



San Pu Kai Record

Monthly Newsletter of the San Pu Kai Bonsai Club

January 2012

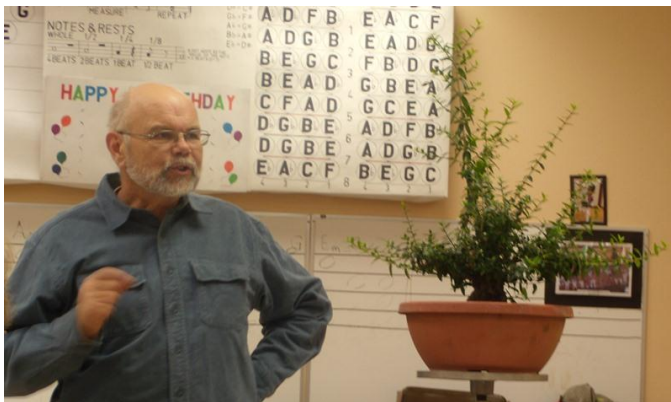
Editor: Maria Barbosa



President's Message

Happy New Years to all!! My wish for everyone is the best in health, happiness and great bonsai trees.

December Program: Thank you to **Ted Matson**, for our December program. How wonderful was that! I know we all learned so much from Ted and got so inspired. Bob and I were thinking we should try to get him to come twice a year for more learning and inspiration. We can all use some more of that! We feel grateful that Ted's completed demo olive tree will be at the Safari Park Pavilion and that we all will have the opportunity to see it take shape in future years.



Ted Matson, December 2011 Meeting

Treats: A very big thank you goes to **Sandra Knowles** for the wonderful treats she brought for the club to share and also to take home. She even brought me a beautiful poinsettia plant to take home and enjoy for the holidays. Thanks you so much.



January Holiday Party: We will be having our holiday party again at Chins in San Marcos · 1650 Descanso Ave, **San Marcos, CA 92078** · Off of the 78 & is next to Starbucks)(\$20.00 per person & you must **rsvp by this FRIDAY, January 6th** as we need to let Chins know just how many are going to the party. We also will be having our wrapped bonsai-related gift exchange after the dinner. You do not have to participate in this, but it is so much fun, and you never know what you may get.

Socks for Japan: I would like to ask you also, in last months news letter, we had an article about sending new dark colored socks (adult size) to Japan, Thank you Lanny, as he & Steve & I were the only ones, that had gotten them for the cause. I would like to send a nice box after our party. Thank you all in advance.

February Program: In February, please bring your tools, as we will be doing a club workshop. We will be working on some trees we bought at House of Bonsai (trimming, shaping, repotting and getting them ready for our May Mothers Day Flower Field show. We have a big thanks to Vicky for giving us a nice discount, so we will be able to make a nice profit for the club.

BONSAI PAVILION

AT THE SAN DIEGO ZOO SAFARI PARK

The volunteers were able to celebrate in grand style in December. The year will be remembered especially with the Grand Opening of the New Pavilion in May. The cadre of volunteers has remained strong. Dedicating two Saturdays a month for work sessions has helped to keep the Pavilion plantings looking fresh and healthy and the bonsai are responding well to their new locations and this extra care. The San Diego Zoo Global honored Zoo and Safari volunteers who had accumulated over 60 hours in 2011 to a special recognition event at the Zoo on December 13th. Over a dozen of our Pavilion were recognized for 100, 250, 750, 2,000, and 3000 hours as well as for 10 and 15 years of services. Then, at our work session at the Pavilion on December 17th, our volunteers celebrated with a delicious potluck luncheon and party at Safari Park. It was a really nice opportunity for us to thank and congratulate each other for the progress and success of the new Pavilion.

Our December volunteers included: Neil Auwarter, Susan Baker, Abe Burrows, Martha Choy, Nellie Downie, Cathy & Mark Edgar, Maria & Tina Flores, **Joyce Goldman**, John Jackson, Gary Jones, Jim Kirchner, Bob Knox, Kris Landwehre, Ray Lish, **Marty & Ruth Mann**, Charlie Mosse, Jon & Terri Petrescu, **Sally Prestele**, Harlan & Mary Ann Price, Bill Quinlan, **Ilyn Stevenson, Cary & Steve Valentine, Chele & Forrest Vess, John Voss**, Dennis Wagner, and **Dave Woodall**.

A heavier than usual trimming of the shrubbery around the waterfall was accomplished in December along with the usual trimming and bonsai maintenance work. The new engraved Bonsai Pavilion plaque was installed at the front entrance of the Pavilion and it provided a photo op for the volunteers too. We also had a surprise visit from the Safari Park Cheetah and dog partner and their Safari guides. It was the first time the cheetah had explored (on a leash of course) the Pavilion and he was especially intrigued with our ponds! We were thrilled to be able to have this very close encounter with a very special Safari resident.

Guests continue to come and be amazed with the Bonsai Pavilion and Garden. Marty Mann hosted Ted Matson from Los Angeles. Ted had been to the first pavilion at the Wild Animal Park over 25 years ago. We always enjoy guiding visitors through the area and talking about the bonsai although the Pavilion lends itself to self-guided strolling very well.

Ilyn Stevenson — 858-486-4805
SDBC-WAP Liaison, New Pavilion Project Manager

Upcoming Bus Trips: These are a few of the bus trips that San Diego Bonsai club are having and we (if there is room) are always welcome to join them. It is a great way to see some wonderful bonsai shows, shopping, and you do not have to drive to LA. Sounds great to me. Please RSVP & pay Maria (\$40.00 per person for the bus) if you would like to go on one of these bus trips & she will get the information to Barbara French –Lee at the SDBC.

- **Saturday, January 14, 2012**

Winter Sillhouettes Bonsai Show, Los Angeles
an afternoon and evening event with a bonsai show, dinner, auction and entertainment. All passengers provides the desert and an item for the auction if you wish. We leave Balboa Naval Hospital parking lot at 12 noon and Carlsbad Village Drive, behind the Shell service station, at 12:30pm.

- **February 25, 2012**

GSBF Bonsai-A-Thon at the Huntington Library and Botanical Gardens -There will be demonstrations, lunch, bonsai exhibits, large sale area, raffle and an auction. Also the beautiful gardens and museum are available to visit. For this trip we plan to leave at 8am from Balboa Park and 8:30am from Carlsbad.

Here is starting the year off with good bonsai!

Cary Sullivan-Valentine, President
760-445-2548 caryme2@yahoo.com

San Pu Kai is on FACEBOOK – link is
<http://www.facebook.com/#!/pages/San-Pu-Kai-Bonsai-Club/184125964939396>

2011 Memberships DUE

Please pay at the January Holiday Party...or mail your dues to: **Maria Barbosa, SPK membership**

2727 De Anza Road, #J-26

San Diego, CA 92109

Make your check out to "San Pu Kai"

\$20.00 for single membership

\$25.00 for a couple



BONSAI IDEAS

JANUARY, #97

A NEW YEAR! A CHALLENGE TO IMPROVE

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.

CLOSING THOUGHTS

Like a tree, we all need a place
To grow and branch out.
If you try to fail, and succeed, which have you done?

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.
January 2012

HAIKU POEM
Trees waiting for Spring
Winter leaves swollen in bud
A new look this year

Marty Mann

January 2012

Officers

President – Cary Sullivan-Valentine
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Treasurer/Membership – Maria Barbosa
619-606-6523 bonsaigarden@earthlink.net



San Pu Kai

c/o Maria Barbosa, Membership
 2727 De Anza Road, #J-26
 San Diego, CA 92109

Calendar of Events

Saturday, January 7, 2012	9 am - Noon	San Diego Zoo Safari Park Bonsai Pavilion <i>Workday</i>
Tuesday, January 10, 2012 RSVP by JANUARY 6, 2012	6:30 pm (bring a wrapped gift for the gift exchange)	HOLIDAY Dinner & Raffle Chin's San Marcos Restaurant 1650 Descansco Avenue San Marcos, CA
Saturday, January 21, 2012	9 am - Noon	San Diego Zoo Safari Park Bonsai Pavilion <i>Workday</i>
Saturday, February 4, 2012	9 am - Noon	San Diego Zoo Safari Park Bonsai Pavilion <i>Workday</i>
Tuesday, February 14, 2012	7:00 pm	Bring Your Bonsai Tools to work on the May fundraiser Trees!!! Regular meeting, Brenge Terrace Senior Center, 1400 Vale Terrace, Vista, CA
Saturday, February 18, 2012	9 am - Noon	San Diego Zoo Safari Park Bonsai Pavilion <i>Workday</i>