



The Bonsai Wire

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

Volume 45, Issue 6

June 2019



Message from the President

Barbara French-Lee, SDBC President

Our meeting is on Father's Day this year, maybe a first for our club. We will have a special acknowledgement to the fathers in our club. We hope you can spend a few hours of your special day with us. We have a great presenter and good friend to the club, **David Nguy**, who will be teaching sessions to our club members both before and after his presentation. Many of our club members have visited **David** and **June's** nursery and studied with him.

Many thanks to all the club volunteers at the Safari Park who worked so hard to create a comfortable space despite the rainy day at our last meeting. It was a successful event both socially and financially.

We were given a challenge this year in regards to the

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Next Meeting: 6/16

David Nguy

Abe Far, First VP, SDBC

David is well known for his work with California junipers and black pines. His experience includes studying under **Harry Hirao**, **Ben Oki**, **Ernie Kuo**, as well as **Masahiko Kimura** in Japan. **David** is well known for his skills and advanced techniques found in his signature trees and has been referred to by the GSBF, Golden State Bonsai Federation, as "Mr.

California Juniper II", partly due to the lineage directly



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T H A N K Y O U



Thank you for all your kind donations to the raffles and refreshments for our recent meetings and events.

Upcoming Programs

Abe Far, SDBC 1st VP

- **June:** David Nguy
- **July 7:** Jonas Dupuich
- **August 11:** John Wong
- **September 8:** Peter Mascasieb
- **October 13:** Lake Poway
- **November 10:** Roy Nagatoshi
- **December 15:** Styling Competition

SDBC Website:

sandiegobonsaiclub.com

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SDBC Elected Officers & Appointed Positions:

President:

Barbara French-Lee - barbflee@hotmail.com

1st Vice President:

Abe Far - abe_far@yahoo.com

VP for Education:

Bill Graham - wfgraham3rd@gmail.com

VP for Special Projects:

Kyle Icke - Kyle.Icke@sdcounty.ca.gov

Treasurer:

Jaya Kaelberer - jaya.littletree@cox.net

VP for Membership:

Keith Carter - kcarter315@att.net

Secretary:

Jack Graham - Jgraham@drammechter.com

Past President:

Bob Hale - bobhale42@gmail.com

Webmaster:

Eric Jacobson - eric_ks@yahoo.com

Tool Sales Manager:

Chris & Melissa Strows - cstrows@gmail.com

Historian:

Sonya Holmquist - sholmquist3@cox.net

Benefit Drawing Manager:

Paul Lawrence and Aisha Colak -
jplawrence99@gmail.com

Sunshine Chair:

Susan Baker - baker@susanMbaker.com

Librarian:

Sonya Holmquist - sholmquist3@cox.net

Refreshment Coordinator:

Sue Carter - susangcarter2004@att.net

Publicity:

Connie Kraus, ckraushobbies@gmail.com

Audio Visual:

Paris Haber and David Meyer -
paris.haber@gmail.com

The Bonsai Wire Editor:

Katie Borton - katieborton@gmail.com

The Bonsai Wire Postal Distributor:

Shirley Kavanaugh, Jr

SDBC Instagram:

Christian Reha - christianreha@gmail.com

Japanese Friendship Garden

Bonsai Curator:

Neil Auwarter - neilauwarter@hotmail.com

Liaison:

Barbara French-Lee - barbflee@hotmail.com

Bonsai Pavilion, Safari Park

Curator:

John Jackson - bonsaijohn@cox.net

Assistant Curator:

Dennis Wagner - denisW@cox.net

Liaison:

'lyn Stevenson - inthegrove@cox.net

Our April Guest

Photos by Dan Sola

Thank you to **Bob Pressler** for the very educational demonstration and workshops in April.



Membership Update

Keith Carter, SDBC VP of Membership

The Spring Show saw SDBC add nine new members and gain six membership renewals. Coupled with other recent additions, the club now has a total of 306 current members.

We welcome our newest members: **Susan Fraijo, Michael Ly, Kai Phan, David English, Lisa Carman, Maureen Orey, Karen Trimble, Brenda Cunningham, Melissa Williams, Chelsea Martin, Thaddeus Henry, Mimi & Randy Santos, Doug Trujillo, Bryan Schroeder, Michael Bajema, Miriam Sieffert, Sharon Gibson, Chuck Fasilis, Howard Hughes, Larry Smith, Quan Le, Kathy Wagner, Alex Barclay, Chris Korn, Alycia Anzalone, Susan Perry, Roberto Herrera, Michelle Abbey, Allison Saiki and Thanh Nguyen.**

A total of 75 members attended the April meeting. Be sure to sign the attendance sheet at the door at each meeting so we can have an accurate count of member participation.

SDBC Education:

Bill Graham, SDBC VP of Education

Welcome to June!! Hopefully Summer is here!! The surprisingly wet Spring has continued longer than anyone would have thought possible. At least with all of this rain keeping our trees watering has been easy!

Beginning Classes:



PLEASE NOTE THE DATE!! IN MY LAST MESSAGE I PUT THE WRONG DATE, THIS IS THE CORRECT DATE!! The second beginning class continues. You will be wiring and finishing your styling this month. Your trees should have lots of new growth and be ready for you to do some serious styling. The free water is nice, but, you should still pay attention to your soil and make sure it does not dry out.



Participants in the beginner class in April getting situated with their new boxwoods.

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

June Workshop – Serissa japonica – Snowrose or Tree of a Thousand Stars:



Abe Far will lead us in working on some nice Serissa japonica, commonly known as the Tree of a Thousand Stars! These small trees have nice bark, bloom profusely with small, white rose like flowers. When it is in bloom, it is really

very impressive! The class is limited to 10 attendees. The cost is \$40.00.

There is still space available in this workshop! Sign up [on our website](#).

July Workshop – Large Junipers

We have some nice large junipers for July. **Neil Auwarter** will be leading a class of 6 working on trees that all have a solid 2" or more trunk. If you were at the December meeting, you saw some fine examples of these trees used in the annual Styling Competition. **Neil** and his partners took second place and created a really nice tree. This class is limited to 6 attendees and the cost will be \$100.00. There is still space available in this workshop!

August Workshop – Chaenomeles japonica:

Glenn Jensen will be leading a workshop with Chaenomele japonica, flowering Japanese quince. These trees make for interesting clump styles with beautiful flowers. We have both white and red flowering examples. They can flower multiple times during the year and make elegant bonsai. **Glenn** has experience with these and this should be an excellent class. This class is limited to 6 attendees. The sign-up sheet will be at the June meeting. The cost is \$45.00

Reminder

A reminder that all beginning classes, workshops and skills classes are taught from 8:30 am to 10:15 am (unless a time change is specified) 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.

San Diego Bonsai Club

Treasurer's Report

1/1/19 - 5/16/19

Jaya Kaelberer, Treasurer

The following is a condensed income statement showing our year-to-date revenue and expenses. A detailed version will be available at the next meeting.

BANK ACCOUNT BALANCE		
	SDBC Checking	\$57,931.11
	Japanese Friendship Garden	\$2,491.60
	Bonsai Pavilion Checking	\$11,202.44
TOTAL FUNDS:		\$71,625.15
REVENUE		
	Spring show donations	\$335.00
	Spring show raffle	\$675.44
	Spring Show auction	\$313.95
	Show Sales Income	\$14,875.06
	Spring show membership	\$297.38
	Amazon Smile Donation	\$62.52
	Donations	\$785.00
	Education	\$2,533.39
	Membership	\$3,241.40
	Guest Artist workshops	\$545.35
	Other YTD Raffle & Auction	\$1,921.20
	Special Projects	\$1,645.68
	Tool Table	\$1,555.12
TOTAL REVENUE:		\$28,786.49
SHOW REVENUE:		\$16,199.45

EXPENSES	
	Spring show banquet
	Spring show member sales
	Spring show expenses
	Bonsai Pavilion
	Bonsai Pavilion Capital Improvements
	Education
	Japanese Friendship Garden
	Membership
	Monthly Program - Speaker
	Monthly Program - F&B, utensils
	Newsletter
	SDBC Club Expenses
	SDBC Liability Insurance
	Bus Trips
	Sales Tax
	Tool Table
TOTAL EXPENSES:	
SHOW EXPENSES:	
NET INCOME (LOSS):	
NET SHOW INCOME (LOSS):	

Spring Show

Kyle Icke, VP for Special Projects

Howdy folks! Thank you so much for making the spring show a success. We got to meet lots of new friends and we gave new homes to lots of really cool trees. This was a big boost for our club. Thank you so much to the members who volunteered to plan and set up and run and break down the whole operation. It was beautiful to see. We are working out the details for the next bonsai bus trip to Little Tokyo in LA so stay tuned!

Other Bonsai Activities



**GOLDEN STATE
BONSAI FEDERATION**

October 24th - 27th - [GSBF Convention 42](#), Riverside.

California Shohin Society

January 31 - February 2, 2020 - [17th Annual California Shohin Seminar](#), Santa Nella.

SAN DIEGO BONSAI PAVILION

SAFARI PARK



The volunteers at the Bonsai Pavilion really enjoyed hosting the SDBC members who came to the 8th Anniversary Picnic Silent Auction meeting on May 19th. In spite of the inclement weather, the positive response from the attendees was truly appreciated. Lots of planning and preparation are always needed to arrange this annual celebration event and the response from the club members was gratifying. The rains were great for the garden, the ponds, and the bonsai even if they were inconvenient for lunching. Thanks to all who helped with the temporary tenting and for the donations to the auction. It was a friendly, fun day and the Pavilion now has added dollars for more continuing improvements. THANK YOU SDBC MEMBERS ALL!



Sylvia is manicuring the double trunked olive.

It is tremendously gratifying to also have the support and assistance from the Safari Park horticulture staff and the Park volunteer staff when we call on them... **Katie** and **James** in the Horticulture office arranged for chairs, tables, passes, new landscape additions, and pond adjustments. Park staff always help with volunteer registrations and delicious goodies for our break times too. We have a great team all around!

Our April and May volunteers included more new sign-ups for 2019... Thanks to all: **Neil Auwarter, Bill & Lynn Bradford, Julia Chow, Peter Choy, Sally & Steve Dischinger, Cathy & Mark Edgar, Bob Hale, John Jackson, Jaya Kaelberer, Jim & Susan Kirchmer, Bob & Jane Liggett, Carla Marasco, Charlie & Sylvia Mosse, Janet & Ron Palmer, Sally Prestele, Clare & Ron Roberts, Claudia Robinson, Dan Sola, 'lyn Stevenson, Yoichiro Suemori, Dennis Wagner, Dave Woodall, and Ken Zito.** The newcomers all moved into helpful activities immediately... Welcome and thank



Landscape Japanese black pines are looking very healthy and taking shape thanks to Dennis.

you especially **Bill, Lynn, Claudia, and Ken!** We have more SDBC members currently going through the Zoo-Park orientation and they will have their credentials, ID photo passes, shirts, and badges soon. We welcome all!

The families of deceased volunteers, **Marty and Ruth Mann**, were in San Diego at the end of May for a military service and

interment of their ashes at the cemetery and appreciated coming to the Pavilion and also viewing the donated Mann bonsai. All the Pavilion bonsai are donations by our members, friends, and estates of the San Diego Bonsai Club membership. Visitors to the Pavilion are often surprised and amazed with these treasured gifts that are being continuously cared for by the volunteers. We never tire and really enjoy telling about these gifts, the different styles, ages, and care needed. Many visitors are being educated about this ancient art and are becoming regular fans on our workdays so they can learn more.

It's been a memorable 8th year Anniversary celebration this May, 2019... We have come along nicely in a short time (for bonsai) and anticipate more improvements and enjoyments in coming years for all.



Lynn & Carla working on a larger elm.

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

Rain or Shine - The May meeting at S-Park



Upcoming Safari Park Volunteer Days:

- Jun 15
- Jul 6
- Jul 20
- Aug 3
- Aug 17
- Sep 7
- Sep 21



Neil Auwarter, JFG Curator

Thanks to April/May JFG volunteers **Barbara French-Lee**, **Fred Miahara**, **Charlie Mosse**, **Maryanne** and **Harlan Price**, **Yoishiro "Mori" Suemori**, and **Ignacio De La Torre**.

The trees in the collection are in good health and displaying their spring glory. Some small spider mite infestations are being treated by regular brisk spraying with plain old water, which appears quite effective. Both suiseki are in excellent health.

Many thanks to **Cathy** and **Mark Edgar** for their donations of a large bunjin-style procumbens nana juniper (**Cathy**) and a winged elm forest-on-slab (**Mark**). New display placards for these and several other recently acquired trees have been ordered.



*Juniper procumbens nana
donated by Cathy Edgar.*

A steel cable & lock system is now in place to secure ten trees in the

growing area, where we suffered a theft of a tree several months ago. The estimate for an 8' chain link fence was almost double our existing funds, so we have employed this inexpensive alternative. **Ignacio De La Torre** has designed an inexpensive stair system to safely connect the foot path to the growing area. **Barb** will ask the JFG if they are willing to help out with this; if not, we will seek SDBC Board approval to use funds from the club's JFG account.



Maryanne & Harlan Price at work on the John Jackson Trident maple.



*Koi
enjoying a
Saturday
morning at
the JFG.*

from Mr. Hirao.

He is based in the middle of the city in Chino in the hidden Bonsai Jidai nursery. Driving by, you may see our large Torii gate. But for a true immersive bonsai experience, you'll need to come see the inside for yourself. New and seasoned enthusiasts appreciate the vast variety of bonsai species and fully styled show trees on display.

For a few decades, **David** and his wife **June** made a name and their fortune in the import business of goods from the Far East. Wherever their travels take them, they visited the bonsai nurseries and brought home selected trees to spend more time working on them. Little did they know at the time that this enthusiastic hobby gradually turned out to be his lifelong passion. **June** took over most of the business operation to allow her husband to spend his time doing what he loves most. **David** continued to study extensively with **Harry Hirao**, **Ben Oki** and **Ernie Kuo**. At the 2006 GSBF Convention, **Mr. Masahiko Kimura** had seen **David's** work and with the help of sensei **Ernie Kou**, **David** secured his apprenticeship with Masahiko Kimura, the most revolutionary father of contemporary Japanese Bonsai, in Japan. At that time, **Mr. Kimura** was still very reserved about taking foreign students so he only accepted the most serious and promising ones. **June** was born in Viet Nam but spent her undergrad studies in Japan, so she can speak Japanese and is quite familiar with the culture. **June** went ahead to Japan to set up lodging accommodations for **David** there and supported him during all the years he focused on his apprenticeship with **Mr. Kimura**. **David** returned home from Japan to begin his lifelong pursuit of bonsai art as a professional. Together with his very supportive other half, he started Bonsai Jidai school in Chino, CA. Single handedly, she continues to run the family's import business, and yet found time to help him set up a bonsai nursery and a bonsai shop to complement his classes and lecture-demos.

David and **June** are coming to our club for our June 16th regular meeting.

We have two workshops with **David**, the morning from 8:30 to 10:30 am and the afternoon from 1:30 to 3:30 pm. Each accommodates 4 members and is a bring your own tree format. The cost is \$30 per member. It is a big opportunity to learn from a master. Please sign up at our club website.

Mr. Nguy in 2018

In 2018, Mr. Nguy provided an excellent wiring demonstration, individualized workshops and a demo of his signature sapling coiling technique for the club.



SDBC Mtg. Minutes

Jack Graham, SDBC Secretary

April Meeting

1. Call to Order/Determine Quorum:

- The regular meeting of the SDBC was called to order at 10:30AM in the Casa del Prado, Balboa Park by President Barbara French-Lee. A quorum was confirmed.

2. Approval of March 2019 Minutes:

- Minutes approved as printed in the Bonsai Wire.

3. Presidents Remarks:

- Barbara welcomed Charlie Mosse back with us at our club meeting! She gave credit to Cathy Edgar and Susan Ronan for doing such a great job on their educational classes. Also a big thanks went out to Bob Pressler for his attendance at today's meeting and workshops

4. Board Member Reports:

- a. 1ST VP Program, Abe Far – On May 19th there will be no meeting. We will be at the Safari Park. There will be food and trees for sale at this event. There will be plants for purchase. David Nguy will be the bonsai presenter for June 16th. Jonas Dupuich will present on July 7th. John Wong will present on August 11th. Please support these bonsai master presenters by attending either the morning or afternoon training sessions. Please sign up for the Saturday bonsai club dinner. So far only 25 people have signed up for this dinner party.
- b. VP Education, Bill Graham – Bill gave thanks to Susan Ronan for doing her first bonsai educational training class. He also praised Kathy Edgar for doing such a great job on her class today. There are no educational classes in May. We will be at the Safari park. June classes by Abe working with Serissa. July classes by Neil working with large junipers. August classes by Glenn Jensen working with flowering quince. Last year's class can bring their quince plants to this class for advice from Glenn. There will also be a high end training class with Tak Shimazu working with junipers. Price will be \$450-475 for a 6 hour off site training. Room for 6 people.
- c. VP Membership – Keith Carter – We continue

to add new members. 12 new members were announced today. We currently have 280 club members. Please let Keith know if you are not receiving the monthly newsletter.

- d. Treasurer, Jaya Kaelberer — We are doing well financially YTD. They just completed an audit for 2018. All looks good YTD.
- e. VP Special Events, Kyle Icke – So far everything seems ready for the spring plant sale. We do need to get people to sign up for the Saturday dinner so we know how much food to purchase.

6. Committee Reports:

- There were none.

7. Reports from Appointed Positions:

- At the Japanese friendship garden they just had the Cherry Blossum festival. Chrissy did a great job overseeing the bonsai information booth. They do have cherry trees for sale.
- See Lynn Stevenson to volunteer for helping at the Safari Park bonsai pavilion. There is a signup sheet for the May show so people can get free parking and park entrance. Please bring trees for the silent auction. The park did a great job of draining and cleaning the stream at the pavilion.

7. Unfinished Business

- There was none.

8. New Business

- Barbara stated that we do have an opportunity to participate again in 2019 in the 2019 San Diego County Fair. The concern is that all bonsai trees need to be inside. Barbara has let the fair administrators know that this is a big concern relating to security and tree care. There will be only 1 day for tree judging. July 3rd is bonsai day. There was also discussion of doing something within the club to celebrate Father's day. It was suggested a free workshop.

9. Announcements:

- John did a show and tell. He had two wisterias from a local Evergreen Nursery. He mentioned that they do have purple grafted wisterias for sale. He styled one of the plants. He stated to make sure you get multiple stemmed wisteria so that they can be styled. He wired them for only 3-4 weeks. Then they can be rewired in January next year.

Meeting adjourned at 11:00 am.

Program Introduction:

- Program Introduction by Abe presented Bob Pressler as the bonsai master doing today's presentation.

May Meeting

1. Call to Order/Determine Quorum:

- Barbara French-Lee called the meeting to order at 10:30am in the Bonsai Pavilion at the Safari Park. A quorum was confirmed.

2. Approval of April 2019 Minutes:

- Approval pending publication in the Bonsai Wire.

3. Presidents Remarks:

- Barbara welcomed everybody coming even with the rain. She also thanked all of the of the volunteers we had at the Plant Show. Barbara thanked the pavilion volunteers for a great job in getting the bonsai pavilion ready for today's exhibit. Barbara encouraged members to participate in the silent auction today.

4. Board Member Reports:

- 1ST VP Program, Abe Far – Abe gave a report about the monthly bonsai demonstrators. David and June Nguy are coming in June. Abe encouraged members to sign up for the morning or the afternoon workshops with these masters.
- VP Education, Bill Graham – Bill Graham talked about education classes. In June there is a workshop with Abe working on Serissa and there are 3 spots left. In July Neil is doing a workshop with big Junipers and in August Glenn is doing a workshop with Quince. Bill mentioned that he recently bought a lot of 1 gallon olive and crape myrtle from the old Kusumoto nursery to be used for the beginner classes.
- VP Membership – Keith Carter – Keith Carter gave a report about new members.
- Treasurer, Jaya Kaelberer — Jaya gave a treasury report and the total earnings from the Plant Show was \$4000.
- VP Special Events, Kyle Icke – Kyle thanked all volunteers for helping at the plant show. He also mentioned that the club is arranging a bus trip to Little Tokyo in August. On our way we will visit the company Green Products to be able to buy some bonsai pots. There will be a sign up sheet

at the June meeting.

6. Committee Reports:

- John Jackson thanked all of the volunteers at the Safari Park Bonsai Pavilion and for the support of the SDBC members.
- No report from the Japanese Friendship Garden.

7. Reports from Appointed Positions:

- None.

7. Unfinished Business

- There was none.

8. New Business

- None

9. Announcements:

- None

Meeting adjourned at 11:10 am.

Program Introduction:

- Barbara thanked everyone and announced that the silent auction will close at 12:30PM

President's Message, Continued from Page 1

Bonsai exhibit at the San Diego County Fair. Our booth and the bonsai competition booth would be inside. We have tried to meet the challenge by focusing on indoor Bonsai, a concept little used in San Diego. Hope you have a chance to visit the Fair and give us some feedback on the booth. Many thanks to **Van Moch Nguyen, Shirley Kavanaugh, Leonard Monta, Jaya and Ron Kaelberer, Dennis Wagner and Mark Edgar** who helped with set up and watering. Also thanks to **Neil Auwarter, Shirley Kavanaugh, Jaya Kaelberer and Van Moch Nguyen** who have loaned a few of their trees for the club booth. On July 3rd there will be a presentation about Bonsai by **Shirley Kavanaugh** in the speakers area of the Fair from 1-3pm. Hope you have a chance to visit on that day.

Abe Far has resigned from the board but will continue to teach bonsai at the club and his home. As First Vice President he arranged for outstanding presenters to our club this year and all the presenters are in place for the remainder of the year. We thank him for all his help on the board and with the club.

San Diego Bonsai Club, Inc.

PO Box 86037

San Diego, CA 92138-6037



ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Next Mtg. Agenda:

June 16

8:30 - 10:15 am Beginner Class: Boxwoods #2	Prado 104
9:00 - 10:25 am Library Open	
8:30 - 10:20 am David Nguy BYOT AM Workshop	Prado 101
8:30 - 10:20 am Snow Rose Workshop Workshop	
9:00 - 10:20 am Bonsai Assistance: John Voss	
10:30 - 11:00 am Business Meeting	
11:00 am - 12:45 pm David Nguy Presentation	
12:45 - 1:30 pm Raffle & Refreshment	
1:30 - 3:30 pm David Nguy BYOT PM Workshop	

SDBC Upcoming Events:

Jun 16 (Sun)	Regular Meeting: David Nguy
Jul 7 (Sun)	Regular Meeting: Jonas Dupuich
Aug 11 (Sun)	Regular Meeting: Tak Shimazu
Sep 8 (Sun)	Regular Meeting: Peter Macasieb
Sep 21-22 (Sat-Sun)	54th Annual Fall Show
Oct 13 (Sun)	Picnic Meeting at Lake Poway
Nov 10 (Sun)	Regular Meeting: Roy Nagatoshi
Dec 15 (Sun)	Styling Competition Meeting