciated. Much gratitude always to volunteers and donors!

Special thanks to longtime volunteers, **Marty Mann** and **Charlie Tamm**, who are retiring from active duty in the Pavilion but will always be welcomed whenever their time and health allow (age is never a consideration!).

As SDBC members decide on their bonsai activities for 2015, they should consider also joining the cadre of volunteers at the Bonsai Pavilion at Safari Park. Currently, there are over 50 members on the active list. Regular sessions are on the first and third Saturdays of each month from 9 am to 12 pm. For 2015, there are also 5 scheduled educational bonsai programs for Safari Park visitors that will be held in the Pavilion. Between renovations and regular activities, all volunteers will be kept as active as they choose.

Volunteers receive credentials through the Zoo after brief registration and orientation procedures and also receive several volunteer perks throughout the year. Check with Curator John or Liaison 'lyn for more information.

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR
GREETINGS AND THANKS ALWAYS

'lyn Stevenson,
SDBC-Safari Park Liaison

New Members

Please welcome our new members: **Abi and Ellie Brownlee, Brent and Valerie Croyle, Adam Hughes, and Edward Stokes.**

Sonya Holmquist, VP of Membership

2015 Membership Renewal

Renew your membership now. You won't want to miss any of the exciting events we have planned to celebrate our 50th anniversary in 2015!

Members can renew online or by dropping by the membership table at the December meeting.

Sonya Holmquist, VP of Membership

Refreshments

Many thanks to the folks that brought refreshments to the November meeting including **Fe Sumabat, Charlie Mosse, Sonya Holmquist, Shirley Kavanaugh, Barbara French-Lee, Meg Polo, Michael Sykes, Cathy and Mark Edgar, Mary Ann and Harlan Price, Susan Baker, Marty and Ruth Mann, Abe and Christina Far, and 'lyn Stevenson.**

SDBC Benefit Drawing

Thanks to **John Polo** for managing the benefit drawing this year and to those who made donations to the benefit drawing at the November meeting, including **Charlie Mosse, Shirley Kavanaugh,**

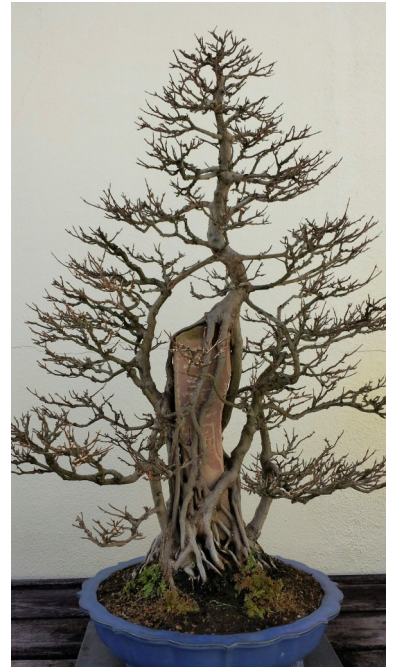
Dan Sola, Janice Hale, Barbara French-Lee, Marty Mann, Abe and Christina Far, Nazim Colak, Ayse Colak, Ken Bross, Dave Woodall, Steve Clemons, Joan Nies, and Marcella Perez.



Special Events

Winter Silhouettes – January 17, 2015

Dinner and a Show! Our friends, Baikoen Bonsai Kenkyukai, are holding their annual Winter Silhouettes Bonsai Show at the Los Angeles Arboretum and you are invited. The show is comprised of deciduous trees in their bare-branched winter splendor. Some will still have fruit on the branches and others may have started to bud with the new year's flowers. It is beautiful show where we can admire the structure of the nebari, trunk and branches of the trees. We will plan a fun day of shopping at two bonsai related locations, perhaps House of Bonsai and Green Products Sales, before arriving at the Arboretum. Admission to the show is free; however, we each have been asked to bring a dessert for the dinner hosted by the club members of Baikoen Bonsai Kenkyukai. We will also be treated to spectacular entertainment, a fun raffle, and a lively auction. Transportation will be by van or bus depending on the number of participants and cost will be between \$30-\$40. Sign up at the December club meeting.



Bonsai-A-Thon XIX - February 28, 2015

Our next trip will be to The Huntington Library and Botanical Gardens to enjoy the Golden State Bonsai Federation's 2015 Bonsai-A-Thon! This is a favorite trip for all. There will be demonstrations by noted bonsai masters, bonsai exhibits, a large vendor area, a raffle and an auction. This is the annual fund raising event for the GSBF Bonsai Collection which is housed in the Huntington's Japanese Garden, so bring your checkbooks! As an added bonus, you also obtain free admission for the day to the 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 7:00 am and the Carlsbad staging area at 7:30 am. 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 — sandiebobonsaiclub.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

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 3rd Saturday and January 17th Saturday
 SDBC Workday at Safari Park , 9 am to 12 pm

January 11th Sunday
 Club Meeting

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, December 14th, 2014
 Balboa Park, Room 101
 Casa Del Prado

Meeting Agenda

Time	Activity	Room
08:00-9:00	Holiday Bonsai Display set-up	101
09:00- 9:50	General Bonsai Assistance	101
09:00- 9:50	Library Open	104
09:00 - 9:50	M. Sykes Foemina Follow-up	101
10:00-10:30	Business Meeting	101
10:30-10:40	Installation of Officers	101
10:40-12:00	Bonsai Styling Competition	101
12:00	Lunch	101
12:20	Benefit Drawing	101

**2015 Dues are Being Accepted
 at the December Meeting**