



San Pu Kai Record

Monthly Newsletter of the San Pu Kai Bonsai Club

August 2013



President's Message

Ok, who wants to go to Japan now? Thanks you so much Martha for the wonderful and informative power point presentation. Martha's talk on her internship in Japan was very interesting, the day and life of an intern. What a trooper, a woman (I think the first at this nursery) and holding her own weight with the guys. I know I learned a lot from her talk. Her photos were beyond wonderful, the trees, this is what we do it all for, the trees. Now we see why it is so important to get the right tree first, not just a tree to have one. To use the right tools, copper wire, proper tying trees in to the pot, etc.

Thank you Bob for the treat last month, great as always.

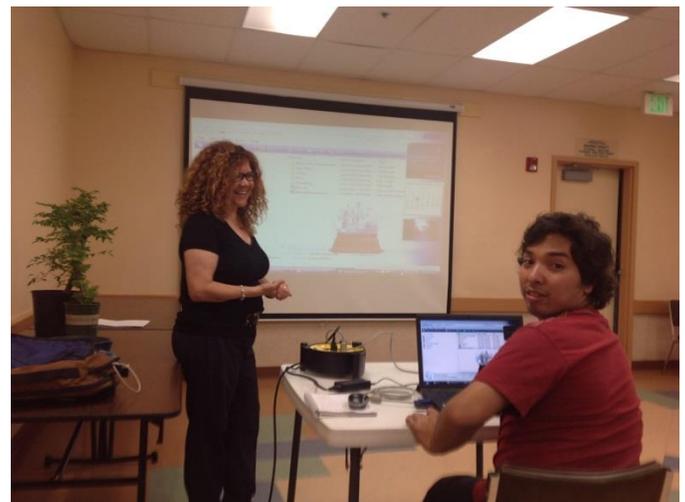
Power of One: Once again san Pu Kai will be providing a full registration to **GSBF Convention** This year's convention- **Bonsai Artist Studio "Outside the Box"**, will be held October 31 through November 3 in Burbank. One lucky club member will get **full free registration**, but will have to pay hotel, some food, and any and all workshops, critiques, seminars, or outings. Please, call me, email me, and let me know, so the board can make the decision ASAP. (If by chance the winner has already paid for the convention, we will just reimburse them). There are some outings that are already full, like the Juniper dig with Harry and David. I encourage everyone to try to go to this, even if it is just for a day. The best day might be

Saturday, pay for a day registration, see what happens at a convention, and enjoy the exhibits, the many vendors. Meet other happy bonsai people. More information can be found on GSBF website. I also will have a complete registration any one can look at.

Program for August: Please bring in your own tree to work on, ask questions about them, and get some help if you need it. We always need extra time to work on our trees. We will have a little surprise, something we learned from Martha's internship, so I wanted to share it with the club. Treats will be provided by **Tom Ohgi**.

Cary Sullivan-Valentine, President
caryme2@yahoo.com

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



Martha Choy presentation

CHELSEA FLOWER SHOW Celebrates 100 years,
April 2013

By Maria Barbosa

This last April 2013 I was in London when the annual Chelsea Flower Show presented over 500 exhibitors (including Bonsai), 15 show gardens, 19 smaller gardens and 150 exhibits. The annual show has taken place almost every year since 1913 when the Great Spring Show took place at the Royal Hospital, Chelsea, London.

The show is well attended and draws TV and news crews from all over the world. But, unless you are an attendee you might not know that Bonsai is well represented at this prestigious event. For Bonsai Enthusiasts, one of the real highlights of the Chelsea Flower Show is seeing some of the finest bonsai in the UK, groomed and displayed to perfection.

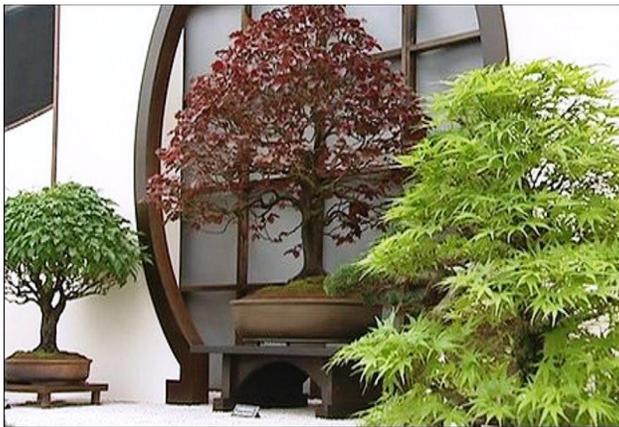


Mendip Studio Exhibit: Azalea

The Mendip Bonsai Studio celebrated the 100 year anniversary of the show by including one of the oldest bonsai in England, a *Juniperus chinensis* (Chinese Juniper). This tree was last shown at Chelsea in the 1970s.



200 year old Chinese Juniper last shown at Chelsea in 70's



Derbyshire Bonsai Club Display, RHS Chelsea Flower Show 2013

Most of the bonsai exhibits were in the huge tented pavilion and were represented by the Federation of British Bonsai Societies (FOBBS), the Derbyshire Bonsai Club and the Mendip Bonsai Studio. Both the FOBBS and Mendip Bonsai Studio were awarded Gold Medals (the highest exhibit awards).



Japanese White Pine at Mendip Studio Exhibit

Their display also included a *Buddleja Loricata*, commonly known as mountain sagewood. John Trott designed the circular display for this year's show and displays both tree and accessory plants to full advantage. I believe this year's Gold Medal brings John's tally of RHS GOLD medals to an astounding fifty-five in total.

The FOBBS regimented display may not be as artistic as John's but it seems to be the best way to display a larger number of trees. FOBBS makes the framework and picks up most of the cost of putting the display up so it is good that they can use the same backdrops and just adjust it to the size that the RHS Chelsea Show organizers gives them in the Pavilion. Nearly all the trees on display were started from seed or cuttings, so therefore the age was known for each one. And as we in SPK know that is one of the many questions that we get every year at our show.



Federation of British Bonsai Society's Bonsai Exhibit at the RHS Chelsea Flower Show, April 2013
Gold Medal Winner

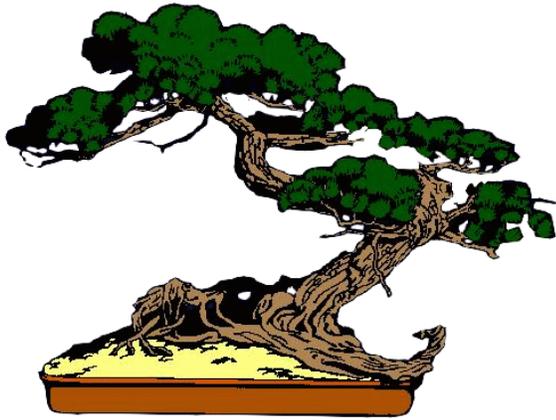


Nikki Chapman of the BBC televised the FOBBS bonsai display and Spoke with FOBBS president about "how to make a bonsai" for her BBC audience.



Viking Cruises sponsored an outdoor "bonsai" display

Speaking with several of the bonsai club participants it was sobering to hear that continued bonsai exhibits, as well as the Chelsea show itself, might cease to exist if more young people do not take up careers in horticulture since, in Britain, it is considered an unskilled profession. There was comment that the whole horticulture industry, which includes the bonsai art, does a "rotten" job of public relations and the horticulture industry is undervalued by the British government – and by young people in particular. Mendip Bonsai Studios is doing its part in public relations for the Bonsai Art by offering a very impressive breath of Bonsai workshops and even apprenticeships.



SDBC BONSAI PAVILION AT THE SAFARI PARK

Summertime is the season for vacationing but our Pavilion volunteers have kept their enthusiastic commitments to the bonsai activities at the Safari Park quite seriously and we can all be thankful for that! The bonsai and the garden are continuing to be well groomed while several work projects continue. We had great participation in July from: Neil Auwarter, Armand Bryant, Alan Burrows, Cathy & Mark Edgar, Allan Edwin, Barb French-Lee, Curator John Jackson, Jaya Kaelberer, Jim & Sue Kirchmer, Lin Koelmel, **Marty & Ruth Mann**, Charlie Mosse, John & Meg Polo, **Sally Prestele**, Harlan & Mary Ann Price, Dan Sola, 'lyn Stevenson, Charlie Tamm, Mark Walters, Dennis Wagner, and **Dave Woodall**.

We are delighted that newcomers Armand, Jaya, and Meg & John Polo joined in the fun Saturdays too. We truly appreciate the expertise of guest pruner, Brian Jackson, who came with his brother, Curator John, to assist this month. Also, SDBC members, Fred Miyahara and Avram Dalton, came to assist with some expert Japanese Garden advice for another future project within our garden space.

Since Safari Park is continuing work on the Tiger Trail installations, we are still temporarily without the flowing waters in our ponds and stream but this opportunity allowed the volunteers to finish cementing all the rocks in the pools to the water

levels — a huge job that involved mixing over 1700 pounds of mortar mix and utilizing hundreds of hours of volunteer labor! Congratulations and thanks to these special volunteers! Thanks always to the volunteers who generously supply the delicious energy filled goodies which everyone enjoys in the work area. . . a special table is always there laden with waters, lemonade, breads, donuts, scones, fruit, nuts, cookies, etc. Thanks this month to Curator John, Cathy, Dennis, Mary Ann, and 'lyn.

Pruning, weeding, and cutting large brush which was interfering with the water sprinklers are ongoing garden projects along with fertilizing and trimming the 50 bonsai currently on display. There are also almost another 50 bonsai in the work area that are being developed and trained for future display. All the bonsai have now been newly photographed for inventory and each bonsai now has an embossed numbered copper disk attached to the tree to help in the identification in the inventory. Special thanks to Mark Edgar for assembling 2 large spiral Inventory Ledger Books for all the special information on the collection including photos, tree identification, history, potting, and special care. This information will be updated regularly by the volunteers and will be helpful for present and future work on all the bonsai. This was/is a huge undertaking involving many hours of research and it will continue to enhance the information and education of the collection for all the volunteers.

Work sessions continue on the first and third Saturdays of each month but often volunteers are coming on the other Saturdays and weekdays too. Check with Curator John Jackson if you are available to help at other times. Sometimes, Dennis works on problem water lines with the Safari Park Staff too. We have also been checking on the wild mule deer who have been uninvited visitors to the Pavilion.

Be sure to visit the Bonsai Pavilion at Safari Park with your summer guests and make it a special summertime event!

'lyn Stevenson
SDBC-Safari Park Liaison
858-486-4805



SUMMERTIME, AND THE LIVING IS EASY

-- so goes the song. August brings some respite from the busy spring chores. It is still a period of vigorous growth and greater responsibility. August brings higher temperatures that slows down new growth and reduces pruning requirements. Trimming, repotting and styling is still in order. Continue to pinch the trees that require it, daily.

Watering is an important summer chore. Warm summer breezes encourage high levels of moisture expiration through healthy leaf surfaces. For balanced plant health regular, increased watering schedules must consistently renew this moisture. Avoid wetting the leaves during the warm days- for two good reasons:

- Daytime water that adheres to leaves can literally cook them and cause severe leaf burn. If overhead watering is unavoidable, do so early in the morning to give time for surface evaporation.
- Excessive moisture in the crotch of leaf clusters or on their undersides creates environments that are ideal for the formation of fungus and the related health threatening damages.

Be reminded that summer vacationing puts an additional burden on your 'bonsai sitters'. A suggestion would be to let them water your trees for you for a few days before you leave to be sure that they are following your instructions. Trees requiring special care should be grouped together to simplify attention. Don't trust your automatic watering system without the back up of someone who can check from time to time to audit its functions.

With the arrival of summer most of the formal bonsai shows have passed and the bonsaiist has the pleasure of displaying their own trees. The objective of a good hobbyist is pride in the finished tree. This is achieved by maintaining good health, continuing a selective feeding routine and paying attention to weather conditions that set the guidelines for proper watering

requirements. Summer maintenance prepares the trees for fall and winter. Plan ahead.

Start with the constant surveillance of fast summer growth. Warm days and cool nights encourage the development of new tip growth, long internodes and lush foliage. Reducing the branch extensions encourages shorter internodes, tighter evergreen formations and develops desirable twiggyness on deciduous trees.

A regular program of feeding during the summer months is important. Reduction of the nitrogen content of the fertilizer mix inhibits excessive green growth and allows the formation of chemical changes that produces the best fall colors. The basic mix of cottonseed meal (70%) and bone meal (30 %) can be altered to increase the bone meal, thereby providing more potassium and phosphorus to harden the woody growth. It also induces the development of fruit and flower buds for next year. Do not feed plants that appear to be suffering from summer stress due to oppressive heat or moisture deprivation.

It's 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 your 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.

Unfortunately, the restful summer period of bonsai enjoyment is also the most active period of pest proliferation. *Bugs* love the combination of warmth and moisture. They grow and attack your trees with relish. Keep up with regular spraying of Malathion, Isotex, Sevin, Orthorix Dormant Spray (Lime Sulfur), etc.

No transplanting during the summer months. However certain materials such as Pomegranates, Ficus, Buttonwood, Cotoneaster, Pyracantha and most Bamboo can be repotted or transplanted at this time. Trees that were defoliated late in June are vulnerable to damage during the heat of the summer. Keep these trees in partial shade until they start growing again.

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.
August 2013



San Pu Kai

c/o Maria Barbosa, Membership

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San Diego, CA 92109

Calendar of Events

<i>Tuesday, August 13, 2013</i>	<i>7 pm – 9 pm</i>	<i>Regular Meeting: Bring your own tree: Brenge Terrace Senior Center 1400 Vale Terrace, Vista CA</i>
<i>Saturday, August 3, 2013</i>	<i>9 am - Noon</i>	<i>San Diego Zoo Safari Park Bonsai Pavilion Workdays</i>
<i>Saturday, August 17, 2013</i>	<i>9 am - Noon</i>	<i>San Diego Zoo Safari Park Bonsai Pavilion Workdays</i>
<i>Tuesday, September 10, 2013</i>	<i>7 pm – 9 pm</i>	<i>Regular Meeting: Silent auction / fundraiser: Brenge Terrace Senior Center 1400 Vale Terrace, Vista CA</i>
<i>Saturday, September 7, 2013</i>	<i>9 am - Noon</i>	<i>San Diego Zoo Safari Park Bonsai Pavilion Workdays</i>