

# The Bonsai Wire

Volume 41, Issue 2

February, 2015



## Message from the President

Thank you Bob Hale for your excellent presentation and leading a group discussion about bonsai soil mix. Yes, bonsai are special, the reason we use special soil mixtures. Is there a favorite bonsai soil mixture? My take is that the specimen, location, and personal experience will dictate your favorite bonsai soil mixture among scoria, fir bark, pumice, decomposed granite, and akadama, as long as it does not have too much organic material (like commercial Bonsai potting mix does). Small bags of soil mix are available at our Tool Sales sections during our monthly meeting in room 101. If you prefer to purchase a large amount of soil components, check out A-1 Soils information on our website "resources" tab under "vendors." If you head out to A-1 Soils, in addition to the items mentioned on our website, be sure to take water to drink, a long sleeve shirt, and lots of patience.

We have finished another busy month, and thank you to our hard-working volunteers; we want you to come back for more of that excellent pay of "thank you."

Our 50-year committee and our Club Officers are reaching out to our members to help us; no experience is

required. Our basic plan was mentioned briefly at our January meeting, and we have a lot of work to do. Please join us. Email contact information for our Club Officers is listed on page 2 of the newsletter, or you may talk to any of us at our monthly meeting.

You want to dig up that old pomegranate, bougainvillea, or juniper in the corner of your lot? It may be a good idea to dig it now while the soil is still soft from the recent rain, and the weather is conducive to hard labor. Remember to protect the root ball and keep it moist until it is transferred to a growing pot. Happy digging!

### Announcements

**Reminder—Our meeting this month is scheduled for Sunday, February 22, two weeks later than normal.**

Our 50th anniversary logo is displayed in the upper right hand corner of this page. We will soon have merchandise available with the logo.

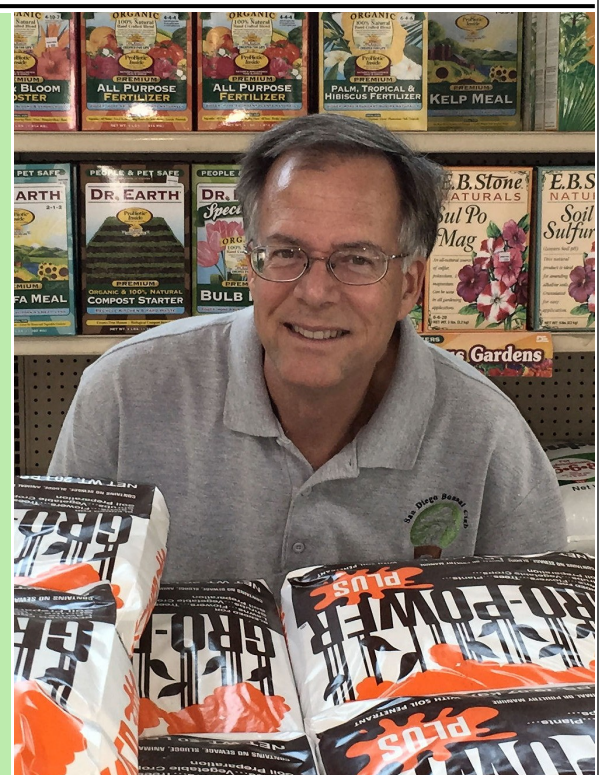
Dan Sola, President

## This Month's Program

Our February program kicks off with the auction of two of the trees from the December bonsai styling competition. These are select junipers from Big Dave, styled to be on their way to becoming beautiful bonsai and would be a great addition to any collection. So don't pass up this great opportunity!

After the auction, First VP Bob Hale will present "Fertilizer: The other thing that goes in the pot." Bonsai containers are a man-made environment that is best with soil that has a high level of inorganic material. As such, in order to maintain the health and development of your bonsai, you need to provide a regular dose of fertilizer to the growing medium to provide nutrients for the tree. Bob will discuss various fertilizer feeding schemes to get the most from your bonsai. The goal is for everyone to see their options, perhaps try something different, and discover what works best. There will be a hands-on opportunity for those interested.

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San Diego Bonsai Club Website  
[www.sandiegobonsaiclub.com](http://www.sandiegobonsaiclub.com)

## Editor's Note

In this issue of the *Bonsai Wire*, we are starting a series of biographies and interviews of our active lifetime members to honor them as part of our 50th anniversary celebration and to learn from them. This month's honoree, Marty Mann, is familiar to all of us through either his participation in the SDBC activities over the years; or, for newer members, through his writings. The article here has been edited for space limitations, with the full article on the SDBC website. I leave you with a Marty Mann haiku.

Dave Barker,  
 TBW Editor

A shining bright star  
 Bathes its light upon our trees  
 With daylight, they glow

50 Years  
 of  
 Cultivating  
 the  
 Living Art  
 of  
 Bonsai  
 in  
 San Diego



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**BEGINNING CLASS IN FEBRUARY**

'lyn Stevenson will be teaching the second session this month. Work will be done to determine a front along with shaping your tree through trimming and wiring. Be sure and read the references 'lyn gave in relationship to the book *Basic Bonsai*. If you did not receive this book but one by Marty Mann you may exchange it at the class. There is a lot to do this session so be sure and arrive on time. The class starts at 8:30am in Room 104.



**FEBRUARY WORKSHOP:** Michael Sykes will be leading his very popular workshop on *Juniperus chinensis* 'Foemina' (foemina junipers). Tree and wire is provided but be sure and bring your tools. The class starts at 8:30 in Room 101 to the right of the entrance. This class is filled.

**SIGN UP FOR FUTURE CLASSES/ WORKSHOPS**

Beginning Class, April 12, June 28, July 12. Martha Choy will be the teacher for this beginning class that features the olive tree. These are good, well grown, beginner olives. Cost for the class is \$40 and includes tree, pot, pruners, and book. Maximum number of people is 20.

March 8 Workshop: Fred Miyahara will be teaching in a workshop on *Pinus thunbergii* (Japanese Black Pines). Fred brought in two samples of these outstanding pines to the Club meeting. They have a good trunk diameter. Bring your tools; tree and wire will be provided. Cost: \$110. Max: 10 people

April 12 Workshop: John Jackson will be leading a class on Large Oaks. There will be several types of Oaks available. Tree and wire will be provided. Cost: \$50. Max: 8 People

Barbara French-Lee, VP Education

## January Program

First VP Bob Hale presented "Soil: It's What Goes in the Pot" and led a group discussion of soils. The quality of the soil directly affects the health and vigor of the bonsai. Experience has shown that a tree's poor health can often be traced to being planted in poor soil (often largely organic or just garden soil). What we should look for is

1) good water retention, 2) good drainage, 3) good aeration, and 4) nutrient control. Bob led us through the various organic (barks, peat, etc.) and inorganic materials (scoria, pumice, perlite, akadama, etc.) and their properties. Bob's tests found mixes high in inorganic material were similar in providing water retention, drainage, aeration, and nutrient control but with some differences in each area. Experts' mixes ranged from 70—100 percent inorganic material. For example, the Safari Park mix is 4 parts scoria, 4 parts pumice and 2 parts orchid bark (80 percent inorganic material). The full presentation is available on the SDBC website under the resources tab.

**GRAFTING WORKSHOP**

Fred Miyahara led a grafting workshop at the January meeting where he demonstrated each of the three types of grafts—thread, inarch (or approach), and side veneer. Fred placed a special emphasis on the thread and inarch grafts that have to be used with deciduous trees because of their thin bark and cambium layers.

Fred demonstrated thread grafting with a small seiju elm and a large cork oak. A branch is allowed to grow very long and a hole is drilled through the trunk (or branch) large enough to fit the end of the branch through the hole without breaking off the buds. The branch is pulled through until snug and sealed with cut paste pressing downward to make a connection of the branch with the cambium of the trunk and making it water-tight.

The inarch graft is similar to the thread graft except the connection is made on the side of the trunk (or branch). A V notch was made in the trunk and a small tree in a 4 inch pot was scraped to expose the cambium and placed in the V notch to match the cambium of the trunk, tied very tightly with tape, and sealed. This graft is easier than the side veneer graft, but is very delicate and generally requires two years to completely take.



Fred also demonstrated the more complicated side veneer graft where a cutting, called a scion, is cut to be able to be inserted into a knife cut on the side of the branch so the cambium layers match. Don't try this one without supervision from Fred!





# San Diego Bonsai Club

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Members  
January 11, 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 14, 2014 meeting were approved as published.
3. **VP for Membership Sonya Holmquist:** Introduced New member Patricia Chapin and first time attendees Alfredo De La Cruz and Susan Rowen
4. **Board Member Reports:**

**Bob Hale 1st Vice President, reported:** Presentations for 2015 include January - Soil, February - Fertilizer, March - Abe Farr on bouganvillas, April in the works, and May we will be in the Safari Park for our club picnic.

**Peter Chong, Treasurer, reported:** Allan Edwin did the year-end report. In December, the Club ended well with a profit of \$2,000 which will be carried over to 2015. Thank you Mark and Cathy Edgar for their donation to the Pavilion. There was a \$6,000 profit for the year and will be carried over into 2015.

**Barbara French-Lee, Vice President Education, reported:** We have two classes in January - the beginners class with 'lyn Stevenson on Elms and Fred Miyahara's grafting class. The foemina juniper class with Michael Sykes will be next meeting, February 22<sup>nd</sup>; and in, March Fred Miyahara will lead a workshop on black pines.

**Janice Hale, VP Special Projects, reported:** Winter Silhouettes trip (includes bonsai exhibit, vendors, entertainment, a raffle, and dinner) is January 17<sup>th</sup>; the trip to the Huntington Gardens for the Bonsai-a-thon on February 28<sup>th</sup> is \$40. We will be taking a bus. Gary Jones in charge of Spring Show, we would like this show to be festive for our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. We would like more ideas for the show from members and we need volunteers.
5. **Appointed Position Reports:**

**John Jackson, Safari Park Pavilion Curator, reported:** Thank you to our volunteers. We are working on an expansion of the work area. 'lyn Stevenson has re-organized the sheds.

**Glenn Jensen, Japanese Friendship Garden Curator:** We had a first meeting at JFG; long range plan is keeping it simple and not be too large, but with more diversity of styles. JFG is an important part of Balboa Park; many tourists go through the JFG and see our display of Bonsai.
6. **Old Business:** We are still looking for volunteers for refreshments crew.
7. **New Business: Sonya Holmquist- 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Chair, reported:** We have a special logo polo shirts, pins, and aprons that we will make available for sale starting in February. We have a publicity team; we want to have declarations from City of San Diego for April to be "San Diego Bonsai Club" month. We also want to have a Historian for club. We are thinking of using QR codes for visitors to scan to get information about the trees at the shows.
8. **Announcements:**

**President Dan Sola announced:** On behalf of the board members, thank you to all members and volunteers for keeping us going in 2014. Congratulations to all of the 2015 Board Members, thank you for your service to our club. This year will be our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary and will be celebrated with our Spring Show; however, our commitment to our classes, education and training will continue. Our Board of Directors and the Committee of the 2015 events have been working behind the scene to come up with something that we can be proud of 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. We are asking everyone to get involved.
9. **Presentation/Demonstration:** Bob Hale First VP made a presentation on bonsai soil mix—assisted by Janice Hale.
10. **Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Brenda Crann, Secretary

## SDBC Honoree - Marty Mann

Marty's love of gardening started in Chicago where he lived across the street from a park. He planted tulips. About 1970, 40 years later, he found a place called A Bonsai Yard, his first interaction with bonsai.

Marty found his first teacher in Melba Tucker, his life's blood. He was fascinated with bonsai and learned something from every teacher he worked with including Harry Hirao, Dick Wydman, John Naka, Kay Komai, Khan Komai, Shig Nagatoshi, Ernie Kuo, and Warren Hill. All his reading and learning, lectures, studying and joining clubs taught him a great deal.

All this information needed to be spread, so Marty began writing newsletter articles entitled "Bonsai Ideas" for clubs all over California, which later would become the title of his book compiling all these informative articles into one source. His book is all over the U.S., and used by SDBC in our beginners classes, and articles from his book frequently appear in our own "Bonsai Wire."

Marty has been a member of SDBC since 1996 and said he was drawn to the progressiveness of the club and its teaching potential. He wanted to teach others and continue to learn himself. He has shown trees in the club shows since that first year and every year until recently when a stroke slowed him down.

Marty, when asked what was his greatest satisfaction from bonsai, said, "Seeing a living tree become a work of art." He drew great enjoyment at watching a cutting develop into a small tree, and then a bonsai; he became quite skilled at propagation. His favorite species is the Trident Maple because he missed the changing colors where he grew up. Marty's generosity has spread his trees from the Huntington in L.A. (Trident Maples, a Ginko and Liquidambar) to our own Safari Park pavilion (suiseki, trees, and tenuki (or phoenix) bonsai).

Marty's greatest lesson/disaster was, as he said, "Don't rely on a neighbor, a teenager, to take care of your bonsai when you go on vacation when they really didn't have an interest in bonsai." Something we can all learn from as he lost some valuable trees in that lesson.

Marty's greatest hope for bonsai is to get more young people involved. Older members need the young people and their energy. He is invigorated by the young people learning from the masters in Japan who then return to share their knowledge with people here.

His interest extended to Haiku, a high form of poetry. Marty created poems as he watched clouds passing overhead, a flower dancing in the wind, or a bonsai growing on a table. He has over 300 Haiku poems in his keeping and many grace our newsletter and his book.

In all this, Marty says that his wife Ruth has been his

greatest aide and confidant. He is truly blessed and grateful to have travelled this bonsai journey with her by his side. We shall see them both at future meetings as Marty's love for bonsai has not diminished.



**"Enjoy Bonsai, Learn More"**

Gary Jones, SDBC Bonsai Show Coordinator

## Winter Silhouettes Show

The trip to the Winter Silhouettes Show at the L.A. Arboretum included stopping to do some shopping,



walking around the arboretum, and enjoying some beautiful deciduous Bonsai including elms of SDBC members Glenn Jensen and Jim Barrett.





# San Diego Bonsai Club Pavilion at the Safari Park



SDBC should be proud of the volunteer hours spent at the Club's Bonsai Pavilion at Safari Park in 2014. The 51 active volunteers donated over 200 hours each month for a total of **2,669** hours for the year. Over 70 hours were donated by **Jim Kirchmer, Charlie Mosse, Sonya Holmquist, Ron Palmer, Harlan Price, and Mark Walters**. Over 100 hours were contributed by **Cathy Edgar, Mark Edgar, John Jackson, Sally Prestele, 'lyn Stevenson, Dennis Wagner, and Dave Woodall**. Those dedicated hours are impressive and generous. Congratulations and thanks to all 51 who took their time, effort, and talents to enhance the quality of this beautiful area at Safari Park.

We also started this January with a very nice turnout on the 3rd, 10th, and 17th even with some volunteers opted for the January 17th Club bus trip. Thanks this month to: **Neil Auwarter, Susan Baker, Ken Bross, Alan Burrows, Julia Chow, Cathy & Mark Edgar, Janice & Bob Hale, Sonya Holmquist, Curator John Jackson, Lin Koelmel, Charlie & Sylvia Mosse, Janet & Ron Palmer, Marcella Perez, Sally Prestele, Harlan & Mary Ann Price, Dan Sola, 'lyn Stevenson, John Voss, Dennis Wagner, Mark Walters, and Dave Woodall**.

Major cleanup continued above the waterfall and near the upper road. Due to recent rains, the bonsai pots all needed vigorous cleaning too. A new supply of Club brochures were added to our Pavilion kiosk describing the SDBC and the upcoming 50th Anniversary show at Balboa Park. This kiosk is a great public relations tool with visitors to the Park along with conversations by our volunteers about the Bonsai collections and the work that we are doing. Many visitors are also interested to learn that the deciduous trees are not dead but just dormant.

The construction on the expanded volunteer work area is progressing: 10 holes have been dug and the poles are cemented and set. The planks/boards for the walls are being attached. Curator John has been shopping and acquiring the necessary materials for this project. Assistant Curator Dennis provided the plans which were approved by the Park's Horticulturist. We also had informal meetings to discuss a wide range of topics including finances, grants, permits, moss coverings for our recent transplants, 2015 ID stickers, plans for the May SDBC meeting at Safari Park, future visits from other Bonsai clubs, and tools and supplies needed at the Pavilion. Curator John Jackson will be making a special presentation at the February SDBC meeting.

Every SDBC Club member is always encouraged to join this endeavor. Typically we meet on the first and third Saturdays from 9 to noon of each month, but we are now considering other Saturdays and week days as the work continues to expand. Also, some volunteers come much earlier and stay later since we seem to forget time when we are having fun! Thanks always!

'lyn Stevenson,  
SDBC-Safari Park Liaison



Left:  
Mark Edgar  
in the  
hoodie  
and Dave  
Woodall

Delicious high energy (low calorie?) snacks/contributions included: coffee cake, Mexican (key) limes, muffins, fudge, cookies, donuts, banana, blueberry, and sweet breads, mini sandwiches, rice cakes, and waters which were supplied by Charlie, Julia, Mary Ann, Marcella, Janice, 'lyn, Cathy, and Curator John.

Right:  
Assistant  
Curator  
Dennis  
Wagner



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## New Members

Please welcome our new members: **Shawn Palmer, Ali Kashkoolinia, Patricia Chapin, and Miguel Mercado.**

Sonya Holmquist, VP of Membership

P.S. A reminder that dues are now past due.

Please stop by the membership table at the meeting if you have not already paid. Also do not forget to record your volunteer hours.

## Refreshments

Thank you to the following for bringing refreshments to the January meeting: **Abe and Christina Far, Michael Sykes, Edward Stokes, Mark and Cathy Edgar, Afredo De La Cruz, Janice Hale, Janet Palmer, Harlan & Mary Ann Price, Marty & Ruth Mann, Charlie & Sylvia Mosse, Susan Baker, Cesar Velasquez, and Christine Elmer.**

## SDBC Benefit Drawing

Thank you to the following for your donations to the January meeting benefit drawing: **Abe and Christina Far, Edward Stokes, Harlan and Mary Ann Price, Marty Mann, Charlie Mosse, Dave Woodall, Joan Holliday, Dan Sola, Paul and Lisa Welby, and Neil Auwarter.**

## A Gathering

An impromptu Oak workshop was held at my house in January, primarily with oaks purchased at the bonsai tree sale in Poway. John Jackson generously gave his time and expertise to provide styling and growing advice on the majestic Oak. Attendees were: John Jackson, Mark and Cathy Edgar, Neil Auwarter, Dave Barker, Eric Jacobson, Bob and Janice Hale, Charlie and Sylvia Mosse. We were blessed with perfect weather and enjoyed some tasty goodies. **Charlie Mosse, SDBC Member**



## Special Events

### Bonsai-A-Thon XIX - February 28, 2015

Where can you enjoy bonsai styling demos from internationally recognized masters, walk through spectacular gardens, shop for pottery from Jim Barrett and see world famous works of art? At the Golden State Bonsai Federation's 2015 Bonsai-A-Thon held at the Huntington Library and Botanical Gardens! This is the annual fund raising event for the GSBF Bonsai Collection housed at the Huntington's Japanese Garden, so bring your check book for the raffle and live auction. There will also be vendors selling trees, pots and other fun bonsai items. Our early bird registration, 8:00am-9:30am, gets us free admission to the Bonsai-A-Thon and as a bonus, free admission to the gardens, library and museums at the Huntington. We will depart the Balboa Park bus staging area promptly at 7:00am and the Carlsbad staging area at 7:30am. The cost for your seat on the bus is \$40. There are a few seats left on the bus so please sign up soon. You can sign up and pay via PayPal on our website or contact me and I will reserve your seat. Note - there no refunds after February 10th. I hope you will be there to enjoy this fabulous day.

### Spring Bonsai Show - April 25 - 26, 2015

Our 50th Anniversary Spring Show! We need your help to put on this special show and celebration. Sign-up sheets for a myriad of tasks will be available at the Club meeting including set up on Thursday, April 23rd, bonsai tree and vendor table set up on Friday, April 24th, and many jobs throughout the show weekend. We'll have a fun dinner/ auction/raffle on Saturday night as part of the celebration. Happy Anniversary Everyone!

### Smile.Amazon.com Donations

Many of you shop online. Well, here is an easy way to help raise funds for the San Diego Bonsai Club. Shop at [www.smile.amazon.com](http://www.smile.amazon.com) and select the Club as the beneficiary of Amazon's 0.5% donation. The prices are the same as Amazon and the Club wins!

### Janice Hale, VP of Special Projects



Nazim and Aisha Colak shared several Bonsai from their collection at the January meeting

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

## San Diego Bonsai Club Calendar of Events

February 21st Saturday

SDBC Workday at Safari Park , 9 am to 12 pm

**February 22nd Sunday (Note— change of date)**

Club Meeting

"Fertilizer: The other thing that goes in the pot"

February 28th, Saturday

Bonsai-A-Thon XIX at Huntington Gardens in Pasadena

March 7th Saturday and March 21st , Saturday

SDBC Workday at Safari Park , 9 am to 12 pm

March 8th, Sunday

Club Meeting

Abe Far, Bougainvilleas

April 12th, Sunday

Club Meeting

**April 25 - 26th (Saturday & Sunday)**

50th Annual Spring Bonsai Show at Balboa Park

Sunday, February 22, 2015  
 Balboa Park, Room 101  
 Casa Del Prado

### Meeting Agenda

Time	Activity	Room
08:30– 10:20	Beginning Class	104
08:30– 10:20	Foemina Juniper Workshop	101
09:00 - 10:20	Get Help w/ your Bonsai	101
09:30– 10:20	Library Open	104
10:30-11:00	Business Meeting	101
11:00-12:30	Presentation on Fertilizers	101
12:30	Lunch	101
12:45	Benefit Drawing	101

**Dues are overdue! If you haven't done so, please pay your 2015 dues at the February Meeting or online.**