

# The Bonsai Wire

December 2010

## Message From the President

**THANK YOU ALL** as 2010 comes to an end, it gives me great pleasure to welcome the new board to SDBC. You will see some of the same faces on the board; President Abe Far, Vice President Jim Rendina, VP Membership Cary Valentine, VP Education Steve Valentine, VP Special Projects Barbara French Lee, Treasurer Maria Barbosa, Corporate Secretary Joyce Goldman, new Librarian Tyler Doren.

Please give them the same support you gave me. I want to thank you all for allowing me to be your President for the last 2 years. It has been a fast two years and we have had many accomplishments in the club. There has been a tremendous amount of work done in the new pavilion and I thank you all for physically and financially helping out. Please keep it up in 2011 as we strive to finish the new pavilion.

I want to thank everyone who has come forward to

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help out in the club, bringing in food to share, items for the raffle. Thanks to those who have chaired the Spring and Fall Shows, as well as those who came out to help setup and teardown as well as showing your trees. There is a lot that this club asks of its members, but we on the board try to give you, the membership, much more in return.

Abe is chairing the GSBF 34th convention in Oct. 2011 in Riverside. I know he will need a lot of help, so please be as generous as you always are and help him out and show your support. If nothing else, come to the convention. As many people say, it is like going to a family reunion. It is so much fun and you learn so much and in addition, you get to meet so many wonderful bonsai people.

I hope every one has a Happy Holiday Season and Healthy New Year!

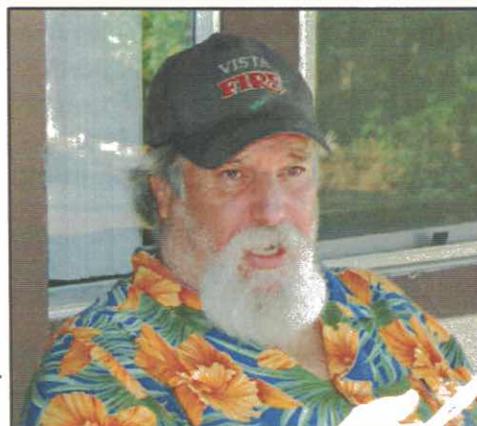
*Steve Valentine*

## December Program



David Nguy did a wonderful job at our November program. He is always very generous as he donated the demo tree as well as a nice pot to the club. I am happy to say that I was the lucky winner of the demo tree. We all thank David for his generosity and kindness.

For the December program, our club President Steve Valentine is doing a demo for us. Steve has been involved with art of bonsai for many years. He is the curator of our San Diego Bonsai Club, Bonsai Pavilion at the Wild Animal Park, which he spends countless hours day after day in the pavilion working on the trees. I hope we can find a way to show our appreciation for his hard work and dedication. He studied bonsai with many bonsai masters including Kathy Shaner. He is a member of several clubs in southern California, and he conducts many workshops and demos at different clubs and conventions.



**Steve Valentine**

We all do appreciate Steve's dedication and hard work at our Bonsai Pavilion and we also want to thank him for being such a good president for the past two years. He has run the club in a very smooth and successful manner.

Things that club members may not know about Steve are as follows. Steve is the owner of Arboreal Arts & Gardens. The business focuses on professional Bonsai, Bamboo Fences, and Japanese Gardens & Pruning. He was in the floral industry for 20 plus years and did demonstrations as well as displays for the AIFD (American Institute of Floral Designers) around the country. He has also had the privilege of creating floral arrangements at the White House. Steve has a degree in Arboriculture. We all are truly honored to have Steve be the headliner for our December program.

Abe Far, 1st Vice President

## San Diego Bonsai Club Pavilions at the Wild Animal Park

Everyone has probably heard that the San Diego Zoological Foundation which directs the activities at the Zoo and the Wild Animal Park has officially changed the WAP's name to San Diego Zoo Safari Park. Many of us still refer to this part of SD County as the WAP as do the highway signs that direct people to the Escondido site. It will take awhile for everyone to transition!

Our volunteers have been working in the Bonsai Pavilions each and every week. In November, a tremendous amount of hours were donated by: Newcomer **Peter Abernethy, Neil Auwarter, Susan Baker, Judy Barnhurst, Alan Burrows, David & Martha Choy, Cathy & Mark Edgar, Abe Far, Maria & Tina Flores, John Jackson, Carey Kennedy, Marty Mann, Steven Miceli, Jon & Terri Petrescu, Harlan & Mary Ann Price, 'lyn Stevenson, Cary & Steve Valentine, Forrest & Michelle Vess, John Voss, Dennis Wagner, and Dave Woodall.**

Most of the construction work is being done in the upper new area but bonsai maintenance continues in the main exhibit so that our bonsai are kept in show condition. *Curator Steve* directs the weeding, trimming, and fertilizing which are ongoing needs for our bonsai. In the

upper area, electrical lines, water lines, and drains have been installed. We appreciate the assistance given by *WAP staff member, Charles Fleuret*, with this critical installation also. The many trenches have now been covered and rocks were placed in the upper and lower Pavilion ponds.

At our normal third Saturday workday, the volunteers were treated to a very generous and delicious luncheon catered by **Abe Far**. He thanked the volunteers for all the time and talent they donate to the Pavilions. Everyone in turn truly appreciated his special efforts on a rather rainy day at the Park. We were able to enjoy the camaraderie under the large covered area between the Pavilions. Volunteers are regularly and pleasantly surprised with homemade goodies and treats by **Cathy, Cary, 'lyn, and Anonymous Angels**. Many, many thanks to all.

All this activity is heightened now with the scheduled opening of the new Pavilion on May 1, 2011. Workers and donors are an integral part of this SDBC project. We hope all members will participate as volunteers and/or donors.

'lyn Stevenson,  
SDBC-WAP Liaison  
New Pavilion Manager

## SDBC Education for December

### Beginners Class

December is a month of rest for the beginner students and the teachers. Take care of your trees, which will be dormant soon if they aren't already. Our next beginner's class will start in January, so please see the next newsletter for more information. I've enjoyed being the Education VP and would like to thank **Dave Rochester, John Voss**, and all of the very capable and willing teachers who volunteer for each beginner's class, and make it all come together for our beginners and our club. You are all just wonderful!

### Intermediate Class

In December, we will discuss winter care for our trees. Each microclimate is different, and where you live can dictate how you take care of your trees during our coldest months. We will have a handout that touches the major points of overwintering care. Please feel free to bring in any tree that you are concerned about, whether it has leaves that are changing color, or needles that don't look bright and green, or perhaps some damage that you need to understand. People bringing trees will be entered for a free drawing for prizes! So, show us your trees, and maybe you will take home a fun gift too!

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

# WAP Pics



Top left, Dennis Wagner laying electrical lines. Immediate left, Teri, Maria and Tina Flores. Left bottom, Steve, Dave Woodall and Dennis laying water lines. Below, Jon P., Cathy Edgar, Steven M., Mark Edgar and Teri. Right, John Jackson laying drain pipe. Upper right, Cathy and Steven Micelli. Above is the pond with stone lining. See article p2.



It is amazing to see the transformation that the pavilion has taken over the last few years. All of the volunteers should be proud of their accomplishments.

Pictures by Cary Valentine

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

Is a published monthly by the San Diego Bonsai Club, Inc. a non-profit, educational organization 501 (c) (3).

### San Diego Bonsai Club Board Members

- |   |  |   |
|---|--|---|
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# San Diego Bonsai Club

## Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Members

November 14<sup>th</sup>, 2010



1. **Call to Order:** The meeting of members of San Diego Bonsai Club was called to order at 11:00 a.m. by Steve Valentine, President. A quorum was present.
2. **Approval of Minutes:** The minutes for the October 10, 2010 meeting were approved.

### 3. Reports

- **Steve Valentine, President,** 1) Announced the slate of the 2011 Club Officers:

President	Abe Far
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President	Jim Rendina
Vice President, Membership	Cary Sullivan-Valentine
Vice President, Education	Steve Valentine
Vice President, Special Projects	Barbara French-Lee
Secretary	Joyce Goldman
Treasurer	Maria Barbosa

- **Joan Holliday, Christmas Party Event Chair:** The 2010 Christmas Luncheon will be held at Onami Restaurant/North County Fair in Escondido – 12:00 Noon on Saturday, December 11. Cost is \$25, including gratuity and room charge.

- **Special Events:** December 26-31, 2010 – Aiseki Kai Exhibition @ Huntington Gardens  
January 15, 2011 – Winter Silhouettes @ Los Angeles Arboretum  
February 26, 2011 – Bonsai-a-thon @ Huntington Gardens (Bus Trip Planned)  
Summer 2011 – Bristle Cone Pine bus trip

- **Cary Sullivan-Valentine, Vice President Membership:** 1) Introduced new members; 2) When paying 2011 dues, please make any corrections to current information.

- **Fred Miyahara, Japanese Friendship Garden:** To accommodate school holiday schedules, youth classes at the Garden will be the 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday in November and December. In January, the classes will revert to the normal schedule – the 4<sup>th</sup> Friday of each month.

- **'lyn Stevenson, WAP Bonsai Pavilion Liaison:** 1) The Park has actively assisted in progress – backfilling trenches where water and electric lines were placed and moving large rock. 2) In January and February, the fence will be installed; 3) In January, an organization responsible for the grand opening celebration will be put together; 4) December 4 is Volunteer Recognition Day at the Park. A work day may be scheduled that afternoon; 5) Donations received in October/November have been included on the donor board.

- **Abe Far, Vice President,** 1) Announced the 2011 meeting program is almost complete. Openings remain for September and November; 2) Announced Steve Valentine will headline the December program; 3) Introduced David Nguy, Guest Demonstrator, who styled a difficult California juniper and described the technique for bending heavy stock by identifying and modifying deadwood, embedding heavy wire into the area, and then bending the raffia-wrapped and traditionally-wired material. David donated the program tree and an appropriate pot for a separate Club benefit drawing.

**Adjournment:** There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Joyce Goldman, Corporate Secretary



## Christmas Tree-Bonsai Contest

It is that time of year again, and it you need to decorate your bonsai for the holiday. Bring it to the December meeting and it will be reviewed and judged. The criteria for judging is originality, simplicity, and bonsai theme. The intent is to have fun, be creative and see what everyone comes up with. There will be a prize!

Past year's submissions have been very ornate, highly detailed, twinkling miniature lights, inorganic, and all have been beautiful to look at and compare. Be daring, be brave, let's see that competitive side of you come out and show us your creativity!

Cary Valentine.

# San Diego Bonsai Bonsai Ideas

By Marty Mann

## #108 November, 2010

Think of each year as a running clock. Look at spring as the hours of sunrise. See the results of summer as the growing day. Enjoy the transformation of fall colors and changes of the hours of dusk. It's become the dormant winter season. Quiet time. It's nightfall.

Speaking of trees only (not the frantic pace of holiday time) this is the time of year when the ways of nature become our guide as to what must be done.

The activities that we now become involved with usually come from our own experience, from what we have read, and from the teachings of our Sensei. It's a period of transformation in the mind's eye. You have a chance to study each tree without concern for the constantly changing growth. It's a time to minimize the feeding care and reduce the watering needs, to devote time to designs and plans for the beginning of next year. Deciduous trees have transformed from their beautiful fall colors, to barren silhouettes. Evergreen trees appear dull, inactive and unchanging. This is not a "take it easy time".

Now is the time to study groves or multi-tree arrangements. Trunks stand out with strong detail. An overview of a group planting shows clearly how the trees are positioned and how they relate to each other. The clear view offers an opportunity to improve the placement of individual or groups of trees in the pot.

Insect and fungus control during dormancy are as important as in spring and the active reproductive time of summer. November usually brings cooler days. This is an ideal time to protect bonsai from the overwintering of fungus spores and insect larvae. Use a dormant spray such as Orthorix Dormant Spray (Lime

Sulfur) as a fungicide. Avoid root damage by covering the surface of the pot with plastic to prevent run-off or drip of the spray. A light mist of Lime Sulfur on the top and bottom of the foliage and woody surfaces is effective. Avoid spraying azaleas, camellias and other acid loving plants. Do not spray any buds that may be showing due to unseasonable warm weather. Other excellent dormant sprays are Bordeaux Oil or Vole Oil.

Insects are relatively inactive during cooler months. It is still a good practice to apply a mist of Triazicide or Malathion for aphid control, and Sevin, for ants, each month, to catch any newcomers or left over insects. Use Ortho Garden Disease Control for fungus.

Removing wires on all trees is an ongoing project. Not all trees can be identified with a predictable time as to when wire should be removed. There are no rules. Just watch the growth constantly. If the wires are beginning to cut into the bark, remove them at once before permanent damage occurs. Aluminum wire can often be unwound, however it is always safer to cut wire into small segments and remove piecemeal. If wire has created deep gouges, it is suggested the cuts be leveled by trimming or sanding the ridges as best as possible. The cuts may be treated with tree seal or white glue to prevent further harm from insects. Wire cuts on deciduous trees often cause winter dieback.

Enjoy the holidays and the reduced activities but don't neglect the trees. Now that you have done everything, go dormant!

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.  
December 2010

## Suiseki Exhibition

### California Aiseki Kai

will be holding it's

### 21st Anniversary Suiseki Exhibition

at the Huntington.

Doors will be open from Dec 26th through Jan 2nd, 10:30 am to 4:30pm. It will be CLOSED on Jan 1st.

This is really a great exhibit. If you have not gone before it is a must see.

Cary Valentine.

*A shining bright star  
Bathes its light upon our trees  
With daylight, they glow*

Marty Mann

December 2010

[www.sandiegobonsaiclub.com](http://www.sandiegobonsaiclub.com)

## Toys for Tots

Christmas is a time for giving, and our tradition has been to bring an unwrapped gift for a needy child to the December meeting. The gift can be for various age groups, from toddlers to teens.



Joan Holliday will be collecting these at the end of the meeting and taking the toys to the donation center. Thanks Joan for taking on this responsibility.

In the past, we have filled up to three tables full of toys and gifts. Let's see if we can match that.

I did a quick google search on Toys for Tots, just to see what it was all about. It all started in 1947, by a Major Bill Hendricks, based out of Los Angeles. The Toys for Tots organization has been doing this now for the past 62 years.

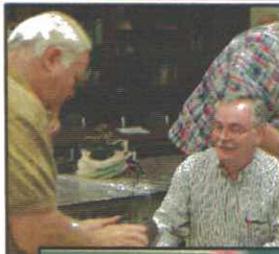
Mario Condit

## Bay Area Bonsai Associates

The Bay Area Bonsai Associates are having their 30th Annual Show at Lakeside Park Garden Center, 666 Bellevue Avenue, Oakland. It will be held on March 12th and 13th, 2011. Admission is free. Parking is free Sunday, Saturday after 5pm. Show hours are Saturday: 5pm to 9pm, Sunday: 10am to 4pm.

There will be a Saturday demonstration by Ryan Neal at 6:30pm followed by a general raffle including a demo tree. There will be plant sales during exhibit hours to include pre-bonsai, bonsai, pots, tools soils, wire, literature and other bonsai related materials.

Ryan Neal apprenticed with Masahiko Kimura and is noted for his Bonsai demonstration and teaching excellence. Ryan will also be available in northern California for individual consultation and Bonsai club workshops around the time of the BABA show.



By listening and taking notes, you too can avoid the pitfalls of bad habits and keep your trees in top form. Below, John Voss is teaching the intermediate class on fertilizers. There are many varieties and methods of fertilizing. Knowing the best approaches can help your trees to thrive.



## SDBC Holiday Party



There is still time to sign up for the SDBC Holiday Party! If you are interested, please contact Joan Holliday to reserve your spot.

Joan Holliday

## November Program

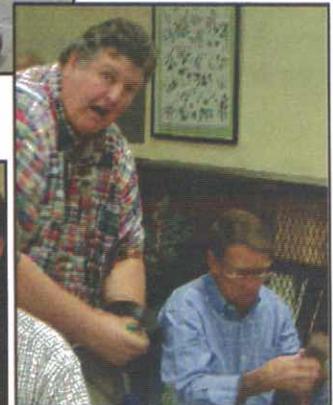
Pictured below is Abe Far and David Nguy. Abe was the winner of the drawing for this demo tree. David's work focuses on dramatic changes in the trunk. While it is not apparent in this picture, is the gradual bend at the top of the apex. Thank you David for your generosity in donating the tree to the club and for being our November headliner.



## Beginner Class Pics



Our beginner class instructor and helper volunteers have many years of experience with bonsai, bonsai techniques, and in general, horticulture. Their expert guidance and suggestions provide insight on how to keep your tree healthy and vital. Many thanks to our volunteers and good luck to the students with their pre-bonsai material.



Photos by  
Cary Valentine

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## Membership Update!

Please welcome our newest club member!

### Peter Abenethy

**Peter** has already been out to the WAP( in the rain) and worked in the new pavilion area.

As I mentioned in the Nov. newsletter 2011 SDBC DUES ARE DUE!!!!

I was very pleased with the "dues" response last month. Please find your envelope with your name on it, confirm all of the information on the enclosed card, make the changes if any, enclose your card and payment and seal. That is it.

Thank you for all of your help and support as well as patience as I learn all of the membership activities and responsibilities.

*Happy Holidays to everyone and here's to a prosperous and healthy good bonsai 2011 to all.*

Membership VP, Cary Valentine

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## Tool Sales Position Open

Tom Anglewicz will be stepping down from the Tools manager position. If you are interested, please contact Tom at the next meeting.

Candidates should have access to a computer and know bonsai tools in general, as well as be at every meeting. You should also be able to store the tools. Tom will go over all the information you need to know. This will require heavy lifting and hauling (due to the materials involved).

[www.sandiegobonsaiclub.com](http://www.sandiegobonsaiclub.com)

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## Bonsai Pavilion Donor Board

We continue to receive donations for the new Bonsai Pavilion. In November, **Barbara French-Lee** donated \$200 and is a newcomer to the Honor Board in the Elm category. **David Nguy**, our guest demonstrator at the November SDBC meeting, joined the Honor Board also with his \$100 donation. **Claude Poissonniz** added to his previous donation with another \$60. We welcome and thank all our donors!

We have been purchasing several items for the new Pavilion this past month. The necessary water lines and electrical wires and boxes are currently being installed. We now also have a great utility sink for our work area that Steve Valentine located at a great sale price. We are studying the proposed plans from our landscaping consultants and will be looking for donors for trees, shrubs, and ground covers. We are also ready to start the fencing enclosures. Shopping for these materials is critical. We want to have the fencing finished within the next two months so that the wild deer cannot get into the Pavilion and dine on our new plantings.

Remember: OPENING DAY IS MAY 1, 2011!

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## Refreshments

Many thanks to the folks that brought in refreshments to the November meeting. Your contributions help to make waiting to the end of the meeting a worthy reward. This month's refreshment team are as follows:

**Nellie Downie, Cary Valentine, Shirley Kavanaugh, Martha Choy, Marty & Ruth Mann, Abe & Cristina Far, Charlie Mosse, Sue & Dennis Wagner, Ray Lish, Susan Baker, Harlan & Mary Ann Price, Joan Holliday, and Laura Potts.**

Nellie Downie,  
Refreshments Coordinator

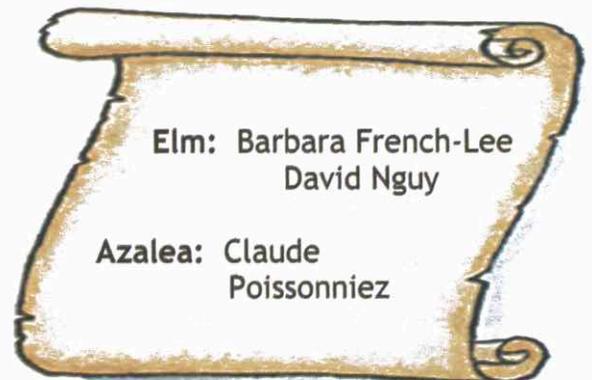
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## Benefit Drawing

Many thanks to the folks that brought in items for the raffle table to the November meeting. Your contributions help to strengthen the club's financial position to help with grants as well as membership activities. This month's donors were:

**SDBC, Steve Valentine, Shirley Kavanaugh, Marty Mann, John Voss, "The Old Man", Dave Woodall, Abe & Cristina Far, Gerry Racik, Jon & Terri Petrescu, John Jackson, Dennis & Sue Wagner, Rick & Paulette Glauser, Ken Bross, Jim Rendina, Kristie Bryant, and Joan Holliday.**

Jason Tucker,  
Benefit Drawing Coordinator



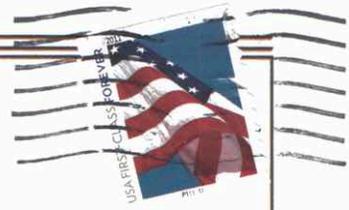
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### Donation Categories

Oak: \$10,000 and upwards  
Pine: \$1,000 to \$9,999  
Juniper: \$500 to \$999  
Elm: \$100 to \$499  
Azalea: \$10 to \$99

'lyn Stevenson, New Pavilion, Project Manager

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



**ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED**

David & Martha Choy  
 1144 13th Street  
 Imperial Beach CA 91932

## *San Diego Bonsai Club Calendar of Events*

- December 12<sup>th</sup> Sunday  
 Regular SDBC Meeting (Featured Guest: **Steve Valentine**)
- December 17<sup>th</sup> Friday  
 Japanese Friendship Garden, Kids Class 10:30 to noon
- December 18<sup>th</sup> Saturday  
 SDBC Workday at the Wild Animal Park , 9am to 12pm
- January 9<sup>th</sup> Sunday  
 Regular SDBC Meeting (Featured Guest: **Fred Miyahara**)
- January 15<sup>th</sup> Saturday  
 SDBC Workday at the Wild Animal Park , 9am to 12pm
- January 15<sup>th</sup> Saturday  
 Winter Silhouette-Los Angeles County Arboretum
- January 21<sup>st</sup> Friday  
 Japanese Friendship Garden, Kids Class 10:30 to noon
- February 13<sup>th</sup> Sunday  
 Regular SDBC Meeting (Featured Guest: **Michael Sykes**)
- February 19<sup>th</sup> Saturday  
 SDBC Workday at the Wild Animal Park , 9am to 12pm
- February 24<sup>th</sup> Friday  
 Japanese Friendship Garden, Kids Class 10:30 to noon
- March 13<sup>th</sup> Sunday  
 Regular SDBC Meeting (Featured Guest: **Harry Hirao**)
- March 19<sup>th</sup> Saturday  
 SDBC Workday at the Wild Animal Park , 9am to 12pm
- March 25<sup>th</sup> Friday  
 Japanese Friendship Garden, Kids Class 10:30 to noon

Sunday, December 12<sup>th</sup> 2010  
 Balboa Park, Room 103  
 Casa Del Prado

### *Meeting Agenda*

9:00 am	Beginner's Class	Room 104
9:15 am	Library Opens	Room 104
	Intermediate Class	Room 103
10:30 am	Business Mtg	Room 103
11:00 am	Steve Valentine Bonsai Demo	Room 103
12:00 pm	Lunch	