

The Bonsai Wire

Volume 40, Issue 4

April, 2014



Message from the President

Thank you to Mr. California Juniper, sensei Harry Hirao, for joining us and celebrating his 97th birthday. He even gave us the California juniper that he styled (and other items) for our special drawing. Also thanks to Harry's helpers: Peter Macasieb, Dick Anderson, and Glenn Jensen.

Thank you to our numerous volunteers to our first educational fair—on 15 March 2014—at the Bonsai Pavilion in Safari Park (more on page 6).

Where do bonsai enthusiasts find workable bonsai material? Our website! Thanks to Eric, the website has a list of nurseries for Los Angeles, Central Coast, and local San Diego nurseries, other than Kuma, may not have bonsai-ready material, but if you have time and a keen eye, you may find something interesting. Some of the unsold items, usually tucked at the back of the nursery, may not be suitable for landscaping, but may be good for bonsai.

Announcements...

We say good bye to one of our Past Presidents, Everett Jones: July 15, 1933 – March 10, 2014. He was president of SDBC in 1990 and 1991. We send our condolences, our thoughts, and prayers to his family.

Our 2014 Spring Show is April 26 and 27! A reception will be held on Saturday evening, April 26; we will have a potluck dinner with SDBC providing the main dish. Hope to see you there. (details on page 7).

Our meeting in May will be in Safari Park on Saturday, May 3rd. Note this is the first Saturday of the month—a change in the normal meeting day. Please bring items for the silent auction and bring your lunch. Check-in for donations and silent auction items will start at 9:45 am, the business meeting will begin at 10:30 am, and lunch to follow. Make sure to sign up at the April meeting for access to Safari Park.

Our June meeting will be Sunday, June 8, in room 104.

Lastly, the San Diego County Fair is coming in June. As announced earlier, this year's theme is "The Fab Fair," 50th anniversary of the "British invasion," the Beatles and others. The Flower Show theme - where our booth going to be - is "Flower Power." Barbara French-Lee is in charge and will be asking members for bonsai items to be displayed in our booth. (see more on page 7)

Dan Sola, President

John Jackson



This Month's Program

We have a double header for this month's program with John Jackson both demonstrating a Trident Maple root-over-rock technique and conducting a workshop—at the same time! A student of John Naka and Harry Hirao, John is one of our club's most experienced bonsai artists (36 years in SDBC). He has deep ties to the Bonsai Pavilion at the Safari Park having been in charge of the construction of the current Bonsai Pavilion and its two predecessors and also being the current Curator. Anyone who has ever attended the club's bonsai shows can attest to the stunning trees that John has displayed.

Contemporary root-over-rock bonsai gives equal emphasis to both the dramatic rock and the draping roots so as to create a unified composition. Developing root-over-rock bonsai is a simple but time-consuming technique. So be prepared to learn how to spend the next 3 to 10 years developing your root-over-rock bonsai.

Bob Hale, 1st VP

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www.sandiegobonsaiclub.com

Editor's Note

You have to love San Diego, the rest of the country still having snow storms and we can go out to the desert where it is 90 degrees! The Suiseki trip was a first for me, but I had a great time looking through acres of rock-covered desert for interesting stones and being regaled by John Voss with Bonsai and Cycad information on the car ride. Try something new this month, whether it be volunteering for the Spring show or the Bonsai Pavilion, trying air layering for the first time, or going to the May picnic. Spring is the time for new things. Get out there and enjoy Bonsai!

Dave Barker,
TBW editor

Enjoy
Bonsai
- Learn
More



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SDBC Education for March

A big THANK YOU to 'lyn Stevenson who taught the just-finished beginning class with Elms and to her great team of expert helpers - John Jackson, Dennis Wagner, and Gary Jones. Also THANKS to Charlie Mosse for bringing the soil for the beginning class.



Congratulations to the elm bonsai class for completing their trees!



Upcoming Beginning Class

Martha Choy will be teaching the beginning bonsai class starting in April using variegated boxwoods. This unusual variety of boxwood should make an interesting bonsai. This class will be meeting in April, June and July (our annual picnic is in May). This class is full.

Workshops

Also special THANKS to Michael Sykes and Fred Miyahara for leading workshops in March (Fred's pine class shown to the right).



April's workshop will have John Jackson teaching root-over-rock technique at 11:00 a.m. simultaneously with his demonstration. This class is full.

In June, a workshop on large boxwoods will be taught by Cindy Read. Sign up online or at the April meeting. The cost of the workshop is \$50. Four of the ten spaces are still open.

Barb French-Lee, VPEducation

March Program Review

At our March meeting we celebrated Harry Hirao's 97th Birthday. Harry has joined our club for his birthday for many years. He, along with his helpers Dick Anderson, Peter Macasieb, and our own Glenn Jensen, styled a 150 year old California juniper. The tree had been harvested from the Hansen Ranch in the high desert about three years ago. The harsh environment of the desert imparted a rugged look to the tree. The styling utilized the concept of negative space (the "empty space" between branches and foliage) and the creation of jin to increase the aesthetic appeal and give the tree a more finished appearance. Harry donated the tree to the club for a special benefit drawing. Janet Palmer was the lucky winner of this beautiful tree. Shown below from the left are Glenn, Peter, Harry, Dan, Janet and Dick.





San Diego Bonsai Club

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Members
March 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 February 9, 2014 meeting were approved as published.
3. **President's Remarks:** Welcome to San Diego Bonsai Club's March meeting. The Bonsai-A-Thon trip was both informative, educational, and fun: we toured the beautiful gardens and watched bonsai experts styled different specimens. Michael Sykes—assisted by Fred Miyahara—showed his beautiful work on a foemina juniper. Those styled bonsai were auctioned in the afternoon. During auction, some SDBC members spent a few hundred dollars on several of the trees. Dan thanked the members involved for an excellent February. He also encouraged new members to ask questions about bonsai and asked for help if needed.
4. **Dan Sola** – Acknowledged the presence of SDBC Past Presidents.
5. **Admission of New Members: David Choy, VP for Membership:** Welcome to our new members George Milanovich, Tom Jeannieann, Anthony Galambos, Antonio Currais, Julia Chimento, Pam Johnson, Dave Garcia, Ryan Rojas, Samantha Aker, and Maureen Brown.
6. **Board Member Reports:**
 - **Bob Hale-1st Vice President,** reported: Upcoming presenters John Jackson- Maple-on-Rock April 13; SDBC picnic at Safari Park on May 3; Lindsay Shiba -Bonsai Display June 8; Jim Barrett Bonsai Pot making in July; and in August Tom Elias "penjing."
 - **Allan Edwin - Treasurer** reported: February was a great month; after all expenses we showed a slight profit \$141.00; our education is running above last year with many more classes coming up this year. The special events both Bonsai-A-Thon and Silhouettes trips made a profit. The internal review with Abe Farr and Chris Heckler said we looked good.
 - **Barbara French-Lee, Vice President, Education,** reported: Both the Foemina workshop with Michael Syke and Pine with Fred Miyahara were filled. Beginners' class starts in April with Martha Choy; the trees will be boxwoods; same day John Jackson's root over rock workshop and both classes are filled. The next workshop will be with Cindy Read in June with large boxwoods, 10 people for this workshop. The June classes will be challenging because we will only have Room 104.
 - **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 Kid's program will need donations of succulents and potting soil. Sign up for potluck dinner for April 26th after the show; we will also have desserts. Field trip Suiseki Rock collection to Yuha Desert on March 22, 2014 John Voss will be our guide; no fee.
7. **Appointed Position Reports: Lyn Stevenson and John Jackson, Safari Park Pavilion Curator,** reported: We will have a sign-up sheet in April for the picnic at the Safari Park to get entry and free parking. The last work day at the Pavilion we had five volunteers working on Trident Maple on Rock. The next workday is March 15th, and we will be re-potting for the public, an event the Safari Park has been promoting.
8. **Unfinished Business:** None
9. **New Business:** None
10. **Announcements:**

Dan Sola spoke with the President of Succulents and Cactus Society, and our June meeting will be on the 2nd Sunday as usual; they will give us Room 104. Spring Show around the corner; please sign up for volunteer work and refreshments.
11. **February 2014 Program: Robert Hale introduced presenter:** Harry Hirao is renowned for his work with California Juniper and Suiseki and has been displayed at the John Naka Pavilion for bonsai. Harry brought one of his collected California Juniper which was donated to SDBC; he was assisted by Peter Macasieb, Glenn Jensen and narrated by Dick Anderson. We celebrated his 97th birthday with a wonderful Birthday Cake, made by our refreshment crew: Sonya Holmquist and Meg Polo.
12. **Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Brenda Crann, Secretary

Yuha Desert Basin – Suiseki Trip

Eight brave souls trudged through the desert sands in 90 degree heat to search out the perfect viewing stone. Did we find one? I'd like to think so. For those of us who enjoy rock hunting it was like being in a candy store, so many to choose from. We are already anxious for another outing, possibly in November. A special thanks to Cindy Read for telling us where to look and to John Voss for being our guide. Below from the left are the rock hunters: [Peter Chong](#), [Dave Barker](#), [Brenda Crann](#), [John Voss](#), [Jaya Kaelberer](#), [Bob Hale](#), [Janice Hale](#), and [Ron Kaelberer](#). [Janice Hale](#), VP Special Projects



Japanese Friendship Garden

Fourteen years ago, the San Diego Bonsai Club and the Japanese Friendship Garden (JFG) developed an agreement to establish a Bonsai Exhibit at the Garden. Under the agreement, SDBC has responsibility for the care of the Bonsai trees at the Garden. [Fred Miyahara](#) was the first curator of the exhibit and continues to provide advice to the Club volunteers. Thanks, Fred!

Our SDBC volunteers— [Meg and John Polo](#), [Charlie Mosse](#), and [Trisha Bonapace](#)— trim, feed, repot, shape and keep the donated trees in exhibit condition. [Mark Edgar](#) created a book to keep a running log of the work done on each tree with pictures of each tree, photographed by [Dan Sola](#).

On March 26th [John Jackson](#), curator for the Bonsai Pavilion at the Safari Park, came to the JFG to help the Bonsai Club volunteers work on the bonsai trees and give direction for their ongoing care. Thanks, John!

Anyone who would like to volunteer can contact me for the next work day (typically Wednesday mornings).

[Barb French-Lee](#), Liaison to the JFG

Remembering Everett Jones

On March 10, 2014 I lost a good friend and great bonsai artist in Everett Jones. Everett was introduced to bonsai by his neighbor Fred Haecker (who was a member of SDBC) when they were in the Navy together. Everett joined the San Diego Bonsai Club in the mid 1980's. He eagerly took classes from John Naka when John used to frequent San Pu Kai for regular workshops. He also studied with Harry Hirao for many years. Everett served as President of the San Diego Bonsai Club in 1990 and 1991. He was always generous with his time and knowledge of bonsai with anyone who needed help.

Everett became an ardent collector of suiseki at the urging of Mas Takanashi (one of our founding members). He would regularly go to the desert near Baker and Death Valley to collect stones, also to Ridgecrest near China Lake. He organized and led excursions to Humboldt County in and around the Eel River to collect stones. I will never forget the fun times we shared on those trips. Everett also held a dai making class at his house to build daizas for the collected stones.

He compiled two books of photos and memorabilia of the history of our Club from 1987 through 1995, which was turned over to the Club's historian.

His quick smile and mischievous grin will sorely be missed by all who knew him.

[Fred Miyahara](#)

[Andrew Choy](#) filming the action as Harry and his helpers tackle the California Juniper



SDBC Website update

The Safari Park Bonsai Pavilion page has been updated with info from the latest brochure, with videos of the opening ceremony 3 years ago, and a history of The Melba Tucker Catlin elm forest.

Correction

In the March article on the creation of the SDBC logo, Bob and Kora Dalager's name was misspelled.

San Diego Bonsai Club Pavilion at the Safari Park

The much needed March rains caused a plan change for our Bonsai Pavilion Presentations to the Safari Park visitors on March 1st, but work was accomplished by a special group of hardy volunteers in spite of the inclement weather. On March 15th, the weather made for a most pleasant day for all and we had a record 31 bonsai volunteers in their red Safari Park shirts and ID name tags in the Pavilion to work on the transplanting of 14 trees along with all the usual work we accomplish at our sessions. The visitors, including a high school biology class, were really attentive, awed, and informed about this living art. **John Polo** arranged the Club's sound system, background music was supplied by the Park and **Neil Auwarter**, and the Park arranged signage at the Plant Trader along with one of our loaned Bonsai. There was a comfortable amount of room in the open area near the Shohin exhibit to have the potting tables and a two dozen chairs. This was our first educational presentation to Safari Park visitors, and it was deemed successful so we will definitely do more in the future.



Our record Honor Roll of volunteers for March included guest **Brian Jackson**, our Curator John's brother, who is also a huge donor to the collection. He came especially to assist repotting a beautiful trident maple which he had donated earlier. Joining him were: **Neil Auwarter, Susan Baker, Armand Bryant, Julia Chow, Cathy & Mark Edgar, Tina Flores, Barbara French-Lee, Bill Graham, Bob & Janice Hale, Sonja Holmquist, Curator John Jackson, Jaya Kaelberer, Marty & Ruth Mann, newcomers Janie & Ron Ogdon, Irene & Ron Palmer, John Polo, Sally Prestele, Harlan Price, 'lyn Stevenson, John Voss, Dennis & Sue Wagner, Mark Walters, Dave Woodall, & Roger Ziegelman.** Janice Hale and Janie Ogdon photographed the activities and many of the transplanted bonsai for our records and future publicity. Harlan, Cathy, John, and 'lyn provided the welcomed snacks.



Since last fall, over 35 bonsai have been repotted including 17 junipers, 5 elms, 2 liquidambers, 2 bald cypress, 2 coast live oaks, a shohin fig, and 4 group plantings/forests (2 of which are on slabs). There are still 11 bonsai on the "To Do" transplant list for this season, but our incredible cadre of volunteers will be able to finish that task. Besides repotting, there are always pots to be cleaned, trees to be trimmed, paths to be raked, plants to be fertilized, and weeds to be cleared— plenty of chores for all the volunteers! The Club will have an opportunity to give these volunteers an ovation for their dedication in making the Bonsai Pavilion a true treasure when Club members attend the annual meeting, picnic, and silent auction at the Kapanda Pavilion on May 3rd! Sign-ups for entry to the Safari Park for the meeting and picnic that day will be at the April SDBC meeting!

Curator John has cleverly installed a new tool board on the inside of the closet #1 with the tool shapes outlined on the board so that the tools are all returned to their rightful spaces. The Park staff delivered some more D.G. to fill areas which had become mucky with the rains in spite of the drains that Assistant Curator Dennis had installed earlier. The information kiosk in the Pavilion has a supply of brochures for both the SDBC and San Pu Kai, flyers announcing our April Bonsai Show at Balboa Park, and our Pavilion brochure. "Pavilion" thanks to Abe Far for arranging the printing of this new brochure.

There seems to be an addition or project always in the schedule and sometimes new unscheduled needs appear too! The Pavilion has come along beautifully in these first three years but just like aged wine, it continues to get better! Come and visit the Pavilion often and encourage your neighbors and out-of-town visitors to enjoy this quiet park of the Safari Park.

'lyn Stevenson, SDBC - Safari Park Liaison

New Members

Please welcome our new members: **Antonio Currais, Julia Chimento, Pam Johnson, Dave Garcia, Ryan Rojas, Samantha Aker, Greg and Erica Moser, and David Poly.** 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 March meeting. The members bringing refreshments included: **John and Margaret Jackson, Christina Far, Sonya Holmquist, Meg Polo, Charlie Mosse, Roger Marr, Chris Manzanaros, Harlan and Mary Ann Price, Shirley Kavanaugh, Janice Hale, Lauren Sanchez, Roger Ziegelman, 'lyn Stevenson, Janice Ogdon, and Harry Hirao.**

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 March meeting: **Bob Meyer, John and Margaret Jackson, Dave Barker, Scott Flack, David English, Dave Woodall, Charlie Mosse, Janet Palmer, Shirley Kavanaugh, Marty Mann, 'lyn Stevenson, and Gary Jones.**

Please continue to bring in your bonsai related items.

Special Events

San Diego County Fair

Again this year the SDBC will have a booth at the Fair to showcase our Club and member trees. The Fair opens June 7th and closes July 6th. "Flower Power" is a sub-theme of the Fair, so we would like to have some flowering trees for our exhibit. If you have any trees that might be flowering by the end of June please let me know. We are also looking for other trees to place in our booth. The booth is locked and alarmed and Club members water the trees daily. Any one interested in helping with planning for our booth please let me know, we would love to have you.

Also consider placing your tree in competition at the Fair. The competition booth has money prizes for first, second and third place. There is also a novice category for new bonsai enthusiasts. If you are interested you can register at www.sdfair.com. If you need help, you can call Cheri, the Fair Garden Show Assistant Supervisor at (858) 755-1161, ext. 2460. **May 2nd** is the deadline for entry registration.

Barb French-Lee

Spring Bonsai Show

It's almost here, right around the corner! The Spring Bonsai Show will be held April 26th & 27th, 10:00am-5:00pm with set up April 24th & 25th. This is our chance to 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. There are many tasks, large and small still available. This is a perfect opportunity for you to get involved in the club and meet new people; please consider contributing a few hours of your time. Sign up sheets will be in the back of the room during the April meeting.

Beginners and novices, we would like to show our guests how we begin our bonsai journey. We encourage you to bring in a favorite tree, even from the beginning classes, to the April meeting so our instructors can guide you on how it can best be displayed. You will then bring it to the show set up, Friday April 25th, between 3:00-8:00pm, and your tree will be in the show.

The "Kids Table" at the show promises to be a lot of fun. Please bring your donations of small, rooted plants or succulents or even a bag of potting soil to the April meeting. We also need your time and smiles to help the kids plant their "bonsai." Sign up to lend a helping hand.

The plant and bonsai material sale tables are a big part of the show. The public loves to see the displayed trees and then 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 April meeting and bring your tagged plants on the 25th.

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 at the April meeting. We are requesting that you each



The poster features a yellow ribbon at the top with the text "San Diego Bonsai Club". Below the ribbon, the word "Spring" is written in a green, serif font. The main title "Bonsai Show" is in a large, bold, black serif font. Below the title, the dates "April 26th and 27th" are in a white serif font on a black background. The times "10a.m.-5p.m. Each Day" and the location "Casa Del Prado Rm 101 Balboa Park, San Diego" are in a black serif font. At the bottom, a small black box contains the text "Bonsai of various sizes and species will be on exhibit. There will be demonstrations each day and Bonsai for sale by our club members." in a white serif font.

bring an appetizer or a dessert and please bring something for the benefit drawing and auction.

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

April 5th Saturday and April 19th Saturday
 SDBC Workday at Safari Park, 9am to 12pm

April 13th Meeting Sunday
 Regular SDBC Meeting
 John Jackson - trident maple on rock

April 13
 Balboa Park, Room 101

April 24th Thursday, Spring Show set-up
 April 25th Friday, Spring Show check-in

April 26th Saturday and April 27th Sunday
 SDBC Spring Bonsai Show

Meeting Agenda

| | Time | Activity | Room |
|---|-------------|-------------------------|------|
| May 3rd Saturday (First Saturday of May) Regular Meeting/Picnic at Safari Park | 08:30-10:20 | Beginning Class | 104 |
| June 8th Meeting Sunday Lindsay Shiba, how to display bonsai | 09:30-10:20 | Library Open | 104 |
| July 13th Meeting Sunday Jim Barrett, bonsai pot making | 10:30-11:00 | Business Meeting | 101 |
| August 10th Meeting Sunday Tom Elias, "penjing" | 11:00-12:30 | Demonstration | 101 |
| | 11:00-12:30 | Root-over-rock workshop | 101 |
| | 12:30 | Lunch | 101 |
| | 12:45 | Benefit Drawing | 101 |

SDBC Spring Bonsai Show April 26th and 27th Don't Miss It!