

The Bonsai Wire

March 2010

Message From the President

First I would like to thank **John Wang** for a very dynamic and interesting as well as a very educational demo. I would also like to thank **Drew Reed** for his courage in volunteering. He was a very entertaining assistant. **Iyn Stevenson** was the lucky winner of his demonstration tree.

We had a wonderful bus trip to the Bonsai-a-thon even with the weather. Every one enjoyed the guided tour by **Jim Folsom** of the new bonsai pavilion, which will be a great asset to the bonsai community. The demonstrations were great and the displays were wonderful. We did a lot of shopping at the vendor area. The SDBC donated a pot to the raffle to benefit the bonsai pavilion at the Huntington.

I want to thank the **Markowitz Family** for their generous donation of the bonsai pots. They will be sold at the upcoming Spring Show. For new members,

Herb Markowitz was a Past President of the SDBC and a great bonsai artist. He took his bonsai to the San Diego fine art museum and a few of his trees are at the Mingei museum.

We are still in need of a Spring Show chairman and co-chairman. There is a lot of help available for the person who accepts this job, so do not feel you have to do this all on your own.

Please stop by and check out the SDBC library. It is located in room 104. **Jim Rendina** is the librarian, and he has a large selection of great books, magazine, and videos to be checked out.

We are coming up on re-potting time, so please come out to help at the WAP for the next work day as there is a lot of re-potting to be done.

Thank you and good growing.

Steve Valentine

Inside this issue

Club President's Message	p1	Club Officer Information	p3	March Membership Notes	p7
March Program	p1	February Meeting Minutes	p4	Refreshment & Benefit Drawing	p7
Education (Beginner & Intern)	p2	Bonsai Ideas #99	p5	Volunteering	p7
Education and Pavilion Pictures	p2	Pictures - Black Pine Workshop	p6	Calendar of Events	p8
SDBC Pavilions at the WAP	p3	Pictures-Winter Silhouettes	p6	Meeting Agenda	p8

March Program

It is our tradition to celebrate **Harry Hirao's** birthday every March. He is one of the best known bonsaists on California Junipers and is affectionately known as "Mr. California Juniper".

Harry is always very generous to our club, and he is part of our family. We are happy to welcome Harry Hirao to our March meeting.

Photo by Mario Condit

I am hoping that someone will win Harry's demo tree for me, and I will pick it up later.

Harry is pictured to the right, critiquing a California Juniper at our 2009 SDBC meeting.



HARRY HIRAO

February Program Notes

I was really impressed by **John Wang's** (picture below) performance in February's club meeting. John's program was educational and exceptionally entertaining, especially when **Drew Reed** volunteered to help John. The team really complemented each other well. Needless to say, John was well received by the membership. Everybody was asking me afterwards, "When is John coming back?"

The lucky winner of the demo tree was **Iyn Stevenson** (photo to the right). I know she was happy.

Thank you John for a wonderful program, and we look forward to seeing you again soon.

Photo by Abe Far



Abe Far, 1st Vice President

Beginners Class

Wiring is exciting...and our beginners tried their hand at wiring their twisted pomegranates at the February meeting. A discussion of tree forms, styling, and wiring by **John Voss** got their engines revved up and then he let them work. That first step was fun and interesting, and at the next meeting the beginners will be repotting their pomegranates into blue bonsai pots. Beginners, remember to bring your tree, shears, and the chopsticks. We will supply the pot, wire for securing the screen over the drainage holes, and soil. We will have little packets of fertilizer to use when the roots begin to grow. See you then!

Intermediate Class

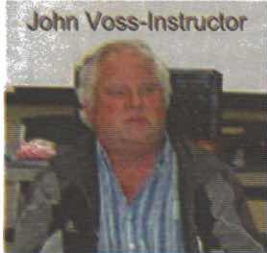
Nipomo is a lush growing area near Santa Barbara, where a nursery grows carefully cultivated black pines for bonsai. The San Diego Bonsai Club brings back a small group of these Nipomo Black Pines each year for people to purchase and work on. Once again, there will be 10 pines available, at \$75 each. Currently, seven are already sold. **Fred Miyahara** and his excellent assistants from the Black Pine group will be teaching the workshop participants about black pine growth and habits. Fred says to bring your tweezers...you are going to learn needle plucking! Everyone is welcome to watch and learn as well. If you want to snap up one of the last few Nipomo trees, notify **Cary Sullivan** at: caryme2@yahoo.com and get on the list.



Joanie Berkwitz, VP Education
760-431-1014, mold40@roadrunner.com

Education Pics

Photos courtesy Abe Far



John Voss-Instructor



Too many people to name, but always good to see new faces. We hope you enjoy the beginners class and hope you take interest in the intermediate classes too.

SDBC Pavilion Pics

Photo courtesy Cary Sharp



Lyn Stevenson

John Jackson

Robert Thurston

Mark Huston

Linda Post

Cary Sharp

Steve Valentine

Jim Kirchner

This is a picture of the folks that supported the coordinated SDBC and WAP meeting to review the upcoming planned activities. Their names are posted in the picture. Thanks to Cary Sullivan for taking the pictures, they came out awesome. In the background you can see the shade cloth on the new poles. This truly has the makings of a world class pavilion.

San Diego Bonsai Club Pavilions at the Wild Animal Park

Although February was a short month, we had several sessions at the WAP including a very productive meeting with *Chief Horticulturist Cary Sharp* and his staff. We reviewed a time line for the work that the WAP will be doing and continued with activities in both areas. Last month's cleanup of the shed in the construction site led to a huge housekeeping cleanup of the lower pavilion's closet. **Maria and Tina** once again led the group but this time were hampered by the rains so everyone pitched in and got all the fertilizers, tools, and other supplies back under dry cover in record time. The results are impressive!

Our February work day included a slightly drenched group including newcomer **Audrey Bond, Joe DuPont, Maria & Tina Flores, Joyce Goldman, John Jackson, Jim Kirchmer, Tom Kreiger, Ray Lish, Marty & Ruth Mann, Charlie Mosse, Jon & Terri Petrescu, Harlan & Mary Ann Price, 'lyn Stevenson, Cary & Steve Valentine, Charlie Tamm, Larry Upp, Dennis Wagner, and Dave Woodall.** The bonsai are now looking very fresh and nicely groomed. Obviously bonsaiists also enjoy rain days! Several of the volunteers then attended the WAP's Horticulture Orientation Program after our work session. Many thanks to everyone for all this dedication.

The WAP Staff has now moved the trees in the construction area to other areas in the Park. We can now start marking the trenches for water and electrical lines. The WAP Staff has also started moving the very large boulders (which have been in reserve behind the construction site) to the area toward the front area where a small pond and the torii will be located. Our consultant, **Carey Kennedy**, from **Schnetz Landscape** has prepared the concept and construction plans for this upcoming work. More good news will follow!

Our next scheduled work day is March 20th at the WAP. Also, volunteers are needed for the April 3rd and 4th Garden Societies Celebration 2010. Please call or e-mail if you can be join us between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. on that Easter weekend. We will have display tables with bonsai from the Pavilion in the Nairobi Village area of the WAP where we will visit with WAP's guests and promote our avocation. It's always a fun time to be at the WAP during this Butterfly

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

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 the editor (see below for contact information) and leave a message. I will try to respond to you as soon as possible.

The Bonsai Wire

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San Diego Bonsai Club

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Members

February 14th, 2010



1. **Call to Order:** The regular meeting of members of San Diego Bonsai Club was called to order at 10:30 am by Steve Valentine, President. A quorum was present.
2. **Approval of Minutes:** The minutes for the January 10, 2010 meeting were approved.

3. Reports

- **Steve Valentine, President** 1) Announced the Spring Show Chair position was still vacant; 2) Presented 2008-9 board member Gary Jones with a token of the Club's appreciation for his service; 3) Reminded those interested that County Fair entry forms must be received by May 5.
- **Cary Valentine, Vice President, Membership,** 1) Introduced the new members; and 2) Reminded members to renew their dues.
- **Joanie Berkwitz, Vice President Education,** 1) Asked members of the Beginner class, with John Voss instructing, to show their newly-wired trees; 2) Members of the Black Pine group assisted Fred Miyahara, who helped members of the Intermediate Class repot pines they had obtained in a 2009 class; and 3) Announced that the March Intermediate Class will again be on Nipomo pines; however, this will be new stock on which to work. Class fee is \$75.
- **Tara Cobbs, Treasurer,** reported the balances in the Club accounts totaled approximately \$26,000.
- **Maria Barbosa, Vice President, Special Projects,** 1) Reported that, although attendance was not as hoped, the Winter Silhouettes trip was a great success; and 2) Reviewed the itinerary for the trip to the Bonsai-a-Thon at Huntington Library and Botanical Gardens, Saturday – February 27. The bus will leave the Balboa stop at 7:00 a.m. and the Carlsbad stop at 7:30.
- **Fred Miyahara, Japanese Friendship Garden Bonsai Curator,** 1) The next class will be at 10:30 a.m., Friday, February 26, 2010.
- **'lyn Stevenson, WAP Bonsai Pavilion Liaison,** 1) Announced the next work day will be Saturday, February 20, 2010 – 9a.m. to 12 Noon; 2) Reminded volunteers of the need to participate in the WAP orientation program; 3) Updated everyone on the progress at the new pavilion; 4: Asked for volunteers to assist at the WAP Horticultural Days event April 3 & 4; and 5) Announced there would be a meeting of the WAP Finance/Planning Committee within a few weeks.
- **Tom Anglewicz, Sales Manager,** 1) Reported there is now a small tool kit available at the Tool Desk – includes 5 tools plus a bag; 2) Copper wire in common sizes is now available; and 3) Next month the inventory will include soils, pumice and scoria.
- **Abe Far,** Announced Harry Hirao would be the guest demonstrator for the March meeting, where we will celebrate Harry's 94th birthday.

4. **Adjournment:** There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:00 a.m. Guest Demonstrator: Bonsai Master, John Wang worked on a shimpaku, clearly defining its style and demonstrating trunk enhancement techniques.

Respectfully Submitted,

Joyce Goldman, Corporate Secretary

www.sandiegobonsaiclub.com

The sky is lighter
Light brings birds awakening
The dawn is brighter

Marty Mann

March 2010

San Diego Bonsai

Bonsai Ideas

#99 March, 2010

The prime time for potting is March and April. If you have created a supply of good basic potting soil, fertilizers and other chemicals you are ready to go. Are all the used pots clean? Do you have an assortment of good new pots to select for new plantings?

Your projects can be threefold:

- moving pre-trained material from nursery cans to selected bonsai pots, either for further training or for show.
- transferring trees that are already potted into larger or more appropriate pots because of changes in the basic shape, size or design of the trees.
- repotting trees that are ready to be refreshed with new soil, reduced of excessive root growth, and generally improved.

During repotting activities, it is wise to study the trees. Remove excess branch growth, crossing branches and long internodes that may have been overlooked during the dormant months. Trees should be somewhat on the dry side when they are ready for repotting. The tree will be easier to remove from the pot. The combing of the root ball, after cutting away about 1/3, will free the fine roots and encourage new growth. Do not allow fine roots to be exposed to the sun or drying winds; keep a spray bottle handy. Screen new Keep newly potted material in partial shade for a week or so and then move them out into full sun. Allow new feeder roots to develop.

Part of the responsibility of maintaining an attractive and healthy bonsai collection is the never-ending process of providing the proper growing environment. Your best guideline is not just the question of the time to repot, but more so, the *need* to repot based upon the condition of the trees. Signs of growing activity have begun. It's best to repot before any significant sign of bud swelling has started. This is especially true of fruiting and flowering varieties. Most of these varieties, as well as deciduous trees, benefit from annual or frequent repotting. Don't overlook the

smaller Shohin trees. It's even more important to be watchful of this class of bonsai since they will quickly reflect your neglect.

This is the time to begin the fertilization program on established trees. Use a slow release fertilizer just prior to the signs of new growth. Organic fertilizers such as Cottonseed Meal (75%), with a proportion of Bone Meal (25%), give the trees the desired boost during this growing season. Bone Meal is very slow acting but is beneficial in the long run. To insure the maximum blooming potential, new growth on flowering trees and azaleas should be watched. Keep the nitrogen content of fertilizers at a minimum in these early feedings since excessive green foliage and leaf growth will weaken the flowering effort. Use a weak application just as the flower buds begin to swell and again as they open and develop. Do not feed after the flowers are fully open. Miracle-Gro, applied on a bi-weekly basis, is an excellent all-purpose fertilizer.

Plants are now growing vigorously. It's better to feed more often with light applications than less often with a heavy hand. Keep fertilizers away from the trunk of the tree. Broadcast granular food lightly over the pot surface and close to the pot edges. Do not feed newly transplanted or repotted trees for a month or two to let them become established. A low nitrogen fertilizer such as Bone Meal or Super Phosphate keeps fruit and berries from falling off prematurely.

This is a serious time to seek and destroy plant pests. The prolific aphid is now coming to life. The chewers, suckers and borers are all back in action. White flies, mealy bugs, spider mites and scale insects are all out to get us. Use systemic action insecticides, as well as the reliable Malathion®, Isotex® and Seven® sprays. Alternate their use. Damage cannot always be seen unless you examine the plant carefully. Sucking insects cause leaves to change color and drop. Read the pesticide labels to see what is best for your problems.

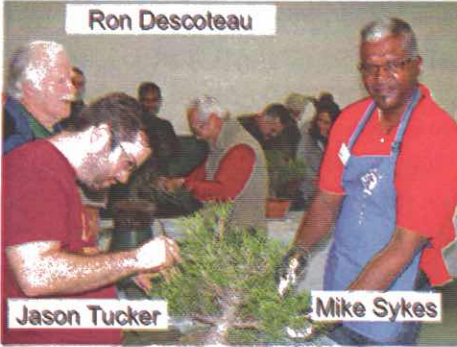
Marty Mann

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. Mar 2010

Black Pine Workshop SDBC

Photos by Abe Far

A few pics of the folks that attended the Black Pine workshop. The smiles demonstrate the fun the members are having.



Ron Descoteau

Jason Tucker

Mike Sykes



Maria Barbasa



Jose Camarena



Fred Miyahara

Jim Kimura



Cristina Far

Dennis Wagner



Sue Wagner

California Shohin Convention-Workshops

Photos by Cary Sullivan

Below are some pics of the folks that supported the California Shohin convention. The value in supporting other bonsai clubs is immeasurable.



Chris Mannion

Jon Petrescu



Sue Wagner

Shirley Kavanaugh

Mas Ishi



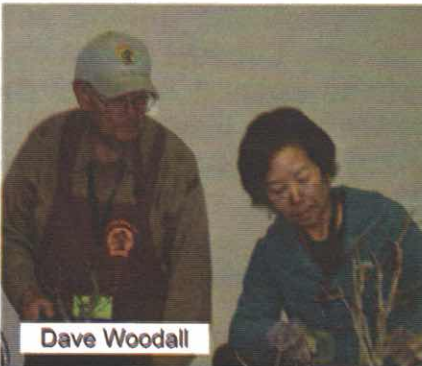
Abe Far



Bob Meyer



Cindy Read



Dave Woodall



Leonard Monta

Joanie Berkwitz



Terri Petrescu

March Membership Update!

Once again, we have the DRN Bug a/k/a the "I haven't received your 2010 Dues Renewal" bug!

Although this bug poses no immediate threat, I have been told that in April BAD things will happen if the DRN bug has not been fed (your 2010 dues have not been recorded).

No harsh chemicals are needed to avoid a potential infestation. Just put your check in the MAIL TODAY. We don't want you to experience the effects of the DRN bug first hand. So, if you see a star on your newsletter label, send \$25/individual and \$10/each family member to:

SDBC P.O. Box 40037
San Diego CA 92164

Please welcome our newest Club Members:

**Brenda and Bob Hetherington,
Paul Sorenson**

Cary Sullivan, VP - Membership

California Bonsai Society 53rd

The California Bonsai Society 53rd Bonsai Exhibition will be held on March 27th and 28th, from 10:00 am thru 4:30 pm. It will be held at the Friends Hall, at the Huntington Library and Botanical Gardens. The address is 1151 Oxford Road, San Marino. Several members of the SDBC are members of the California Bonsai Society, this is a great opportunity to see their tress on display.

Cary Sullivan

Volunteering

Photos by Abe Far

Drew Reed is pictured to the right and below, with John Wong. He volunteered to help, and probably got more than he bargained for. Fortunately, John's charisma and Drew's easy going style made for a good partnership. These are the kinds of perks that you as members can have as part of the San Diego Bonsai Club team. And this also extends to the SDBC Pavilions. There is lots of work to do, and it is a wonderful method of learning from our club's experts and bonsai masters first hand. See the article on page 4 for more information.



Photo by Abe Far

Jason Tucker,
Raffle Coordinator

Refreshments

Many thanks to those that bring in good things to eat for the club meetings. Some folks bring in hand made dishes, other bring in store bought items. But most of all, its the thought that counts. From sweets to savories, desserts to main dishes, all foods will be placed out to be eaten by the hungry masses. Thanks to the following folks who brought goodies to the February club meeting:

**Nellie Downie, Maria Barbosa,
Tim Kirkish, Jim Kimura,
Cary Valentine, Charlie Mosse,
Shirley Kavanaugh, Beth Leeks,
Maude Laracy, Susan Baker,
John Jackson, George Young,
Terri Petrescu, Abe and Cristina Far.**

Nellie Downie,
Refreshment Coordinator

Benefit Drawing

Jason is ready to take your money and exchange it for raffle tickets. Make sure you bring plenty of funds, something may show up on the table that you cannot do without. And at these prices, it is a steal!

It is always nice to peruse the benefit drawing table to see what kinds of bonsai related items folks have brought in. Items include pots (small and large, decorated or plain), tools (in good shape or need of some TLC), plants (many varieties and stages of growth), books, soils, fertilizers, stones, seeds, sifters, and whatever else the imagination can conjur up. I have seen it all.

A big thank you to the following folks who contributed to the February benefit drawing table:

**Maria Barbosa, John Voss,
Cary and Steve Valentine,
SDBC, Dave Woodall,
Charlie Mosse, Ted Schwartz,
Shirley Kavanaugh, Marty Mann,
Jim Rendina, Vernon Rutherford,
Terri Petrescu, Abe & Cristina Far,
D. J. Girardin, 'lyn Stevenson.**



San Diego Bonsai Club, Inc.
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San Diego, CA 92164



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San Diego Bonsai Club Calendar of Events

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

April 11th Sunday
Regular SDBC Meeting (Bob Hilvers)

April 17th Saturday
Wild Animal Park Workday, 9am to 12pm

April 23rd Friday
Japanese Friendship Garden, Kids Class 10:30 to noon

April 24th Sat-25th Sun (setup on Apr 22nd & 23rd, teardown pm 25th)
SDBC Spring Show

May 2nd Sunday (Moved due to Mother's day on the 9th)
SDBC mtg at Wild Animal Park

May 15th Saturday
Wild Animal Park Workday, 9am to 12pm

May 21st Friday
Japanese Friendship Garden, Kids Class 10:30 to noon

June 11th Sunday
Regular SDBC Meeting (tbd)

June 17th Saturday
Wild Animal Park Workday, 9am to 12pm

Sunday, March 14th 2010
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	Harry Hirao Bonsai Demo	Room 101
12:00 am	Lunch	