



# SAN PU KAI

May 2009

Editor: Joanie Berkwitz

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## President's Message

May is a busy month for us, as bonsai artists and as club members. We are participating in the San Diego Bonsai Club's annual **Wild Animal Park Picnic**, since **San Pu Kai** has always been an active and integral part of the Bonsai Pavilions. So, if you wish to attend and didn't sign up, please contact Cary Valentine right away to see if there is a ticket for you! She can be reached at 760-445-2548. Please look for more details on page three.

We are also going to take the big leap, and have our annual Spring show at the **Carlsbad Flower Fields**. **The entrance is through the parking lot in front of the Armstrong nursery, on on the corner of Paseo del Norte and Palomar Airport Road.** We expect thousands of people coming through! We will have enough trees, but it would be nice to have some **large** viewing stones/suiseki also. We have volunteers signed up to help, but can always use more! You need to let me know before the event if you wish to volunteer and/or show trees. So far, I have: **Dave Woodall; Marty Mann; Maria Barbosa; Cary and Steve Valentine; Joe DuPont; Sandra Knowles; Tom Ohgi; Lanny Chronert; BJ Patterson; Forrest and Michelle Vess; Ted Schwartz; and Joanie and Craig Berkwitz.** If you aren't on the list, please call me and let me know that you would like to come! Volunteers get in for free, everyone else will pay \$10 admission, so it's important to be on the list.

Here's how it will go: **On Friday May 8<sup>th</sup>**, from 3 pm to 5 pm, we will set up the tables ONLY so we have enough people to do that. **On Saturday morning May 9<sup>th</sup>**, from 7:30 to 8:30 am we will be setting up trees and the sales tables. Since we don't need to use the backdrops, this will be fairly straightforward and we should be able to do it in an hour. The show opens at 9 am, and runs to 6 pm. So, we have people signed up for security and to help with sales. On Saturday night, my family will be camping out right next to the trees. **Sunday morning, May 10<sup>th</sup>**, we will open again at 9 am, and will begin takedown at 6 pm on Sunday. We do have volunteers for take down but could use a few more hands. Any trees that are not picked up before we leave, will be taken to my house until the owner can pick them up! I live not far from the Flower Fields. All volunteers will have badges to get them in and out, I will either mail the badges or distribute them as people arrive. If we get them soon enough, they will be mailed. If you have any questions, please call me! I'll be out of town for a few days but will answer any calls when I return. If you need sale tags, give me a call or send an email and I will mail some out to you. We appreciate any sales items that you would like to sell, since we will have a lot of people looking at the exhibit and wanting bonsai. We are buying some trees for resale as 'kits', to reach out to the public and advertise the club as well.

Remember, there will be NO MEETING IN MAY! Our next regular meeting will be June 9<sup>th</sup>, and I hope to have a special presentation for that meeting, details to follow! June's treats will be supplied by me, and a great big thank you to **Michelle and Forrest Vess** for April's goodies!

Finally, we would like to thank **Aubrey Pollard** for his generous donation to San Pu Kai. Aubrey has been a member of the club for so many years, and has earned our respect and our love. He has sold his house and moved to a retirement home, and from his sale of trees, tools, pots and wire, he donated a very nice sum of money to San Pu Kai! Thank you, Aubrey, and we will keep you in our thoughts as you move to the next phase of your life. We miss you!

Joanie Berkwitz, President

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# SAN PU KAI BONSAI – BONSAI IDEAS

BY MARTY MANN

MAY, 2009 (#65)

May is a good month to pay attention to Azalea bonsai. March or April had been the best months to repot and trim last year's growth. Since May is the blooming season for most bonsai varieties (remember-Satsuki means 5th month) you may enjoy the flowers without any concern for feeding and trimming. Keep the plants moist but avoid overhead watering that cause blooms to quickly lose their color and vigor. Cut back any shoots that have outgrown the design perimeters. After the flowers have reached their peak, remove all faded blooms. A flat cut at the base of the flower, removes the excessive stem elongation and allows new buds to form during warm summer months. This encourages the creation of new flower buds for next year.

Keep watering to a minimum — just enough to keep moisture in the root ball full of fine root hairs. The single most common factor that kills azaleas is the tendency to overwater. Deep watering accumulates moisture in a peat enriched soil mix and causes root rot. Water only when the surface of the plant begins to feel dry. Your finger in the soil is still the best test instrument.

Junipers and other conifers must be attended to on an ongoing basis. Continue to pinch back on growing tips of evergreens. The reduction of Auxin in these tips encourages root growth. Young, fast growing pines may still be de-candled. Spread this activity out over several days. Start low on the tree and work up to its apex.

This time of year is a terrific growing period. Spring rains (if we had any) created good health but caused excessive growth. Deciduous trees have leafed out with large healthy foliage. Keep an eye on the long internodes. Cut them back as soon as the leaves have matured.

Rethink the location of your growing benches. Have some of the nearby trees grown up and no longer allow the bonsai to get sufficient light? Is your location convenient to water and to the storage areas for soil, chemicals and tools? Can you enjoy your view of the trees from you patio or house windows? Is your display area attractive and appropriate?

The best site for your bonsai is not always up to you, as the grower. You must consider the opinions of your other family members but---bonsai is an art form and should be beautifully displayed and enjoyed by everyone.

Think about this.....

If a flower but blooms for a day  
It has made its own contribution to natures evolution  
Preparing for a rebirth                   --So it is with bonsai  
We create today for tomorrow arrives. To enjoy again, an again

This article has been extracted from the recently published book called 'Bonsai Ideas'© By Marty Mann. Material is not to be copied without publisher or author's permission. May 2009	
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## Bonsai Pavilions at the Wild Animal Park

Saturday, May 2nd, 2009 9:00 to Noon or later ——

This is the day before our May Picnic meeting and auction at Kapanda Pavilion.

This Saturday work session , "PREPPING THE POLES" will need lots of help from all of you.

The materials to clean and paint the poles have been purchased. SO—— we want to get the work done (or at least started) on that Saturday, May 2nd!

If you can bring any of the following items with you, it would help even more:

Ladders: step stools, step ladders, extension ladders—we will be painting from the ground level up to 14' .

Wire brushes, gloves, hard hats, safety glasses (we have some at the Pavilion), your painting wardrobe (jeans, aprons, whatever suits you!)

Any questions? Call or e-mail **Steve or Cary Valentine (760-445-2548)** or **Iyn Stevenson (inthegrove@cox.net)** for more information.

### Bonsai Pavilion Picnic

This year, **San Pu Kai** will be joining the San Diego Bonsai Club at the Wild Animal Park for a Picnic and fundraiser. The date is **Sunday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>**, from 9 am to 12 pm. ***If you wish to come, the event and parking are free, but you WILL need a ticket.*** If you didn't sign up for a ticket, please contact Cary Valentine right away to see if there are extras available for you. If you did sign up for a ticket, it will be mailed to you, but contact Cary if you are not sure.

**This year, we will ride up to Kapanda! The Park is doing major repairs on the bridge leading to our Pavilion, so from 9:30 to 10:30 there will be shuttle service for members with large or heavy items at the WAP Admissions Entrance; or if you just need a ride and can carry your stuff, you can catch the shuttle at the WAP Administration Building inside the park, near the restrooms.**

Bring your own picnic lunch, and if you wish to donate to the auction or participate in it, you are welcome to bring items and to bid. Cash and checks are accepted. See you there!



*A warm golden cloud*

*That fades away into night*

*Leaving deep shadows*

*--Marty Mann*



# SAN PU KAI

c/o Joanie Berkwitz  
5440 El Arbol Drive  
Carlsbad, CA 92008

Our next regular meeting is June 9<sup>th</sup> at the Carlsbad Senior Center

## Calendar of Events

<b>Saturday, May 2<sup>nd</sup></b>	<b>9 am to 12 pm</b>	<b>Special Work Day, Wild Animal Park Bonsai Pavilion (see inside for details)</b>
<b>Sunday, May 3<sup>rd</sup></b>	<b>9 am to 12 pm</b>	<b>Picnic, Kapanda Pavilion, Wild Animal Park (see inside for details)</b>
<b>Saturday, May 9<sup>th</sup> Sunday, May 10<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>9 am to 6 pm</b>	<b>San Pu Kai Spring Show and Sale, Carlsbad Flower Fields</b>
<b>Tuesday, May 12<sup>th</sup> NO MEETING!!</b>		<b>No Meeting!</b>