

# The Bonsai Wire

Volume 41, Issue 11

December, 2015



## Message from the President



### Thank you

As president of San Diego Bonsai Club, it has been a fun and interesting two and half years. There are so many wonderful and interesting people (members and guests) and helpful bonsai experts. You can ask just about anyone for help, and if she or he cannot help, someone else will be located to assist.

When I joined (I walked into a meeting by accident), my intent was to learn how to make better bonsai and to take better care of my bonsai. I did learn and continue to learn. But instead, by fate, I had to take over and run an established organization—50 years in 2015—that I had barely come to know. I owe a great deal of gratitude and thanks to numerous members that have helped the Club and me over 2013 through 2015: club officers, appointed positions, and many other members. Their contribution, cooperation, and support made for a successful operation of our club. While I will not mention names (I may miss someone important), I just want to express my sincere thank you.

Our Club has served San Diego well through bonsai shows and exhibits—culminating to our Club's 50-year anniversary. During our 2015 Spring Show, a local Councilman, Todd Gloria, presented a plaque, declaring April 25, 2015 a "San Diego Bonsai Club Day." The Show was also attended by other Bonsai Clubs in California and Arizona as well as the general public.

During the last three years, our Club won several awards along the way: San Diego County Fair Flower and Garden Show: third place (2013), first place (2014), and second Place (2015). At the GSFB Convention in 2014, our Club won first place in the website competition, and at the GSBF Convention in 2015, we won first place in the four-page plus newsletter competition.

During our annual December meeting, our 2016 officers will be installed, and I will pass on my leadership role. They are tasked to lead and manage our Club during their term. Congratulations and thank you for volunteering. Please support our 2016 officers who will provide leadership to our Club.

Dan Sola, President

## This Month's Program

Three talented teams will take on the challenge of styling large foemina junipers at the meeting: Christina & Abe, Mariah & Dan, and Marcella & Peter. We still have an opening for one more two-person team. Please contact Bob Hale at bobhale42@gmail.com if you are interested. The teams will have 1.5 hours to take nursery stock to the beginnings of a bonsai masterpiece. You will vote on your favorite tree, and gift certificates to our Tool Table will be awarded to the winners.

Please remember to bring a dessert or side dish to share at our December meeting Potluck luncheon. The club will provide a main course. Also, you can join in the fun by bringing in one of your bonsai trees decked out with jolly holiday decorations for our annual Bonsai Christmas Tree Exhibit.

Bob Hale, 1st VP



Last Year's Bonsai Styling Winners—  
Gary Jones and Allan Edwin

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

## Editor's Note

I want to give Dan Sola a pat on the back for a job well done, as he has done to so many over his two-and-a-half years as President of the San Diego Bonsai Club. We thank you for your service!

While Dan will probably be remembered for his groan-inducing jokes at each club meeting, he has done so much more for the club as President than chair the monthly meeting, devoting his time to Board meetings, participating in the many events of the club to keep things running smoothly, writing a monthly article for the newsletter, and probably a lot more we don't know about.

When you see Dan at the December meeting make sure to express your appreciation to Dan for his leadership and service to the club.

Dave Barker,  
Editor

50 Years of  
Cultivating the  
Art of Bonsai  
In San Diego



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**December meeting:** A reminder to all those who have participated in prior pine workshops with Fred Miyahara - please bring Pine trees to Room 101 for updated information on your tree. Similarly, we will have follow-up for those who have a Foemina Juniper from their workshop with Michael Sykes in room 104. And for all who took John Jackson's Root-Over-Rock Workshop two years ago, you are also requested to bring in your trees for next step advice in room 104.

Also, don't forget John Voss is available at the back of the room to the right of the stage for help on any trees you would like to bring to the Club meeting.

**Beginning Class to Start in January:** In January the Beginning Class on Elms will be taught by John Jackson. The first class is on the regular meeting Sunday, January 10, 2016 at 8:30am in Room 104. The second and third sessions will be in February and March. The class is full, but some people have not paid so I'm starting a waiting list. Once the class is listed as full, the website no longer will take PayPal. If you haven't paid and are on the list, please pay at the December meeting or make other arrangements for payment.

**January Workshop:** Also in January, Fred Miyahara will be teaching a class using several grafting techniques. All materials needed for grafting will be provided. If you have a grafting knife please bring it to the class. Cost: \$15. The class is still open, so you can sign up at the December meeting.

**Barb French-Lee, VP for Education**

## Shohin Study Group

A group of us from the shohin study group went to Peter Macasieb's place in Los Angeles on November 14th. He is known for large California Junipers collected with Harry Hirao and Japanese Black Pines. Peter has added shohin to his list of bonsai specialties; he has hundreds of shohin in various stages of development. To those of us interested in shohin, it was a very inspiring sight.

Peter pointed out that when looking to create a shohin, we are also looking for a bonsai with a nicely sized trunk. This means a plant that is bigger than one would associate with shohin may be ideal; do not set it aside. Carefully look at the plant to see how the plant can be made small. Does it have good nebari, are there branches already in the right places and is there good trunk taper?

If you think a plant is "shrinkable", there are other things

to consider such as:

- Does the variety back bud easily for starting new branches?
- If it does back bud but not so easily, can it be reduced in stages?
- If large cuts are made can they be covered with foliage, or will they be out of sight on the back of the tree?

These are good questions when selecting a plant for creating a bonsai, but even more critical for shohin. There are photos and additional information from the trip in the Shohin blog on the SDBC web site.

**Charlie Mosse, Club Member**

## November Program

Ted Matson joined us at the November meeting to explain the different types of crepe myrtles and how to best develop them into stunning bonsai. There are standard, semi-dwarf, and dwarf varieties that can be used in bonsai of various sizes—it is just difficult to obtain the dwarf varieties in California. Ted provided numerous tips to growing crepe myrtles including the following:

- They like acidity and will get leaf burn if the soil is too alkaline
- Powdery mildew is their main problem here in CA
- If not growing a big branch, let branches grow 5-7 leaves, then cut back to two repeatedly throughout spring to get ramification
- Stop pruning a month before flowering if you want to enjoy the flowers (stop in June/July)
- If defoliating, the best time is right after flowering
- Use balanced fertilizer throughout the fall, with 0-10-10 used in early spring
- Repot in April or May

If you would like to see the presentation, it is available on the SDBC website thanks to the audio/visual work of Jim and Veronica Perondi and the magic Eric works.

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Jim and Veronica are new to the club, having joined in April. Already they have volunteered at the Fall Show and now for publicity and audio/visual work. Make sure you introduce yourself to them—Jim is not hard to spot, just look for the tallest guy in the room [Yes even taller than Neil]. Thank you Jim and Veronica for your service!



# San Diego Bonsai Club

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Members  
November 8, 2015



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 Dan Sola, President. It was confirmed that a quorum was present.
2. **Approval of Minutes:** The minutes from the October 11, 2015 meeting were approved as published.
3. **Moment of Silence for Maude Laracy:** Dan Sola asked the audience to stand for a moment in honor of SDBC's departed member, Maude Laracy.
4. **President's Remarks:** Dan mentioned the superb fund-raising picnic in Lake Poway and gave thanks to the volunteers, donors, and especially Abe Far, who cooked the delicious lunch. Dan also reminded the membership about this month's two federal holidays, especially Veterans' day—to honor the men and women who served the U.S. Armed Forces. Dan also announced that our Club won first place in the newsletter competition of four-page plus newsletters and asked Dave Barker, Editor of *The Bonsai Wire*, to receive the award. Abe Far, President of GSBF, presented the award.
5. **Acknowledge Bonsai Dignitaries:** Dan acknowledge the presence of Bonsai dignitaries, Abe Far, President of GSBF and Past Presidents of SDBC who were present at the meeting.
6. **Board Member Reports:**
  - **Sonya Holmquist, VP for Membership, reported:** We have a few new members and first time attendees, and it is membership renewal time.
  - **Bob Hale 1st Vice president, reported:** We have Ted Matson as our presenter today. In December, we will have our Christmas Party and bonsai competition. In January, we will have repotting help for members; the senior members will help pot, focusing on Pines and Junipers.
  - **Peter Chong, Treasurer, reported:** In October 2015, our income is \$1,558.94, and our expenses were \$645.63. Our Net Profit is \$913.31. The balance for SDBC account is \$25,738.40 and for the Pavilion is \$15,057.27
  - **Barbara French-Lee, VP of Education, reported:** The Design workshop with three Bonsai Masters- Glenn Jensen, Michael Sykes, and Fred Miyahara—was a success; they all have committed to do it again in the Spring. In December, bring your pines and foemina from previous classes with Fred Miyahara and Michael Sykes for follow up. In January, the beginner's class will be on elms; the cost is \$40.00. Fred Miyahara will have a grafting workshop, and the cost is \$15.00. Also, in January we will start the Noon Study Group with John Voss.
  - **Janice Hale, VP for Special Projects, reported:** The Winter Silhouettes will be on January 16, 2016; the cost will be \$40.00 stopping at two nurseries: the House of Bonsai and San Gabriel. The Bonsai-A-Thon will be on February 27, 2016; the cost will be \$40.00.
7. **Appointed Position Reports:**
  - **John Jackson, Safari Park Pavilion Curator, reported:** Thanks to the volunteers; the trees look great.
  - **Glenn Jensen, JFG Curator:** Thanks to all the volunteers.
8. **Old Business:** Elections: The following members were elected for the 2016 term: 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.
9. **New Business:** None
10. **President's Announcement:** Dan reminded everyone about the different meeting date (the 27<sup>th</sup>) in March 2016 and different location (room 104) in June 2016. He also announced two new volunteers: Veronica Perondi (Publicity) and Jim Perondi (videographer).
11. **Program:** At 11:00 a.m., First VP, Bob Hale introduced Ted Matson.
12. **Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Crann Secretary

## Bonsai Ideas By Marty Mann

The daily weather forecasts continue to refer to the upcoming El Nino phenomenon that is promising to give us additional rain that we have not seen in the recent past. But how will this affect my bonsai this winter season? Too much water can cause root rot. At the end of the day, check and maintain the right moisture level in your bonsai soil to properly hydrate your bonsai.

Preserving bonsai during winter months does not involve the usual attention to feeding requirements. However, conifers and evergreen trees continue to grow in the California climate, requiring some nourishment. A light feeding applied to the soil surfaces is best. Foliar feeding encourages green growth that can be severely damaged if a cold spell occurs.

This is a time of year when the admiration of the deciduous silhouettes and the general outline and form of each tree is best noted. Look at your trees. Check the branch ramification, the crossing branches, the overall triangular form to perfect your designs. Reduce long internodes of growth from prior periods. Study the taper of the trunk and the placement of equally balanced side-back-front branches. Open up the structure of the tree to allow better light penetration. The cooler weather slows down the processes inside your tree. So they may become brittle. With this in mind, wire branches during this dormant period with great care.

Since much of your potting activity will not begin until signs of spring are evident, now is the time to plan ahead. Take 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. Prepare supplies of potting soil mix, pot screens, aggregates (e.g., volcanic rock, pumice, etc.) and some form of humus (e.g., fir bark). Look over your pot collection, determine which pots you will use on particular trees. On last year's pots, clean off the deposits to be ready for spring time. Tag the trees that will require repotting. Get rid of all accumulated trash around trees and benches.

Take this time to read, study and learn about bonsai in general. Your education and skills are refined when you study just as much as when you do it. It is said that a picture is worth a thousand words. Bonsai magazines and books display wonderful pictures of fine trees in many styles and varieties. Imitate the best examples. Compare and refine your own collection.

This article has been extracted by Mario Condit from Marty Mann's book, *Bonsai Ideas*, © by Marty Mann. Material is not to be copied without publisher or author's permission.

## GSBF Convention

The club was well represented at the Golden State Bonsai Federation convention in Riverside in late October. Members attended demonstrations; were leaders, participants, and silent observers in workshops; shopped at the vendors' booths; attended dinners; and were winners in auctions and raffles.



## Newsletter Award

Dave Barker, the *Bonsai Wire* editor, accepted an award from the Golden State Bonsai Federation on behalf of the club for best large bonsai newsletter in the State (over 4 pages) at the November meeting. While Dave accepted the award, the quality of the newsletter is directly related to the content provided each month by members including **Dan Sola, Lyn Stevenson, Bob Hale, Janice Hale, Gary Jones, Barbara French-Lee, Brenda Crann, Sonya Holmquist, Mark Edgar, Charlie Mosse, and Mario Condit.**

And we can't forget **Shirley Kavanaugh** who has faithfully mailed out the newsletter to those without internet access for years.

**Congratulations Team!**



# San Diego Bonsai Club Pavilion at the Safari Park

Through the years, the Bonsai Pavilion has had many transitions: from the old lower area in the old Wild Animal Park to the larger garden and collection in our now four-year-old installation. We have increased our volunteer group to over fifty and have also bid farewells to several of our past support crew. Last month, we especially remembered Maude Laracy. This month, we unfortunately have lost a significant early designer of the current Pavilion, David Strickland, who died just before Thanksgiving while undergoing chemo treatments. Dave was most generous with his time and professional architectural abilities in designing the initial concepts and drawings for our current Bonsai Garden and Collection. He spent countless hours preparing the drafts, the cost analyses, and presentations to the SDBC membership and to the Wild Animal Park management, so that we could get the necessary approvals to break ground on this beautiful location. We would not have moved along as efficiently and beautifully if Dave had not donated so much of his personal support to the project. We shall remember him fondly and thankfully!

Each month, we continue to say thanks to our current volunteers who keep improving the Pavilion. In November, much help was donated by: **Neil Auwarter, Julia Chow, Cathy & Mark Edgar, Sonya Holmquist, Curator John Jackson, Jaya Kaelberer, Jim Kirchmer, Jim Lang, newcomer Daniel Luczak, Charlie Mosse, Ron Ogdon, Janet & Ron Palmer, newcomer Mariah Paterson, Marcella Perez, Sally Prestele, Harland & Mary Ann Price, Mike Shelly, 'lyn Stevenson, John Voss, Assisant Curator Dennis Wagner, Mark Walters, Dave Woodall and Roger Ziegelman.** Our newcomers have received their I.D. photo cards, Zoo and Park orientation, and their red shirts, but our own volunteers help them acclimate to the responsibilities of the important bonsai care needed in our bonsai garden.

Of course, everyone is treated to the delicious snacks. This past month our thanks to: Janet, Julia, Curator John, Cathy, Charlie, Marcella, Jaya, 'lyn, and Mark Walters. Marcella Perez and Sonya Holmquist have volunteered to chair the December Bonsai Pavilion Luncheon and are taking donations and replies from the volunteers for this now annual event.

Curator John Jackson hosted two special out-of-town guests, ficus experts Jerry Meislik and Tim Hoehn Boydston, to the Pavilion on November 14th for an in-depth tour. You might remember Jerry Meislik, author of *Ficus: the Exotic Bonsai*, who was with us as a presenter several years ago. Both were truly impressed with the

SDBC Bonsai Pavilion and commented on their visit on Facebook afterwards. John also took them to visit our Pavilion volunteers Jamie and Ron Ogdon's home to see a 143 year old awesome *Ficus macrophylla*. Bonsaiists always like to share!

Fall work continues in the Pavilion. There is constant checking for insects, breaks or leaks on the water spitters and drippers, ugly weeds, messy benches and pots, dried mosses, etc. These chores have become routine for all along with trimming and other bonsai maintenance. We sometimes have garden problems, but thanks to Dennis and the Safari Park Staff issues with the water valves and water pressure are being resolved. And of course, we have enjoyable visits with the many visitors to the Pavilion. Some of the deciduous ginkgo bilobas are turning golden and the fruiting pomegranates are worthy of photographs by our many visitors.

Their comments and compliments put smiles on our faces!

'lyn  
Stevenson,  
SDBC-  
Safari  
Park  
Liaison



## Upcoming Programs at the SDBC

Our January program will be a mass club repotting extravaganza. Sign up will be at the December meeting, so we know how much potting soil to provide. There will be a limit of 3 trees per person. Pines and junipers can be repotted at this time of year.

In February, we will discuss in detail bonsai pot selection including the depth, width, shape, color, and style of the pot for various species and tree characteristics. The discussion will also cover the placement of tree within the pot.

Bob Hale, 1st VP

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## New Members

Please welcome our new members: **Kim Clinton, Cheri Madsen, Edward and Janet Mallari, Nathan Woods, J. Ryan Lennon, Jose and Courtney Aguila, Karen Garrson, Daniel Martinez, Cody and Annette DeBruyn, Nicholas Nociforo, Lovely Cruz, and Cindy Reynoso.**

**Sonya Holmquist, VP of Membership**

### 2015 Membership Renewal

Renew your membership now for 2016. Members can renew online or by dropping by the membership table at the December meeting.

## Refreshments

Many thanks to the folks that brought refreshments to the November meeting including **Janet Palmer, Sonya Holmquist, Mariah Peterson, Roger Marr, John & Margaret Jackson, Abe & Christina Far, Shirley Kavanaugh, Vicky Estrella, Janet Liggett, Susan Baker, Harlan & Mary Ann Price, Sylvia Mosse, Dennis Wagner, Julia Chow, and Marty & Ruth Mann.**

## SDBC Benefit Drawing

Thanks to **John Polo** for managing the benefit drawing this year and to those who made donations at the November meeting including **Bob Hale, Roger Marr, Scott Flack, John and Margaret Jackson, Charlie Mosse, Aisha and Nazim Colak, Darryl and Christine Elmer, Abe and Christina Far, Dennis Wagner, Shirley Kavanaugh, Dan Sola, and Gary Jones.**

## SDBC Donation

In November, the SDBC donated a boxwood bonsai tree, designed by Sonya Holmquest, to WordsAlive, a non-profit organization dedicated to providing literacy services to the community through Read Alouds in the schools, Services for Teens, and Family Literacy Programs. They used the tree in their 12th annual authors luncheon, a money raising event, on November 30th with guest speaker Isabel Allende.

## Library Opportunity

We are still seeking assistant librarians to help out in the library. This is a nice service to our club that requires little bonsai expertise and gives you access to a vast store of bonsai knowledge. You 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. If you are interested, stop by the library before the December meeting or let one of the new officers know.

## Special Events

### Winter Silhouettes Show – January 16, 2016

We are taking a full-sized tour bus to the Los Angeles Arboretum for the beautiful Winter Silhouettes Show held by our friends, Baikoen Bonsai Kenkyukai. The Winter Silhouettes Show is spectacular display of deciduous bonsai trees in their bare-branched winter glory — not a leaf in sight.

We will be making two stops along the way for a little shopping—first at the House of Bonsai and then the San Gabriel Nursery. (Hence the need for a full sized bus!)

The members of Baikoen Bonsai Kenkyukai will be hosting a delicious potluck dinner and we will provide the dessert. Dinner is followed by a fun raffle and auction. The auction will include the trees from a styling competition between three bonsai clubs. Did I mention I've tossed our hat into the ring! More information about the competition will follow.

The bus will leave the Balboa Park staging area at 11:00 am sharp, and the Carlsbad staging area at 11:30 am, 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 may sign up via PayPal from our website, [www.sandiegobonsaiclub.com](http://www.sandiegobonsaiclub.com) or at the club meeting.

### Bonsai-A-Thon XX – February 27, 2016

Yes, its almost time for the BONSAI-A-THON! This is the annual fund raising event for the Golden State Bonsai Federation Collection at The Huntington. There will be demonstrations by noted bonsai masters; a garden tour led by Jim Folsom, Director of the Botanical Gardens; bonsai exhibits; a large vendor area; a raffle; and a very lively auction. Trees, pots and viewing stones from the estate of the late, esteemed bonsai master, Harry Hirao, will be available for sale as well as in the raffle and auction. A perk of the Bonsai-A-Thon...you obtain free admission for the day to The Huntington Library, Art Collections, and Botanical Gardens. For a list of the demonstrators and more information about the Bonsai-A-Thon, visit [www.gsbhuntington.com](http://www.gsbhuntington.com).

Our tour bus will depart the Balboa Park staging area at 7:00 am sharp, and the Carlsbad staging area at 7:30 am. The cost per person for the bus is \$40. Club members are free to invite family and friends. You may sign up via PayPal from our website, [www.sandiegobonsaiclub.com](http://www.sandiegobonsaiclub.com), or at the club meeting.

**Janice Hale, V.P. Special Projects**

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

## San Diego Bonsai Club Calendar of Events

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 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 5th—7th, Friday—Sunday

2016 Shohin Seminar, California Shohin Society

Santa Nella, California

February 14th Sunday

Club Meeting

February 27th, Saturday

Bonsai-A-Thon XIX trip

Huntington Gardens in Pasadena

Sunday, December 13, 2015  
 Balboa Park, Room 101  
 Casa Del Prado

### Meeting Agenda

	<u>Time</u>	<u>Activity</u>	<u>Room</u>
	8:00 - 9:00	Holiday Bonsai Display Set-up	101
	8:30 - 9:50	Pines Follow-up	101
	8:30 - 9:50	Foemina Juniper Follow-up	104
	8:30—9:50	Root-over-rock Follow-up	104
	9:00—9:50	Library Open	104
	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	Potluck	101
	12:20	Benefit Drawing	101