

The Bonsai Wire

Volume 41, Issue 4

April, 2015



Message from the President

Thank you to Abe Far for an excellent demonstration with a beautiful bougainvillea (plant donated by Bob and Janice Hale—Thank you for your generous donation). Watch for Abe's styled bonsai plant for auction or drawing during one of our future events.

Thank you to our many volunteers who continuously donate their valuable resources. Whether working in the Bonsai Pavilion in Safari Park, working in SDBC's collection in the Japanese Friendship Garden, maintaining our class nursery collection, conducting (or assisting) a bonsai class, assisting members to create good-looking bonsai, or conducting administrative functions behind the scenes — (just to name a few), dedicated members are making a big difference.

As you already know, this year is a great milestone for our Club; our 50-year anniversary celebration is just around the corner and will coincide with our Spring Show. City or County (or both) Officials may make presentations to our Club during our Spring Show.

Announcements

Please plan on helping with and participating in our

Spring Bonsai Show at the end of April. We need help, especially with set-up on the 23rd and 24th and tear down on the 26th. We are also in need of your donations for our Saturday evening benefit drawing and auction to assure that this will be a fun event for everyone.

Our meeting in May is Sunday, May 17th at the Safari Park. In addition to the meeting we have a lunch, a silent auction, and access to the Bonsai Pavilion. Please bring your own lunch and items for silent auction. Check-in for auction donations starts at 9:45 a.m., the business meeting will begin at 10:30 a.m., with lunch and auction to follow. Make sure to sign up at our April meeting for free access to Safari Park for this event.

The San Diego County Fair opens on Friday, June 5th; the theme is "A Fair to Remember." The Fair will coincide with Balboa Park's 100th year celebration, and we will again have a booth (see more on page 7 on how to volunteer to help with the Fair booth and how to show your bonsai).

We are still looking for a member or two to handle our refreshments during our monthly meetings. Please contact any of our SDBC Officers if you can help out.

Dan Sola, President

This Month's Program

For our April program, First VP Bob Hale will present "Fertilizer: The other thing that goes in the pot." As we learned in January, bonsai containers are a man-made environment that is best with soil that has a high level of inorganic material. As such, in order to maintain the health and development of your bonsai, you need to provide a regular dose of fertilizer to the growing medium to provide nutrients for the tree. Bob will discuss various fertilizers and fertilizer feeding schemes to get the most from your bonsai. The goal is for everyone to see their options, perhaps try something different, and discover what works best. There will be a hands-on opportunity for those interested.



Next Month's Program

The May meeting will be held on May 17th at the Safari Park inside the Bonsai Pavilion. The meeting will consist of a club meeting, a pot luck lunch, and a silent auction. Please sign-up for the Safari Park Meeting at the April meeting so we have a head count for tables. We also want to know if you need a Safari Park entrance pass, or if you are a volunteer or S.D. Zoo member. Be sure to bring something to auction and dollars for the many great pots and plants that will be offered.



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San Diego Bonsai Club Website
www.sandiegobonsaiclub.com

Editor's Note

Wow, there's nothing like March Madness! And I don't mean college basketball craziness, but a month of repotting, pinching and trimming. Whew!

Now this month it is time for the Spring Show. I hope all you newer members get involved. I was only with the club for two months when I volunteered for roaming security—it was a breeze. There are lots of jobs that require no expertise, and there a plenty of old-timers to help you know what to do; join the fun!

Dave Barker, TBW Editor

50 Years
of
Cultivating
the
Art of
Bonsai
in
San
Diego



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Beginning Class: The next beginning class starts in April. Martha Choy will be teaching this class using Olives (*Olea europaea*). Martha is an experienced bonsai teacher and presenter who has received bonsai training in Japan. Her knowledgeable helpers are Dave Woodall, Nelson Cortes, and Andrew Choy. The class then skips a month (as we have our meeting and picnic at the Safari Park). The second and third parts of the beginning class are in June, the 28th (note this is not our regular meeting day) and July. This will be a great class, both for the type of material you will be working with and Martha's expertise. The class is Room 104. This class is filled.

April Workshop: John Jackson will once again give a workshop on well developed Oaks (*Quercus agrifolia*). This is the last of the older oaks the Club purchased several years ago. This class is in Room 101. This class is filled. [Hopefully we will be able to find more of the older oaks in the future. If anyone comes across some older oaks at great prices please let me know. They make great bonsai material.]

May: No beginning class, no workshop, and no follow-up. We'll see you at the San Diego Zoo Safari Park!

June workshop: Coming up in June Cindy Read will be giving a workshop on large boxwoods (*Buxus*). These have great size on them and would be a nice addition to your collection. Cost: \$50. Max. Participants: 10. Sign up sheet and online sign up available at the Club meeting.

A reminder that all beginning classes, workshops and skills classes are taught from 8:30am to 10:15am on Club meeting days at Balboa Park.

Barbara French-Lee, VP Education

P.S. Don't forget to bring any trees that you would like some help or advice on from our excellent Bonsai Masters at the Club. Help is located in the back of Room 101 to the right of the stage.



March Program Review

During the March program Abe Far presented a fact sheet about Bougainvillias and highlighted watering, fertilizing, pruning, and repotting. He emphasized the tenderness of the roots and recommended cutting rather than combing out the roots.

Abe demonstrated the styling of a bougainvillea bonsai. Abe mentioned that it is best to start with a large plant, such as a 5 gallon plant, looking for a sizable trunk and a good starting branch structure. To create the bougainvillea bonsai, Abe removed most of the original branches and all cuts were sealed to aid in healing and to prevent rot. The resulting design exhibited potential. Abe will transplant this bonsai and allow sprouts and bracts to form over the next few months. This tree will return to the club this summer for auction.



Bob Hale, 1st VP

Shohin Study Group

The Shohin Study Group, after a one year hiatus, held their first meeting on March 13. Ten members attended the study group to work on their trees and get advice. All levels of experience were represented. There was lots of work done by all, the more advanced members delivering one-on-one instruction to the less experienced. The purpose of the Study Group is to create quality bonsai and improve the members' skills and their trees. The goal is to create display-worthy trees and have a good time in the process. SDBC members can be part of the Group as long as their dues are paid and can join at any time. To check out the group's activities, see the Shohin Study Group Blog on the SDBC website.



Charlie Mosse, Member



San Diego Bonsai Club

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Members
March 8, 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 February 22, 2015 meeting were approved as published.
- 3. Dan Sola, President's Remarks:** Thanks to all the volunteers and asked members to continue to help, especially the coming Spring show; acknowledgement of GSBF President and SDBC Past Presidents. Welcome back Trisha Bonapace.
- 4. Sonya Holmquist, V.P. of Membership, Admission of New Members:** Marviyn, Stella and Connor Sweeney, Peter Storniolo, Paul Esch, Debbie Lubensky, Janet and Robert Liggett. New members can now have a mentor. The current mentor list is: Cathy Edgar, Abe Far, Neil Auwarter, Jaya Kaelberer, Charlie Mosse, and Ken Bross.
- 5. Board Member Reports:**
 - Bob Hale, 1st Vice President,** reported, Demonstrations for the following months: April will be fertilizer; May meeting will be at Safari Park.
 - Peter Chong, Treasurer,** reported: Club acct. has \$14,969 and Pavilion acct. has \$14,342; our income last month was \$2,946; our expenses were \$4,400 of which \$2,000 went towards our 50th Anniversary celebration to purchase t-shirts and aprons. Pavilion had an expense of \$990 for a work area extension.
 - Barbara French-Lee, V.P. Education:** Elms class is finished; thanks to 'lyn Stevenson; next month, Martha Choy will be teaching beginner's class on Olive tree and John Jackson will have an Oak tree workshop. We want to start a beginner's class study group; it will be held on the day that SDBC meets.
 - Janice Hale, V. P. Special Projects:** Gary Jones- we need volunteers for Spring Show; set up Thursday April 23rd; Friday April 24, trees arrive and plant sale for Club members.
- 6. Appointed Position Reports:**
 - 'lyn Stevenson, Safari Park Pavilion Appointed Position,** reported: There were 100+ trees fertilized and a fence was built that will allow us to expand our work area. One other project will be the walkways; we will use grant dollars to help with cost. The Safari Park will be putting in two drain pipes in our area. Picnic will be on May 17th inside the Pavilion.
 - Glenn Jensen, Japanese Friendship Garden, Curator** - Thanks to Safari Park for the Olive Tree. There is no other Bonsai club that has two collections; the Friendship Garden collection is small, but we are working on increasing the collection.
 - Charlie Mosse** announced Aisha won \$100 from the Golden State Bonsai Federation's "Plant a Seed Program." Also a Shohin Work Study Group will be starting March 15, 2015.
- 7. Unfinished Business: Sonya Holmsquist:** The 50th anniversary Aprons and Polo Shirts are in. Also a Japanese theme was chosen for Spring Bonsai Show dinner on Saturday, April 25.
- 8. New Business:** Financial Audit Committee report by Janet Palmer, Abe Far, and Janice Hale—the records fairly represent the financial position of SDBC and Bonsai Pavilion as of December 31, 2014. May 9th Balboa Park will have "Garden Party," and SDBC will have a booth.
- 9. Announcements:** Janie Beck with Coronado Flower Show April 17, 18 & 19; we need trees to be shown & need a judge for the show. San Diego County Fair deadline to enter to display is May 1, 2015: June 17, 2015 will be bonsai day: to man info booth 11 a.m.-5:00 p.m., and two demonstrations at 1 and 3pm; we still need Food Coordinator for our monthly meeting.
- 10. Program Bob Hale introduced:** Club member Abe Far provided a demonstration with Bougainvilleas.
- 11. Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Brenda Crann Secretary

SDBC Honoree - Dave Woodall

Dave's relationship with bonsai began in 1976 when his son came home from college for Christmas and brought Dave two bonsai, a ginkgo and a pomegranate. After 39 years, he still has the ginkgo!

Dave's wife saw in the paper that San Pu Kai, a North county bonsai club, was having a show at Mission Bay. They went down to the show where they bought raffle tickets and ended up winning a tree. He joined the club and started taking lessons at the club. John Naka was coming down to the club giving lessons at the time, and Dave signed up for that as well. He studied with John for four years (until John stopped coming down), and then learned from the old-timers in the club.

Dave was persuaded to join the San Diego Bonsai Club around 1996 by 'lyn Stevenson, President of SDBC and also a member of San Pu Kai. He started showing his trees in the club's shows soon after joining and has become a familiar face at club activities. It wouldn't be the same if Dave weren't seen somewhere in his Hapi coat, whether it be the plant sales table, at the table by the door to the show, or in the kitchen getting a bite to eat.

Dave's greatest joy about bonsai is seeing a tree improve over time; watching a spindly stub develop over time into a lovely bonsai. He doesn't really have a favorite tree or style; but still has an Olive that he has had for over 35 years. He also has a White Pine that he has had for many years. John Naka told him he was wasting his time, but he persisted and that White Pine has stayed alive for some 30 years. He thinks its longevity was due in part to its being grafted onto Black Pine stock.

Like many of us, the bonsai disaster that stands out is when a favorite bonsai of Dave's was accidentally cut off from his watering system; the cork-barked Oak died. He planted four small oaks around the base of the dead Oak and they grew up around it.

Dave feels bonsai has been here for many years and will continue to grow in popularity and interest. He



admires those young people who have gone to study in Japan and returned here to share what they have learned. He supports his granddaughter in her interest in bonsai by bringing her to meetings and working with her on trees. She is his delight.

Whereas Dave says he isn't a teacher, he will assist anyone who asks for his help and this month is assisting in the beginning class. He patiently shares the skills he has learned over the years and "shows up" with his tools and gloves as part of the team of helpful club members who volunteer at Safari Park. He is a quiet, gentle inspiration to all of us.

Gary Jones, Bonsai Show Coordinator

Japanese Friendship Garden

For the past several weeks, under the leadership of Curator Glenn Jensen, we have been repotting and restyling trees in the bonsai collection. We are working towards having a collection that represents many styles and tree varieties. In March a long awaited security system for the bonsai was put in place. We are also working with the Garden to have a storage area for our bonsai supplies and an off exhibit area for trees not quite ready for show time. If you haven't been to the JFG for awhile, think about making a visit to this beautiful garden and see all the progress that has been made in the Garden expansion. Thanks to the volunteers who have helped this month; Trisha Bonapace (welcome back to Trisha who has been on a year long exploration of the US), Charlie Mosse, Julia Chimento, and Julia Chow.

Barbara French-Lee, Liaison to the JFG



San Diego Bonsai Club Pavilion at the Safari Park

Even though March had record high early spring temperatures this year, we still had much routine winter maintenance. About 100 bonsai were fertilized with slow release pellets, and three of the larger displayed bonsai were also transplanted with new soils and replaced on their respective benches.



A very nice large juniper (*procumbens nana*) cascade was donated to the Pavilion by SDBC newcomers, Jenny and Joe Cho. Marty Mann has also donated another large old maple group bonsai planting in a large glazed oval pot from his collection. It is most generous of our members to remember the Pavilion when they are "downsizing" their collections. Our newly expanded work area will have several benches to house these significant trees that are being groomed for future display. Thanks also to Cary & Steve Valentine for procuring name plates for our new additions to the bonsai benches.

March volunteers at the Pavilion included: **Neil Auwarter, Julia Chow, Peter Choy, Cathy & Mark Edgar, Tina Flores, Jeff Geringer, Sonya Holmquist, John Jackson, Jaya Kaelberer, Jim & Sue Kirchmer, Charlie Mosse, Janie & Ron Ogdon, Ron Palmer, Marcella Perez, Jon & Terri Petrescu, Sally Prestele, Harlan & Mary Ann Price, 'lyn Stevenson, John Voss, Dennis Wagner, Mark Walters, and Dan Sola.** Thanks to each of them and to John, Mary Ann, Charlie, Cathy, Julia, and 'lyn for providing refreshments for our breaks and meeting times. The volunteers often have short meeting breaks during our work sessions to discuss schedules and upcoming work in the garden areas as well as with the bonsai. Also, it's a good time to discuss with the group problems that may be detected such as insects, faulty water emitters, and washed out areas.

Presently, we also are preparing programs for April, June, and October for Park visitors at the request of Safari Horticulture. These sessions will be held in the Pavilion during our work sessions to introduce the art of bonsai and techniques to casual Park visitors and to answer questions with more detailed presentations. We are also preparing for the annual visit to the Pavilion of our SDBC members for the annual picnic, silent auction, and meeting on May 17th in the Bonsai Pavilion. Sign-ups for that meeting will be at the April SDBC meeting at Balboa Park. Members need to sign up so that we will have enough tables, chairs, and passes for everyone. By meet-

ing in the Pavillion, members will have an opportunity to see the working areas with the volunteers.

We are also looking forward to greeting special guests visiting the Pavilion during the SDBC's 50th Anniversary Celebration weekend on April 25th and 26th including a bonsai study group from Phoenix, Arizona.

In preparation for these events, all the volunteers are doing a spring cleaning and sprucing up of the Pavilion. Special thanks to Ron Ogdon for diligent pond cleaning. He keeps his hip boots ready at each session! Very special kudos to Jim Kirchmer and Charlie Mosse for assessing and procuring new gravel, bark, and peeler poles, etc. to renew worn out spaces throughout the Pavilion. They and a few more volunteers have been putting in extra hours and days to have the Pavilion ready for the May meeting. Also, thanks to the Safari Park Staff who have been tree trimming along the outer fences of the Pavilion as we requested.



The most wonderful news also is that THE WATERFALL IS AGAIN FLOWING! . . . It has been a major concern for some time and the Safari Park Horticulturist had promised to have it back in running order before our April 50th Anniversary Show weekend. HURRAH! The moving waters from the waterfall into the stream and ponds is a very important element in the garden. We will look forward to the duck families returning to the garden for visiting children to see.

There is always an open invitation to all SDBC members to join the Bonsai Pavilion volunteers! Whether it is working on truly beautiful, old bonsai or gardening projects (since these bonsai are presented in a lovely garden), it is a great opportunity to have learning and sharing experiences whether you are new to bonsai or have been involved for many years. Becoming a Zoo/Safari Park credentialed volunteer offers also has several extra advantages; see me if you are interested.

'lyn Stevenson, SDBC-Safari Park Liaison

New Members

Please welcome our new members: **Peter Storniolo, Paul Esch, Deane Hall, Tad Bliesener, Don Guilliams, and Debbie Lubensky.**

Sonya Holmquist, VP of Membership

Refreshments

Thank you to the following for bringing refreshments to the March meeting: **Aisha Colak, Roger Marr, Julia Chow, Janet Liggett, Harlan and Mary Ann Price, Meg Polo, Abe & Christina Far, Sonya Holmquist, Edward Stokes, Afredo De La Cruz, Sylvia & Charlie Mosse, Shirley Kavanaugh, Christine & Darryl Elmer, Dennis Wagner, Susan Mae Hull, and Fred Miyahara.**

SDBC Benefit Drawing

Thank you to the following for your donations to the March meeting benefit drawing: **Abe and Christina Far, Aisha Colak, Roger Marr, Harlan and Mary Ann Price, Shirley Kavanaugh, Dan Sola, Peter Chong, Lyn Stevenson, and Susan Mae Hull.**

Special Events

50th Anniversary Spring Exhibition – April 25 – 26

Hi everyone! Our Spring Show and dinner is coming up, and we can use your help to make sure this is a wonderful event and evening of food, friends, and bonsai fun. We are going to need help setting up the tables for the dinner in the courtyard and getting the food, plates, side dishes all in place as soon as possible after the show closes on Saturday. I only have a couple ladies volunteering so far, and that is not enough to get it done. Everyone can help and every little thing done makes it more fun for everyone. Your participation is vital!

Our 50th Anniversary Spring Exhibition will be held in Room 101 of Casa Del Prado, Balboa Park on Saturday, April 25th and Sunday, April 26th. The set-up days for the show are the 23rd, backdrops and tables, and the 24th, show trees, sales check-in and final touches in preparation for show days, Saturday, 25th, and Sunday, 26th. At the end of Sunday's show, everything will be disassembled and put away, and trees returned to their homes. It all takes teamwork and that means your energy and help. Show up and be a part of this Spring Bonsai Show.

Gary Jones, Bonsai Show Coordinator

The Spring and Fall shows are the biggest fund raising events 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 100% would be amazing and greatly appreciated.

Our big 50th Anniversary Banquet, as well as raffle and special auction, will be after the show on Saturday, April 25th. We will enjoy a fabulous dinner, enhanced by the side dishes and desserts you bring. Also, please bring your items to donate to the raffle and special auction. If you plan on attending the banquet, please sign the RSVP sheet at the April meeting so we can be sure we have enough dinner for everyone.

Bonsai-A-Thon

A big Thank You to everyone from SDBC who attended this year's Bonsai-a-Thon. This fund raising event for the Golden State Bonsai Collection at the Huntington was a great success. The afternoon auction and raffle were a lot of fun, the tree styling demos riveting, and the highlight for most was the tour of the bonsai collection with a peek behind the scenes.



Janice Hale, V.P.
Special Projects



San Diego County Fair Bonsai Competition

The 2015 San Diego County Fair runs from June 5th to July 5th. If you would like to have a tree in the competition, the deadline for registration is May 1st. Go to sdfair.com for information on registering.

The San Diego Bonsai Club will also have a booth at the Fair. We would love to have anyone interested help design and set up the booth. Please contact Barb French-Lee if you have an interest helping us create a first class exhibit.

SDBC Website

Check out the SDBC website for more information than we have space for in the newsletter:

- Abe's bougainvillea information sheet
- Photos of the 2015 Bonsai-A-Thon
- A newsletter from GSBF Collection at the Huntington
- A thank you video from Harry Hirao
- Information on the Shohin Study Group.

San Diego Bonsai Club, Inc.
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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

San Diego Bonsai Club Calendar of Events

April 12th, Sunday

Club Meeting

April 12th, Sunday

LA Bonsai Swap Meet

Jesse Owens Park, 7100 White Oak Ave., Reseda, CA

April 18th, Saturday

SDBC Workday at Safari Park, 9 am to 12 pm

April 23rd Thursday and April 24th Friday

Spring show set-up

April 25 - 26th (Saturday & Sunday)

50th Anniversary Spring Bonsai Show

April 25th Saturday

50th Anniversary Banquet

May 2nd Saturday and May 16th, Saturday

SDBC Workday at Safari Park, 9 am to 12 pm

May 9th, Saturday

Garden Party of the Century, Balboa Park

May 17th Sunday

Club Picnic at Safari Park

Sunday, April 12, 2015
 Balboa Park, Room 101
 Casa Del Prado

Meeting Agenda

Time	Activity	Room
08:30– 10:20	Beginning Class	104
08:30– 10:20	Oak 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