



# San Pu Kai Record

Monthly Newsletter of the San Pu Kai Bonsai Club

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September 2013

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## President's Message

We had a really great meeting last month. I love seeing all the trees everyone brings in, such a verity. Everyone was working on their trees, helping each other out. Sometimes our lives are so busy; this is the only way to get some work done on our trees. **Tom**, thanks you so much for the wonderful treats, they always make for a nice evening break.

### Sunset Ranch/Tamarisk Dig:

Maria Barbosa will have the sign up sheet for our trip to the Sunset Ranch/Tamarisk dig retreat and ***your payment of \$75 is due at this meeting.***

We still have lots of room for members. The ranch supplies everything for us, so we just need to bring the food and drinks ...and what you personally will need for the weekend.

**San Pu Kai will provide the meals and the wine and beer.**

If your kids are coming, you just need to bring what they would like to eat. We will have hot dogs and hamburgers. Remember we will be there from 3:00 pm on Friday Oct.4 to 3:00 pm on Sunday Oct.6<sup>th</sup>. Check their website [www.sunsetranchoasis.com](http://www.sunsetranchoasis.com) to see the location and other information. I will be sending a waiver for everyone to sign and a list of item you will need to bring on the dig.

Remember, there is a swimming pool, bass fishing; the house is equipped with everything we may need or want. Movie night for the kids. Also Martha Choy just back from Japan and her family will be

joining us. So Martha will be giving us a talk and some tips she has learned while in Japan. If we do not get 20 members going, I will open it up to some of the members from the San Diego Bonsai Club that may want to go. Remember, you can take home as many tamarisks as your car/truck will hold. This is a pretty good deal, bonsai friendship at its best.

## Program for September:

This month's meeting is ***our annual \$20.00 buy in raffle.*** For the new members, this is how it works: \$20.00 gets you into raffle game! It is so much fun and you get to go home with so many different bonsai goodies. ***Club members will be bringing in items to donate to this raffle,*** but if you a new member and do not have anything to donate to the raffle, bring yourself...and your \$20. This is your chance to get some nice bonsai related items. At this raffle you just never know what will be there. It is kind of a pot luck of bonsai items that is so much fun making you feel like a kid in a bonsai candy store or Christmas has come early. This is all for \$20.00 per person! And you will go home with several items.

***Plus this year there is a surprise from the board members for every member who comes to the meeting.***

Treats this month will be provided by ***Jeff:***

Cary Sullivan-Valentine, President

[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>

**San Pu Kai WEBPAGE is** <http://www.sanpukai.org/>

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## SEASONAL SUGGESTIONS

Growth patterns of most trees begin to slow down at this time. They no longer show signs of vigor or the blush of summer greenery. They will not show autumn colors yet since the chemical changes required do not begin to materialize until late in September. The "**Autumnal Equinox**" approaches -- the day of equal nights and days that leads us into the fall season, areas in our yard, previously exposed to full sun, have more shade and conversely trees get less light than they are accustomed to having in order to grow.

Notice tree locations. Move deciduous trees into cooler areas if you have had recent periods of regrowth. In spite of periods of cool weather, trees can respond to the warmth of the late summer and develop new foliage.

Fall is generally the end of the luxurious growth of summer and the last spurt of activity before settling down for winter dormancy. Bonsai will no longer grow very much so the need for extensive pruning should be minimal. Since recent growth may have added girth to branches and trunks, check all wired branches to see if they are set and, if they are, remove the wires.

Assuming you have properly reduced the nitrogen feeding during the past few months the fall colors on deciduous trees will show on liquid ambers, maples, ginkgoes, hornbeams and Zelkovas. Cool nights and the effect of equal days and nights add to this phenomenon. Winter growth generally goes into the lignification of woody branches and trunks.

Fall is an excellent time to gather tree seeds as they ripen. Seeds from oak tree acorns, pine tree cones and many varieties of maples are in profusion--an excellent source for stratification by over wintering in your refrigerator. Plant them in early spring for new nursery seedlings and future training stock.

Our climate allows plenty of time for new growth to develop and harden before winter cool days encourage dormancy. Check the growth of new candles on pines. There is still time for second candle removal. Attentive cut back and pinching minimizes unattractive long

internodes and loss of compactness. The more you pinch and cut the more branch diversification occurs and new buds form for spring. This constant attention from early fall, throughout the dormant winter season, will intensify your design objectives.

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

As fall approaches, deciduous trees, in nature and in bonsai, turn gold, orange and crimson. We marvel at the beauty of these changes and accept this metamorphosis as a fact of life. It is generally assumed that these changes are just a byproduct of dying leaves due to the effects of weather and light.

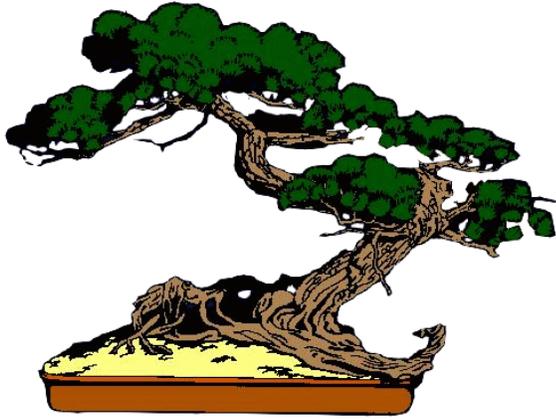
Leaves get their green color during spring and summer from chlorophyll, the pigment that captures sunlight. But leaves also contain other pigments whose colors are masked during the growing season. In fall, the absence of chlorophyll allows these color pigments to break out, draw into the leaf tissues and begin to show.

The chemical activity within the leaf is very active. As chlorophyll previously used primarily for photosynthesis fades, nutrients like nitrogen and phosphorus are absorbed into the tissue of the tree, stored and used in spring for growth and reproduction. Anthocyanin, the pigment that creates the red and orange colors, become more dominant and appear to protect leaves by blocking some of the sunlight.

As leaves become more colorful, an interesting phenomenon occurs. Aphids and other insects avoid trees with bright fall color and tend to lay their eggs in less colorful trees. When the eggs hatch next spring, the larvae feed on the tree and are very destructive. Some studies suggest that trees with strong fall color tend to suffer less damage from insects in spring

### 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.



## **SDBC BONSAI PAVILION AT THE SAFARI PARK**

August weather and summer vacations have not deterred our volunteers at the Pavilion. They continue to take their responsibilities most willingly. In turn, the SDBC bonsai collection and Pavilion garden respond beautifully. Thanks to August volunteers: Neil Auwarter, Armand Bryant, **Ken Bros**, Alan Burrows, Cathy & Mark Edgar, newcomer **Jeff Gerringer** from San Pu Kai, Curator John Jackson, Jim Kirchmer, Lin Koelmel, Pat O'Brien, Sally Prestele, Dan Sola, 'lyn Stevenson, Dennis Wagner and Mark Walters for their continued participation!

Thanks also for delicious refreshments this past month to Cathy Edgar, John Jackson, Dan Sola, 'lyn Stevenson, and some anonymous donors. We are looking forward to the Prices returning soon since Mary Ann has been sidelined by surgery this summer and is recuperating at home now . . .we all wish her well.

The family of former President, Dave Rochester, recently had an estate sale of much of his bonsai collection and several members and friends purchased one of his trees specifically for the Bonsai Pavilion collection at Safari Park. It is a very old Chinese Elm which Dave trained for many years. It is now being groomed and will be ready for exhibit very soon. It is a most welcome addition to our inventory; many thanks to the generous donors! Other friends are continuing to donate funds for the inclusion of Dave's name on the

donor board at the entrance to the Pavilion. The Honor Board is located at the front entrance of the Pavilion to the side of the Mas Takanashi gate. Contact Treasurers: Patrick O'Brien and Allan Edwin for more information.

September is the traditional "back to school time" and in the case of our SDBC, it is also Fall Show Time! The volunteers at the Pavilion discussed having a tree or two from the Pavilion exhibited at the show and everyone agreed it would be a worthy presentation to members and guests who do not frequent the Safari Park. The volunteers also agreed to groom and transport the bonsai to and from the Balboa exhibit. Thanks to Dennis and John especially for this leadership.

Our usual first and third Saturday scheduled work sessions continue at the Pavilion even when the SDBC has other events, bus trips, etc. Contact Curator John Jackson or 'lyn Stevenson if you plan to come on other days or if you are joining the Pavilion Volunteers group. There is a Park procedure that needs to be followed for entrance, keys, etc. Participation is friendly, worthy, fun, and educational. The Zoo/Safari Park asks that you donate at least 60 hours per year to be eligible for special perks and parties that they sponsor.

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



*Members share ideas*



*John Voss has some advice*



*Beautiful trees*



*Discussing options*



*A custom made box for this pine*



## ***San Pu Kai***

***c/o Maria Barbosa, Membership***

2727 De Anza Road, #J-26

San Diego, CA 92109

### ***Calendar of Events***

<b><i>Tuesday, September 10, 2013</i></b>	<b><i>7 pm – 9 pm</i></b>	<b><i>Regular Meeting: Bonsai raffle / fundraiser! Brenge Terrace Senior Center 1400 Vale Terrace, Vista CA</i></b>
<b><i>Saturday, September 7, 2013</i></b>	<b><i>9 am - Noon</i></b>	<b><i>San Diego Zoo Safari Park Bonsai Pavilion Workdays</i></b>
<b><i>Saturday, September 21, 2013</i></b>	<b><i>9 am - Noon</i></b>	<b><i>San Diego Zoo Safari Park Bonsai Pavilion Workdays</i></b>
<b><i>Friday October 4 – Sunday October 6 , 2013</i></b>	<b><i>All day</i></b>	<b><i>Retreat / Tamarisk collecting trip Sunset Ranch, La Quinta, CA</i></b>
<b><i>Tuesday October 8, 2013</i></b>	<b><i>7 pm – 9 pm</i></b>	<b><i>Regular Meeting: Program to be announced Brenge Terrace Senior Center 1400 Vale Terrace, Vista CA</i></b>