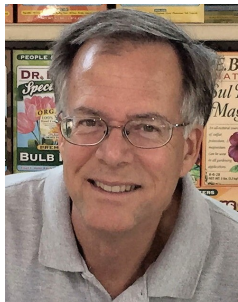


# The Bonsai Wire

Volume 42, Issue 8

August, 2016

## Message from the President



Well, it is summer and things slow down a bit in the bonsai world and hopefully in our personal lives as well. It's time to stop and contemplate where we are going with our bonsai. As bonsai enthusiasts, we are trying to create trees that adhere to the general standards and rules, yet the trees never seem to cooperate.

The first step is gaining technical competence to know how and when you can change a tree. But that is only part of process to create quality trees.

The intangibles related to styling can be achieved only through observation, deep thought and willingness to completely re-look at your tree. Look at the works of Ryan Neil and Bjorn Bjorholm, who are headliners at the 2016 GSBF Convention. Many of their trees have that

intangible "something." The shape of your tree should be determined by your imagination and creativity as an artist within the general guidelines and rules. So take the time to look at your trees and discuss your ideas with others in the club. Spending time studying your trees before styling will allow your trees to speak to you. In this way you can find their soul and beauty.

While you are at it, think about where you want to take your bonsai hobby. Whether you only want to enjoy the fruits of your labor in your own yard, or challenge yourself to develop a bonsai worthy of putting on display at a show or the fair, you need those technical skills. You can get those skills by coming to club meetings where we have demonstrations, participate in workshops and study groups, and also by becoming a volunteer with our Club. Get involved and enjoy bonsai more!

Bob Hale, President

## This Month's Program

Lindsay Shiba, a much sought-after bonsai instructor, will be here in August. He has made presentations to many clubs in California and across the country. Lindsay owns and operates Mt. Fuji Garden Center in Upland, CA, and also does landscape design. He began studying bonsai at his family nursery in 1970 and then in 1971 started studying under Khan Komai. That would be 46 years of hands-on working with bonsai!! During those 46 years he also trained with Harry Hirao and spent time with John Naka. He is the president of the California Bonsai Society, Show Chair for the Baiko-En Bonsai Kenkyukai, Winter Silhouettes, and is a member of Nanpu Kai Bonsai.

For this presentation, Lindsay will do a complete styling and transplanting of a Harland's Boxwood, *Buxus harlandii*, found at Lindsay's nursery. This variety is not seen often. It has very nice trunk movement, good nebari, lots of branching, superb bark, and is probably at least 20 year old. The leaf is a little longer and a softer green than most other boxwoods, giving it a different, somewhat softer appearance. This particular tree can be styled in the traditional styles with possibilities for informal upright, broom style or even can be styled to look like an Oak (a characteristic of the bark and growth habit of the boxwood genus). Lindsay will guide us through this styling decision process.

Charlie Mosse, 1st VP



## Inside this Edition

President's Message	p1
August Program	p1
Editor's Note	p2
Club Officer Information	p2
Education Report	p3
Workshop at Fall Show	p3
Club Meeting Minutes	p4
Bonsai Ideas	p5
July Meeting	p5
SDBC Pavilion	p6
Japanese Friendship Garden	p6
Announcements	p7
Special Events	p7
Calendar of Events	p8
Meeting Agenda	p8

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

## Editor's Note

Hope you all have had good vacations. I know I have caught the "Bonsai bug" when I sought out an azalea workshop in Virginia while on vacation. Joe Gutierrez from the Northern Virginia Bonsai Society, who is well known for his work with azaleas, gave a talk on the basics of working with azaleas and worked with participants on their trees. I bought a nice full 5 gallon azalea, not knowing there are two styles - one that focuses on the flowers and one that is like a traditional deciduous bonsai. Joe prefers the traditional bonsai styling, so I ended up taking a stick back to my son's house after "styling."

But I met a lot of knowledgeable Bonsai people with some highly developed azalea bonsai, and enjoyed a half day with nice people as all bonsai folk seem to be.

Dave Barker,  
TBW Editor

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



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**BEGINNING CLASS:** The final Beginning Class series of the year will start in August and continue in September and November. Gary Jones will be teaching this beginning class using junipers. This class is filled with a waiting list. If you have asked to be on the waiting list it is important to be there in case there is an opening at 8:45am. All materials are provided; tree, book or moisture gauge, cutting tool, chopsticks, information on junipers, soil and pot.

Everyone is welcome to observe the beginning class. The class starts at 8:30am in Room 104.

**WORKSHOP:** Shirley Kavanaugh will be teaching The Saikai/Tray Landscape Workshop. This workshop is filled, but you are welcome to observe. All materials are provided: tray, small trees, soil, accent plants and figurines. Bring your tools. The class starts at 8:30am

**CHANGE!** The September Tree Carving Workshop will not be held at the Bonsai Club Meeting but at another time at John Jackson's home. John has offered to teach the class on a Saturday morning other than the second and fourth as that is the morning he is at Safari Park. For those interested we will work out a convenient time.

**HELP AND FOLLOWUP:** Located at the back of room 101, and to the right of the stage, please look for John Voss at a table ready to help. We encourage members to bring in their trees for expert help and advice. This is an opportunity to bring in any of your bonsai trees, or trees on their way to becoming a bonsai, for advice on styling, repotting, diseases or any other concerns you may have. We have many bonsai specialists available to help.

**STUDY GROUP:** The Study Group with John Voss will meet immediately after the main meeting and raffle.

Barb French-Lee, VP for Education

## Fall Show Workshops for Members

Ted Matson will be here for the fall show. He will conduct a guest demonstration from 12-1:30, and the member workshops will be from 9-11 am and 2-4 pm on Saturday, September 24. There will be a maximum of 4 people per workshop. The cost of the workshops will be \$20 per person for 30 minutes with Ted. A heck of a deal! The 30 minutes is up to each participant as to what they want to accomplish with Ted. I will explain the details of what to bring to whoever signs up.

The sign-up sheets for the workshops will be on the back of the meeting room this month (If not filled in August, sign-ups will be extended to September). Alternates will be put on a waiting list after the workshops are filled.

All members are welcome as silent observers to the workshops.

Charlie Mosse, 1st VP





# San Diego Bonsai Club

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Members  
July 10, 2016



1. **Call to Order:** The regular meeting of the membership of the San Diego Bonsai Club was called to order at 10:30 in Balboa Park by Bob Hale, President. It was confirmed that a quorum was present.
2. **Approval of Minutes:** The minutes from the June 12, 2016 meeting were approved as published.
3. **Nazim Colak, VP for Membership:** There were 8 new members in July.
4. **Board Member Reports:**
  - **Charlie Mosse 1st Vice president,** reported: No changes in the Presentation/Demonstrations for 2016. A new addition to the Fall Show will be a Ted Matson workshop for our club members.
  - **Peter Chong, Treasurer,** reported: In June our Income was \$1717.50, our expenses were \$1064.37, and our Net Profit was \$653.13. The balance for SDBC account is \$35,691.52 and for the Pavilion \$16,963.42.
  - **Barbara French-Lee, Vice President, Education,** reported: Nelson Cortes completed his first time teaching the beginning class; the class worked on boxwoods. Thanks Mark and Cathy Edgar for helping out in the class. The Designer Workshop with Fred Miyahara, Michael Sykes and Glenn Jensen was a success. Thank you to all for your participation. Gary Jones will be teaching the next beginner class starting in August on Junipers and Shirley Kavanaugh will lead a workshop on Tray Landscape in August.
  - **Janice Hale, Special Projects,** reported: Our next trip will be the Nisei Trip in August 21, 2016; the cost is \$40.00. Pick up in Balboa Park will be at 8:00 and in Carlsbad at 8:30am. Our Fall Show dates are September 24 & 25 2016 Signup sheets for all the volunteer tasks will be out in August meeting.
5. **Appointed Position Reports:**
  - **Ilyn Stevenson, Safari Park Pavilion Liaison** reported: Thanks to all of our Volunteers. We are starting our fund-raising for the Projects for the Pavilion; we will be holding silent auction during SDBC meeting. John Jackson is working on a plaque for the Shohin Display for the Pavilion.
  - **Barbara French-Lee Liaison for JFG;** reported: None.
6. **Old Business:** None
7. **New Business:** Joan Holiday made a special presentation of Maude Laracy's bonsai tools to Jim and Veronica Perondi, for their volunteer work for our SDBC.
8. **Announcements: Bob Hale, President:** Thanks the volunteers Peter Chong, Dennis Wagner, Susan Hull, Dave Barker, Susan Ronan, Janice Hale, John Jackson, Mark Edgar, Kathy Edgar, Brenda Crann, and Sonja Holmquist for helping put together our booth at the San Diego County Fair.
9. **Program:** John Jackson presentation on Ficus
10. **Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 10:52am.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Crann Secretary

Jim and Veronica accept the gift of Maude Laracy's bonsai tools from Joan Holiday. Maude wanted the tools to go to new members who have been active volunteers



Watch for the threat of damage from hot summer sun and drying winds. Remember how sensitive your leafy deciduous trees such as maple, hornbeam, liquidamber, zelcova, beech and elm can be.

Water all of your trees diligently. Foliage spraying is best done in the early morning or in the late afternoon to avoid sun damage on leaves and needles. A brisk spray each day will remove the airborne impurities and discourages the infection of aphids, spider mites, and fungus. Be sure your water penetrates the root ball. If your tree is heavily covered with moss, be sure there is sufficient open area to allow water to saturate the roots. Resist the tendency to overwater when you see signs of wilt or distress. Test the soil to be sure it is actually drying before you arbitrarily soak it again.

Feeding in late summer means low nitrogen. There is no point in encouraging heavy green foliage growth. Use a formula (0-10-10) low in nitrogen and higher in phosphorus and potash encourages good rootage and better fall colors. Yellow color and leaf drop may suggest overwatering or poor drainage, or that trees need some nitrogen or iron. If your plants appear to be stressed due to the heat then reduce your feeding formula to half strength.

It is too late and risky to leaf prune in the hot summer months. If you wish, you can do selective pruning of large leaves, burnt leaves and the obvious unwanted elongated branches and crossing branches.

Keep pots from getting too hot; roots are easily damaged by excessive heat. Be sure your soil stays damp at all times. Keep the humidity high and the air moving around all of your trees.

Check your wires. You would be surprised how fast training wire can cut into growing branches and leave permanent scars.

Turn your trees to give them equal light exposure and even growth. This is the time of year to move leafy deciduous trees out of full sun and into shaded or partially shaded areas to protect the leaf surfaces and fine rootage. Keeping the trees out of the hot sun tends to improve the maturing fall colors.

Enjoy your summer and look forward to the beautiful colors of the fall season.

This article has been extracted from the book "Bonsai Ideas"© by Marty Mann. Material is not to be copied without publisher or author's permission.

John Jackson, assisted by Charlie Mosse, provided a demonstration focused on ficus.

The following are the highlights:

Ficus grow fast when it is warm and get irritable when it is cool. The challenges are to keep up with it during its growing season and keep it healthy when it is cold.

Ficus recover quickly from large branch removals like those shown on the *Ficus benjamina*. To keep the callous tissue around the wound from getting bulky and unsightly, the wounds were cut very smooth with a sharp knife/ carving chisel and contoured to the trunk, then wetted with seaweed extract right from the bottle and then tightly wrapped with electrical tape. The end of the tape was secured with 2 pushpins. In a few months the tape will be removed.

The tree is already growing nicely after the substantial work done a few days previously. Repotting has been done into a lower profile container to reduce the thickness of the root ball.

Ficus do get scale and thrips; the thrips can be very disfiguring. Keep an eye on new growth and apply appropriate insect control.

The other tree was a *Ficus microcarpa* (or one of the many smaller leaved Ficus). As John mentioned, these ficus can be very difficult to ID. The tree was pruned hard and then repotted back into the original container. The roots were very dense but not as big a mass as we thought. Root ball reduction was moderate, mostly made thinner so it would grow flatter as part of the process of preparing it for a shallow bonsai pot. Soil was the club mix of 4 parts pumice, 4 scoria, and 2 fir bark, with particle size from 1/16" to just under 3/16".

Wiring will be done on both trees. Caution! Ficus epidermis/bark is soft, easy to injure. The cut back branches will thicken quickly inwards from the cut. Also, Ficus profusely back bud adding to the very quick thickening. (continued on page 7)



# San Diego Bonsai Club Pavilion at the Safari Park

July volunteers included: **Ken Bross, Alan Burrows, Julia Chow, Cathy & Mark Edgar, Sonya Holmquist, John Jackson, Jaya Kaelberer, Jim Kirchmer, Jim Lane, Charlie & Sylvia Mosse, Ron Palmer, Marcella Perez, Sally Prestele, Harlan & Mary Ann Price, 'lyn Stevenson, Dennis Wagner, Dave Woodall, and Roger Ziegelman.** They welcomed our newest volunteers: Carla Marasco, Shawn Palmer, and Chris Straws!



Andy Schucker, the Zoo Staff member in the Safari Volunteer Office, once again generously supplied some ice cream, chips, and cookies to go along with the treats from the Palmers, Marcella, John, Julia, Cathy, Charlie and 'lyn this past month. Pastries, cake, muffins, fruit breads, bottled waters, and lemonade are fun rewards for our hard working volunteers — especially in the warm, summer weather. Many thanks to all!

Pond algae growth is not as bad as the river scum we are reading about in Florida where there is a crisis this summer, but it remains a cleaning problem for us.

Newcomer Shawn and Charlie generously tackled the cleaning this month. Warm weather and slow water flow has unfortunately caused more than normal pond cleaning. We are hoping the Safari Park can find a solution that will alleviate the problem without endangering the mosquito fish, etc.

We were delighted to have Mary Ann and Harlan back with us after several months of sick leave. Now, we are sending get well wishes to Janie Ogden and Sonya Holmquist, both of whom had surgeries this past month.

Thanks also to our volunteer, Charlie Mosse, who generously donated two junipers for in-ground planting in the Pavilion, a lovely nana and a prostrata. They will fit nicely into the garden.



**WANTED :** Three or four shade type, low height azaleas (5 gallon size) for in the ground planting. We would like to fill in the area inside the front gate of the Pavilion along the stream —on the right side as you enter. Please let us know if you can help. . . thank you!

There are so many different chores to do at the Pavilion whether it's visiting in front with our many visitors or gardening projects with in-ground, paths, trees, etc. or grooming, transplanting, and cleaning bonsai pots and plants. We have lots of jobs and can always accommodate volunteers with jobs which involve sitting or standing in sun areas or shade.

Come visit your Pavilion; the invitation is always open for SDBC and San Pu Kai members to join us too!

'lyn Stevenson, SDBC-Safari Park Liaison

## JAPANESE FRIENDSHIP GARDEN



Thanks to our dedicated volunteers who come each week to keep our collection looking strong and healthy. This Spring and Summer the insects have tried to take over, but we have been continuously on top of them with additional help from the garden staff. We continue to enjoy speaking with the visitors from many states and countries as well as some youth groups that are visiting the Garden this summer. Our great volunteers are **Nancy Wilson Ramon, Yoichiro Suemori 'Mori', Charlie Mosse and Warren Tam.**

Curator Glenn Jensen, Gary Jones and myself helped ten middle school aged students create a juniper bonsai on July 28th. They were part of the Japanese Friendship Garden summer program. Some of the students had taken the class before and reported they still had their bonsai from past classes. That always makes us happy to hear. They were given information about our Club so they know where to come for help.

Glenn Jensen and Barbara French-Lee

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## New Members

Please welcome our new members: **Courtney Kilian, Charles Kilian, Lorenzo Torres, Chris Madero, Merle Lambeth, Michael L Willsey, Jennifer Grapa, Nathaniel Grapa, and Tony Grapa.**

Nazim Colak, VP of Membership

## Refreshments

Thank you to the many of you for your donations of refreshments to the July meeting.

## SDBC Benefit Drawing

Thank you to all those who made donations to the July benefit drawing .

## Library News

Run with President Bob's idea by checking out some of the books showing trees in the Japanese exhibitions. No better way to get inspiration that to see these masterpiece trees. You can also see how the pots match the trees (as we discussed in the June meeting) to get some ideas before the Nisei week trip.

## Special Events

### Nisei Week & Bonsai Nursery Field Trip

Come join in the fun as we visit Little Tokyo, Los Angeles for the Nisei Week Celebration, Sunday, August 21, 2016. There we will enjoy the Nampu Kai Bonsai Exhibition, view cultural events at the Japanese American Cultural Center and find some lunch and quaint shops. But first, we will visit David & June Nguy's Bonsai Jidai in Chino to view their amazing bonsai collection and shop in their nursery. On the way home from Little Tokyo we'll stop at Gary Ishii's bonsai nursery, Chikugo En in Gardena. The cost for the trip is \$40 and please feel free to bring along your family and friends. The bus will depart the Balboa Park staging area at 8:00am sharp, and the Carlsbad staging area at 8:30am. You can sign up for the trip at the August Club meeting or via our website: [www.sandiegobonsaiclub.com](http://www.sandiegobonsaiclub.com).

### GSBF 39 - A Bonsai Convergence

The Golden State Bonsai Federation 2016 Convention will be held October 27-30, 2016 at the Double Tree by Hilton, 2001 Point West Way, Sacramento. Special room rates for the convention will be available. Convention registration opened July 1, 2016. Workshops fill up quickly, so don't hesitate. For more information visit the GSBF website: [www.gsbf-bonsai.org](http://www.gsbf-bonsai.org)

## Fall Bonsai Exhibition

How are your trees looking? Do you have trees and bonsai materials to sell? Our show is less than two months away, so these are things to think about. The Fall Show will be September 24-25, 2016 with set up on the 22nd and 23rd. Sign up sheets for show volunteer positions, as well as sale tags and consignment forms, will be available at the August Club meeting.

Our Club has an amazing group of bonsai artists and they will have beautiful trees in the show. But, we would also like to encourage students from the beginning classes to bring in a tree. A special table will be set up for your trees. Hey, all of you intermediate "bonsai masters in training", we want to see your trees in the show too!

This year we will have a twist to our schedule. Instead of two demonstrations on Saturday, we will have Ted Matson offering workshops to our Club members. We get amazing instruction, and the general public will get to watch and learn. See the announcement on page 3 .

We need your cooperation to put on a fabulous show, so please contribute an hour or two of your time as a volunteer: put your beautiful bonsai tree in the show; and bring in your bonsai related items to sell. Newer members, volunteering at the show is a great way to connect with your fellow club members and make new friends. Let's have some fun!

Janice Hale, VP for Special Projects

Picture from July Styling Workshop



## July Program on Ficus Continued

Hint: When wire is applied it is not applied with perfectly even contact/pressure against the bark all the way around the branch. So look on all sides of wired branches to better determine when to remove the wire.

The best months for doing heavy work and getting quick recovery are June through September. Lighter work done in May and October will also recover nicely but can take a bit longer. Be sure your tree has started to grow in the spring before working it and in the fall, give it adequate time to recover before the colder nights arrive in November.

Charlie Mosse, 1st VP

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

## San Diego Bonsai Club Calendar of Events

August 6th and 20th Saturday

SDBC Workdays at Safari Park , 9 am to 12 pm

August 14th Sunday

Lindsay Shiba—Halrland's Boxwood

**August 21st (Sunday) - Nisei Week bus trip.**

September 3rd and 17th Saturday

SDBC Workdays at Safari Park , 9 am to 12 pm

September 11th Sunday

Dr. Tom Elias—Suiseki (Viewing Stones)

**September 24th and 25th, Saturday and Sunday**

**SDBC Fall Bonsai Show**

October 9th Sunday

Club picnic and auction at Lake Poway.

November 13th Sunday

Mel Ikeda—Raft Style Bonsai

December 11th Sunday

Design Competition

Sunday, August 14, 2016  
 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
09:30– 10:20	Library Open	104
10:30-11:00	Business Meeting	101
11:00-12:30	Presentation/Demonstration	101
12:30	Lunch	101
12:45	Benefit Drawing	101