



President's Message

Susan Ronan

Hello, members! Our first meeting of 2024 was well-attended, we hope you came away with some additional knowledge to add to your bag of bonsai tricks! The repotting event was quite successful, aided by Bob Hale's in-depth presentation on repotting, thank you Bob! You can review technique by viewing a video of Bob's presentation, available on our website. Thank you to all who assisted members with the process, your time is very much appreciated!

That was some rain we had, flooding streets, homes, and bonsai gardens. 3 ½ inches in my garden, while Charlie Mosse got 5 ½ inches. It's not a bad idea to raise one end of your pot to help it drain during these rainy days. I use some recycled wood blocks that do the job nicely.

It is a long-standing tradition of SDBC for members to bring dishes to share for brunch, so we'd like to invite you to bring some of your favorites to share with everyone! Nothing says love and helps to build community like the sharing of food, especially if you don't count the calories! Adrian and Tony Mangina, our refreshment coordinators, are making their job look easy.

Brian Schroeder, our AV man extraordinaire, needs an assistant while Wayne Lord is unavailable. We hope Wayne can return to us soon. Chat with Brian at the next meeting if you find that is something you can help us with.

The Club has a liability policy whose cost is based on our active membership. We therefore need to have an active membership count for this coverage by March 1st. Remember that you cannot enroll in classes, workshops, or group trips without an active membership. The deadline for renewal is March 31 in accordance with our By-Laws.

So, what have I been up to? Aside from getting up to speed in my new position? Repotting! If you have questions about what to do and when, refer to the link on our website to the Bonsai Task Schedule to know what to do and when. Always keep in mind that the health of your tree comes first!

Enjoy February's rain, our trees love it!



Mark Edgar's Elm forest put on a final burst of color before its winter nap. In the JFG collection.

Upcoming Meeting

February 18, 2024:

10:30 AM.
War Memorial Building, Balboa
Park
See page 2.

Classes: *see page 4.*

Feature Article:

"Moisture Retention in Basic
Soi; Mixes"
By Charlie Mosse, *see page 5.*

Enthusiasm is the Great Hill-Climber.

-Elbert Hubbard

Bonsai Task Calendar for San Diego County

www.sandiegobonsaiclub.com

Resources:

visit our website for information on
private instructors and other
resources to advance your bonsai
skills.



February meeting presentation: – by Matt Jillson

Selecting new Bonsai material from nursery stock with John Voss

Our February presentation focuses on one of the more important aspects to having early success in this hobby - how to select the right material while nursery shopping that is worth pouring your heart and soul into for years. We will be joined by long-time member, John Voss, as he explains the important characteristics you should be searching for as you inspect material for purchase, such as the Nebari and Tachiagari. John will also discuss the first steps to take regarding root work and branch thinning once you bring your future masterpiece home.

John holds degrees in Soil Science and Ornamental Horticulture from Cal Poly Pomona. He previously studied under John Naka and managed a professional nursery focusing on house plants. Below you will find a link to a Bonsai Mirai presentation on YouTube discussing the anatomy of a Bonsai tree. A great visual resource for budding tree smiths that tackles the various parts that make up the whole.

Early spring is a great time of year to get your hands dirty with new material. SDBC encourages all members to take this opportunity to visit local nurseries and start a new project. As we learned from Bob Hale last month, now is the time of year to do root work on conifers and budding deciduous species. Seize this chance to get a jump start on a new project correctly by getting root work done first while in season and set yourselves up for long term success. Someone needs to grow the next generation of great Bonsai, why can't it be you? .

Bonsai Mirai YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9vlqKhkFVTU>

San Diego Bonsai Club Meeting February 18, 2024

War Memorial building in Balboa Park

8:30 -10:15 AM: Beginning Class, Casa Del Prado (Room 104)

8:30-10:15 AM: Intermediate Class, Casa Del Prado (Plaza outside Room 104)

10:30-11:00 AM: Business, Meeting (War Memorial Building)

11:00-12:00 AM: John Voss "Selecting bonsai Material from Nursery Stock (War Memorial Building)

12:00-12:30 AM: Raffle and Refreshments

Note: Library Closed, see you in March



Bonsai-A-Thon & Bus Trip, Saturday (Bus) & Sunday, February 24-25

The Bonsai-A-Thon, the fundraiser for the [Golden State Bonsai Federation Collection at the Huntington](#) (GSBFC), is coming. The Bonsai-A-Thon is the largest bonsai event in southern California, held at the Huntington Botanical Gardens' Brody Botanical Center in San Marino.

In addition to the Huntington Bonsai exhibit, many activities are planned, including:

- benefit drawing
- live & silent auction.
- vendors selling top-quality tools, pots, and trees.
- Bonsai Master styling demonstrations with auctions of styled trees
- Backstage tour of the Bonsai Nursery

Advance registration is required for this event. More details are available on our [website](#).

Email your questions to [B-A-T 2024 questions - VP Special Projects](#), or contact VP Special Projects.

Bus Trip: A few spaces still available. The fee to ride the bus is only \$40. Sign up on our club [website](#) until Sunday, February 11, 2024. If you have already registered, you will receive emails with detailed information and your e-ticket(s) for the event approximately one week before the event.

Self-Drivers: If you have already signed up through our club, you will receive detailed information and your e-ticket(s) for the event approximately one week before the event. If you did not sign up at the meeting, please note that reservations and tickets are required for admission. Each member may reserve only one free ticket for one day, Saturday, February 24 **or** Sunday, February 25 on our [website](#). The registration deadline for our club members is Sunday, February 11, 2024.

2024 Spring Show, Saturday and Sunday, April 27-28

Please mark your calendars. Our Spring Show is coming up soon. Sign-up sheets for volunteers will be available at the February 18 club meeting at the War Memorial Building. Setup activities will begin on Thursday, April 25. If you have questions, are interested in displaying for the first time, or would like to help with planning, please email [VP Special Projects](#).



Welcome to February! We have finally received rain with more coming! Yay for free water! :) As always, with our recent somewhat variable weather and wind, pay attention to your watering. Repotting season has started. **PLEASE PAY ATTENTION TO THE FEBRUARY DATE! THE CLASSES WILL BE HELD ON MEETING DAY, FEBRUARY 18th, IN ROOM 104 FOR THE BEGINNERS CLASS AND THE PATIO IN FRONT OF 104 FOR THE PYRACANTHA WORKSHOP. THE MEETING WILL BE HELD AT THE WAR MEMORIAL BUILDING AFTER.**

Beginners Class – Cotoneaster lacteus – Bob Hale

January 14 – **February 18** - March 10

In the second session of the Beginners Class, you will learn more about the botany of your Cotoneaster, different bonsai styles and how to wire the trunk and branches on your tree. It will begin to look more and more like a bonsai. **SOLD OUT!**

Intermediate Workshop:

February 18– Pyracantha – Red Elf Firethorn –Shohin / Mame – Gary Jones

As Monty Python once said, “And now for something completely different!” In February, we have the start of some small shohin large / mame Pyracantha. They get small white flowers and nice orange berries. These make great little trees. You will get the chance to put them on the path to future bonsai. **SOLD OUT!**

March – Accent Plants and Kusamono – Cathy Edgar

Once again, we have a little different and exciting workshop scheduled for March. Cathy Edgar is going to lead us in the creation of accent plants and kusamono. Cathy has many years’ experience creating these small and delicate designs. All of her trees at our shows are accompanied by accent plants of her own design and creation. Cathy has gone so far as to have a complete display of just accent plants and kusamono that was truly a pleasure to see. She provides many examples for sale at our shows, and they are always a hit, selling out quickly. Cathy has been propagating plants and has pots just for this class. You will make a total of 3 different compositions. It will truly be a treat!! **SOLD OUT!**

April – Urban Yamadori Buxus sp. Common Boxwood – Carla Marasco

We have some nice Urban Yamadori common boxwoods. These trees have been out of the ground since 2018, are very well established and ready for styling. They have nice trunks and a lot of potential. They will go on sale at the February Meeting. The cost will be \$45.00.

May – No Class – Meeting at the Safari Park.

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. **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 unless otherwise specified...** We do not start a waiting list until after the sign-up sheet has been put out at the meeting and filled.

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 unless otherwise specified. 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.

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



At the last meeting Bob Hale and Gary Jones did an excellent presentation about repotting and the different soil components. There are many soil mixes that are used in the bonsai community for various species and climates. Regardless of the components, proper soil mixes are created to provide the proper environment for good root growth.

Soil mixes must:

- Provide good aeration to the roots and soil microbes.
- Provide adequate moisture and nutrient availability to the roots and soil microbes.

All of the combinations of soil mix components discussed by Bob and Gary support those vital functions. I did a very basic "experiment" on 3 commonly used soil mixes, pine bark, scoria only, pumice only and Drystall (pumice) only. I was looking only for water absorption characteristics because new soils are not as wettable at first, as one might think. There are many variables to work with when doing soil tests, so this was by no means scientific. Please note that how soils function is very complicated, so it is a bit difficult to cover this in a short article.

Since club members use a lot of small mix, I chose that size range of particles: 1/16" to 3/16". There are many more combinations to evaluate which will be done later. Note: Soil components will vary by manufacturer, different sources, different processing, and different end users. An example is Drystall, a pumice used for keeping horse stalls dry vs. horticultural pumice brands bought at a nursery, e.g. Uni-Gro brand. Drystall pumice is generally more uniform and flatter than horticultural type pumice products, which are more random in shape, size, and pore spaces. The uniform size of Drystall is not always desirable but it does work nicely when mixed with scoria and organics like bark or akadama. Drystall is used at the Pavilion in the Safari Park. The excellent health of the trees speaks for itself.

The mixes:

Mix 1: Club mix consists of 2-parts horticultural pumice, 2-parts scoria, and 1-part fine sized orchid pine bark.

Mix 2: Boon mix consists of 1-part horticultural pumice, 1-part scoria and 1-part akadama (the organic component since it contains 5-10% organic particles).

Mix 3: Aoki pre-mix from Japan consists of approximately 80% akadama, 18% pumice and 2% lava.

The single components:

Drystall only: small range, flat pieces about 1/16' thick by 1/8"-3/16"

Uni-Gro pumice sold at nurseries: 1/16"-3/16."

Pine bark: Fine sized orchid bark is best because it is cleaner, less waste and can be bought in small enough sizing for our purposes.

The mixes and single components were screened and an equal volume of each was placed into a 1" deep oval growing container. Each one was weighed dry and again after a thorough watering to rinse out the dust, as is always done after repotting. The containers were drained thoroughly and tapped a few times to remove any water stuck to the bottom of the container. Each container was weighed after draining, after 24 hours and after 48 hours.



Results:

Mixes: **After the initial watering**, the club mix retained the less amount of water, then the Boon mix and then the Aoki mix.

Single components: The bark retained the least amount of water, then scoria and then pumice. Drystall retained the most water.

Why the differences?

Regarding the mixes, the club mix seems to initially retain less water because bark is hydrophobic and absorbs less water than the mixes with akadama but will have better absorption with subsequent waterings. The club mix retained a little over 2 ounces of water whereas the Boon Mix and Aoki Mix retained just over 3 ounces of water. Is bark bad? NO! Just remember to initially water a bit more when using bark. Not all of the bark particles will absorb water and some particles will not fully absorb water. But the bark in the club mix will start absorbing. The Boon mix and the Aoki mix do not have bark. They use akadama which is a clay particle and will absorb water quickly.

Regarding the single components, horticultural pumice does not absorb that much water (less than bark and akadama). Therefore, pumice is good to create faster drying soils. Scoria will appear to absorb a bit more because it carries water in cavities of varying sizes that, upon examination, are readily seen. The water in the bigger cavities evaporates quickly because they are more exposed to air, or the water may not stay in some of the cavities and will drain out. Drystall particles are flatter than horticultural pumice which is fairly round. The Drystall appeared to absorb more water than the horticultural pumice because water was “trapped” between the flat particles so the water would not drain. Important note: The bark was initially watered for 10 seconds with my bonsai watering wand and allowed to drain. I inspected the bark and found that about 20% of the bark was not wet!! I watered again for 5 seconds with the wand and found all of the bark to be wet. The bark, pumice, Drystall and scoria were not directly compared to straight akadama because the Aoki mix is 80% akadama, close enough to pure akadama for this purpose.

Getting around the absorption problem with very dry soil mix particles is easy. First, when the particles are used in a mix, they react a bit differently than when used by themselves. An example would be the flat particles in Drystall being separated by the other components will hold less water. Secondly, the hydrophobic nature of bark can be overcome by pre-wetting the bark before you mix it with the other components. Some people will mix everything together, water thoroughly to pre-rinse the mix, let it dry for a few hours or overnight, then use it for potting. Then when the tree and soil are initially watered in after the repot, the bark will readily absorb more water and not need to be watered as much post repotting or watered again as soon. If the new soil mix is not pre-moistened, it simply takes more water, upon initial watering, to wet all of the particles.

Understanding more about how soil particles react in a mix helps one to create soil mixes to suit your tree species and microclimate. The club mix was the driest mix, the Boon mix will hold more moisture due to the reduced pumice and replacing the bark with akadama and the Aoki mix holds the most moisture due to the very high percentage (80%) of akadama.

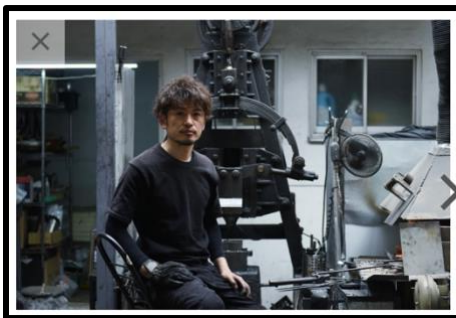


Thanks to January JFG volunteers, Charlie Mosse, John Holloway, and Zach Lickteig. Recent tasks at the garden included the emergency repotting of a Sago palm and giving our deciduous trees their winter pruning and a dormant spray with lime sulfur. **Lime sulfur tip:** Some of us are using the pet dip formulation of lime sulfur for deadwood preservation and dormant spray since the horticultural formulation is now unavailable in California. The pet dip formulation says 97%, while the horticultural formulation says 27%. But thanks to a tip from chemist Mark Edgar, confirmed by manufacturer information found online, it turns out **the concentration of lime sulfur in these two formulations is the same.** So, your application rate using pet dip lime sulfur should be the same as the rate with the horticultural formulation. Do not cut the pet dip formulation to ¼, or you will get a very weak solution.

The Sy Dayton California juniper is now potted in the square carved granite pot created by Taka Saida, mentioned in last month's column. (See photo.) The tree sits in a mesh liner sized to fit in the pot. So, if you wish to purchase to pot, priced at \$4,000, (that's US dollars, not yen), the tree can be easily slipped out. Contact the JFG's Emiko Scudder (registrar@niwa.org) for purchase details.



Sy Dayton California juniper in Taka Saida carved granite pot

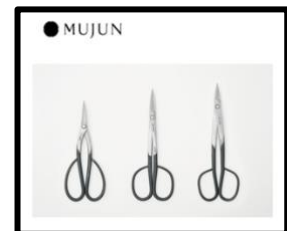


Mujun bonsai scissor craftsman
Koji Miyano

In January the garden hosted a demonstration by Mujun, a Japanese manufacturer of cutlery and bonsai scissors. (See photos.) The tools are exquisite works of art, crafted with high-grade blue carbon steel. At the insistence of the demonstrator, I used Mujun bonsai scissors to cut copper wire and then make flawless cuts in paper. These are indeed fine tools! (<https://www.mujun.co.jp/index.html>)



Cutlery and bonsai scissors by Mujun



Cherry Blossom Festival at the JFG is just around the corner—March 7-10. The festival will feature live performances, food and merchandise vendors, and more. For information: <https://www.niwa.org/cbw> And for those who wish to avoid crowds, the cherry blossoms are equally beautiful the weeks before and after the festival. ☺

Hope to see you among the cherry blossoms!

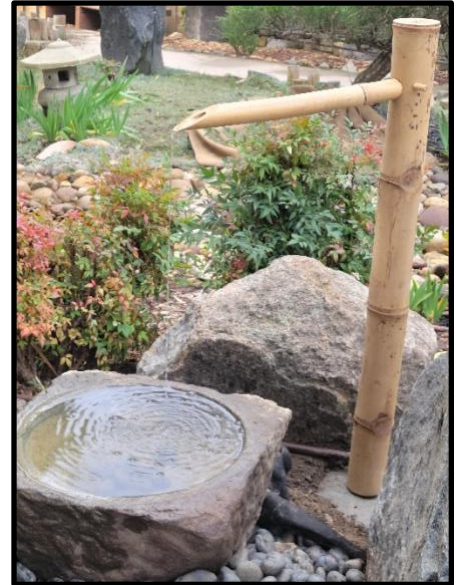


San Diego Bonsai Pavilion (Mark Edgar)

We are installing five new pedestals near the front of the Pavilion to display smaller bonsai. Sally Prestele donated several smaller bonsai which we will be able to display on the new pedestals. John and Dennis are pouring concrete to set the display poles in place. The pedestals are almost done so perhaps we can display some bonsai next Pavilion workday.

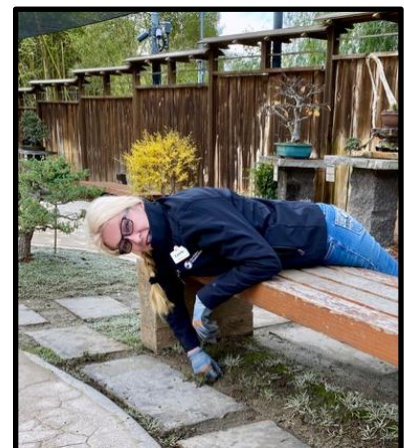
We are finishing installation of a Japanese drinking fountain in the garden. This version is for visual enjoyment rather than actual drinking. This fountain has a unique design

devised by Dennis. Instead of using a pump to recirculate the water, the water actual comes from the waterfall high up on the hill. Using gravity, the water is piped to the drinking fountain. A basin with a drain collects the water where it drains back to the stream thereby recycling the water without a pump. It seems to work well.



The Bonsai Police caught Cathy trimming a bonsai labeled “do not trim”. The pink gloves were a dead give-away. The penalty is loss of scissors for two weeks.

Camille invented a new way to weed without bending over. Everyone with bad knees should take note! I would probably fall asleep if I did that.



We are coming up to the repotting season. There are more than 30 trees of all types to repot. Several of the deciduous trees are starting to show leaves and must be repotted soon. Some junipers will be ready as well. Lots of work to do.

January Meeting notes: – by Keith Carter



January is probably the best month to repot junipers and several other varieties of bonsai, so the expert advice on repotting offered by longtime SDBC member Bob Hale – with the assistance of Gary Jones – at the Jan. 7 meeting was especially timely.

While schedules for repotting can vary from species to species, Bob said he typically repots his junipers every two years. And he does them all at the same time to keep his maintenance calendar simple. But he cautioned that one sure way to tell if a tree needs repotting is to look for extreme compaction of the soil. If you see water isn't being absorbed quickly, it's time to repot.

Before removing the tree from its existing pot, Bob said, first prepare the new pot by placing screens over the drainage holes and threading wires that will hold the root ball in place up through the screens. Performing this key step **BEFORE** removing the tree from its pot minimizes the amount of time the roots are exposed and can dry out.

After gently removing the tree from the old pot, start by brushing off the topsoil from the upper roots, then loosen the root ball with a tool by raking the roots laterally outward. There should be no roots crossing one another. Then trim the bottom and sides of the root ball to fit the new pot.

Bob recommends placing a layer of pumice on the bottom of the pot for better drainage, then adding a bonsai soil, such as “club mix,” which consists of two parts scoria, two parts pumice and one-part orchid bark. Make a mound of soil where you intend to place the tree (either slightly to the left or right, never in the middle), then press down the root ball firmly on that spot and twist together the wires extending from the bottom to hold it in place. Fill the pot with soil, then use chopsticks to gently pack the mix tightly around the root ball to fill in any air gaps that can dry out roots.

After repotting is completed, water the tree well, Bob and Gary advised, and keep it out of the full sun for a week or two. You should also wait at least a month before performing any significant trimming or design work. It's OK to add organic fertilizer right away after repotting, but don't treat with a chemical fertilizer for four weeks, they said.



For a comprehensive rundown of the appropriate times to perform maintenance on your trees, see the [Bonsai Task Schedule](#) on the club website.





Beginners class with their new Cotoneaster trees



Thank you, John Holloway, for donating 100 repotting sticks.



Members hard at work, January Repotting event.

Thank You : by Susan Ronan

Thanks for bringing a treat to share: John and Margaret Jackson, Jenny K. Chin, Steve and Sally Dischinger, Sylvia and Charlie Mosse, Dennis and Kathy Wagner, Don and Marylou Montross.

Thank you for Donating to the Raffle Table: John and Margaret Jackson, Jenny K. Chin, Richard Ramos, Paul Lawrence, Cindy Pecile, Neil Auwarter, Kazuko DeStefano, Susan Ronan, Chris Strows, Keith and Sue Carter, Janice Hale, Jim Dougherty, Sylvia and Charlie Moss, Morgan Fippinger.



Membership: Cindy Pecile, Vice President, Membership

Thank you to all members who have already renewed their membership for 2024.
The current 2024 Club Membership stands at 287.

Please welcome the following new club members who joined in December 2023 and January 2024.

Greg Anderson	Wayne Young	Richard Ramos
Glenn Hufford	Bethany Kies	Nathan Fish
Nicholas Nayfack	Kyle Voors	Julianne Taylor
Jason Siepelmeyer	Perrin Weston	Britny Montano
Madison Carroll	Stephen Baptista	Karen Strows
Tuire Visuri	Lennis Laviolette	Eddie Strows
John Luedke	Patricia Breidenthal	Rick Pecile
Todd Yates	Deborah Proctor	Tom Hermann
Zheng Zheng	Tony Pauker	Pam Hermann
Diane Luedke	Kristee Pauker	Trudy Pachon
Vickie Ahrberg	Richard Heinrich	
Patricia Morrison	Morgan Fippinger	

2024 Membership Renewals are due now! The deadline for 2024 Memberships is **March 31, 2024**.

You can renew your membership:

- In person at a club meeting
- On the San Diego Bonsai Club Website (<https://www.sandiegobonsaiclub.com/membership.html>)

Club dues will remain at \$30 for an individual or \$35 for two family members. Each additional family member is \$5.
New members who joined during September-December 2023 will carry their membership through 2024.

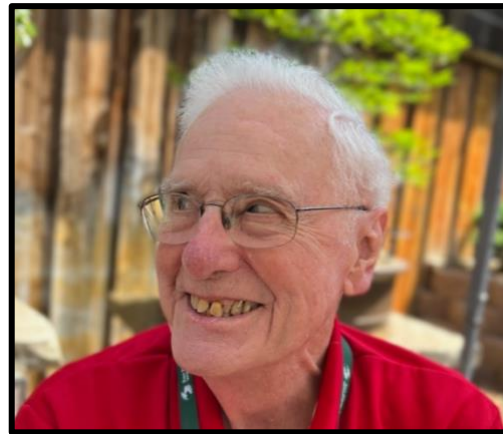
If any of your contact information has changed recently, please drop me an email (cindypecile@gmail.com), so I can update the membership roster.

In Remembrance

We said farewell to two members of our club since the last Bonsai Wire. Shirley Kavanaugh and Ron Palmer passed in January 2024. Both Contributed their time and knowledge to our club and supported our activities for many years. They will be missed.



Shirley Kavanaugh, presenting Bonsai demonstration at the 2023 fall show,
Photo by Ignacio De La Torre



Ron Palmer at Safari Park May 2023,
Photo by Chuck Farris



January 14, 2024, Meeting Minutes: Carla Marasco, Secretary

President – Susan Ronan – Intro

- The San Diego Bonsai Club is officially the largest club in the US.
- SDBC new hats have arrived and are on sale now.

Board reports & Additional Info

- 1st Vice President (Matt Jillson)
 - Feb Presentation - John Voss, to cover shopping for material, first steps in the art of bonsai, etc.
 - March Presentation - Julian Tsai to follow-up on deciduous trees next steps
- VP Special Projects (Phaedra Ehring)
 - Sat., Feb 24th - Bonsai-a-thon Bus Trip (No nursery stop since there are many vendors at event/ pick-up & return 7am-8pm/\$40 per person/Huntington Gardens access is free for SDBC members/Registration can be done at meeting or online
- Treasurer (Jaya Kaelberer)
 - Finances are in good condition. The club ended the year with more income than budgeted, less expenses than budgeted.
 - Received a \$500 donation from Qualcomm for the pavilion.
- VP Education (Bill Graham)
 - Classes & Workshops are sold 2mos in advance.
 - Jan/Feb/Mar – Beginner class Cotoneaster (Bob Hale) SOLD OUT
 - Feb – Pyracantha (Red Elf Firethorn) Shohin/Mame (Gary Jones) SOLD OUT
 - Mar – Accent Plants & Kusamono (Cathy Edgar) 10 spots \$50
 - Next beginner class Apr/Jun/Jul (Tiger Bark Ficus) on sale in Feb
 - Apr – TBD
 - May – No Classes / Safari Park Picnic
 - A one-day beginner class is being planned for the future. It will be one 4hr session for people who have not taken a beginner class.
- VP Membership (Cindy Pecile)
 - Currently 650 club members
 - 2024 Renewals are being taken now (new members as of Sept do not have to renew until next year)
- Safari Park (John Jackson)
 - The 2024 picnic may be held at the Hunte Pavilion on the park grounds in order to have space for all of our visitors. After the picnic, members can walk up to the pavilion to see the trees. Sign-ups coming soon and will include admission to the park.
 - The safari park is constantly being improved & maintained by volunteers. Being an active member of the club for a minimum of 1yr is required to be a volunteer.
 - New pedestals and a new water feature are being installed.
- Japanese Friendship Garden (Neil Auwarter)
 - Thanks to volunteers for maintaining collection.
 - A new California juniper from safari park pavilion was received for display at the garden and it is a beautiful addition.

Presentation - Bob Hale - Repotting

January 16, 2024. Board Minutes: Carla Marasco, Secretary

President Susan Ronan called the Zoom meeting to order at 6:30pm. In attendance: Susan Ronan (President), Matt Jillson (First VP), Bill Graham (VP for Education), Phaedra Ehring (VP for Special Projects), Jaya Kaelberer (Treasurer), Cindy Pecile (Membership), Carla Marasco (Secretary), Ignacio De La Torre (Past President)

General Topics

- A motion was made by Bill Graham to increase the amount needed for Mail Chimp to meet our current needs. All present were in favor. Motion has been approved.
- Sandi Marasco will be replaced by Brenda Myers at the tool table, and she will need a second person to help her.
- Jaya is setting a meeting with US Bank to correct signers on each account.
 - A motion was made to add Susan Ronan to the SDBC US Bank Accounts. All present were in favor. Motion has been approved.
 - A motion was made to add Susan Ronan & Carla Marasco and to Remove Jack Graham & Sue Carter from the Pavilion US Bank Account. All present were in favor. Motion has been approved.
- We received a Qualcomm donation of \$500.00. We will get detail on how they will be spending the money to include in the thank you letter to Qualcomm.
- The Beginner Class manual is still being worked on and should be done by our next meeting.
- The January repotting program was a success. The only suggestion was to add more tables for next year to create more space for people repotting.

Board reports

Jaya Kaelberer (Treasurer)

- We will need to add the new camera replacement cost into the budget (Approx. \$1,000.00)
- Financial review is to be complete by auditors at the February meeting.



February 2024

Matt Jillson (First VP)

- Feb – John Voss presentation will change from details on Crepe Myrtles to 1st steps of bonsai development and material acquisition.
- Mar – Julian Tsai – Requested \$500 for presentation + \$40 for fuel / Board has agreed to pay \$500 if Julian is willing to do a before and after session with our members, no additional money will be paid for fuel. Future presenters will still be paid under the standard fee schedule, anything over will have to be voted on by board.

Phaedra Ehring (Special Projects)

- 100 people have already signed up for the Bonsai-a-thon. Announcement will go out to members for continued sign-ups once we know how many spots are allowed from the Huntington.
- Looking into additional events/trips that will be beneficial for members, possibly in Mar or June.

Bill Graham (Education)

- Updated Mas Takanashi Grant is waiting for final reviews due by February 1st. Re-sent email for request for input.
- Doyle from Dai-Ichi has Bjorn Bjorholm & Yannik Kiggen coming out in October of 2024. We are looking to schedule a special workshop with the two artists on October 20th for our club (this will not be held during our normal meeting, but the week after our picnic) It will cost the club approx. \$4-5K. Will need to secure meeting rooms, purchase high end trees, and look into having vendor sale. Details to be worked out. Will plan for morning and evening workshops as well as a Demo Presentation. There will be a cost to attend this event and workshop participation will be extra. All board members agreed to proceed. Discussions of combining Picnic with event rather than having two events. Plan to be finalized by June.

Carla Marasco (Secretary)

- The new SI100 info form has been sent and recorded with the state.

Cindy Pecile (Membership)

- 253 Current Membership - renewals 138 new members for 2024 + 115 Renewals for 2024

End of Meeting 8:10pm

Treasurer's Report: Jaya Kaelberer, Treasurer

I will end the year with a quote from David Copperfield by Charles Dickens:

*Annual income twenty pounds, annual expenditure nineteen pound nineteen and six, result happiness.
Annual income twenty pounds, annual expenditure twenty-pound ought and six, result misery*

By that standard, we are ecstatically happy at year-end!

SAN DIEGO BONSAI CLUB - TREASURER'S REPORT				budget
Jaya Kaelberer as of 31 December 2023				
Accounts have been reconciled with Union Bank statements				
BANK ACCOUNT BALANCES (QuickBooks)				
SDBC Checking	\$75,636			
Japanese Friendship Garden	\$4,343			
Bonsai Pavilion Checking	\$19,665			
TOTAL FUNDS:	\$99,644			
SDBC Income	Actuals	Comments		budget
Total Donation Income	\$1,668	No change from previous month		\$ 3,850
Total Grant Qualcomm				\$ 2,500
Total Education Income	\$8,963	\$122 : pyracantha workshop		\$ 11,100
Total Fair Awards				\$ 150
Total Membership Income	\$10,948	\$921: club dues		\$ 8,000
Total Monthly Program	\$80	No change from previous month		\$ 480
Total Raffle & Auction	\$17,620	\$469: \$170: styling trees auction, \$299: raffle income		\$ 14,000
Total Show Income	\$12,052	No change from previous month		\$ 8,100
Total Special Projects Income	\$2,128	\$138: Winter silhouettes		\$ 4,400
Total Tool Sales	\$5,195	\$689: knob cutters, shears, tools		\$ 3,500
Total SDBC Income	\$58,655			\$56,080
SDBC Expenses				budget
Total Bonsai Pavilion	\$6,083	No change from previous month		\$ 9,000
Total Education	\$6,353	\$2,033: \$1,447: pots,books, \$300: 6 blk pines, \$286: lav		\$ 10,100
Total Japanese Friendship Garden	\$410	\$410: maintenance wood posts, decoys, pots		\$ 1,500
Total Library	\$145	No change from previous month		\$ 500
Mas Takanashi Grant				\$ 1,000
Total Membership	\$1,238	\$486: member badges		\$ 1,500
Total Monthly Program	\$7,748	\$764:\$307: food for mtg,\$458 styling prizes:		\$ 7,550
Total Newsletter	\$851	\$27: mailchimp		\$ 1,070
Total SDBC Club Expenses				
Total GSBF Liability Insurance	\$2,345	No change from previous month		\$ 3,500
Other	\$3,308	\$1,758: \$1,632: Weebly, \$100: bot grdn fees, \$26: keys		\$ 2,370
San Diego Fair		No change from previous month		\$ 300
Power of one scholarship		No change from previous month		\$ 300
Total SDBC Fall Show	\$841	No change from previous month		\$ 950
Total SDBC Spring Show	\$2,714	No change from previous month		\$ 2,450
Total Special Projects	\$8,865	No change from previous month		\$ 7,800
Total Taxes	\$4,256	\$30: Raffle registration		\$ 4,090
Tool Table Expenses	\$5,248	\$713: 27 hats various styles		\$ 2,100
Total SDBC Expense	\$50,404			\$56,080
Net SDBC Income (Loss)	\$8,251			\$0
Our income to date is greater than the budget by	\$2.575 k			
Our expenses are less than the budget by	\$5.676 k			
Our finances continue to look good.				



San Diego Bonsai Club Board

President:	Susan Ronan Sronanstudio@gmail.com
1st Vice President	Matt Jillson mattjillson@hotmail.com
Secretary:	Carla Marasco adorebycarla@yahoo.com
Treasurer:	Jaya Kaelberer jaya.littletree@cox.net

VP Special Projects:	Phaedra Ehring Phaedra-sdbonsai@outlook.com
VP Education:	Bill Graham wfgraham3rd@gmail.com
VP Membership:	Cindy Pecile cindypecile@gmail.com
Past President:	Ignacio De La Torre igdltx5@gmail.com

Appointed Positions

Refreshment Coordinator:	Adrian & Tony Mangina
Publicity:	Keith Carter
Sunshine Chair:	Susan Baker baker@susanMbaker.com
Librarian & Historian:	Sonya Holmquist sonyaanneh@gmail.com
Help Corner	John Voss
Tool Sales Manager:	Brenda Myers

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Japanese Friendship Garden

Bonsai Curator:	Neil Auwarter neilauwarter@hotmail.com
Liaison :	Barbara French-Lee barbflee@hotmail.com

Safari Park Bonsai Pavilion

Curator:	John Jackson bonsaijohn@cox.net
Assistant Curator:	Dennis Wagner denisW@cox.net
Liaison :	Mark Edgar mark@mtedgar.com

Please note: *The Bonsai Wire (TBW) is published 12 months of the year, by the San Diego Bonsai Club (SDBC). TBW and the SDBC logo are properties of SDBC. Articles are provided by SDBC members. Any articles submitted by non-SDBC members—if published—become property of SDBC. All submitted articles are subject to editing. No part of this publication may be reproduced without written permission from the SDBC.*



SDBC Upcoming Events: MEETING DATES AND TIMES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Month	Date(s)	Location	Rooms
February meeting	*18	War Memorial Building, Balboa Park	
March meeting	10	Casa del Prado	101 and 104
April meeting	14	Casa del Prado	101 and 104
May meeting	*19	Safari Park Bonsai Pavilion	
June meeting	9	Casa del Prado	101 and 104
July meeting	14	Casa del Prado	101 and 104
August meeting	11	Casa del Prado	101 and 104
September meeting	*15	Casa del Prado	101 and 104
October meeting	tbd	Lake Poway	
November meeting	10	Casa del Prado	101 and 104
December meeting	*15	Casa del Prado	101 and 104

2024 Spring Show	April 27 & 28	Casa del Prado	101
2024 Fall Show	Sept 28 & 29	Casa del Prado	101

*Note: The SDBC meetings are subject to availability of the rooms in Casa Del Prado. Our preferred date for the second Sunday of each month sometimes conflicts with other clubs show or special event, so we choose an alternative day.

Japanese Friendship Garden Bonsai workdays: Wednesdays, contact Neil Auwarter for volunteer information.

San Diego Safari Park Bonsai Pavilion Workdays: 1st and 3rd Saturdays of the month, contact Mark Edgar for volunteer information.



Return Service Requested

San Diego Bonsai Club
P.O. Box 86037
San Diego 92138



February
2024
The Bonsai Wire

