

The Bonsai Wire

Volume 42, Issue 12

December, 2016

Message from the President



As we wrap up another year, there are numerous members who worked diligently and continue to give so much to our Club. Thanks to all of you - club officers, who devote much time and energy; volunteers who kept our activities fun and interesting; and those who work behind the scenes at club meetings and shows to make things run smoothly. Thanks to all who made 2016 another successful year in bringing bonsai to San Diego.

There are two exciting opportunities coming in the next couple of months. The first is the Baikoen Bonsai Kenkyukai annual Silhouettes show on January 21st. The show is entirely composed of deciduous trees in their winter, leafless form. This year the Taiko Drum Ensemble will be providing the entertainment. This

professional drum group incorporates dynamic movement and rhythmic grooves with heart pounding percussion.... an astounding performance.

The second opportunity is the Bonsai-A-Thon at the Huntington Library and Gardens on February 25th. This year, the Club is subsidizing the bus trip, reducing the price from \$40 to just \$25. We especially want new members to experience this event. Other than the GSBF convention every other year, this is the single biggest bonsai event in Southern California. There are sales tables, drawings, auctions, demonstrations, bonsai tree exhibits, the magnificent Huntington library, art collections, and gardens. Admission to the Huntington is normally \$23; so for \$25 you take a comfortable bus and get free admission for the day. For more information, please see the Special Projects section of the newsletter.

Bob Hale, President

This Month's Program

The annual styling competition is upon us. This year we will use the Leyland Cypress, the same variety of tree as Mel Ikeda used in the raft style demonstration. This is a newer variety which has soft foliage, is fast growing, is easy to wire and does well in Southern California. Because of its flexibility, it offers bonsai stylists plenty of opportunity for creativity.

We need 3 teams for the styling. Each team will consist of 3 people: one experienced team leader and two "assistants" who can be at any experience level. The team leader will guide the styling, trimming and wiring, but the assistants will do most of the work. We have one team already representing the Pavilion: John Jackson, Jaya Kaelberer and Carla Marasco, a new member. How about a Japanese Friendship Garden team or a Study group team? This is a fun opportunity to work with an experienced member. If interested in forming a team or being on a team, please email me with your interest and your experience at chasmosse@gmail.com.

Charlie Mosse, 1st VP

Christmas Bonsai Tree Decorating Contest

Pick out your favorite bonsai tree and add some bling to it for our December meeting/potluck. It doesn't have to be a pine tree, anything goes. Get creative! You may just win a prize!



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San Diego Bonsai Club Website
www.sandiegobonsaiclub.com

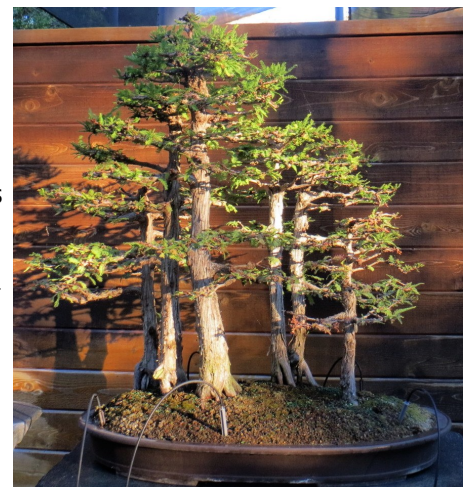
Editor's Note

As I was kayaking around Mission Bay the day after Thanksgiving, I experienced the "awe" of nature—the clear waters, the blue sky, the birds, fish, and sea lions, and the trees along the shoreline. A recent Parade article described "awe" as "the feeling of being in the presence of something vast or beyond human scale, that transcends our current understanding of things." The article went on to say that experiencing the "awe" of nature improves psychological well-being, social functioning, and life outlook.

For me, a well developed bonsai reminds me of the "awe" of nature, creating the connection with the magnificent trees of the Sierras, the ancient bristlecone pines in the Spring Mountains, and other beautiful places I backpacked with my youngest son.

My first times to the Silhouettes show, there were a number of trees in the show that were "awe-inspiring," with massive trunks and fine ramification. Likewise, the bonsai collection at the Huntington has many magnificent trees. If you are new to bonsai, I encourage you to go on one of these trips with your fellow club enthusiasts to see bonsai that can connect you with the "awe" of nature—well worth the trip.

Dave Barker
TBW Editor



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Congratulations to Bill Graham, who will be the new VP for Education. It has been very enjoyable working with everyone on the education component of all the opportunities the Club offers its members. A special thanks to the teachers who were always there offering their time and expertise to teach all the Beginning Classes and Workshops over the years. My great thanks to Ken Bross, Martha Choy, Nelson Cortes, Abe Far, John Jackson, Glenn Jensen, Gary Jones, Shirley Kavanaugh, Fred Miyahara, Cindy Read, Dan Sola, Lyn Stevenson, Michael Sykes and John Voss. And a special thanks to all the Club members who assisted the teachers in the Beginning and Workshop Classes. It has been a great joy for me to serve as your VP for Education. I have learned so much and I'm looking forward to my continuing bonsai journey.

In December there will be no classes but you can bring in any trees you have concerns about for help from John Voss or any Club teacher that is present.

BEGINNING CLASS - Congratulations to the just-completed Juniper Beginning class with Gary Jones; your trees look great! The next Beginning Class, with Elms, is filled and will go for three consecutive sessions starting January 8, 2017 at 8:30am in Room 104. If you did not get in the class you can still come and observe all the classes. There will be no Workshops that day, but bring trees for the Soil Extravaganza (SDBC's free soil repotting day).

Barb French-Lee, VP for Education

Mel Ikeda was our presenter at the November meeting and took us on a complete tour of the process to create a raft planting. A raft planting is different from a forest planting, as it starts out with just one tree. Mel indicated that good trees to start with include Leyland Cypress (used in the demo), procumbens nana junipers (used in the workshop) and foemina junipers. With the right development techniques, a raft can have the overall look and natural feel of a traditional forest planting.

To start, one has to decide on the 1,2, and 3 trees that will be created from branches on the tree; the 1,2, and 3 trees are critical in a forest planting. The number one tree is the largest. After that choice, the tree has its bark scraped on the side of the tree where the roots will grow. Branches on the same side as the scraped area are shortened and buried to become roots.

The next step is to wire the branches up to form the 1,2, and 3 trees of the raft. Since there are significant bends to some branches, Mel uses a lot of heavy wire.



(continued on page 4)





San Diego Bonsai Club

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Members
November 13, 2016



1. **Call to Order:** The regular meeting of the membership of the San Diego Bonsai Club was called to order at 10:30am in Balboa Park 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 October 9, 2016 meeting were approved as published.
3. **Nazim Colak, VP for Membership:** There were 4 new members.
4. **Board Member Reports:**
 - **Bob Hale for Charlie Mosse 1st VP, reported:** In December we will have our styling competition and decorating competition for Christmas trees. We will be celebrating with an potluck. In January, we will be having grand soil repotting instead of our demonstration. Bring your trees; we will have soil here.
 - **Peter Chong, Treasurer, reported:** In October, our Income was \$3661.00 and our expenses were \$800.00 our Net Income \$2857.00 The balance for SDBC account is \$40,284.00 and for the Pavilion \$17,328.00 The last day to donate this year is December 31, 2016
 - **Barbara French-Lee, VP, Education, reported:** Gary Jones beginner's class on Junipers last day was this morning. Raft style workshop with Mel Ikeda is this afternoon. I want to recognize Nancy Wilson-Ramon. During the Fall Show she showed her tree from the beginner's class and documented the change of her tree.
 - **Janice Hale, VP Special Projects, reported:** Two field trips schedule for next year. On January 21, The Winter Silhouettes at the LA Arboretum (Bonsai Nursery stop). On February 25th, the Bonsai A thon at the Huntington Library. Acknowledged first timers that showed in our Fall Show: Darryl Elmer, Nancy Wilson Ramon, Eric Jacobsen, and Bob Hale.
5. **Appointed Position Reports:**
 - **Lyn Stevenson, Liaison for Safari Park Pavilion reported:** We meet the 1st & 3rd Saturdays every month. On December 3, 2016, we will be hosting the San Diego Horticulture Society and also that is the date for the Pavilion holiday party for all the volunteers.
 - **Glenn Jensen, Curator for JFG, reported:** We had a good year; I want to thank Barbara French-Lee for being the Liaison for JFG. Thanks to Nancy Wilson-Ramon, Yoichiro Suemori (Mori), Charlie Mosse, Harlan and Mary Ann Price, and Warren Tam.
6. **Old Business:** None
7. **New Business:** Elections of Our Officers Bob Hale, President; Charlie Mosse, 1st Vice President; William Graham, Vice President Education; Janice Hale, VP Special Projects; Nazim Colak, Vice President for Membership; Marcella Perez, Treasurer; and Sylvia Mosse, Secretary. Unanimously voted onto the Board for 2017. Congratulations.
8. **Announcements: Bob Hale, President:** Thanked all the Member of the Board for all the work they do.
9. **Program:** Mel Ikeda, Raft Styling
10. **Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 10:51am.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Crann Secretary

Continued from page 3)

The tree rootball is then sawn in half, eliminating the entire half on the same side as the scrape and the tree is laid out horizontally in the specially built wood box with the scraped area placed below the soil line. The trunk is tied down and will then create roots. Once the roots along the trunk take hold, the main rootball can be reduced or eliminated completely. To finish up the initial stage, the 1,2, and 3 trees are shortened (2 and 3 trees must be smaller than the number 1 tree) and branches on the 1,2, and 3 tree are wired. Additional branches on the original tree are also wired into place to create an odd number of trees. In the demo, the tree had five total trees created from branches.

Finally, Mel showed what the finished planting may look like in the future by adding moss, rocks, and sand. He indicated it will take a couple of years of growth to establish the roots and improve the foliage.

Bonsai Ideas by Marty Mann

The holiday season is a very busy time for most of us. Our attention is diverted and the wintertime bonsai may be neglected. However, 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. Pinch excess evergreen growth to create tight, colorful new spring growth.

Dormant winter months are excellent training months; light wiring can be applied to small branches after 'defoliating' the straggling leaves of deciduous trees. However, check this wire frequently since the woody portion of a tree continues to lignify during winter months to avoid destructive and unsightly wire cuts. Junipers can be trimmed and re-wired during these dormant months.

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 (i.e. volcanic rock, pumice, etc.) and some form of humus (i.e. fir bark, redwood bark, peat, etc.). Clean up the collection of unused pots. Be ready for spring time. Review the rootage conditions of potted trees. If the specimen appears to be lifting out of the pot or appears to be root bound in the pot then plan ahead by identifying and marking those ready for early repotting in spring. Tag the trees that will require repotting.

Conifers and evergreen trees continue to grow in the California climate. Partial dormancy requires some nourishment. A light feeding applied to the soil surface is best as foliar feeding encourages green growth that can be severely damaged if a cold spell occurs. Fungus thrives during the dormant months. The application of fungicides is as important now as it is in spring when active reproduction takes place.

California winters are usually interspersed with many warmer days, so potted trees must still be watered. Cooler weather means slower growth. During this period of dormancy, trees require a regular dampening of the root zone. Transpiration of moisture is almost non-existent due to the absence of foliage, but watch out for drying winds.

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.

Happy New Year to you and your bonsai. May next year be your happiest and healthiest.

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

Editor's Note: Take advantage of the Club's library in Room 104 where Sonya can help you find the right bonsai book or magazine in English or Japanese!

2017 January Program

The Soil Extravaganza, a corny but good name, will be back in January. It is an excellent opportunity to learn about soils and proper re-potting techniques. We invite any member to bring in a tree or two for help in re-potting with assistance by experienced club members. You can even get some styling tips. The club will provide soil, wire and pot screen for the re-pot.

Proper technique significantly helps the tree to recover from the re-pot. At re-potting, the roots are properly pruned and placed to maximize root growth and plant stability in the pot. It is an excellent opportunity to see if the nebari can be enhanced. This is the time to properly position the tree in the pot; it is very necessary for the tree to be planted at the proper angle, at the correct depth and distances from the sides of the pot. Proper positioning helps to maximize the look of the bonsai.

Available will be different soil mixes and some components to buy. There will be members on hand to answer your questions about the different soil mixes and soil components in the mixes. A good soil mix is extremely important for many reasons: tree recovery from re-potting, preventing root rot from poor drainage, enhancing the growth of smaller roots, proper water and nutrient retention and release. A good soil mix is the foundation for growing a healthy bonsai.

Charlie Mosse, 1st VP

There is a presentation on the SDBC web site by Bob Hale, "Soil: It's What Goes in the Pot," http://www.sandiegobonsaiclub.com/uploads/2/4/0/4/24046255/soil_its_what_goes_in_the_pot.pdf.

Abe Far also did an excellent presentation on re-potting at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rFrqLZjk_U

San Diego Bonsai Club Pavilion at the Safari Park

Cooler weather has arrived, the automatic watering at the Pavilion is now reduced to once daily, and many of the deciduous bonsai are now defoliated. There are, however, some maples and liquid ambers that are holding on to their fall color leaves. Still there is lots of work for Pavilion volunteers - wiring, styling clean up, a radical pruning of the large in-ground Tecate Cypress (special thanks to Dave, Carla, Alan, and John), and special tips from Dennis about black pine fall work and care. It's great to see our newest volunteers pitching in on all the jobs and learning along the way. Many thanks to all!



Volunteers for November included: **Neil Auwarter, Susan Baker, Dave Barker, Alan Burrows, Julia Chow, Cathy and Mark Edgar, Janice & Bob Hale, Sonya Holmquist, John Jackson, Jaya Kaelberer, Jim Kirchmer, Jim Lane, Carla Marasco, Charlie & Sylvia Mosse, Marcella Perez, Sally Prestele, Chuy Rivera, Newcomers Clare & Ron Roberts, Chusub Sresthadatta, 'lyn Stevenson, Dennis Wagner, Mark Walters, Nancy Wilson-Ramon, and Dave Woodall.** Wonderful delicious fall donations of pumpkin breads, apple ring cakes, exotic fruits, donuts, biscotti, muffins, coffee and lemonade were enjoyed by all. Thank you Pavilion Volunteers!

Several mini discussions and meetings have been held following the unfortunate removal of two bonsai from the Pavilion display area. While investigations are continuing, the decision was made to close the Pavilion unless we have volunteers on the premises. We have filled the empty display spaces with two bonsai from the holding area and are doing our usual volunteer work days. This was sad news for all of us including Safari Park security personnel and horticulture staff. Everyone is looking for the best ways to further protect the Pavilion



and its contents. We have all heard of disappearing bonsai from other collections in California and other states, but this was not expected at Safari Park since both we and the Safari Park staff have taken many precautions to safeguard our precious bonsai.

All SDBC members should also be watchful at garden sales, swap meets, etc. in case the bonsai turn up. The missing bonsai are shown in this article, but more detailed photos have been posted by our webmaster, Eric Jacobson. This internet posting will also alert the rest of the bonsai community of our loss. If you think you have spotted these bonsai, contact any board member (page 2 for e-mail addresses).

During November, we also hosted a large botany student class contingent visiting from Riverside. They all appreciated talking with the bonsai volunteers who offered explanations and answered questions about the "mysteries" of bonsai. It is always gratifying and enjoyable to educate and share with non-bonsai visitors so that they can appreciate this wonderful living art.

Sonya and Marcella again chaired the Pavilion Volunteers Christmas Holiday celebration on December 3rd. This date is also when the Pavilion hosted tours of our bonsai and garden for the visitors from the SD Horticultural Society. Volunteers also presented demonstrations for our visitors, our usual busy work day.

'lyn Stevenson, SDBC-Safari Park Liaison



Japanese Friendship Garden

Volunteers Glenn, Mori, and Nancy perform November maintenance on a pine



New Members

Welcome to our new members: **Derek McCann, Ellen Callahan, Katie Borton, and Ryan LeDoux.**

Nazim Colak, VP of Membership

2017 Membership Renewal

Renew your membership now for 2017. 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 **John & Margaret Jackson, Shirley Kavanaugh, Susan Ronan, Harlan & Mary Ann Price, Dennis Wagner, Mark & Cathy Edgar, Cesar Velasquez, Susan Mae Hull, Marcella Perez, Chusub Sresthadatta, Jaya Kaelberer, Bill Starks, Mizuka Mori, Clare Roberts, Michael Sykes, Gary Jones, 'lyn Stevenson, and Darryl and Christine Elmer.**

SDBC Benefit Drawing

Thanks to John Polo for managing the benefit drawing again this year and to those who made donations at the November meeting: **John and Meg Polo, Bob Hale, John and Margaret Jackson, Dennis Wagner, Shirley Kavanaugh, Dan Sola, Gary Jones., Fred Miyahara, Ken Bross, Bill Graham, Kumiko Mori, Guy Harris, Mike Boswell, Susan Mae Hull, 'lyn Stevenson, Julia Chow, Eric Jacobson, Dave Woodall, Susan Ronan, and Steve Clemons, and Dave Barker.**

New Librarian

This month we thank Steve Clemons for his years of volunteer service as our club librarian. Thanks Steve! We wish you well on your move to Taiwan. Replacing Steve will be Sonya Holmquist, who will continue making this valuable club resource available to all club members.

Mas Takanashi Grant

CONGRATULATIONS to Brenda Crann and Dan Sola for completing the second year of the Grant program, which is about basic bonsai styling. They will begin doing some teaching and will help in the Beginning Classes. Grantees who will be starting their second year will be Susan Ronan and Barb French-Lee. Continuing work on the first year is Charlie Mosse. If you are interested in applying for the Mas Takanashi Grant, which provides education and training to teach the Beginning Class, please contact Bill Graham (new VP of Education) or Barb French-Lee (current VP of Education).

Special Events

Silhouettes Trip ~ January 21, 2017

PLEASE NOTE THE DATE CHANGE! Baikoen Bonsai Kenkyukai will be conducting its annual Winter Silhouettes show at the Los Angeles Arboretum. This is a beautiful show comprised entirely of deciduous trees in their winter, leafless form. We will join our hosts for a wonderful potluck dinner, benefit drawing and auction, as well as entertainment by the fabulous talent of the Taiko Drum ensemble. We have the honor of providing dessert.

The bus will leave Balboa Park at 11:00 am with another pick up in Carlsbad at 11:30 am, returning to Balboa Park at 11:00 pm. 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. Bring along your family and friends. Remember, we are each asked to bring a dessert to share at the dinner. A sign up list will be available at the December Meeting, or you can sign up now on our Club's website: www.sandiegobonsaiclub.com

2017 Bonsai-A-Thon February 25, 2017

PLEASE NOTE THE PRICE CHANGE! As a special thank you to all SDBC members, the cost for the Bonsai-A-Thon bus trip has been lowered to \$25/person. As with all of our trips, you must be a club member, current in your club dues, or a guest accompanied by that club member to join in the fun.

The Bonsai-A-Thon is the annual fund raising event for The Golden State Bonsai Federation Collection at The Huntington. It features a bonsai exhibit, demos by noted bonsai masters, a great vendor sales area, as well as a fun benefit drawing and live auction.

If you find you have some spare time, you can take a stroll through The Huntington Library, Art Collections and Botanical Gardens. You'll want to be sure to visit the Japanese Garden to see the beautiful bonsai collection.

We will leave Balboa Park at 7:00 am with another pick up in Carlsbad at 7:30 am, returning to Balboa Park at 7:00 pm. The cost for your seat on the full sized bus is \$25.

A sign up list will be available at the December Meeting, or you can sign up now on our Club's website: www.sandiegobonsaiclub.com

2017 Spring Show

Be sure and mark your calendars for our 2017 Spring Bonsai Show, Saturday and Sunday, April 29th & 30th.

Janice Hale, VP for Special Projects

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

San Diego Bonsai Club Calendar of Events

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 **21st**, 2017 Saturday ← **Note the Date Change**
 Silhouettes Trip to LA Arboretum

February 4th and February 18th Saturday
 SDBC Workdays at Safari Park , 9 am to 12 pm

February 12th Sunday
 Club Meeting

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

Sunday, December 11, 2016
 Balboa Park, Room 101
 Casa Del Prado

Meeting Agenda

| Time | Activity | Room |
|-------------|--------------------------|------|
| 09:00 | Christmas Display set-up | 101 |
| 09:00-10:00 | Fellowship and Help Area | 101 |
| 10:00-10:30 | Business Meeting | 101 |
| 10:30-10:40 | Installation of Officers | 101 |
| 10:40-12:00 | Styling Competition | 101 |
| 12:00 | Potluck Lunch | 101 |
| 12:15 | Benefit Drawing | 101 |

Accepting 2017 SDBC Dues at the December meeting