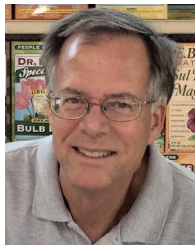


# The Bonsai Wire

Volume 42, Issue 2

February, 2016

## Message from the President



The Club trip in January to the Winter Silhouettes was great fun. There were about thirty of us in a big comfortable bus with lots of storage for goodies. First stop was the House of Bonsai. The nursery had the usual selection that we had come to expect of large and small bonsai material along with pots, soil, and accessories.

The second stop was San Gabriel Nursery. San Gabriel Nursery was most generous, giving the group discount coupons and marking down a number of bonsai trees by 30 percent. Many members took advantage of the bargain cork bark chinese elms.

Last stop was the Baikoen Bonsai Kenkyukai Winter Silhouettes show. Some of the finest deciduous trees were on display. The dormant season is certainly the best time for viewing the trunk, branches, twigs, and buds. Our Club won the styling competition with Michael Sykes'

vision of a windswept cypress tree receiving the highest bid in the auction. Perhaps the winning bidder will bring the tree in for the Club to view.

This brings me to the Bonsai-A-Thon trip on February 27th. This is absolutely the best Club trip of the year. There are still a few seats still left on the bus, so do not pass up this great opportunity to see a great exhibit at a great location with a lot of great people.

### Announcements

- Our trip to the Bonsai-A-Thon XIX will be Saturday, February 27, 2016 (see more on page 7).
- Due to a scheduling conflict at Balboa Park, the March meeting will be held on March 27th, the 4th Sunday of the month rather than our normal second Sunday. Mark your calendars accordingly.

Bob Hale, President

## This Month's Program

The first step in properly displaying a tree at a show or at home is pot selection and tree placement in its existing pot, or the pot you are considering. Whether or not you are planning to show a tree in the Spring Show this April (or a later show), pot selection and tree placement are crucial to a quality presentation and can be confusing because they both have many subtleties. Because pot selection and proper placement of the tree within the container are both very important, our guest speaker, Peter Macasieb, will put it together for us. He will also discuss all the other aspects of display including the use of stands, wood slabs, as well as accent plants on small stands or small slabs.

Peter has been creating bonsai and intensely studying the art for over a decade. He started under Harry Hirao and also studied many years with Tak Shimazu and Boon Manakitivipart. Peter creates all sizes and styles of bonsai. He will arrive early to set up his materials and will be available for discussion at that time. If you have a tree that you are considering showing in April or in the future, please bring it in for Peter's comments and suggestions before the meeting.

Charlie Mosse, 1st VP



Peter Macasieb

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

## MAS TAKANASHI GRANT

The San Diego Bonsai Club has an ongoing grant to train Club members who have been active with the Club for at least two years and are interested in becoming future teachers in the beginning class. The Mas Takanashi Grant is a three year commitment to become trained as a future bonsai teacher. The first year you are working with a bonsai master on ten subjects related to bonsai: basic botany, propagation, fertilizing, grafting, soils, watering, wiring, transplanting/potting and design. In the second year you learn the five primary design styles, and in the third year you co-teach in the beginning class. The cost of these classes is covered by the Club. If you are interested, please contact me at the club meeting or via email.

Barb French-Lee, VP for Education

Bonsai  
combines the  
beauty of  
manmade  
sculpture with  
the harmony and  
perfection of  
nature



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**BEGINNING CLASS:** In February the second beginning class on elms, taught by John Jackson with help from Mark and Cathy Edgar, will be held in Room 104. In this



class you will learn more about the botany of your elm, style of your tree, and learn how to wire trunk and branches on your tree. It will begin to look more and more like a bonsai, and some of the trees may have

already started to leaf out because of our warm weather. With the rains and the tree being in nursery soil, you may not need to water very frequently, but always check the soil moisture.



**WORKSHOP:** In February there will be two workshops - John Voss will help participants style a large liquidamber that has been developing in a growing box. There is one spot left for this class.

The other workshop for this month will be designing and repotting a large 15 gallon foemina juniper led by Michael Sykes. This class is filled. Thanks to Mike Boswell for taking his truck and going with Michael to pick up these large junipers and bring them to the class.

**MARCH WORKSHOP:** Fred Miyahara will teach a class on pines. These trees have been grown and recently repotted by Fred. This is a wonderful opportunity to add a pine to your collection, and two of the pines would be good to develop into a Shohin size. There are openings available. Cost: \$95.

**STUDY GROUP:** The study group with John Voss continues this month. Bring any trees you want to work on or receive advice about. Bring nursery stock or plant material you may have recently purchased to receive styling advice. There is an opening in this study group. If there are other people interested in belonging to a study group, 'lyn Stevenson has offered to start another group. Please let me know if you are interested.

Barb French-Lee, VP for Education



## Shohin Study Group

The Shohin Study Group will be meeting on February 14th from 1-4, after the Club meeting . Peter Macasieb will be our instructor. Peter is another relatively recent convert to shohin, expanding his bonsai talents from larger trees to advanced techniques for creating old looking small trees. He has a natural talent for shohin and has created an incredible collection in the past 10 years. See the photos on our the SDBC website under Study Groups, then Shohin.

We meet at Shirley's house on Sunday March 20th with Glenn Jensen as our instructor. We will do general work with an eye toward showing trees. April is show month, so we meet from 1-2:30 after the regular meeting with our trees, slabs, etc., to determine what will be shown.

## Bonsai Shows (Continued from page 7)

For the sale table items, we have two-part sales tags and consignment lists which will be made available to the sellers at the April Club meeting. (You must be a member of the San Diego Bonsai Club to sell an item at the Show) Sellers pay 20% of the sale price to the Club for sales at the Show, but often generously donate up to 100%. The sale of items at our Shows is the largest fund-raising events for SDBC each year.

Saturday of the Spring Show is when we hold our annual banquet. After we close the doors to the Show, we will set up dinner in the library. The Club will provide a main course, and members bring in side dishes and desserts. We are usually joined by other bonsai clubs for this event. After dinner we hold a raffle and live auction of fun and fabulous bonsai related items donated by our Club members and guests.

So how does all of this take place? By all of us volunteering our time and energy. The San Diego Bonsai Club operates only by each of us volunteering and chipping in from the smallest task to the largest. I will have sign up sheets for every task imaginable related to the set-up, the show, the dinner, and the tear down. You can work for 2 hours or all 4 days. There are lots of jobs for newcomers, and it is a great way to meet other members. We can't do it without you! Please help SDBC put on the best Spring Bonsai Show imaginable.

Janice Hale, V.P. Special Projects



# San Diego Bonsai Club

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Members  
January 10, 2016



1. **Call to Order:** The regular meeting of the membership of the San Diego Bonsai Club was called to order at 10:30 in Balboa Park by Bob Hale, President. It was confirmed that a quorum was present.
2. **Approval of Minutes:** The minutes from the December 13, 2015 meeting were approved as published.
3. **Nazim Colak, VP for Membership:** New members announced Khanh Nguyen; Donna, Carter, Cody, and Annette Debrun. It is membership renewal time.
4. **Board Member Reports:**
  - **Charlie Mosse, 1st Vice President, reported:** Thanks to Glenn Jensen, Michael Sykes, Lyn Stevenson, Gary Jones, Dennis Wagner and Roger Marr for helping with the repotting; for the next couple of months the SDBC will provide soil to repot. At the February meeting, the demonstration will be: "How to prepare your tree for a show"
  - **Peter Chong, Treasurer, reported:** In December 2015, our income was \$1,616.95, our expenses were \$963.16, and our net profit \$653.79. The balance for SDBC account is \$26,569.76 and for the Pavilion \$14,989.15. We had a great 2015, ending the year with a net profit of \$11,415.76.
  - **Barbara French-Lee, Vice President, Education, reported:** The beginner's class will be with John Jackson on Elms started this month. In February, we have 4 Liquid Amber trees and John Voss will be teaching this workshop the cost is \$75; Michael Sykes will teach workshop on 15 gallon foemina trees the cost will be \$85. Fred Miyahara will have his Pine class in March, the cost will be \$105. The Noon Study Group will start in January with John Voss.
  - **Janice Hale, Special Projects, reported:** The winners of the December bonsai Christmas tree competition were Abe and Christine Far. Shirley Kavanaugh won both 2nd and 3rd place. The Winter Silhouettes will be on January 16, 2016 the cost will be \$40. We will be stopping at two the House of Bonsai and San Gabriel nursery. The Bonsai-A-Thon will on February 27, 2016 and the cost will be \$40. The Spring Show will be April 23rd and 24th and Fall Show will be September 24th and 25th.
5. **Appointed Position Reports:**
  - **John Jackson, Safari Park Pavilion Curator; reported:** Our work day on January 16th will be moved to the 23rd due to the Silhouettes Show trip. We are transplanting junipers now and will have more trees to transplant in the next few months.
  - **Glenn Jensen, JFG Curator, reported:** We meeting the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of every Month at 9:00 am. Mwmbers are welcome to come by and help out or see our collection.
6. **Old Business:** None
7. **New Business:** Dan Sola installed Officers for 2016 Board that were not at the December meeting - Nazim Colak, VP Membership and Janice Hale, VP- Special Projects.
8. **Announcements:** Abe Far announced the GSFb Convention in 2017 will be in Riverside and chaired by Abe Far and wants members of SDBC to volunteer. Janice Hale has volunteered to be Treasurer and Brenda Crann has volunteered to be in charge of registration.
9. **Program:** At 11:00 am, Charlie Mosse, First VP, introduced Abe Far for our Repotting Demonstration.
10. **Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Brenda Crann Secretary

## Meet Your Officers

Janice Hale,  
VP- Special  
Projects

Nazim Colak,  
VP  
Membership



Trees may still be idle now but insect infestation can still do harm. Spray deciduous trees with dormant spray (Ortho Garden Disease Control) (lime sulfur) before any new growth appears. This protects trees from over-wintering insects. Applications of an all purpose fungicide, miticide, and insecticide minimizes new damage and protect the health of the tree during this period.

Wires should be well exposed on most of the trees since foliage has dropped and new growth is not obstructing a detailed inspection. Check all of last year's wires. Severe bark cuts can occur during the slow winter months when the woody portion of the trees tend to lignify and swell. Early spring spurts can quickly engulf old wire and cause damage.

Watering routines must be continued, but curtailed. Check your moisture levels. Most bonsai can be maintained on minimal schedules; however, don't allow anything to completely dry out.

Start planning your repotting activity. Now is the time, before the trees awaken. Take this opportunity to change from training pots or oversized pots to appropriate display pots more suitable to the finished bonsai. Determine the size, shape, color and style to complement your tree. If you see an appropriate pot at a nursery or convention bazaars, buy it when you see it.

During this time, you can also occupy yourself with a program of pot cleanup. All those pots have been sitting around and waiting for repotting activities to begin. They have probably accumulated layers of soil and lime deposits. Scrub them with a strong soapy solution and some bleach. Apply 'lime-off,' vinegar, or some elbow-grease and cleanser to the white spots (and rinse them well). Allow them to dry in the full sun to prevent any infestation carryover.

Make a list of the trees that will require repotting in spring. Begin with pines and junipers. With deciduous trees, wait until they are just beginning to emerge (when the buds swell). Tropicals should wait until later.

Another important activity at this time involve your tools. Now is the time to sort them out. Sharpen all cutting edges, remove accumulations of rust and pitch. Use one of the good Japanese 'erasers' that work well to remove rust and grime on tools. Oil (WD-40) all surfaces for protection. Be ready to go!

[This article has been extracted from *Bonsai Ideas* © by Marty Mann. Material is not to be copied without publisher or author's permission.]



Abe Far did a superb job demonstrating the many steps in properly repotting a bonsai. When you itemize the steps, it is amazing how many there are to properly prep and pot a tree. It is not just a matter of cutting roots

and planting the tree. One has to know the species to know whether it can tolerate extensive combing, cutting, and manipulation of the roots. One has to consider before even starting if the tree needs to be re-positioned with a different front and/or different slant. Does it need a larger or a smaller pot, or a pot of a different shape, design or color?

Abe showed us all how to properly tease out the roots, spread the roots for future nebari enhancement and healthy roots, as well as how to secure the tree in the pot. He deftly covered the complicated subject of soils, suggesting the soil mix may depend on the stage of development of the tree and watering practices. Tree roots need to be on the dry side to grow well. Thanks again, Abe, for an excellent presentation.

### Winter

### Silhouettes Trip



# San Diego Bonsai Club Pavilion at the Safari Park

EL NINO arrived in January and the Pavilion volunteers responded promptly, assessed the possible and probable damages, and made the necessary repairs. The drains were cleared, trenches were dug and the washed out areas were filled in. No major crises fortunately!

The decomposed granite pathways through the center walk areas are always vulnerable to washouts in heavy rains, so we may see more of that this winter if the predicted storms continue. Fortunately, the bonsai all thrive very well with fresh rains which help leach minerals from the soils. The potting soil mix at the Pavilion allows for such conditions, and the newly seeded moss has responded well. The ground cover plants in the garden areas have also grown rapidly, so culling of crowding plants has been started and more will need to be done.

Many thanks to all the January volunteers who also repotted several bonsai along with the other chores: **Neil Auwarter, Susan Baker, Ken Bross, Julia Chow, Cathy & Mark Edgar, Sonya Holmquist, Curator John Jackson, Jaya Kaelberer, Jim Kirchmer, Jim Lane, Denie Luczak, Charlie Mosse, Ron Ogdon, Janet & Ron Palmer, Mariah Paterson, Marcella Perez, Sally Prestele, 'lyn Stevenson, Chusub Sresthadatta, John Voss, Dennis Wagner, Mark Walters, Nancy Wilson-Ramon, and Roger Ziegelman.**

The hot water pot was on for coffee, tea, and cocoa and nutritious refreshments were supplied by Marcella, Chusub, Janet, Charlie, Mariah, Denie, Nancy, Curator John, Cathy, and 'lyn. The Safari Park Volunteer Office also shared some delicious snacks from their office at the Park with the Pavilion when we were applying for our 2016 Pavilion credentials.

The January work scheduled was changed slightly due to the SDBC bus trip to Winter Silhouettes, but we will be at the Pavilion on the first and third Saturdays in February (the 6th and 20th). Volunteers who want to help at other times can contact Curator John or Assistant Dennis for work assignments. Naturally, weeding, raking, debris cleaning of the ponds, and cleaning of the pots and bonsai stands are all tasks to do whenever we arrive. Several of the volunteers have adopted certain bonsai that they are taking as their special projects to follow each session since the detailed work needed to improve these masterpieces cannot be accomplished in any one work session.

It is our Pavilion and our responsibility to keep it in beautiful condition for everyone to see and en-

joy. Thanks always to the San Diego Bonsai Club and the San Pu Kai volunteers who have taken on these activities!

*'lyn Stevenson, SDBC-Safari Park Liaison*

## JAPANESE FRIENDSHIP GARDEN

We met one of our biggest challenges in January when we repotted our very large pine with the help of **Glen Jensen, Fred Miyahara, Charlie Mosse, Roger Marr, Yoichiro Suemori (Mori), Dennis Wagner, and Nancy Wilson-Ramon.** We also repotted some of the other pines and junipers in the collection. Our experiment with the name tags for the trees did not hold up with the rain; so, through a Club member, we are going to an all-plastic tag that would need to be moved with the tree.

One of the best parts of volunteering at the JFG is visiting with people from all over the U.S. and the world. They always complement us on the collection. Like proud parents, we appreciate their kind words as we are thinking about what we want to do to make our collection better.

*Barb French-Lee, Liaison & Glenn Jensen, Curator*



The large pine at the JFG in its pot in new, fresh soil

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## New Members

Please welcome our first new members of 2016:

**Donna Carter, Jason Nelson, Khanh Nguyen, Annette and Cody DeBruyn, Arthur Austin, and Gene Lujan.** Please make sure to welcome them to the Club at the February meeting.

### Past Due—2016 Membership Renewal

Your membership dues are now past due. If you have not yet paid, please stop by the membership table at the meeting or renew online.

Nazim Colak, VP of Membership

## Refreshments

Thank you to the following for your donations of refreshments to the January meeting: **Charlie & Sylvia Mosse, Shirley Kavanaugh, Sonya Holmquist, John & Margaret Jackson, Mark & Cathy Edgar, Roger Marr, Mike & Katy Boswell, Nancy Wilson-Ramon, Janet Liggett, Gary Jones, Daniel Luczak, Mariah Paterson, Abe & Christina Far, Bill Starks, and Michael Sykes.**

## SDBC Benefit Drawing

Thank you to the following for your donations to the January benefit drawing: **Charlie Mosse, Shirley Kavanaugh, Gary Jones, Dan Sola, Ken Bross, John & Margaret Jackson, Dennis Wagner, Neil Auwarter, 'lyn Stevenson, Abe & Christina Far, John Voss, and Norm Magnuson.**

## Website

Check out the many photos of the Winter Silhouettes trip on the SDBC website.

## Library

We thank Eric Jacobsen for his donation of the book *Literati Style Penjing* by Zhao Qingquan to the SDBC library. The literati style is one of the most challenging styles of bonsai to do correctly, and this book provides many insights and stunning illustrations to guide the reader. It is a nice addition to our collection.

We have many books for our new members on the basics of bonsai; just stop by and pick one out before the club meeting.

Steve Clemons, Librarian

## Special Events

### Bonsai-A-Thon XX - February 27, 2016

Attention!!! Don't miss out; there are only a few seats left on the bus. I will reserve your spot for one of the last seats on the bus in the order I receive your request either via PayPal or your email to me: janicehale42@gmail.com. The cost per person is \$40. Once the bus is filled, I will start a waiting list.

Our tour bus will depart the Balboa Park staging area at 7:00 am sharp, and the Carlsbad staging area at 7:30 am. You can enjoy demonstrations by noted bonsai masters, a garden tour led by Jim Folsom, Director of the Botanical Gardens, bonsai exhibits, a large vendor area, a raffle and a very lively auction at this annual fund-raising event for the Golden State Bonsai Federation Collection at The Huntington. You can also wander the gardens and exhibits of The Huntington Library, Art Collections and Botanical Gardens. This year a special sales room is being set up for trees, pots and viewing stones from the collections of Harry Hirao and Jerry Madison as well as items from the Huntington Collection. For more information about the Bonsai-A-Thon, visit [www.gsbfhuntington.com](http://www.gsbfhuntington.com).

### Spring Bonsai Show - April 23-24, 2016

Its time to celebrate our 51st Year with our Spring Bonsai Show. Given a lot of newer members, I'll go into a little more detail about our Shows. Our Spring and Fall Shows are held in Casa Del Prado, room 101, the same room as our general club meetings. The Spring Show will be held from 10:00am-5:00pm Saturday, April 23rd and Sunday the 24th. On Thursday afternoon/evening, April 21st, we will set up the display tables and sales area. On Friday afternoon/evening, the bonsai trees to be displayed are brought in and set up. Also, any Club member who wants to sell a bonsai related item will bring in their wares to be checked in to the sales table on Friday. On Saturday and Sunday, during the show, we have bonsai demonstrations at 11:00am and 1:00pm inside the showroom. There will also be on-going bonsai tree styling by our club members outside the showroom doors in the courtyard.

Trees displayed at the show are owned by SDBC members. If you are a newer member, please feel free to bring in your tree to one of our monthly meetings and one of our more seasoned members can help you decide if your tree is ready to be put on exhibit. Please don't be shy! We often have novice and beginner exhibits depending on the number of bonsai exhibits we have room for.

(continued on p.3)

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

## San Diego Bonsai Club Calendar of Events

February 14th Sunday

Club Meeting

February 20th, Saturday

SDBC Workday at Safari Park , 9 am to 12 pm

February 27th, Saturday

Bonsai-A-Thon XIX trip

Huntington Gardens in Pasadena

March 5th and 19th, Saturday

SDBC Workday at Safari Park , 9 am to 12 pm

March 27th Sunday

Club Meeting

April 2nd and 16th, Saturday

SDBC Workday at Safari Park , 9 am to 12 pm

April 10th Sunday

Club Meeting

April 23rd-24th, Saturday and Sunday

SDBC Spring Bonsai Show

Sunday, February 14, 2016  
 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
08:30 - 10:20	Liquidamber Workshop	101
09:30– 10:20	Library Open	104
10:30-11:00	Business Meeting	101
11:00-12:30	Demonstration	101
12:30	Lunch	101
12:45	Benefit Drawing	101

Note  
 Date  
 Change

Happy Valentine's Day—What better way to celebrate than at the SDBC meeting!