



# San Pu Kai Record

Monthly Newsletter of the San Pu Kai Bonsai Club



January 2018



## President's Message

Happy New Year to everyone, I hope everyone will have a great year with lots of bonsai in it.

At the December meeting we had a great workshop and demo by David Nguy, three club members took

advantage of the workshop and worked on their trees and learned a lot. These might be in our show soon. The club was able to make \$150.00 on this event. Thank you David for being so generous with your time for our club.

Once again Sandra had outstanding treats for us all and goodie bags to go home with.

## **We will have our Christmas party again at the Pan Asia Buffet**

**707 Center Drive**

**San Marcos**

**January 9th at 6:30pm.**

Please email or call me with your RSVP, so I can let the restaurant know how many will be coming. \$20 per person, with a wrapped bonsai gift for our very fun gift exchange. I know we all have so much fun doing this.

At the February meeting we will have Ken doing a grafting demo. This is a great skill to learn, so you can get the foliage you want, where you want or need branches. So you don't want to miss it, Ken is a great teacher. We have such wonderful, knowledgeable members to learn from.

In March will be doing a workshop on how to make moss balls, we will be making them for our May plant sale. We will be getting the plants from John. Steve and I will be bringing all the other supplies. If we make enough, we can sell some to club members too.

In April we will be getting ready for our show and club sales table.

We will be having our program planning meeting soon. So please feel free to tell me what you want in programs workshops, demos, etc. for 2018. I really need to hear from you all, it's your club.

## **2017 Membership is due to Chelle Vess**

**Family: \$25.00**

**Single: \$20.00**

If you have joined in the last several months you are good for the 2017 year.

## **Cary Sullivan-Valentine**

*President  
caryme2@yahoo.com*



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<http://www.sanpukai.org>

## **Upcoming Bonsai Events**

### **California Shohin Society Seminar**

Santa Nella, Ca

February 2-4 2018

I will have handouts available.

Signup ASAP, space is limited

### **Winter Silhouettes**

LA Arboretum, Ayres Hall

January 13 & 14 2018

10:00am to 4:30pm

### **Bonsai-A-Thon XXII**

GSBF Collection at The Huntington

San Marino, CA

February 24 & 25 2018

10:00am - 5:00pm

## SEASONAL SUGGESTIONS

January's weather is relatively cool. Many parts of the yard may now be in shade for much of the day. Deciduous trees are showing their best silhouettes. The leaves of summer are gone but dormancy is misleading.

Tree surfaces are evaporating moisture through the bark and twigs--just as they do on a summer day. The winter sky provides a low angle sun that is not hot and drying however routine bonsai watering habits cause over-watering of the trees -- cut back. Avoid winter root rot conditions. Maintain even moisture content in all bonsai material. Move deciduous trees out into brighter bench areas. Evergreens and conifers will also do better with full sun to encourage new bud development. Face the weaker sides of each tree to the best light exposure.

The soil in potted trees has been inactive due to the cool weather of the past few months. Soil bacterium, in its dormant state, has not been providing any nitrogen to growing plants while they rested. Now is the time to plan ahead for your supplies of fertilizers and other supplies. You will be resuming your feeding schedules in late February. January is a good time to do clean up chores. Remove winter trash around the work area, the potted trees and growing stock cans. It's the best way to prevent infestation of insects and fungus disease. Don't throw any of this late winter trash into your compost heap since it may be infectious. It's safer to throw it away.

It's the best time to study plant designs. Spend some serious time with each tree by carefully reviewing the branch structures, the trunk lines, their placement and relationships. In the case of deciduous trees, you can see them clearly, in a winter silhouette, without the disguise of a blanket of leaves that hide their faults and problem areas. Remember the basic bonsai design principals of crossing branches, bars,

angles, elevations, and relationships to the trunk movement. These important design points distinguish your tree's quality from just any other bonsai.

Your study may disclose the need to re-wire and reposition various branches. Do so with great care since the dormant season is a time of brittle branches on most varieties of trees. Look for signs of wire

damage. Scars look unnatural and are difficult to hide. Consider doing some heavy pruning later this month or in February before any signs of new growth appear. This activity gives the tree a head start prior to repotting-- when the roots are drastically disturbed. Plan your repotting schedule in advance.

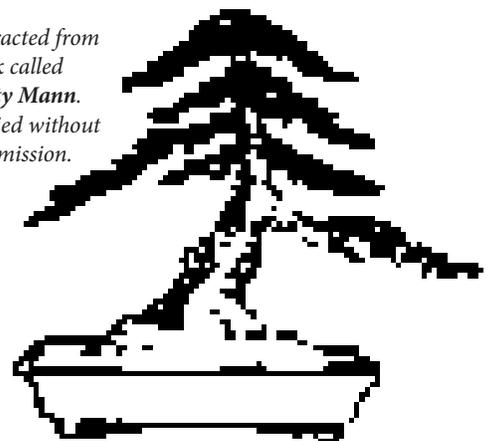
We have had our share of windy, drying low humidity days lately. Be sure you do not overlook the plants need for water-- and a daily misting of the drying trees will keep them happy.

It is still too early to concern yourself about the feeding program each tree will soon require however now is the best time to improve the soil condition. The addition of lime can normalize the acidity of the soil. The additions of gypsum will loosen hard clay soil and improve acidity. Decomposed granite or coarse sand adds to the porosity and improves the potassium qualities in poor soil. Adding organic matter to a potting mix stimulates the soil microorganisms. Putting trace elements and minerals into the soil, along with major nutrients such as cottonseed meal or bone meal, provide a proper base of a food source for continued plant health. Build repotting soil mixtures based upon the type of plant material you work with and the type of trees you will be repotting. Plan ahead.

If deciduous trees start to sprout, bring them gradually into sunlight. If they are kept in a shaded area, new growth tends to be long, leggy and weak. Be careful to protect this new growth from any surprise cold or frost that causes dieback. When warm weather comes, so does the ever-present insect population. Be prepared to spray early with a good commercial insecticide or miticide. Follow manufacturer's directions.

### **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**

Congratulations and thanks to SDBC and particularly to the Pavilion Volunteers for another memorable year at the Safari Park-SDBC Bonsai Pavilion! A special grant from the San Diego County of \$20,000 helped us to install a new walkway throughout the Pavilion and enhanced the work area for the many behind the scenes activities especially repotting, major pruning, soil mixing, etc. Other financial assistance came from the SDBC, sales at the annual May Picnic/Auction, and other private donations. Much of the volunteer labor from our volunteers kept the total cost of these enhancements to a minimum. The ongoing renovation of the front pond and entrance is being implemented by the Safari Horticulture Staff. Of course all this work was/is being done while we are doing the usual bonsai care, garden, and pool maintenance.

In 2017, the Safari Park Horticulture Department announced two new personnel: Horticulture Curator John Horne and Horticulture Supervisor Assistant James. We have an excellent relationship with both of them and the entire department. A new updated contract between the Park(Zoo) and the SDBC was renewed in 2017 which solidifies our working relationship even more.

December was a celebration time for the volunteers . . . Thanks to Jaya for organizing a luncheon pot luck party! Janice provided guitar accompaniment for our signing of carols and this year Jaya also wrote some special bonsai parodies: "You Four Bonsai Masters" and "OH Bonsai Tree" which we all sang more than once! We are often experiencing and discovering so much talent within our bonsai community beyond bonsai that is often donated whenever a need arises whether it's culinary, engineering, irrigation, construction, architecture, or horticulture. GIANT THANKS!

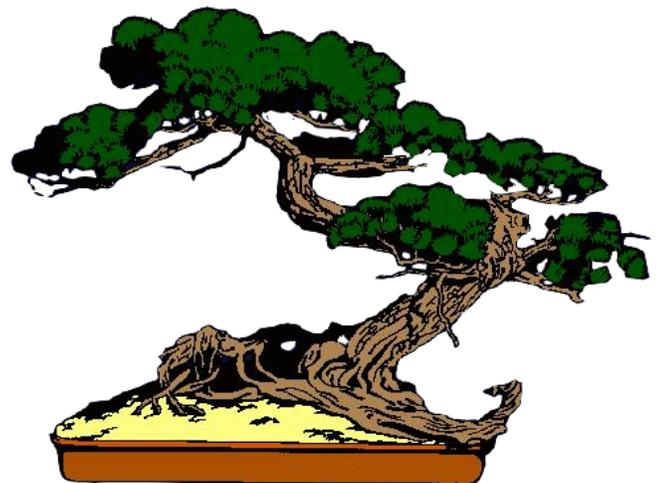
December volunteers included: Neil Auwarter, Susan Baker, Alan Burrows, Donna Carter, Julia Chow, Cathy & Mark Edgar, Barbara French-

Lee, Bob & Janice Hale, Sonya Holmquist, John Jackson, Jaya Kalberer, Jim & Susan Kirchmer, Charlie & Sylvia Mosse, Janet & Ron Palmer, Sally Prestele, Clare & Ron Roberts, Yoichiro Suemori, 'lyn Stevenson, Dennis Wagner, Mark Walters, and Dave Woodall,

The Pavilion has an inventory of bonsai pots but not always the particular one we need. . . Donations are always welcome . . . Also, some important bonsai tools that are lacking in our inventory include: large root cutters, wire pliers (blunt ends), utility type wire brushes (small bristle and larger) for scrubbing pots, larger angle/branch cutters (11" and 12"), soil surface brushes, surgical gloves (Costco brand is good), and 5 gallon buckets. If SDBC friends have any of these items that they would donate, the volunteers would truly appreciate these gifts in 2018. When we have several volunteers working on our scheduled sessions, it would be easier if more tools would be available. . . Volunteers bring their own tools but do not have the needed inventory that our extensive collection demands. . . Please let Curator John or Assistant Dennis or 'lyn or any of the mentioned volunteers know if you can help.

HAPPY BONSAI CREATIONS in 2018. . . Come and join the Pavilion Volunteers this year too!

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







## San Pu Kai

c/o Membership  
1010 Phillips Street  
Vista, CA 92083

<http://www.sanpukai.org>

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

## Calender of Events

Saturday, January 6, 2017	9am - Noon	San Diego Zoo Safari Park Bonsai Pavilion Workday
Tuesday, January 9, 2017	6:00 - 9pm	San Pu Kai Bonsai Christmas Party: Pan Asia Buffet, 707 Center Dr, San Marcos, 92069
Saturday, January 20, 2017	9am - Noon	San Diego Zoo Safari Park Bonsai Pavilion Workday
Saturday, February 3, 2017	9am - Noon	San Diego Zoo Safari Park Bonsai Pavilion Workday
Tuesday, February 13, 2017	6:00 - 9pm	San Pu Kai Bonsai Club Meeting: 973 Vale Terrace Dr. Room #108, Vista