

# The Bonsai Wire

Volume 40, Issue 1

January, 2014



## Message from the President

### Happy New Year!!

As the saying goes, time flies when you're having fun. 2013 was filled with fun activities, but was also bittersweet with the passing of our well-liked president, Big Dave. There are many members who stepped up and made for a successful 2013. On behalf of the SDBC Board of Directors, thank you all for your help.

Although we are still re-organizing and picking up the pieces, we are ready for the New Year, with our New Year's resolution - to continue our commitment to the education and training for our members through our programs, presentation/demonstrations, beginners' classes, workshops, basic skills classes, and field trips.

### Set Those Clock Alarms

Based on members' recommendations, we have a new time schedule for our classes and workshops starting this month. Please set your clocks to make it to the **8:30 am** start time for the beginning classes and workshops and **10:30 am** for the club meeting.

### Announcements

Congratulations to our 2014 Officers. I am sure they are ready to tackle their respective offices. Thank you to all of you for volunteering your time to SDBC; the club cannot function without you.

Chris Heckler recently declined the position of VP for Special Projects. Per our by-laws—Article VI, Section 2d—“Except for the office of President, the Board shall fill vacancies in the elective office for the unexpired term.” The Board reached out and asked Janice Hale to be our VP for Special Projects. Janice agreed and is now our VP for Special Projects. Thank you Janice and congratulations.

A reminder, our trip to Winter Silhouettes will leave Balboa Park parking lot at 9:00 a.m. on January 18th and will pick up members in Carlsbad at 9:30 a.m.

And a “heads up,” the Bonsai-A-Thon at the Huntington Library is Saturday, February 22, 2014. Please sign up. As a reminder, your seat is not reserved until you pay for the trip; the cost is \$40.00.

Dan Sola, President

## This Month's Program

First and foremost, I am very pleased to welcome Rich Glauser and thank him for being SDBC's next First VP. Rich is an accomplished bonsaist familiar with all of the aspects of the art and an independent businessman; this is very good for the club.

Jim Barrett will be back at the SDBC In January. Jim will be styling a Robusta Green Juniper. A Robusta Green Juniper is one of the many varieties of Chinese Junipers (*Juniperus chinensis*).

Jim has been a featured speaker at many conventions and has worked for many bonsai associations. He is past president of Bonsai Clubs International, the first president of Golden State Bonsai Federation, the founding president of the Santa Anita Bonsai Society and currently serves on the American Bonsai Society's board of directors.

Jim never had formal bonsai lessons. He attributes his success to the Japanese bonsai experts in Southern California and credits them for the generous sharing of their knowledge and friendship. (cont. on page 6)

Charlie Mosse, 1st VP

Jim Barrett



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## Editor's Note

Happy New Year to all. We start a new year with a new masthead to commemorate the 40th year of publication of the San Diego Bonsai Club newsletter. In the article by David Choy, our club historian, he charts the number of changes to the newsletter over the years including numerous changes under the last two editors, Fred Miyahara and Mario Condit. However, as we start our 40th year, the newsletter continues its mission to inform and educate San Diego Bonsai Club members. **Dave Barker, editor**

Enjoy  
Bonsai  
- Learn  
More

Inscription by  
Marty Mann  
in his book—  
Bonsai Ideas



[www.sandiegobonsaiclub.com](http://www.sandiegobonsaiclub.com)

The Bonsai Wire is a monthly publication of the San Diego Bonsai Club. All articles are provided by SDBC members and edited by The Bonsai Wire Editor, Dave Barker (dtbarker\_sd@yahoo.com). Shirley Kavanaugh Jr. is responsible for folding, labeling, and mailing. If you have any questions or special requests, please call or email the editor.

## The Bonsai Wire

### San Diego Bonsai Club Volunteers

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|---|--|---|
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# San Diego Bonsai Club Education for January

## Beginning Class

'lyn Stevenson will be teaching this class using Chinese Elms, *Ulmus Parvifolia*. Please note the time change as the class begins at **8:30 am**. Assisting 'lyn will be **John Jackson, Dennis Wagner, & Gary Jones**.

Elms are deciduous trees so after the three months of your class where you style and pot the tree, you will watch your tree change from a leafless tree to one covered with beautiful tiny leaves. If this is your first beginning class you will be provided with a bonsai book, pruning shears, chop sticks, note paper, pen and a handout on elms and bonsai tree styles in addition to your elm tree and pot. We're looking forward to having all who signed up in this great class. This class is filled; the next beginning class will start in April.

## Skills Classes

Our grafting master **Fred Miyahara** is teaching this grafting class. Students are to bring a juniper or pine they want to do a graft on or if you don't have a tree but want to learn the skill Fred will have small junipers available for \$5. Don't forget your grafting knife and honing stone. This class will be in two sessions on Sunday: 1) 8:30 am to 10:15 am is when you will get your grafting knife sharpened (with Fred's help), 2) the actual grafting will begin after the benefit drawing. This class is filled.

At the February 9, 2014 meeting, Michael Sykes will conduct a workshop on *Juniperus Chinensis* 'Foemina.' The trees for this workshop were purchased at the House of Bonsai, one of the nurseries we will be visiting on our Winter Silhouettes Trip. Shaping and wiring of the junipers will be done in the class, and then they will be allowed to grow for a year. Follow up for this class will be in February 2015. This class is filled.

As you may have noticed, classes fill up fast. Future class and workshop sign-up sheets will be available for sign-up at the regularly scheduled meeting dates two months before the scheduled class/workshop. Payment must be made at the time you sign-up to secure your spot in a class.

At the March 9th, 2014 meeting, Fred Miyahara will teach a class on Pines using pines from the Muranaka Nursery in Nipomo, California. These are beautiful pines selected, dug and repotted by Charlie Mosse. In this workshop you will begin to shape and wire your pine. The members of the Pine Group will be assisting Fred.

This class will have follow-ups in both June and November 2014. Sign-up will be available at the January Bonsai Club meeting. Cost is \$95. Class maximum is 10 people.

Barbara French-Lee, VP for Education

## December Meeting

New officers were installed at the meeting - from left to right: Dan Sola, Rich Glauser, Barbara French-Lee, David Choy, Brenda Crann, and Allan Edwin.



Congratulations to team Dennis and Sue Wagner: the first place winners of our third annual bonsai-styling competition. Sue stepped in at the last minute for Abe Far. Our impresario, Neil Auwarter, did an excellent job by prompting the players with interesting questions that may or may not have been related to bonsai: all in the name of fun.

Thanks to Charlie Mosse for organizing the program, and thanks to each of the four teams in the competition for their participation and sportsmanship. And as always a thank you to all behind-the-scenes members: the set-up and tear-down gang, refreshment crew, audio visual team, and those who brought mini-Christmas trees.



Dan Sola, President



# San Diego Bonsai Club

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Members  
December 8, 2013



1. **Call to Order:** The regular meeting of the membership of the San Diego Bonsai Club was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Dan Sola, President. It was confirmed that a quorum was present.

2. **Approval of Minutes:** The minutes from the November 10, 2013 meeting were approved as published.

3. **Board Member Reports:**

**Patrick O'Brien, Treasurer,** reported: the Club's finances are in good order. The combined balance of the Club's two accounts (Operating and Pavilion) is about \$22,000 with the Pavilion account at about \$14,800 and the Club account at about \$6,300. Year-to-date spending against budget is about \$8,000 negative which is largely due to the awning at the Pavilion.

**Charlie Mosse, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President,** reported: the demo schedule for 2014 is in the December Bonsai Wire; February needs a presenter; Jim Barrett will conduct another workshop/demo on pot making in July.

**Barbara French-Lee, Vice President, Education,** reported: thanks to everyone that helped with the various projects in 2013 – it is much appreciated; Fred's grafting class is full – please contact Fred if you wish to order a honing stone to sharpen your grafting knife; 'lyn will be conducting the Beginner's class starting in January; Michael Sykes' February foemina class is limited to 8 people – payment must be received to secure a place.

**Barbara French-Lee reported for Chris Heckler, Vice President Special Projects:** two vans will be used for the Winter Silhouettes trip (includes bonsai exhibit, vendors, entertainment, a raffle, and dinner) January 18 – two nurseries (House of Bonsai and Taiwan Farms) will also be on the itinerary; the trip to the Huntington Gardens for the Bonsai-a-thon on February 22 will be by bus – don't miss this great trip.

**Joan Holliday, Vice President Membership,** announced: membership dues can be paid online (due by March); new members were welcomed.

4. **Appointed Position Reports:**

**John Jackson, Safari Park Pavilion Curator,** reported: the fall repotting of 17 junipers is complete; spring repotting will include about 32 trees; the volunteers had a very successful picnic on December 7 with many raffle items and good eats – many thanks to 'lyn Stevenson for organizing this event; the next work day is on December 21 – we always need volunteers.

5. **Old Business:** None

6. **New Business:** None

7. **Announcements:**

**President Dan Sola** announced: thanks to meeting helpers; past presidents were recognized; December 14 there will be a bonsai sale (last one) at Big Dave's house ; meetings times change starting in January (classes/workshops at 8:30 am, general meeting at 10:30 am); demo at 11:00 am; help will be needed with the workshops and classes in the morning for set up; John Polo is the new Raffle Manager; Bob Hale is the new Tool Manager; and Janice Hale is the new Video Manager.

Joanie Berkwitz announced: Ted Schwartz will be selling his Bonsai collection in March

8. **Installation of Officers :**

**'lyn Stevenson installed the following officers for 2014:**

President - Dan Sola; First Vice President - Rich Glauser; Vice President for Education - Barbara French-Lee; Vice President for Special Projects - Chris Heckler; Treasurer - Allan Edwin; Secretary - Brenda Crann; Vice President Membership - David Choy; and Abe Far remains the Outgoing President.

9. **Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 am.

Respectfully submitted, Mark Edgar, Secretary

## Bonsai Ideas

by Marty Mann

January, 2014

You have put most of your trees to bed for a winter rest. Can you now wait for spring to come? In the world of bonsai "is just isn't so".....no IDLE TIME. January is the "beginning-of-the-year" month. Bonsai people start with an eager outlook for a spring season by getting ready in advance and understanding what can and should be done at this time.

Remember that the soil mixes in your potted trees have been somewhat inactive due to the cooler weather of the past few months. Soil bacteria, in it's dormant state, has not been providing any nitrogen to these growing plants while they rested. Now is the time to plan ahead for your supply of fertilizers.

You can resume the feeding schedules in late February, but this is the time to do the clean up chores. Remove all the winter trash around the work area as well as on the potted trees and growing stock. This is the best way to prevent infestation of insects and fungus diseases. Don't throw any of this late winter trash into your compost heaps since it may be infectious. It's safer to throw it away.

Survey the finished trees you have in bonsai pots. Are they still a proper match in size or color to the tree? Has the maturity and styling of the tree changed? Is it enough to consider repotting into a new pot? Is it taller, wider, fatter? Does the tree deserve a pot of better quality?

Now is the time to redesign each completed tree. Review your nursery stock to determine the readiness of some of the partially trained material for transfer to a training or a display pot. Check your inventory of pots. If you don't have one that fits your needs, now is the time to shop at a nearby bonsai nursery or attend the many local conventions. Bazaar vendors offer so many varieties and sizes. Maybe you will find the perfect 'domestic' made pot to fit the bill.

*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.*

### This Month in Bonsai History

In January 1965, the Santa Anita Bonsai Society was first established, and its first president was Jim Barrett, our speaker at this month's SDBC meeting. This was the third bonsai organization in Metropolitan Los Angeles, and probably the first bonsai group to hold its meetings entirely in English.

## We've Come a Long Way... The SDBC Newsletter at 40 years

As we began to document our Bonsai Wire Newsletter, it is worth reminiscing about our club's history and how our newsletter has been witness to it. 40 years ago, the first monthly newsletter was sent to the 94 members of the SDBC in January 1974, eight and a half years after having founded our club. By the end of that year, the current format and the SDBC Logo were incorporated into the newsletter.

### Excerpt from 1993 Newsletter



SAN DIEGO BONSAI CLUB INC.  
PO BOX 40037  
SAN DIEGO, CA 92164  
PHONE (619) 231-9899

NEWSLETTER FOR APRIL 1993

San (サン) De (デー) Go (ゴ)  
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We did it again! Another SRO meeting, due mainly to our wonderful "root" over rock meeting. Thank you Lucinda for leading the workshop, and to all the members who helped out (most noticeably to Fred Miyahara who continued grafting the workshop trees until the end of the meeting. And I know we all learned a lot from Ruthann's talk on a five year plan for Maples.

MEETING Sunday, 4/11/93, 10:00 am, Room 101, Casa del Prado.

Novice Class For information contact Ruthann @ 451-9672.

Regular Workshop 10:00 am. If you'll be showing a tree for the first time at our Spring Show this will be your last chance to have a member of our Exhibition Tree Committee (Mas Takanashi, Stan Childs, John Jackson) to approve it.

Milestones in our newsletter include the following:

- November 2000 – "The Bonsai Wire" replaces the "The San Diego Bonsai Club Newsletter" name.
- January 2003 – The first photograph is printed, but not until July do we print it in the first page of The Bonsai Wire.
- October 2004 – The first color newsletter comes out.
- January, 2011 – The web version of The Bonsai Wire is available to members.
- August 2012 – As technology progresses, the web version of The Bonsai Wire is in color and sent to the majority of members; the printed version is relegated to cost-saving black and white.
- January 2014 – We now formally count each monthly version of The Bonsai Wire.

David Choy, SDBC Historian

## The Bonsai Wire

July 2003

### July Meeting

For the July meeting we have Mas Ishii doing a juniper workshop. He will be bringing 8 trees down from his nursery. The workshop is sold out, but you can contact me to get on the backup list in case someone drops out. The cost is \$45.

Mas was born in Fukuoka, the largest city in Kyushu, Japan. Mas came to the United States in 1956. Here he studied under the late Harry Hamasaki. Mas presently owns and operates Chikugo-En Miniature Bonsai Nursery in Gardens, Ca.

Mas specializes in grafting shimpaku and virtually all of his material comes from cuttings of very old Japanese Shimpaku stock. He spends hours honing his special grafting knives so that the cuts are clean and precise. Mas has led seminars and workshops on grafting techniques all over California. He is a recognized expert and sought after



# San Diego Bonsai Club Pavilion at the Safari Park

We ended a very busy, enjoyable, educational and productive 2013 at our Bonsai Pavilion with a much improved and enhanced bonsai collection. Our volunteers have continued to be very enthusiastic, dedicated, and generous in their participation. The number of volunteers has grown and the hours spent by all have increased. Thus, the bonsai and the pavilion are looking better and better each month. Visitors are often impressed that this beautiful and tranquil garden and bonsai collection are maintained by volunteers! Congratulations and Many Thanks to all these special volunteers!

December thanks to the following for their work : **Neil Auwarter, Armand Bryant, Ken Bross, Alan Burrows, Julia Chow, Nelson Cortes, Cathy & Mark Edgar, Allan Edwin, Jeff Geringer, Sonja Holmquist, John Jackson, Jaya Kaelberer, Jim & Susan Kirchmer, Marty & Ruth Mann, Chris Manzanares, Charlie Mosse, Sally Prestele, Dan Sola, 'lyn Stevenson, Charlie Tamm, John Voss, Dennis Wagner, Mark Walters, Dave Woodall and Roger Ziegelman.** We welcome especially Chris, Julia and Nelson as our newest team members; they will be getting their I.D. cards and credentials from the Zoo in January.

Curator John Jackson directed the major December activity of transplanting over 17 of our bonsai. There are over 30 more to do this winter and upcoming spring including several of the recently donated bonsai. Fortunately, we have added more bench space for them in the work area. Moving bonsai that are on display is part of the routine for the deciduous as well as the evergreen bonsai, water schedules are changed, garden and pond grooming and clean-ups of the fallen leaf debris continue regularly. There are always plenty of work assignments for all!



Due to failed eyesight and hearing, longtime member and friend, Helen Mildner, is retiring from bonsai. She

has generously donated her personal bonsai library and a large collection of bonsai pots to the Pavilion. We are truly gratified that she designated the Pavilion as the recipient of these treasures.

Early in December, we celebrated with an "in-house" Christmas party and a free raffle. Generous prizes were donated by the Horticultural Department of Safari Park, the Safari Park Volunteer Office, the Edgars, the Kirchmers, and a few anonymous donors. A wonderful buffet of gourmet goodies was supplied by Dan, Jaya, Armand, John J., Sally, Alan, Allan, Cathy, Sonja, and 'lyn. Our volunteers really have epicurean talents! It was a fun celebration in a Safari Park covered area which protected all from the December rain that day.



The scheduled work sessions at the Pavilion will continue to be the first and third Saturdays of each month in 2014. We will host the SDBC members at the Pavilion at our traditional picnic and silent auction in May. Members who would like to participate as volunteers at the Pavilion need to register with the Zoo for credentials. Contact 'lyn for further information.

'lyn Stevenson SDBC-Safari Park Liaison

## This Month's Program Continued

Always interested in ceramics, Jim Barrett has for the past three decades been making bonsai pots. He has made previous presentations on pots to the SDBC, and his pots are always in demand at the SDBC Spring and Fall Bonsai shows. More information about Jim is available at: <http://www.psba.us/jimbarrett.html>.

Robusta Green Juniper is one of the many varieties of Chinese Junipers. This group of Junipers can grow as ground cover or to the size of a small tree or column type habit across many climates zones. More information about this variety can be found at:

<http://www.monrovia.com/plant-catalog/plants/1635/robusta-green-juniper.php>

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## New Members

Please welcome our newest members:

**Chris Manzanares, Kyle Powell, and Bill Higgins.** Chris is already signed up to volunteer at the Safari Park and Kyle and Bill are taking the Winter Beginners Class. Lots of enthusiasm going on!

Joan Holliday

## Refreshments

Many thanks to the folks that brought refreshments to the December meeting. The members bringing refreshments included: **Gary Jones, Sonya Holmquist, Dan Sola, Ron Sablan, Susan Baker, Barbara French Lee, David and Martha Choy, Julia Chow, Janice Hale, Janet Pahren, Marty and Ruth Mann, John and Margaret Jackson, Cathy Edgar, Joan Holliday, Brenda Crann, Jaya Kaelberer, and Dennis and Sue Wagner.**

Sonya Holmquist and Meg Polo,  
Food Coordinators

## Benefit Drawing

A big thank you to the folks that brought in items for the raffle table to the December meeting:

**Shirley Kavanaugh, Dan Sola, Trisha Bonapace, John and Margaret Jackson, Dave Woodall, Gary Jones, Julia Chow, and Mark and Cathy Edgar.**

Please continue to bring in your bonsai related items.

## Membership Dues

With the beginning of the year it is time to renew your membership. Dues are \$30 for one person and \$5 for each additional family member. You may go online to pay your renewal by credit card or bring a check or cash to the next meeting. **David Choy**, the new membership chair will be happy to help you if you have any questions.

## Upcoming Program

In February we will have our own Glenn Jensen providing a demonstration on "carving, shari and jin." Glenn has been studying Bonsai since 1979 with many of the California masters. This skill takes the right tools and a similar thought process as does styling a tree. We scratch our heads and think, "Do I have the right tools? The right tree? And how do I begin?" Come and see how it happens.

**Reminder: Beginning Class and Grafting Workshop will start at 8:30 am in January.**

## Special Events

We have two great trips planned:

**Winter Silhouettes Show.** On January 18th we will be going to the Winter Silhouettes at the Los Angeles Arboretum. Before arriving there for a delicious dinner, auction and entertainment we will visit two nurseries; House of Bonsai and Taiwan Farms. We will leave from Balboa Park at **9 am** and Carlsbad at **9:30 am**. Since we won't eat dinner until around 6 pm, please bring a lunch for yourself. Maps to identify the pick up areas will be available at the Club meeting. Don't forget to bring a dessert and any item you would like to donate for the auction. **Cost is \$40.**



**Bonsai-a-Thon.** On February 22nd we will be going to the Bonsai-a-Thon at the Huntington Gardens. Bonsai will be on display there as well as a plant sale and special bonsai auction. There will also be demonstrations throughout the day. This is always a great treat as we have access to the entire garden and museum areas as well as the beautiful Japanese and Chinese gardens. Lunch of hamburger or hot dog is available for \$5 and there are other eating places available on the grounds. We leave Balboa Park at **7am** and Carlsbad at **7:30am**. Entrance is free. **Cost for the bus is \$40.**

Sign-up sheets are available online and will be available at the January Club meeting.

Janice Hale, VP for Special Events

## Obituary

Vivian Thomas passed away Dec. 9th. She was an active member some years ago, and was a participant on the Club's very first Bristlecone Pine trip.

San Diego Bonsai Club, Inc.  
 PO Box 86037  
 San Diego, CA 92138-6037



ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

## San Diego Bonsai Club Calendar of Events

January 12th Sunday

Regular SDBC Meeting

Jim Barrett: styling a "robusta green" juniper

January 18th Saturday

SDBC Workday at Safari Park , 9am to 12pm

January 18th Saturday, leaving 9 am from San Diego

Winter Silhouettes trip

February 1st and February 15th Saturday

SDBC Workday at Safari Park , 9am to 12pm

February 9th Sunday

Regular SDBC Meeting

Glenn Jensen on Carving, Shari, and Jin

February 22nd Saturday, leaving 7 am from San Diego

Bonsai-a-thon trip to Huntington Gardens

March meeting - Harry Hirao; styling a California juniper

April Meeting - John Jackson; trident maple on rock

June Meeting - Lindsay Shiba; how to display bonsai

July Meeting - Jim Barrett, bonsai pot making

August Meeting - Tom Elias; "penjing" earliest to present

January 12  
 Balboa Park, Room 101

### Meeting Agenda

Time	Activity	Room
08:30-10:20	Beginning Class	104
08:30-10:15	Grafting Workshop	101
10:30-11:00	Business Meeting	101
11:00-12:30	Demonstration	101
12:30	Lunch	101
12:45	Benefit Drawing	101
Post-drawing	Grafting Class cont.	101

**DUES REMINDER:** Club Annual Dues are \$30 for one person and \$5 for each additional family member. You may go online to pay your renewal by credit card or bring a check or cash to the January meeting.