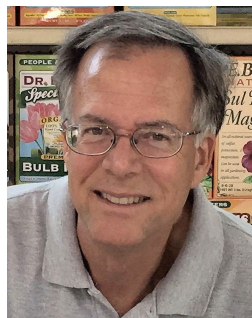


# The Bonsai Wire

Volume 43, Issue 1

January, 2017

## Message from the President



I wish you all a Happy New Year with many blessings in 2017. I was reading an article on bonsai recently where a quote by Chelsea Neil caught my eye. She was asked why she was passionate about bonsai? Her response was, "Bonsai is an intersection of a few of the things that bring me the most joy in life – nature, creativity, culture, and people."

This response really encompasses my experience with bonsai. One starts with a narrow focus on the basics of tree styling and care. But as your horizons expand, bonsai becomes much more. You come to appreciate the richness and depth of the art. You get to know fellow bonsai enthusiasts both within the Club and beyond. I've heard the term "bonsai collective" and that aptly describes this extended family of bonsai enthusiasts and cumulative knowledge. So my hope for all of you is that you continue to grow and expand your horizons in bonsai this next year.

With the new year we also have a new board. I wish to thank the outgoing board members for their years of service and welcome in the new board members. Barbara French-Lee passes the VP for Education position to William Graham; Peter Chong passes the Treasurer position to Marcella Perez; and Brenda Crann passes the Secretary position to Sylvia Mosse. I know the outgoing board members will provide support to the incoming board members, but let's all chip in to help the new board members in the transition.

### Announcements

Don't forget our trip to the Winter Silhouettes will be on Saturday, January 21, 2017. It will be a great experience with a shopping trip to two great nurseries, an excellent bonsai show, and dinner and evening with fellow bonsaists (see page 7 on how to join in on the fun).

Our trip to the Bonsai-A-Thon XIX will be Saturday, February 25, 2017 (see page 7 for more details).

Bob Hale, President

## This Month's Program

Soil and re-potting is where the rubber meets the road. Good soil stimulates good roots, proper potting helps to ensure a healthy roots system and tree, and sets the tree properly in the pot to artistically present the tree.

We invite any member to bring in a tree for help in re-potting with assistance by experienced club members. You can even get some styling and growing 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-potting.



You will be shown how to properly prune roots and secure the tree for stability in the pot. It is an excellent opportunity to see if the *nebari* (rootage) can be enhanced by properly positioning the tree in the pot; to be sure it is planted at the proper angle, at the correct depth and the proper distances from the sides of the pot. This is also a great time to discuss future pot selection with an expert.

You can also get a good education about soil 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. Different soil mixes and mix components will be available for sale.

A good soil mix is the foundation for growing a healthy bonsai. Charlie Mosse, 1st VP



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

## Editor's Note

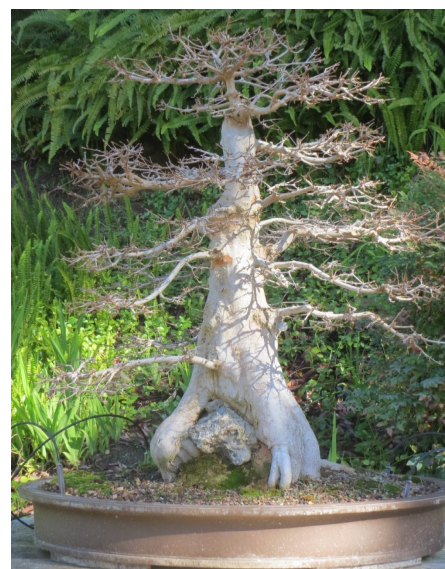
As many of you know, I am moving to Virginia next summer, and so the April 2017 Bonsai Wire issue will be my last newsletter. I have enjoyed working on the newsletter with so many fantastic contributors that make the job easy.

As a result, the Club is in need of a new newsletter editor to begin with the June issue. The content of the newsletter and the pictures are provided by club members, so the task of the editor is to organize the content. It offers the opportunity to keep on top of club activities and further the Club's educational goals, but does not require extensive bonsai knowledge (I was a relatively new member when I became editor). Contact any board member at the January meeting or email me ([dtbarker\\_sd@yahoo.com](mailto:dtbarker_sd@yahoo.com)) if you are interested in volunteering for the newsletter editor position. Happy Bonsai New Year!

Dave Barker, Editor

Welcome to the  
beautiful world of  
miniatures

John Yoshio Naka



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Welcome to 2017! First, let me thank Barbara French-Lee for all of the work she has done in the past two years as the Vice President of Education. She has run an excellent set of programs and I will endeavor to maintain the standards she has set.

### Beginning Class: January 8 – February 12 – March 12

Our first quarter Beginning Class for the year has completely sold out and has a waiting list. We will be working on Chinese Elms (*ulmus parvifolia*) with John Jackson as lead instructor with help from Brenda Crann and Mark and Cathy Edgar. The class starts at 8:30 am in Room 104. If you have signed up, please be on time or a few minutes early. At 8:45, you will lose your spot in the class if you have not arrived. We will fill in from the stand-by list in order of sign up. Even if you do not get in to the class, you can still observe and learn; observers are always welcome.

Our second quarter Beginning Class will start in April and will be using pomegranates (*punica granatum*). Sign-ups will start at the February meeting.

### Workshops

There will no skills workshop in January, instead the Club is hosting the Repotting Extravaganza, combining the morning workshop with the monthly program. Bring a tree to re-pot (see page 1 for more details).

Calling all foemina workshop attendees! Michael Sykes would like to review your progress. If you have attended any of his workshops, please bring your tree to the FEBRUARY meeting at 9:00 am in room 101 for follow up.

Also in FEBRUARY, our program presenter, David Nguay, will be available for bonsai critiques. We have four morning 20 minutes slots and five afternoon 20 minute slots available. These sessions are for guidance on the tree's styling and refinement. Please have your tree cleaned up and ready to be reviewed. Sign-ups will be at the January meeting.

In MARCH, we will have our own master of the Japanese Black Pine, Fred Miyahara, presenting a workshop. This class is limited to 10 people. Fred will provide an excellent Black Pine to work on and will bring his many years of experience and training to help guide you to your own future masterpiece. Sign-up sheets will be at the January meeting. The cost is \$115.

As I am new at this position, if you have any ideas to improve our programs or have skills that you would like to share, please contact me at the monthly meeting or at wfgraham3rd@gmail.com

**Bill Graham, VP for Education**

At the December meeting, SDBC had its usual festive Christmas tree competition with Neil Auwarter's yaupon holly (*ilex vomitoria*), complete with red berries, taking first place.



The styling competition had three teams composed of an experienced member as team leader and two volunteers. The teams were John Jackson with Jaya Kaelberer and Carla Castillo; Gary Jones with Jim and Veronica Perondi; and Abe Far with Chris and Melissa Strows. The idea was to



have the team leaders work with volunteer members to create a teaching environment for the volunteers and club members using a



different style than we usually use. The Leyland Cypress trees were different from previous years because they could be manipulated into different styles— formal upright, twin trunk and slanted styles. We thank all the volunteers in the styling competition. As the trees re-grow after the styling, they will be auctioned at the monthly club meetings.



# San Diego Bonsai Club

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Members  
December 11, 2016



1. **Call to Order:** The regular meeting of the membership of the San Diego Bonsai Club was called to order at 10:05 am 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 November 13, 2016 meeting were approved as published.
3. **Nazim Colak, VP for Membership:** There were 4 new members. Bob Hale presented Nazim a Gold Pin for his Service work for 2016.
4. **Board Member Reports:**
  - **Charlie Mosse 1st Vice president,** reported: Bob Hale presented Charlie with a Gold Pin for his Service work in 2016. In January, we will be having grand soil repotting instead of our demonstration. Bring one medium tree. Fred Miyahara will be coordinating a workshop with Sean Smith, owner of Custom Oriental Wood Craft. He makes Root Stands and diazas. The workshop will be held January 15<sup>th</sup> the cost is \$60.00. In February, David Nguy will be back and his demonstration will follow up on the same tree from earlier this year .
  - **Peter Chong, Treasurer,** reported: In November, our Income was \$2080 and our expenses were \$1080.00 our Net Income \$1000. The balance for SDBC account is \$41,456 and for the Pavilion \$17,208. Bob Hale presented Peter with a Gold Pin for his Service work in 2016
  - **Barbara French-Lee, Vice President, Education,** reported: Bob Hale presented Barbara with a Gold Pin and special Thanks to all the years of Service on the Board and all the contribution she has given SDBC.
  - **In coming VP for Education William Graham,** reported: The beginner's class will be on Chinese Elms, April will be Olive and in the Fall will be Junipers. Working on setting up workshops for 2017.
  - **Janice Hale, Special Projects,** reported: Two field trips schedule for next year on January 21 The Silhouettes at the LA Arboretum (Bonsai Nursery stop). In February 25<sup>th</sup> for the Bonsai A thon at the Huntington Library; cost \$25.00. Acknowledged first timers to show during Fall Show: John Voss (after 20 years of membership!) and Chris Strows.
5. **Appointed Position Reports:**
  - **John Jackson, Curator for Safari Park Pavilion** reported: December 3<sup>rd</sup> was the Pavilion's Christmas Party. Thanks to Sonya Holmquist and Marcella Perez for putting the party together. The Safari Park will be installing cameras and the Pavilion has been closed since the trees have gone missing. On December 13, there will be an announcement regarding the Grant we have been working on.
  - **Barbara French Lee, Liaison for JFG;** reported: We need an stand or bench made for a large Foemina Forest.
6. **San Diego Fair:** Sonya Holmquist, reported: We need volunteers for the San Diego Fair; the theme in 2017 will be , "How the West was Fun". June 2- July 5, 2017
7. **New Business: Abe Far- Installation of Our Officers for 2017** Bob Hale President, Charlie Mosse 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, William Graham Vice President Education, Janice Hale Special Projects, Nazim Colak Vice President for Membership, Marcella Perez for Treasurer and Sylvia Mosse for Secretary. Congratulations.
8. **Announcements: Bob Hale, President:** Thanked all the Volunteers and Board members. Glenn Jensen, Barbara French-lee, John Jackson, Dennis Wagner, Lyn Stevenson, John Polo, Jim Perondi, Veronica Perondi, Christina Far, Susan Baker, Sonya Holmquist, Steven Clemons, Ron Palmer, Eric Jacobson, Dave Barker and Shirley Kavanaugh.
9. **Program:** Styling Competition and Holiday/Christmas Party!
10. **Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 10:40am.

Respectfully submitted, Brenda Crann Secretary

Brenda Crann receiving her Mas Takanashi Grant Certificate from Barbara French-Lee





## Spring Show & Poster Contest

### 2017 Spring Show

How are your trees looking? Be sure and mark your calendars for our 2017 Spring Bonsai Show, Saturday and Sunday, April 29th & 30th. We'll have our annual Spring banquet dinner on Saturday night.

### 2017 Spring Show Poster Contest

Want to express your creativity in another way, other than bonsai design? We are having a Spring Show Poster/Flier design contest. Winner will receive a \$25 gift certificate to use at the club tool table.

Contest rules: You may use your own photos or photos of trees from our past shows that are included in the SDBC website photo gallery. (Photos of bonsai from the internet that may be proprietary or copyrighted cannot be used). All posters must contain all the relevant information below. Create two PDF versions: a half sheet size (4.25"x5.5") and a legal size (11"x14"). Deadline: Files must be uploaded to the SDBC website by **January 30, 2017**. Instructions on how to upload are on the website. Winner will be announced at the February 12, 2017 meeting.

Details the flyer must include are the following basic information:

- San Diego Bonsai Club
- SDBC Logo (available on the club's website)
- Spring Bonsai Exhibition
- Saturday April 29th and Sunday 30th, 2017
- 10:00 am-5:00 pm Daily

- Balboa Park, Room 101, Casa Del Prado
- QR Code (available on the club's website)
- Bonsai Technique Demonstrations daily 11:00 am and 1:00 pm
- Amazing Bonsai will be on display. Bonsai and pre-bonsai of various sizes and species as well as other bonsai-related items will be for sale by club members.
- For more information visit our website: [www.sandiegobonsaiclub.com](http://www.sandiegobonsaiclub.com)

Janice Hale, V.P. Special Projects

### January 15 Workshop

On January 15th is a root stand carving workshop with Sean Smith. Sean has combined a passion for bonsai and suiseki with an extensive background in carpentry to make bonsai display tables and daiza for renowned bonsai and suiseki enthusiasts all over the world. He is the top carver outside of Japan, owning and operating Custom Oriental Wood-craft in Pennsylvania.

He has lectured on suiseki as well as bonsai in the United States and Europe, and has won numerous suiseki and bonsai awards. He continues his studies of bonsai and suiseki in Japan every year. He was a presenter at the California Shohin Seminar in 2016 and is active in many bonsai and suiseki associations.



### Meet the 2017 SDBC Board Members



# San Diego Bonsai Club Pavilion at the Safari Park

December weather at the Bonsai Pavilion was quite mild this year with welcome but mostly light rains. Our automatic "drippers" run daily and the bonsai and garden plants are looking fresh and healthy. Deciduous trees have lost their leaves and show their interesting winter silhouettes, which make it easier to study the trees for possible restyling and pruning. There are always many chores to keep all the volunteers involved. We are in the process of thinning out some of the in-ground garden plants and also enhancing the area around the waterfall with some new plantings of cascade junipers. Pathways and borders always need maintenance as well.



December volunteers **Neil Auwarter, Susan Baker, Dave Barker, Alan Burrows, Julia Chow, Cathy & Mark Edgar, Janice & Bob Hale, Sonya Holmquist, Curator John Jackson, Jaya Kaelberer, Jim Kirchmer, Charlie & Sylvia Mosse, Marcella Perez, Sally Prestele, Chuy Rivera, Clare & Ron Roberts, Chusub Sresthadatta, 'lyn Stevenson, John Voss, Dennis Wagner, Mark Walters, and Dave Woodall** supplied much needed and appreciated work to keep the Pavilion attractive for everyone.

Some of the volunteers arrive early and even start brewing the coffee to go with all the delicious donated donuts, coffee cakes, pumpkin bars, pastries, fruits, waters, etc. supplied by Sylvia, Clare, John, Chusub, Susan, 'lyn, Cathy, Jaya, and Alan. Our meeting-break time is a special perk for volunteering. Thanks to all!

Early in December, the Pavilion volunteers had their annual Holiday/Christmas Pot Luck Luncheon at the Round House below the Pavilion. Co-chairs, Marcella and Sonya, arranged, decorated, and provided the games for the fun celebration while Janice led everyone in holiday



songs. Volunteers also shared special tasty entrees. The Pavilion volunteers are versatile and accomplished in areas beyond bonsai; we salute them!

More special thanks to Jim Kirchmer! He has been diligently fundraising for the next large construction project in the Pavilion. We received the good news that the SDBC has received a \$20,000 grant from the San Diego County Neighborhood Reinvestment Fund to assist in improved walkways in the Pavilion. We will need to match these dollars and complete the project within one year. Jim had contacted Supervisor Ron Roberts' Office many months ago with the grant request and it was approved December 13th!

The Pavilion will remain closed temporarily when we are not on site until the new security systems are in place. The Safari Park has ordered upgraded cameras, etc. and we are anxious for them to be in place. Whenever we can be available for special tours, etc., we will have the Pavilion open as we did when the Park and the Pavilion hosted the SD Horticulture Society recently.

Curator John has attached the newly designed and engraved name plates at the Shohin Exhibit on the larger Plaque that he had constructed earlier. John gives much credit to his son-in-law, Craig, for assistance. It looks great! Thanks John and Craig!

The Zoo and the Safari Park Volunteer Departments and Staff hosted the Annual Appreciation Event for volunteers in December. This year it was held at Safari Park and several of the Pavilion volunteers were noted for awards for their many hours and many years of service. Congratulations!



As we start 2017, we again invite other SDBC members to join our cadre of volunteers at the Bonsai Pavilion. Hopefully, these monthly Bonsai Wire articles about our activities are encouragement for others to join in the activities and learning that we share with one another each month at the Pavilion. Talk to any of the volunteers to learn about volunteering and then talk with me to begin the process.

'lyn Stevenson, Liaison to the Bonsai Pavilion



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## New Members

Please welcome our last new members of 2016:  
**Catalina Golitz, Sue Carter, Keith Carter, Robert E. Cullen, Josee Cox, and Jack Graham.**

**Nazim Colak, VP of Membership**

### 2017 Membership Renewal

Thank you to all members for supporting the San Diego Bonsai Club in 2016. A reminder— please renew your membership for 2017 at the January meeting or online.

**Nazim Colak, VP of Membership**

## Refreshments

Thank you to all who donated refreshments to the December 2016 meeting.

## SDBC Benefit Drawing

Thank you to everyone for your donations to the December 2016 meeting benefit drawing.

## San Diego County Fair

The Club will again have a booth at the County Fair in June. We need your ideas on how we can incorporate this year's theme, "Where the West Is Fun," into an attractive and creative display. Please join us in the library (room 104) for the initial planning meeting on Jan. 8, following the benefit drawing (around 12:30 pm).

## Library

Get the most out of our Club's library by visiting the SDBC website. Click on "Club Library" under the "Resources" Tab. New members should check out the list of recommended books for beginners – some of these will be on display in the library this month. Also, a new resource under the "Periodicals" Tab is an index to *Bonsai Today*. This magazine is full of bonsai how-to and care information; the index will help find just what you need.

Each month I plan to list resources that relate to current programs or classes. Issue No. 17 of *Bonsai Today* is dedicated to re-potting. You might also want to review Abe Far's Jan. 2016 presentation on repotting, available on "Video" under the Resources Tab.

Make your New Year's Resolution a pledge to start using the Club's extensive library resources.

**Sonya Holmquist, Librarian**

## Special Events

### Silhouettes Trip – January 21, 2017

PLEASE NOTE THE DATE CHANGE! Our first trip of 2017 is coming up quick. After visiting two bonsai nurseries, Bob Pressler's Kimura Bonsai Nursery and Roy Nagatoshi's Fuji Bonsai Nursery, we will join Baikoen Bonsai Kenyukai for their 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, raffle and auction, as well as entertainment by the fabulous talent of the Taiko Drum ensemble. The bus will leave Balboa Park at 11:00am with another pick up in Carlsbad at 11:30am, returning to Balboa Park at 11:00pm. The cost for your seat on the full sized bus is \$40. Feel free to invite your family and friends.

Please bring:

- Sack Lunch, we will not be stopping for food. (Bottled water will be available)
- Dessert for potluck dinner
- Raffle or Auction items to donate
- Checkbook, credit cards and a big smile

A sign up list will be available at the January meeting, or you can sign up now on our Club's website:  
[www.sandiegobonsaiclub.com](http://www.sandiegobonsaiclub.com)

### Bonsai-A-Thon – February 25, 2017

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. Any bonsai related items you would like to donate to the benefit drawing will be appreciated.

If you have time, take a walk over to the Japanese Garden to see the beautiful bonsai collection. You will also have access to the rest of the Huntington Gardens, Library and Art Collections.

We will leave Balboa Park at 7:00am with another pick up in Carlsbad at 7:30, returning to Balboa Park at 7:00pm. A sign up list will be available at the January Meeting. Or you can sign up now on our Club's website:  
[www.sandiegobonsaiclub.com](http://www.sandiegobonsaiclub.com)

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

San Diego Bonsai Club, Inc.  
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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

## San Diego Bonsai Club Calendar of Events

January 7th and January 21st Saturday  
 SDBC Workdays at Safari Park , 9 am to 12 pm

January 8th Sunday  
 Club Meeting  
 Potting Extravaganza

January 15th Sunday  
 Root Stand Carving Workshop

**January 21st Saturday**  
**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  
 David Nguy — Bending a Juniper

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

March 12th Sunday  
 Club Meeting

Sunday, January 8, 2017  
 Balboa Park, Room 101  
 Casa Del Prado

### Meeting Agenda

Time	Activity	Room
08:30– 10:20	Beginning Class	104
09:00– 10:25	Library Open	104
09:00 - 10:25	Repotting Extravaganza	101
10:30- 11:00	Business Meeting	101
11:00 - 12:00	Repotting Continued	101
12:00	Lunch	101
12:15	Benefit Drawing	101
12:30	SD County Fair Planning	104

**2017 Membership Dues are Due!**