

The Bonsai Wire

Volume 40, Issue 3

March, 2014



Message from the President

It is March, and Spring will soon be here. We are still waiting for rain, but it may not come any time soon. Our bonsai collections are growing again, and we will soon be busy—if not already—trimming and re-potting. If you let it slide a few days or weeks, you may find yourself always trying to catch up (This is from personal experience).

Although our main objective in bonsai is to keep our bonsai alive, casualties do happen. To help a bonsai enthusiast keep his/her bonsai in good order, SDBC's bonsai classes, especially the beginners class, provide a good "toolbox": proper bonsai soil mixture, maintenance, and care. Keep those notes handy; you may need them.

Also, our volunteers at the Bonsai Pavilion in Safari Park will have more work trimming and re-potting bonsai displays. Speaking of Safari Park, our Bonsai Pavilion Curator, John Jackson, along with our volunteers, will be conducting educational re-potting of bonsai displays on March 1st and 15th (see more on page 6).

Announcements...

- To all our hard-working members, thank you. You know who you are. And a special thanks to Glenn Jensen for sharing his bonsai talents about carving *shari* and *jin*.
- Also a thank you to Bob Hale for accepting the First Vice President position. Due to being busy at work, Rich Glauser could not continue to be First VP.
- It is not too early to think about our 2014 Spring Show: April 26 and 27. It is time to identify bonsai items you want to sell. And yes, we need help, especially during set up (on 24th and 25th) and teardown.
- Harry Hirao's fans—maybe all of us—are in luck. Harry will be coming back to show his bonsai expertise and celebrate his birthday with us in March.
- Finally, please remember to set your clocks ahead one hour the night before our meeting, or you will be late!

Dan Sola, President

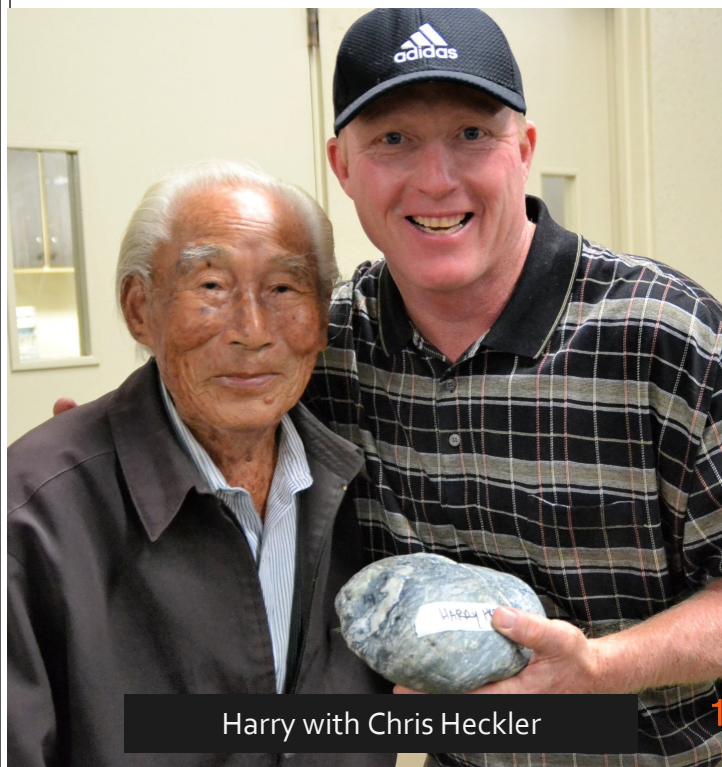
Harry Hirao

This Month's Program

March means it is time for Harry Hirao, his **97th** birthday party and a wonderful demonstration with a California Juniper. Harry is renowned for his work with this species of juniper, as well as his legendary collecting trips. Harry's California juniper and suiseki are on display in the John Naka Pavilion for Bonsai at the National Arboretum in Washington, D.C. and he has received numerous awards for his contributions to Bonsai in America.

Harry's generosity in sharing his knowledge has allowed many others to share his passion for these twisted, weathered yet hauntingly beautiful California natives. He has rightly earned the title "Mr. California Juniper."

Harry Hirao is in demand all over the world, and the fact that he chooses to come visit our club is a true honor. While he usually does not say much as he works away on the tree, there will be several assistants who will keep us abreast of what Harry is doing, sharing stories of collecting trips, and answering questions.



Harry with Chris Heckler

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www.sandiegobonsaiclub.com

Editor's Note

This issue of the Bonsai Wire is packed with useful information and a little short on assigning credit for the writing, so I want to acknowledge the efforts of the contributors on the "Inside This Edition." In addition, last month the article on the repotting of the Melba Tucker forest was contributed by Mark Edgar. I was at the Safari Park last weekend and the forest is even more beautifully done than the article's picture showed; make sure you see it at the May picnic. Lastly, thanks to all those who have contributed photos. Dan Sola provides most of the photos (Thanks Dan!), but we also have had contributions from 'lyn Stevenson, Cathy Edgar, Janice Hale, David Choy, and Charlie Mosse.

Dave Barker,
TBW editor

Enjoy
Bonsai
- Learn
More



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Beginning Class

This is the third and final class with your elm (or a few who received a maple). In this class you will be doing some final wiring, learning about soils for



bonsai and repotting your tree in a bonsai pot. I imagine by now most everyone has leaves on their deciduous tree. It's fun to see your tree going from sticks to a tree with leaves, and beginning to look like a little bonsai.

The next beginning class starts next month, April, with the second and third classes in June and July (we skip May as we have our meeting and picnic at the Safari Park). This class will be taught by Martha Choy and will be working on variegated boxwoods. This will be a great class both for the type of material you get to work with and the experience of Martha, who has recent Bonsai training in Japan. Cost, \$40.

Skills Classes

March Workshop: Fred Miyahara's Pine Workshop is filled but you can always drop by to see if someone fails to show up.

April Workshop: John Jackson's Root over Rock workshop with Trident Maple still has 3 openings. This workshop is done with a live audience as John shows the entire Club how to create this arrangement at the same time. The workshop takes place during John's presentation to the Club at 11 am. This workshop includes trees, rocks, soil and handmade pot. Cost, \$30.

May: No workshops; we'll see you at the picnic.

June Workshop: Cindy Read will be presenting this workshop using large, established boxwoods. This workshop includes the tree and bonsai soil; you will provide the pot. We will have a sample boxwood for you to see in April. Cost, \$50. The maximum number for the workshop is 10 people. Follow-up sessions will be in September and early spring (Cindy will let you know).

Mas Takanashi Grants

Congratulations to [Brenda Crann](#) and [Allan Edwin](#) who have been awarded the Mas Takanashi Grant. This is a grant funded by the Club to receive Bonsai training and create future teachers for the Club.

Our own Glenn Jensen gave a presentation on carving *jin* and *shari*. Jin is a bonsai deadwood technique used on branches or the top of the trunk. *Sharimiki* is the natural driftwood shape, where the trunk is primarily deadwood with one or two live veins running up to the remaining branches, which is highly prized in Japan. The term *tanuki* is where a piece of live plant has been attached to the deadwood to mimic *Sharimiki*.

Usually, deadwood techniques for branches are applied to conifers, mainly junipers and occasionally pine. Conifers retain the dead limbs, which naturally becomes weathered and eroded over time.

Deciduous trees tend to shed dead branches and heal over the wound. The dead branch dies back to the trunk forming a small hollow, referred to as *uro*. Bonsai artists replicate this hollow by making a small, irregularly-shaped wound in the trunk.

Glenn, on one of his favorite junipers, showed how the *shari* can be seen as a strip of white wood with black living wood on either side. The tree appeared as if it had suffered a lightning strike going from the apex to the base. This particular tree's *shari* extended all the way down to the soil level.

Shari at the soil level absorbs moisture causing the deadwood to rot from dampness; best technique is to stop the *shari* above the soil line. Glenn uses a sharp knife to outline the *shari* to control the shape and allow for best healing of the live wood, then peels the bark off.

To create jin, Glenn recommended cutting halfway through the back of the branch and then tearing forward. This is followed up with little bites and tears, until the result should look like an bird's open beak, not a sharpened pencil. A trunk splitter can be used to take big bites out of the tree. For smaller branches, jin pliers can be used to crush bark allowing the bark to be easily stripped. It is nice to leave secondary branches as part of the jin on the main branch.

Glenn demonstrated with another juniper how carving could be done with power tools. He first identified areas to cut and the marked it with a sharpie. Carving should try to follow the grain and allow for a reversal of direction to give a sense of movement. Some of the largest carving is to create taper or correct reverse taper through grinding the trunk.





San Diego Bonsai Club

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Members
February 9, 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 January 12, 2014 meeting were approved as published.
3. **President's Remarks:** Dan Sola thanked the members for volunteering last month. Rich Glauser will not be able to continue as 1st VP due to his schedule with management at work. Per SDBC bylaws Article 6 Section 2d, the board shall fill the vacancies, except the President; Robert Hale has agreed to be our 1st Vice President. Acknowledgement of past SDBC presidents.
4. **Admission of New Members: David Choy, VP for Membership, introduced new members:** Melinda Trazinsky, Nancy Melling, Steve and Polly Casmar, and Hai Tran. Acknowledgement of Life Membership of Lyn and Jim Stevenson and Abe Far. Membership dues are due by the end of March.
5. **Board Member Reports:**

Allan Edwin, Treasurer, reported: SDBC made money for January; the Silhouettes trip made \$120 we used 3 vans instead of a \$1200 bus. Total income was \$2500 with a profit of \$1500. There is \$6000 for the club and \$14,000 for the Pavilion. We are financially sound. We are organizing education so we know actually what we are using and the cost; what is popular and what is not. In doing this, we are building a history that will help us meet the needs of our members. We want to start fundraising and are looking for a member to lead in fundraising. SDBC board would like to be able to do outreach programs; teach in schools; and work with Disabled Veterans. Allan met with the CEO of Horton Grand they are deciding whether they will have Bonsai or Art work. We might be able to have a fundraiser at the Horton Grand.

Robert Hale- 1st Vice President,(Dan Sola) reported: In March we will have Harry Hirao. Sonia and Meg have been asked to have a Birthday cake for him. All future presenters are listed on the SDBC website.

Barbara French-Lee, Vice President, Education, reported: The beginners class will be repotting in March ;soil and pots will be provided. The next beginners class will be April with Martha Choy, who recently trained in Japan, and the trees will be Boxwood. Fred Miyahara will have a class in March with pines. The workshop in April with John Jackson is Root over Rock using the Trident Maples. The February Foemina class will repot in March— bring a pot and soil. The Japanese Friendship Garden (JFG) and Jacob Center had a cultural festival; Trisha Bonapace and I went and we helped children and college students repot Jade plants. JFG is having their Cherry Blossom event March 1 and they would like an SDBC presence there. We need demonstrations; also we need help with the trees at JFG.

Janice Hale, Vice President Special Projects: Our Spring Show will be April 26-27 10:00-5:00 both days; we will set up on the 24th and trees to be brought in on 25th there will be plant and tree sales. The show is a group effort and to insure success, we need your participation. Saturday Night we will have dinner and benefit drawing. We would like to have a novice table and also a kid's table. We will need donations of succulents and potting soil. New Suiseki (rock) collection field trip to Yuha Desert will be on March 22 and the cost will be \$40.
6. **Appointed Position Reports: Lyn Stevenson, Safari Park Pavilion Liason,** reported: This year is the 100th Birthday of John Naka; he helped open the 1st Pavilion; also honored at new Pavilion. March 1st and 15th from 9:30 - 1:30 will be on our first educational program; Safari Park is very excited the park is marketing this event; we will be transplant/repot 17 trees. Thanked SDBC for the Life Membership.
7. **Old Business:** None
8. **New Business: Meg Polo** - Please bring refreshments for March 9. **Dan Sola** - SDBC meeting will move to June 1st due to Cactus/Succulent show. [Ed. Note: After the meeting SDBC secured room 104 on June 8]
9. **Announcements: Abe Far:** Reported the Shohin Convention was a success; GSBF has a very informative magazine, *Golden Statements*, the cost is \$25.
10. **February 2014 Program: Dan Sola introduced presenter: Glenn Jensen** -spoke about carving, Shari and jin.
11. **Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Crann, Secretary

Bonsai Ideas by Marty Mann

March. A period of renewal, replanting, refinement, revival and resurrection. Time to resume a regular schedule of fertilization and watering, especially in those trees potted in soils that have been leached of nutrients by winter idleness. Use a slow release fertilizer for spring feeding with a push from liquid food for a fast acting starter. Watch for signs of new growth to begin.

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 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 bazaar, buy it when you see it.

Now is the best time to begin with evergreens that may still be quiet. Repotting will encourage new root development and free any constricted or root-bound material. It is usually unnecessary to move material into larger pots when the root development is not excessive. It's better to root prune and provide fresh soil.

When repotting, it is the proper time to reposition the tree if it is required. Change the height, adjust the trunk angle and add more potting soil around the root ball and work it in with a chopstick to fill in as many air pockets as possible. Remember to slope your surface slightly from the trunk to the lip of the pot. Leave an indentation along the rim of the pot to prevent water runoff. A good soaking or dunking removes any destructive air pockets. Place repotted material in semi-shade for a week or so. Do not water excessively, but do not allow the tree to dry out. Introduce it back to full light and warmth to encourage root and bud growth to begin. Do not feed for 4 to 5 weeks. March and April can be capricious months, ranging from cool to hot. Do not encourage too much quick growth since this creates unsightly long internodes and large leaves. Pay particular attention to fruiting and flowering trees. If they have been too active in directing their energy into flowers and buds then some pinching back can help them pay attention to leaves and woody branching.

A bonsai, to be ready for repotting, should be somewhat dry. This facilitates removal from a tight pot. Unwind twisted roots that may circle the outer rim. Free them of any hardened or compacted soil. Usually, with deciduous or conifers, it is best to cut about 1/3 of the root ball away as the roots are freed they can be trimmed with a sharp cutter and combed to reduce the ball to the repotting size. Keep your fine roots sprayed. Don't allow them to dry out. Cut away any heavy old roots.

Watch for signs of new growth to begin. Insects come back to life with the arrival of steady warmth. Start with Malathion to attack most predators but don't overlook Sevin if signs of chewing damage shows on your leaves. Spray well into the interior of the tree and onto the undersides of the leaves. Sucking insects such as scale, aphids, white flies, mealy bugs and mites will require a systemic action in the pesticide you use. Spray on warm and dry days. Best in the mid-morning to allow the spray material to dry onto the plant surfaces. Avoid watering until the sprays can be effective.

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



Club Logo

Sometimes we take certain things for granted; our logo is one of these things. We see it in the newsletter every month, it is on

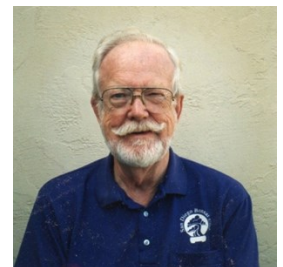
our nametags and membership cards, it appears in our letterhead, and it is found on our club's pin. Our official Logo is the design created by **Bob Galager** back in 1989, 25 years ago, the result of a club logo competition.

Bob had lengthy discussions with his wife **Kora** who suggested it be a single tree and not be too much "frou frou" nor "cutsie woosy." The result was a hand-drawn winning design. **Fred**

Miyahara took the design and tweaked it into a more stylish Bonsai and our current logo was born. Gary Gilmore, a jeweler in Ocean Beach made some silver and gold pins and pendants that were given to founding members of the club. **Maude Laracy** was one of the recipients of these pins.

Currently, the club gives out three colored pins with the Logo: Gold, given to all main demo speakers and past members of the board; Bronze, given to any member of SDBC upon their first tree shown in a major Bonsai exhibit; and Black, the club's pin you can purchase at the tool sales table. So next time you see our logo, remember it represents our club and feel proud to be part of it.

David Choy - Historian (many thanks to **Kora Galager**, past president SDBC, for her input)



San Diego Bonsai Club Pavilion at the Safari Park

March 1st and 15th workdays will initiate special presentations by the Pavilion Volunteers to all the Safari Park visitors. In our original plan for this new Pavilion, space was allocated and designated to present educational programs for all friends, volunteers, and visitors. We are now prepared to share a special potting and replanting bonsai demonstration to the visitors and other Zoo volunteers and friends on those days from 9:30 to 1:30. There will be adequate seating around the Shohin open area and our work tables will be located in that area for everyone to be able to view the potting process. A microphone will be available and our volunteers, in their red Safari shirts, will be available to greet, guide, answer questions, and explain the process. A display of tools and pots will also be set up. It will be an informal, continuous four hours since visitors will be visiting the pavilion at different times. We hope this will be the first of many educational programs in the months and years to come.

In preparation for our special demonstrations in March, several garden-keeping chores were accomplished at the work sessions in February. At the front of the Pavilion, the Mas Takanashi front gate was cleaned and polished. The plaques on the Honor Board as well as the large entrance plaque were also cleaned. All the bonsai pots in the Pavilion were cleaned and oiled. Moss was appropriately transplanted or removed.

Curator John directed the transplanting/repotting and restyling of several of the most heavy and largest bonsai with the help of several, physically-strong, volunteers! These bonsai are really wonderful show stoppers in the Pavilion but need the assistance of several people and our "elevator" cart to place them on the display tables in the Pavilion. We will still have several bonsai to transplant at our March workdays so the visitors on those days will see this important process in bonsai care and training. The early springtime is especially desirable for repotting of the deciduous trees before they leaf out. Assistant Curator Dennis is the volunteer who is called on repeatedly for advice on the great black pines in the Pavilion; some of which are potted bonsai and others in the garden area are landscape plantings.

Many thanks to our volunteers for all their careful preparation work: **Neil Auwarter, Susan Baker, Armand Bryant, Julia Chow, Cathy & Mark Edgar, Maria & Tina Flores, Jeff Gerringen, Bill Graham, Curator John Jackson, Jaya Kaelberer, Jim Kirchmer, early bird Charlie Mosse, new volunteers Janet & Bob Palmer,**

Sally Prestele, Harlan Price, Dan Sola, 'lyn Stevenson, Charlie Tamm, Dennis & Sue Wagner, Mark Walters, and Dave Woodall. All these helpers are valuable to keep the Bonsai Pavilion looking fantastic!

The February refreshments were most welcome by all: snickerdoodles, corn bread, donuts, brownies, watermelon, and specially baked Valentine cookies went over well with the coffee and lemonade. Many thanks to Charlie, Harlan, Cathy, John, Maria, Tina and 'lyn.

And thanks also to SDBC and San Pu Kai members who make financial donations toward the Pavilion Fund also. Wires, fertilizers, soil mixes, small tools, and bonsai pots are always on the shopping list and we are thankful for all contributions. This past month, \$50 from Bill Graham and \$100 from Rita Hwang helped increase the Fund. Many thanks always!

Looking forward to seeing all the Bonsai Wire readers coming to the Pavilion in March!

'lyn Stevenson, SDBC-Safari Park Liaison

Bonsai-a-Thon Trip

Our club members enjoyed a beautiful sunny day at the Huntington Library, Art Collection and Botanical Gardens beginning with a fabulous tour of the grounds. A separate article by Eric Jacobson relating to the botanical tour as well as many photos are on the SDBC website.

In addition to stunning bonsai and suiseki, the Bonsai-a-Thon included a room dedicated to a fascinating display of bonsai pottery. The vendor area was a favorite destination with every possible tool or tree and including pots by Jim Barrett. We watched while six bonsai masters simultaneously each styled their own tree. Our own Michael Sykes, assisted by Fred Miyahara, styled a lovely formal up-right Foemina juniper. The finished trees were later auctioned off, raising significant funds for the GSBF Huntington Collection.



The art museums, library, the Chinese Garden, Japanese Garden, and GSBF bonsai collection, were also explored. From 'lyn Stevenson, "Several of the SDBC members and SDBC Safari Pavilion volunteers spent time visiting the bonsai areas beyond the Japanese garden. We could not help comparing our Pavilion to what they have there. Our volunteers can truly be proud of ours."

New Members

Please welcome our newest members:

Mia and Lory Wallach; Steve and Polly Casmar; Hai Tran; George Milanovich; and Jeannieann, Tom and Anthony Galambos. If you see them at our meeting please stop and greet them.

David Choy, VP of Membership

Refreshments

Many thanks to the folks that brought refreshments to the February meeting. The members bringing refreshments included: **Susan Baker, John & Margaret Jackson, Abe & Christina Far, Sonya Holmquist, Joan Holliday, Chris Heckler, Ka Kien Ma, Roger Marr, Trisha Bonapace, Dennis & Sue Wagner, Lauren Sanchez, and Marty & Ruth Mann.**

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 February meeting: **Dan Sola, Glenn Jensen, Ken Bross, John & Margaret Jackson, Abe & Christina Far, Chris Heckler, Bob Hale, Dennis & Sue Wagner, Scott Flack, Marty Mann, and Martha, David, and Andrew Choy.**

Please continue to bring in your bonsai related items.

Membership Dues— Final Call!

Membership Dues are due March 30th. Keep your membership current by paying at the March meeting or going on-line. If not received, you will no longer be a current member. Dues are \$30 for one person and \$5 for each additional family member. Contact **David Choy**, the VP of membership, if you have any questions.

Special Events

Yuha Desert Suiseki Trip. A suiseki, rock collecting, field trip is planned for March 22nd. The destination is the Yuha Basin desert south of I-8 between Ocotillo and El Centro. We'll leave San Diego at 8:00 am and should arrive in the desert by 10:00 am. At this time the idea of car pooling is favored, with members chipping in for the cost of gas. We will meet following the demonstration at the March meeting to choose a staging area and discuss car pooling options. Please attend this short meeting if you are interested in the field trip. Details on what to bring are on the SDBC website.

Spring Show:

Our Spring Show will be held April 26th & 27th, 10 am— 5 pm with set up April 24th & 25th. This is an exciting time for us all, where we can show the public the art of bonsai and recruit new members.

With plant sales during the show as well as the benefit drawing and auction at our Saturday dinner, this is also our club's largest fund raising event.

We need your help to make this a successful event. Sign up sheets will be available at our March meeting for a multitude of tasks, large and small. Please try to donate a few hours of your time. This is a perfect opportunity for you to get involved in the club and meet new people.

In addition to all of the amazing bonsai masterpieces created by members of our club, we would like to show our guests how we begin our bonsai journey. We would like to have a table for trees in training by beginners/ novices. We encourage you to bring in a favorite tree, even from the beginning classes, to the March meeting so our instructors can guide you on how it can best be displayed. Depending on space available, you will then bring it to the show set up, Friday April 25th, between 4 pm and 7 pm, and your tree will be in the show.

Something new this year will be a "Kids Table" where they can dig their little fingers into some soil and pot up a plant. To accomplish this we will need your donations of small, rooted plants or succulents and potting soil. We have acquired small 4"x5"x1.5" black plastic rectangular trays that resemble bonsai pots. We also need your time and smiles to help the kids plant their "bonsai".

The plant and bonsai material sale tables are a big part of the show. The public loves to see the displayed trees and find something special they can take home for their own. Any member can sell bonsai related items. You may pick up sales record sheets and tags at the signup area.

To reward ourselves for all of the hard work putting on the show, we will have wonderful dinner Saturday night. Along with dinner we will have a fun benefit drawing and auction. Please RSVP for the dinner on the sign up sheets. We are requesting that you each bring an appetizer or a dessert and please bring something for the benefit drawing and auction.

Janice Hale, VP for Special Projects



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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

San Diego Bonsai Club Calendar of Events

March 9th Sunday

Regular SDBC Meeting

Harry Hirao - styling a California juniper

March 15th Saturday

SDBC Workday at Safari Park , 9am to 1:30pm

March 22 Saturday - Yuha desert suiseki trip

April 5th Saturday and April 19th Saturday

SDBC Workday at Safari Park , 9am to 12pm

April 13th Meeting

Regular SDBC Meeting

John Jackson - trident maple on rock

April 26th Saturday and April 27th Sunday

SDBC Spring Bonsai Show

May 3rd Saturday

Regular Meeting/Picnic at Safari Park

June 8 Meeting - Lindsay Shiba, how to display bonsai

July 13 Meeting - Jim Barrett, bonsai pot making

August 10 Mtg - Tom Elias, "penjing"

March 9
 Balboa Park, Room 101

Meeting Agenda

	<u>Time</u>	<u>Activity</u>	<u>Room</u>
	08:30-10:20	Beginning Class	104
	08:30-10:20	Foemina Juniper Workshop (continued from February)	101
	08:30-10:20	Japanese Black Pine	101
	10:30-11:00	Business Meeting	101
	11:00-12:30	Demonstration	101
	12:30	Lunch	101
	12:45	Benefit Drawing	101


Reminder - March 9 is when we "spring forward" to daylight savings time. Don't forget to change your clocks Saturday night so you will be on time for the club meeting.
