



# San Pu Kai Record

Monthly Newsletter of the San Pu Kai Bonsai Club

November - December 2011

DOUBLE ISSUE

Editor: Maria Barbosa



## President's Message

We had a great meeting last month. It was so nice to see at least 90% of our members with a tree or two working on them and helping each other, as well as sharing stories of their tree. Let's keep this up in the New Year!

**December Meeting:** Once again we are very lucky to have **Ted Matson** come to our club to do a demonstration. You really do not want to miss this meeting! Ted will be working on an olive collected in the wilds of Hawaii by Lance Laney and styling it in a shohin style. After Ted's careful styling this olive new home will be the Bonsai Pavilion at the Safari Park.

Give a "Like " on Ted Matson's Facebook page to keep up with him and his teaching.

**California Shohin Society:** I will have registration forms for the California Shohin Society 2012 Seminar in February 3,4,5<sup>th</sup> in Santa Nella, California. This a great seminar, lots of fun, not too costly and it fills up very fast. This seminar has great workshops with great presenters, vendors galore, lots of demos, a benefit drawing and hospitality room on Friday & Saturday night for those that are registrars. Sunday there is a panel discussion of the shohin display by Kathy Shaner, Dave DeGroot, Bill Valavanis, and Larry & Nina Ragle. What a great line up for this alone.

**Holiday Party:** Maria will have a sign up sheet for the very fun, relaxing New Year club Party to be held again at Chin's in San Marcos at 6:30 p.m. for dinner. After dinner, our famous bonsai-related gift exchange for members who want to participate- you never know what you may wind up with. Again the

clubs Santa will have something for each member who comes to the party.

**SPK Board News:** We will start the year off with a board meeting, but will have to get back to you later on the when, where, etc. This is the time we will be planning the clubs programs for the year, the budget, our show at the flower fields in Carlsbad, and our club planned trip to Sunset Ranch. We had a vacancy on the board, so the board appointed Steve Valentine to replace the at-large position.

**Sunset Ranch:** This is the club's membership weekend to relax, fish in the lake, and dig for Tamarisk for bonsai. This will be sometime in March 2012 and we have space for 20 members. Make sure you see either me or Maria for the sign-up sheet on this very special weekend!

**Refreshments:** Sandra Knowles will be bringing the treats for our December meeting. At the February 2012 meeting I will have a sign-up sheet for the treats for each month next year---so start to think which month you can volunteer for.

Remember as the year ends, 2012 dues are due. As I wrap up this year, I am thankful for such a wonderful club, a group of members who want to learn and further their knowledge in bonsai, to share what they know with other members and to dedicate time, trees, and funds to support the pavilion at the Safari Park.

**I wish you all the best in health, happiness, a great bonsai in 2012**

Cary Sullivan-Valentine, President  
760-445-2548 [caryme2@yahoo.com](mailto:caryme2@yahoo.com)

**San Pu Kai is on FACEBOOK – link is**  
<http://www.facebook.com/#!/pages/San-Pu-Kai-Bonsai-Club/184125964939396>

# JAPAN CARE PACKAGE

(Note: Cary will have a box for the socks, so that each donator does not have to mail them individually. We will send the socks as a club donation) Here's a way you can help Japan, directly and meaningfully. There are many places to donate money, and that's a wonderful thing to do, but direct aid is cherished by survivors because it shows them that you personally care. My office location is perfect for a direct-aid operation — close enough to the damage zone that we can physically get there to help, but far enough that mail delivery is working.

## Guidelines:

- **Send only new socks.** All human beings are comforted by a fresh, clean pair of socks. Other advantages socks offer this operation: they're light, their sizes are easy, they don't break, people need lots of them in disastrous times away from home, and people can keep them forever to remember that somebody from far away cared. Please do not send any other items of clothing, food, etc. Just socks, but go ahead and choose nice ones that will brighten somebody's day. You might receive a discount by showing our [letter](#) to your local store manager.
- **Put each pair in a sealed plastic bag.** Want your socks to find needy feet asap? So do we! Please speed up our processing by taking socks out of bulk packaging, removing clasps or ties binding them together, and putting each pair in its own sealed clear plastic bag. Waterproof bags, such as Ziploc brand, are useful to people without homes. They serve a dual purpose: delivering socks in good shape, and providing a way for people to keep items dry.
- **Enclose a care letter.** Japanese people treasure letters, especially ones from foreigners. Survivors of the 1995 Hanshin quake in Kobe said that care letters were among the most uplifting items they received. So, please **enclose a copy of your letter with each pair of socks in a plastic bag.** For help composing and translating your letter, see our [care letter creation page](#).

- **Label, compress, and seal.** You should now have a pair of socks and your care letter in each plastic bag. One more helpful item: a label. Either write on the outside of the bag or insert into each bag a piece of paper identifying one of **these categories: man, woman, .** (We no longer need any socks for children.) Once that's done, squeeze out excess air to make the bag as small as possible, then seal it shut. This preparation will make our inventory management and distribution a cinch!
- **Write your email address noticeably on the package.** The most efficient way for us to keep in touch with you, and track the status of your package once we receive it, is via your email address. Please write it on the outside of your package so we can communicate with you *without* opening the package.
- **Write "Urgent: Relief Supplies" boldly on the package.** This will avoid import duties, guarantee priority handling at customs, and achieve rapid processing through hubs. Packages are arriving *more quickly* than usual. Everybody is dedicated to getting this nation back on its feet — in clean socks!

Please ship your package to my office:

Jason Kelly  
Plaza Kei 101  
Wakamatsu-cho 615-6  
Sano, Tochigi 327-0846  
Japan

## 2011 Memberships DUE

Please pay at the January Holiday Party...or mail your dues to: **Maria Barbosa, SPK membership**  
**2727 De Anza Road, #J-26**  
**San Diego, CA 92109**  
Make your check out to "San Pu Kai"

**\$20.00 for single membership**  
**\$25.00 for a couple**

## GSBF CONVENTION 2011 – POWER OF ONE REPORTS



**Bobby Knox**

### GSBF Observations By Bobby Knox

To begin, I would like to thank San Pu Kai for selecting me and Joe DuPont to attend the GSBF convention in Riverside as part of the “**Power of One**” program. There was a lot to see and do, but I will try and give my impressions.

The event was held at the Riverside Convention Center, a nice venue because it’s not too big and all the demos, seminars and workshops are near each other. The exhibition of masterpiece bonsai was small in number but magnificent.

I was able to attend a critique of the exhibited trees by Pedro Morales, a headliner from Puerto Rico. It’s amazing to hear how even masterpiece quality trees can always be improved upon, --- in other words our trees are never really “finished”.

I was not enrolled in any of the workshops but was able to observe some of them. The most impressive was the shohin olive workshop with Lance Laney of Hawaii. Lance had provided olives collected in the wild by him on the island of Kauai that were really nice. So nice, that Steve Valentine bought one of the unused olives to be developed as a shohin for the pavilion at the San Diego Safari Park.

The demonstration by Roy Nagatoshi on a Shimaku grafted to California juniper was excellent. Roy’s technique of “grooming and wiring” was new to me and gave me a new way of approaching some of my own trees.

By far the highlight of the convention was the demonstration by Ryan Neil, whose background includes a college degree in horticulture and an

apprenticeship with Masahiko Kimura in Japan. Ryan worked on a collected California juniper and the transformation was amazing. As he worked on the tree he constantly narrated what he was doing and why, as well as describing some of his apprenticeship experiences.

The main exhibit hall of the convention center was home to a huge vendor area, as well as where the raffle prizes were displayed. It was nice to see Jim Barrett, (who still makes pots). Walking the isles of the vendor display was amazing, with great material and pots and tools for sale, some very expensive and some a good deal. I did buy a pot from Jim.

I noticed that everyone who attended seemed to be having a great time. I also noticed that a lot of hard work went into setting up the convention and more hard work to see that everything ran smooth during the event. **Steve and Cary Valentine** from San Pu Kai were always busy and represent our club very well to GSBF. One other person who deserves recognition is **Craig Berkwitz**, (Joanie’s husband). Craig worked the registration desk each day from morning to night, a huge commitment of time and effort. Many thanks Craig!

This may have been my first GSBF convention, but it won’t be my last.

Bobby Knox



**GSBF CONVENTION -Foreground: Marty Mann teaching Beginning Bonsai  
Background: Cary Sullivan Workshop**



**Joe Dupont**

**Observations at the GBSF convention 10-27-2011 to 10-30-2011** by Joe Dupont

No question about it, at a GSBF convention you will encounter amazing trees, talent and many rewarding workshops along with a cornucopia of Bonsai vendors that will inspire you to empty your wallet on the numerous treasures. None of the purchases are painful until you return home and face up to your spouse. By the way, who put the anytime bank teller machine in the lobby. If you need to use it take out a lot the first time because it is \$3.50 transaction fee a pop.

Held at the Riverside Convention Center the facilities were wonderful. Food was fantastic. The in progress and newly remodeled down town area was a pleasure to explore. *Simple Simons* deli makes a great lamb sandwich. It is important to have a big appetite or share half with a friend because it is a whopper!

**Kathy Shaner's seminar- "See the tree in the tree"**

1) She shared many thoughts on trees from the display, vendors and participants in her workshop.

2) *Best one-liner* I heard at the Convention was from Kathy Shaner when she needed some tools. A gentleman set his bonsai tools on the table for her use. She made a quick glance at them and responded "*Just like a good man, ---clean, sharp and available*". Lesson I took from this is if you ever set your tools down for the use by a Master you do not want it said they were "rusty, dull and easily disposed of".

3) *That Darn Pot-* Round, square, rectangle, tall, short, ceramic, glazed, color, hot fired...ahhh! Not to worry when you are at the point to pot your tree into the perfect display bonsai pot, there is available, a multitude of

people resources are available at the convention that will gladly share their knowledge and suggestions. They may not all agree, but it is wise to ask. You must be aware that as time goes on, the tree may evolve to a point where there is no longer the perfect pot. That is OK because THEN you have the fun of the search again. Remember to ask. Best to get it as close to right type of pot the first time.

4) *Windswept Tree* -Tree with the look of naturally grown and swept by the wind. It should be more open on the windward side with growth going in direction of the wind. Jin and Shari on that side.

5) *Tree with two trunks.* Need both to have similar color. A dark trunk which is next to a lighter trunk looks out of balance. A darker trunk evokes an older trunk. Darken up the lighter trunk with tiny knife pricks to distress it.

6) A tree distressed and tilted to the side does not need as much taper as a formal upright.

7) Pines need heavier wire because they are such strong growers. If they are in-ground, prune in October or November and, then again, prune in January.

8) Alkaline water source- Maybe apply some sulfur crystals occasionally to top of soil to bring down the soil pH.

9) Bougainvillea tree- did not see an informal cascade in that tree.

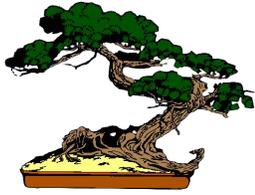
**Convention Display.-** Requires a couple years advance planning, tree preparation and selection of trees that will all compliment the theme.

Display trees and accents should emphasize the season. For Fall displays there should be more fall color, some grasses of color and going dormant would have been a benefit? Fewer conifers?

White Shari should not go all the way down to the soil level. Leave some bark at the bottom to help prevent rot. Darken the Shari at the bottom transitioning up to lighter.

Thank you ALL for the sponsorship to the Convention!

Joe DuPont



## BONSAI PAVILIONS AT THE SAN DIEGO ZOO SAFARI PARK

Many of our Pavilion volunteers were involved in the GSBF Convention but we still had a great turnout on the 5th and 19th of November. Good weather prevailed and good work was accomplished by all. Thanks for November help from: Neil Auwarter, Martha Choy, Cathy & Mark Edgar, Maria & Tina Flores, **Joyce Goldman**, John Jackson, Jim Kirchmer, **Bob Knox**, Kris Landwehre, **Marty & Ruth Mann**, Charlie Mosse, Patrick O'Brien, Jon & Terri Petrescu, **Sally Prestele**, Harlan & Mary Ann Price, **'lyn Stevenson**, Charlie Tamm, **Cary & Curator Steve Valentine**, **Chelle & Forrest Vess**, Dennis Wagner, and **Dave Woodall**.



**Forrest and Michelle Vess at the Pavilion**

With the larger area in our new Pavilion, we have added to the collection with bonsai donations from members and friends. Recently, Terri & Jon Petrescu donated a large flowering bougainvillea which will be styled and potted later but is currently in our back work area. **Bob Knox** donated a twisted trunk pomegranate bonsai in a sculptured bonsai pot this past spring and it is now catalogued as #64 in the collection and is on display. The California Juniper that Ted Schwartz had donated earlier from his collection was originally designed by our founding president, Mas Takanashi, and Ted wanted the records to acknowledge that also.

Refreshment donations in November were truly appreciated also. Having a private work area allows us to take polite breaks and eat without being in view of Safari visitors. Thanks especially to Kris Landwehre,

Maria & Tina Flores, Mary Ann Price, Charlie Mosse, **Cary Valentine**, **Joyce Goldman**, Cathy Edgar, and **'lyn Stevenson** for their "gourmet catering".



At the end of November, I calculated the volunteer hours that have been donated to the Pavilions at the Wild Animal-Safari Park since January, 2011. This figure includes all the work that was necessary for the May 1st Opening of the New Pavilion as well as all the preparation that was done in the former area. Over 50 VOLUNTEERS from San Diego Bonsai Club and San Pu Kai have donated over 4600 HOURS! THOSE ARE MOST IMPRESSIVE NUMBERS! MANY THANKS TO ALL!

We will need to celebrate at our December work sessions.

'lyn Stevenson — 858-486-4805  
SDBC-WAP Liaison, New Pavilion Project Manager

### BUS TRIP TO THE SEQUOIAS June 2012

This is great deal for a bus excursion to the heart of the Sequoias, stay in the Sequoias, and get not only the bus ride included with the cost of the trip, but also the lodging and most of the meals! See Maria Barbosa if you are interested.

**SIGN UP SHEET for the  
HOLIDAY PARTY on JANUARY  
10 will be at the next meeting.  
Please see Maria to reserve your  
spot!!!**



# BONSAI IDEAS

DECEMBER, #96

## THE RUNNING CLOCK – ANOTHER YEAR OF BONSAI

Preserving the health of trees requires proper watering procedures during the dormant period. Deciduous trees have transformed from the beautiful fall colors, to barren silhouettes. Evergreen trees appear dull, inactive and unchanging. Warm weather does occur at this time of year. Potted trees must be watered regularly, but cautiously, even if brief winter rains happen. Coolness brings slow growth and during dormancy, trees require only a dampening of the root zone since transpiration of moisture is essentially non-existent. Keep the foliage misted.

Watch out for the prevailing and drying winds. The porosity of a good bonsai soil allows moisture to quickly escape a shallow pot. If you count on the regularity of an automatic timed watering system, adjust the timing cycle for winter requirements. November ends new plant growth activity unless high temperatures continue. Let the trees rest. Reduce watering time but don't allow anything to become dry.

Prepare a spring inventory of potting soil, screening materials, and aggregates such as perlite, pumice, sand, and lava rock, D. G. etc. Store a supply of humus such as fir bark, redwood bark, or peat moss to amend the basic soil mix.

This is a good time of year to concentrate on clean up. Be sure to remove all leaf droppings and flower buds left over from summer. Removal of trash from your bonsai area is always an important practice. If old leaves hang on, take them off.

Continue to protect hibernating trees from excessive moisture (I almost said *RAIN*) and prevailing winds. As the temperatures get cooler the gets drier. Many a fine bonsai is lost due to neglect during the winter months. While freezing is not usually a concern to most of you in

Northern or Southern California many of you may remember the damaging frost we experienced a few years ago from pockets of cold air during lower temperature periods. Be prepared to protect tender stock at all time. Continue to monitor your bonsai for watering requirements. Continue to inspect your bonsai for infestations of mites and scale.

Since much of your potting activity will not begin until signs of spring are evident, now is the time to plan ahead. Prepare your supplies of potting soil mix, potting screens, aggregates (i.e.-pumice, sand, D.G., "etc.") and some form of humus (i.e.-fir bark, redwood bark, peat, etc.).

If your plants are growing (in spite of your efforts to prevent this activity) due to unseasonably warm weather you must not neglect pinching the new growth tips to retain your compactness, shape and overall design.

A final word to remember---

May your days be filled to overflow  
With all that makes you happiest

**By Marty Mann**

This article has been extracted from a recently published book called **'Bonsai Ideas'© By Marty Mann**. Material is not to be copied without publisher or author's permission.  
December 2011

**HAIKU POEM**  
***The last leaf is gone***  
***With winds of beautiful Fall***  
***Silhouettes of Time***

**Marty Mann** **December 2011**



Dave Woodard at the November meeting.

### Officers

President – Cary Sullivan-Valentine  
760-445-2548 [Caryme2@yahoo.com](mailto:Caryme2@yahoo.com)

Vice-President – Bob Knox  
760-727-7317 [robertk44@cox.net](mailto:robertk44@cox.net)

Secretary – Sandra Knowles  
760-753-9493 [b.knowles@sbcglobal.net](mailto:b.knowles@sbcglobal.net)

Treasurer/Membership – Maria Barbosa  
619-606-6523 [bonsaigarden@earthlink.net](mailto:bonsaigarden@earthlink.net)



## SOME CANDIDS FROM THE NOVEMBER 2011 MEETING





## San Pu Kai

c/o Maria Barbosa, Membership  
2727 De Anza Road, #J-26  
San Diego, CA 92109

### Calendar of Events

Tuesday, December 13, 2011	7 pm - 9 pm	<b>TED MATSON (bring a tree for Ted to critique...)</b> Regular meeting, Brenge Terrace Senior Center, 1400 Vale Terrace, Vista, CA
Saturday, December 17, 2011	9 am - Noon	San Diego Zoo Safari Park Bonsai Pavilion <i>Workday</i>
Saturday, January 7, 2012	9 am - Noon	San Diego Zoo Safari Park Bonsai Pavilion <i>Workday</i>
Tuesday, January 10, 2012	6:30 pm (bring a wrapped gift for the gift exchange)	<b>HOLIDAY Dinner &amp; Raffle</b> Chin's San Marcos Restaurant 1650 Descansco Avenue San Marcos, CA
Saturday, January 21, 2012	9 am - Noon	San Diego Zoo Safari Park Bonsai Pavilion <i>Workday</i>
Saturday, February 4, 2012	9 am - Noon	San Diego Zoo Safari Park Bonsai Pavilion <i>Workday</i>