

The Bonsai Wire

January 2010

Message From the President

Happy New Year to you all and I hope all your bonsai dreams came true this holiday season. I would like to thank Glenn Jensen for the great demonstration on the Tamarisk at our December club meeting. He is always so generous with his time and with his expertise. I know everyone learned a lot from the demonstration. Working on a Tamarisk may be something to try this coming year.

I would like to extend a very big THANK YOU to everyone on the outgoing board. Without your selfless work and countless hours of dedication, the club would suffer greatly. I know that the club members thank you all as well. I look forward to working with the new board members and appointees in the up coming year.

I know it will be a better year for everyone. Abe has worked very hard to get us all a wonderful lineup of demonstrators for the coming year. You will not want to miss any of these meetings.

We still need a show chairman and chairman for the Saturday night reception for our Spring Show in April.

Please feel free to contact me or any board members if you have any thoughts or concerns about anything in the club this coming year.

Good growing to you all.



Steve Valentine

Inside this issue

Club President's Message	p1	Club Officer Information	p3	January Membership	p7
January Program	p1	Meeting Minutes	p4	Refreshments - Benefit Drawing	p7
Education	p2	'09 Newsletter Support Thanks!	p4	Bonsai Pavilions Luncheon	p7
December Program	p2	Bonsai Ideas	p5	Calendar of Events	p8
Bonsai Pavilions at the WAP	p3	Special Projects	p6	Meeting Agenda & Calendar	p8

January Program

We are very lucky to start our first program of the year with bonsai master **Kathy Shaner**. She started her bonsai career in 1983; after studying with some of the well known bonsai instructors in California she was given the opportunity to study in Toyohashi, Japan with **Mr. Yasuo Mitsuya**. Mr. Mitsuya was considered to be one of the masters of contemporary bonsai in Japan. Kathy became the first non Japanese citizen and first female to be certified by **Nippon Bonsai Kyodo Kumai**.

Kathy is well known internationally for her artistic vision and her mastery of teaching the art of bonsai. She has conducted numerous demos, lectures, and workshops throughout the country. She has been a featured headliner at many bonsai conventions. Kathy also is the **Curator of GSBF Collection at Lake Merritt in Oakland, CA**.

Kathy has always been graciously willing to spend time in our bonsai pavilion at the WAP. We all thank Kathy for accepting our invitation and let's all welcome Kathy Shaner to our January meeting!



Kathy Shaner (pictured above right) is working on a demonstration juniper at the SDBC meeting in August of 2009. The lucky winner of this beautiful tree was Charlie Mosse (above left). We look forward to her visit with us here in San Diego for our January meeting. Photo courtesy of Jon Petrescu.

Abe Far, 1st Vice President

Beginners Class for January 2010

Our beginners class for January features some very nice twisted pomegranates, an attractive fruiting and flowering deciduous tree. Our beginners will be led by **John Voss**, and with his assistants he will be leading the class through the care and maintenance of pomegranates. In our climate, pomegranates are excellent and hardy bonsai, and this variety has a tendency to grow twisted, gnarly trunks. One of the most imposing and fascinating bonsai that is shown in the Los

Angeles area is a twisted pomegranate owned by **Jim Barrett**. Another can be seen on display at Chikugo-En, owned by **Mas Ishii**. With care and time, our little beginner trees can bring enjoyment for a lifetime and beyond.

Beginners who have taken previous classes should bring their shears as they attend the new class. Please be prompt and arrive a little before 9 am so that we can check you in. Enjoy!

Joanie Berkwitz,
VP Education

Intermediate Class for January 2010

Last month, we were excited by **Gary's** inspired and fun Intermediate class. He arranged to bring together instructors and students, working on a variety of trees. Then, each instructor spoke about the tree, with an overview of what they, and the students, envisioned for the tree. When the instructor was finished speaking about the tree, Gary pulled a raffle ticket and gave each tree to one of the students who worked on it! That was a blast! Gary, you are such a fabulous and inspired person, you have enriched the club beyond measure. Thank you for doing such a hard job, and doing it so well.

Japanese quinces are lovely trees, with their early flowers and interesting fruit. This month, we are fortunate to have a limited quantity of Japanese quinces for an Intermediate workshop. Eleven people have already signed up, so if you would like to get in on the class, you can email **Cary Valentine** at caryme2@yahoo.com to reserve your spot. The class costs \$25, and you will receive your quince, and instruction from **Cindy Read**. Cindy has always loved quinces, and she will bring her enthusiasm! Class participants should bring their tools. If you would just like to watch, feel free to do so, quinces are unusual in our area but can bring great enjoyment.

Joanie Berkwitz,
VP Education

December 2009 Program

Glenn Jensen spent the afternoon with the San Diego Bonsai Club membership demonstrating and discussing the various appealing and unique qualities of the genus *Tamarix* (Tamarisk, salt cedar) [Wikipedia]. This plant grows in saline soils and can tolerate alkali conditions.



The tamarisk is characterised by long slender branches and grey green foliage. As the plants age, the bark becomes bluish-purple, ridged and furrowed. The leaves are scale like and are often encrusted in with salt secretions. It has pink to white flowers that appear in dense masses. You can see above, where Glenn has wired one of the trunks in a very non-linear form. Thanks Glenn, for your time and for your words of wisdom.

Mario Condit

Bonsai Pavilions at the Wild Animal Park

We concluded 2009 with progress and improvements at the Bonsai Pavilions. The volunteers accumulated many hundreds of hours in both pavilions and the results are significant. We always wish that our construction area progress would move along more quickly but, just like our bonsai, we have to wait and not be too impatient. A bonsai sensei once warned that our bonsai hobby would teach patience but it is a difficult lesson to learn. We always want things done yesterday!

We have a very conscientious expanding group of volunteers who also continue to improve their bonsai skills. Many thanks to all knowledgeable and learning helpers. Every session ends with a review of work accomplished and that is gratifying for all! December's volunteers included: **Maria Barbosa, Nellie Downie, Maria and Tina Flores, Joyce Goldman, John Jackson, Jim Kirchmer, Marty and Ruth Mann, Charlie Mosse, Jon and Teri Petrescu, Harlan and Mary Ann Price, 'lyn Stevenson, Charlie Tamm, Cary and Steve Valentine, Jennifer and Robert Venter, John Voss, and Dave Woodall.**

since remaining leaves were removed and branches were visible for easier trimming. General winter time cleanup was fairly easy with many volunteers participating this month.

The construction area is still awaiting some grading and rock placements along with trenches for the electrical and water lines. The plans are in place for these projects and work should be started early in 2010. December's workday ended with a very nice pot-luck luncheon hosted by the volunteers! Thanks to all who brought the delicious sandwiches, salads, appetizers, desserts and beverages (see pics on page 7). We enjoyed sitting down and visiting with one another after our work session too. It was a beautiful day for all.

January's work day will be changed due to the SDBC bus trip. If you have questions about times, dates, weather, etc. or concerns about visits to the Bonsai Pavilions, please call Curator **Steve Valentine** or **'lyn Stevenson** for the latest schedule. Newcomers are always invited to join too.

'lyn Stevenson, SDBC/WAP Liaison,
858-486-4805, inthegrove@cox.net

The deciduous trees received the most attention

The Bonsai Wire is a monthly publication of the San Diego Bonsai Club. All articles are provided by SDBC members. All articles must be received no later than 10 days after the club meeting by the The Bonsai Wire Editor, **Mario Condit** (mario.condit@sbcglobal.net). **Shirley Kavanaugh Jr.** is responsible for folding, labeling, and mailing. If you have any questions about article placement or special requests, please call and leave a message.

The Bonsai Wire

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San Diego Bonsai Club

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Members

December 13th, 2009



1. **Call to Order:** The regular meeting of members of San Diego Bonsai Club was called to order at 10:40 am by Steve Valentine, President. It was confirmed that a quorum was present.
2. **Approval of Minutes:** The minutes for the November 15, 2009 meeting were approved.
3. **Reports**
 - **Steve Valentine**, President 1) Thanked Joan Holiday and Cary Sullivan-Valentine for their work in making the annual Holiday party a success. 2) Thanked the members who brought holiday gifts that will be distributed to the needy. 3) Stated that the budget for 2010 was established at the last Board meeting, as well as the balancing of 2009's budget. 4) Reminded members of the two bus trips planned for 2010, which are the Winter Silhouettes and shopping trip on January 16, 2010, and the Bonsai-a-thon on February 27, 2010. 5) Stated that there will be a "thank you" party for the club WAP volunteers on Saturday, December 19, 2009 at the WAP. 6) Stated that Abe Far has the programs for 2010 meetings arranged. 7) Mentioned that the Spring and Fall shows need people to chair them. 8) Thanked the outgoing club officers.
 - **Joyce Goldman**, Vice President, Membership, 1) Reminded members to renew their dues. 2) Introduced the new members.
 - **Fred Miyahara**, Japanese Friendship Garden Bonsai Curator, stated the next class for the school children at the Garden will be Friday, December 18th, 2009, at 10:30 a.m.
 - **Jon Petrescu**, conducted the swearing-in of the new club officers. They are President, Steve Valentine; Vice President, Membership, Cary Sullivan-Valentine; Vice President, Special Projects, Maria Barbosa; Treasurer, Tara Cobbs; Corporate Secretary, Joyce Goldman. First Vice President, Abe Far and Vice President, Education, Joan Berkwitz. Abe Far, and Tara Cobbs, were unable to attend.
 - **Gary Jones**, Vice President, Education, 1) Introduced the mentors who worked with students on styling trees. The mentors explained the technique they used in styling the trees which were then given, by lottery, to one of the mentor's students. 2) Gary thanked all of the members who helped with the classes throughout the years that he was in charge of education, and said that it had been a pleasure being the Vice President of Education.
 - **John Voss**, held a workshop at the end of the meeting on variegated junipers. He will have an intermediate class in January using Japanese flowering quince trees. There will be space for 25 members and the cost for each will be \$25.
4. **Adjournment:** There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:05 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary Ann Price, Secretary

www.sandiegobonsaiclub.com

'09 Newsletter Support Thank You

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the folks that participated in preparing and getting the newsletter out to the club membership, during 2009.

We have come a long way in terms of the newsletter production in the last 7 years. We are blessed to have such knowledgeable and strong article writers and reviewers for the various newsletter sections.

In addition to the article contributors, there is the label maker (Joyce Goldman) who is also responsible for determining the count for the month. She also provides the most detailed and comprehensive review/critique feedback. Joyce's feedback helps to make our newsletter a much better product.

Joyce provides the labels to Shirley Kavanaugh who has the most difficult job of picking up the print job, folding the newsletters (approximately 200), attaching label and stamp, and shipping it off to the post office. Earlier in 2009, Maude Laracy did the pickup, folding, stamp/label duties and so a big thank you goes to her as well.

Our printers are also very helpful in meeting our requests and are very professional in all of their work. Their contact info is on page 3.

The process for getting the newsletter out to the membership is not trivial. There are deadlines, last minute updates, coordination and logistic efforts, and some manual labor. Thanks again for your support of our club newsletter.

Mario Condit

San Diego Bonsai - Bonsai Ideas

#97 January, 2010

January is the "beginning-of-the-year" month. Bonsai people start with an eager outlook for a new spring season. Get ready in advance and understand what needs to be done at this time.

The soil in your potted trees has been somewhat inactive due to the cool weather of the past few months. The soil bacterium, in its dormant state, has not been providing any nitrogen to these growing plants while they rested. Do your clean up chores. Remove all the winter trash around your work area as well as on your 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.

Soil mixes, in anticipation of the spring potting season, can be prepared in advance. Now is the best time to improve the soil condition. Remember the basics of good mixes. The soil should permit free drainage (use a sandy loam, decomposed granite, pumice, sand, etc.) and provide decomposition material (plant humus, fir bark, peat moss, redwood bark, etc.). Use your own experience in your own geographic area. Add lime to neutralize excess acidity (add alkalinity) or gypsum to loosen hard soil and supply alkalinity (add acidity). Decomposed granite or coarse sand will add to the porosity and improve the potassium qualities in poor soil. Adding organic matter to your mix stimulates the soil microorganisms. Put trace elements and minerals into the soil. These provide a proper base of a food source for continued plant health. Prepare repotting mixtures based upon the type of plant material you have to work with and the type of trees you will be repotting. Plan ahead.

The tendency at this time of year, during the last months of dormancy, is to ignore normal bonsai care. Do not stop your regular routines. Watch for insect or fungus activities that silently harm the trees. Aphids, in particular, become active when the weather turns slightly warm. Look for these destructive wingless creatures that damage plants by sucking the juice out of new growth, causing twisting and curling effects.

There are four kinds of aphids. They are bright green, the yellowish melon, the reddish brown and the almost black variety. The aphid nymphs are usually yellow-green and the adults are dark green. Control is relatively easy with most of the common brands of insecticides. Follow label directions to get the best results.

The time to spray your deciduous trees with a dormant spray (lime sulfur) is before any sign of new growth appears. January is a good month for this application. Avoid the soil surfaces in the pots. Dripping chemicals can harm the tender roots.

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. You're ready to go.

Don't overlook the last step in your pre-Spring dress-up program. Look at all of the finished trees. Are the pots clean? Is the surface of each planting clear of winter trash and properly surfaced with fresh soil or dressed with D.G. or other decorative material? Are there signs of moss growth? Are the edges of the pots all trimmed to allow a channel along the rims for drainage?

Spring is coming!

Marty Mann

This article has been extracted from the recently published book called 'Bonsai Ideas' © by Marty Mann. Material is not to be copied without publisher or author's permission. Jan 2010

Inner pleasures rise
With the laughter of children
Grand mothers, grand fathers beam

Marty Mann

January 2010

**Winter Silhouettes and
Pot Buying
Jan 16, 2010**

You don't want to miss our first bus trip of the year to Winter Silhouettes. We will need 30 people in order to rent the bus so please sign up at the January meeting or RSVP to Maria Barbosa at 619-606-6523. The cost is \$40.00 for members and \$45.00 for non-member guests. Winter Silhouettes is a very unique and fun trip to the Los Angeles Arboretum in Arcadia. Plus we've added two stops in Los Angeles to buy pots.

We depart on Saturday, January 16, 2010, from Balboa Park (San Diego) at 12:00 p.m. Noon, with a pick up in North County in Carlsbad at 12:30 p.m.

Baiko-En Kenyukai Bonsai Society's **Winter Silhouettes** is a show of deciduous bonsai trees. This show features Japanese grey bark elms, ginko, zelkova and dormant maple trees. Japanese plum trees in bloom will provide the first hint of Spring. We arrive just in time to view this uniquely gorgeous show, shop the vendors and take part in their Saturday night festivities. The events include a special reception (pot luck dinner), entertainment, and giant raffle. We do ask that you bring an item to place in the raffle and a dessert for the pot luck dinner and your cash for all those raffle tickets! Friends and family are welcome and there will be a Bonsai demonstration special award ceremony for Ben Oki. Additionally, there will be a three-club bonsai competition, plus a sales area of plants, pots and tools.

Maria Barbosa,
V.P. Special Projects

Reminder - Pots

The ceramic pots that you created in November with Jim Barrett have been fired and are ready to pick up at the January meeting. A big thank you to Jim for firing these for the club membership.

Maria Barbosa

**Bonsai - A - Thon
Feb 27, 2010**

The second bus trip planned for 2010 will be on Saturday, February 27th, to San Marino for the Bonsai-a-Thon. The bus will leave Balboa Park (San Diego) at 6:00 a.m. with a pick up from Carlsbad at 6:30 a.m.

The annual Bonsai-a-thon in support of the GSBF Collection will be held at its home at the Huntington Library and Botanical Gardens and is similar to a mini-convention with no admission fee. There will be exhibits of masterpiece examples of bonsai and ongoing demonstrations of initial and advanced bonsai techniques. Jim Folsom, Director of the Gardens will conduct a tour and dedicate the New Bonsai Courts in the Japanese Garden at 10:00 am.

There will be raffles and live auctions of the demo trees and donated bonsai material. The many vendors at the bazaar will have available top-quality plants, tools, pots, books and other bonsai related material. Breakfast and lunch will be available at a nominal charge. **The Huntington will give to all registrants at the Bonsai-a-thon free access to the library, museum, and all of the gardens including the new Chinese Garden.** The event is a fundraiser, so bring donations. Again, we will need 30 people to sign up. The cost is \$40.00 for members and \$45.00 for non-member guests.

Please see **Maria Barbosa** for the sign up sheet and to pay for the trip. If you need any additional information about the trip, please feel free to call or RSVP at 619-606-6523. Please sign up now for this great trip!

Maria Barbosa,
V.P. Special Projects

Lessons Learned

At the November beginner's class, John Voss was working with a student, carefully raking away the soil on a juniper. It was being prepared for a repotting. John made special note to take the time to rake out some of the old soil and not just cut the bottom half of the root ball. The only live roots may be at the bottom of the pot and by not combing out the soil, you will miss this. Take the time to comb out the root ball and see where the live roots are. The roots are key to your plants survival.

Mario Condit

January Membership Update!

Please welcome our newest Club Members:

**Fred and Jude Lemke, John and Linda McRandal,
Lorraine Nelms, Megan and Peyton Turner,
Michelle Vallebo, Don Webb.**

This is always an exciting time – both a New Year and a new Beginner Class! We always see a spike in membership signups before a new class session starts and we welcome the energy these new members bring. We hope you will find the art of bonsai fascinating – something you want to pursue and share with others!

Remember: **"DUES ARE DUE"**:

- ▶ There is an envelope for you in the **"DUES"** box – names in alphabetical order.
- ▶ Inside the envelope is a card. On one side of that card is a duplicate of your newsletter mailing label – on the other side will be room to make any corrections to our current records – address, phone, email. **Please make any changes on the card and return the card to the envelope – we use that to update our Club Roster.**
- ▶ Place your payment in the envelope - \$25/Single. **Add \$10 for each Family Member.** (If you wish to drop a family member or change a family member designation, please note that on the card, as well.) **Cash or checks are accepted – no credit cards.**
- ▶ Drop the sealed envelope in the **"PAYMENTS"** box. You are good for another year!
- ▶ **SDBC is making a move to "go green". If you would like to receive your monthly newsletter by EMAIL, there is a box on the card to check if you would like to join in our efforts. If this is something you would like to do, please check the box and enter your current email address so records are correct and you do not miss an issue.**

Cary Valentine, VP - Membership

Refreshments

Thanks to the following folks who brought in yummy treats for the meeting.

**Maria Barbosa, Shirley Kavanaugh,
Linda & Ray Lish, Terri Petrescu,
Cary Sullivan, Barbara French-Lee,
Tisha Bonapace, Meg Greenwald,
Mary Ann Driscoll, Joan Holliday,
Claude Poissoniez, Charlie Mosse,
Harlan & Mary Ann Price,
Harry Eijsermans, Pat Singer,
Nellie Downie, and Kris Landwehr.**

Nellie Downie,
Refreshment Coordinator

Benefit Drawing

The Benefit Drawing table is one of our regular fund raising activities. Before the next meeting, go through your bonsai inventory and see what you haven't used or if considering downsizing, bring in your extras. Thank you for your contributions.

**Shirley Kavanaugh, Dave Woodall,
Alan Burrows, Ted Schwartz,
SDBC, Jim Rendina, Marty Mann,
Michael Sykes, Claude Poissoniez,
and Terri and Jon Petrescu.**

Jason Tucker,
Raffle Coordinator



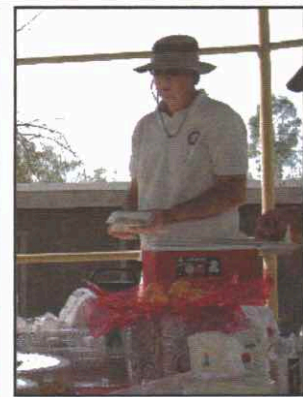
Bonsai Pavilions Luncheon



A few pictures (courtesy of Cary Sullivan) of the folks enjoying a Wild Animal Park potluck. 'lyn to the left, John Voss and Steve Valentine below left, Marty Mann, Jim Kirchmer and Joyce Goldman to the right.



To the immediate right, from left to right are John Jackson, 'lyn Stevenson, and Jennifer Venter. To the far right is Jon Petrescu. The day was sunny and bright, perfect for a luncheon in this beautiful enclosed area.



San Diego Bonsai Club, Inc.
 PO Box 40037
 San Diego, CA 92164



ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED



San Diego Bonsai Club Calendar of Events

January -10th Sunday
 Regular SDBC Meeting (Kathy Shaner)

January -16th Saturday
 Winter Silhouettes Bus Trip

January -23rd Saturday
 Wild Animal Park Workday, 9am to 12pm

January -22nd Friday
 Japanese Friendship Garden, Kids Class 10:30 to noon

February 14th Sunday
 Regular SDBC Meeting (John Wang [shohin])

February 20th Saturday
 Wild Animal Park Workday, 9am to 12pm

February 26th Friday
 Japanese Friendship Garden, Kids Class 10:30 to noon

February 27th Saturday
 Bonsai-A-Thon, Bus Trip, GSBF, Huntington Library

March 14th Sunday
 Regular SDBC Meeting (Harry Hirao)

March 20th Saturday
 Wild Animal Park Workday, 9am to 12pm

March 26th Friday
 Japanese Friendship Garden, Kids Class 10:30 to noon

April 3rd & 4th / Saturday and Sunday
 WAP Garden Societies Celebration 2010-SDBC display

Sunday, January 10th 2009
 Balboa Park, Room 101
 Casa Del Prado

Meeting Agenda

9:00 am	Beginner's Class	Room 104
9:15 am	Library Opens	Room 104
	Intermediate Class	Room 101
10:30 am	Business Mtg	Room 101
11:00 am	Kathy Shaner Bonsai Demo	Room 101
12:00 am	Lunch	