

The Bonsai Wire

Volume 42, Issue 9

September, 2016

Message from the President

I was fortunate to be able to combine a vacation with a visit to the Redwood Empire Bonsai Society's 33rd annual bonsai show on August 22nd in Santa Rosa, California. This is the largest club-sponsored bonsai show in the United States with over 200 trees on display. Kathy

Shaner, the first woman and first non-Japanese citizen to be certified by the Nippon Bonsai Kyodo Kumaii Society, is their club sensei.

This was a great opportunity to see how other clubs operate their shows and to take back some ideas to incorporate into our SDBC bonsai show. Attending SDBC, or other club shows, is a great way to broaden your bonsai experience. You can make connections with others, enjoy demonstrations, find treasures to take home, and take lots of pictures to add to your bonsai library. Most importantly, find inspiration in the development of your own trees.

So don't pass up the opportunity to get involved with the upcoming SDBC show in September. It's a great experience getting to better know your fellow club members and interface with the public on your favorite pastime.

Bob Hale, President



This Month's Program

We have the pleasure of having Dr. Tom Elias, an international authority on suiseki, presenting about the art of suiseki-the appreciation of stones. Dr. Elias speaks all over the world to clubs, groups, conventions and major shows, and he will be a presenter at the 2016 GSBF Convention in Sacramento. His knowledge of suiseki is immense because he has been passionate about the art for over 50 years.

Dr. Elias is currently the Chairman of the Viewing Stone Association of North America and Honorary Vice-Chairman of the Viewing Stone Association of China. He is the co-author with his wife, Hiromi, of *Chrysanthemum Stones: The Story of Stone Flowers* and is the author of *Viewing Stones of North America: A Contemporary Perspective*, and has authored many other books. (See page 5 for more)

Suiseki can be found just about anywhere, but there are areas that are geologically more conducive to finding good stones such as in volcanic areas and rivers. Dr. Elias will speak about how and where to find good stones, how to evaluate what is a good stone by knowing facts about the stone such as its geology, where it was collected and the collector. In addition, he will cover the stone's physical attributes of shape, color, size etc., what category of shape under which the stone will fall, and the requirements for proper display of the stone on a daiza or suiban. Dr. Elias will be bringing several of his stones to illustrate the art of suiseki in his presentation.

Charlie Mosse, 1st VP



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San Diego Bonsai Club Website
www.sandiegobonsaiclub.com

Editor's Note

This month's program will be on the art of suiseki. I never could quite see the relationship of bonsai and suiseki except that suiseki are used as accents in bonsai displays and rocks are combined with trees in tray landscapes, and I like tray landscapes.

But I think suiseki as art is a bit different; viewing stones is an ancient art on its own that has a similar philosophical concept to bonsai according to bonsai master John Naka (see his 2nd book, pages 407–414). And the fact that Harry Hirao and Everett Jones were suiseki enthusiasts makes me want to come listen to Dr. Elias to see what might be there for me. I also have to admit I enjoyed our club's rock gathering field trip out to the desert a couple of years ago - the hunt for stones was a lot of fun. In any case, I'm going to give it a chance. **Dave Barker, TBW Editor**

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

One of Dr. Elias' viewing stones



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BEGINNING CLASS: The second Beginning Class with Junipers will continue in September. This class will focus on design of your tree and how to wire correctly. Be sure to bring your chopsticks for practice. We then have our last class in November as October is our picnic meeting.

Everyone is welcome to observe the beginning class. The class starts at 8:30am in Room 104. New members are excited about taking the beginning bonsai classes, and several have asked to be put on a waiting list for the next class. If you are a new member please note that sign up sheets for all classes and workshops are first available at the Bonsai Club meeting TWO months before the classes/workshops are held. We do not start a waiting list until after the sign up sheet has been put out at the meeting and filled. That same day, in the afternoon, sign up for the class/workshop becomes available on the Bonsai Club website; so even if you are unable to attend the meeting you can sign up online. It is very exciting that so many people are interested in taking our classes and workshops. The next Bonsai Beginning Class will be in January 2017 so the sign up sheet for that class will be available at the November 2016 meeting.

WORKSHOP: John Jackson will be teaching the Tree Carving Workshop at his home. If you are still interested in taking this workshop, please email me.

In November we will have a WORKSHOP on Raft Style Bonsai. The main speaker that morning will demonstrate how to create a Raft Style Bonsai, and then after the meeting each participant will create their own to take home. More details will be available at the September meeting. Cost: TBD.

In the meantime, check out raft style bonsai on the web, like this one.



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 a wonderful opportunity to bring in any of your bonsai trees, or trees on their way to becoming a bonsai, for help and advice on styling, repotting, diseases or any concerns you may have. We have many bonsaiists available to help.

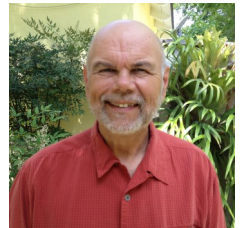


STUDY GROUP with John Voss will meet immediately after the main meeting and after the raffle. If you are interested in working with the Club's Study Group please let me know, there are currently three openings.

Barb French-Lee, VP for Education

Fall Show Workshops for Members

Ted Matson will be here for the fall show. He will conduct the member workshops will be from 9-11 am and 2-4 pm on Saturday, September 24, and the guest demonstration from 12-1:30. The cost of the workshops will be \$20 per person for 30 minutes with Ted. He



welcomes bonsai enthusiasts of any level. This a chance for beginners to work with an outstanding instructor. Bring one tree for a significant consult and do the changes if you like so Ted can check your work, or bring in 2-3 trees that may require only some minor changes. Much can be accomplished with Ted in this period of time.

There is still one opening in the morning and two in the afternoon. The sign-up list will be available in September on the sign-up table. There are slots for alternates who will be put on a waiting list in the event someone cannot make it. Silent observers are welcome.

Charlie Mosse, 1st VP





San Diego Bonsai Club

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Members
August 14, 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 July 10, 2016 meeting were approved as published.
- 3. Nazim Colak, VP for Membership:** There were 5 new members.
- 4. Board Member Reports:**
 - Charlie Mosse 1st Vice president,** reported: September presentation's will be Tom Elias; October is our SDBC Picnic, November's presentation will be Mel Ikeda on Raft Style and in December we will have our styling competition. During the Fall Show, on Saturday, there will be a special Ted Matson workshop for our club members.
 - Peter Chong, Treasurer,** reported: In July our Income was \$1881.04 and our expenses were \$3425.58 our Net Loss -\$1544.54 The balance for SDBC account is \$35,488.28 and for the Pavilion \$16,963.42
 - Barbara French-Lee, Vice President, Education,** reported: Today was the first beginner's class with Gary Jones working on Junipers. Shirley Kavanaugh also led a workshop on Tray Landscape; it was a success. The carving class will not be at club meeting in September; it will take place at John Jackson house at a later date. There may be a possible Raft Workshop in November.
 - Janice Hale, Special Projects,** reported: Our next trip will be the Nisei Trip on August 21, 2016. The cost is \$40.00. Pick up in Balboa Park 8:00 and in Carlsbad at 8:30am. Our Fall Show dates are September 24 & 25 2016 Our sign up sheets are out at August meeting and will be out at the September meeting.
- 5. Appointed Position Reports:**
 - John Jackson, Curator for Safari Park Pavilion,** reported: We are continuing our fund-raising for projects for the Pavilion; we will be holding silent auction during SDBC meeting. Work continues on the plaque for the Shohin Display at the Safari Park Bonsai Pavilion.
 - Glenn Jensen, Curator for JFG,** reported: Thanks to all the volunteers. Our Bonsai looks great.
- 6. Old Business:** None
- 7. New Business:** None
- 8. Announcements: Bob Hale, President:** Acknowledged all Past Presidents of SDBC.
- 9. Program:** Lindsay Shiba, Demonstration on Harland Boxwood
- 10. Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 10:50am.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Crann Secretary

Tray Landscape students
and their new creations



San Diego Bonsai Club
**Fall
Bonsai Show**
September 24 and 25
10a.m.-5p.m. Each Day
Casa Del Prado Rm 101
Balboa Park, San Diego

August Program on Boxwood

At the August meeting, Lindsay Shiba completed styling of a Harland's Boxwood, *Buxus harlandii*, he brought from his nursery. Judging by the size of the trunk (Boxwood trunks grow slowly) and the length of time it was at Lindsay's nursery, it is well over 20 years old.



There were 3 options for the styling. Lindsay chose what he called a modified broom style. The branching on the trunk was profuse but not originating from one point. The tree had the aspect of broom style or more rounded style, which can be called a modified broom or 'Oak' style. Lindsay thinned out the branches and reduced their size during the styling and with the "oaky-looking" bark, one could see that the Oak style would work very nicely by bringing the branches down a bit further like an Oak would grow. Boxwoods are used for this type of style due to their bark and the way they grow naturally with lower branching similar to a Live Oak.



The next steps will involve letting the tree re-root in filtered shade, which is perfect, since Boxwoods are

naturally an understory plant that also happen to tolerate heat and sun. It will do very nicely this time of the year.

It was fed a dilute solution of fish emulsion and kelp, 1/2 tsp/gallon at 2 weeks and 4 weeks. Barring any problems, a full feeding schedule will begin in early to mid-September.

Boxwoods back-bud easily when some leaves are left on the cut back branches. The tree was fairly open before styling, so back budding had already occurred. Once the new back-budding is proceeding in earnest, it will mean that the tree is re-invigorated. At that point, Lindsay suggested reducing the tree another 10 inches or so to bring the height of the tree into balance with the trunk height and diameter, and the nebari. The tree is doing nicely and is pushing some new growth but no back budding yet. The tree will be auctioned later.

Charlie Mosse, 1st VP

JAPANESE FRIENDSHIP GARDEN



Thanks to our dedicated volunteers who come each week to keep our collection looking strong and healthy. Above volunteers Nancy Wilson Ramon and Yoichiro Suemori 'Mori' assist Curator Glenn Jensen in the planning stage of carving a Bougainvillea.

[Dr. Tom Elias Bio in more depth](#)

Dr. Elias earned undergraduate and graduate degrees in botany and earned his PhD in biology. He was the Director of the Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden in Southern California and served as Chairman of the Department of Botany at the Claremont Graduate School in Claremont, California. He is also past president of Bonsai Clubs International and past director of U.S. National Arboretum. For more follow the link to a National Bonsai Federation article about Dr. Elias . http://www.bonsai-nbf.org/wp-content/documents/bulletins/NBF_Bulletin_Winter_09.pdf

San Diego Bonsai Club Pavilion at the Safari Park

Many of our volunteers have been on summer trips which included visiting bonsai collections in other places in California and the USA. They return to our SDBC Pavilion feeling confident that the Safari Park Bonsai Pavilion remains unique and high on the list with a quality collection. There have been many summer visitors at the Safari Park and to our Pavilion including family groups with strollers, wheel chairs, and sun umbrellas; they often comment and appreciate the cooling waterfall and shaded sitting areas while enjoying the serenity of the bonsai.

In spite of the very warm August days, the volunteers still come to keep the bonsai and the garden in show condition. Thanks to our loyal summer volunteers: **Neil Auwarter, Julia Chow, Cathy & Mark Edgar, Bob & Janice Hale, John Jackson, Jaya Kaelberer, Jim Kirchner, Jim Lane, Carla Marasco, Charlie & Sylvia Mosse, Janet & Ron Palmer, Marcella Perez, Sally Prestele, 'lyn Stevenson, Mark Walters, Nancy Wilson-Ramon, Dave Woodall, and Roger Ziegelman.** Bonsai Wire Editor, **Dave Barker**, has now joined us as a regular volunteer at the Park too. Wonderful donations of coffee cakes, rice crackers, donuts, chocolate peanuts, another case of waters, lemonade, Asian pears, figs, apple strudel, and other assorted fruits along with special goodies from the Park volunteer office are always appreciated during frequent summer break times too. Thanks to **Jaya, Curator John, Marcella, Cathy, Julia, Nancy, Palmers, and**



growth, especially on the deciduous trees, has been constant. It is the responsibility for volunteers (like Julia and Mark shown here) to do trimming and pruning. The algae growth, of course, continues to flourish on the ponds too in spite of the flowing waters. Unfortunately, the mosquito fish cannot keep it cleared enough without our help.

A special silent auction at each SDBC meeting was started a couple of months ago as a fund raising for the upcoming projects for the Pavilion. We hope to continue this each month and appreciate support from club members. We all benefit from much support and participation by our own Club. The bonsai in the auction will be donated materials from the Pavilion volunteers or from the Pavilion reserve of bonsai stock. This is another way for SDBC members to participate in this most worthwhile Club priority. Thank you!

Bring your summer vacation guests to the Safari Park and the Bonsai Pavilion. . .let Curator John Jackson know if you would like special guests to receive passes or a private guided welcome tour of the Pavilion.

'lyn Stevenson, SDBC-Safari Park Liaison

In our Thoughts

Our bonsai family all share good times, bad times, successes, and failures. Grief is sometimes there too. Our sympathy, kind thoughts and prayers for Pavilion Volunteer and SDBC member, Donna Carter, and her family. Her husband died suddenly from a heart attack on August 22nd.



'lyn for delicious August nutrition!

All the Pavilion bonsai have individual water emitters that are checked regularly so there have not been any casualties due to the heat, but summer

New Members

Please welcome our new members: **Brent Hoag, Terri Urbon, Zaunia and Elias Klingbeil, Leonard and Carletta Kruczynski, Adrian Robles, Raymond Stives, Mark and Shawna Patton, and Mireille Davis.**

Nazim Colak, VP of Membership

Refreshments

Thank you to the following for your donations of refreshments to the August meeting: **Christina Vargas, Chusub Srithadalta, Cathy Edgar, Sylvia and Charlie Mosse, Marcella Perez, Jaya Kaelberer, Shirley Kavanaugh, Julia Chow, 'lyn Stevenson, John and Margaret Jackson, Bill Starks, and Darryl and Christine Elmer.**

SDBC Benefit Drawing

Thank you to all the members who made donations to the August benefit drawing: **Dan Sola, Christina and Abe Far, Nancy Wilson-Ramon, John and Margaret Jackson, Eric Jacobson, Paul Lawrence, 'lyn Stevenson, Darryl Elmer, Steve Clemons, Gary Jones, Larry Upp, and SDBC.**

Website News

Our SDBC website is always adding new information for club members. Check out what's new on the website this month:

- Information on upcoming meetings and events
- Pictures of the 2016 Nisei Week trip including the bonsai exhibit trees and various Nisei week events
- Calendar of Bonsai events in California in case you want to follow in the footsteps of President Bob and visit another club's show
- Video of the August demonstration - Lindsay Shiba working on the Harland boxwood
- Latest information on the shohin, ficus, and oak study groups including useful bonsai tips

Special Events

Fall Bonsai Exhibition

The countdown has begun! Our show is September 24-25, 2016 with set up on the 22nd and 23rd. We had a great response at our August meeting and you signed up for about 50 percent of the volunteer positions we have when putting on the show. There are still many, many more tasks available. Please volunteer for a 2-hour shift. It's a

fun way to give back to the Club and build camaraderie between you and your fellow Club members.

If you are a Club member, you are eligible to sell bonsai related items at our show. We have a consignment set up where your items are checked in, sold by our Club, and then a week after the show you reap the rewards. A donation of 20%-100% of the proceeds are given back to the Club. We also deduct 8% sales tax. Consignment sheets and sale tags will be available at the September meeting. The show sales are our Club's largest fund raising events, so please be generous. Proceeds help fund our classes, workshops, trips and bringing in the special guest speakers each month.

Don't forget to sign up for one of Ted Matson's special workshops on Saturday of the show. Here is an incredible opportunity to work with a bonsai master. (see page 3 for more details).

If you have any questions about a tree you are thinking about showing, please bring it to the September meeting. One of our amazing bonsai experts will be happy to offer advice.

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. For more information visit the GSBF website: www.gsbf-bonsai.org

October Club Meeting, Picnic, and Auction

Be sure to mark your calendars and sign up for our October meeting/picnic/auction to be held at Lake Poway. This is a great place to have a meeting. There is lots of sun, great weather, the water is our background, and the auction materials are always a great buy. We ask that you sign up to bring an appetizer, salad or dessert. We will provide a main dish, so a headcount is needed. Be sure to bring along your bonsai, bonsai material, and bonsai-related items to donate to our annual silent and live auctions. And bring your checkbook too!

2017 Bonsai-A-Thon

Save the date! Our annual bus trip to the Golden State Bonsai Federation (GSBF) Collection at The Huntington "Bonsai-A-Thon" will be Saturday February 25, 2017. This is the annual fund raising event for the GSBF Collection with a show, demos, vendors, sales area, auction and raffle. Sign-up for the trip will begin in November.

Janice Hale, VP for Special Projects

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

San Diego Bonsai Club Calendar of Events

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 1st and 15th Saturday
 SDBC Workdays at Safari Park , 9 am to 12 pm

October 9th Sunday
 Club picnic and auction at Lake Poway.

October 27-30, Thursday –Sunday
 GSBF Convention
 Sacramento, CA

November 13th Sunday
 Mel Ikeda—Raft Style Bonsai

December 11th Sunday
 Design Competition

Sunday, September 11, 2016
 Balboa Park, Room 101
 Casa Del Prado

Meeting Agenda

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