

The Bonsai Wire

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July, 2015



Message from the President

Thank you Bob Hale for giving our members an informative presentation about cork bark oaks. Well done!

Our Club's Fair Committee has done it again; our booth at the Garden and Flower show won several prizes: second place booth, best container plant, noteworthy plant, and others. Congratulations and thank you to all of you who built the booth, displayed bonsai and other items, and maintain and water the displays in all the booths including the bonsai competition booths.

The "Bonsai Day" at the Fair—on Wednesday, June 17th—was a huge success. Abe Far and Glenn Jensen made excellent and informative presentations at the Garden and Flower Show Stage. Our Club also stationed several members at the bonsai information booth: 11:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Thank you also to SDBC members who supported the Bonsai Day at the Fair.

Congratulations to the winners of the Bonsai Competition: among others—Cristina Vargas-Far (Bill Murphy Award), Shirley Kavanaugh (best in the Fair tray landscape), John Jackson (first place and noteworthy plant), and David English (Best in the Fair bonsai).

Aside from the above mentioned activities, there were other numerous activities performed by Club members: monthly club meeting activities; Bonsai Pavilion, Japanese Friendship Garden, and Education nursery maintenance, and many others. Thank you to all of you.

Announcements:

We are planning to visit NISEI week in August—with a possible nursery stop on the way. Our plan is to rent a passenger van. There will be more details and a sign-up sheet at the July and August meetings.

Planning ahead, our Fall show (September) and Poway picnic and auction (October) are not too far away. I want to encourage participation from our members, and new members in particular, for these two upcoming events.

Lastly, we are also planning a separate nursery trip in the near future. Watch for announcements in our newsletter and/or our meetings. It will be a chance for new members to get advice on choosing trees with good bonsai potential.

Dan Sola, President



This Month's Program

Do you know what is going on in your bonsai pots? This month, Abe Far will discuss the role of water, fertilizer, weathering of minerals and decomposition of organic matter on the pH of the soil. Perhaps the most important property of soil as related to plant nutrition is its pH. The pH exerts a strong effect on the solubility and availability of many nutrient elements. It influences nutrient uptake and root growth, and it controls the presence or activity of many micro-organisms. So come find out what is really happening in your bonsai pots!

For those new to the club, Abe Far is the current President of the Golden State Bonsai Federation, past President of the SDBC, and a lifetime SDBC member. He gives back to the club in numerous ways, and regularly performs bonsai demonstrations that share his wealth of knowledge with club members and the general public.

Bob Hale, First VP

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Editor's Note

My wife and I went to the Fair last week and thought the SDBC booth was spectacular. But member Trisha Bonapace put it best, "The fair display totally knocked my socks off!!!! You guys did the most AMAZING JOB. Everything about it was a '10.' Truly awesome." The execution of the visions of Barbara French-Lee of the 1915 Japanese Pavilion and of Cathy Edgar of matching bonsai to trees in 1915 Balboa Park turned out great due to the efforts of all the volunteers; I was glad to be part of the effort.

Dave Barker, TBW editor

Left Half of the Booth Bonsai of Trees in Park in 1915



Right Half of the Booth Japanese Pavilion in 1915



San Diego Bonsai Club Website
www.sandiegobonsaiclub.com

50 Years of Cultivating the Art of Bonsai
In San Diego

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Beginning Class: In the third beginning class, the last of the Olive (*Olea europaea*) series, Nelson Cortez has been selected by Martha Choy to teach the class on final wiring, soils and potting of your tree. We are back to our regular schedule and will meet at 8:30am on July 12th. The class is in Room 104.



The last series of Beginning Bonsai Classes begins in August. Several varieties of Juniper (*Juniperus*, varieties) will be available for the class. Gary Jones will be the teacher for this class, and he makes it fun and interesting. Cost is \$40 and includes a tree, book, shears, soil and pot. This class is filled, but new members are welcome to attend the class as silent observers.

July Workshop: Shirley Kavanaugh will be teaching this Saikei class (miniature landscape). All materials will be provided. This class is filled. Everyone is welcome to watch the class as Shirley helps the students create a beautiful landscape with their materials of tray, stones, small plants, moss and mud figures.

August Workshop: Abe Far will teach a class on making turn tables for your bonsai trees. All materials will be provided. Price will be available at sign-up which is the cost of materials and a small amount for the club. Look for the sign-up sheet at the July 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.

Help! In Room 101 there is help available to all Club members who want to ask for advice on one of their bonsai trees. The area is located in the back of Room 101 to the right of the stage. In June, help topics ranged from explaining the functions of various bonsai tools, to styling a juniper, to the likely causes for leaf burn on Japanese maples. Get your questions answered.

Barbara French-Lee, VP for Education



Bob Hale made a presentation on Cork Bark Oaks at the June meeting.



Glenn Jensen demonstration at Bonsai Day at the Fair.



Christina Far trimming while providing information on SDBC to County Fair goers.

Shohin Study Group

Our second meeting was hosted by Abe and Cristina Far with 15 members in attendance. Glenn Jensen was the guest instructor with assistance from Abe and Martha Choy.

Glenn said that creating a plan for your trees is essential to the goal of creating a show quality tree. Paraphrasing, a plan is a timeline, with objectives along the way to create a show quality bonsai. A first step is finding shohin material; Glenn reminded us that the usual list for any bonsai applies: front, roots, lower trunk, branches, proportion and style. Abe pointed out that since shohin are small and do not look old, to create the illusion of age, it is critical to have a trunk of good size and character. Good shohin can come from older plants from the ground, from larger 5, 7 and yes, 15 gallon nursery containers; and from older 1 gallon nursery containers. Glenn had a very nice juniper 'nana' cascade in training from material in an old 1-gallon nursery container.

The next meeting is at Shirley's on August 16th with Ted Matson as the guest instructor.

Charlie Mosse, Club Member



San Diego Bonsai Club

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Members

June 28, 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. Balboa Park by Dan Sola, President. It was confirmed that a quorum was present.
2. Approval of Minutes: The minutes from the May 17, 2015 meeting were approved as published.
3. President's Remarks: Thank you to our Club members: those who built the 2015 Fair booth, displayed bonsai and other items, and maintain and water displays in our booth. Our Watering crew also took care of the competition booths. In addition to the above, there were numerous other activities performed by Club members: monthly meeting activities at the Prado in Balboa Park, Bonsai Pavilion, Japanese Friendship Garden, Education nursery maintenance, and many others. Thank you to all of you.
4. Sonya Holmquist, VP for Membership: We acquired 56 new members from April. One of our past presidents, Jim Lane, rejoined the SDBC.
5. Board Member Reports:
 - Bob Hale 1st Vice president, reported: In June will be a Cork Oak presentation; in July Abe Far will discuss fertilizer, PH, and soil. In August, Thomas Elias President of BCI will present "Discovery and Introduction of Bonsai in the West;" in September Al Nelson will provide a demonstrate on Oaks; in October we will have our SDBC Poway Picnic; in November, we may have Ted Matson as our presenter; and in December, we will have our Christmas Party and bonsai competition.
 - Dan Sola for Peter Chong, Treasurer, reported: May Revenue \$2,111.89 and expenses were \$1,494.58; May net income was \$617.31. Bank balances SDBC \$23,709.07 and Pavilion \$14,891.27.
 - Barbara French-Lee, Vice President, Education, reported: Cindy Read conducted a workshop with Boxwood; Martha Choy had the second class of beginners class; and in July Shirley Kavanaugh will conduct a workshop on Tray Landscape. In August, we will have our beginners class on Juniper, and Abe Far will conduct a workshop on making Turn Tables.
 - Abe Farr for Janice Hale, Special Projects: Announced our yearly trip to NISEI Week will be August 22nd.
6. Appointed Position Reports:
 - John Jackson, Safari Park Pavilion Curator, reported: Thanks to the volunteers; our workdays for July will be July 11th and 25th. Thanks to Maude Laracy for donating a refrigerator for the Pavilion and to David Woodall who donated a bougainvillea.
7. Old Business: none
8. New Business: As a result of concerns from club members regarding benefit drawing at the Spring Show, the Board has voted that we will conduct our benefit drawing similar to how we conduct the benefit drawing at our monthly meetings. Gary Jones will be the chair for the Fall Show.
9. Announcements: President Dan Sola announced the following: Thank you to everyone for the display at the San Diego County Fair this year. Bonsai Day was June 17 and was a great success. Thank you Abe and Christina Far for managing the booth. SDBC won Second Place for Best Container Plants; Noteworthy plant, and award of merit. Shirley Kavanaugh won several First prizes for Best of Tray Landscape, including "Best of Fair;" David English won "Best of the Fair" bonsai; and the Bill Murphy Award went to Christina Far. In addition, John Jackson won several bonsai first prizes and noteworthy plant.
10. Program: At 11:00 a.m., First VP, Bob Hale made a presentation on Cork Oaks.
11. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Brenda Crann Secretary

SDBC Honoree - 'lyn Stevenson

'lyn Stevenson is one of those women who comes in with a smile on her face and an abundance of energy. Although she can get serious about subjects close to her heart, she is fun, spirited, eager to learn, and always willing to share her bonsai wisdom.



Her first encounter with bonsai was while living in Japan in 1970. She lived across from a nursery owned by Toshio Kawamoto, who started the school of saikei in Japan. 'lyn came to Los Angeles where she studied with all the names that have become synonymous with bonsai in California: John Naka, Ben Suzuki, Warren Hill, Masura Moriguchi, Ben Oki, Shigeru Miya, Frank Goya, and Harry Hirao. Working with such mentors, she started showing trees as part of Southcoast Bonsai Club. Eventually she was invited to join the California Bonsai Society (CBS), a special recognition for a bonsaist.

Close to twenty years later, Jim and 'lyn moved to San Diego and she joined the San Diego Bonsai Club. She started showing her trees quickly and getting involved in club activities including being President of SDBC in 2000-2001. She was on the committee that developed the current Bonsai Pavilion and is currently the liaison between the club's pavilion and the Safari Park staff. 'lyn's involvement goes beyond our club as she is membership secretary of the CBS and on the board of the National Bonsai Federation in Washington D.C.

'lyn's favorite species and styles are influenced by her travels; she loves elms as she grew up back East. She is drawn to forests and groupings, sensing that is because of her initial exposure to Saikei. Her bonsai have enhanced our spring and fall shows for many years.

"Bonsai is an art, and the more you learn, the more you want to know." 'lyn said that imparting this wisdom to beginners is one of the things she enjoys about doing bonsai and being a teacher in this club. Sharing her appreciation of this art-form and seeing the excitement in the faces of new students is gratifying.

'lyn's personal devotion, commitment, inspiration, and hard work have helped SDBC become a source of bonsai education for San Diego. Let us take the time when we see her to tell her how much we appreciate and love her.

Japanese Friendship Garden

Thanks to all the volunteers who helped this past month - **Nancy Wilson-Ramon, Charlie Mosse, Julia Chow, Trisha Bonapace, and Warren Tam**. Curator Glenn Jensen is continuing to refine the trees and bring them to



premium health. We appreciate the help of the garden staff at the JFG as we adjust the watering needs of the trees. Thanks to Fred Miyahara who came this month to help train the staff in the care and pruning of the Japanese Black Pines in the collection.

Barbara French- Lee, Liaison to the JFG

Some of San Diego County Fair Winners



Clockwise: SDBC Booth, Bonsai Best of Show, Shohin 1st place and Bill Murphy award, and Tray Landscape Best of Show .



San Diego Bonsai Club Pavilion at the Safari Park

Pavilion visitors and guests often comment and ask about how much work is involved in keeping the Bonsai Pavilion collection and the surrounding fenced garden looking so beautiful, and so well groomed. They are always impressed with the dedication of the volunteers and in awe of the results. Here are some statistics for the first half of 2015: 38 volunteers donated over 1500 hours of special care to the collection — that averages to 40 hours per volunteer. The month of May was the highest month thus far this year with over 320 donated hours. Our Pavilion roster lists 50 volunteers, so these volunteer hours will undoubtedly grow even more for the second half of 2015. Congratulations to these dedicated volunteers for their participation! (Hours are kept in a Pavilion notebook and forwarded to the Zoo/Safari Park Offices for their reports for recognition programs and for grant proposals.)

For June, our volunteers included: **Neil Auwarter, Susan Baker, Julia Chow, Cathy & Mark Edgar, Bob Hale, Sonya Holmquist, John Jackson, Jaya Kaelberer, Jim Kirchmer, Lin Koelmel, Charlie & Sylvia Mosse, Janet & Ron Palmer, Marcella Perez, Jon & Terri Petrescu, Sally Prestele, 'lyn Stevenson, Chas Tamm, Dennis Wagner, Mark Walters, Dave Woodall, and Roger Ziegelman.** Many thanks to each of them and special thanks also to Marcella, Charlie, Sylvia, John, Cathy, 'lyn, Bob, and Mark W. for their delicious contributions to our rest breaks and meetings.



Ron and Janet Palmer celebrate their 53rd wedding anniversary by working at the Bonsai Pavillion!

In June, we also had a special program for Park visitors. Volunteers explained and demonstrated leaf defoliation, transplanting, styling, and different bonsai tools along with answering a myriad of questions about the types of bonsai trees, the ages of the Pavilion trees, and other "whys" and "hows" of this wonderful avocation. Bob Hale had invited a boy scout troop to

attend the demo session and the boys really enjoyed the hands-on opportunity under the guidance of the volunteers. We are scheduled to do another special program for Park visitors in October.



A very special gift was donated to the Pavilion this past month. Many thanks to Maude Laracy for gifting the Pavilion and volunteers with a wonderful, large refrigerator-freezer. We now have a great place for a large supply of cold drinking water and other beverages and foods for the warm days of summer. It will be appreciated more and more and the days get warmer and muggier. Curator John Jackson arranged to pick up this large appliance and deliver it to the Pavilion. Fortunately, our talented and strong volunteers moved it, connected it, and arranged the space for it in our storage closet.

We received another lovely gift to the Pavilion in June; it is a beautiful, old, red bougainvillea. Dave Woodall, the donor, helped Curator John repot it at the June demo presentation. Showy, flowering bonsai are always a hit at the Pavilion, so this one will be very special. Everyone enjoys seeing flowering bonsai as well as our fruiting and flowering crab apples, pomegranates and grapes that are forming on the branches now. Be sure to visit the Pavilion this summer and bring your out-of-town guests. Let Curator John Jackson, Assistant Dennis Wagner, or Liaison 'lyn know if you have bonsai guests coming from other states or countries so that we can make special arrangements for their visit.

People often ask if they can take photos of the trees — the answer is "YES!" But the signs remind all to not touch the bonsai or sit on the exhibit tables . . . just enjoy the beauty of the bonsai and the tranquility of the Garden.

'lyn Stevenson, SDBC-Safari Park liaison

New Members

Please welcome our new members: **Jim Lane, Pat Moorehead, Deidre Spruce, Grady and Bethany Taylor, Pablo and Tamara Vega, Sandra Donaldson, Emmit Pert, Mariela Gonzalez, Amy Minicilli, James Robbins, Joseph Chow, and Beth Williams.**

Sonya Holmquist, VP of Membership

Refreshments

Thank you to the following members for bringing refreshments to the June meeting: **Sylvia and Charlie Mosse, Harlan and Mary Ann Price, Shirley Kavanaugh, Sonya Holmquist, Abe and Cristina Far, Trisha Bonapace, John and Margaret Jackson, Barbara French-Lee, William Starks, Janet Liggett, Susan Mae Hull, Darryl and Christine Elmer, and Chusub Srinthadatlansit.**

SDBC Benefit Drawing

Thank you to the following for your donations to the June meeting benefit drawing: **Shirley Kavanaugh, Eric Jacobson, Charlie Mosse, Scott Flack, Dan Sola, Steve Clemons, Ron Ogden, Susan Mae Hull, Nelson Cortez, John Jackson, Sonya Holmquist, Dave Barker, Abe and Cristina Far, John Voss, and Neil Auwarter.**

SDBC Library

You may have wondered about Toshio Kawamoto and the school of Saikei mentioned in the article on 'lyn Stevenson. Well, you can check out Mr. Kawamoto's book, *Saikei: Living Landscapes in Miniature*, and find out about the art of grouping young plants and rocks to create a natural landscape.

The SDBC prides itself on having one of the best bonsai library collections; but the books and journals are valuable only when they are used, so please check them out (literally!). Librarian Steve Clemons can help you find just what you need—beginner materials, magazines, Japanese Bonsai picture books, etc.

SDBC Website

At the June meeting, President Dan Sola shared some information about bonsai stolen from the San Gabriel Nursery. Pictures of all the trees are on our website and information on where to call if someone questionable is trying to sell you an expensive bonsai.

The Harry Hirao Annual Scholarship applications are due July 15th. The details of the scholarship and a link to the application are on the SDBC website home page.

The Golden State Bonsai Federation's 38th convention: **Bonsai Fusion : "Where Tradition Meets Innovation"** will be October 29 - November 1 in Riverside this year. Registration is now open. The link on the SDBC home page under "other bonsai activities" describes the headliners and all workshops at the convention and has registration forms.

Special Events

Nisei Week Field Trip – August 22, 2015

Our annual trip for the Nisei Week Celebration will be Saturday, August 22nd. This is a fun day of exploring interesting shops and viewing cultural events in Little Tokyo in Los Angeles. We will also visit the Nanpu Kai bonsai display, presented annually during Nisei Week since 1963. Our point person for the trip, Abe Far, will also schedule a side trip to a bonsai nursery. There will be a sign up sheet at the July General Meeting. At this time the cost estimate for the trip is \$30/person and will be further determined by the number of participants.

Fall Bonsai Show – September 26-27, 2015

Be sure to mark your calendars for our Fall 2015 Bonsai Show, September 26-27, 2015. Set up of Room 101 will be Thursday Sept. 24, and the bringing in of the bonsai trees and sale items will be Sept. 25.



Janice Hale, V.P. Special Projects



Cindy Read teaching in the Boxwood Workshop

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

San Diego Bonsai Club Calendar of Events

Note July Schedule Change for SDBC Workdays

July 11th Saturday and July 25th, Saturday

SDBC Workday at Safari Park , 9 am to 12 pm

July 12th Sunday

Club Meeting—Abe Far on pH in the Pot

August 1st Saturday and August 15th, Saturday

SDBC Workday at Safari Park , 9 am to 12 pm

August 9th Sunday

Club Meeting— Dr. Tom Elias on the Introduction
of Bonsai to the Western world

August 22nd, Saturday

Nisei Week Trip to Little Tokyo in Los Angeles

September 5th Saturday and Sept 19th, Saturday

SDBC Workday at Safari Park , 9 am to 12 pm

September 13th Sunday

Club Meeting—Al Nelson on Oaks

September 26th Saturday and Sept 27th, Sunday

Fall Bonsai Show

Sunday, July 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	Tray Landscape Workshop	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

Beginning Class: Don't miss the last class on final wiring and repotting at July meeting