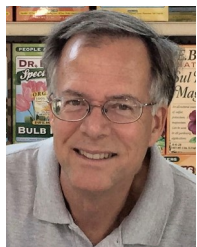


# The Bonsai Wire

Volume 42, Issue 3

March, 2016

## Message from the President



I just have to say thank you! Having been involved with the club for some years now I am always amazed at how well things just work. We have an active group of people who feel empowered to take on assignments and get things done. No other club has members so committed to education and training. We have an award-winning website and newsletter. We put on two bonsai shows a year. We have winning booths at the San Diego County Fair. We support two study groups—on Oaks and Shohin. And what other club has their very own bonsai pavilion! All of this is possible only because of you, the active members in the club. So again, I just have to say thank you!

We had almost fifty people attend the Bonsai-A-Thon XX on Saturday, February 28, 2016. Other than the GSBF convention, the Bonsai-A-Thon is the premier event to

attend. Plenty of vendors, demonstrations, behind the scenes tours, the Huntington's world class Japanese Garden with many bonsai displayed, not to mention the beautiful grounds and art collections. Oh and of course there was the great raffle and auction.

### Announcements

We are gearing up for the Spring Bonsai Show April 23-24. We are looking for volunteers to help with setup on Thursday and Friday evening April 21-22, support during the show, and tear down on Sunday evening. Sign-up sheets will be available at the March meeting. This is a great chance to get to know other Club members, and to work with them, so please help. Also, look for the sign-up sheet for the May meeting at the Safari Park Bonsai Pavilion. We need to know who needs Safari Park passes for that day.

Bob Hale, President

## This Month's Program

Well, now that you have selected and cleaned a rugged old juniper, you see the main branches are thick. But styling it seems impossible because of the placement and the thickness of the branches. What can you do with thicker branches? **Bend'em!** Bending can shorten and re-position branches into much better locations, many times saving a tree from being tossed away. Smaller branches on a juniper (3/8" and smaller) are relatively easy to bend without damaging them. More extreme techniques are used on larger branches. Can this damage the bark and conduction layers under the bark? Yes.



David and June Nguy

David Nguy is a master at bending branches. He will show us proper bending of larger branches to minimize stress and damage and then instruct us on the all important after-care; common sense care that can make the difference between success and failure.

David has been working with large bonsai for decades. He and his wife June operate Bonsai Jidai in Chino, CA. Last year at the NanpuKai club show during Nisei Week, David and June displayed their own bonsai. David's was an old, magnificent Japanese Black Pine, and June's an exquisitely styled California Juniper (see p.2). (cont. on page 6)

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

## Editor's Note

Last week I played "hooky" from work for a day to enjoy this great San Diego weather (hopefully when you are reading this the rains have returned). My wife and I decided to go to the Safari Park for the day. While the new Tiger Trail exhibit was stunning, and the baby rhino adorable, I was still wowed by the Bonsai Pavilion. It is so peaceful with the waterfall and stream running through it. And it is so conducive to fully taking in the beauty of the many high quality bonsai in the collection. The wooden fence and wooden backdrops allow one to really see the exquisite detail of all the trees. My hats off to John Jackson, 'lyn Stevenson, Dennis Wagner, and all the volunteers who have worked hard to keep the Pavilion in great shape. You made my day highly enjoyable!

Dave Barker, TBW Editor

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



June Nguy's  
California  
Juniper

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**BEGINNING CLASS:** In March, the third session of the beginning class on Elms will be held in Room 104. John Jackson will be teaching with able assistants Mark and Cathy Edgar. Most of your elms have leafed out and are



beginning to look like small trees. In this last session you will do the final wiring and trimming, learn about the special bonsai soil components that you will use to repot your tree, learn about the important task of feeding your tree and ongoing care. You will then repot your tree in a bonsai growing pot. With the new soil you will have to watch your watering carefully as the soil will be more porous than gardeners' potting soil in which your tree has been growing.



In April the Beginning Class on Olives will be taught by Martha Choy. The three classes will be in April, June and July. There will be sign-up sheets for this class at the March Club meeting. Cost: \$40.

**WORKSHOPS:** In March Fred Miyahara will be teaching a workshop on Black Pines. These are beautiful trees to have, and Fred is available throughout the year to help you keep your tree healthy. There are a few spaces available for this class. Cost: \$95.

The other workshop for this month will be the second session of the 15 gallon foemina junipers led by Michael Sykes. During this class you will be repotting your 15

gallon juniper into a much smaller clay pot to help prepare it for eventual placement in a bonsai pot.



In April John Jackson will teach a workshop on Chrysanthemum root over rock. Please bring your own rock. There will be examples at the March meeting. Cost \$35.

**HELP AREA:** Don't forget John Voss is available at the back of the room to the right of the stage for help on any trees you would like to bring to the Club meeting.

**STUDY GROUP:** The study group that has signed up to work with John Voss continues this month. Bring any trees you want to work on or receive advice about. Bring nursery stock if you would like help with plant material you have recently purchased. 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

There was a good group of shohin students at the last meeting. After his presentation at the club meeting, Peter Macasieb provided his expertise to the shohin study group. He critiqued members' bonsai, providing valuable insights on the bonsai and suggesting styling changes for the trees. He also showed the study group the extensive twisting and bending technique used for creating shohin "yamadori-looking" trees (yamadori refers to trees collected from nature).

Charlie Mosse, 1st VP



# San Diego Bonsai Club

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Members  
February 14, 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 January 10, 2016 meeting were approved as published.
- 3. Nazim Colak, VP for Membership:** New members announced ; it's membership renewal time.
- 4. Board Member Reports:**
  - Charlie Mosse 1st Vice president, reported:** In March, we will have David Nguy from American West demonstrating bending branches and proper after care . In April, we will have Travis Goldstein demonstrating carving.
  - Peter Chong, Treasurer, reported:** In January our Income was \$4,098.50 and our expenses were \$2,063.55, our Net Profit \$2063.55 The balance for SDBC account is \$29,059.30 and for the Pavilion \$15,429.25
  - Barbara French-Lee, Vice President, Education, reported:** We had the second beginner's class with John Jackson on Elms. We had Liquidamber workshop with John Voss, and Michael Sykes led a workshop on large, 15 gallon foemina junipers. In March, Fred Miyahara will have a Pine class. In April, Martha Choy will be teaching the first session of the beginner's class with Olives. Also in April, John Jackson will be leading a workshop on creating a "Root over Rock" bonsai. Please bring your own rock for the workshop.
  - Janice Hale, Special Projects:** The Bonsai A Thon will on February 27, 2016; the cost will be \$40.00 for the trip. The Spring Show is April 23rd and 24th we will setup April 21st, our members only sale will be on Friday April 22nd. The Clark Collection will have their own Bonsai-A-Thon on April 17-18 2016.
- 5. Appointed Position Reports:**
  - John Jackson, Safari Park Pavilion Curator; reported:** The Safari Park has a drainage problem from the rains; but there was no damage to our trees. The trees are looking well and we did some repotting.
  - Glenn Jensen, JFG Curator, reported:** He acknowledged Daniel Luczak for helping assisting with our new display plaques. The JFG group meets the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of every month. Also, a thank you to Fred Miyahara and Dennis Wagner for their help in repotting the collection's Black Pine.
- 6. Old Business:** None .
- 7. New Business:** None.
- 8. Announcements: Bob Hale announced:** The San Diego County Fair theme, based on Alice in Wonderland, is "Mad about the Fair," a retro visual of Alice and her Friends.
- 9. Program:** At 10:50am , First VP, Charlie Mosse introduced Peter Macasieb presenting "Properly displaying a tree".
- 10. Adjournment:** Meeting was adjourned at 10:50.

Respectfully submitted,  
Brenda Crann Secretary



Photos from the Bonsai-a-thon Club trip



### Last Month's Program

Thanks to Peter Macasieb for instructing us on show preparation steps. Once one's tree is show ready, prepping is not too difficult. Peter also touched on the complicated subject of pot selection. Peter covered some of the scenarios of pot selection for a show-ready tree, showing the difference in presentation when the different pots are tried. As we saw, pot selection is extremely important as there are many combinations of pot/plant to consider.



### Bonsai-a-thon Club Trip

Our club members enjoyed a beautiful sunny day at the Huntington Library, Art Collection and Botanical Gardens. The vendor area had every possible tool or tree with pots by Jim Barrett and tools being sold by this month's presenter, David Nguy. Three bonsai masters simultaneously each styled their own tree.

Our own Michael Sykes styled a lovely formal up-right foemina juniper. The finished trees were later auctioned off, raising significant funds for the GSBF Huntington Collection. Members also enjoyed the Chinese Garden, Japanese Garden, and GSBF bonsai collection.



Members also enjoyed the Chinese Garden, Japanese Garden, and GSBF bonsai collection.

The Shohin Seminar was held in Santa Nella, CA on February 5–7, 2016. This event is held every two years at a truck stop on I-5, about 5-6 hours north of San Diego. Sounds weird? Maybe, but it is fun and always well-attended. The seminar has been happening every other year for over 20 years. Fred Miyahara has attend all but one. SDBC was well-represented.

The good news was that the hotel is being renovated, so the rooms have new heaters and new grout in the bathrooms (yes, this is a big deal)! The bad news was that all the areas where the workshops are normally held were under renovation, causing some of the workshops to be held outside. The good news was the weather was great.

Many of the workshops had fabulous trees. My favorites were trees from Kenji Miyata (shimpaku junipers), Gary Ishii (shimpaku junipers) and Scott Chadd (maples). The workshops were assigned to participants by a random drawing so you need to be lucky to get one. Cathy and I were not lucky, but we had great time any way wandering in the vendor area. The very lucky Hales both got into Kenji's workshop and have lovely trees to show for it.



The shohin display at the Seminar was very well done with some very interesting trees, stands, pots and accent plants. There was a lot to be learned from studying the displays.

Many demonstrations occurred on Friday including Michael Sykes' great seminar about making an "almost shohin foemina" from a gigantic tree. On Saturday, there was a good dinner and fantastic auction/raffle. We got to use our new name stamp on the tickets and we won Fred's donation of a beautiful Japanese pot. Cathy and I also detoured to Kenji Miyata's garden on the way home – he has some astonishing trees - so we had to buy a couple (maybe it was best we didn't get into any workshops). **Mark Edgar, Club Member**

# San Diego Bonsai Club Pavilion at the Safari Park

An energetic group of February volunteers came out for Pavilion chores (even though several members had attended the Shohin Seminar on one of our work day weekends). Many thanks always to volunteers—

**Neil Auwarter, Peter Chong, Maria & Tina Flores, Bob & Janice Hale, John Jackson, Jaya Kaelberer, Jim Kirchmer, Daniel Luczak, Charlie Mosse, Janet & Ron Palmer, Mariah Paterson, Marcella Perez, Sally Prestele, Mike Shelly, 'lyn Stevenson, John Voss, Dennis Wagner, Mark Walters, Nancy Wilson-Ramon, and Dave Woodall.**

At our February 20th session, we had a meeting to discuss future construction items and it was most helpful to have several of the SDBC Board members in attendance. Jim Kirchmer has again agreed to pursue grant proposals for funds for cementing the work areas and the visitor walkways; Safari Park contacts are helping us with bids. Also, the San Diego Bonsai Club has available money in the Pavilion capital fund that may be used. We are hoping to have projects finished before the SDBC Annual Picnic at the Pavilion on May 15th. Curator John Jackson will lead the construction project and is also working on a plaque for the Shohin display at the Pavilion. We are still concerned about the likelihood of El Nino rains potentially causing flooding in the Pavilion.

Donations continue to help considerably for our monthly work as well as with the construction projects. Special thanks to **Charlie and Sylvia Mosse** for their \$500 donation (their name plaque will be installed on the Honor Board at the Pavilion entrance), \$30 from **Sally Prestele**, and \$25 from a visitor (who was assisted with her bonsai by the Pavilion volunteers). Delicious culinary treats were donated this past month by Nancy, Marcella, Charlie, Curator John, Mariah, Daniel, and 'lyn.

We are very grateful for the great cooperation, assistance, generosity, and camaraderie that is present each month at the Bonsai Pavilion. We continue to add new volunteers from SDBC which are so critical for all the necessary jobs which need to be completed each month. Many, Many thanks!

Constant cleanup of the garden area is always in progress. With the waterfall in action, our resident pair of ducks are again lolling in the pond. This month, we needed to prepare more potting soil mixtures for several transplants of bonsai. Most likely, some of the bonsai stock will be added to the silent auction for the May meeting. Soils were sifted, graded, and prepared for seven bonsai, two shohin, and a liquidamber forest. More



re-potting will be done in the next two months.

If readers of this column have any comments, questions, or want to join the volunteer team at the Safari Park Bonsai Pavilion, please contact me. We appreciate your input.



'lyn Stevenson, SDBC-Safari Park Liason

## March Program (Continued from Page 1)

David has studied in Japan with Masahiko Kimura and also extensively with Harry Hirao, Ben Oki and Ernie Kuo. David has become an expert with Japanese Black Pine. In addition, he has one of the largest collections of California Junipers, given the title by some of Mr. California Juniper II after Harry Hirao, Mr. California Juniper.

David will be here to set up at 8:30 and will have time to talk with members. He will also be available from 1-4 for a workshop for 4 people. Those who want hands-on learning of how to bend the heavier branches, now is the time. Bring your own tree; the cost will be about \$50 per person for David's instruction. Call soon at 619-851-7187 or email me (smosse@cox.net) to hold a spot.

**Charlie Mosse, 1st VP**

*Important note: Some plants bend easily and some do not. Example: A 1/4" diameter Juniper branch will bend easily, a 1/4" Boxwood branch is very hard and brittle and can be bent very little or not at all. Before bending, know the variety you are going to bend.*

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## New Members

Please welcome our new members: **Tejal Chinoy**, **Beatriz Lopez**, and **Bob Teglia**.

Nazim Colak, VP of Membership

### 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.

## Refreshments

Thank you to the following for your donations of refreshments to the February meeting: **Charlie & Sylvia Mosse, John & Margaret Jackson, Mike Boswell, Janet Liggett, Gary Jones, Christina I. Vargas and Abe, Bill Starks, Michael Sykes, Brenda Crann, Dennis Wagner, Donna Carter, Jackie and Warren Tam, 'lyn Stevenson, Marcella Perez, Doniette Tsai, Jaya Kaulberer, Susan Baker, and Susan Mae Hull.**

## SDBC Benefit Drawing

Thank you to the following for your donations to the February benefit drawing: **Charlie and Sylvia Mosse, Gary Jones, Dan Sola, Ken Bross, John & Margaret Jackson, Neil Auwarter, 'lyn Stevenson, Abe & Christina Far, Steve Clemons, Julia Chow, Scott Flack, Joan Holliday, Nazim and Aisha Colak, Eric Jacobson, Marcella Perez, Mark Edgar, and SDBC.**

## JAPANESE FRIENDSHIP GARDEN

Thanks to **Yoichiro Suemori 'Mori', Nancy Ramon-Wilson, Charlie Mosse, and Warren Tam** for their help this month to keep the JFG collection in great shape. And welcome back to **Trisha Bonapace** as she is recovering from a shoulder injury. Nancy continues to monitor the watering on the weekend and visit with the many visitors to the Garden who express much interest in the bonsai. This month we were also finally able to place our new name plaques for the trees. Thanks to Daniel Luczak and Mariah Paterson for facilitating a great price on the plaques.

Barb French-Lee, JFG Liason  
Glenn Jensen, Curator

## Special Events

### Spring Bonsai Show

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, April 22nd, the bonsai trees to be displayed are brought in and set up. Also, any Club Member who wants to sell bonsai-related items will bring in their wares to be checked in to the sales table on Friday. We'll have our annual Spring banquet dinner on Saturday night after the show. Please sign up to bring a side dish or dessert.

Sign up sheets will be available at the next club meeting for a ton of fun jobs, most with no experience needed. This is a great way to meet other members and support the Club. Our Spring Bonsai Show's success is in your hands. Please volunteer!

San Diego Bonsai Club  
Spring  
**Bonsai Show**  
April 23 and 24, 2016  
10a.m.-5p.m. Each Day  
Casa Del Prado Rm 101  
Balboa Park, San Diego

Bonsai of various sizes and species will be on exhibit. There will be demonstrations each day and Bonsai for sale by our club members.

### May Meeting

Our May Club meeting/silent auction/picnic will be held at the beautiful Bonsai Pavilion at the San Diego Zoo's Safari Park. This fun meeting is also a fund raising event, for the Pavilion and the Club, with the ever popular silent auction. Please bring your pots, trees and bonsai related item donations with you that morning. Also bring a sack lunch and beverage as we will eat together after the meeting and during the silent auction.

A sign-up list will be available at the next meeting for people who will need passes to the Safari Park that day. 'lyn Stevenson will hand out the passes during the SDBC's Spring Bonsai Show.

Janice Hale, VP for Special Projects

San Diego Bonsai Club, Inc.  
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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

## San Diego Bonsai Club Calendar of Events

March 19th, Saturday

SDBC Workday at Safari Park , 9 am to 12 pm

March 27th Sunday

Club Meeting

Note  
Date  
Change

Sunday, March 27 2016  
 Balboa Park, Room 101  
 Casa Del Prado

April 2nd and 16th, Saturday

SDBC Workdays at Safari Park , 9 am to 12 pm

April 10th Sunday

Club Meeting

### Meeting Agenda

April 21st, Thursday and April 22nd, Friday

Spring Bonsai Show Setup

**April 23rd-24th, Saturday and Sunday**

**SDBC Spring Bonsai Show**

Time	Activity	Room
08:30- 10:20	Beginning Class	104
08:30- 10:20	Pine Workshop	101
08:30- 10:20	Foemina Juniper 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
1:00	David Nguy Workshop	101

May 7th and 21st, Saturday

SDBC Workdays at Safari Park , 9 am to 12 pm

May 15th Sunday (3rd Sunday of May)

Club Meeting, Silent Auction, and Picnic

At Safari Park Bonsai Pavilion