



## President's Message

Susan Ronan

Spring is in full swing along with more garden tasks this month.

Living near the coast and in a fungus-prone area, I spray my pines monthly with copper and Zerotel. It's easier to *prevent* fungal infestations than cure them. By the time brown needles appear, the tree is likely already dead. Quick action can sometimes control needle cast. I've lost many Japanese Black Pines due to watering issues or fungal infections, but I'm getting better. Last year, I ordered six 2-year-olds from Eric Schrader at Bonsaify, and they're doing well. Some are almost ready for sacrifice branch removal. I'm also learning from Fred Miyahara, our Japanese Black Pine expert with whom I've studied for nearly 10 years.

Repotting is behind me. I don't have a huge collection so probably only did 10 or so deciduous trees and a few junipers. I do have quite the pot collection, having a fondness for and collecting ceramics in general since I was young. For repotting bonsai, never the right one, so I spend a lot of time cruising eBay where I seem to find most of my pots. Some bargains are to be found in the pots from Japan, Wiegerts in Florida is another great source as are the Facebook bonsai auction sites. Sadly, we have few if any resources in San Diego.

I expect we'll be seeing more carving done on our exhibit trees after the wonderful presentation with Will Baddeley at our last meeting. I attended a full-day workshop with him, transforming a boxwood that had lost a trunk into something much more interesting. I was planning to put that tree on the sale table at the Spring Show but with a new front with carving, it's now a keeper and will remain in my collection.

Special thanks to Adrian and Tony Mangina for providing an extensive selection of goodies at every meeting. Adrian bakes regularly, and attendees benefit from this. Please acknowledge their contributions.

Our activities are volunteer-run, and you can join us too! Your help improves the club and enhances your Bonsai experience. We are looking for someone to edit the monthly Bonsai Wire. If you think that is something you could contribute to the club, please contact Susan Ronan at [sronanstudio@gmail.com](mailto:sronanstudio@gmail.com)



*Saikei designed  
by Jason Saito*

### *Upcoming meeting*

**April 13, 2025**

*Casa del Prado  
Balboa Park*

*Presentation:*

Part 2 of designing Elms  
for display w/Michael  
Bradley  
See page 2.

**May 4, 2025**

*Safari Park  
BYO picnic lunch.  
See page 4.*

### **Bonsai classes**

See page 5.

### **Feature Article**

'Pests on Bonsai and  
Other Information'

By Charlie Mosse  
See pages 8-10.

*"Progress is not  
possible without  
deviation"*

- Frank Zappa

### **Bonsai Task Calendar for San Diego County**

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

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

**April Presentation: Michael Roberts, Developing display worthy trees from Nursery stock, Part 2. by Matt Jillson, VP**



Michael Roberts will be rejoining the San Diego Bonsai Club for our April meeting to follow up on the nursery stock elms, *Ulmus Parvifolia*, we started in January. In the previous session we worked the roots, repotted and chopped the material to get the trees to bud back lower on their trunks and send new growth – and oh boy did they, see picture below.

In this session we will be doing branch selection and discuss the future for these trees so, come loaded with questions. The purpose of this demo series is to encourage our members to replicate these techniques at home; Mike is a well of knowledge, so take advantage of that while we have him in the house. I've included links below to similar 3 part demo series Mike did for the Baikoen Bonsai Club up in the Los Angeles area.

Well-known for developing legendary bonsai, Michael Roberts is the current Golden State Bonsai Federation Chair and has been involved in the hobby for 30+ years. Living in the Los Angeles area, Mike was able to get instruction early in his journey from George Yamaguchi along with Mas and Gary Ishsi. He later transitioned to studying with renowned artist, Kenji Miyata and has since displayed his trees in major shows such as the Pacific Bonsai Expo, Baikoen's Winter Silhouette, Artisan's Cup and the Huntington Annual show. Michael regularly teaches bonsai in the LA area for local clubs along with monthly sessions at Kimura Bonsai Nursery.



Part 1: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vNSichaMh38>

Part 2: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q-5P5ICWFW4>

Part 3: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VF45ZNru\\_YQ](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VF45ZNru_YQ)

**Special Raffle:**

We have a very old Chinese elm from the collection of Larry Ragel that we will be raffling off at our April meeting. This tree has great nice bark and a lot of aged character - whoever wins it will be getting incredible material that is ready to enter the refinement stage of its development. Raffle tickets are \$5.00 each.

**April Meeting schedule:**

- 8:30am - 10:15am Beginning Class (*Room 104*), Olives with Bob Hale  
Urban Yamadori Boxwood , Workshop w/John Voss (*Room 101*)
- 9:00am - 10:15am Bonsai Assistance (*Room 101*), Tool Sales (*Room101*), Library Open (*Room 104*),
- 10:30am - 11:00am Business Meeting
- 11:00am - 12:30pm Presentation by Artist Michael Roberts, Chinese Elm development
- 12:30pm Raffle & Potluck

**Friendship through Bonsai Celebration Bus Trip – Saturday, April 19, 2025**

Members of our club are invited to join Bonsai enthusiasts from around the globe at the Friendship through Bonsai Celebration, which will be hosted by David and June Nguy at the Shisei-En Garden in Chino on April 19. The event will include an open house of the garden, a demonstration by Master David Nguy, a lovely lunch, a raffle, as well as plant, pot, and equipment sales. Please see me at the April meeting if you have questions.

**2025 Spring Show**

The Spring Show and annual banquet are just around the corner on ***Saturday, April 26, from 10-5, and Sunday, April 27, from 10-4.***

**Banquet, Raffle & Auction:**

Our annual banquet takes place after the show at approximately **5:30 on Saturday, April 26** (as soon as the volunteers finish set-up). This is a **free** event for all members. The main dishes will be provided, and attendees are asked to bring a side dish, dessert, or beverages to share. Please sign up for the banquet as soon as possible so that we have an accurate count for catering. We would also greatly appreciate donations of items for our member Raffle and Auction which take place at the end of our annual banquet. Every item you donate makes more room for a *new* item you can bring home from the auction!

**Setup, Show & Demonstrations:**

This year we will do the show setup, exhibit and sale load-in, and volunteer pre-sale all on one day, ***Friday, April 25.***

Volunteers needed: In addition to the Friday setup, we need members to assist in the showroom during both show days, to present demonstrations, to provide refreshments for volunteers, to prepare the courtyard for the banquet on Saturday evening, to help with dismantling and clean-up of show materials at 4:00 on Sunday, and several other activities.

The sign-up sheets will be available at the April 13 meeting. Please check your availability and come to the April meeting ready to add your name to one, a few, or many of our fun volunteer and banquet opportunities. If you are new or a long-time member, there are many ways you can join the fun and help. If you have questions about any show volunteer position requirements, feel free to contact me or ask at the meeting. Please take a look at the sign-up sheets at the next meeting and see if there is something you might enjoy.

**Bonsai Displays & Sales:** Members wishing to display or sell items at the show should begin preparing now. You can learn more about space and requirements at the March and April meetings. Consignment forms and sales tags will be available at the April meeting and at the Show.

**Schedule:** Please see the website in April for Show schedule details.

**May 4th Meeting: Annual Picnic at Safari Park.** by Mark Edgar, Susan Ronan, and Matt Jillson

The **bring your own picnic and silent auction** will take place in the Hunte Pavilion which is near the Carousel.

The park opens at 9 am. You can get directions at the Safari Park website or google map 'Safari Park'.

**Parking** is also included. When you enter the Safari Park tell the gate attendant that you are with the bonsai Club picnic.

**Tickets** to the park will be available at a table near the entrance. Your name will be on a list at this table.

The silent auction will start about 10 am. Please bring any items you are donating with you when you enter Safari Park.

The bring your own lunch starts about 11a.m. The business meeting takes place while we picnic and will be followed by our Anniversary celebration cake. You may also choose to pick up your lunch at one of the parks food vendors.

The Bonsai Pavilion will be closed to the public until about 1 or 2 pm. This will be a good opportunity to see the bonsai without crowds. The Pavilion can be visited anytime during the picnic. Just go through the iron gate (even though it will say "closed").

Jonas Dupuich will be joining us in May as we visit the Bonsai Pavillion. A group tour will head up to the Bonsai Pavillion after lunch. Jonas will be discussing developmental steps for some of the material in the collection. The purpose of this is so members can see in person refined bonsai and understand where they are at in their development also what needs to be done to get them to be show level trees and how to display them. This will be a very informative session on Jonas' critique of the bonsai.

The last opportunity to sign up for the picnic will be at the April 13 Bonsai Club meeting at Balboa Park. If you signed up but cannot go, please let us know so we can remove your name.

You are welcome to explore the Safari Park and see the many animals and plants on display. Maybe the platypus will come out for a glimpse of you.

**Thank you:** Susan Ronan, President

Thank you for your refreshment donations: Jenny K Chin, Camille Newton, Adrian Mangina.

Thanks for your raffle donations: Scott Flack, Brian Jackson, Frank Guadiana, John Holloway, Emily Wu, Janice Hale, Julia Chow, Jenny K Chin, Keith and Sue Carter, Adrian and Tony Mangina, Camille Newton, Neil Auwarter, Gary Jones.

***NOTE: We will not publish a May Bonsai Wire due to the short turnaround time and the many events our contributors are involved in between the April meeting and the May meeting at Safari park.***



Welcome to April and more needed rain! I always love it when I do not have to water! Repotting season continues, though dodging the rain was a little tough. Thank you to all of the Beginner Class volunteers! Without you, this program would not be possible. Thank you, John Jackson, for a great class on Root over Rock Chrysanthemums. This was the first class I have taken in years, and it was excellent! We have the Spring Show coming up this month, a good chance to score some good material to practice your skills.

### **Spring Beginners Class: Olea Euroapaea – Olives**

**April 13 – June 01 – July 13**

In the first session of the Spring Beginners Class, you will learn about the horticulture of your tree, the basics of bonsai and how to start styling your tree. The instructor will go over the various tools used, explain soil components and what the styles of bonsai trees are. *SOLD OUT!*

### **Intermediate Workshop:**

**April – Urban Yamadori Buxus sp. Common Boxwood – John Voss**

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. As of the writing of this article, there is 1 spot left. If you are interested in the class, please check the website. The cost is \$45.00.

**May – No Class – Meeting at the Safari Park.**

**June – Ficus salicaria – Willow Leaf Ficus – John Jackson**

Many of you have asked me for another ficus workshop. I have obtained some very nice Ficus salicaria that were grown by Eric Jacobson. These trees are very nice and have a great start toward becoming bonsai. They already have size, movement, taper and nebari. John Jackson, our local ficus expert, has volunteered to lead this class. This will be an exciting workshop! This will go on sale at the April 13 meeting. The cost will be \$115.00.

**June 22/23 – Bring Your Own Tree - BYOT – Mike Lane**

We have a very exciting opportunity this month! Mike Lane, a Shohin and tropical bonsai artist from Florida will be here. You can view some of his work here: <https://mikelanesshohinstudio.wordpress.com/> and here <https://www.artinlee.org/team/michael-lane/> June is the perfect time to work on your olives, ficus, bougainvillea etc. This will go on sale at the April 13 meeting. The cost will be \$125.00

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. 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 [wfgraham3rd@gmail.com](mailto:wfgraham3rd@gmail.com).

**San Diego Bonsai Pavilion:** by Mark Edgar, Liaison



Janice Hale graciously agreed to take over maintaining the history of our 115 bonsai collection and documenting significant milestones for each tree. The information is contained in four large notebooks. All the bonsai are tagged with a number which allows volunteers to consult the history of the bonsai they are working. Pictures capture how the bonsai change over time. This is a complicated task but represents the heart of our responsibility for preserving the history of the bonsai. Brenda Crann is helping Janice with this task. Janice is hard at work while repotting is happening nearby (bob, Wendy, Brenda and a barely visible Josh)

We had a marathon repotting session at our Saturday Pavilion. There were about 4 teams that repotted 8 bonsai, some of which were complicated to repot. The volunteers are very good at working in teams to get these repots done. We repotted an Apricot donated by Ted Schwartz. The root ball was mostly poor draining soil which has to be removed a little at a time to preserve the bonsai. We removed as much as we could and put the tree in a deeper pot to provide a better environment for the roots. Doug, Jaya and Uday replace the moss on the newly repotted apricot



The boxwood saikei donated by Nancy Reisman needed to be cleaned of over-grown moss and the riverbed redefined. Wendy, Janet, and Bob did excellent work. The finished product is ready for display.



Continuing the saikei repot theme a procumbens nana saikei originally designed by the LA famous saikei master Frank Goya. Dennis, Jaya, Uday and Doug tied the Main rock and some of the trees together so that the integrity of the design could be maintained. The finished product looked fantastic.



Meanwhile, during the repotting mad house, Mori quietly removed bark from a jin on a shohin juniper with a x-acto knife and tweezers

## March Presentation Recap: "Carving" with Will Baddeley, by Keith Carter



*Will Baddeley generates lots of smoke as he begins his carving demonstration*

When it comes to bonsai demonstrations, where there's smoke, there's likely a carving demonstration going on. And that's just what SDBC members saw first-hand at their March meeting.

Guest presenter Will Baddeley, a UK native, showed how carving techniques can enhance the natural beauty and aged appearance of a tree through sculpting of deadwood features. The idea, he said, is to mimic the effects of nature, where wind, lightning and time leave their marks on trees. Over time, natural weathering magnifies the effect, blending the carving seamlessly with the tree's overall design.

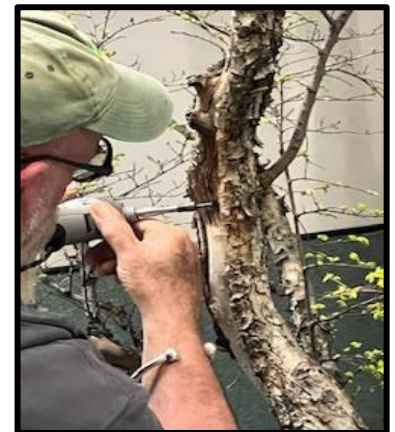
Working on a large cork bark elm, Will skillfully used a Dremel rotary tool for carving to demonstrate various techniques to produce an aged appearance on the tree. According to Will, small rotary tools are best used on deciduous trees and those with nonfibrous growths. For evergreens such as pines and junipers, he said, chisels or other hand tools may produce the best results when doing fine carving.

To begin work on the elm, which already had a lengthy shari down the trunk, he used different types of burs to create vertical lines that followed the grain of the tree. The different burr sizes provide variety in the lines, he said.

In spots where branches had been removed, Will drilled out natural-looking holes, taking care to make sure to angle his cuts so water will drain away from hollowed-out areas. "Rain washes soft areas of the tree away," he said. And "make sure drilled holes are shaped more as ovals rather than perfectly round," he said. "These kinds of holes are not round in nature," he said.

Other carving tips from Will:

- Keep carved lines small. That provides more detail and makes the tree look older.
- The biggest mistake in carving is to remove too much. Seasoned wood has cracks that will show you the grain to follow when carving.
- Once completed, go over the whole carved area with a rotary wire brush. New wood will be sharp and jagged when it is carved, so use a slower speed on your rotary device to soften the edges.



*A rotary power tool allows Will to create fine detail in this tree's shari*



*The finished carving project gives this tree an aged, weathered look*



This article is a bit long. However, it is spring, with summer just around the corner, and there will be no May newsletter. Please pardon my rambling. Eventually, an insect list, with general facts about the insects and suggestions for prevention and control, will be written for posting on the SDBC web site.

**What is a pest? By definition *"a pest can be a deadly disease, a harmful plant or animal"*. The term pest encompasses insects, arachnids (mites), fungi, bacteria, viruses, weeds, and several animals that can cause problems.**

In the bonsai world we deal with all of the above. Fortunately, these issues can be prevented. If prevention does not work completely, at least they will slow the spread and reduce the damage. The reality is that there are times when controls are needed but, it is cheaper, easier, and safer to prevent problems. If we know exactly what the insect or disease is, then we know the proper treatment.

Common problems like aphids and mildew are generally readily identifiable. Sometimes symptoms are common, but the insect or disease is not exactly known. So, we apply a broad-spectrum pesticide in hopes it will solve the problem. Better to know what you are dealing with, whenever possible.

Examples:

- Little bugs all over young leaves, buds or flower buds. Aphids! Hose them off or use insecticidal soap. Easy solution.
- Holes in the leaves without evidence: Is it a grasshopper, caterpillar, worm, slug or fungus? Treatments are different for the grasshopper, the same for the caterpillar and worm, different for the slug and very different for a fungus. Grasshopper, use an insecticide with residual on the leaf. Caterpillar and worm, use the same or a systemic or BT bacteria. Slug, use a soil surface insecticide and a fungicide for the fungus.
- Dull foliage: Spider mites, root rot, lack of fertilizer, incorrect fertilizer or pesticide application.
- Brown tips on junipers: The problem could be too much fertilizer, prolonged periods of underwatering (bad soil and not watering frequently enough), juniper blights (there are 2 we deal with), or it may be sun burn.

As above in bullets 2, 3, and 4, for each example there very similar symptoms but there could be several problems to consider either individually or there may be several problems occurring at the same time.

To solve the problem(s) and get the best and timeliest correction(s), post several photos on the SDBC FB page, email SDBC or bring your tree(s) to a club meeting for better identification and advice.

Insects we commonly see that are easy to control include aphids, white fly, giant white fly, mealy bugs, wooly aphids, adelgids, scale-hard or soft.

Some insects we commonly see that are difficult to control: My 'favorites' are juniper scale and spider mites. Juniper scale is difficult to see most of the time when it is starting to infest. It is a very tiny white speck and can get into the small crevices and between the leaves especially on juvenile foliage. It is difficult to control with contact sprays. Sometimes systemics are needed. Keep an eye out for this one. Spider mites start out very difficult to see unless you do the paper test knocking the leaves over a piece of white paper. If it moves or squishes when you drag your finger over the paper with pressure, then you most likely have mites. They spread steadily in spring and early summer. When it gets to about 85 degrees and on the dry side, they spread extremely fast. Insects can cause a lot of damage to foliage such that it may have to be re-grown. So do not let these two get out of control.

**Insects not commonly seen but are out there.** Bud mites, thrips, leaf miners, borers in trunks and branches and juniper twig girdlers (not new but seem to be making a bit of a comeback). Sometimes these insects require more specialized control, so it is best to ask.



## Disease

Fungi are the most common disease problem with bonsai. Black sooty mold is there when aphids, mealy bugs and white fly are actively secreting honeydew sugars. It does not attack the foliage but does hinder light getting to the leaf and it looks ugly. Wipe it off since it does not wash off.

Needle Cast (Dothistroma) on pines, two types of Juniper Tip Blight (Kabatina and Phomopsis) are two common diseases on bonsai. Almost all of the information on prevention and control of these fungi comes from universities in the northwest and east of the Rockies, but the info can still be used here in SoCal. Our temperatures are good for the spread of these fungi most of the year. January and February, when night temperatures are generally cool enough, infection is hindered. More detail will be in future articles. In the meantime, prevention is best. For needle cast, spray copper or daconil or copper/daconil or Zerotol in the spring just before the needles start to break through the sheath covering the immature needles. Spray again in 10 days. If you had needle cast in the past, spray again in about 2-3 weeks.

Susan Ronan mentioned in the President's Message about a newer product called Zerotol being used in the battle against the fungus causing Japanese Black Pine Needle Cast infections. Susan's climate, and two others in the club having similar 'fog belt' climate, all share the same headache with Needle Cast. It is very difficult to prevent and control under those circumstances. Zerotol is being used throughout California and other states. Susan found out about it and started using it. **The results have been excellent in pine tree needle cast prevention and control. Also, the pines are not showing long term ill effects, and beneficial organisms are fairing better.** So now we have good in-house results and expertise to refer to. It appears that Zerotol will definitely be added to the arsenal for needle cast fungus. It can be used with copper or rotated in with copper and daconil. The current results look like Zerotol could replace daconil for use on pines. Not having to deal with growing in a coastal fog belt, I still had the same but lesser problem with several of my pines. The problem was able to be solved with copper sprays being applied at the right times. Spraying began in late March/early April just before the new needles broke out of the sheath that protects the new candles. Spraying was done every 10-14 days thereafter until the needles began to harden-off. With the success Susan and others have had, we should all be strongly considering adding Zerotol to our regimens. Also, I have started to hear that some people are also using Zerotol for juniper blight fungus problems. This could be very good news someday.

For juniper tip blight, particularly shimpaku and Itoigawa, spray with copper or mancozeb or copper/mancozeb when night temperatures get into the low 50's or if new growth is seen. If it is going to rain, spray after it rains unless you see brown tips, then spray 2-3 days before it rains and then again about 7-10 days after it rains. Note that juniper trees growing along the coast may need spraying more often due to the foggy nights of long duration. Depending on the source of info, it takes only 6 hours of constant moisture or very high humidity to activate the spores.

Needle cast and juniper blights can be tricky, so it is best to seek advice. Prevention is easy so, do not let this deter you from growing junipers and pines.

**Bacterial infection** can get on several bonsai species. Fire blight can infect Evergreen Pear, Pears, Quince (but not often), Cotoneaster, Apples, Crabapples and Pyracantha. Rain during flowering causes activation and spread on plants. There is a streptomycin powder to spray requiring many applications. Prevention is very easy with potted plants. If your bonsai is in bloom, put it under cover of some type to prevent it from getting rained on having a prolonged dewy night to keep the flowers wet for too long. I will cover spraying and pruning of infected trees later. If you see "scorched" new growth, photograph tree and affected areas and post, or bring into a meeting for a consultation.

One **fungus** that we see mostly on deciduous fruit trees and flowering only deciduous trees is shot-hole fungus. The leaves look like they were hit by a shotgun blast. When symptoms are seen, then it is too late. The fungus can cause a tree not to flower or flower very poorly and can affect the health of the tree. The easy fix is dormant sprayings in the late fall and again in the late winter/early spring before buds swell.

**Viruses.** If you get one, good luck. There is no treatment. Like fire blight, you cut out the infected twigs branches at least 5-6 inches below the lowest infected tissue. Maybe that works. Ouch!

The threshold for taking some type of action is:

- Is economic damage being done. In our case, is the pest reducing the value of a tree by causing damage.
- Is the pest reducing the esthetics of the tree—making the tree look stressed or sickly to any degree. You want to show your tree, and it looks ‘off’, distracting from the display.
- The presence of insects at a point where a population explosion will occur with favorable weather. Spring would be for aphids and summer would be for most others, particularly mites during hot, dry weather.
- After a moderate to bad infestation, is an insect more likely to be present by over-wintering? This can apply to most insects in our climate these days.
- A disease likely to be present or was it present previously. Examples would be juniper tip blight or pine tree needle cast. Prevention is best. Once these diseases infect and spread, long term action is required.
- Got ants on your trees and/or in a pot or two? Insects are present on that tree. If there is a trail, they are on other trees. There could be only a few insects, but soon there could be many.
- Ants in the soil. Probably a nest. Good aeration but, if a good-sized nest is there, then the roots will get disturbed by the ants digging and removing soil causing damage to root tips in that then will likely die-off. The tree will grow other root tips, but it is best to control the ants.
- Animals/birds digging into the soil looking for food like worms and other insects.

Many of these pest issues can be prevented or reduced. A strong fan spray of the foliage once a week to two weeks will wash off many eggs, many of the live insects like aphids, scale crawlers, and some disease spores. This is best done in the morning. Animals digging in the soil can be stopped by wiring drainage screen over the soil surface. This also helps to prevent erosion and maybe you get the bonus of the growth of moss under the screen.

Controlling ants is easy but requires checking constantly. They are persistent and can re-infest. DE or Diatomaceous Earth powder is very good, ant sprays like Raid are very effective, boric acid powder works, pyrethrin used as a soil drench is very good and will also kill root aphids. Pyrethrin spray on the leaves works very well and can be sprayed at the same time to kill other insects.

Keep an eye out for more insects 1-3 weeks after spraying because eggs hatch every 7-21 days.

It is also important to remember that insects have protective wax cuticles and/or a fuzzy/waxy outer layer. That protection is designed to repel water and therefore sprays of insecticides. It is important that those repellent surfaces are wetted to get the chemical into an insect’s system. Be sure to thoroughly wet the leaves and stems with plenty of spray solution and force. When a fluffy white mealy bug, white fly or adelgid is properly wetted, the white fuzz will darken a bit like a t-shirt or bed sheet.

Last but very important, **spray technique matters**. Be sure to apply ample spray volume and with a strong force from all angles—360 degrees around, and to the top and undersides of the leaves. Most insects like tight spaces like on conifers and protection underneath the leaves, especially on broad-leafed species. **Thorough coverage is the key with any pesticide application and also for foliar application of Miracle Grow, fish or kelp, supplement applications of HB101 or SuperThrive.**

**Membership:** Cindy Pecile, Vice President, Membership

Please welcome the following new club members who joined in February and March 2025.

- |                  |                   |                   |
|------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Ralph Moreno     | Kim Moreno        | Jesse Wilson      |
| Anita Wilson     | Sherry Ito        | Bryan Ito         |
| Anthony Neustadt | Brooke Ito        | Zack Banuelos     |
| Edwin Ramos      | Pradeep Silva     | Sarita Gonsalves  |
| Scott Kunkel     | Aaron Lee         | Jonathan Devera   |
| Michael Lucio    | Stephanie Rose    | Brittni Chacon    |
| Samuel Bernard   | Eric Indseth      | David Dunlap      |
| Jonathan Talbot  | Shanshan Yin      | Robert Pinter     |
| Matt Nakpawan    | Christina Lundy   | Jack Lundy        |
| Ryan Hill        | Tyler Smith       | Mady North        |
| Rubi Morales     | Denisse Morales   | Alexandra Morales |
| Miguel Torres    | Abraham Hernandez | James Keefe       |
| Brian Chen       |                   |                   |

**MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS:** All current members should continue renewing their membership(s) for 2025 if they plan to continue with the club. The Club Bylaws state, **“Annual dues are due and payable January 1 of each year. Any member whose dues are unpaid by March 31 will be dropped from membership.”** If you plan on participating in club events – taking classes, traveling on bus trips, volunteering at the Safari Park or Japanese Friendship Garden, volunteering or selling items at the shows, you must be a current member of the club.

- You can renew your membership or join as a new member:
- In person at a club meeting. You can pay with cash, check, or credit card.
  - On the San Diego Bonsai Club Website using the payment portal.  
(<https://www.sandiegobonsaiclub.com/membership.html>)

Club dues will remain at \$30 for an individual and each additional family member is \$5. New members who joined between September 1, 2024, through December 31, 2024, do not have to renew their membership until the end of 2025 for the 2026 calendar year.

If any of your contact information has recently changed or you are unsure as to the status of your membership, please email me at [sandiegobonsaiclub@gmail.com](mailto:sandiegobonsaiclub@gmail.com).

Current club membership stands at **412** members.

**Outreach:** Ignacio De La Torre, Past President



**Bonsai Ambassador:**  
Kyle Icke, former board member, continues to represent our club and share bonsai in our community. He recently spent a few hours with 15 members of the Del Mar Garden Club who took and worked on their own plants. It was his second visit to the club. (Kyle is on the right in a green shirt and large hat.) Thank you, Kyle!

## Treasurer's Report: Tom Cylkowski, Treasurer

SAN DIEGO BONSAI CLUB - TREASURER'S REPORT					
T Cylkowski as of 28 February 2025					
Accounts have been reconciled with Union Bank statements					
All accounts are separate. Expenses/income cannot be moved between th					
BANK ACCOUNT BALANCES (Balance sheet)		Current			
Larry Ragle Scholarship Fund		\$44,585			
SDBC Checking		\$75,530.46			
Japanese Friendship Garden		\$3,933.43			
Bonsai Pavilion Checking		\$20,395.37			
SDBC Reserve Fund		\$0.00			
Ragle Reserve Fund		\$0.00			
<b>TOTAL FUNDS:</b>		<b>\$144,444.22</b>			
SDBC Income	YTD	Previous	Change	Description	Budget
SDBC Reserve Fund Income	\$0.00	\$0	\$0	SDBC Reserve Fund investment account results	\$ 750
Ragle Reserve Fund Income	\$0.00	\$0	\$0	Ragle Reserve Fund investment account results	\$ 750
Total Donation Income	\$0.00	\$0	\$0	Total Donations	\$ 2,100
Total Education Income	\$75.00	\$75	\$0	Total Education Income	\$ 15,150
Total Grant Qualcomm	\$250.00	\$0	\$250	Total Grants	\$ 1,500
Total Larry Ragle Scholarship Income	\$110	\$110	\$0	Income from services or assets	\$ 1,000
Total Membership Income	\$1,949.13	\$1,069	\$880	Total Memberships	\$ 11,000
Total Monthly Program.	\$805.70	\$437	\$368	Monthly program income	\$ 3,000
Total Raffle & Auction	\$265.00	\$130	\$135	Raffle table or meeting auction income	\$ 12,100
Total Show Income	\$0.00	\$0	\$0	Show income	\$ 12,000
Total Special Projects Income	\$704.83	\$665	\$40	Special projects income	\$ 2,920
Total Tool Sales	\$1,535.95	\$1,265	\$271	Total Tool Sales income	\$ 5,600
<b>Total SDBC income</b>	<b>\$5,695.61</b>	<b>\$3,751</b>			<b>\$67,870</b>
SDBC Expenses	YTD	Previous	Change	Description	Budget
Total Bonsai Pavilion	\$214	\$214	\$0	Safari Park Bonsai Pavilion Expenses	\$ 4,750
Total Education	\$347	\$272	\$75	Education program expenses	\$ 13,800
Total Japanese Friendship Garden	\$0	\$0	\$0	JFG operational expenses	\$ 350
Total Larry Ragle Scholarship Fund	\$0	\$0	\$0	Ragle Scholarship Fund expenses	\$ 1,000
Total Library	\$81	\$81	\$0	Library expenses	\$ 120
Mas Takanashi Grant	\$0	\$0	\$0	Grant award expenses	\$ 500
Total Membership	\$275	\$0	\$275	Membership badges or other expenses	\$ 3,050
Total Monthly Program	\$1,201	\$582	\$619	Cost to host monthly programs	\$ 11,000
Total Newsletter	\$209	\$0	\$209	Newsletter expenses	\$ 2,050
Total Bank Fees	\$0	\$0	\$0	Total Bank Fees	\$ -
Total SDBC Club Expenses	\$3,928	\$4,009	-\$81	Club operational expenses	\$ 8,730
Total SDBC Fall Show	\$0	\$0	\$0	Fall Show expenses	\$ 1,500
Total SDBC Spring Show	\$77	\$77	\$0	Spring Show expenses	\$ 3,565
Total Special Projects	\$2,162	\$2,355	-\$193	Special projects expenses	\$ 8,850
Total Taxes	\$1,072	\$1,072	\$0	Taxes	\$ 4,605
Total Tool Table Expenses	\$740	\$31	\$709	Tool Table expenses	\$ 4,000
<b>Total SDBC Expense</b>	<b>\$10,305</b>	<b>\$8,692</b>			<b>\$67,870</b>
Net SDBC Income (Loss)	(\$4,609)	-\$4,941			

President –Susan Ronan – Intro

- We expect that there may be some additional fees in the future for room rental and the like, so we are looking into investment accounts to possibly offset some of those costs for the club.

Board reports & Additional Info

- 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President (Matt Jillson)
  - Introduced our Presenter Will Baddeley (Deadwood Carving on Deciduous)
    - Next Month's presenter will be Michael Roberts continuing on his 3 part series on how to develop Chinese Elm from Nursery stock
- VP Special Projects (Phaedra Ehring)
  - April 19<sup>th</sup> - Friendship Through Bonsai event at David & June's includes a raffle, Ikebana activity, food, etc. If self-driving, you must still sign up with Phaedra so that you are counted.
  - Helpers are needed to do small tasks for the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the San Diego Bonsai Club
  - April 26-27<sup>th</sup> Spring Show - We are now taking sign-ups for the Spring Show and Banquet. There will be a display for California Natives, Kusamono, trees in development and Shohin. If interested in having a tree on display, please talk with Mark Edgar
- Treasurer (Tom Cylkowski)
  - The 2025 budget is in line and accounts look good.
  - There are two new accounts listed on the ledger which will be for SDBC Reserve Fund & Larry Ragle Reserve Fund. They are currently at \$0, but we will be adding money there for future investments
- VP Education (Bill Graham)
  - The upcoming education is as follows:
    - Beginner Classes have a new Power Point by Bob Hale
    - Beginner Class Series begins April/Jun/Jul (Bob Hale Olives) SOLD OUT
    - Apr – Yamadori Boxwood with John Voss (1 spot left)
    - May – No Classes (Safari Park Picnic)
    - Jun – Ficus Salicaria (Willow Leaf Ficus) with John Jackson
- VP Membership (Cindy Pecile)
  - Our 2025 membership renewals are due. Current membership is at 361.
  - Remember to sign in at the door
- Safari Park (John Jackson)
  - The Picnic and Auction will be held earlier due to the Park having the space booked out.
- Japanese Friendship Garden (Niel Auwarter)
  - The Cherry Blossom Festival starts at the JFG Thurs., 3/18/25 entry for \$18-\$25
  - Four new large trees were also donated to the garden. Come and see.

Presentation by Will Baddeley (Deadwood Carving on Deciduous)

**SDBC Board Meeting Minutes – March 11<sup>th</sup>, 2025 630pm start** 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), Tom Cylkowski (Treasurer), Cindy Pecile (Membership), ~~Carla Marasco~~ (Secretary), Ignacio De La Torre (Past President)

General Topics

- N/A

Board reports

Tom Cylkowski (Treasurer)

- A motion was made and unanimously approved with the board to open Charles Schwab accounts for both the Larry Ragel account and the SDBC main account.
  - Starting with smaller/minimal amounts to start (actual amounts to be determined at the next board meeting)
  - Investments to be reviewed monthly and options for further investment or changes to be made as needed

Matt Jillson (First VP)

- Apr – Michael Roberts, Developing Show Worthy Trees (Part 2)
- May – Annual Bonsai Safari Park Pavilion Picnic/Jonas to do a presentation on displays
- Jun – Cesar Ordonez, Olive Yamodori development
- Jul – California Bonsai Society Traveling Artist
- Aug – Michael Roberts, Developing Show Worthy Trees (Part 3)
- Planning presenters for next year (clump-style, pines, etc)

Ignacio De La Torre

- N/A

Bill Graham (Education)

- May 3<sup>rd</sup> Jonas workshops
- June 22-23 Mike Lane workshops (tropicals)
- Oct 19-20 Hiroyoshi Yamaji workshops (Bonsai Blast Demo)
- Takanashi Grant program is pending completion of updated structure. Further discussions will be had in the coming months.

Carla Marasco (Secretary)

- N/A

Cindy Pecile (Membership)

- 405 Current Members
- 131 members signed in for the March meeting

Phaedra

- Working with Keith Carter about event posting for future events including the SDBC Spring Show
- Friendship through Bonsai Bus trip to David & Junes on April 18<sup>th</sup>
- 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary will be celebrated with cake at the Garden during the Safari Park Picnic after the Auction May 4th
- Adrian will be supporting Spring show during Phaedra's absence Saturday & Sunday

End of Meeting 8:30pm

**SDBC Upcoming Meetings and Activities: DATES AND TIMES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE**

Month	Date(s)	Location	Rooms
April meeting	April 13	Casa del Prado	101 and 104
May meeting	May 4	Safari Park	picnic
June meeting	June 1	Casa del Prado	101 and 104
July meeting	July 13	Casa del Prado	101 and 104
August meeting	August 10	Casa del Prado	101 and 104
September meeting	Sept.14	Casa del Prado	101 and 104
October meeting	Oct. 19	TBD	TBD
November meeting	Nov. 9	Casa del Prado	101 and 104
December meeting	Dec. 14	Casa del Prado	101 and 104

\*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.

Spring show: set-up April 25, show April 26-27.

Fall show: set-up September 26, show September 27-28

Bus trips:

Friendship through Bonsai -Saturday, April 19, 2025

**Japanese Friendship Garden bonsai workdays:** Wednesdays; contact Neil Auwarter for volunteer information.

**San Diego Zoo Safari Park Bonsai Pavilion workdays:** First and third Saturdays of each month; contact Mark Edgar for volunteer information.

Statewide events. See the Golden State Bonsai Federation <http://www.gsbfbonsai.org/>

**San Diego Bonsai Club Board**

President:	<b>Susan Ronan</b>
1st Vice President	<b>Matt Jillson</b>
Secretary:	<b>Carla Marasco</b>
Treasurer:	<b>Tom Cylkowski</b>

VP Special Projects:	<b>Phaedra Ehring</b>
VP Education:	<b>Bill Graham</b>
VP Membership:	<b>Cindy Pecile</b>
Past President:	<b>Ignacio De La Torre</b>

**Appointed Positions**

Refreshment Coordinator:	<b>Adrian &amp; Tony Mangina</b>
Publicity:	<b>Keith Carter</b>
Sunshine Chair:	<b>Susan Baker</b>
Librarian & Historian:	<b>Sonya Holmquist</b>
Help Corner	<b>John Voss</b>
Tool Sales Manager:	<b>Brenda Myers Jake Shaver</b>
You Tube: Photographer:	<b>Carla Marasco</b>
Audio Visual:	<b>Michael Bird</b>
Webmaster:	<b>Janice Hale</b>
Coordinator of Education Curriculum:	<b>Bob Hale</b>
The Bonsai Wire Editors:	<b>Sally Dischinger Steve Dischinger</b>

**Japanese Friendship Garden**

Bonsai Curator:	<b>Neil Auwarter</b>
Liaison :	<b>Barbara French-Lee</b>

**Japanese Friendship Garden bonsai workdays:** Wednesdays; contact Neil Auwarter for volunteer information

**Safari Park Bonsai Pavilion**

Curator:	<b>John Jackson</b>
Assistant Curator:	<b>Dennis Wagner</b>
Liaison :	<b>Mark Edgar</b>

**San Diego Zoo Safari Park Bonsai Pavilion workdays:** 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturdays of the month; contact Mark Edgar for volunteer information

See the [club website](#) for contact information.

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**Return Service Requested**

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*April  
2025  
The Bonsai Wire*