

# The Bonsai Wire

San Diego Bonsai Club



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Susan Ronan | President

I sit down to write this, my last article for *The Bonsai Wire*, with a full heart. It has been my honor to serve as your President. These past two years have been fulfilling, and it has been a pleasure to see how we have expanded the ways we serve our members. Matt Jillson has increased the number of study groups by organizing a cork bark oak and elm series with the famed Michael Roberts. Our own legendary Fred Miyahara has done the same with Japanese Black Pines, of which he is a noted authority. Additionally, the much-respected Gary Jones has initiated an intermediate juniper study group that will continue into next year and hopefully beyond.

As I have said in previous articles, I have been fortunate to have a wonderful board, each member doing their job with a smile and helping everything run smoothly. Ignacio De La Torre, your previous president, made the transition flawless. Phaedra Ehring made every event appear effortless, although she might not exactly agree with that. Matt Jillson is very creative in his programming. He has brought together some of the most noted names in bonsai and has planned for returning artists to explain the next step in development. Bill Graham oversaw all aspects of education and workshop organization. Tom Cylkowski, our Treasurer, stepped easily into his role of keeping us solvent. Carla Marasco, our secretary, always made the minutes accurate and added a flourish. Finally, Cindy Pecile, our VP of Membership, did a great job managing the endless membership spreadsheets. In addition, thank you to the countless unnamed volunteers in



## CONTENTS

Choosing Bonsai Material and Finding the Right Soil Components	4
Think Big to Develop Great Shohin	7
Final Thoughts	8
Education	9
Safari Park Bonsai Pavillon	11
Tis the Season for Boxwood Cones and Christmas Clones	13
Membership	14
Treasurer's Report	19
Upcoming Meetings and Activities	20



assigned positions who are at every meeting ensuring that things move along smoothly. Thanks to all of you who have served our members and, more importantly, to those who will do so in the future. You are the folks who make this club so awesome.

While the club has been moving forward and increasing in membership, we are now facing a considerable challenge from the City of San Diego, which will begin charging for parking within the park in January 2026. Your board is looking at other meeting site options. If you have a suggestion for a meeting location, please speak with Matt Jillson.

There is some good news on the horizon. Proposition 218 allows voters to place an initiative on the 2026 ballot to repeal the parking and trash collection fees with just 20,000 signatures. If you reside within the City of San Diego, go to [Repealthe fees.com](http://Repealthe fees.com) to add your name to the list. Let us get it on the ballot.

Do not forget to bring your favorite side dishes for our holiday luncheon. The club supplies ham and turkey, and you bring the sides. Tony could use some help with organizing and serving, because Adrian will be out of town caring for her newborn grandchild, so please offer your help.

John Holloway, I pass you the baton.

Signing off,

*Susan*



*“Those who dwell among the beauty and mysteries of the earth are never alone or weary of life.”*

*- Rachel Carson*

## DECEMBER PRESENTATION

# Building Kabudachi Clumps

with Andrew Robson | By Matt Jillson, 1st Vice President

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December is an exciting month for the San Diego Bonsai Club. We are bringing award-winning artist Andrew Robson into town for our year-end holiday extravaganza. Best known for his work in deciduous bonsai, Andrew will demonstrate how to build Trident Maple kabudachi clumps (*Acer buergerianum*) with the club.

Similar to last year's holiday program, the club will provide an opportunity for nine members to build clumps with Andrew before the main presentation, from 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. Depending on interest, we may need to draw names to determine who can participate. Please arrive before 9:00 a.m. and bring your tool kit, including wire, in case you need it. The club will provide the tree material, soil, container, and instruction. There is no fee for this workshop. Merry Christmas from the club.



In addition to our Trident Maple Madness event, the club will host another holiday-themed bonsai tree contest. Please bring your seasonally themed bonsai to display at the next meeting. Members will vote for their favorite tree, and prizes will be awarded for first, second and third place. Last year, Camille Newton ran away with first place with her massive collected California Juniper. She will likely play for keeps again this year, so bring your best holiday spirit.

Andrew Robson is an award-winning deciduous artist in the American bonsai community. He completed a three-year apprenticeship with Michael Hagedorn and also studied shohin bonsai display with Daisaku Nomoto after graduating from Yale University. He is now the President of the Bonsai Society of Portland. He regularly exhibits work at the Portland Japanese Garden and lectures at the garden's Japanese Arts Learning Center. Andrew is a host of the [Bonsai Wire Podcast](#) and resides at his deciduous garden, [RAKUYO-en](#), with his golden retriever, Bailey, where he teaches and shares the art of deciduous bonsai.





FEATURE ARTICLE

# Choosing Bonsai Material and Finding the Right Soil Components

By Charlie Mosse

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Selecting a plant for bonsai takes practice and a little study. Jonas Dupuich of [Bonsai Tonight](#) has a very helpful five-part blog series titled “Identifying Suitable Material for Bonsai.” Each post walks you through what to look for when choosing a tree. I recommend reading all five and taking a few notes before you start hunting for plants. It really does make the process easier, especially for beginners.



## BONSAI TONIGHT

IDENTIFYING SUITABLE  
MATERIAL FOR BONSAI

If you want a good video on growing junipers, look up the GSBF-sponsored presentation by Jason Chan of [Eastern Leaf Bonsai](#). Jason uses a Dwarf Japanese Garden Juniper, the same variety in [Jonas Dupuich’s blog posts](#). To find it, search “[Jason Chan GSBF juniper](#)” on YouTube and it should come up quickly.

## Repotting Season and Soil Pre-Mixes

**GOLDEN STATE  
BONSAI FEDERATION**  
PRESENTS JASON CHAN DISCUSSING  
GROWING JUNIPERS FOR BONSAI



Repotting season is happening now and will be in full swing in January and February, and maybe into March. If you prefer pre-mixed soil, you can find good options at [Bonsai Tonight](#), [Eastern Leaf](#), [Bonsai Unlimited](#), [Stone Lantern](#) and [Bonsai Outlet](#). Many of these places also carry individual soil components if you want to mix your own.

## Soil Components and Where to Find Them

If you want to make your own soil, here are the most important components and where you can usually find them.

**SCORIA** can be a bit difficult to find in bulk or in economically sized bags. Bulk quantities are available at [Greatsoil](#) in San Marcos. Scoria is also sold at Bonsai Unlimited in Chino in bags of about thirty pounds. Around potting times, such as December through March and again in June and July, the club offers scoria in one-gallon Ziplock bags at club meetings on the tool table. It is a very good deal, since it is purchased in bulk and then portioned into one-gallon bags.

**PUMICE** is easier to find in bags, but still difficult to get in bulk. The UniGrow brand is the best available for the particle size we use, and it produces less waste in the form of dust, fines and tiny particles. [Walter Andersen Nursery](#) and [Armstrong Garden Centers](#) carry it, but call ahead to make sure it is in stock. One cubic foot is the largest bag size available. Another pumice product is Dry Stall, which is sold at feed stores in forty-pound bags. Dry Stall contains more dust and fines than UniGrow, although UniGrow pumice is also harder. Because Dry Stall can have significant waste, look the bag over carefully before you buy it.

Tip: It is helpful to wash pumice or scoria before mixing, although it is not required. All plants are thoroughly watered after repotting to settle the soil and rinse out most of the remaining dust and fines.

**JAPANESE KIRYU AND HYUGA** are excellent forms of pumice. They are available mostly through the businesses listed above. They cost a bit more, but some people prefer them because they are considered higher quality and have a more natural color. Kiryu and Hyuga are more earth toned than pumice mined in the United States.

**BARK** is not as readily available as it used to be in the particle sizes we need. Fine bark around one quarter inch is still available and works well for larger trees, but it is not useful for material under about twelve inches tall. There is another grade called Fine Grade that is better suited for smaller trees. Screening this grade can produce pieces small enough for shohin. UniGrow offers good, clean bark in the sizes we use. Orchiata also makes a fine grade that works well.

**AKADAMA** is available from the companies mentioned above and from Fred Miyahara. There are also a few small, word-of-mouth sources that carry it when they can get it.

**GRANITE** is useful in soils that need to drain more quickly, and it contributes small amounts of minerals. You can sometimes find it by screening the right grade of decomposed granite from a landscape materials yard, or by screening river sand if you do not mind a bit of walking. I have collected my granite from the mountains in San Diego County, and more often from the National Forest in the Sierras. I do not use a large amount of it, especially in medium or large containers, because it adds a lot of weight. It works well in smaller pots, particularly for pines and to a lesser extent for juniper.

The **SDBC CLUB MIX** is 4 parts pumice, 4 parts scoria and 2 parts organic material. In this case, organic means bark, which is what we use at the Safari Park. Akadama is also considered a suitable soil component, even though it contains very little actual organic matter. Another commonly used soil mix is the Boon mix, which is made of equal parts pumice, scoria and akadama.

Any soil mix can be adjusted by changing the components to hold more or less water. Soil will hold less water if you increase the percentage of pumice and decrease the amount of scoria or bark. You can also increase or decrease particle size to control water retention. Mixes with larger particles hold less water, but when watered properly they can greatly increase root growth.

*Tip: If you live in a windy or warm area, a top dressing of coarse sphagnum can help. Quality sphagnum can be purchased at Andersen's, Armstrong's and other good nurseries. Look for sphagnum sold in long strands.*

These are the main soil components most often used in bonsai soil mixes. Start buying what you need now.

**DRAINAGE SCREEN** is available at the tool table, online or locally at [Hobby Lobby](#). At Hobby Lobby it is sold as 7 Mesh Colored Plastic Canvas Sheet, sized 10.5 by 13.5 inches.

People are always looking for an easy-to-find bonsai soil, so several companies make their own mixes. Most of these mixes are not very good for bonsai containers, although they are fine for growing young plants. EB Stone has a bonsai soil that is now in its third iteration. I found it at Andersen's Nursery and at [San Diego Garden Supply](#), a new business in El Cajon. I bought a bag to check it out. It contains some scoria and pumice along with good-quality organic material, but the mix behaves more like potting soil and may not drain well enough, especially in shallow bonsai pots.

If you sift the soil through a small-mesh screen, you will lose about half the mix because it is too fine. If you use a window-screen-sized sifter, you will lose about a quarter of the mix. The fines from either screen can still be used for other purposes. After sifting, add the ratios of pumice, scoria and bark you want to create a proper bonsai mix.

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As always, help can be obtained by posting questions and photos on the SDBC Facebook page, SDBC website under Resources and emailing SDBC. The best way to get advice and hands-on help is to bring the tree(s) to a club meeting about which you have questions.

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# Think Big to Develop Great Shohin

Jonas Dupuich provides tips on growing small bonsai | By Keith Carter, Publicity

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*Jonas shows how proper bending and twisting of trunks can make for more attractive shohin bonsai*

Jonas Dupuich, one of the SDBC's most popular presenters, returned for the November meeting with some first-hand advice on how to start a shohin juniper bonsai.

"If you want a little tree, buy a big tree," Jonas explained. To do that, start with a tree that has a larger trunk, remove the top branches and develop the lower branches to create your shohin, which is typically no more than eight inches tall from the soil line to the apex.

Junipers are ideal for shohin, he said, because they are harder to kill and you can turn them into shohin at almost any stage of their development.

Jonas began his presentation with photos of shohin from an exhibit at one of the most prestigious bonsai shows in Japan. He pointed out the dramatic twists and bends in the trunks and branches, which he considers the key to creating a beautiful tree. He followed these with striking photos of junipers naturally shaped by weather and age that he had photographed during a trip to the Sierra Nevada mountains.

"Every tree tells a story," Jonas said. The movement of the trunk and branches shows the character, age and beauty of the tree. "That is why you look for junipers with twists and turns," he added.

When working with a plant, Jonas recommends making the tree interesting first, then letting it grow for five to ten years. "Pay attention not just to the bend but to the line the trunk is following," he said. "Never start a tree with a straight trunk except for those trained in the formal upright style."

Part of Jonas's presentation focused on how to use wire for bending. A natural teacher, he uses common objects to demonstrate concepts and wiring techniques. As a practice exercise, he suggested taking a piece of wire and following the line of a trunk as it travels upward. "This helps you see how the bends flow," he said. Another useful exercise is to roll up a newspaper into the size of a trunk and practice bending wire around it. With the help of several members pulled from the audience, Jonas gave a detailed demonstration. "To learn, buy trees with trunks and branches that need wiring," he advised. "The point is to give you practical tools for making your trees more attractive."



*Steve Johnson (left) and Miles Ainley joined Jonas to help him illustrate principles of wiring*

# Final Thoughts

By Ignacio De La Torre, Past President

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After six years of serving on the Board, my term comes to an end. It has been fun, difficult, exciting and challenging, but most of all, rewarding. Our club holds its greatest assets in its members. From those who volunteer at every meeting and show, who teach our classes and help our teachers during classes, who maintain our tree collections, to those who attend every meeting, every one of you is needed and appreciated. It is you who make this club.

I have always believed that our club is about members, not trees. If we simply focus on trees, we miss the fact that every member looks for something different in our club. For some, it is fellowship; for others, it is general education. And for a certain number, it is mastery of an art form that we find so intriguing.

There are members who stepped into necessary and difficult roles. Sally and Steve Dischinger took on the role of newsletter editors even though they did not know much about editing; Mark Edgar plans our annual shows every year; Phaedra Ehring makes certain that we have enough volunteers, food and supplies for our shows and bus trips; Bob Hale ensures that we have the appropriate bonsai soil for our workshops by mixing it himself; Carla Marasco stands for an hour and a half each meeting filming presentations; and Charlie Mosse writes a technical article every month. The list simply goes on and on. (I could mention a dozen more members and I would be scratching the surface.) Our club is about our members.

Serving on the Board requires a slightly different level of commitment. There are members like Jaya Kaelberer, past treasurer, and Bill Graham, soon-to-be past VP of Education, who served on the Board for seven and eight years, respectively, because no one else would. And those serving as president, Sue Carter who preceded me, Susan Ronan who followed me, and John Holloway who will take the helm, require committing to a different level of work. It comes with the territory.

Our club will be challenged in the coming year. With the upcoming parking changes scheduled for Balboa Park, it will require more resolve to attend meetings. How the changes will impact the club remains to be seen. My hope is that the club provides enough value, including educational opportunities, camaraderie and other benefits, so that members are willing to deal with the parking issues. If not for every meeting, at least for some. This also goes for participation in our shows.

Our incoming Board and extensive group of volunteers are deeply committed to our members and to the success of the club. This will not change. I express my heartfelt thanks to those who for years have ensured that we serve our members. I wish the club well.



Welcome to December, and the year is over! We recently had some pretty good rain, and I have greatly enjoyed the break from watering. I hope you have too. As our normal weather returns, keep an eye on your trees and do not allow them to dry out.

After eight years as the Vice President of Education, I am retiring. I want to thank everyone who has ever taught a workshop or beginners class, assisted in teaching the classes, helped me bring trees and materials in from the car, assisted with setup and cleanup and helped to prune and care for the club trees. There are far too many of you over the years to name. I truly appreciate all of the help I have had during my time. Without you, none of this would have been possible. I also want to thank all of the students who put their trust in me to provide quality classes and workshops with quality material. I hope that you learned something and had as good a time as I did.

### BEGINNER WORKSHOPS

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#### **Beginners Class: *Buxus sempervirens* – Common Boxwood – Brenda Crann**

January 11 – February 08 – March 08

The 1st Beginners class for 2026 will be January, March and April. We have some very nice Boxwoods to work on. **SOLD OUT!**

### INTERMEDIATE WORKSHOPS

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#### **December 6th – Bring Your Own Tree with Andrew Robson**

This is a rare chance to work with visiting artist Andrew Robson. Andrew is a bonsai professional from Oregon. He apprenticed under Michael Hagedorn. Andrew is particularly adept with shohin and deciduous trees. This will be an all day session from 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 a.m. on Saturday December 6th, the day before the Club Meeting. This will be held at Fred Miyahara's garden. Lunch will be provided. This workshop is limited to 6 people. **The cost is \$135.00.** There are still **2 spots left.** Please go to the website and purchase them if you would like to attend.

## January – ANNUAL CLUB REPOTTING EVENT

Bring a tree and our many volunteers will help you repot it. Please limit yourself to **two (2) trees no larger than chuhin size**. We do not have the proper soil to repot large trees. **PLEASE** clean and prune your trees before bringing them in. Soil and assistance will be provided both before and after the meeting. Remember, this is a DIY workshop where you can get expert help!

## January – Japanese Black Pine Workshop Series – Fred Miyahara

This will be a series of 3 sessions with the option of 3 more sessions in 2027. Each participant is expected to complete the first three sessions. The sessions will consist of the following:

- **January**. Repot the tree, select the front and make some basic branch decisions.
- **June**. Review the tree, possibly cut candles or pull needles as necessary.
- **November**. Review the tree, situationally pull needles, thin, prune, and wire.

At the end of 2026, there will be an option for 2 more sessions in 2027 to continue working on your tree. There are only 6 spots available. This will go on sale at the November Meeting. **SOLD OUT!** If you choose to move forward with this in 2027, the cost will be **\$50.00 for the next 2 sessions**.

## February – Catlin Elm

We have some small leaf Catlin elms to work on. These trees are fairly tall and elegant and will make some very nice informal upright bonsai. At this workshop you will repot the trees into clay grow pots, prune to primary branches and do some wiring. This is limited to 6 attendees and will go on sale at the December Meeting. **The cost is \$225.00.**

## GENERAL INFORMATION & REMINDERS

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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 a.m. to 10:15 a.m. on club meeting days at Balboa Park unless otherwise specified.** Also, don't forget to bring any trees that you would like some help with or advice from our excellent bonsai masters at the club. Help will be at the back of Room 101 to the right of the stage.

[Click here for additional information and sign up for workshops and skills classes.](#)

# SAFARI PARK BONSAI PAVILLON

MARK EDGAR, SAFARI PARK LIAISON

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We debated whether to have a Saturday workday at the Pavilion since sprinkles were forecasted. In the end, we figured bonsai people generally don't know when to come out of the rain so we had the workday anyway. Only 11 volunteers attended the workday, but we did get some work done under the awning. In any event, it was fun, sort of.

Since I can't seem to remember to take photos of our workdays at the Pavilion, I asked all the volunteers to do it. Turns out they are much better at it than me. Here is a collection of bonsai work in sprinkles. Thanks to Dennis Wagner, Jaya Kaelberer, and Shawn Palmer for the pictures.



There were dry periods punctuated by occasional light sprinkles, just like I predicted.

Most of the group worked under the awning and displayed various reactions to the sprinkles ranging from wonder to amusement to complete disinterest.





Shawn Palmer, Dennis Wagner and Cindy Pecile madly worked to get as much needle pulling done as possible before the next wave of sprinkle.

Jaya Kaelberer stayed dry but didn't bother with the awning. Jaya used one of her superpowers to repel the rain drops.



I stayed dry by cleaning the shed.

*Tis the Season for Boxwood Cones and Christmas Clones*



*Greetings from the North County.*

*Yes, there are some members who reside up here. I am one of them.*

*I am going to endeavor to find and report to you plants that I come across in my trips to nurseries and garden centers. Plants that will make good pre-finished bonsai will be identified as good for beginners, intermediate, or advanced students.*

*You will have the opportunity to select the best specimen of the batch using the features that we look for.*

*For December, 2025, we have a very short opportunity to purchase, at 50% off, 5-gal boxwood Christmas cones that A&P put on sale for 3 days after the 25th. If you wait, they go back to the grower. They make good clump-style bonsai and are for the intermediate or advanced students. They will be available at most Home Depots in the county.*

*Good luck and good hunting.*

*John Voss*

*Nov 16 2025*

I can't believe it is almost the end of 2025! That also means it is time for all San Diego Bonsai Club members to start renewing their memberships for the 2026 calendar year. Regardless of when you renewed your 2025 membership, please start thinking of renewing in the next couple of months. The San Diego Bonsai Club By-Laws state "Annual dues are payable starting January 1 of each year. Any member whose dues are unpaid by March 31, will be dropped from the membership." Although the club has not been dropping members after this date, the income generated by membership allows the club to provide the wonderful educational programs that are available at the monthly meetings. **NOTE TO CLUB MEMBERS WHO HAVE JOINED SINCE SEPTEMBER 1, 2025** - You do not have to renew your membership until the start of calendar year 2027. If any existing or new member is unsure about their membership status, please see me at the membership table or contact me through the club email, [sandiegobonsaiclub@gmail.com](mailto:sandiegobonsaiclub@gmail.com).

Joyce Hayashi  
Larry Fechter  
Tom Stansbu  
Susannah Randall  
Michael Randall

Jacob Cecil  
Margie Martinez  
Eduardo Maldonado  
Wenceslao Jimenez  
Lauren Noia

Asha Ali  
Birk Farnum  
Daniel Denison  
Sharook Madon

## MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

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As stated above, you can begin renewing your club membership for the 2026 calendar year. You can renew online on the San Diego Bonsai Club website or at a club meeting. Your membership must be current to participate in club events – taking classes – beginner or intermediate, traveling on bus trips, volunteering at the Safari Park or Japanese Friendship Garden, and volunteering or selling items at the shows.

### **You can renew your membership or become a new member:**

- In person at a club meeting. You can pay with cash, check, or credit.
- On the San Diego Bonsai Club website using the payment portal  
( <https://www.sandiegobonsaiclub.com/membership> )

Club dues will remain at \$30 for a single membership and each additional family member is \$5. If any of your contact information has recently changed, please let me know at a club meeting or email me at [sandiegobonsaiclub@gmail.com](mailto:sandiegobonsaiclub@gmail.com)

The current club membership stands at **628** members.

## THANK YOU!

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- ❖ Thanks for your Raffle Donations:
  - SDBC Education, Eric Gripp, Ken Bross, Eric Jacobson, Jaya Kaelberer, Cliff Rutt, Joan Ke, SDBC, Gary Jones.
- ❖ Thanks for your refreshment donations:
  - Derek Cullers, Hank Cullers, Lorna Briddick and John Unikewicz, John and Margaret Jackson, Phaedra Ehring and Calliope Hall, Megan Ballow and Cliff Rutt

## LIBRARY | SONYA HOLMQUIST, LIBRARIAN

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The library will be taking a little holiday break in December and will reopen in January. Thank you for your understanding, and I look forward to helping you find great bonsai resources in the new year.

## SHOWCASE

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This is the beautiful Prostrata Juniper. styled and grown by Glenn Jensen that he donated to the JFG in 2022. John Holloway removed a large area of hard, dead bark. A difficult task on this tree. The live vein at the soil line was saved and will help prevent rot. It is seen in the second



photo--the one with movement to the left. The beautiful red inner bark is now revealed after removal of more of the older bark from the rest of the trunk. Some minor work was done on the shari and jins. Then lime sulfur was applied to all of the dead wood.

Some shaping of the foliage was done to reduce the silhouette a bit as it was just starting to get that bushy look one sees on healthy prostratas. Very notable is the change in the foliage color to a vibrant blue-green because of the improved health of the tree this year. Neil has gotten a very good handle on the nutritional needs of this tree and the others in the collection.



## General Topics

President (Susan Ronan)

- The December meeting will be a potluck, so please bring a side dish and/or a dessert to share. The club will provide the main dish.
- The following people have been nominated and approved for election to the 2026 board: John Holloway - President, John Barsanti Secretary, Bob Hale VP of Education
- We are still in need of a Refreshment Coordinator & a Lead Workshop person to help the VP of Education.
- As a reminder, the City of San Diego will start charging for parking at Balboa Park. There will be free parking for up to 3hrs in the furthest areas, with transportation to the center of the park. The closer the parking, the more it will cost. This is expected to start on Jan 1, 2026.

## Board Reports & Additional Info

VP Education (Bill Graham)

- Jan/Feb/Mar - Beginner Class (Brenda Crann) SOLD-OUT
- Jan/Jun/Nov - Pine Workshop Series (Fred Miyahara) SOLD-OUT
- Dec 13<sup>th</sup> (Sat) - BYOT Shohin Workshop (Andrew Robson) 9 a.m. - 3:30pm 6 spots @ \$135 each.

VP Special Projects (Phaedra Ehring)

- San Diego bus trips are all open to SDBC members & their guests
- Jan - Bus trip to Winter Silhouettes at The LA Arboretum in Los Angeles, CA
- Feb - Bus trip to the Bonsai-a-Thon at The Huntington Library in San Marino, CA (Advanced sign-ups are required, as space is limited)

Treasurer (Tom Cylkowski)

- The Budget for 2026 is being worked on and will be ready for review soon.
- The Fall Show netted \$4k this year

VP Membership (Cindy Pecile)

- Please remember to sign our attendance sheet at the door when attending our monthly meetings.
- We are currently at 619 members.
- Renewals will begin again in December & January.

Safari Park (John Jackson)

- Safari Park workdays are on the 1st & 3rd Sat. each month. If interested, please see Mark Edgar for details.

Japanese Friendship Garden (Neil Auwarter)

- N/A

1<sup>st</sup> Vice President (Matt Jillson)

- Introduced our presenter, Jonas Dupuich - Starting Shohin Juniper Bonsai

## **SDBC BOARD MEETING MINUTES | NOV 11TH, 2025 6:30 P.M. START**

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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), John Holloway (2026 Presidential Nominee)

### **General Topics**

President (Susan Ronan)

- Board reviewed the proposal from Mark Edgar for a new Safari Park bonsai training program to be administered by Julian Tsai. No grants were applied for at this time and funding is to come from Safari Park account. A motion was made to accept this proposal, with all in favor. Motion approved.
- Board discussed the purchase of SDBC club logo hats ranging between \$25-30. Some final details on exact quantity to be purchased and how to set up the order page for members to place orders will continue, but there was a motion made to add the addition of \$1,500 to the 2026 budget to purchase hats in 2026. All were in favor and motion is approved.
- Preparations are being made for the hand-off of roles to the new board members (John Holloway, John Barsanti & Bob Hale). New signature cards will need to be completed with adding new signers and removing old ones. A SOI will need to be filed with the Secretary of State once the new board takes office. Documents will be transferred and owned by the SDBC account on Google drive.

### **Board Reports**

1<sup>st</sup> Vice President (Matt Jillson)

- Dec – Andrew Robson (Trident Maple Madness)
- Jan – Open
- Feb – Tom Vuong (Juniper presentation tree follow-up)
- Mar – Michael Roberts (Broom Development follow-up)
- Apr - Young Cho
- Jun – Jonas Dupich (Shohin Development follow-up)
- Additional presenters are in the works for 2026

VP Education (Bill Graham)

- The club is looking for additional people to help with education, primarily a workshop lead. There is material already owned for the future 2026 workshops as well as some beginner materials. A location for holding and maintaining this material will also need to be found. It is possible to have the teachers for the upcoming class series to take possession of those trees and have the remainder of the stock separated between several others.
- The Beginner Class with Brenda Crann & the Pine Workshop with Fred Miyahara is sold-out
- Working on February workshop that will go on sale in December.

VP Special Projects (Phaedra Ehring)

- N/A

Treasurer (Tom Cylkowski)

- New 2026 budget will be out soon and will include the new item for hat purchase
- Monday, November 10th, E-Trade recognized the SDBC submitted documents. Processing is expected to take 5-7 business days.
- Next year's budget will be similar to 2025's, with a few adjustments including the \$1,500 addition for hat purchases, \$200 for insurance to cover the Poway Picnic, added tool table funds and any other added needs.
- There are currently two Square accounts. The SDBC01 account has been terminated. All users have been logged out of the active account and new passwords will be created.
- Microsoft 365 has not yet been needed for AV Powerpoint presentations but is an expected need in the future. MS365 is free to Non-profits if they hold a Microsoft domain, unfortunately we do not. The program is \$100 per year if we decide it is needed. This will be discussed further after budget is reviewed for 2026.
- Budget is being worked on and will be emailed this week for board approval.

VP Membership (Cindy Pecile)

- Current Membership 624

Secretary (Carla Marasco)

- N/A

Past President (Ignacio De La Torre)

- Parking fee are expected to start Jan. 1, 2026. There have been no change in information since the club meeting. We will reevaluate once fees are in place.

*End of Meeting 8:07 p.m.*

# TREASURER'S REPORT | TOM CYLKOWSKI, TREASURER

SAN DIEGO BONSAI CLUB - TREASURER'S REPORT						
T Cylkowski as of 31 October 2025						
<b>Accounts have been reconciled with US Bank statements</b>						
All accounts are separate. Expenses/income cannot be moved between t						
<b>BANK ACCOUNT BALANCES (Balance sheet)</b>						
	<b>Current</b>					
Larry Ragle Scholarship Fund	\$39,703					
SDBC Checking	\$73,475.06					
Japanese Friendship Garden	\$3,307.41					
Bonsai Pavilion Checking	\$22,825.29					
SDBC Reserve Fund	\$0.00					
Ragle Reserve Fund	\$0.00					
<b>TOTAL FUNDS:</b>	<b>\$139,310.88</b>					
<b>SDBC Income</b>	<b>YTD 1/1 -10/31</b>	<b>YTD-Last Month 1/1 -9/30</b>	<b>Change</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Budget - Remaining</b>
SDBC Reserve Fund Income	-	-	-	SDBC Reserve Fund investment account results	750	750
Ragle Reserve Fund Income	-	-	-	Ragle Reserve Fund investment account results	750	750
Total Donation Income	1,623.00	1,623.00	-	Total Donations	2,100	477
Total Education Income	6,992.49	6,242.49	750	Total Education Income	15,150	8,158
Total Grant Qualcomm	500.00	500.00	-	Total Grants	1,500	1,000
Total Larry Ragle Scholarship Income	2,291.44	2,291.44	-	Income from services or assets	1,000	(1,291)
Total Membership Income	8,295.80	7,670.80	625	Total Memberships	11,000	2,704
Total Monthly Program.	1,802.35	1,802.35	-	Monthly program income	3,000	1,198
Total Raffle & Auction	7,843.84	5,942.87	1,901	Raffle table or meeting auction income	12,100	4,256
Total Show Income	25,595.99	25,595.99	-	Show income	12,000	(13,596)
Total Special Projects Income	2,205.85	2,205.85	-	Special projects income	2,920	714
Total Tool Sales	5,465.01	5,465.01	-	Total Tool Sales income	5,600	135
<b>Total SDBC Income</b>	<b>62,615.77</b>	<b>59,339.80</b>	<b>3,276</b>		<b>Total: 67,870</b>	<b>5,254</b>
<b>SDBC Expenses</b>	<b>YTD 1/1 -10/31</b>	<b>YTD-Last Month 1/1 -9/30</b>	<b>Change</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Budget - Remaining</b>
Total Bonsai Pavilion	611.55	330.72	281	Safari Park Bonsai Pavilion Expenses	4,750	4,138
Total Education	6,203.42	5,828.40	375	Education program expenses	13,800	7,597
Total Japanese Friendship Garden	836.02	836.02	-	JFG operational expenses	350	(486)
Total Larry Ragle Scholarship Fund	8,250.00	8,250.00	-	Ragle Scholarship Fund expenses	1,000	(7,250)
Total Library	80.62	80.62	-	Library expenses	120	39
Mas Takanashi Grant	-	-	-	Grant award expenses	500	500
Total Membership	2,062.48	1,592.70	470	Membership badges or other expenses	3,050	988
Total Monthly Program	11,209.20	7,561.16	3,648	Cost to host monthly programs	11,000	(209)
Total Newsletter	735.27	690.27	45	Newsletter expenses	2,050	1,315
Total SDBC Club Expenses	7,037.95	6,908.02	130	Club operational expenses	8,730	1,692
Total SDBC Fall Show	16,420.60	280.00	16,141	Fall Show expenses	1,500	(14,921)
Total SDBC Spring Show	3,753.85	3,753.85	-	Spring Show expenses	3,565	(189)
Total Special Projects	7,083.43	7,083.43	-	Special projects expenses	8,850	1,767
Total Taxes	5,225.00	3,374.00	1,851	Taxes	4,605	(620)
Total Tool Table Expenses	3,868.80	3,868.80	-	Tool Table expenses	4,000	131
<b>Total SDBC Expense</b>	<b>73,378.19</b>	<b>50,437.99</b>	<b>22,940</b>		<b>Total: 67,870</b>	<b>(5,508)</b>
<b>Net SDBC Income (Loss)</b>	<b>(10,762.42)</b>	<b>8,901.81</b>				

# UPCOMING MEETINGS AND ACTIVITIES

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EVENT	DATE(S)	LOCATION	ROOMS
December Meeting	Dec. 14 <sup>th</sup>	Casa del Prado	101 & 104
December Meeting	Jan 11 <sup>th</sup>	Casa del Prado	101 & 104
Monthly Meeting	Feb 8 <sup>th</sup>	Casa del Prado	101 & 104
Bonsai-A-Thon Bus Trip	Feb 28 <sup>th</sup>	San Marino, CA	
March Meeting	Mar 15 <sup>th</sup>	Casa del Prado	101 & 104
April Meeting	Apr 12 <sup>th</sup>	Casa del Prado	101 & 104
Spring Bonsai Show	Apr 25 <sup>th</sup> & 26 <sup>th</sup>	Casa Del Prado	101
Annual Bonsai Pavilion Picnic	May	Safari Park	Hunte Pavilion

*\*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' shows or special event, so we choose an alternative day.*

## REOCCURRING ACTIVITIES

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- Japanese Friendship Garden bonsai workdays: Tuesdays & Saturdays; 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.

## RESOURCES

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- Statewide events. See the [Golden State Bonsai Federation](#)
- SDBC Resources
  - o [SanDiegoBonsaiClub.com](http://SanDiegoBonsaiClub.com)
  - o Email [BonsaiWire@SanDiegoBonsaiClub.com](mailto:BonsaiWire@SanDiegoBonsaiClub.com)
  - o Social media platforms



## BOARD MEMBERS

President:	<b>Susan Ronan</b>	VP Special Projects:	<b>Phaedra Ehring</b>
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President:	<b>Matt Jillson</b>	VP Education:	<b>Bill Graham</b>
Secretary:	<b>Carla Marasco</b>	VP Membership:	<b>Cindy Pecile</b>
Treasurer:	<b>Tom Cylkowski</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>
YouTube & Photographer:	<b>Carla Marasco</b>
Audio Visual:	<b>Michael Bird</b>
Webmaster:	<b>Janice Hale</b>
Coordinator of Education Curriculum:	<b>Bob Hale</b>
<i>The Bonsai Wire</i> Editor	<b>Sean Roozen</b>

Questions - Comments - Concerns

[BonsaiWire@SanDiegoBonsaiClub.com](mailto:BonsaiWire@SanDiegoBonsaiClub.com)

## JAPANESE FRIENDSHIP GARDEN

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

## SAFARI PARK BONSAI PAVILION

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

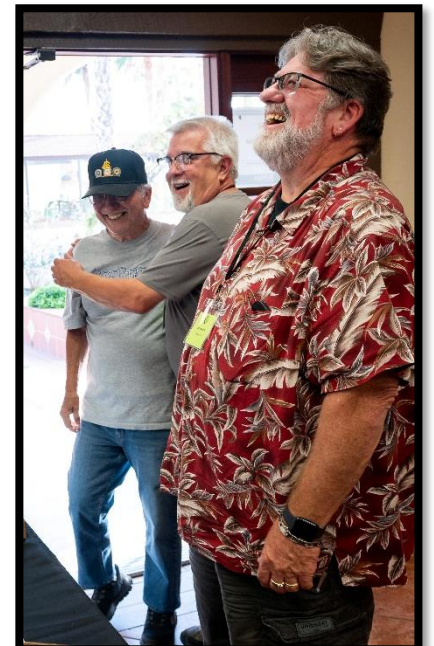
## Japanese Friendship Garden Bonsai workdays:

Tuesdays & Saturdays  
contact Neil Auwarter for volunteer information

## San Diego Zoo Safari Park Bonsai Pavilion workdays:

1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturdays of the month  
contact Mark Edgar for volunteer information

# GSBF RENDEZVOUS | PHOTOGRAPHY BY CARLA MARASCO







December - 2025  
The Bonsai Wire

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

**Return Service Requested**