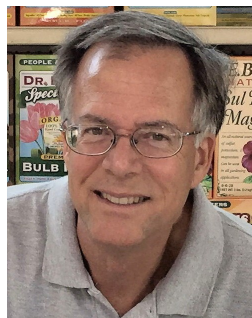


The Bonsai Wire

Volume 43, Issue 4

April, 2017

Message from the President



I was doing a little reading and came across some great bonsai quotes that will make you smile and make you think!

- “Killing trees is the tuition you pay for learning bonsai” – John Naka.
- “If you can’t find the front, instead find the back and then rotate it 180 degrees” – John Naka.
- “The object is not to make the tree look like bonsai, but to make the bonsai look like a tree” – John Naka.
- “When a bonsai stops growing, you know it is dead” – Japanese Proverb.
- “Don’t worry if you kill your tree, at least you have gained a pot” – unknown.
- “To develop a bonsai collection, make one hundred and keep two or three” – Nobu Kajiwara.

Announcements

There are two great opportunities coming up to show your trees. The first is our Club’s Spring Show in April and the second is the San Diego County Fair in June. See the “special events” section on page 7 of this newsletter for details on our club’s show. And see page 5 for the details of entering a bonsai or tray landscape in the fair. You have until May 5th to get your entry in. There are multiple cash awards including for best bonsai at the show, best bonsai under ten inches, and best bonsai by a first time entrant.

Also, just another reminder the Clark Collection house in Shinzen Gardens at Woodward Park in Fresno will have their annual fund raising event April 22nd & 23rd. For more information on the Clark Collection event check out www.gsbfbonsai.org.

Bob Hale, President

This Month’s Program

TOOLS! Fred Miyahara will educate us on 1) what the basic tools are meant to do and how to use them, 2) how to determine what tools you will need the most, 3) quality differences in tools and when that quality makes a difference, and 4) the basics of maintaining your tools. There will also be discussions where to buy tools, and where to buy basic sharpening and maintenance products. There are many tools used in bonsai like the dozen or so different shapes of scissors, so not all tools will be discussed. Carving tools, in particular, will be left for another day.

In the morning, from 8:30 to 10:15, there will be several of our experienced members available to help with how to sharpen and maintain your particular tools. There will be tables set up with one instructor per table to work with members. It is first come, first served, but we do have about 2 hours. Each member will have about 10-15 minutes. The instructor will show you the basics of sharpening, which you will do under their watchful eyes.

Charlie Mosse, 1st VP



TOOLS!



Inside this Edition

President's Message	p1
April Program	p1
Editor's Note	p2
Club Officer Information	p2
Education Report	p3
Club Meeting Minutes	p4
March Program	p5
Upcoming Meetings and Events	p5
SDBC Pavilion	p6
Announcements	p7
Special Events	p7
Calendar of Events	p8
Meeting Agenda	p8

San Diego Bonsai Club Website
www.sandiegobonsaiclub.com

Editor's Note

As I move on to Virginia and relinquish my job as TBW editor, I want to thank all the club officers and members who have contributed articles and pictures to the Bonsai Wire over the last four years. I learned a great deal from the demonstrations at meetings, from participation in various Study Groups, and from volunteering including this job. I had only been a member for six months when I volunteered to provide security for the 2011 GSBF bonsai exhibit; it was amazing what I learned from listening over those 4 days. It will be similar learning experience for the new editor, Katie Borton, who has only been with the club for several months. To others, I highly recommend volunteering to learn a lot about the art of bonsai.

Another aspect of the move to Virginia is that I am selling all my bonsai. I have always found the most pleasure in the creation process, so I do not have any "show-worthy bonsai." What I do have is relatively inexpensive large and small bonsai and pre-bonsai, *saikai* (trees and rocks), *tanukis* (using a small tree with a large piece of deadwood), tray landscapes, forests, and bonsai-like container plants. It is a small collection of 50 items as that is all my patio can hold. I am selling them at cost (to the best of my recollection) to newer club members. [Active club members who joined in 2014 or more recently] Almost all except forests are less than \$100, with many less than \$50. The sale will be on **April 22nd, 9 am - 4 pm** on my back patio, cash and carry. If you are a newer club member, send me an email or talk to me at the April meeting for a catalog with pictures, prices, and directions to my house.

Dave Barker, TBW Editor, dtbarker_sd@yahoo.com

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April is here and Spring has sprung! My trees are really starting to pop with new growth and I am sure yours are too. Our first Beginners class of the year is completed. I hope everyone who took the class enjoyed it and will continue with their studies. Thank you to John Jackson for leading and his assistants Gary Jones, Brenda Crann and Mark and Cathy Edgar for doing such an outstanding job! With some time and work, I hope to one day see some of these trees entered in the Beginners section of our shows.

The Japanese Black Pine Workshop was a great success.

Fred Miyahara, with assistance from Michael Sykes and Dennis Wagner, did a fantastic job. The trees were incredibly healthy and had great potential. I saw some really nice bonsai in the making. I look forward to seeing your trees when you have developed them some more.



Beginning Classes:

April 9 – June 11 – July 9

Our second Beginning Class of the year starts this month, April, with the second and third classes in June and July (we skip May as we have our meeting and picnic at the Safari Park). It will be taught by our own Past President and Golden State Bonsai Federation Past

President Abe Far! You will be working on Pomegranates (*Punica granatum*). This will be a great class!

This class is COMPLETELY SOLD OUT. If you have not paid yet, please ensure that you do. We have a very long waiting list and if you will be unable to attend, I have club members anxious to fill any vacancy. Please contact me at wfgraham3rd@gmail.com if you will not be able to attend, so I can contact club members on the waiting list.

Work Shops:

June Workshop – Urban Yamadori Boxwoods

The June workshop will be some very nice collected boxwoods. These have been out of the ground and in pots for about three years. They are excellent material and will make exciting bonsai! John Voss will be the teacher. Due to scheduling conflicts, this class has been moved and will be held at 8:30 in the courtyard outside of Room 104. Currently, there is one spot left for this workshop. The sign-up sheet will be at the April meeting. The cost is \$50.00.

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

If you have any ideas that can improve our programs or have skills that you would like to share please contact me at the Monthly Meeting or at wfgraham3rd@gmail.com

Bill Graham, VP for Education

Congratulations Beginning Class!





San Diego Bonsai Club

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Members March 12, 2017



- 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 February 12, 2017 meeting were approved as published.
- 3. President's remarks:** SDBC needs a new newsletter editor and treasurer, as well as help in the kitchen.
- 4. Nazim Colak, VP for Membership:** There were 5 new members announced. The new members present were introduced. The new members were given free raffle tickets for today's raffle. Reminder for members who have not yet renewed their 2017 SDBC membership to do so now.
- 5. Board Member Reports:**
 - Charlie Mosse 1st Vice President,** reported: This morning Lindsay Shiba started with root pruning (removing crossing and unsightly roots) on the Harland Boxwood he worked on last year. He went on to complete the styling, and then was assisted by Ayse Colak with the repotting. On April 9th we'll have an open workshop available to all club members on tool maintenance and selection. Stations will be open from 8:30- 10:30 with experienced members who will guide members on how to sharpen and clean their tools. There will be no Program in May as our meeting will be at the Safari Park Bonsai Pavilion. There is a sign-up sheet for those who will be attending the meeting at the Pavilion. Please sign up so that 'lyn can get tickets for your free parking and entry. June meeting is in room 104, so there will be no presentation. Kathy Shaner will be our presenter in July, as well as conducting a workshop on Sunday. She will also have morning & afternoon workshops on Monday. August presentation will be on Ficus with John Jackson. Jonas Dupuich is scheduled for the November presentation, with a morning workshop on Sunday. He will conduct morning and afternoon workshops on Saturday as well.
 - Janice Hale, Special Projects,** reported: Spring Show is April 29th and 30th: There are sign-up sheets to work the show. Setup Thursday is April 27th; Bring trees and sales items on Friday Apr 28. Sign up for Saturday dinner; bring dessert or a side-dish, club will provide main dish. Sign-up sheets in back for those who want to show trees. There are 5 names on the novice list already.
 - Janice Hale, Interim Treasurer,** reported: The balance for SDBC checking account is \$38,743.37, of which \$427.71 is available to the Japanese Friendship Garden from donations. The Safari Park Bonsai Pavilion checking balance is \$37,268.78, which includes the \$20,000 grant check received from the County of San Diego. Year to date net loss of (\$1,632.11). Loss is a timing issue due to such items as membership dues included in 2016 income, membership dues slow to come in for 2017, education tree purchases and other prepaid items waiting reimbursement.
 - Bill Graham, Vice President, Education,** reported: He gave thanks to the instructor and helpers for the 3rd and final Elm class this morning: John Jackson, Brenda Crann, Gary Jones, Cathy Edgar and Mark Edgar. The beginning class with Pomegranate trees scheduled for April is full, with 12 people on the waiting list. For those who are signed up, please prepay. No workshop scheduled for May.
- 6. Appointed Position Reports:**
 - John Jackson, SDBC Safari Park Bonsai Pavilion Curator,** reported: There were 26 volunteers at the Bonsai Pavilion on March 4. We did lots of transplanting, weeding, cleaning and clean-up. If anyone is interested in volunteering, see 'lyn Stevenson. We'll be at the Safari Park next Saturday. You must put your name on the sign-up list for May meeting at the Safari Park to get a ticket to get in free.
- 7. Old Business:** Janice Hale reminded everyone that we need help in the kitchen, and that there is a sign up sheet for volunteers to help coordinate kitchen activities. Cristina Far has been donating her time to buy water, ice, & creamer and cream for coffee; set up coffee, hot water, ice water, etc., but we all need to help. Bob Hale reported that we need a Treasurer. Anyone who is interested, please let him know!
- 8. New Business: Bob Hale** stated that our Newsletter has information regarding the procedures for someone to enter a Bonsai or a tray landscape into the San Diego County Fair. Bob Hale then introduced Abe Far, representing GSBF.
- 9. Abe Far** reported: Does anyone know what GSBF is? Golden State Bonsai Federation represents the far western states, Alaska, and Hawaii. It provides grants and scholarships to bonsai clubs and individuals. He also stated that SDBC is the largest Bonsai Club in the nation. He further explained the GSBF and that their annual bonsai conventions are held yearly: in Sacramento and Riverside in alternating years. This year it will be in Riverside. Registration starts July 1st. There are many workshops scheduled. You can come for the whole convention or just come up for a day as it's a hour 20 minute drive.
- 10. Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 am

Respectfully submitted, Sylvia Mosse Secretary

March Program

Lindsay Shiba completed the styling work on the Harland Boxwood he started last August. All of the branches were cut back further to a length that will allow it to grow and be controlled at the correct height. Lindsay applied wire to several branches for positioning purposes. Then he re-potted the tree back into the same container after reducing the rootball to lower the tree. It was too high in the container and the reduction was a step toward transplanting it into a shallower bonsai pot next year. Reducing the size of the root ball in steps while encouraging the new growth will keep the tree healthy. The Boxwood will be transplanted into a round or oval pot when it has generated enough foliage to have recovered from the re-pot.

I must pass this on. Ayse Colak helped Lindsay with the re-potting. She pretty much was responsible for firming the root ball into the new soil mix. At the conclusion of the re-potting, Lindsay checked her work - rock solid. I tried to wiggle it, no wiggle. Nicely done, Ayse.

Lindsay did a very nice introduction of displaying trees. Then he "volunteered" a few of the members to use the trees on-hand to create displays. The interaction was excellent; good questions and observations by all. One that is very basic is the proper location of an accent plant. It should be at the low end of the triangle created by the line that follows the angle of the foliage down to where it meets the table. A few basics for a good display:

- ⇒ *Stand should be polished and clean.*
- ⇒ *Trees should be of good proportion to the stand and the other plants in the display.*
- ⇒ *Trees should be in a correct bonsai pot. An incorrect pot is OK to use if it is used for good personal reasons such as a pot from an old friend or bonsai dignitary.*
- ⇒ *Pot selection takes much thought: color, shape, finish, depth, corner accents, feet and more.*
- ⇒ *Negative space between the main tree and the side tree is necessary; too close is too crowded.*
- ⇒ *Accent plants should appear to have been grown in the pot, no soil should be visible.*

Special thanks to the following for bringing in their own trees, accent plants, stands and slabs:

Cathy Edgar, Mark Edgar, Shirley Kavanaugh and Leonard Montz, Neil Auwarter and Michael Sykes

They were volunteered by Lindsay to create their own displays which were then critiqued by Lindsay with observations and comments offered by the members. Also, thanks to Gary Jones for helping.

Charlie Mosse, 1st VP

Upcoming Meetings & Events

May

We will all be at the Bonsai Pavilion at the Safari Park. This is a picnic, meeting, fundraiser with silent auction, and time to enjoy the beautiful surroundings maintained by the club. This is a terrific opportunity to see the quality bonsai at the Bonsai Pavilion at no cost. And after the meeting, you can stay and see the sights in the Park.

If you have not done so already, please sign up at the April meeting, so that 'lyn can get tickets for free parking and entry, if needed. Passes will be available at the Spring Bonsai Show. Plan to bring items for the silent fund-raising auction and bring your own lunch/snacks. If you like, bring something to share.

July

Kathy Shaner, the first woman and first American to be a certified bonsai professional in Japan and the current curator of the GSBF collection at Lake Merritt, will be here in July for a presentation.

Also, we will have time for individual work with Kathy on both Sunday July 9th, in the morning and in the afternoon, as well as Monday July 10th. Please sign up for the Monday sessions if you have Mondays off and want more in depth assistance. The Sunday sessions will cost \$25. The Monday sessions are more extensive and will cost \$40. Sign-up sheets will be available at the meetings.

San Diego County Fair

Where the West is Fun. June 2 – July 4

Share your love of bonsai!

One of the purposes of the Club is to encourage individual members to exhibit their bonsai at Club events and other horticultural organizations, and the San Diego County Fair is one of the best opportunities to reach thousands of people. We are invited to submit entries to the judged competition at the 2017 San Diego County Fair's Garden Show. There are two divisions: Traditional Bonsai with a \$25 per entry fee (no limit); and Tray Landscapes with a \$10 per entry fee (no limit). Prizes are awarded in different categories, including one sponsored by the Club for best bonsai by a first time entrant.

You can enter at <http://www.sdfair.com/entry>; deadline for entry is May 5th. If you have questions, talk to Sonya Holmquist (she has information on sub-categories, judging criteria and prizes) or email the garden show directly at gardenshow@sdfair.com.

Sonya Holmquist, Chair, SDCF Planning Committee

San Diego Bonsai Club Pavilion at the Safari Park

We had a record response of Pavilion volunteers in March and that was most welcome since we had many bonsai on the "repot" list and other "to-do" jobs which had been pending. Many thanks to: **Neil Auwarter, Dave Barker, Alan Burrow, Ken Bross, Julia Chow, Cathy & Mark Edgar, Sonya Holmquist, John Jackson, Jaya Kaelberer, Jim Kirchmer, Carla Marasco, Charlie & Sylvia Mosse, Janie & Ron Ogdon, Janet & Ron Palmer, Marcella Perez, Sally Prestele, Clare & Ron Roberts, 'lyn Stevenson, Dennis Wagner, Mark Walters, and Dave Woodall.** Thanks also to Marcella, the Roberts, the Mosses, Mark Walters, John, Julia, the Ogdons, 'lyn, and the Edgars for providing delicious snacks, beverages and surprise St. Patrick's Day goodies for everyone to enjoy.

Because the Safari Park's future Australia plan will relocate the service road in front of the Pavilion, the road will be moved several feet closer to our gated area. Dennis Wagner is directing and managing a major Black Pine move from the front entrance to a lovely location inside the Pavilion. Dennis wisely decided that this is a best time to transplant the Pine, not in the hot summer months which would put the tree's survival at risk.

Mark Edgar keeps meticulous records of the maintenance and progress of the bonsai inventory at the Pavillion, often with photos. Among recent March transplants were the large bald cypress forest, originally donated by Ted Schwartz; a blue atlas cedar donated by Jerry Parrish; a liquidamber from the estate of Sy Dayton; a false cypress raft, donated by Dave Woodall; a very large pomegranate from the Wayne Chapman collection; and a Monterey Cypress from 'lyn Stevenson. In addition,



two old oaks were transferred from plastic training pots to bonsai pots.

One of the oaks and the huge pomegranate both had to have big chunks of wood removed from the bottom of

their rootballs, but Dennis and his sawzall came to the rescue. Many of the bonsai needed new soil mix, and



some needed different pots due to styling alterations. These potting sessions allowed several of the newer volunteers to get "hands-on" experience and everyone has the opportunity to work on old, treasured bonsai.

Repotting time is a great time to analyze the bonsai tree roots and overall health, and to choose the right pot, position the front, and choose placement in the pot to improve the bonsai. Each bonsai takes individual evaluation, so the volunteers look to Curator John when there are questions on health or appearance.

Mark Edgar met with the Safari Park staff for training and permission for necessary spraying and pesticides that may be needed from time to time. Mark is now officially our "bug man."

Ron and Shawn Palmer are responsible for the new, clean appearance of the ponds within and in front of the Pavilion. We had been having unwanted algae growth until the Palmers found a solution. Ron has also set up a chart for good maintenance for the future. Many thanks!

Sally donated several miniature iris plants to place along the stream. These plants should survive and enhance that difficult planting area. Thank You!

The Pavilion volunteers are all looking forward to the hosting of the SDBC May 21st meeting, which will include a bring-your-own-picnic lunch, the meeting, and a silent auction. All SDBC members are invited to donate items for the auction and bring money to purchase other's items as well. It is always a very sociable affair! The Horticulture Department at Safari assists with tables and chairs and sun umbrellas, so everyone will be comfortable. Members should sign the reservation list at the April SDBC Bonsai Meeting or e-mail 'lyn if planning to attend. Passes will be available at the Spring Show at Balboa Park. Plan to attend this special fun day!

'lyn Stevenson, Liason to the Bonsai Pavilion

New Members

Please welcome our new members:

Charlene Zawacki and Jenny K. Chin.

Nazim Colak, VP of Membership

Refreshments

Thank you to the following who donated refreshments to the March meeting: **Julia Chow, Janet Liggett, Harlan & Mary Ann Price, Shirley Kavanaugh, John & Margaret Jackson, Darryl & Christine Elmer, Mizuka Mori, Jaya Kaulberer, Susan Mae Hull, Gloria Tilmon, Clare & Ron Roberts, Nancy Wilson-Ramon, Abe & Christina Far, 'lyn Stevenson, Cathy & Mark Edgar, Charlie & Sylvia Mosse, and Mario Martinez.**

SDBC Benefit Drawing

Thank you to the following for your donations to the March benefit drawing: **Abe & Christina Far, Dan Sola, Melissa Strows, Gary Jones, SDBC, Darryl & Christine Elmer, Julia Chow, Kumiko Mori, Charlie & Sylvia Mosse, and John and Margaret Jackson.**

Library

Library Resources to Improve Your Bonsai Display:

At last month's meeting, Lindsay Shiba helped several members prepare their display for our Spring Bonsai Show. A two point display, most commonly used at exhibitions, consists of a harmonious arrangement of the bonsai (including its pot and stand), and a companion piece. The companion piece may be a small accent plant (kumasomo) or viewing stone (suiseki) to create a sense of place or season.

In case you missed Lindsay's presentation, the Club's library has several resources to help you prepare your display. *Bonsai, Kusamono, Suiseki* by Willi Benz, includes information on displaying bonsai in Tokonomas and at bonsai exhibitions. *Bonsai Today* has a two-part series on accent plants in Issues 53 and 54.

Sonya Holmquist, Librarian

Special Events

Bonsai New Horizon - 2017 GSBF Convention

The Golden State Bonsai Federation 2017 Convention, "**Bonsai New Horizon**," will be held October 26th-30th, 2017 at the Riverside Convention Center. Special convention rates will be available at the Marriott across from the Convention Center.

Headliners this year are David Nugy, Boon Mankitivipart and our special guest from Tokyo, Kunio Kobayashi. There will be twenty-seven workshops to choose from, as well as seminars, critiques and extra curricular excursions. You can get a preview of the activities by visiting the convention website: www.gsbfcconvention.org. Registration will open 8:00 am, July 1, 2017.

Spring Show

Thanks to everyone who has signed up to volunteer during our Spring Bonsai Show. We still have many spots open. A note to newer members—you need no prior training, each task will be explained to you. It's a fun way to get to know your fellow club members. The sign-up lists will be at the back of the room at the April meeting.

Spring Show Schedule:

- Thursday April 27th – Set up Room 101 with the tables, table covers and backdrops.
- Friday April 28th – Set up of bonsai displays and bringing in all sale table items.
- Saturday April 29th – Doors will open 10:00am with demonstrations at 11:00am and 1:00pm, and we'll close up at 5:00, so we can then enjoy our well earned Spring Banquet. The club will provide the main course and we ask all of you to bring a side dish or dessert.
- Sunday April 30th – We'll open again at 10:00 with demos at 11:00am and 1:00pm. Then we'll close the doors at 5:00 and tear down the show.

Any SDBC member can sell bonsai related items at the Show via our sales table. Consignment forms, sale tickets and instructions will be available at the April Club meeting. You fill out a consignment form as well as sales tickets that you attach to your items. Check-in is Friday evening. Our sale table volunteers work all day Saturday and Sunday to sell your items, and any unsold items are checked back out to you on Sunday night after the 5:00 pm closing. Our treasurer mails you a check the following week for your proceeds. A minimum donation to SDBC of 20% is deducted. But if you want to donate more, we'd be happy to accommodate your wishes!

We are so proud of all the novices who have signed up to show trees. If you are still unsure if you want to show a tree or you want some advice and encouragement, bring your bonsai to the April meeting. John Voss' help corner is available before the general meeting starts.

A flier promoting the Spring Show is available on the club website: www.sandiegobonsaiclub.com. Print out some copies and post them at your church, favorite coffee shop or sandwich place.

Janice Hale, V.P. Special Projects

San Diego Bonsai Club, Inc.
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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

San Diego Bonsai Club Calendar of Events

April 1st and April 15th Saturday
 SDBC Workdays at Safari Park , 9 am to 12 pm
 April 9th Sunday
 Club Meeting
 Tools!

April 29th Saturday and April 30th Sunday
SDBC Spring Bonsai Show

May 6th and May 20th Saturday
 SDBC Workdays at Safari Park , 9 am to 12 pm
 May 21st Sunday (Note: 3rd Sunday of month)
 Club Meeting
 Bonsai Pavilion at SD Zoo's Safari Park .
 June 3rd and June 17th Saturday
 SDBC Workdays at Safari Park , 9 am to 12 pm
 June 11th (Sunday)
 Club meeting in Room 104 due to Balboa Park
 scheduling conflicts

Sunday, April 9, 2017
 Balboa Park, Room 101
 Casa Del Prado

Meeting Agenda

Time	Activity	Room
08:30– 10:15	Beginning Class	104
08:30– 10:15	Tool Sharpening	101
09:00– 10:15	Library Open	104
10:30- 11:00	Business Meeting	101
11:00 - 12:00	Tools!	101
12:00	Lunch	101
12:15	Benefit Drawing	101

Pay dues now! If you have not paid your dues, you are no longer an active member.