



# San Pu Kai Record



Monthly Newsletter of the San Pu Kai Bonsai Club

March 2016



## President's Message

It was so nice to see more than half of our club members take part in the Bonsai-a-thon at the Huntington gardens. It was a great turn out. Many were lucky to get a stone from Harry. His trees were sold or auctioned off.

If you have not paid your 2016 dues, please bring them to the meeting or you can mail them to me:

Cary Sullivan-Valentine  
1010 Phillips Street  
Vista, VA 92083

\$20.00 per person or 25.00 for 2 family members.

As always if there is something you want to learn, do, see, please let me know. I am trying to expose us to different teachers, different material etc.

See you at the meeting,

**Cary Sullivan-Valentine**

*President*  
*caryme2@yahoo.com*

**Note:** we will be starting all our meetings at 6 pm, more time to work. If you can't make it, get there when you can, the first hour will be dedicated to working on and helping anyone with their trees.

This month we will be repotting some cypress tress. These will be sold at our plant sell in May. John will be donating his soil again, many thanks to John for helping and supporting our club in so many ways. So please bring your tools, the tress need no work, or clean up, just repotting. We were able to also get some nice little elms, 2 different sizes. They are ready to sell. They are in nice pots. This year we did not get plastic pots, but got ceramic pots, so the trees will look nicer. Our guest at the flower fields have been asking for different types of trees, so this is a win win, we have junipers left over from last year. They may need a little trimming, so I'll bring them also. We picked up a few tools to sell also.

If you have any trees that need help or you want to work on them, please feel free to bring them in, we will have time to work on them also.

I will have sign up sheet for our May show, can you believe it's right around the corner. The flower fields opened March 1st. We need to start getting our trees ready, clean the pots, get your stands ready (or let's us know if you need one). This is also the perfect time to get you accent plant ready so it will look established.

Treats will be provided by Chris and Darryl. Thank you so much in advance.

## Bonsai-a-thon

For a great write up and more pictures please visit:  
<http://goo.gl/XtSiOs> (case sensitive)



<https://www.facebook.com/SanPuKai>  
<http://www.sanpukai.org>

# SEASONAL SUGGESTIONS

Plan your repotting activity. Now is the time, before the trees awaken. Take this opportunity to change from training pots or oversized pots to appropriate display pots more suitable to the finished bonsai. Determine the size, shape, color and style to complement your tree. If you see an appropriate pot at a nursery or bazaar, buy it when you see it.

A bonsai, to be ready for repotting, should be somewhat dry. This facilitates removal from a tight pot. Unwind twisted roots that have circled the outer rim and free them of hardened or compacted soil.

Usually, with deciduous or conifers, it's best to cut about 1/3 of the root ball away as the roots are freed. Trim to reduce the ball to fit into its new pot. Keep fine roots sprayed. Don't allow them to dry. Cut away heavy old roots.

When repotting, it's a good time to reposition the tree if it is required. Change the height, adjust the trunk angle, add more potting soil around the root ball, and work it in with your chopstick to fill in as many air pockets as possible. Remember to slope your surface slightly from the trunk to the lip of the pot. Leave an indentation along the rim of the pot to prevent water run-off. A good soaking removes destructive air pockets.

Repotted material may be placed in semi-shade for a week or so. Don't water heavily. Introduce the tree back to full light and warmth to encourage root and bud growth to begin.

Don't feed for 4 to 5 weeks. March can be a capricious month--ranging from cool to hot. Don't encourage too much quick growth since this creates unsightly long internodes and large leaves. Pay particular attention to fruiting and flowering trees. If they have been too active in directing their energy into flowers and buds then some pinching back can help them pay attention to leaves and woody branching.

Repotting activity should be regulated. Know when and what has been done to each tree. Plan your activity around a review of this generalized schedule of repotting as follows: Young trees, less than 5 years

old--repot every 1-2-3 years, depending upon growth and needs. Be sure you have strong root development before you repot young trees. Somewhat older trees, 5 to 20 years old--repot every 2-3-4 years. Check the root ball for good health. Very old trees, 20 or more years --repot every 4-5-6 years, depending upon the condition of the tree.

Review specie habits. Some like to be crowded and may not need to be repotted. Fertilization programs can resume. Don't feed newly potted material too soon. Fast growth causes long internodes and large leaves. Keep nitrogen content low for the first month or so as the plant comes out of dormancy.

If the new growth is too active, keep it pinched. Whenever a new set of leaves appears, pinch back on the center set. If your objective is to improve twiggyiness on elms, zelkovas, maples, etc. cut new internodes to two sets of leaves. Pinch new evergreen growth to encourage density. Don't pinch fruiting or flowering trees such as bougainvilleas, pomegranates, ume, crabapples, quince or azaleas. Early spring pinching removes the forming flower and fruit buds.

Insects come back to life with the arrival of steady warmth. Start with Malathion to attack most predators but don't overlook Seven or Isotox if signs of chewing damage show on your leaves. Spray well into the interior of the tree and onto the undersides of the leaves. Sucking insects such as scale, aphids, white flies, mealy bugs and mites require a systemic action in the pesticide you use. Watch for fungus. Use Benomyl to kill mildew. Spray on warm, dry days. Mid-morning is best to allow the spray material to dry onto the plant surfaces. Avoid watering until the sprays can be effective.

**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.*



## **Bonsai Pavilion at the Safari Park**

An energetic group of February volunteers came out for Pavilion chores even though several members had attended the Shohin Convention in Santa Nella on one of our work day weekends. Many thanks always to Neil Auwarter, Peter Chong, Maria & Tina Flores, Bob & Janice Hale, John Jackson, Jaya Kaelberer, Jim Kirchmer, Daniel Luczak, Charlie Mosse, Janet & Ron Palmer, Mariah Paterson, Marcella Perez, Sally Prestele, Mike Shelly, 'lyn Stevenson, John Voss, Dennis Wagner, Mark Walters, Nancy Wilson-Ramon, and Dave Woodall. At our February 20th session, we also had a meeting to discuss future construction items and it was most helpful to have several of the SDBC Board members in attendance. Jim Kirchmer has again agreed to pursue grant proposals for funds for cementing the work areas and the visitor walkways. Safari Park contacts are helping us with bids. The SDBC Board recognizes the available money that is in the Pavilion capital fund that may be used also. We are hoping to have projects finished before the SDBC Annual Picnic Auction at the Pavilion at the May 15th, 2016 Celebration. Curator John Jackson will lead the construction project and is also working on the plaque for the Shohin display at the Pavilion. We are still concerned about the likelihood of El Nino heavy rains which could cause more flooding in the Pavilion.

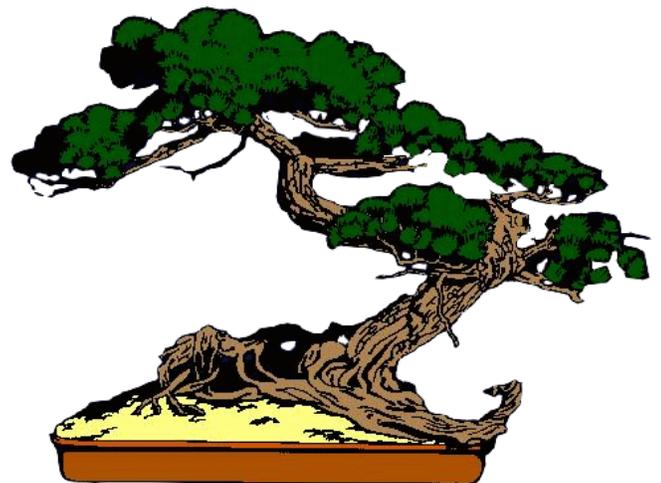
Donations continue to help considerably for our work sessions as well as with the construction projects. Special thanks to Charlie and Sylvia Mosse for their \$500 donation (their name plaque will be installed on the Honor Board at the Pavilion entrance), \$30 from Sally Prestele, and \$25 from a

visitor who was assisted with her bonsai by the Pavilion volunteers. Delicious culinary donations were donated this past month from Nancy, Marcella, Charlie, Curator John, Mariah, Daniel, and 'lyn. We are very grateful for the great cooperation, assistance, generosity, and camaraderie that is present each month at the Bonsai Pavilion. We continue to add new volunteers from SDBC which are so critical for all the necessary jobs which need to be completed each month. Many, Many thanks!

Constant cleanup of the garden area is always in progress. With the waterfall in action, our resident pair of ducks are again lolling in the pond. This month, we needed to prepare more potting soil mixtures for several transplants of bonsai. Most likely, some of the bonsai stock will be added to the silent auction for the May meeting. Soils were sifted, graded, and prepared for 7 bonsai, a liquidamber forest, and 2 shohin. More will be done in the next two months.

If readers of this column have any comments, questions, or want to join the volunteer team at the Safari Park Bonsai Pavilion, please contact me. We appreciate your input.

**'lyn Stevenson**  
*SDBC-Safari Park Liaison*





Steve brought in the threading graft he did last February to show us how it healed.



Darryl brought in some beautiful bonsai pots he has been making.





## San Pu Kai

c/o Membership  
1010 Phillips Street  
Vista, CA 92083

<http://www.sanpukai.org>

<https://www.facebook.com/SanPuKai>

## Calendar of Events

Tuesday, March 8, 2016	6:00 - 9pm	San Pu Kai Bonsai Club Meeting: Brenge Terrace Senior Center 1400 Vale Terrace, Vista CA
Saturday, March 19, 2016	9am - Noon	San Diego Zoo Safari Park Bonsai Pavilion Workday
Saturday, April 2, 2016	9am - Noon	San Diego Zoo Safari Park Bonsai Pavilion Workday
Tuesday, April 12, 2016	6:00 - 9pm	San Pu Kai Bonsai Club Meeting: Brenge Terrace Senior Center 1400 Vale Terrace, Vista CA
May 7 - 8, 2016		San Pu Kai Bonsai Show Carlsbad Flower Fields