

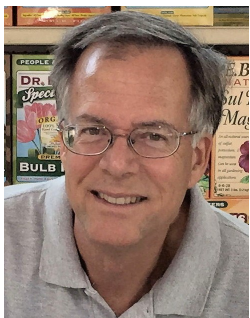
The Bonsai Wire

Volume 42, Issue 1

January, 2016

Message from the President

Happy New Year! I hope everyone had a relaxing and enjoyable holiday and are ready to take on the new year. When it comes to bonsai, you can't learn just by reading a book or watching demonstrations. You need to have hands on and learn by "doing". So make a commitment to getting in more "doing" this year. Take advantage of club classes and activities.



The Bonsai Pavilion at the Safari Park or the Japanese Friendship Garden are great places to volunteer and to get hands-on practice. Be adventurous in your "doing"—try new varieties of bonsai; try new soil and fertilizing techniques.; and don't ignore your roots, they are the foundation for a healthy and vigorous tree, so be sure to re-pot. Speaking of repotting now is a great opportunity to get a head start on you bonsai plans for 2016. See this month's program below for details.

I wish to thank Dan Sola for his service to the club as President. The club has improved significantly both

organizationally and financially under his leadership. Dan will continue to serve the club on the board as an advisor. I would also like to thank Sonya Holmquist, who is stepping down as VP of Membership. Sonya was also a major contributor to our 50th anniversary activities. She will continue to support us in the Club library. And last but not least, thank you to the Board and members who support all of our club activities.

Announcements

- Our trip to the Winter Silhouettes will be on Saturday, January 16, 2016 (see more on page 7).
- Our trip to the Bonsai-A-Thon XIX will be Saturday, February 27, 2016 (see more on page 7).
- The California Shohin Society will be hosting the 15th Biennial Shohin Seminar, February 5 – 7, 2016 in Santa Nella, California. More information is available at calshohin.org.

Bob Hale, President

This Month's Program

January is another good month to re-pot pines, junipers and, although not the best time, it is ok for deciduous trees in San Diego. For tropicals, like bougainvillea and ficus, wait until June.

As simple as re-potting sounds, there are basic things to know and always some finer points to learn. Proper repotting helps to ensure a quick recovery after repotting and long-term root development and health. For young trees, it can also be a perfect time to properly arrange the roots to create attractive *nebari* and a good foundation.

This month we are offering to club members the opportunity to re-pot up to 3 trees using soil mix provided at no charge by the club, with plenty of assistance by club instructors. Bring your trees to the meeting; re-potting will start at 8:30. Then during the program portion of the meeting, proper re-potting techniques will be demonstrated by Abe Far: plant removal from the pot, loosening of the roots, root trimming, how to spot rotten roots, how to spread the roots to improve *nebari*, securing the tree, root stimulant solutions, soil mix and the ever important firming of the soil around the roots while minimizing damage to the roots. **Charlie Mosse, 1st VP**

Repotting at the Japanese Friendship Garden



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San Diego Bonsai Club Website
www.sandiegobonsaiclub.com

Editor's Note

The start of a new year is always filled with change - New Year's resolutions and for bonsai enthusiasts, a new cycle of growth for our bonsai trees. At the Club, we have new officers and new volunteers for many of our activities.

For the many new members, now is the time to accept Bob Hale's challenge to do more "doing." Get involved in the many opportunities to learn more about the art of bonsai through classes, workshops, demonstrations, study groups, field trips, and getting to know the "more seasoned" club members. Also think about volunteering—whether it is a few hours at the Spring or Fall shows or a longer term commitment of any of the open positions or as a volunteer at the Bonsai Pavillion or the Japanese Friendship Garden. Don't know how to get started? Just contact one of the Club's new officers and they can set you up.

Happy Bonsai New Year! Dave Barker, Editor

Bonsai combines
the beauty of
manmade sculpture
with the harmony
and perfection of
nature



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BEGINNING CLASS: 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 8:30 am. The class is full but some people have not paid, so there is a waiting list. Please come that day if you are on the waiting list as there may be an opening.

WORKSHOP: Also in January, Fred Miyahara will be teaching a class using several grafting techniques - side, needle and approach. Bring your own tree to work on if you need branches where now there are none. Materials needed for grafting will be provided. If you have a grafting knife, please bring it to the class. Cost: \$15. Club members are welcome to come and observe. See what each of these techniques are and how to properly perform them.

HELP AREA: Don't forget John Voss is available at the back of Room 101, to the right of the stage, for help on any trees you would like to bring to the Club meeting.

FEBRUARY WORKSHOPS: A liquidamber workshop will be taught by John Voss. These are nice size trees that have been in growing boxes in the SDBC nursery for several years. The workshop is limited to 4 students and there is one opening left. Cost: \$ 50-60 (will be finalized @ January meeting)

A workshop on foemina junipers will be taught by our Club's foemina expert, Michael Sykes. These are large junipers in 15 gal. pots. The workshop is limited to a maximum of 5 students, with 3 openings. Cost: \$100

MARCH WORKSHOP: Fred Miyahara will teach a class on pines in March. These trees have been grown and recently been repotted by Fred. This workshop is a wonderful opportunity to add a pine to your collection and to learn from a pine master. There is still room with a 10 student limit and 3 trees that are shohin size. Cost: \$95

New Study Group

The new study group with John Voss begins this month. The club members that have signed up for the study group should bring a tree or two that you want to work on and receive advice about. Also bring any recently purchased nursery stock plant material in order for John to help you get started. Our Winter Silhouettes trip is a good opportunity to purchase new material at the nurseries we will visit that can be brought to the study group next month.



Barb French-Lee, VP for Education

Shohin Study Group

We will be dormant in January. This will be a good time to finish defoliating deciduous trees if they have not been done already. With the branches and twigs easily seen, one can directionally trim more effectively for styling and thin for maintenance purposes.

We have 3 upcoming meeting dates: Room 104 at the Prado on Sunday, February 28th from 8-3; at Shirley's on Sunday March 20th; and in April immediately after the regular club meeting. April is show month for SDBC, so we will meet with our trees, slabs, accent plants and stands to determine what we are going to display.

Oak Study Group

We will try to meet 3 times this year, but no dates are set: Once in the Spring for re-potting when the trees will begin to grow and to see what new buds will develop for styling purposes. Watch for the buds turning red, then you know the tree is now active. Then once in the Summer we'll meet to see what happened after the spring growth and to ready the tree for the fall, and lastly in the fall when the last growth spurt is happening.

Oaks are being attacked by 3 serious problems. Keep your trees healthy, no stress, and that will help but is not a guarantee to be problem free. See the many links that pop up when you type in "UC Extension Oak Problems" into Google. Also, see the SDBC video on Oaks with Al Nelson and what he says about supplemental application of a high phosphorous product called Agri-Fos and how it helps. [Agri-Fos is available at Anderson's Nursery or online.]

Charlie Mosse, 1st VP

Brenda Crann getting follow-up help on her Foemina Juniper from Michael Sykes in December



We would have a photo from the root-over-rock follow-up in December, but after two years of waiting, John Jackson's advice was to take off five feet of growth, turn the trident maple into a 6" tall stick, and let it sit for another year. With bonsai you can't be in a hurry!



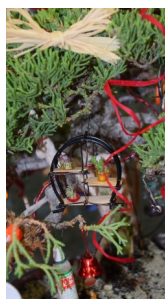
San Diego Bonsai Club

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Members
December 13, 2015



1. **Call to Order:** The regular meeting of the membership of the San Diego Bonsai Club was called to order at 10:00 in Balboa Park by Dan Sola, President. It was confirmed that a quorum was present.
2. **Approval of Minutes:** The minutes from the November 8, 2015 meeting were approved as published.
President's Remarks: Dan wished everyone a Merry Christmas/Happy Holidays. He summarized the Club's events during the last two and a half years and thanked Club Officers and members for supporting him, making for a successful two and a half years as President of San Diego Bonsai Club.
3. **Sonya Holmquist, VP for Membership:** We have a few new members; its membership renewal time.
4. **Board Member Reports:**
 - **Bob Hale 1st Vice president, reported:** Christmas Party and Bonsai Styling competition for this month. In January we will be a repotting program for members, who can bring up to three trees; the senior members will help re-pot. We will focus on Pines and Junipers. Acknowledgement of Dan Sola for the last 2 1/2 years of Service as President; Dan was presented with a plaque and gift certificate.
 - **Peter Chong, Treasurer, reported:** In November 2015 our income was \$1,500 and our expenses were \$2300; for a net loss of \$1000. The balance for SDBC account is \$24,800 and for the Pavilion \$14,900.(all approximate figures) San Diego Bonsai Club Board Members approved the 2016 Budget.
 - **Barbara French-Lee, Vice President, Education, reported:** In January the beginner's class will be taught by John Jackson on Elms; the class is full. Members can observe the classes. Fred Miyahara will have a grafting workshop and the cost is \$15.00. In February we have 4 Liquid Amber trees and John Voss will be teaching this workshop; Michael Sykes will teach a workshop on 15 gallon *foemina* junipers. A new Noon Study Group will start in January with John Voss. 'lyn Stevenson is also willing to do a study group.
 - **Bob Hale (For Janice Hale, Special Projects), reported:** The Winter Silhouettes will be on January 16, 2016 the cost will be \$40.00. There will be stops at two nurseries—the House of Bonsai and San Gabriel. The Bonsai-A-Thon will on February 27, 2016 the cost will be \$40.00.
5. **Appointed Position Reports:**
 - **John Jackson, Safari Park Pavilion Curator, reported:** Thanks for everyone for the Christmas party at the Safari Park. The work day on January 16th will be moved to the 23rd due to the Club's Winter Silhouettes trip. We have a grant proposal into the Board members the grant will be from the county for pavement; the amount that will be submitted to the county is \$30,000.
 - **Glenn Jensen, JFG Curator, reported:** Our goal for the trees is quality and diversification. Thanks to John Jackson for the donation of a Gingko Tree.
6. **Old Business: None**
7. **New Business: Dan Sola- Installation of Officers for 2016 :** President- Bob Hale; 1st VP - Charlie Mosse; VP- of Education - Barbara French-Lee ;Treasurer - Peter Chong; VP-Membership - Nazim Colak; VP- Special Events- Janice Hale; Secretary- Brenda Crann. [Nazim Colak and Janice Hale not present]
8. **Announcements: President Dan Sola announced:** Acknowledged all of the Board Members for their service in 2015. Acknowledgement and thanks to: Abe Farr, Dennis Wagner, Eric Jacobson, John Polo, Ron Palmer, Susan Baker, Shirley Kavanaugh, John Jackson, 'lyn Stevenson, Glenn Jensen, David Barker, and Christina Far.
9. **Program:** At 10:45 a.m., First VP, Bob Hale Bonsai Styling Competition .
10. **Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Brenda Crann Secretary



Abe and Christina Far's
Winning Christmas bonsai tree
—note the incredible detail
with handmade bonsai-related
ornaments in close-up
to the left



Happenings at the SDBC

Japanese Friendship Garden

The styling competition went very nicely with four teams creating trees on their way to being bonsai from raw foemina juniper nursery stock in 1-1/2 hours. Difficult? Yes!

The four teams in the competition were Abe and Cristina Far, new member Dan Luczak with Gary Jones (filling in for Mariah Paterson who had the flu), Marcella Perez and Peter Chong, and Mark and Cathy Edgar. Many thanks to Gary, Mark and Cathy for stepping up at the 11th hour to fill out the competitive lineup. It is always a good learning experience to watch different people style the same variety of tree. The trees will be auctioned in March so that in the mean time the trees can be worked on more to finish the styling and allow some re-growth. It is San Diego after all and Junipers can grow a bit even in our "winter."



Really Peter, a torch?



Mark & Cathy, The Winners!



In November and December we have been working on the pines in our collection, preparing for their repotting in January. Our biggest challenge is repotting a very large pine, which requires the strength of several strong people. Under the direction of Fred Miyahara, some of the SDBC volunteers and JFG gardeners will perform a task that fortunately we have to do only every couple of years. It will energize our beautiful tree.

We have also placed name plaques on our trees. Since our trees are moved around a lot it was a little challenging to come up with a solution that didn't involve putting plaques in each tree. Hopefully this will work and guests to the JFG will now know the species of trees we have in our collection.

The volunteers have been meeting twice a month, but that will change as we move into a very active time with the bonsai trees. There will be a lot of repotting and design work performed this Spring. Thanks to our volunteers: **Nancy Wilson-Ramon, Mori, Trisha Bonapace** (who unfortunately broke her arm last month), **Charlie Mosse, Warren Tam, and Julia Chow** for keeping the collection looking great.

Barb French-Lee, Liaison, and Glenn Jensen, Curator

Meet Your 2016 SDBC Officers

Not Shown—
Janice Hale
Nazim Colak



Bob Hale
President

Charlie Mosse
1st VP

Barb French-Lee
VP, Education

Brenda Crann
Secretary

Peter Chong
Treasurer

Dan Sola
Past President

San Diego Bonsai Club Pavilion at the Safari Park

In 2015, the Bonsai Pavilion Volunteers donated **2620** hours caring for and improving the Bonsai Collection and the Pavilion. Our congratulations and thanks to the 50+ volunteers! Over 200 hours each month show a definite commitment by this elite group beyond their activities in the SDBC. The San Diego Zoo and the Safari Park continue to recognize this beautiful, educational, aesthetic asset which is enjoyed by thousands of visitors at Safari Park Pavilion during the year.

In December, the Bonsai Volunteers celebrated with their annual pot luck Christmas Party at the Park. Marcella Perez and Sonya Holmquist chaired the luncheon with an array of gourmet foods, a fun raffle, taped music, and wonderful sing-a-long carols led by Janice Hale's guitar accompaniment. Thanks to all the December volunteers: **Neil Auwarter, Susan Baker, Ken Bross, Peter Chong, Julia Chow, Cathy & Mark Edgar, Bob & Janice Hale, Susan Holmquist, John Jackson, Jaya Kaelberer, Jim & Susan Kirchmer, Charlie & Sylvia Mosse, Ron Ogdon, Janet & Ron Palmer, Marcella Perez, Sally Prestele, Mike Shelly, Chusub Sresthadatta, 'lyn Stevenson, John Voss, Dennis Wagner, new volunteer Nancy Wilson-Ramon, and Dave Woodall.** The special treats in December were even more delicious than normal. . .many thanks to all the donors!

Safari Park has been busy erecting some appropriate wood fencing below our entrance pond area which encloses and disguises their service vehicles that are parked there. Perhaps it will also discourage the visiting mule deer who find the Pavilion area enticing! Our volunteers followed up with transplanting some of our garden accents plants around the pond and in front of the fencing. The Pavilion has also received a beautiful, old cork oak from SDBC member Larry Upp's collection. It has already been trimmed, groomed, and placed on display.

Bob Hale announced a large California Oak has been generously donated by our Pavilion bonsai friend from Orange County, Al Nelson. Jerry Meislik donated 2 copies of his book, *Ficus-The Exotic Bonsai*, to SDBC after his visit to the Pavilion last month. Generous and thoughtful donors help to



increase the quality of the collection and allow us to change the bonsai around for the different seasons.

Due to the SDBC bus trip on January 16th to the Winter Silhouettes show, which is our usual third Saturday work day, Curator John has scheduled the workdays for January for the 2nd and the 23rd (conveniently, there are five Saturdays in January 2016). Some of our volunteers come in more often than are scheduled work days, but they check with Curator John Jackson or Assistant Dennis Wagner beforehand for particular work projects.

SDBC members who would like to join the Pavilion Volunteers need to check with Liaison 'lyn for requirements and procedures. All are welcome to participate!

'lyn Stevenson, Liaison to the Bonsai Pavilion

2015 Re-potting at the Safari Park



Thanks to all Volunteers—you know who you are!



New Members

Please welcome our last new members of 2015:

Khan Nguyen, Mark Wadlington, and Stephanie George-Linton.

Sonya Holmquist, former VP of Membership

2016 Membership Renewal

Your membership dues are due now. Members can renew by dropping by the membership table at the January meeting or can renew online.

Nazim Colak, new VP of Membership

Refreshments

Thank you to the following for your donations of refreshments to the December 2015 meeting: **Dan Sola, Charlie Mosse, Shirley Kavanaugh, Cathy and Mark Edgar, Sonya Holmquist, John and Margaret Jackson, Chusub Sresthadatta, Jackie and Warren Tam, Susan Baker, Roger Marr, Susan Hull, Rick Anderson, Ute Keim, Mike Boswell, Nancy Wilson-Ramon, Janet Palmer, Hiroko Kawada, Janet Liggett, Jaya Kaelberer, Ken Bross, Susan Ronan, Julia Chow, Joan Nies, Amy Fritzenkotter, Alfredo de la Cruz, and Darryl and Christine Elmer.**

SDBC Benefit Drawing

Thank you to the following for your donations to the December 2015 meeting benefit drawing: **Charlie Mosse, Shirley Kavanaugh, Gary Jones, Dan Sola, Dave Woodall, John and Margaret Jackson, Dave Barker, Ken Bross, Roger Marr, Mark and Cathy Edgar, Eric Jacobson, Van Moch Nguyen, and Ute Keim.**

Website

The SDBC is an all volunteer organization. Most volunteer opportunities require only a willingness to pitch in. But if you have special skills, please let us know by filling out the volunteer form on the SDBC website under the Membership tab.

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!

Special Events

Winter Silhouettes Show – January 16, 2016

Baikoen Bonsai Kenkyukai is holding its annual Winter Silhouettes Show at the Los Angeles Arboretum. Bonsai, all deciduous, are shown in their leafless state; no place to hide a cross branch or negative taper here! A few trees may still have some fall fruit on the branch or may have the start of their spring blossoms. We will enjoy the exhibit and join them for a potluck dinner, a tree styling competition, raffle and auction. Please bring a dessert to share at the potluck. On our way to the show we'll make two stops to shop at the House of Bonsai and San Gabriel Nursery.

We are taking a full sized tour bus for our day of fun. We will leave the Balboa Park staging area at 11:00am sharp, and the Carlsbad staging area at 11:30am, 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 or at the club meeting.

Bonsai-A-Thon XX - February 27, 2016

Ready for a day of fun, education and bonsai comradery? Join us for the BONSAI-A-THON! This is the annual fund-raising event for the Golden State Bonsai Federation Collection at The Huntington. You can enjoy 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 Harry Hirao will be available for sale as well as in the raffle and auction. You can also wander the grounds and exhibits of The Huntington Library, Art Collections and Botanical Gardens. For a list of the demonstrators and more information about the Bonsai-A-Thon, visit www.gsbfhuntington.com.

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

Janice Hale, V.P. Special Projects

San Diego Bonsai Club, Inc.
 PO Box 86037
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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

San Diego Bonsai Club Calendar of Events

January 10th Sunday

Club Meeting

January 16th, Saturday

Winter Silhouettes Show Trip

L.A. Arboretum in Arcadia

Note
Date
Change

Jan 23rd, Saturday ←

SDBC Workday at Safari Park , 9 am to 12 pm

February 5th—7th, Friday—Sunday

2016 Shohin Seminar, California Shohin Society

Santa Nella, California

February 7th Saturday and February 21st , Saturday

SDBC Workday at Safari Park , 9 am to 12 pm

February 14th Sunday

Club Meeting

February 27th, Saturday

Bonsai-A-Thon XIX trip

Huntington Gardens in Pasadena

Sunday, January 10, 2016
 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
08:30 - 10:20	Repotting Extravaganza	101
09:30– 10:20	Library Open	104
10:30-11:00	Business Meeting	101
11:00-12:00	Demonstration	101
12:00	Lunch	101
12:15	Benefit Drawing	101

2016 Membership Dues are Due!