

The Bonsai Wire

Volume 41, Issue 1

January, 2015



Message from the President

Happy New Year! I wish everyone a wonderful, bountiful, and prosperous 2015. I wish you success in keeping your bonsai healthy throughout the year and beyond. On behalf of the Board of Directors, thank you to our dedicated members who kept our activities moving forward throughout 2014. Also, congratulations to our 2015 Club Officers; thank you for your service to our Club.

Kudos to Allan Edwin and Gary Jones, the first place team winner of our annual December bonsai styling competition. Thank you to all four teams for your sportsmanship and for all who made the event fun and lively.

This year is the 50-year anniversary of the San Diego Bonsai Club, and we plan to celebrate it to coincide with our Spring Bonsai show. Our 2015 Board of Directors and a special 50-year Anniversary Committee are busy formulating activities for 2015. We expect to have an extremely busy schedule as we prepare for the big event, in addition to our continuing commitment to training, education, and other normal club activities. Any member interested in helping may contact any of our Club Officers.

Announcements

New this year, we will be compiling members' volunteer hours starting January 1 for all activities to be used when our Club applies for grants. The volunteer hours will keep track of our activities including the following: setting up and tearing down monthly meetings; maintenance of education plants at Kuma; teaching or assisting in beginners' classes, workshops (including follow up), and skills classes; bonsai assistance; presentation/demonstrations; participation in Board meetings, and any other actions benefitting the Club. Please log in your hours at the monthly meeting in the Volunteer Time Notebook that Sonya Holmquist will have at the membership table.

Our trip to the Winter Silhouettes will be on Saturday, January 17, 2015 (see more on page 7).

Our trip to the Bonsai-A-Thon in Huntington will be Saturday, February 28, 2015 (see more on page 7).

We are still looking for a member (or two) to handle the duties of Refreshment Coordinator.

Dan Sola, President

This Month's Program

Bob Hale will present an entertaining look at "Soil: It's what goes in the pot." At our Spring and Fall shows, we often have to explain to visitors that a bonsai specimen is no different from "regular" trees grown in the wild. If trees grow in the "regular" soil in the wild, why do we need to consider the use of a special, unique type of soil mix? If bonsai are simply trees from nature in a pot, why won't they live well in common soil?

Bob will be discussing soil qualities, soil components, soil bulk density/moisture/aeration, bonsai soil ideas, and comments from the experts on soils such as akadama. Much time and effort is expended in cultivating our bonsai; learn how we can help them thrive under our care and training through soil management techniques.

Bob, a member of the Club for the past six years, is currently our First Vice President and was also our Tool Sales Manager extraordinaire.



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San Diego Bonsai Club Website
www.sandiegobonsaiclub.com

Editor's Note

In my reading while on vacation, I came across this thought from John Naka's *Bonsai Techniques II* that I thought apropos for the San Diego Bonsai Club (SDBC) 50th year celebration. "The study of bonsai seems to never end. The more we advance the further the goal seems to be. ...It is like searching for the base of a rainbow, the fun and enjoyment is during the search." I think that describes my journey with the help of those in the club as well as the journey of the club itself.

The SDBC has been sharing this art form with San Diego for 50 years and continues to fulfill Mr. Naka's vision "to preserve this culture so that others who follow may enjoy it too." Dave Barker, TBW Editor

50 Years
of
Cultivating
the
Living Art
of
Bonsai
in
San Diego



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BEGINNING CLASS IN JANUARY

Alyn Stevenson will be teaching the beginning class using *Ulmus Parvifolia* (Chinese Elm). Everything will be provided for the students including a tree, shears, notepaper, chopsticks, book, and later soil and pot. The class starts promptly at 8:30am in Room 104. This class is filled.

JANUARY WORKSHOP: Fred Miyahara will be teaching three types of grafting for bonsai trees. The class starts at 8:30 in Room 101 to the right of the entrance. Cost is \$10. There are still openings.

SIGN UP SHEETS FOR FUTURE WORKSHOPS:

February: Michael Sykes will be teaching a class on *Juniperus Sinensis* (foemina juniper). Tree and wire will be provided. Bring your tools. Cost: \$35. Max: 10 people

March: Fred Miyahara will be teaching a class on *Pinus Thumbergiana*, (Japanese Black Pine). Fred brought in two samples of these outstanding pines to the December club meeting. They are beautiful with good trunk diameter. Tree and wire will be provided. Bring your tools. Cost: \$110. Max: 10 people

Sign-up sheets will be available at the January meeting for these workshops

HELP AND FOLLOWUP: Before the meeting (9 am- 9:50) is a wonderful time to bring in any of your bonsai trees, or trees on their way to becoming a bonsai, for help and advice on styling, repotting, diseases or any concerns you may have. We have many bonsai specialists available to help.

Barbara French-Lee, VPEducation

Four worthy competitors met in a bonsai styling battle,



but there could be only one winner. Congratulations to Gary and Allan.



2015 SDBC Officers



Abe

Peter

Brenda

Janice

Sonya

Barbara

Bob

Dan



San Diego Bonsai Club

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Members
December 14, 2014



- 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 9, 2014 meeting were approved as published.
- 3. New Members:** Sonya Holmquist, VP for Membership welcomed new members Jenny and Joe Cho, Abi and Ellie Brownlee (daughters of member Tim Brownlee), and Ayse Colak (daughter of member Nazim Colak), and introduced Cesar Velasquez and Sylvia Mosse first time attendees. Sonya reminded members it is time to renew membership. Dan presented a gold pin for Sonya's volunteering in 2014.
- 4. Board Member Reports:**

Bob Hale 1st Vice President (VP), reported: For January meeting, he will be doing a demonstration on soil bringing in new facts into the club and basic soil mixtures. Dan presented Bob a gold pin for Bob's volunteering in 2014. Gary Jones acknowledged Bob Hale for all the work he did for the Monterey Cypress presentation in November.

Allan Edwin Treasurer, reported: Discussed the Pro Forma through November and raising the percentage fee for sales from 15% to 20% because the sales tax is at 8% and now we are accruing the credit card fee. More than half of the sales are with credit cards, and that's another 3% we pay in fees to the bank. The Spring Show raised \$1,500 which could bring more to the Club if we had the percentage higher, and could be used for other programs, outreach, and education. The Board has approved and adopted raising the fee to 20%. The overall Club and Pavilion budget are in the black; total revenue was \$28,000 and expenses \$26,200. Dan presented Allan with a gift and a gold pin for the volunteering in 2014 and for being a departing officer of the club.

Barbara French-Lee, VP of Education, reported: Thank you and she is grateful for all the volunteer and help that people gave her with the classes this year. We have two classes coming up: Fred Miyahara's grafting class in January and Michael Sykes' Foemina Juniper class in February. Dan presented a gold pin to Barbara for volunteering in 2014.

Janice Hale, VP of Special Projects, reported: Winter Silhouettes trip (which includes bonsai exhibit, vendors, entertainment, a raffle, and a dinner) is January 17th. Two nurseries (House of Bonsai and Green Product Sales) will also be on the itinerary. The trip to the Huntington Gardens for the Bonsai-a-thon is on February 28th; it is \$40 and will be by bus. The Spring Show is scheduled for April 25th and 26th, 2015 with set up on the 23rd and 24th. Dan presented a gold pin to Janice for volunteering in 2014.
- 5. Appointed Position Reports:**

John Jackson, Safari Park Pavilion Curator, reported: Thank you to volunteers for 2014. New volunteers are always needed. Dan presented John with a gold pin for his volunteering in 2014.
- 6. Old Business:** The Club is still looking for volunteers for organizing refreshments.
- 7. New Business:** Gary Jones has been appointed the Show Chair for 2015.
- 8. Announcements:** President Dan Sola announced Glenn Jensen as new Curator for the Japanese Friendship Garden. Dan presented Brenda Crann, 'lyn Stevenson, Steve Clemons, Dennis Wagner, Eric Jacobson, Dave Barker, Shirley Kavanaugh, Charlie Mosse, Abe Far, Patrick O'Brien (not present), and John Voss gold pins for volunteering in 2014. In addition, Dan had a gift and gold pin for David Choy, but David was not present.
- 9. Installation of 2015 Officers –** 'lyn Stevenson installed the following officers for 2015: President, Dan Sola; First Vice President, Bob Hale; Vice President for Education, Barbara French-Lee; Vice President for Special Projects, Janice Hale; Treasurer, Peter Chong; Secretary, Brenda Crann; Vice President Membership, Sonya Holmquist; and Immediate Past President, Abe Far.
- 10. Annual Bonsai Styling Competition:** Bob Hale introduced the four teams for the Bonsai competition. The team of Allan Edwin and Gary Jones won first place.
- 11. Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Brenda Crann, Secretary

A NEW YEAR, THE CYCLE BEGINS AGAIN

January is the time to "reset" the cycle". 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. 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 "it just isn't so," there is no IDLE TIME.

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.

Another good way to prepare for the spring is to focus on pots. Inventory, cleanup, and organizing is a "to do" item, but gets put on the back burner. Clean as you go will help with this goal. Scrub them with a strong soapy solution and some bleach. Apply a lime-off cleaner or vinegar to the white spots (or just some elbow grease and cleanser) and rinse them well. Allow them to dry in the full sun to prevent any infestation carryover.

This is by far the best time to study plant designs. Spend some serious time with each tree by carefully reviewing the branch structures, the trunk lines, their placement and relationships. In the case of deciduous trees, you can see them clearly, in a winter silhouette, without the disguise of a blanket of leaves that hide their faults and problem areas. Remember the basic bonsai design principals of crossing branches, bars, angles, elevations, and relationships to the trunk movement. These important design points distinguish your tree's quality from just any other bonsai.

While studying your tree's design, also look to encourage twiggy-ness and new branch development as soon as spring growth begins. Cut back long tertiary branches on junipers and deciduous trees to shorten internodes.

Finally, another important activity at this time involves your tools. Sort them out. Sharpen all cutting edges, remove accumulations of rust and tar stains by using the new Japanese erasers, dip into a bleach solution to purify, then oil all surfaces for protection.

Next month, we will review the basics of good soil composition and the need to prepare your soil batches ahead of time for the repotting activities.

Spring is coming!

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

San Diego County Fair

The San Diego County Fair seems like a distant memory as we head into 2015, but I wanted to extend a VERY BIG THANK YOU to the many people were involved from design, construction, materials, watering and maintenance, presentations, and take down. These are the people who made it all happen in 2014 — [Peter Chong](#), [Brenda Crann](#), [Cathy Edgar](#), [Mark Edgar](#), [Allan Edwin](#), [Abe Far](#), [Bob Hale](#), [Janice Hale](#), [Sonya Holmquist](#), [Rita Huang](#), [John Jackson](#), [Jaya Kaelberer](#), [Shirley Kavanaugh](#), [Charlie Mosse](#), [Van Moch Nguyen](#), [John Polo](#), [Meg Polo](#), [Dan Sola](#), and [Dennis Wagner](#).

Our club received a First Place Ribbon for our booth at the Fair in 2014, and we received many other prizes for the maintenance and overall care and design of the booth. Very soon we will be beginning the planning for the 2015 San Diego County Fair. The theme is in conjunction with the Balboa Park centennial celebration. We would love to have everyone's help, so let one of the club officers know if you are interested in being involved with this fun event.

[Barbara French-Lee](#), VPEducation

50th Year Anniversary Committee

The 50th Year Anniversary Committee was formed and met in December. The committee includes Gary Jones, Armand Bryant, Eric Jacobson, Jaya Kaelberer, and chair Sonya Holmquist. Ideas were discussed on how to make the 50th year celebration special including the development of a 50th year logo and a tagline. The committee also discussed 50th year memorabilia such as t-shirts, polo shirts, water tumblers, aprons, pins, and tool rolls, all with a gold colored logo.

A promotion plan may include feature articles in local newspapers/magazines, appearances on local TV, press releases, flyer distribution concerning shows, and an article in Golden Statements. A history of the club and articles honoring lifetime members may be developed for the Club website and the newsletter. Special projects are being considered for the Spring and Fall Shows to highlight the 50th year. If you would like to help out, contact Sonya Holmquist.

AmazonSmile

Amazon will donate 0.5% of eligible purchases to the SDBC for purchases on AmazonSmile. You can log on to www.smile.amazon.com to sign up and shop. The prices on AmazonSmile are the same as Amazon; the only difference is that the Club benefits!

San Diego Bonsai Club Pavilion at the Safari Park

The SDBC Pavilion Safari Park Volunteers celebrated the 2014 Pavilion year with many improvements to the Bonsai Pavilion Garden areas as well as with the Bonsai Collection. There are now about **fifty** volunteers from SDBC on the roster and they have been joined by members from the San Pu Kai Club also. Having a great cadre of enthusiastic volunteers helps make the lists of responsibilities easier for everyone. Sharing talents, hints, and "know-hows" with each other has also proved to be educational and most enjoyable. Thanks to everyone who has participated throughout the year. All Pavilion volunteers are now in the process of renewing their Safari Park I.D. passes with 2015 stickers issued by the Safari Park Volunteers' Office Staff.

At our December 6th work session, we adjourned to the Horticulture Department's Round House area for our December Pot Luck Christmas Party Luncheon and free gift raffle. The food contributions were varied, unique, and very delicious. The bonsai gift raffles were generous and fun and also included some items donated by the Safari Park volunteer Office. Thanks to everyone for their contributions. December volunteers included **Susan Baker, Ken Bross, Armand Bryant, Julia Chow, Steve Clemons, Cathy & Mark Edgar, Bob & Janice Hale, Sonya Holmquist, John Jackson, Jaya Kaelberer, Jim & Sue Kirchmer, Marty & Ruth Mann, Charlie & Sylvia Mosse, Janie & Ron Ogdon, Janet and Ron Palmer, Marcella Perez, Terri Petrescu, Sally Prestele, Harlan & Mary Ann Price, Dan Sola, 'lyn Stevenson, Charlie Tamm, John Voss, Dennis Wagner, Mark Walters, and Dave Woodall.** What an impressive list of generous talent for a cold and sometimes rainy December!

We look forward to 2015 with more new Pavilion improvements. Plans have been submitted to the Horticulture Office for the expansion of the work and storage areas which will be the first new projects. The bonsai in the back area are under special care, need repotting, or additional refinement and/or styling, so many volunteers are working in this area regularly. More space is needed for them and for future additions to the collection. Recent new donations from Marty Mann included two tray landscapes, a trident maple, and a liquid amber along with about 40 stone blocks that we will use in our work area expansion. Many thanks to Marty for these latest generous donations.

Pavilion cash donations are acknowledged on the Honor Board at the front of the Pavilion. Cathy & Mark Edgar recently donated \$1000 and a plaque will be added to the Honor Board in their names. They also donated a large tokonoma pot to our pot collection. Thanks to them and all our donors! We welcome other members to join us in volunteering, donating their time and their talents.



A great New Year Resolution for all SDBC members would be to visit and enjoy the Bonsai Pavilion often in 2015 and perhaps join the wonderful, friendly, dedicated group of volunteers with their red shirts and name badges who enjoy explaining the art of bonsai to Safari Park visitors.

*'lyn Stevenson,
SDBC-Safari Park Liaison*



New Members

Please welcome our new members:

Jenny and Joe Cho, Abi and Ellie Brownlee (daughters of member Tim Brownlee), and Ayse Colak (daughter of member Nazim Colak).

Sonya Holmquist, VP of Membership

Refreshments

Thank you to the following for your donations of refreshments to the December 2014 meeting: **Dan Sola, Charlie and Sylvia Mosse, Abe and Christina Far, Shirley Kavanaugh, Gary Jones, Cathy Edgar, Janice Hale, Sonya Holmquist, John and Margaret Jackson, Harlan and Mary Ann Price, Chusub Sresthadatta, Marcella Perez, Jackie and Warren Tam, Cesar Velasquez, Susan Baker, Roger Marr, Susan Hull, 'lyn Stevenson, Jim Potts, Barbara French-Lee, Rick Anderson, Tina Flores, and Maria Flores.**

SDBC Benefit Drawing

Thank you to the following for your donations to the December 2014 meeting benefit drawing: **Dan Sola, Charlie and Sylvia Mosse, Abe and Christina Far, Shirley Kavanaugh, Gary Jones, Dave Woodall, John and Margaret Jackson, Harlan and Mary Ann Price, Susan Hull, Dave Barker, Ken Bross, and Neil Auwarter.**

Website

The San Diego Bonsai Club is an all volunteer organization. Most volunteer opportunities only require a willingness to pitch in. But if you have special skills, please let us know by filling out the new volunteer form on our website (www.sandiegobonsaiclub.com) under the Membership tab. Some examples of special skills include bookkeeping, bonsai knowledge, teaching experience, artistic skills, photography, videography, and writing.

2015 Membership Renewal

Renew your membership now and don't miss any of the exciting events planned to celebrate our 50th anniversary in 2015!

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

Sonya Holmquist, VP of Membership

Special Events

Winter Silhouettes – January 17, 2015

Our first trip for 2015! We will be joining our friends, Baikoen Bonsai Kenkyukai, at their annual Winter Silhouettes Bonsai Show at the Los Angeles Arboretum. The show is comprised of deciduous trees in their bare-branched winter splendor. It is a beautiful and interesting 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 members of Baikoen Bonsai Kenkyukai. We'll also be treated to spectacular entertainment, a fun raffle and a lively auction. Our transportation will be by van and the cost, between \$30-\$40, will be determined on the number of participants. You can sign up at this month's club meeting if you haven't already.

Bonsai-A-Thon XIX - February 28, 2015

This is a trip you do not want to miss! We will be taking a large tour bus up to the Huntington Library and Botanical Gardens to enjoy the Golden State Bonsai Federation's 2015 Bonsai-A-Thon! There you can enjoy 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 7:00am and the Carlsbad staging area at 7:30am. 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 www.sandiegobonsaiclub.com.

Spring Bonsai Show – April 25 – 26, 2015

Mark your calendars! Our Spring Bonsai Show is only a few quick months away. Gary Jones has agreed to serve as the Chair for the Spring Show. We will have set up of Room 101 on Thursday, April 23rd and bonsai tree set up on Friday, April 24th. We'll have a fun dinner/auction/ raffle on Saturday night after the show. This will be a great way to get together and celebrate the San Diego Bonsai Club's 50th Anniversary!

Janice Hale, VP of Special Projects

San Diego Bonsai Club, Inc.
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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

San Diego Bonsai Club Calendar of Events

January 11th, Sunday

Club Meeting

"Soil: It's what goes in the pot"

January 17th, Saturday

SDBC Workday at Safari Park , 9 am to 12 pm

January 17th, Saturday

Winter Silhouettes Show at Los Angeles
 Arboretum in Arcadia

February 7th Saturday and February 21st Saturday

SDBC Workday at Safari Park , 9 am to 12 pm

February 22nd Sunday (Note— change of date)

Club Meeting

"Fertilizer: The other thing that goes in the pot"

February 28th, Saturday

Bonsai-A-Thon XIX at Huntington Gardens in
 Pasadena

March 8, Sunday

Club Meeting

Bougainvillea Demonstration

Sunday, January 11, 2015
 Balboa Park, Room 101
 Casa Del Prado

Meeting Agenda

Time	Activity	Room
08:30– 10:20	Beginning Class	104
08:30– 10:20	Grafting Workshop	101
09:30– 10:20	Library Open	104
08:30 - 10:20	Follow-up	101
10:30-11:00	Business Meeting	101
11:00-12:30	Presentation on Soil	101
12:30	Lunch	101
12:45	Benefit Drawing	101

**If you haven't done so, please pay your 2015 Dues
 at the January Meeting or online**