

The Bonsai Wire

Volume 40, Issue 2

February, 2014



Message from the President

February Already...?

Happy Valentine's day! What does a bonsai enthusiast give to his/her significant other? A card, flowering bonsai prunus, a pink flowering maple, or an azalea?

While the mid-section and the northeast of the United States are being hit with real winter weather, our local weather seems more summer weather than winter. Some deciduous plant/trees are starting to grow foliage—mother nature's trick on us.

As we move forward with our activities, I want to thank our hard-working members—those who keep coming back for the excellent pay of "pat on the back." You know who you are! And a special thanks to Jim Barrett for his demo—styling a twin-trunk Robusta Green Juniper.

Winter Silhouettes

It was a long day, but everyone enjoyed the three-van outing—especially the nursery stops. Thanks to Abe Far for arranging the vans, and thanks to our drivers: Chris Heckler, Abe, and Dan. There were interesting bonsai items in Taiwan Farms and House of Bonsai. After

consulting with our SDBC experts—Dave Woodall, John Voss, Michael Sykes, and Abe Far—hard-to-find bonsai specimens were bought. Several wanted to buy more, but there was no more room in the vans... a lesson learned for next year.

Announcements...

Our Bonsai-A-Thon trip to the Huntington Library and Gardens is Saturday, February 22, 2014. Please sign up. Your seat is not reserved until you pay for the trip; the cost is \$40.00. See more on page 7.

There is also an appeal for teachers to help children and parents at Bonsai-A-Thon. Twenty "experienced" bonsai teachers who are comfortable working with "kids" on Saturday 9:00 a.m. to noon. See more on page 7.

Please visit our website, Eric Jacobson has done a great job bringing us new items. For example, check out the advertisement for the upcoming Satsuki Bonsai Tour at the end of May under "Other Bonsai Activities" on the home page.

Dan Sola, President

This Month's Program

In February, we have our own Glenn Jensen as the featured speaker. Glenn will be giving us a presentation on carving, jin, and shari; showing us how to give the appearance of age on a tree. Jin is the dead top of the trunk or branch that can give the tree a natural lightning-struck effect. Shari is an area where the bark has been peeled back to give an old, weathered look. Done right it creates a wonderful focal point for a tree; done wrong...well we won't go there.

Glenn's interest in Bonsai began in the late 1960's while attending Dental School at USC and he chanced upon a California Bonsai Society show at Exposition Park in Los Angeles. Glenn then studied any Bonsai publications he could get his hands on. Glenn was fortunate to take bonsai classes with Harry Hirao from 1978 to 2002 and John Naka from 1982 to 1998. In the more recent past, he has studied with Kenji Miyata who has been a great source of contemporary Japanese bonsai knowledge. Glenn is a member of both the San Diego Bonsai Club and California Bonsai Society.

Rich Glauser, 1st VP

Glenn Jensen



Inside this Edition

President's Message	p1
February Program	p1
Table of Contents	p2
Editors Note	p2
Club Officer Information	p2
January Meeting Report	p3
Education Report	p3
Club Meeting Minutes	p4
Boxwood Dig	p5
Winter Silhouettes	p5
SDBC Pavilion at the Safari Park	p6
Membership Updates	p7
Refreshments and Benefits Updates	p7
Announcements	p7
Calendar of Events	p8

www.sandiegobonsaiclub.com

Editor's Note

The club website, www.sandiegobonsaiclub.com, gives added detail to the information in the newsletter. For example, as you get to repotting, you can pull up info from 'lyn Stevenson's November meeting presentation on soils or good beginning books under the "Resources" tab. Or, in the forum section, Eric lists some new bonsai websites to check out. On the home page are details of upcoming activities and advertisements of interest such as for the GSBF Golden Statements magazine. Lots of good stuff, but I especially like the pictures of the trees—from prior SDBC bonsai shows and at the safari Park.

Dave Barker,
TBW editor

Enjoy
Bonsai
~ Learn
More



The Bonsai Wire (TBW) is published monthly by the San Diego Bonsai Club (SDBC) except for May. 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 Board.

San Diego Bonsai Club Volunteers

- President: Dan Sola
dsola1@san.rr.com
- 1st Vice President: Rich Glauser
rglauser@gmail.com
- VP for Educ: Barbara French-Lee
barbflee@hotmail.com
- VP for Special Projects : Janice Hale
janicehale42@gmail.com
- Treasurer: Allan Edwin
aedwin@san.rr.com
- VP for Membership: David Choy
drdavidchoy@hotmail.com
- Corporate Secretary: Brenda Crann
brendacrann@gmail.com
- Past President: Abe Far
abe_far@yahoo.com
- Japanese Friendship Garden,
Bonsai Curator: Open
Liaison: Barbara French-Lee
- Bonsai Pavilion, Safari Park
Curator: John Jackson
bonsaijohn@cox.net
Assistant Curator: Dennis Wagner
denisW@cox.net
Liaison: 'lyn Stevenson
inthegrove@cox.net
- Web Master: Eric Jacobson
eric_ks@yahoo.com
- Tool Sales Manager: Bob Hale
bobhale42@gmail.com
- Benefit Drawing Mgr: John Polo
jfpolo@excite.com
- Sunshine Chair: Joan Holliday
joanholliday@san.rr.com
- Librarian: Steve Clemons
sclemons88@gmail.com
- Refreshment Coordinators:
Sonya Holmquist - sholmquist3@cox.net
Meg Polo - megpolo@hotmail.com
- Publicity: Laurie Orange
alagria@me.com
- Audio/Visual –John Polo/ Janice Hale
- Historian: David Choy
- The Bonsai Wire Editor: Dave Barker
dtbarker_sd@yahoo.com
- The Bonsai Wire printed copy
distributor—Shirley Kavanaugh, Jr

San Diego Bonsai Club Education for February

Beginning Class

The second beginner class with Elms, taught by 'lyn Stevenson with her capable assistants who are all bonsai masters in their own right; John Jackson, Dennis Wagner and Gary Jones, will continue to work on styling and begin wiring their tree. With our warm winter, some of the trees may have begun to leaf out. Continue to watch your watering and don't let your tree dry out. Remember a chop stick left in the soil can be used to check if the soil is damp, or a moisture meter can help you in understanding the watering needs of your tree. Remember your tree is still in nursery soil and will tend to stay wetter than when you place it in a bonsai mix. Correct watering is essential to the health of your tree.



Skills Classes

February—Michael Sykes will be teaching a class on *Juniperus chinensis* 'Foemina', needle juniper. There will be a follow-up class in March to repot these junipers.

March - The pine class taught by Fred Miyahara still has two openings. Cost: \$95.

April - Sign up sheets for the Beginning Class with boxwoods, taught by Martha Choy, will be available at the February meeting. Cost: \$40.

Also sign up sheets will be available at the February meeting for an April workshop, taught by John Jackson, entitled Root Over Rock with Trident Maples. John will



Remember that members are available for help and follow-up both before and after the meeting

be teaching this workshop in conjunction with his demonstration in April; it should be very interesting. Cost: \$30. This includes the rocks, soil, trees and a hand-made pot by John.

Mas Takanashi Grant

The Club is looking for individuals who would be interested in becoming Bonsai teachers, to lead and help with beginning classes and outreach to the community. The Grant pays for nine classes with the Club's bonsai masters to prepare you for this opportunity. If you are interested in applying for this Grant, please let me know so I can send you an application.

Barbara French-Lee, VP for Education

January Program

In January, Jim Barrett gave us an informative demonstration on styling a twin trunk Robusta Green juniper, a slow growing variety that can be an impressive bonsai in a short time after styling.

After choosing a front based on root spread (and to hide the lack of roots on the small trunk), Jim and Gary Jones cleaned out the unwanted branches, jinning most lower branches between the trunks. The remaining branches were trimmed to give it the triangle shape and wired in a downward direction. Finally, the top of the larger tree was jinned (not an easy task given the look on Jim's face!).

Result: Transformation



Before
& After



San Diego Bonsai Club

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Members January 12, 2014



1. **Call to Order:** The regular meeting of the membership of the San Diego Bonsai Club was called to order at 10:30 a.m. by Dan Sola, President. It was confirmed that a quorum was present.
2. **Approval of Minutes:** The minutes from the December 8, 2013 meeting were approved as published.
3. **President's Remarks:** Dan welcomed and wished everyone a Happy New Year. As the Club moves forward, he thanked and asked members for their continued help, support, and patience while SDBC continues to reorganize. The club will work to provide a better service to members with excellent instructors and material for our classes and workshops; trip to nurseries, shows and other events. We will also continue to look for excellent presenters for our program segment—to include local bonsai experts, masters or teachers who can show us their best. Dan introduced our new VP for Special Projects Janice Hale, and she is also our videographer. Dan also mentioned the December Christmas meeting in room 104—although a small room—was fun, festive, and excellent bonsai competition. The plants for the competition were held to be auctioned for January meeting. He also mentioned the boxwood dig of 20 some members—arranged by Charlie Moss—that was both hard work and fun. The present GSBF president Abe Far was recognized. The past SDBC presidents were also recognized.
4. **Admission of New Members: David Choy, VP for Membership:** Evan Kleber; Bill Higgins; Kyle Powell; and Michael, Brittany and Amy Walsh. Membership dues are due.
5. **Board Member Reports:**

Allan Edwin, Treasurer, reported: Just completed the year end 2013 books. There's \$19000 in total assets. We had an -\$11,000 operating expense - \$6,000 for a canopy for the Pavilion and a one-time reconstruction fee of \$3,600 for accounting to straighten out the 2011 books. We also did make a \$5,000 investment in trees which we will be getting the monies back from the beginner's classes and workshops.

Rich Glauser, 1st Vice President, reported: Jim Barrett will conduct the demonstration today; the presenter for February will be Glenn Jensen; and in March, it will be Harry Hirao.

Barbara French-Lee, Vice President, Education, reported: First beginners class with Lyn Stevenson was full as was Michael Sykes February Foemina class. Fred Miyahara will have a class in March with pines; the cost is \$95. Registration for future workshops will be available at the meeting two months before the workshop and class sign ups will be available online. We are requesting payment for classes when you sign up.

Janice Hale, Vice President Special Projects: The Winter Silhouettes trip (includes bonsai exhibit, vendors, entertainment, a raffle, and dinner) is January 18 – two nurseries (House of Bonsai and Taiwan Farms) will also be on the itinerary. The trip to the Huntington Gardens for the Bonsai-a-thon on February 22 will be by bus and will cost \$40 per person. Our Spring Show will be April 26-27 10:00-5:00 both days with plant and tree sales. We will set up on the 24th and trees to be brought in on 25th.
6. **Appointed Position Reports: John Jackson, Safari Park Pavilion Curator,** reported: Rock work, general clean up has been done. Saturday January 18th will be the next clean up and pruning on trees. We need volunteers. He appreciates all of the volunteers that have been at the Pavilion the last few weeks.
7. **Old Business:** None
8. **New Business: Statement of financial of SDBC – Abe Far and Chris Heckler:**

SDBC President appointed Abe and Chris to audit SDBC books. Patrick is very organized—deposits were all separated and expenses had receipts. There were no problems at all. The financial statement read at meeting will be presented to the Board members at the next meeting.
9. **Announcements:**

President Dan Sola: Thanks to meeting helpers. Ted Matson is looking for teachers for children during the Bonsai-a-thon from 9:00 a.m.-12 noon. The San Diego County Fair starts June 7 running through July 6th. The theme this year is "The Fab Fair" with the spotlight of the Flower and Garden Show, "Flower Power," a tribute to the '60s. The SDBC will be participating again this year. Barbara French-Lee will be heading our Fair booth and will need help to set up and maintain the booth. We are looking for flowering bonsai for the booth.

January 2014 Program: First Vice President Rick Glauser introduced presenter: Jim Barrett. Jim styled a twin-trunk Robusta green, a variety of Chinese Juniper.
10. **Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Brenda Crann, Secretary

Winter Silhouettes Trip

Winter Silhouettes Show: Our trip to the Winter Silhouettes Show at the Los Angeles Arboretum was fabulous. We had shopping opportunities at two bonsai nurseries and managed to fill our three mini-vans to full capacity. The Silhouettes Show, styling demonstration, pot-luck dinner and performance by the Taiko Drum group were out-



standing. We also had some time to wander through the gardens of the L.A. Arboretum. The Baiko-En Bonsai Kenkyukai members made us feel welcome and a part of their family. Our members gleefully participated in the benefit drawing and auction. John Voss hilariously won the very same bonsai pot he had donated to the drawing. Our own Gary Jones was the auctioneer and a few of our club members picked up some amazing bonsai trees, one styled with the help of Harry Hirao. We hope you will join us next year for another day of fun!



Row 1: John Voss, Ron Kaelberer, Jaya Kaelberer, Janice Hale, Dan Sola. Row 2: Barbara French-Lee, Rita Huang, Chris Heckler, Dave Woodall, Michael Sykes, Bob Hale, Abe Far.

Hiding: Meg & John Polo, Paul Lawrence, Gary Jones.

Janice Hale, V.P. of Special Projects

Boxwood Dig

Boxwood Dig: In ancient times, bonsai artists scoured mountainsides for trees with character for bonsai. Now, living in cities and having a desire to preserve such assets as they exist in nature, this material is very limited. However, older homes will frequently have woody plantings that, at some point, homeowners decide to remove. After many years of growth and pruning, such material can often make bonsai material.

San Diego Bonsai Club was contacted regarding a homeowner in San Diego who wanted a hedge comprised of 63 boxwoods removed. Charlie Mosse, SDBC First Vice President, coordinated the effort with the homeowner and club members. On January 3rd, about 20 SDBC club members removed the boxwoods, then shoveled the soil back into the holes, returned the mulch covering, and cleaned the adjacent sidewalks.

Cindy Read supervising(?) the root and branch trimming of the dug-up boxwoods



The boxwoods will go to good use. Some will now begin bonsai training in club members' collections and some will be used in the club's educational program. Some interesting facts about these particular boxwoods: they had shallow roots and no tap roots, many individual plants turned out to be multiple plants which had grafted themselves together over time, and one of our club experts estimates their age to be over 25 years.

If you know of someone who needs a hedge or other woody plantings removed that may possibly be made into bonsai, contact SDBC about free removal and save the plants or small trees from the landfill.

Eric Jacobson and Charlie Mosse

San Diego Bonsai Club Pavilion at the Safari Park

The year began with a very enthusiastic group of volunteers for the Bonsai Pavilion at Safari Park. Hopefully, every volunteer now has the 2014 validated ID card in hand!

Several new members have joined our group and it will undoubtedly be another very successful year. Congratulations and January thanks to: **Neil Auwarter, Susan Baker, Ken Bross, Armand Bryant, Alan Burrows, Julia Chow, Steve Clemons, Cathy & Mark Edgar, Jeff Gerringer, Bob & Janice Hale, John Jackson, Jim Kirchner, Charlie Mosse, Patrick O'Brien, Sally Prestele, Harlan Price, Dan Sola, 'lyn Stevenson, John Voss, Dennis Wagner, Dave Woodall, and Roger Ziegelman** for their commitments to this very special Bonsai priority. It was a great turn-out even though the first workday was during the holidays and the second workday was at the same time as the Club trip to the Winter Silhouettes bonsai show.

Bonsai work in January included: defoliation on some deciduous trees (since Mother Nature did not complete the job); cleaning of bonsai pots; weeding of bonsai surfaces; repotting of a large oriental; preparation of soil mixtures for future potting sessions; and the wiring of several trees. The Pavilion pathways were also raked; the hillside was weeded; rocks were redistributed around the lower pond and others were cemented; huge branches were removed over the upper pond; smaller branches and debris were removed from the stream beds; and some landscape pines were trimmed.



Thanks always to our Curator John Jackson for his usual guidance. We also appreciated the special help from Robert Thurston and the Safari Horticultural Department this month. We had marked a large boulder behind our Pavilion earlier and with their equipment, they were able to place it into the lower pond — another nice garden enhancement!

February workdays will be the first and third Saturdays as usual even though several members will be at the Shohin Convention, but there will not be a conflict with

the GSBF Bonsai-A-Thon bus trip fortunately. It is wonderful that we have enough members to cover all these Bonsai events!

'lyn Stevenson SDBC-Safari Park Liaison

Many thanks to [Sally Prestele](#) and [Mark Edgar](#) for providing much of the Pavilion information this month.

Melba Tucker's Catlin Elm Forest

Melba Tucker's forest was donated to the Safari Park by Melba's estate in 1999. The elm forest as it was in 2012 is shown to the right.

Note the small black slate slab it is displayed on. 'lyn Stevenson had an idea to transplant the forest on a larger slab carved by Brian Jackson, John Jackson's brother. Brian carved



the slab from a rectangular rock slab using a ballpeen hammer. On January 23, 2014, John Jackson, 'lyn Stevenson, and Cathy and Mark Edgar repotted Melba's elm forest onto the new slab. It had been many years since the forest was repotted, but the process was much easier than it looks. The forest was lifted from the old slab in one piece and the old soil and larger roots were removed (the forest remained in one piece during the whole repotting process). The cleaned forest was placed on the new slab on a bed of soil mix and a muck "wall" was made around the perimeter of the forest. New soil was added inside the muck wall and moss was added over the soil and muck wall. The result is quite dramatic as seen in the photo below. (Learn more about Melba Tucker on page 7)



New Members

Please welcome our newest members: **Michael, Brittany and Amy Walsh; Nancy Melling, and Melinda Trizinsky.**

David Choy, VP of Membership

Refreshments

Many thanks to the folks that brought refreshments to the January meeting. The members bringing refreshments included: **Sonya Holmquist, Janice Hale, Charlie Mosse, Lauren Sanchez, Padina Kodukula, Shirley Kavanaugh, Florentina Cruz, Susan Baker, Joan Nies, 'lyn Stevenson, Chris Heckler, Harlan and Mary Ann Price, Abe and Christina Far, Marty and Ruth Mann, John and Margaret Jackson, David and Martha Choy, and Andrew Choy.**

Sonya Holmquist and Meg Polo,
Food Coordinators

Benefit Drawing

A big thank you to the folks that brought in items for the raffle table to the January meeting: **Dan Sola, Ken Bross, Charlie Mosse, Dave Woodall, Shirley Kavanaugh, Scott Flack, Paul Lawrence, Marty Mann, Florentina Cruz, Helen Meldner, Harlan and Mary Ann Price**

Please continue to bring in your bonsai related items.

Membership Dues Past Due

If you have not already renewed your membership, please do at the February meeting or online. Dues are \$30 for one person and \$5 for each additional family member. **David Choy**, the VP of membership will be happy to help you if you have any questions.

Melba Tucker

Melba Tucker taught bonsai, saikei, and suiseki worldwide. She became interested in bonsai in 1956 and began teaching bonsai a decade later. Melba's book, *Suiseki & Viewing Stones: An American Perspective*, was published in 1996 and in that same year, the Suiseki Pavilion in the U.S. National Arboretum in Washington D.C. was named in her honor. Melba maintained a personal bonsai collection of over one hundred show trees of all styles. At the right Melba is shown with her Catlin Elm Forest in 1999 that is now at the San Diego Safari Park Bonsai Pavilion. See page 6 for more on the elm forest.



Special Events

Bonsai-a-Thon: On February 22nd we will be going to the Bonsai-a-Thon being held at the Huntington Library, Art Collection and Botanical Gardens. There will be demonstrations by internationally recognized bonsai masters: **Frank Goya, Bob Hilvers, Marcus Juniel, Cheryl Manning, Al Nelson, and David Nguy.** You will be able to enjoy stunning bonsai on display, a vendor sales area and a special bonsai auction that is sure to please. In addition to the Bonsai-a-Thon activities, we will have access to the beautiful grounds, library and art museum of the Huntington, including the Japanese and Chinese Gardens. Housed in the Japanese Garden is the wonderful Golden State Bonsai Collection. Lunch of hamburger or hot dog will be available for \$5; other food concessions are available on the grounds. Our bus will leave Balboa Park at 7:00 am and Carlsbad at 7:30. The cost for the bus is \$40, which includes all day access to the Huntington. Sign-up sheets and maps for the bus pick-up locations will be available at the February meeting, or you can sign up via our website. Please pay your \$40 at the February meeting or via PayPal on the website to reserve your seat on the bus.

Spring Show: Mark your calendars! Our Spring Show will be held April 26th & 27th 10:00 am-5:00 pm with set up April 24th & 25th. There are opportunities for each club member to be a part of this exciting event. Sign up sheets will be available at our February meeting for a multitude of tasks, large and small. We would particularly like to have a display of bonsai trees from beginners this year. What a great way to engage the public visiting our show. Our instructors will be happy to advise you on how to display your tree.

Janice Hale,
VP for Special
Projects

Bonsai-a-thon special Request. There is an appeal for experienced bonsai teachers to help children and parents at Bonsai-A-Thon. Twenty teachers are needed on Saturday, February 22, 2014 from 9:00 a.m. to noon. Contact Ted Matson if you want to help: email: tmatson@earthlink.net or phone: (626) 398-8412.



San Diego Bonsai Club, Inc.
 PO Box 86037
 San Diego, CA 92138-6037



ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

San Diego Bonsai Club Calendar of Events

February 9th Sunday

Regular SDBC Meeting

Glenn Jensen on Carving, Shari, and Jin

February 15th Saturday

SDBC Workday at Safari Park , 9am to 12pm

February 22nd Saturday, leaving 7 am from San Diego

Bonsai-a-thon trip to Huntington Gardens

March 1st Saturday and March 15th Saturday

SDBC Workday at Safari Park , 9am to 12pm

March 9th Sunday

Regular SDBC Meeting

Harry Hirao; styling a California juniper

April 26 Saturday and April 27 Sunday

SDBC Spring Bonsai Show

April Meeting - John Jackson; trident maple on rock

June Meeting - Lindsay Shiba; how to display bonsai

July Meeting - Jim Barrett, bonsai pot making

August Mtg - Tom Elias; "penjing" earliest to present

February 9
 Balboa Park, Room 101

Meeting Agenda

	<u>Time</u>	<u>Activity</u>	<u>Room</u>
Regular SDBC Meeting	08:30-10:20	Beginning Class	104
Harry Hirao; styling a California juniper	08:30-10:20	Michael Sykes Workshop	101
SDBC Spring Bonsai Show	10:30-11:00	Business Meeting	101
April Meeting - John Jackson; trident maple on rock	11:00-12:30	Demonstration	101
June Meeting - Lindsay Shiba; how to display bonsai	12:30	Lunch	101
July Meeting - Jim Barrett, bonsai pot making	12:45	Benefit Drawing	101

DUES REMINDER: SDBC Dues must be paid by March - \$30 for one person and \$5 for each additional family member. You may bring a check or cash to the February meeting or go online to pay your renewal by credit card.