

The Bonsai Wire

Volume 40, Issue 8

September, 2014



Message from the President

Thank you to Dr. Tom Elias for the excellent presentation about Penjing, the Chinese counterpart of bonsai. It was an eloquent explanation on how penjing came to influence the art of bonsai.

Also a continuing thank you to our hard-working volunteers: the SDBC Board, appointed positions, instructors, and others who gave their best for another successful month. There were (and still are) numerous activities behind the scenes most members do not see.

During the last few months, this column delved into the following topics: volunteerism, plant propagation, and bonsai help. This time, as a retired trainer/educator, I am encouraging everyone to take full advantage of our inexpensive training programs—especially our new members. Once started, students should try to complete the course to get the full benefit of the training. I have observed during the last couple years that some students—especially in the beginners class—do not finish the course—thus not getting the full benefit of the training. Whether it is the second or third session, all are important.

Our Fall show is this month. We will need your help,

especially setting up (25th and 26th) and tearing down (28th) the show. Sign-up sheets will be available during our membership meeting. If you have not, please sign up to participate—there are jobs for all levels of experience. Read more about the Fall show on page 7.

Our trip to NESEI week in Little Tokyo (in Los Angeles)—with nursery stops at Chino and Gardena—was fun and productive. Most of the eight members who made the trip bought some hard-to-find bonsai and other items. Our driver, Abe Far, was so gracious to also act as tour guide.

Announcements...

Dr. David Choy, VP for Membership, resigned due to job-related issues. He has been doing a superb job, and we thank him. Sonya Holmquist agreed to start breaking in and take over as VP for Membership when she is ready.

October is almost here, our picnic and fund-raising auction in Lake Poway. It is time to start collecting items to donate to this worthy cause—something you don't need or are willing to give up.

Dan Sola, President

This Month's Program

This month Shirley Kavanaugh will be presenting the art of mame (pronounced "ma-may") bonsai. She has one of the most extensive collections of mame, some of which can be seen at the upcoming SDBC Fall Bonsai show.

Bonsai is known for its small size, but the effort to miniaturize trees is sometimes taken to the extreme; the results are tiny trees called Mame Bonsai. Mame bonsai are less than six inches tall, small enough to fit in the palm of your hand. The small size presents unique challenges both in design and in care of the bonsai.

The bonsai artist is not simply trying to grow a miniature tree, but striving to create the illusion of the tree in nature. Because mame provides fewer details to use in creating the illusion, such as fewer leaves, shorter branches and trunks, the difficulty in creating the illusion increases—the entire process of creating an ideal tree becomes more abstract and intensified.

Bob Hale, 1st VP



Shirley Kavanaugh Receiving Numerous Awards at the San Diego County Fair

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San Diego Bonsai Club Website
www.sandiegobonsaiclub.com

Editor's Note

Studying the art of bonsai had a side benefit for me this summer. Traveling throughout Great Britain, I noticed more of the beauty of the landscape from the window of the train or as my wife and I hiked through the countryside. Old lone trees in the middle of green pastures or in courtyards next to cathedrals caught my eye, where they would not have before. In the village of Upper Slaughter, we came across an single giant Sequoia in a hotel garden. Asking the gardener, we found that 150 years ago it had been imported from California. I had a greater appreciation of these beautiful old survivors.

Dave Barker, TBW Editor

Enjoy
Bonsai
- Learn
More



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Beginning Class

This month is the second session of the Juniper classes, where you will continue to learn about junipers and their care, more ideas about design of your juniper, and the basics of pruning and wiring to begin to shape your tree. If you have read the Bonsai book you were given at the first session and have questions, your instructor will be there to answer them for you. There is a lot to do and learn in this session.

One beginning class was held outside Room 104 and seemed to be quite comfortable with a nice cool breeze



on a warm day and a quiet environment. The instructors for the two classes are Gary Jones and John Voss, and they have many knowledgeable helpers to guide the students. Thanks to everyone who worked so hard to make the classes interesting and helpful for the students.



Last Month's Workshop

John Jackson led a workshop on large oaks in 5 gallon containers. John helped the workshop participants determine a front, find an apex, and prune and wire branches. Now the tree needs to be watered, fed and allowed to grow for the next year. Periodically check to be sure the wire does not cut into your branches. If it begins to cut, immediately remove the wire (and rewire if it is still necessary). Next summer you will be reminded to bring your oak back to get help from John on the next step in developing your oak.

Note: Because some of the trees were not up to a good standard, workshop participants will be offered a \$10

refund. Please see me for your refund slip.

Upcoming Skills Classes

In September Dan Sola will teach a skills class on a propagation technique called air-layering. Using this technique you can create a ready-to-pot tree once this portion of the tree, still attached to the mother tree, develops roots. Dan will have all the materials necessary, just bring the tree you want to air-layer. There are still some openings. Cost: \$15.

In November, Michael Sykes will teach a class on wiring. Wiring can be a challenge, especially as you go from wiring heavy branches to the small branches that create important detail on your tree. This is a great opportunity to bring a tree you are unsure about how to wire and get some direction from a bonsai master. Wire will be provided. Cost: \$10.

Mas Takanashi Grant

Congratulations to Dave Barker who has been awarded the Mas Takanashi Grant. You all know Dave from putting together our newsletter each month. He has been studying with Fred Miyahara and is ready to further develop his skills to become one of our future teachers. Other Club members who have been working on the Grant this past year are Dan Sola, Brenda Crann, Allan Edwin, and Andrew Choy. Nelson Cortes is one class away from completion of the Grant and helped as an instructor this summer with students at the Japanese Friendship Garden taking a bonsai class. It is very exciting to see all the new, soon-to-be instructors for our Club. Please give your congratulations to Dave Barker when you see him on Sunday.

Barbara French-Lee, VP Education

August Program

Dr. Tom Elias presented the history of the Chinese art of penjing. The term "penjing" is Pen (tray) and Jing (landscape), so Pen + jing = tray landscape. There are three types of penjing landscape consisting of rock, tree (usually a single tree), and water/rock.

The earliest records of penjing date back to 206 BC, but during the Yuan Dynasty (1279 to 1368) miniature trees and landscapes became popular. Japan sent 19 missions to China between 607 to 838 to study Buddhism, painting, and other aspects of culture. The Japanese took many of these ideas back to Japan where they evolved, including the art of bonsai. (continued on page 7)



San Diego Bonsai Club

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Members
August 10, 2014



1. **Call to Order:** The regular meeting of the membership of the San Diego Bonsai Club was called to order at 10:30 a.m. by Dan Sola, President. It was confirmed that a quorum was present.
2. **Approval of Minutes:** The minutes from the July 13, 2014- meeting were approved as published.
3. **President's Remarks:** Thank you Jim Barrett for the demonstration. Thank you to all the volunteers this last month and once again thank you to John Jackson and Abe Farr for the demonstrations at the San Diego County Fair. Thanks to Janice and Bob Hale for editing the Bonsai Wire while Dave Barker was on vacation. Welcome back John Polo our drawing volunteer. Acknowledged bonsai dignitaries: BCI President Dr. Tom Elias and his wife Dr. Hiromi Nakaoji, GSBF President Abe Far, and SDBC Past Presidents. We have a new program for members to display their Bonsai at each meeting in room 101. We will have a lottery/drawing for each month for the rest of 2014 and sign-up sheet for 2015.
4. **David Choy, Vice President, Admission of New Members,** announced: We have 12 new members this month: Carol L. Castro, Greg Balourdas, Tim Brownlee, Nazim Colak, Sandra Barnum, John Cilch, Darryl and Christine Elmer, Amanda Elliott and Jane Jacobson.
5. **Board Member Reports:**
 - **Allan Edwin, Treasurer,** reported: We finish the first half of the year slightly in black. In July we would have broken even, but we had some people drop out of the bus trip. Based on the head count, we rented the bus and ended up having a lot of empty seats. If you drop out within the two weeks of the event in the future, there will be a non-refund policy in effect.
 - **Bob Hale, 1st Vice President,** reported: Shirley Kavanaugh will be demonstrating Mame in September. In October we will be at Lake Poway for our picnic/auction. In November, Gary Jones will be presenting on Monterey Cypress. In December we will have our Christmas party and have our bonsai styling competition; there will be 4 teams.
 - **Barbara French-Lee, Vice President, Education:** There are two beginner's classes this month and John Jackson's Oak Class. Next class in September will be a workshop on Air-Layering with Dan Sola.
 - **Janice Hale, Vice President Special Projects:** A field trip is planned for Nisei Week where the Nanpu-Kai will be hosting the Bonsai display honoring John Naka's 100th Birthday. Our own members will be displaying trees including Fred Miyahara, Ilyn Stevenson, Michael Sykes, and Glenn Jensen. The Fall Show is September 27-28th; the set-up will be the 25th and on the 26th; the trees will be brought in for display and sale items. We are looking for novices trees to display at the show. GSBF is looking for Bonsai Enthusiasts for their Annual Judged Bonsai Competition; for more information on this, go to the GSBF website.
6. **Appointed Position Reports:**
 - **John Jackson, Safari Park Pavilion Curator,** reported: We can always use volunteers; you can learn about Bonsai and work on the trees.
7. **Old Business:** None
8. **New Business:** None
9. **Announcements: Abe Farr- Chair of the nominating committee:** we are honored today to have Dr. Tom Elias and his wife. Our by-laws state that we need to have a nominating committee for new board members. Our committee is Charlie Tamm and Michael Sykes.
10. **August 2014 Program.** Bob Hale introduced Dr. Tom Elias, the President of Bonsai Clubs International; who spoke about Penjing, an ancient Chinese Art.
11. **Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Crann, Secretary

AFTER SUMMER'S GROWTH - AUTUMN

Now that the summer growing season is coming to an end, it's time to take note of the changes that your trees will be experiencing. The transition of the leaves to the fall overcoat of gold, orange, yellow and green will vary depending on the species and weather. The internal chemical changes and the cooler evenings in autumn produce these exotic colors. Fall foliage greatly enhances the beauty of the trees at this time of year. Concentrate on the Liquidambers, Maples, Gingkos, Hornbeams, and Zelcovas for the best colors.

Special care should be taken with wired trees. Wire cuts can occur during the next few months. While winter growth is limited during the dormancy period, the woody portion of the tree continues to lignify and harden. Be sure to check wires on branches and around the trunk. Remove any tightening wire.

This is a particularly good time to apply some new wire. The trees will begin to shed the mantle of leaves that have hidden the branches. Now they are exposed for a proper redesign. Be careful when applying new wire since the branches are quite brittle when the sap is not circulating in the wood.

Cuttings at this time of year must be limited to hardwood specimens or tropical varieties. The use of rooting hormones and a pre-soaking of a rooting stimulant, such as B-1 or Superthrive, improves your odds of success. A basic rooting medium such as 2 parts peat moss with 1 part perlite or coarse sand will serve you well. This rooting medium should be kept slightly moist and shaded until evidence of new growth appears.

Don't overlook watering requirements. Even though upper growth is slowing down, the root systems are still expanding and moisture is still important. A reduction in the frequency and time is required when the moisture loss has been slowed, as the weather cools down and the loss of foliage reduces expiration. Of particular importance, don't forget to keep azaleas slightly moist since this is the period when the new buds are being set for next year's flowers.

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

We were all very saddened to learn of the passing in August of longtime San Diego Bonsai Club (SDBC) member Bob Meyer. It was just a couple of weeks before, that we saw Bob at the July meeting. In his over 20 years with the club, Bob was always a very supportive member. He was a former SDBC Board member, and being an attorney, he gave the club legal help often, and was a tremendous advisor in 2000 for the rewrite of the SDBC By-Laws. Bob was instrumental in filing the necessary papers for the SDBC to go from a social type club to its current non-profit educational status. Later he was of invaluable help with the club's finances.

In addition to his activities with the SDBC, he was on the Huntington GSBF Board, an advisor to the GSBF, and a representative for several years for the GSBF South Collection. And of course Bob developed his own collection of bonsai. We all had fun times with Bob at the conventions, bus trips, and other social activities.

Bob loved the San Diego Opera as a supporter and attendee, he loved to travel, and was active in his church. Major General Meyer had a distinguished career in the U.S. Army National Guard with the Judge Advocate General Corps and as head counsel of Caltrans in Pasadena.

Bob culminated his generosity to the GSBF with the purchase of a shohin Olive tree, originally propagated and grown by "Big Dave" Rochester, then designed by Bonsai Master Peter Warren at the Burbank GSBF Bonsai Convention last year. Then, in what would be his final gesture to the SDBC, he immediately donated the tree to the Bonsai Pavilion at the Safari Park. Thank you Bob.

Bob is in our thoughts, memories, and prayers. Our sympathies to the Meyer family.

Charlie Mosse



San Diego Bonsai Club Pavilion at the Safari Park

Summer has definitely been hot at the Pavilion in August, but our hearty volunteers still spent over 163 hours trimming trees, gardening, and general clean up. The Pavilion continues to draw many compliments from Safari Park visitors. August volunteers included **Neil Auwarter, Ken Bross, Alan Burrows, Peter Chong, Julia Chow, Cathy and Mark Edgar, Janice and Bob Hale, Jeff Gerringer, Sonya Holmquist, John Jackson, Jaya Karlberer, Ron and Janie Ogdon, Janet and Ron Palmer, Mary Ann and Harlan Price, Sally Prestele, Dan Sola, Lyn Stevenson, John Voss, Dennis Wagner, Mark Walters, and Dave Woodall.** First time volunteers were **Taylor Christensen and Marcella Perez.** Thanks to Sonya Holmquist for bringing Marcella to the Pavilion and showing her around. The volunteers were well fed with various breads, pastries, and fruit. Lots of cold drinks were consumed.



Safari Park maintenance crew trimmed three large trees in front of the Pavilion which greatly increases the light received by the lower pond and garden. Volunteers spent extra time cleaning up some of the small debris from the rocks

and garden. Summer always shows the weak places in the landscape sprinkler system. Dennis Wagner has spent many hours ensuring that the entire garden is watered (so there will be more weeds for the volunteers to pull). The Garden is looking much healthier. We now have irrigation next to the waterfall (which is running!) so we can plant some ground cover or bushes in the bare areas.

Thanks to the Safari Park for arranging parking and entrance passes for the Golden State Bonsai Federation (GSBF) President **Abe Far** and President of the Shinzen Friendship Garden in Fresno, **Dwayne Berrett**, and her husband, Rich. Recently, the GSBF decided to sponsor moving the Bonsai collection exhibited at the Clark Center to Fresno, CA. The move and resulting exhibit will be managed by the Fresno Bonsai Club. The Clark Center for Japanese Art and Culture is located about 45 miles from Fresno and has a large collection of Japanese art with the bonsai collection in a Japanese garden.

John Jackson escorted the guests on a tour of the Pavilion and answered many questions about building and maintaining the garden and bonsai exhibit. The visitors were very impressed with how well the Safari Park Pavilion was managed by members of the San Diego Bonsai Club and San Pu Kai.

We were all very saddened to learn of the passing of longtime San Diego Bonsai Club member **Bob Meyer.** Bob purchased a shohin olive tree designed by Bonsai Master Peter Warren at the Burbank Bonsai Convention last year and donated this tree to the Safari Park Pavilion.

Mark and Cathy Edgar, Bonsai Pavilion Volunteers

Never-ending Tasks -
Trimming,
Wiring, and
Pruning



New Members

Please welcome our new members: **Carol L. Castro, Greg Balourdas, Tim Brownlee, Nazim Colak, Sandra Barnum, John Cilch, Darryl and Christine Elmer, Amanda Elliott, and Jane Jacobson.**

Refreshments

Many thanks to the folks that brought refreshments to the August meeting. The members bringing refreshments included: **Fe Sumabat, Cathy Edgar, Shirley Kavanaugh, Sonya Holmquist, Dennis Wagner, Ken Bross, Abe and Christina Far, Brenda Crann, Meg Polo, Marcela Perez, Alequie Arruenta, and Susan Mae Hull.**

Sonya Holmquist and Meg Polo, Food Coordinators

Benefit Drawing

A big thank you to the folks that brought in items for the raffle table to the August meeting: **Janice Hale, Dan Sola, Shirley Kavanaugh, Sonya Holmquist, Ken Bross, Abe and Christina Far, Dave Woodall, Neil Auwarter, Marty Mann, Susan Mae Hull, Laurie Orange, Mark and Cathy Edgar, and Claude Poissoneiz.**

Japanese Friendship Garden

We are in the final process of writing a new Memorandum of Understanding between the Japanese Friendship Garden and the San Diego Bonsai Club. This will help delineate the understandings of this partnership. Thanks to Charlie Mosse and Julia Chow who helped with the care of the Club's bonsai at JFG this past month.

Barbara French-Lee, JFG Liason



The poster features a green and white color scheme. At the top, a green ribbon banner reads "San Diego Bonsai Club". Below it, the words "Fall Bonsai Show" are written in a large, stylized font. A dark green rectangular box contains the dates "September 27 and 28". Below that, the text "10a.m.-5p.m. Each Day" is followed by "Casa Del Prado Rm 101" and "Balboa Park, San Diego". At the bottom, a small text box states: "Amazing Bonsai will be shown by our club members, there will be bonsai technique demonstrations at 11 am and 1 pm each day, and bonsai plants and pots will be available for purchase."

A BIG THANK YOU to **Patricia Starks** of Santee who contacted the Club via our website and donated three boxes of small clay bonsai pots.

Special Events

It's show time folks! Our Fall show will be held September 27th and 28th, with room 101 set up on Thursday, September 25th. We will bring in the bonsai trees and sale table items on Friday, September 26th. About 50% of needed positions have been filled, so we still need more volunteers. I'll have the sign up sheets in the back of the room at our September meeting.

I'd like to mention that the sale table we have during our Fall and Spring shows is the biggest fund raising event the Club holds. Any member of the Club may sell a tree, bonsai pot, book or tool. From 15% to 100% of the sale is donated to the Club. Please, consider bringing something in for the sale table. I will have inventory sheets and sale tags for you at the September meeting and they will be available on Friday night, September 26th, when you bring in your items.

We'd like to have a novice table again this show. We had some beautiful novice trees at the Spring Show. If you are a little hesitant about displaying your bonsai tree, bring it to the September meeting and one of our more experienced bonsai artists will be more than happy to give you some pointers and encouragement.

Special thanks to John Voss who is donating a large number of plants for our Kid's Table. We also need a couple of bags of potting soil. Please let me know if that is something you would like to contribute.

Janice Hale, VP for Special Projects

GSBF Convention

The Golden State Bonsai Federation Convention - "Bonsai Visions of the West" is in Sacramento from October 30th to November 2nd. Check out the workshops, seminars, critiques and activities being offered at the GSBF website, www.gsbf-bonsai.org.

August Program (Continued from page 3)

Bonsai developed a following in the Western world with 27 world's fairs and expositions held around the world from the 1870's to 1920's where bonsai was represented, but penjing was not. During China's cultural revolution from 1966 to 1976 many penjing were destroyed, so most modern penjing are only about 30 years old.

Since the cultural revolution, China has seen a revitalization of traditions and the arts. Penjing's popularity has returned as seen in larger and more elaborate penjing collections and gardens.

Bob Hale, 1st VP

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

San Diego Bonsai Club Calendar of Events

September 14th Sunday
 Shirley Kavanaugh, Mame—Miniature Bonsai

September 20th Saturday
 SDBC Workday at Safari Park , 9 am to 12 pm

September 27th and 28th, Saturday and Sunday
SDBC Fall Bonsai Show

October 4th Saturday and October 18th Saturday
 SDBC Workday at Safari Park , 9 am to 12 pm

October 12th Sunday
 Club picnic at Lake Poway. Details are on the
 SDBC website and will be in the next newsletter.

October 30th, Thursday—November 2nd, Sunday
 GSBF Convention in Sacramento
 Visit www.gsbf-bonsai.org for details.

November 1st Saturday and Nov. 15th Saturday
 SDBC Workday at Safari Park , 9 am to 12 pm

November 9th Sunday
 Gary Jones, Monterey Cypress

September 14
 Balboa Park, Room 101
 Casa Del Prado

Meeting Agenda

Time	Activity	Room
08:30-10:20	Beginning Classes	104
		Or courtyard
08:30-10:20	Air-layering with Dan Sola	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 second session is this month—Don't miss it !