



SAN PU KAI

January 2009

Editor: Joanie Berkwitz

Distributor: Sally Bencangey

Message from Out-going President *Mary-Anne Monck*

At the December meeting, back at the Carlsbad Senior Centre, we were able to get some work done on our trees!

The election for the 2009 & 2010, 2-year term, resulted in the following: Pres.: **Joanie Berkwitz**; V.P.: **Cary Sullivan**; Secty.: **Sandra Knowles**; Treas.: **Tom Ohgi**; Members-at Large: **Marty Mann**, **John Voss** and **Dave Woodall**. **Joanie** is still looking for someone to take over Publicity.

Cary Valentine catered December goodies. No treats will be needed for January as the Club holds its annual Holiday get together and gift exchange, instead of a regular meeting. '**Lyn Stevenson** suggested the dinner be someplace closer for those in the east area this year. So we will be meeting at Chins in San Marcos instead of Carlsbad, on January 13. **Joanie Berkwitz** has made all the arrangements and will supply directions. Thanks **Joanie**. (see announcement page 2)

Announcements were as follows:

Cary Sullivan will follow up with the Flower Fields for the proposed Mothers' Day weekend show this spring.

The Winter Silhouettes bus trip from the San Diego club has offered San Pu Kai the opportunity to tag along again this year.

'**Lyn Stevenson** encouraged more SPK members to show up at the Wild Animal Park pavilion to work. Even though there is a considerable overlap in membership between San Diego and San Pu Kai, your presence has been specifically requested as SPK was a founding member of the Bonsai Pavilion.

Your new president, and editor, **Joanie**, advised me it was my responsibility to write this, my "swan song, last message from the outgoing president". It's been an interesting two years. With the transition from Vista to Carlsbad, we lost some members but gained 9 new members in 2008 alone. We went "digital" with the newsletter, saving costs and speeding delivery. There was a widely varied program of speakers and demonstrations that broadened our Bonsai experience.

We look forward to what your new "old guard" has to offer for the next two years. My very good luck to them.

Mary-Anne Monck, Outgoing President

Bus Trip to Winter Silhouettes in Los Angeles

On January 17th, the San Diego Bonsai Club will be taking a bus trip up to the Winter Silhouettes show in Los Angeles, and all San Pu Kai members are enthusiastically invited to attend! Stops at Bruce and Yaeko Hisayasu's home, and Jim and Helen Barrett's home, are planned so that everyone can enjoy shopping for bonsai pots, trees, and supplies. When we reach the Arboretum, we will spend time taking in the gorgeous bonsai in all of their stark winter beauty, and then share the potluck dinner and the raffle. We are always royally entertained and it is one of the best bus trips of the year. You can bring a dessert to share, and if you have something to donate to the auction, it is very appreciated. Cost is \$40, and the bus picks up at the Shell gas station on the corner of Pio Pico and Carlsbad Village Drive at 12:30. Please contact Cary Sullivan at 760-445-2548 if you wish to go.

BONSAI PAVILIONS AT THE WILD ANIMAL PARK

Once again, the past month at the Pavilions was very participative by our volunteers. Many, Many thanks always! December's workers included: Alan Burrows, John Jackson, Jim Kirchmer, Chris Landwehr, Ray Lish, **Marty Mann**, newcomer Kevin Olskow, Jon & Terri Petrescu, Harlan & Mary Ann Price, **'lyn Stevenson, Cary & Steve Valentine**, Dennis Wagner, and **Dave Woodall**. The construction planning committee also had a meeting at the construction site with the WAP Horticulturist Cary Sharp and consulting landscape architect Bill Schnetz to review the completed work and the options for future construction. Due to December rains, some work was curtailed but we will again be at the Park every week in January. Visitors are always happy to see the current site and marvel at the beautiful bonsai. They especially enjoy the explanations given by our volunteers.

The Wild Animal Park Horticultural Department is extremely thankful for all the work the volunteers do and has presented us with discount coupons for 2009 to be used at the WAP along with a special invitation to the "Horticulture Department and Botanical Volunteer Pot Luck" to be held at the Park on Wednesday, January 28th, at 10:30 a.m. For this special event, they are arranging complimentary parking and admission through the front gates for attendees. ***All our Bonsai Pavilion volunteers are invited but I do need to have your reply as soon as possible.*** Either call me or let me know at the January SDBC meeting if you plan to attend so that I can forward the information to the Park.

We hope you add this volunteer activity to your New Year's resolutions and plan to come out and help John Jackson's construction group and Curator **Steve Valentine's** bonsai maintenance group in 2009. Please let me know if you are coming for the first time so that your name is on the list for admittance.

'lyn Stevenson 858-486-4805
SDBC/WAP Liaison

Holiday Party at Chins Restaurant

For our January meeting, we will be going to the Chin's Restaurant in San Marcos. The room is reserved starting at 6:30 pm, and it will be \$20 each to attend. That price will cover your meal and a regular drink, however, if you want an alcoholic beverage please pay for it separately. We always do a little gift exchange, so if you bring an inexpensive, bonsai-related, wrapped gift, you can participate and we will have some fun! The location is Chin's Restaurant, 631 S. Rancho Santa Fe Road, San Marcos. It is between HWY 78 and San Marcos Blvd, on Rancho Santa Fe Road. For more information, please call Joanie at 760-431-1014.

SAN PU KAI BONSAI - BONSAI IDEAS

BY MARTY MANN

JANUARY 2009 (#61)

If deciduous trees start to sprout, bring them gradually into sunlight. If the tree is kept in a shaded area, new growth will 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 for your mixtures.

Spray deciduous trees with a dormant spray (lime sulfur) before signs of new growth appear. Avoid the soil surfaces in the pots as well as the pots themselves. Dripping chemicals harm the tender roots and leave unsightly stains on the pots.

Survey the finished trees in bonsai pots. Are they still a proper match in size or color to the tree? Has the maturity and styling of the tree changed it enough to consider repotting into a new pot? Is it taller, wider, fatter? Now is the time to redesign 'completed' trees.

Make a list of the trees that will require repotting. Place a marker in the pots that require attention this year for identification. Begin with the conifers, followed by the deciduous trees, then the flowering and fruiting trees. Begin while they are still in a dormant stage or just beginning to emerge. Some of this activity can wait until later in February. Go easy on any pruning that may be required. Let the branches mature. Wait until the sap begins to flow before you do any serious pruning or pinching of the new growing tips.

Review the nursery stock to determine the readiness of pre-trained material for transfer to a training pot or a display pot. Check your inventory of bonsai pots. If you don't have one that fits your needs, now is the time to shop. The best finds are at convention bazaars or bonsai specialty shops. The potting season will be upon you soon. It is nice to know you have a pot ready to meet your needs. Do you need more wire, screening, decomposed granite, pumice, insecticides, fungicides, miticides, Miracle-Gro®, cottonseed meal, bone meal, Do you have a supply of snail bait, Ironite, gypsum, etc.

Another important activity at this time involves your tools. Sort them out. Sharpen all cutting edges; remove accumulations of rust and tar stains by using the new Japanese erasers. Dip tools into a bleach solution to purify them. Oil all surfaces for additional protection.

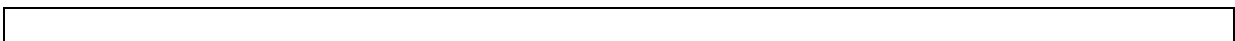
Study the trees to determine the need to rewire and reposition various branches. Do so with great care since branches on most varieties of trees are brittle during the dormant period. Remember, you are looking for the faults of basic bonsai design -- crossing branches, bars, sharp angles, ladders, and placement with the trunk. Good design distinguishes your tree's quality from "just another bonsai".

January and February is still a good time to gather wild seedlings (or, if you are lucky, old weathered trees from the wild) -- scrub or pin oaks, mountain pines and California junipers. Don't plan any wiring of newly dug material. Concentrate on the reestablishment of broken rootage and the encouragement of new growth.

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. January - 2009

***Keeping trees healthy
Each day the glowing sun shines
Enter a new world***

-- Marty Mann





SAN PU KAI

799 Pine Avenue
Carlsbad, CA 92008

A bus trip to Winter Silhouettes on January 17th will replace the Wild Animal Park Work day. If you would like to join the bus trip, please call Cary Sullivan at 760-445-2548 for details. Also, see the article inside.

Calendar of Events

Tuesday, January 13 th , 2009	7 pm to 9 pm	<i>Holiday Party at Chins Restaurant See details inside</i>
Saturday, January 24 th , 2009	9 am – 12 pm	<i>Workday, Bonsai Pavilions Wild Animal Park</i>
Tuesday, February 10 th , 2009	7 pm to 9 pm	<i>Regular meeting, Carlsbad Senior Center, 799 Pine Ave</i>
Saturday, February 21 st , 2009	9 am – 12 pm	<i>Workday, Bonsai Pavilions Wild Animal Park</i>