



The Bonsai Wine

A Monthly Newsletter of the **San Diego Bonsai Club**

Volume 44, Issue 12

December 2018



Message from the President

Barbara French-Lee, SDBC President

It seems like we just met! And it will be five weeks before we meet again. Welcome to our three new board members; **Jaya Kaelberer**, **Kyle Icke** and **Jack Graham**. As 2018 comes to an end I want to thank our hard working and dedicated board members, talented teachers and all the appointees who make this club so great. Club members took care of two great bonsai collections, taught at least 20 bonsai classes, put on two weekend long shows and sales and supported our club in numerous ways.

Next year we have plans for great presenters, classes, workshops, shows, sales, shopping trips and events. These will all be listed in and on our excellent newsletter and website. I also understand that information about our club is on Facebook and Twitter. Media for everyone.

Looking forward to seeing everyone at our meetings and events.

In This Issue

| | |
|--------------------------------------|----|
| President's Message | 1 |
| Program Preview: December | 1 |
| Club Officer Information | 2 |
| Website | 2 |
| December Buffet at the Meeting | 2 |
| Review of November Program | 3 |
| Education Updates | 4 |
| Remembering Larry Upp | 5 |
| Other Bonsai Activities | 5 |
| SDBC Bonsai Pavilion at Safari Park | 6 |
| Thank You | 7 |
| Serenity in The Garden | 7 |
| Japanese Friendship Garden | 8 |
| Bonsai-A-Thon Trip | 9 |
| Club Officer Nominations | 9 |
| November Meeting Minutes | 10 |
| Membership Update | 11 |
| Program Previews: December & Beyond | 11 |
| Winter Silhouettes Trip | 11 |
| Dec Meeting Agenda / Upcoming Events | 12 |

Next Meeting: 12/2

Styling Competition & Decorating Contest

Darryl Elmer, SDBC 1st VP

In December, we will hold our annual tree styling competition and holiday tree decorating contest. Members who wish to participate in our holiday tree decorating contest should bring a decorated tree to display in front of the room. Members will view the trees that are on display and will vote for their favorite. A prize will be awarded for the tree that receives the most votes. For our styling competition this year we will have 4 teams consisting of one experienced member and one or more less experienced members. These teams will each work on a large juniper tree from start to finish. When completed the winner will be chosen by popular vote. Following the competition all 4 trees will be auctioned off to the highest bidder to benefit the club.

Continued on Page 2



Some of the trees that were displayed for the 2017 decorating contest.

Our teams will be as follows:

- *Abe Far and Jack Graham*
- *Gary Jones, Steven Bleeke and Udaykant Pandey*
- *John Jackson, Sally and Steve Duschinger*
- *Neil Auwarter and Tobin Barrasco and Michael Hansen*

December 2nd Meeting

Christmas Buffet

Barbara French-Lee, SDBC President

For our December meeting the club will be providing the main dish (turkey, ham) so please bring side dishes to fill our our delicious meal.

SDBC Website:

sandiegobonsaiclub.com

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Japanese Friendship Garden

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Liaison:

'lyn Stevenson - inthegrove@cox.net

November Program Review

Jason Chan

In November our presenter was **Jason Chan**. **Mr. Chan** and his wife own Eastern Leaf, a store tailored to bonsai enthusiasts of all levels. He serves on the board of the Golden State Bonsai Federation and served for two years as the editor of their quarterly bonsai magazine. He supports the local bonsai community with workshops at his nursery. He also holds demonstrations at clubs and botanical gardens throughout Southern California. He enjoys creating awareness of bonsai and hosts several kids bonsai workshops every year including at our club shows. For his demonstration **Mr. Chan** worked on a large prostrata juniper with a lot of movement. He let the club choose the style of the tree and select the front then he shared his thought process as he styled the tree into a beautiful cascade style bonsai. He donated the finished tree to the club following his demo.



SDBC Education:

Bill Graham, SDBC VP of Education

2018 is coming to a close!! What a year it has been! I would like to express my gratitude to all of the Club members who volunteered and helped me this year. With the risk of missing some and in no particular order, here goes: Gary Jones, Fred Miyahara, Glenn Jensen, John Jackson, Abe and Christine Far, Brenda Crann, Mark and Cathy Edgar, Susan Ronan, Dan Sola, Bob and Janice Hale, Charlie and Sylvia Mosse, Eric Jacobson, Shirley Kavanaugh, Dennis Wagner, Barbara French-Lee and John Voss. (If I missed you and you helped, I apologize!) Thank you for teaching classes, helping me set up and tear down, hosting workshops, providing trees and all around making it so I survived another year!! I would also like to thank all of the member who took these classes and workshops and made the year a rousing success!! I thank you from the bottom of my heart and look forward to another great year!!

Beginning Classes:



The third and final session of the Juniper beginners class will be in DECEMBER. This session will focus on finishing your styling and repotting your tree. The instructors for this final class will be Brenda Crann. She has graciously agreed to step in and help us out. The regular instructor, Mark Edgar will unfortunately not be able to join us.

The class starts at 8:30 am in Room 104. Please be on time or a few minutes early. Observers are always welcome. Even if you did not get in to the class, you can still observe and learn.



The January beginners class has been posted and is starting to fill. There are still a few spots available. The list will be at the December meeting. The class will be *Ulmus parvifolia*, Chinese elms.

New members are always excited about taking the beginners classes, and several have asked to be put on a waiting list for the next class. If you are a new member please note that sign-up sheets for all classes and workshops are first available at the bonsai club meeting TWO months before the classes/workshops are held. We do not start a waiting list until after the sign-up sheet has been put out at the meeting and filled.

Intermediate Skills Workshops

Thank you to Abe Far for his excellent class with Lantana camara. They came out really nice. Abe did a fantastic job both picking this material and leading the class.

Thank you to our guest instructor, Debra Handal for leading a really interesting and neat class making Kokedama moss balls. They were very good looking and she really did a nice job.

January Workshop – Club Repotting:

As part of the January meeting, the club will be hosting its annual re-pot day. We will be doing this both before and after the business meeting. There is a limit of two trees per member. The club will provide soil and help as needed.

February Workshop – Olives

We have some nice large shohin / small chuhin sized olive trees. These trees have a nice start and are really looking good. The sign-up sheet will be at the December meeting.

Reminder

A reminder that all beginning classes, workshops and skills classes are taught from 8:30 am to 10:15 am on club meeting days at Balboa Park. Also, don't forget to bring any trees that you would like some help or advice on from our excellent bonsai masters at the club. Help is located in the back of Room 101 to the right of the stage.

If you have any ideas that can improve our programs or have skills that you would like to share please contact me at the monthly meeting or at wfgraham3rd@gmail.com.

The Sunshine Chair is Open for Business

Susan Baker, Sunshine Chair

Do you have a happy event or an under the weather person who needs cheering up? Email your request to me directly at baker@susanmbaker.com.

Remembering Larry Upp

Mr. Larry Upp's family and friends attended a celebration of life ceremony for him on November 22nd. Below is a club tribute that honored him at the club's 50th anniversary event in 2015.

"Larry started working with bonsai in 1965, with Bill Murphy who was a lifelong friend and fellow principal in San Diego. He says he wouldn't really call it training as he would watch Bill work and be amazed with the things he would do with these little trees. For demos, Bill would pull a juniper out of a 5 gallon pot and proceed to saw the root in half and Larry would laugh as the audience gasped at the boldness of this thin, little man.

After a period, Larry would look to other members of the SDBC to help him improve his understanding and appreciation of this bonsai art. Workshops with Fred Miyahara group, and Kenji Miyata, Charlie Tamm, and Gary Jones have all worked to help Larry enjoy his little trees. Lew Buellor, Evert Jones, Mas Takanashi, and other members would help Larry before the meeting started. He says he really appreciated all the help he received from these patient members of SDBC.

Larry first started showing his trees with Bill Murphy at the Del Mar Fair. Encouraged by Bill, Larry would help Bill water, and set up the show, carry trees, assist with demos, and break it all down after. Sometimes he even won a prize or two. Larry has always been modest about his trees and hesitated to show them at SDBC shows because he didn't feel they were good enough. With support from the wonderful members of the club, Larry finally started showing his trees and participating in plant sales, security, and food disposal—Larry loves to eat. Always quick witted, Larry is funny and friendly, adding his lively mix of old time jingles and memories to meetings and shows. He has been a member of many organizations and brings that experience to the club.

Larry's favorite bonsai are the Grewias. He has a "raft-style" that has air roots and flowers, sweeps to the side and really looks great! Murphy introduced Larry to Tecate Cypress and he quickly adapted to these upright plants that he could put into forest groupings. He has made "tenuki" or "Phoenix" bonsai with the Tecate, growing the fast growing tree up the backside of a dead trunk.

Larry says he finds all types of trees interesting as that is the way he is. Each tree is unique and he has many different trees and styles; a cascading grape, raft juniper, Ficus forest, Bald Cypress, Tecate forest, and beautiful Bougainvillea. He loves them all as he sits on his patio taking in his trees.

Larry laughs as he remembers the lessons learned from disasters: deciduous trees dropping all their leaves, so he thought it was dead and threw it away. A Tecate forest that he really loved and suddenly, the main tree started to die and the composition was sadly lost. Lessons learned, experience shared, and knowledge earned.

Larry continues to learn and says he is more of a student today at 88 than when he first started. He learns something every time he gets together with bonsai friends. His is a simple enjoyment doing bonsai with friends, on a beautiful San Diego day, with a vodka tonic in hand.

Let's raise a glass to Larry Upp."



Other Bonsai Activities

- January 19th & 20th - [Baikoen Bonsai Kenkyukai](#): "Winter Silhouettes" the 55th Annual Exhibition, Arcadia.
- February 16th & 17th - [GSBF Bonsai Garden at Lake Merritt](#): The Annual Mammoth Auction and Sale Fundraiser, Oakland.
- February 23rd & 24th - [Bonsai-A-Thon XXVIII at the Huntington Library and Botanical Gardens](#), San Marino.

SAN DIEGO BONSAI PAVILION

SAFARI PARK



Beautiful, balmy, fall weather at the Bonsai Pavilion was enjoyed by the many volunteers and shared with the Park guests as well who enjoyed the tranquil setting. We continue to share the SDBC brochure with the guests who often inquire about classes and plant sales, etc. The brochures are replenished regularly in our information box at the front end of the Pavilion.



The volunteers in November included: **Tobin Barrasco, Allan Burrows, Jenny Chin, Julia Chow, Dave & Sally Dischinger, Cathy & Mark Edgar, Sonya Holmquist, John Jackson, Janet Kaelberer, Jim**

& Sue Kirchmer, Bob & Janet Liggett, Janet & Ron Palmer, Sally Prestele, Clare & Ron Roberts, Dan Sola, 'Iyn Stevenson, Yoichiro Suemori, Dennis Wagner, and Dave Woodall. In between the Halloween and Thanksgiving Hollidays, we all enjoyed sharing information about some great summer vacation trips while working on the bonsai and also remembering fondly conversations with our recently deceased volunteer, **Ray Stives.** Many thanks to **Curator John, Janet Palmer, Julia Chow, Cathy Edgar, 'Iyn, and anonymous angel** for providing the refreshments.



Thanks also to **Clare and Ron Roberts** who are now supplying us with buckets for the trimmings, cuttings, weeds, etc. which we all seem to collect every work day.

Dan Sola took care and time this month to photograph all the

bonsai individually for our inventory books and to share some of them with the Bonsai Wire from time to time. It is really significant to have the photos in our records and also to show the progression of improvements through the seasons and years of the individual bonsai... sometimes showing different pots and style changes.

Each year, the San Diego Zoo and Safari Park do an annual tribute to all their volunteers.

This year, this special event is on December 2nd and will be at Safari Park with special programs, cocktails and dinner, and

special "goody" bags for the honorees. We have quite a few Pavilion volunteers who will be recognized for their many accumulated hours and years of service too. SDBC and our own Pavilion members are always appreciative of the special work the Pavilion volunteers do throughout the year, but this is a very nice tribute from the Zoo and Safari Park. Congratulations and thanks always!

We have several of our active volunteers who are going



through major medical procedures currently and we do miss them at the Pavilion but we continue to wish them improved good health and prayers and await their return to the Pavilion activities... **Charlie Mosse** and **Mark Edgar** and **Mark Walters** are all very positive and optimistic individuals who are looking at their temporary setbacks as challenges with solutions. We all agree and keep them in our thoughts and prayers.



Volunteers will be renewing their credentials for the Safari Park for 2019 and we invite other club members to join us in the coming year. We continue to improve the collection and individually, we also learn new ideas, techniques, soil mixes, and aesthetics as we share in the care of this valuable collection in a most lovely setting.

*'lyn Stevensen,
Liaison to the Pavilion at Safari Park*

T H A N K Y O U



We appreciate the refreshments that were donated for the November meetings by the following: **Susan Baker, Jenny Chin, Sally Dischinger, Abe Far and Christina Vargas Far, Susan Hull, Jaya Kaelberer, Shirley Kavanaugh, Janet Liggett, Ron and Clare Roberts, Bill Starks, Cesar Velasquez,**

Many thanks to those who donated items for the November raffles: **Ken Bross, Jenny Chin, Julia Chow, Abe Far and Christina Vargas Far, Bill Graham, John and Margaret Jackson, Gary Jones, Shirley Kavanaugh, Charlie Mosse, Janet and Ron Palmer, Dan Sola, John Voss, Dave Woodal.**

Serenity in The Garden

Charlie Mosse





Neil Auwarter, JFG Curator

Thanks to November JFG volunteers **Barbara French-Lee, Charlie ("Iron Man") Mosse, Maryanne and Harlan Price, Yoishiro "Mori" Suemori, and Nancy Wilson-Ramon**. And thanks again to the SDBC Board for entrusting me to care for the collection.

Thanks also to my predecessor **Glenn Jensen** for all the excellent work done during his tenure, and for his ongoing advice and assistance. And finally, thanks to Safari Park Pavilion curator **John Jackson** and the rest of the crew there for teaching me so much during my years volunteering there. **John** not only taught me countless techniques; he demonstrated how to give guidance where needed, but also allow volunteers some

hours in the garden goes by in the blink of an eye. Truly, I should be paying the club for permitting me do this work!

The appreciation shown by visitors is another thing that makes the job fun. You know somebody really wants to see the trees when the JFG doors open at the other end of the garden at 10:00, and by 10:02 they are already in the collection, gazing at a favorite tree. Their many questions slow the work down a bit; but stopping to talk bonsai with inquisitive visitors is the best kind of interruption.

This month we focused on junipers. We removed the old bark from the live vein of the California juniper, exposing the cinnamon color, which contrasts beautifully against the deadwood. Next the **Tak Shimazu** shipaku (say that fast 10 times) will get the same treatment, as recently recommended by **Mr. Shimazu**. In addition, we thinned and did some wiring and pad maintenance on the California and both shimpakus.



Before and after photos of year-long work on California Juniper. Last year the tree got a nicer, round, drum pot and was allowed to grow and put on foliage on lower branches. And this month the live vein was cleaned and the pads thinned and wired."

wiggle room to have fun and shape their own experience. Honestly, it's a little scary to care for these magnificent trees. But with my kids "out of the nest," a new responsibility is welcome. It's a joy to work with my fellow volunteers, who already feel like family. Three



"Mori" Suemori cleaning the live vein on the Tak Shimazu shimpaku juniper"

Unrelated to the JFG, I wanted to share a story from

the GSBF Convention in Sacramento last month. The Saturday demonstration co-headliners were *Yasuo Mitsuya*, *Suthin Sukosolvisit*, and *Bjorn Bjorholm*. In front of the stage were six additional demonstrators who had all apprenticed for *Mr. Mitsuya* in Japan: *John Thompson*, *Gordon Deeg*, *Boon Manakitivipart*, *Dennis Makashima*, *Cheryl Manning*, and *Nancy Shaner*. *Mr. Mitsuya* split his time between working on his own demo tree (a yew) and shuttling among his former apprentices to comment on their work through an interpreter. *Dennis Makashima's* demo tree was a stout little “buddha” Japanese black pine. As *Dennis* worked, he related that at the end of his apprenticeship in 1982, his oyakata, *Mr. Mitsuya's* father, gave *Dennis* a bag of black pine seeds. And 36 years later one of those seeds had grown into the buddha demo tree. It was an impactful demonstration and a testament to *Mr. Mitsuya's* influence on the art of bonsai in California.

Upcoming Trip:

Bonsai-A-Thon February 23, 2019

Abe Far, VP Special Projects



The Huntington Garden

Join us for the 2019 Bonsai-A-Thon at the Huntington Garden and Museum, which houses the Golden State Bonsai Federation Bonsai Collection in Southern California.

The event is scheduled for February 23 and 24. In addition to the wonderful bonsai exhibits, there will be demonstrations, workshops, and a large vendor area. At the end of each day, an auction and raffle will be held.

Breakfast is served from 7:00 to 9:00 am and lunch from 12:00 to 1:30 pm at a minimal cost. Meals are open for those who wish to partake. Garden tours are scheduled at 10:00 am on both days. Our bus trip to the Bonsai-A-Thon will be on Saturday, February 23, 2019. The cost is \$40 for club members.

We will depart from Balboa Park at 7:00 am sharp and Carlsbad at 7:30 am. We will be back in Balboa Park about 7:00 pm. To sign up, please see Abe Far at our regular club meeting or call *Abe Far* at 619-384-0004. You may also sign up on club website: www.sandiegobonsaiclub.com.

This is a fundraising event for our collection; please bring some items for the raffle and auction.

SDBC Mtg. Minutes

November Meeting

Nancy Wilson-Ramón, SDBC Secretary

1. Call to Order/Determine Quorum - Barbara French-Lee called the meeting to order at 10:30. A quorum was confirmed.
2. Approval of October 2018 Minute: Minutes approved as printed in The Bonsai Wire.
3. Presidents Remarks – Larry Upp, Ray Stives and Lew Bueller memoriam: Lew Bueller recently past and he was a past president who gave much to the club. Maria ??? lost her home in the fire that went through Paradise last week. Gary Jones remembered Larry Upp as a fun loving guy who loved hugs. See Gary or Barb for remembrance ceremony information. Gary also remembered Ray Stives as an enthusiastic member of the club and his Friday class. 'lyn Stevenson also remembered the ones we have lost and especially Ray as he was an active member of the team at the Safari Park. We took a moment of silence to remember them all.
4. Board Member Reports:
 - e. 1ST VP Program, Darryl Elmer – Today Jason Chan is here. December is the styling competition and tree decorating contest, please bring in your decorated trees. We have 4 teams and leads but we need some team members so see Darryl to get signed up. Kathy Shaner is coming in January along with our annual repotting (limit two per person) event. Individual sessions with Kathy will be available. February is Cheryl Manning who is also available for individual sessions..
 - f. VP Education, Bill Graham — We had workshops today by Abe Far on Iantana and, in conjunction with the Japanese Friendship Garden, creating moss balls with Master Gardener Debbie Handel. December is the styling competition and the final juniper class, Brenda will be filling in for Mark Edgar leading the class. Signup for the January Beginners elm class is in the back. February workshop will be olives.
 - g. VP Special Events, Abe Far — Please signup for Winter Silhouettes January 19th and Bonsai-a-thon February 23rd. The bus company is raising the price to \$1,400 for 12 hours so we need 35 people to break even for each event. Please sign up for these events either here or on the website.
- h. VP Membership – Keith Carter – We have 364 current members and 4 new members today. Five of our new members are joining us today for their first meeting. We will start collection 2019 at the next meeting and the dues will stay the same as this year.
- i. Treasurer, Janice Hale — Neither Janice or Bob were able to attend today so there will be no report this meeting.
5. Committee Reports:
 - a. Nominating Committee - Dan Sola. Dan Sola. Elections for 2019 were held and the following people were unanimously elected: President Barbara French-Lee
 - o President — Barbara French-Lee
 - o First VP – Abe Far
 - o VP Education – William "Bill" Graham
 - o VP Membership – Keith Carter
 - o VP Special Projects – Kyle Icke
 - o Secretary – Jack Graham
 - o Treasurer – Jaya Kaelberer
 - o They will be installed next month.
6. Reports from Appointed Positions:
 - a. SAFARI PARK – John Jackson thanked all the volunteers and everyone who came to the picnic at the Pavilion. We have mixed the soil and are starting the repotting which will be heavy for the next few months. We need all volunteers and new volunteers are welcome.
 - b. JFG – Neil reported all is good.
 - c. Raffle — Don't forget the raffle and take a look at all the great trees in it.
 - d. Hospitality — Sue Carter ask all who brought refreshments to sign the list. Next year Sue needs help with cleanup after the meeting. Anyone who can help, please see Sue. For the December meeting, the club provides the main dish so please bring side dishes for our holiday meeting.
 - e. Website — Eric needs new contact information for new officers.
7. Unfinished Business – none
8. New Business - none

9. Announcements

- a. Susan Hull has opened an art center in Claremont Square, LadyBug Art Presents, including five guilds with the SDBC being one of them. Five different mediums represented including bonsai. If you want to display for a few days or teach a class, please let Susan know. Susan@ladybugartstudio.com
- a. Mark Edgar will be undergoing surgery later this month. Please send him a card if you can.

Meeting adjourned at 10:58 am.

Program Introduction: Jason Chan

Upcoming Trip:

Winter Silhouettes Bonsai Show January 19, 2019

Abe Far, VP Special Projects



Membership Update

Keith Carter, SDBC VP of Membership

Welcome to our newest members, **Kayla Mize**, **Daysha Barahura** and **Louie Montecillo**.

With these additions, the club's roster is now at 365 current members.

Be sure to sign the attendance sheet at the door at each meeting so we can have an accurate count of member participation.

We will be taking your membership renewals for 2019 at the December meeting. The dues will remain at \$30 for an individual and \$35 for two members of a family. Any additional family members are \$5 each. You must have a current active membership to be eligible to participate in club activities such as the upcoming Winter Silhouettes and Bonsai-A-Thon trips.

Upcoming Programs

Darryl Elmer, SDBC 1st VP

January: In January, **Kathy Shaner** will be here for a very special presentation. **Kathy's** demonstrations are always fun and very educational.

February: In February, our presenter will be **Cheryl Manning**. **Ms. Manning** has been passionate about the art of bonsai for many years.

Let's celebrate the new year by taking a trip on Saturday January 19, 2019 to the Winter Silhouettes show. This is a unique bonsai show. Since the trees have no leaves to cover any unpleasant branches, the trees have to be perfect in structure and form to be ready for show, this will be a wonderful experience and fun trip, I encourage every body to sign up.

It will be an exciting experience for all bonsai lovers: we are invited to dinner and participate in their auction and raffle. SDBC members always take some bonsai-related items for the raffle and some kind of desert for the evening dinner.

The cost of the trip is \$40 for SDBC members. On the way up, we will visit Bonsai Jidai Collection, and David and **June Nguy's** Nursery. The bus departs Balboa Park at 11:00 am sharp and Carlsbad at 11:30 am. We will be back in Balboa Park at 11:00 pm.

To sign up, please see **Abe Far** at our regular club meeting or call **Abe Far** at 619-384-0004. You may also sign up on our website: www.sandiegobonsaiclub.com.

San Diego Bonsai Club, Inc.

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Next Mtg. Agenda:

December 2

| | |
|--|--------------|
| 8:30 - 10:15 am Beginner Class 3: Chinese Elms | Prado 104 |
| 9:00 - 10:25 am Library Open | |
| 9:00 - 10:20 am Bonsai Assistance: John Voss | Prado 101 |
| 10:30 - 10:50 am Business Meeting | |
| 10:50 - 11:00 am Installation of Officers | |
| 11:00 am - 12:00 pm Styling Competition | |
| 12:00 - 12:30 pm Raffle & Refreshment | |

SDBC Upcoming Events:

| | |
|--------------|--------------------------------------|
| Dec 2 (Sun) | Regular Meeting: Styling Competition |
| Dec 15 (Sat) | Safari Park Work Day |
| Jan 5 (Sat) | Safari Park Work Day |
| Jan 13 (Sun) | Regular Meeting: Kathy Shaner |
| Jan 19 (Sat) | Safari Park Work Day |
| Jan 19 (Sat) | Winter Silhouettes Bus Trip |
| Feb 2 (Sat) | Safari Park Work Day |
| Feb 10 (Sun) | Regular Meeting: Cheryl Manning |
| Feb 23 (Sat) | Bonsai-a-Thon Trip |
| Mar 2 (Sat) | Safari Park Work Day |

2019 Meeting & Show Dates

Meetings: • Jan 13 • Aug 11 Shows: • Apr. 25-28
• Feb 10 • Sep 8 • Sep 19-22
• Mar 10 • Oct TBD
• Apr 14 • Nov 10
• May TBD • Dec 15
• Jun 16
• Jul 7