



# San Pu Kai Record

Monthly Newsletter of the San Pu Kai Bonsai Club

January/February 2013

Double Issue

Editor: Bob Knox



## President's Message

I would like to take this time to thank all of our members for your support and trust in me and our board members. We had a great year, some set backs and some programs that are put on hold, but will get these on the list for 2013. We were able to make some money for the club with our plant sale and our fun club fundraiser. We will be having some more fundraisers to help get closer to building or buying our club shed and tables for our bonsai show.

I want to thank all of our board members for without them I could not run the club. I look forward to our 2013 club programs, field trips and bonsai class that we are planning for the club.

### December's Program:

A special thank you to Bob and Steve for coming to the rescue and doing the repotting demo at our last meeting. I know we all learned a lot on repotting using the best soil, makes all the difference to the tree, also make sure your tree is in the healthiest condition as it can be before repotting, knowing the right way to wire in your tree in the pot secures it in the pot and protects the fine roots, also use copper wire for the best results, and putting your tree in the right pot will give you a really special bonsai that you can be proud of.

Thank you Sandra for all of the wonderful treats, and to have a special cookie bag for each member, you spoil us. I love my plant, thank you again, you made the meeting so festive.

We had a wonderful holiday party at the Marcos Buffet. Small, but great, and the gift exchange was lots of fun and every one went home with wonderful gifts.

**Program for February:** We will be styling the junipers purchased at House of Bonsai for the fundraising sale at our May show at the Flower Fields. I will also have the sign-up treat list for the 2013 meetings. Please sign up for a month that you would like to bring in the treats for the meeting. The club provides the cups, plates, coffee and tea and all that goes with the hot drinks. So it is an easy way to help out in the club.

**2013 Elections:** The following slate of nominated officers was elected by a vote of the membership at the November meeting:

***President: Cary Valentine***

***Vice President: Bob Knox***

***Treasure: Maria Barbosa***

***Secretary: Sandra Knowles***

***At large: John Voss & Steve Valentine***

Cary Sullivan-Valentine,  
President

[caryme2@yahoo.com](mailto:caryme2@yahoo.com)

**San Pu Kai is on FACEBOOK – link is**

<http://www.facebook.com/#!/pages/San-Pu-Kai-Bonsai-Club/184125964939396>

**San Pu Kai WEBPAGE is** <http://www.sanpukai.org/>

### Officers

President – Cary Sullivan-Valentine  
760-445-2548 [Caryme2@yahoo.com](mailto:Caryme2@yahoo.com)

Vice-President – Bob Knox  
760-727-7317 [robertk44@cox.net](mailto:robertk44@cox.net)

Secretary – Sandra Knowles  
760-753-9493 [b.knowles@sbcglobal.net](mailto:b.knowles@sbcglobal.net)

Treasurer/Membership – Maria Barbosa  
619-606-6523 [bonsaigarden@earthlink.net](mailto:bonsaigarden@earthlink.net)



*Sandra Knowles Holiday Treats Table at December Meeting*



*Bob Knox discussing focal point before repotting.*



*Steve Valentine and Bob Knox lead December Demo*



*Steve Valentine demonstrating pot wiring/securing the tree.*



*Discussion of soil during repotting*

# **SCENES FROM DECEMBER'S SPK MEETING**



*Steve and Bob wrap up the demo*



# BONSAI IDEAS

JANUARY 2013 (#109)

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.

## FEBRUARY 2013 (#110)

It's still too early to concern yourself about feeding the trees. It is a good time to prepare fertilizer supplies. Chemical and organic liquid fertilizers require no advance planning. They can be freshly mixed when you are ready to apply. If you are a user of the recommended dry mixes such as Cottonseed Meal (75%) with Bone Meal (25%), now is the time to make a supply. Keep the finished product in a dry place. If it gets wet it will begin to ferment and will drive you out of your home! Acid based fertilizers are best for azaleas and camellias as well as conifers and junipers. The idea, when feeding in early spring is slow release. Don't rush your trees into a spurt of new growth too soon.

During this 'idle' time, occupy yourself with a program of pot cleanup. All those pots that have been sitting around waiting for your repotting activities to begin have probably accumulated layers of soil and salt deposits. Scrub them with a strong soapy solution and bleach. Apply a lime-off cleaner or a strong vinegar solution to the white spots, or just some elbow grease and cleanser. Try using one of the new Japanese erasers to work on the stubborn spots. Rinse the pots well. Allow them to dry in the full sun to prevent infestation carryover.

Don't overlook the last step in your pre-spring dress-up program. Look at all of the finished trees. Are the pots clean? Is the surface of each planting clear of winter trash and properly surfaced with fresh soil or dressed with D.G.? Are there signs of moss growth? Are the edges of the pots trimmed to allow a channel along the rim for drainage?

The tendency at this time of year, during the last months of dormancy, is to ignore normal bonsai care. Don't stop your regular routines. Watch for insect or fungus activities that silently harm the trees. Aphids, in particular, become active when the weather turns slightly warm. Look for these destructive wingless creatures that damage plants by sucking the juice out of new growth, causing twisting and curling effects. There are four kinds of aphids--the bright green, the yellowish- melon, the reddish brown and the almost black variety. The aphid nymphs are usually yellow-green and the adults are dark green. Control is relatively easy with most of the common brands of insecticides. Follow label directions to get the best results.

**By Marty Mann**

HAIKU POEM

As the sun does shine  
The birds and bees come back  
The bright day begins

These articles have been extracted from the recently published book titled 'Bonsai Ideas' © By Marty Mann. Material is not to be copied without publisher or author's permission.



**BONSAI  
PAVILIONS AT  
THE SAN DIEGO  
ZOO SAFARI  
PARK (December)**

The past year at the Bonsai Pavilion was truly awesome! It was also enjoyable, inspiring, and productive. Much credit and thanks to the volunteers, donors, visitors, Safari Park Staff, and our own Club members. We had continued to make the additions as we had envisioned in our earlier planning and added some new features. The results have been very positive for the volunteers, the Safari Park, and all the visitors.

At our December Celebration work day and pot luck luncheon which was held in spite of inclement weather (thanks to the Hort. Staff loaning us the covered round house area for the party), we managed to do some needed pruning and a couple more bonsai were repotted. Thanks to Susan Baker, Cathy & Mark Edgar, Allan Edwin, John Jackson, Charlie Mosse, Pat O'Brien, **Sally Prestele**, Harlan & Mary Ann Price, Dan Sola, **'lyn Stevenson**, **John Voss**, Mark Walters, **Dave Woodall** for braving the rains and doing some most productive work too. Dave Cuthbert, the Volunteer Manager for Safari Park, graciously supplied all the Pavilion volunteers with stamped carry bags as special thank you gifts. The beautiful foods and beverages for the luncheon were supplied by Susan Baker, Allan Edwin, John Jackson, **Sally Prestele**, Mary Ann & Harlan Price, Dan Sola, **'lyn Stevenson**, and **Dave Woodall**. It was a delicious, gourmet delight!

At the short meeting during the luncheon, SDBC Treasurer Patrick O'Brien reviewed the Pavilion financial reports for the

2012 year. We continue to operate within our budget and remain solvent enough to consider a few more capital expenditures for the future. An informal committee was suggested by the attending volunteers. They are planning to meet early in 2013 to review the next year and five year plans of operation for the Pavilion. Interested volunteers should give their names and specific interests to John Jackson or Patrick.

Congratulations and continued thanks to **Steve Valentine!** At the December 1st Zoo Volunteer Recognition Party held at Safari Park, Steve was specifically honored for his twenty years of volunteerism. He was given gift items and we all look forward to seeing him with the special hat!

Since the 3rd Saturday in January is also a SDBC bus trip date, the volunteers will probably work other Saturdays in January. Check with John before heading out to the Pavilion.

New volunteers and returning volunteers will need to get their ID cards validated for 2013. We are awaiting specific information from the Zoo Volunteers' Office or volunteers can check the Zoo Volunteers' website. Also, volunteers can post their hours online. We will continue to have the red sign-up book at the Pavilion at each work session too.

Best wishes and thanks to all who have participated in this great priority project of our Bonsai Club!

'lyn Stevenson  
SDBC-SPark Liaison  
858-486-4805

**Beginning Bonsai, taught by John Voss of San Pu Kai Bonsai Club**

1st class is **February 23, 2013** and 2<sup>nd</sup> class **March 23, 2013**.

**Time:** 1:30 PM to 3:30 PM

**Location:** Alta Vista Gardens,

1270 Vale Terrace Drive, Vista

(just up the hill from our meeting location)

Price: San Pu Kai members and Alta Vista Members \$35.00 and general public \$40.00

During the first class **John Voss** will cover an introduction to bonsai and their care. Students will receive their own bonsai starter tree, learn to prune it, and then take it home and care for it.

All materials (foemina juniper, upright style) will be provided, please bring plant shears or bonsai tools if you have them.

During the second class students will bring the tree back, learn to transplant the tree into an actual bonsai pot, and learn advanced styling techniques.

**RSVP and your check will insure your spot in this class:**

Mail your check to: Alta Vista Gardens C/O Community Recreation Services, 200 Civic Center Drive Vista Ca. 92084

Checks should be made out to Alta Vista Gardens



## **BONSAI PAVILIONS AT THE SAN DIEGO ZOO SAFARI PARK (January)**

The Bonsai Pavilion volunteers are off to another enjoyable, educational, bonsai enhancement year for all!

We can also humbly revel in the past year's accomplishments. We are constantly encouraged to continue our Pavilion Bonsai and Garden endeavors by all the wonderful comments we hear from visitors and Safari Management and Staff. Of course, the best reason for volunteering is for all of us to enjoy and learn more about this special avocation and art of bonsai.

Weather is sometimes a challenge especially in January, but special thanks to the courageous and healthy volunteers who came out in January: Andres & Martha Choy, Cathy & Mark Edgar, Barbara French-Lee, Charlie Mosse, John Jackson, Harlan & Mary Ann Price, **Sally Prestele**, Dan Sola, **'lyn Stevenson**, Charlie Tamm, Dennis Wagner, & Casey & **Dave Woodall**. Special welcome to Casey! She is following in her Grandfather Dave's bonsai interest and talent.

January 5th was a special workday treat because our Tijuana volunteers shared a special Spanish-Mexican celebration with us by bringing a beautiful, very large and very fresh "Rosca de Reyes" cake for us all to enjoy!

Buried in the cake were infant figurines celebrating the gifts brought to the Christ Child at Christmas by the Magi. The custom now continues because those four who found the figurines in their slices are now the ones who will host a celebration for all the others on February 2nd (Candlemas Day). Thanks Andres and Martha! We do have fun and comradie at the Pavilion! Refreshment thanks this past month also to Cathy Edgar, Barbara French -Lee, John Jackson, Mary Ann Price, Dan Sola, 'lyn Stevenson, and Dennis Wagner.

Several large bonsai transplants were successfully done in January. . .thanks to all who participated: Atlas Cedar, Junipers, liquid amber, California Juniper, wax leaf privet, and the grafted shimpaku that Roy Nagatoshi had styled at the last SDBC meeting are all enjoying new soils and some new pots. The main pedestal at the front of the Pavilion is now featuring the beautiful, large, Dr. Dixon's donated Juniper. Our in-ground garden black pines under Dennis' directions have had some needed pruning. We also pruned several other in-ground trees

including an Atlas Cedar. The bonsai pots all have had a good cleaning and polishing; and river stones were replaced. Many other bonsai were trimmed also.

Charlie Mosse is finishing the details on the construction and installation of a new canopy cover for the work area, It will be most helpful for us during rainy and very sunny days. We all hope to see in in place very soon.

Safari Park is validating the volunteer I.D. cards for 2013 and any new or interested volunteers need to make sure they receive their credentials. If volunteers want further information, please call or e-mail 'lyn Stevenson or Heather Wright at the San Diego Zoo.

We will continue to have regular Pavilion work days on the first and third Saturdays of each month in 2013 and will e-mail any other special projects or events that arise in between those work sessions. Thanks always to the various Bonsai Club Boards and all Club for participation and support!

'lyn Stevenson  
SDBC-Safari Park Liaison  
858-486-4805

*Editorial: The Shimpaku that Roy Nagatoshi worked on was donated by **Steve Valentine** and donated to the Safari Park Pavilion.*



**Marty Mann's donated grouping at the San Diego Zoo Safari Park Pavilion**



## *San Pu Kai*

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

### Calendar of Events

Tuesday, February 12, 2013	7 pm – 9 pm	Regular Meeting: Juniper styling workshop Bring your tools!! Brenge Terrace Senior Center 1400 Vale Terrace, Vista CA
Saturday, February 2 & 16, 2013	9 am - Noon	San Diego Zoo Safari Park Bonsai Pavilion <i>Workdays</i>
Saturday & Sunday, February 23, 24	7:30 am – 4:30 pm	Huntington Library, San Marino, CA <i>Bonsai-a-Thon (See attached flyer)</i>
Saturday, March 10, 2013	9 am - Noon	San Diego Zoo Safari Park Bonsai Pavilion <i>Workdays</i>
Tuesday, March 12, 2013	7 pm – 9 pm	Regular Meeting: Juniper repotting workshop Bring your tools!! Brenge Terrace Senior Center 1400 Vale Terrace, Vista CA