

The Bonsai Wire

Volume 41, Issue 3

March, 2015



Message from the President

While most of the northeast and other parts of our nation are experiencing extreme winter conditions, we are blessed with, at times, summer-like weather. Some deciduous species are starting to wake up—growing buds that some may need to be trimmed soon. Although the weather in our region has been nice, severe drought continues to devastate our area; please conserve water.

Thank you again to our hard working volunteers who kept our activities running last month. A special thanks to our SDBC Board, 50-year planning committee, and others who have been working behind the scenes formulating some interesting activities for our 50-year anniversary—an important milestone for our Club.

And thanks to Bob Hale for arranging the presentation of our guest from India, Mrs. Sharadha Gupta, who gave us a look at a different style of bonsai from that part of the world.

As noted during our meeting last month, a beautiful Olive bonsai will be transferred from the Bonsai Pavilion at

the Safari Park to SDBC's Bonsai Collection in the Japanese Friendship Garden (JFG) in Balboa Park. This transfer between our club's bonsai collections is a wonderful display of cooperation among the curators of the two collections: John Jackson of the Bonsai Pavilion and Glenn Jensen of SDBC's Bonsai display at the JFG. Great job and well done!

Announcements:

Please plan to participate in our Spring Show, April 25th and 26th; and set up on the 23rd and 24th. We always need help, especially during set up and tear down, to make work light for everyone. No special skills required.

Do not forget to set you clock ahead one hour or you will be late for our monthly meeting.

We are still looking for a member or two to handle our refreshments during our monthly meetings. Please contact me or any of the SDBC Officers.

Dan Sola, President

This Month's Program

During the March meeting Abe Far will demonstrate the styling of a bougainvillea tree. Bougainvillea bonsai are fast growing, have abundant blooms, love heat, tolerate cool weather, and are easy to care for. What more could you ask from a tropical flowering bonsai tree?

There are many varieties of this plant – shrubs, vines, and even small trees. Because bougainvillea is a popular plant in general, many nurseries and garden centers carry them. Abe will discuss those varieties best suited for use in bonsai as well as care and training recommendations. Abe's tree will return to be auctioned off in June so we will get to see the finished tree in full bloom!

Abe is a past president of the San Diego Bonsai Club and the current President of the Golden State Bonsai Federation. He has served the club in many ways over the years and is a lifetime SDBC member. He has shared his knowledge of bonsai through demonstrations at our Bonsai shows and at the San Diego County Fair.

Bob Hale, 1st VP



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San Diego Bonsai Club Website
www.sandiegobonsaiclub.com

Editor's Note

The first meeting I attended at the club, Harry Hirao was the demonstrator, working quietly and methodically on a large California Juniper. While he is not going to be able to join us this year for his 98th birthday, we can all be thankful for many years he did join us in March.

And we can be appreciative of the members we have here at the Club who freely offer help in so many activities. What struck me about Larry Upp's lifetime member profile was his willingness to get help and give help. Take those opportunities you currently have to get help on your trees and to volunteer.

Dave Barker, TBW Editor

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



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BEGINNING CLASS: We are back on schedule this month so our class meets on **March 8th**. Seems like we just met, doesn't it? This is an important class as you will put your tree in a bonsai style pot. The soil we will be using is made up of three components: 2 parts scoria, 2 parts pumice and 1 part seedling orchid fir bark. Be sure to read the references Lyn gave in the book *Basic Bonsai*. There is a lot to do this session so be sure and arrive on time (remember the time change for daylight savings time). The class starts at 8:30 am in Room 104.

The next Beginning Class starts April 12th. Martha Choy will be teaching the three session class on Olives. These are nice well-grown Olives. With the beginning class you receive expert instruction, a tree, shears, bonsai book, soil and pot. Cost: \$40. Maximum: 20 students

MARCH 8 WORKSHOP: Fred Miyahara will be teaching his Japanese Black Pine class. The cost is \$110 for a beautiful, well developed tree and Fred's expert help on the tree as long as you need. Bring your tools; wire will be provided. There are only a few openings left in the class.

APRIL 12 WORKSHOP: John Jackson will be teaching a class on Large Oaks. There will be several types of Oaks available. Tree and wire will be provided. There is one opening left. Cost: \$50. Max: 7 people

HELP AND FOLLOWUP: Located at the back of room 104 and to the right of the stage, tables are set up for members to bring in their trees for expert help and advice. You will usually find John Voss in that area as well as other bonsai specialists who are not teaching classes or helping in other areas. This is an opportunity to bring in any of your bonsai trees, or trees on their way to becoming a bonsai, for help and advice on styling, repotting, diseases or any concerns you may have.

Barbara French-Lee, VPEducation

Shohin Working Group

The Shohin Group is starting meetings for 2015. We meet about 10 times per year: 8 regular meetings and 2 meetings to prepare for the SDBC bi-annual shows, if they are needed. Guest instructors are invited and some do cost us, requiring participants to chip in to pay them. A calendar will be established at our first meeting (which will be soon). We invite anyone to join us. There will be a sign-up sheet at the meeting at the sign-up tables. For more details, I will be at there after the beginning class.

Charlie Mosse, Club Member

Mrs. Sharadha Gupta was a surprise speaker for this month. Mrs. Gupta is currently visiting from India where she is the author of two bonsai/gardening books, has won numerous gardening awards, and has been featured in regional and national magazines and television. She demonstrated the assembly of a diorama designed to hang on a wall. She painted the back of the diorama frame to simulate the sky. Various small bonsai and mosses were then wired into the frame creating a pleasant country scene. This technique can be scaled up in size as shown in Mrs. Gupta's backyard where a ten foot long diorama graces a garden wall.

Bob Hale, 1st VP



Wiring for Branch Placement in the Foemina Juniper Class



Learning to Wire in the Beginning Class





San Diego Bonsai Club

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Members
February 22, 2015



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 11, 2015 meeting were approved as published.
3. **VP for Membership Sonya Holmquist:** New Members Robert and Janet Liggett, Shahrazad Botello, Tamara and Brendan Himelright, Miguel Mercado and Mark and Arlene Stone.
4. **Board Member Reports:**
 - **Bob Hale 1st Vice president,** reported: Sharadha Gupta from India will demonstrate wall planting. In March, Abe Farr will demonstrate, and in April Bob Hale will discuss fertilizer. May will be the Safari Park picnic .
 - **Peter Chong, Treasurer,** reported: The Board Members have approved our 2015 Budget.
 - **Barbara French-Lee, Vice President, Education,** reported: We had the 2nd session of the beginners class with Lyn Stevenson on Elms. And the Foemina class with Michael Sykes was this morning; and anyone that has took a Foemina class with Michael Sykes bring your trees back in October. In March, we have Fred Miyahama class on Pines, and in April, the second beginner's Class with Martha Choy will start. We will have the Oak tree workshop with John Jackson in April.
 - **Janice Hale, Special Projects:** Thank you to Dan and Abe for driving to Winter Silhouettes. The trip to the Huntington Gardens for the Bonsai-a-thon on February 28th. Spring Show is April 25th- 26th. Set up Thursday April 23rd and Plant sale for members on Friday April 24th. We need volunteers please sign up.
5. **Appointed Position Reports:**
 - **John Jackson, Safari Park Pavilion Curator,** reported: Thank you to 26 volunteers; we are working on expansion of the work area. John Jackson presented an Olive Tree for the JPG from the SDBC trees from the Safari Park.
6. **Old Business:** We are still looking for volunteers for refreshments.
7. **New Business: Sonya Holmquist- 50th Anniversary Chair:** We will be acknowledging our Honorary Lifetime Members at the 50th Anniversary. There will be write ups on them in the Bonsai Wire; please look for that.
8. **Announcements:**
 - **President Dan Sola** announced: On behalf of the board members thank you to all members and volunteers for keeping us going in 2015. This year will be our 50th year Anniversary; it will be celebrated with our Spring Show. Our June meeting will be held June 28th the last Sunday of the month.
 - **Abe Far, GSBF President** announced: SDBC member Charlie Moss is the GSBF Grants & Scholarships, Janice Hale Magazine/Treasurer, and Dan Sola Subscription Manager.
9. **Presentation/demonstration:** Bob Hale, First VP introduced Sharadha Gupta from India who demonstrated wall planting style of bonsai.
10. **Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 12:30pm.

Respectfully submitted, *Brenda Crann Secretary*



Harry Hirao will not be coming down to see us this March as he has in past years as age is catching up to him. We will miss seeing "Mr. California Juniper" work on a large tree while his helpers regale us with stories of Harry's California Juniper collecting exploits in Jawbone Canyon.

Happy 98th, Harry!

Bonsai Ideas by Marty Mann

There has been a very strong cold front dispensing snow, ice and generally unfavorable weather to the other areas of our country. We, in the San Diego area, have had a mild winter with some frost conditions and some rain. Our bonsai thrive in these conditions, and we need to help them to reach their full potential.

Just as warm sunshine moves the dormant buds, signs of Spring's emergence suggests the need to get to work. Hopefully, you already marked the potted material that needs to be done this year, you prepared a fresh supply of basic potting mix, selected new pots and observed wiring needs. We do not repot for aesthetic reasons alone but for the health of the tree. A change promotes vigor, good color and good health.

Prioritize your repotting work schedule. Varieties of conifers, such as Spruce, Fir, Hinoki Cypress, etc., can be done first. Next, take care of the deciduous trees that are best done while the leaf buds are still tight. Finally, do all Juniper varieties and the Bamboo specimens. Give newly potted material a chance to develop new growth in their new medium as the weather warms.

Take the opportunity to change from training pots or oversized pots to appropriate display pots suitable to the finished bonsai. Determine the best size, shape, color and style to compliment your tree. Showtime is coming!

To prepare for repotting, you should allow your bonsai soil to become somewhat dry. This makes it easier to remove the root ball from its previous home. When repotting a healthy plant be sure to remove heavy roots that have circled the old pot. If roots are cut back, some of the foliage can be trimmed to compensate for the tree's inability to move nutrients to the branches and leaves. Don't allow exposed roots to dry out.

It is advisable to remove portions of the old foliage, as well as the heavier old roots, to encourage new growth. Do so with some limitation; too much removal will shock the tree. Root divisions form whenever a root cut takes place. These divisions provide for better nutrient absorption. Branch trimming allows new branch divisions and desired branch twiggyness.

Plan repotting activity around the following guidelines.

Old trees (15 years or more) -- repot 3 to 6 years

Younger trees (5 to 15 years)-- repot 2 to 4 years

Young tree (less than 5 years) - repot 1 or 2 years.

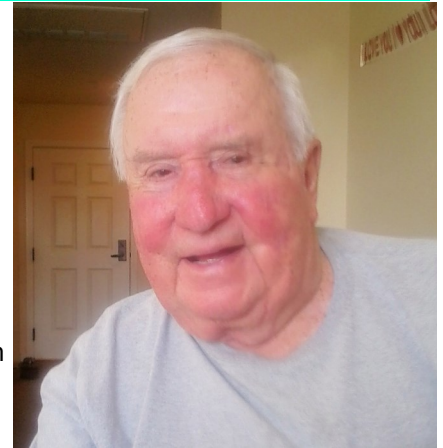
Now that you are ready, sit back and watch your trees develop into show-ready specimens for the enjoyment of the public, and more important, for yourself.

Spring has sprung!

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SDBC Honoree - Larry Upp

Larry started working with bonsai in 1965 with Bill Murphy, a lifelong friend. His "training" was watching Bill work. For demos, Bill would pull a juniper out of a 5 gallon pot and proceed to saw the root in half. Larry would laugh as the audience gasped.



After a period, Larry looked to other members of the SDBC to help him improve his understanding and appreciation of bonsai. Workshops with Fred Miyahara, Kenji Miyata, Charlie Tamm, and Gary Jones have all helped Larry enjoy his little trees. Lew Buellor, Evert Jones, Mas Takanashi, and other members would help Larry before the meeting started, help he appreciated.

Larry first started showing his trees with Bill Murphy at the Del Mar Fair. The two would water, set up the show, carry trees, assist with demos, and break it all down afterward. Sometimes he even won a prize or two! Larry has always been modest about his trees, but with the encouragement of other members, he finally started showing his trees and participating in the shows (plant sales, security, and food disposal—Larry loves to eat). Quick witted, Larry is funny and friendly, adding his lively mix of old time jingles and memories to meetings.

Larry's favorite bonsai are Grewias. He has a "raft-style" that has air roots and flowers, sweeps to the side and looks great! Bill Murphy introduced Larry to Tecate Cypress and he quickly adapted to these upright trees, putting them into forest groupings, and making "tenuki" bonsai (combining a live tree and a dead trunk).

He says he finds all types of trees interesting ... as that is the way he is. He has many different trees and styles: a cascading grape, raft juniper, Ficus forest, Bald Cypress, Tecate forest, and beautiful Bougainvillea.

Larry laughs as he remembers the lessons learned from disasters: deciduous trees dropping all their leaves, so he thought it was dead and threw it away.

Larry continues to learn and says he is more of a student today at 88 than when he first started. He learns something every time he gets together with bonsai friends. His is a simple enjoyment of doing bonsai with friends, on a beautiful San Diego day, with a vodka tonic in hand. Let's raise a glass to Larry Upp.

San Diego Bonsai Club Pavilion at the Safari Park

Thirty active and truly productive volunteers worked at the Bonsai Pavilion in February including: **Neil Auwarter, Susan Baker, Peter Chong, Julia Chow, Cathy & Mark Edgar, Tina Flores, Jeff Geringer, Bob & Janice Hale, Sonya Holmquist, Curator John Jackson, Jaya Kaelberer, Jim & Susan Kirchmer, Lin Koelmel, Janie & Ron Ogdon, Janet & Ron Palmer, Marcella Perez, Sally Prestele, Harlan & Mary Ann Price, Dan Sola, 'lyn Stevenson, John Voss, Dennis Wagner, Mark Walters, and Dave Woodall.** Many kudos to all!

At our February 21st work session, we had a short meeting to discuss projects and input from Safari Park Horticulture. Also, this session was a refreshment rest break for the volunteers and an opportunity for more camaraderie. Ideas, suggestions, and questions were shared. Cookies, candies, donuts, muffins, rice cakes, pastries, pretzels, fruit trays, water, and lemonade were also shared thanks to John, Marcella, Julia, Janice, Susan, Mary Ann, Cathy, and 'lyn. Marty Mann has again donated trees, bonsai tools, and other bonsai materials to the Pavilion. He has been most thoughtful and we all appreciate his generosity.

Repotting continued on several more of the bonsai in the collection. The very important large notebooks listing all the trees in the collection are updated each time significant work is done. The newly extended work area, directed by Curator John, has been completed and the wood panel walls have now been stained. The Safari Horticulture Department will be working on additional drains for the area and will be doing some major garden tree trimming around the Pavilion. Dennis and John will work with the Staff so that appropriate drainage will be added under the areas where new benches will be placed.

At the February SDBC meeting, Curator John presented a special, old, beautifully styled olive bonsai to the SDBC-JFG Bonsai Collection from the Safari Park Collection. It had been at the Safari Park for a number of years and had recently been repotted.



SDBC members will have a great opportunity to visit the SDBC collection at the Safari Park when SDBC meets there on the third Sunday in May. Registration for that meeting will take place at the March and April SDBC meetings. There will be the usual pot luck picnic and the popular silent auction of donated bonsai related items.

New volunteers are always welcome to join the work/fun at the SDBC Pavilion at Safari Park. Contact me for information on the process.

'lyn Stevenson, SDBC-Safari Park Liaison

Japanese Friendship Garden (JFG)

With great enthusiasm Curator Glenn Jensen has started getting to know the trees at the Garden and working towards enhancing the collection. Working in the Garden is such a rewarding experience; we meet people from all over the US and the world as they walk through this beautiful oasis in Balboa Park. They are curious about bonsai and often we have a number of people watching and asking questions as we are working on the trees. We have many ideas and plans for the future, but one of our primary goals is to create security for our trees. We continue to work with the Garden on this issue. For now we are catching up on maintenance, planning for the future and serving as ambassadors for the SDBC.



We are very grateful to Joe and Jenny Cho who donated a beautiful cascade to the Garden. It is already on display and a nice addition to the collection.

The Olive presented to the JFG at the February meeting has been added to the collection at the Japanese Friendship Garden and has now been placed there.

Barbara French-Lee
SDBC Liaison to the JFG



New Members

Please welcome our new members: **Tamara and Brendan Himelright , Shahrazad Botello, Janet and Robert Liggett, Mark and Arlene Stone, Tracie Imblum, Saya Elmer, Joshua Chong, Marviyn and Stella Sweeney, and Josefina Dela Cruz .**

Sonya Holmquist , VP of Membership

Refreshments

Thank you to the following for bringing refreshments to the February meeting: **Abe and Christina Far, Sonya Holmquist, Michael Sykes, Edward Stokes, Afredo De La Cruz, Charlie Mosse, Susan Baker, Shirley Kavanaugh, Cesar Velasquez, Christine Elmer, Dennis Wagner, Barbara French-Lee, Susan Mae Hull, John and Margaret Jackson, and Rita Huang.**

SDBC Benefit Drawing

Thank you to the following for your donations to the February meeting benefit drawing: **Abe and Christina Far, Edward Stokes, Charlie Mosse, Shirley Kavanaugh, Marty Mann, Paul Lawrence, Janet Palmer, Paul Welby, Gary Jones, Darryl & Christine Elmer, Dan Sola, Nazim Colak, John & Margaret Jackson, and Aisha Colak.**

Juniper Dig

Every now and then the Club gets the opportunity to dig some well developed material that could become great bonsai. A bonsai lover who works at the Water Conservation Garden knew the junipers that were going to be removed had great possibilities for bonsai.

In two sessions we were able to dig approximately 45 junipers. Many of them went into the Club nursery and will be cared for until they are able to be available for club members through classes and raffles.

If you know a homeowner who wants to dig out plant material that might be potential stock for bonsai, let a Club Board Member know and we can arrange for a dig.

Barbara French-Lee



Bonsai Clearance Sale

Jenny & Joe Cho are having a clearance sale of bonsai material every weekend in March at 15361 Espola Road, Poway, CA.. Call ahead at 858-229-8536 to schedule a specific time. All sales are cash and you have to transport all purchases.

Letter from Abe

Dear SDBC members,

As you know most of our club activities are done by the board members for your learning and enjoyment. But you can help the club grow stronger by supporting the raffle and refreshment tables. Bring any bonsai or non-bonsai items for the raffle and food for our refreshment table.

Also we are looking for a person or two to take care of our meeting refreshments. We are all volunteers, and we all have a part to take. Please contact Club president Dan Sola or any board member if you want to help out.

Abe Far

Special Events

50th Anniversary Spring Exhibition – April 25 – 26

A big thank you to all of you who signed up for the Spring Show jobs. If you haven't signed up, don't worry, there are still a ton of tasks that need to be covered; this is your opportunity to help the Club introduce the art of bonsai to the public. Set up of Room 101 will be on Thursday, April 23rd and bonsai tree and vendor table set up on Friday, April 24th. Sign-up sheets will be out again at our next meeting.

Also, we'll have a fun dinner/auction/raffle on Saturday night after the show. Please sign the RSVP sheet to attend our wonderful banquet to be held Saturday night, April 25th. Happy Anniversary SDBC!

As you know, our shows are the biggest fund raising event the Club has each year. Do you have a bonsai pot or tree you would like to put on the sale table to benefit the Club? The minimum donation to the Club is 20%, but anything above that level (think 100%) would be amazing and greatly appreciated!

Smile.Amazon.com Donations

At our February meeting the question was asked as to how much we have collected from Smile.Amazon.com. For 2014(partial year) we gained a bit over \$17. That may not seem like much, but it all adds up to give you the best Club experience we can provide. Shop at www.smile.amazon.com and select the San Diego Bonsai Club as the beneficiary of Amazon's 0.5% donation. The prices are the same as Amazon and the Club wins!

Janice Hale, VP Special Projects

San Diego Bonsai Club, Inc.
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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

San Diego Bonsai Club Calendar of Events

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 4th Saturday and April 18th, Saturday

SDBC Workday at Safari Park, 9 am to 12 pm

April 12th, Sunday

Club Meeting

April 23rd Thursday and April 24th Friday

Spring show set-up

April 25 - 26th (Saturday & Sunday)

50th Anniversary Spring Bonsai Show

May 9th Saturday

Garden Party of the Century, Balboa Park

May 17th Sunday

Club Picnic at Safari Park

Sunday, March 8, 2015

Balboa Park, Room 101

Casa Del Prado

Meeting Agenda

Time	Activity	Room
08:30– 10:20	Beginning Class	104
08:30– 10:20	Pine Class	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	Demonstration	101
12:30	Lunch	101
12:45	Benefit Drawing	101

Daylight Savings Time Starts on March 8, the meeting day, so set your clocks to be on time!