



San Pu Kai Record

Monthly Newsletter of the San Pu Kai Bonsai Club



December 2014



President's Message

With the end of the year coming, we end it with one of the best demonstrator and lecturer in bonsai, once again Ted Matson will be at our meeting. Any one who has had the pleasure of hearing Ted knows that he is meticulous and is a wealth of information

on whatever bonsai subject he is talking about. Ted says his strength is having a good eye for selecting material and helping people understand and develop their potential through creative design and proper styling techniques. Ted loves shohin, although his collection is trees of all sizes. Ted will be working on the lovely little olive refining it and wiring it. You will not want to miss this meeting.

Sandra will be providing us with her wonderful Christmas treats this meeting.

Thank you to Uta and Christine for the wonderful treats last meeting.

As the year comes to an end it is time to vote on San Pu Kai 2015 board members at our December meeting.

Nomination list:

President Cary Valentine

Vice President Jeff Garringer

Treasurer Maria Barbosa

Secretary Sandra Knowles

Members at large

John Voss

Steve Valentine

This report submitted by Uta Keim nomination chairman

Maria has agreed to be treasure for the year of 2015, she would like to spend this time training a new treasure to take over in 2016. If any one has any interest please see me, email me, call me, it is not as hard as it sounds, we are a small club and we have one show, one fundraiser one

dinner, very few bills. Please think about it, it is a great way to help our club.

Please note: we are changing the clubs address to my address, to have it in north county and a better chance with getting grants.

Forrest has accepted the position of San Pu Kai editor. A very big thank you to Bob Knox for doing the job of editor and getting our newsletter out to all members.

Bob is planning our Christmas in January Party. It will be at Pan Asian Buffet 707 Center Dr. San Marcos, 760-796-7708 at 6:30pm, cost is \$20 per person. We will again have a bonsai themed related gift exchange. Everyone seems to have so much fun. Family and guest are welcome. This is where we had it last year, food is great and lots of it and there is some thing for everyone. I will have a sign up sheet, or please RSVP to me.

It is that time of year again that club dues are due.

Individual membership \$20.00

Couples \$25.00

Please make checks out to "San Pu Kai"

Either bring them to Cary or mail checks to:

Maria Barbosa

2727 De Anza Road # J-26

San Diego, Ca. 92109

I know we are all very grateful for the wonderful rain we have been having, hope you are saving some of the rain water for your trees.

Cary Sullivan-Valentine

President

caryme2@yahoo.com



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

<http://www.sanpukai.org>

SEASONAL SUGGESTIONS

This is a good time of year to concentrate on clean up. Be sure to remove all leaf droppings and flower buds left over from summer. Removal of trash from your bonsai area is always an important practice. If old leaves hang on, take them off.

Continue to protect hibernating trees from excessive moisture (I almost said RAIN) and prevailing winds. Many a fine bonsai is lost due to neglect during the winter months. While freezing is not usually a concern to most in Northern or Southern California many may remember the damaging frost we experienced a few years ago from pockets of cold air during low temperature periods. Be prepared to protect tender stock at all times. Continue to monitor bonsai for watering requirements. Inspect for infestations of mites and scale.

December is a wonderful time to really see your trees. The foliage during most of the year obscures the skeleton branch formations of the inner tree. Now is the time to trim excess branches, as well as crossing, misplaced and malformed branches. Study the radial formation of the rootage. Study the taper of the trunk line. Concentrate on building a twiggy branch structure. Wire branches during this dormant period with great care since they are brittle during cooler weather months. Try to see your tree with strong background light in order to study its design, shape and position in the pot. Deciduous material that is fully exposed can now be photographed. Black and white is preferred. Study and refine.

Now is the time to study groves or multi-tree arrangements. Trunks stand out with strong detail. An overview of a group planting will show clearly how the trees are positioned and how they relate to each other. The visual view offers an opportunity to improve the placement of individual or groups of trees in the pot before spring planting plans are finalized.

Preserving bonsai during winter months does not involve the usual attention to feeding requirements. Conifers and evergreen trees continue to grow in the California

climate. Partial dormancy requires some nourishment. A light feeding of cottonseed meal (70%) and bone meal (30%) is best. Apply food only to the soil surfaces. Foliar feeding encourages green growth that can be severely damaged if a cold spell occurs. Deciduous trees will

have transformed from the beautiful fall colors to barren silhouettes. Be sure to remove all dead leaves, fruit and flower buds that may still be hanging on. The evergreen trees will appear to be dull and inactive.

Fungus thrives during the dormant months. The application of fungicides is as important now as it is in spring when active reproduction takes place. When trees are bare, a dormant spray such as ORTHORIX (lime sulfur) may be used as a fungicide to destroy overwintering spores. Take care to avoid root damage by covering the surface of the pot with plastic to prevent run-off or drip of the spray. A light mist of lime sulfur on the top and bottom of the foliage and woody branches is quite effective. Lime sulfur may be applied at full strength on wet, aged, dead wood such as Jin and Shari. A few drops of black ink or artist black acrylic pigment will tone down the usual unsightly orange color of this product.

Review the rootage of potted trees. If the tree is lifting out of the pot or appears to be root bound then plan ahead by identifying and marking those ready for early repotting in spring.

California winters are usually interspersed with many warmer days. Potted trees must. Cooler weather means slower growth. During this period of dormancy, trees require a regular dampening of the root zone. Transpiration of moisture is almost non-existent due to the absence of foliage. Watch out for prevailing, drying winds.

Prepare your spring inventory of potting soil mix, screening materials, and aggregates (i.e. pumice, sand, lava rock, D. G., etc.) as well as humus (i.e. fir bark, redwood bark, peat moss, etc.).

Take care of your tools. Winter rain and general high humidity encourages rust. Clean and sharpen them and apply good rust inhibiting oil finish. Clean up those accumulated old pots that you may need during the repotting season in spring. Get rid of accumulated trash.

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.





CHRISTMAS GREETINGS FROM the SAN DIEGO BONSAI CLUB'S PAVILION @ SAFARI PARK

At the Pavilion, Volunteer Mark Edgar keeps the records and inventory of all our bonsai at the Pavilion in two large notebooks... everyone is responsible for keeping the books updated at each work session with information about transplanting, restyling, fertilizing, and/or any detected problems... Mark has submitted this helpful review and information for all Club members:

“The 2013/2014 repotting season at the Pavilion finished in October with repotting of two outstanding olives donated by Cap Puliafico, a long-time Curator of the Safari Park Bonsai Pavilion. A total of 44 trees were repotted. The highlight of the 2013/2014 repotting season was the repot-a-thon held in March 2014 where 31 volunteers repotted 14 trees. Volunteers did not get much rest because the 2014/2015 repotting season began at the November 15, 2014 Pavilion work session. Volunteers repotted seven junipers (three California Junipers, one Procumbens nana, one prostata, and two shohin shimpaku). Some of these trees were donated by Fred Miyahara, Susan Baker, the Bish estate, and Bruce & Yaeko Hisayasu. One California juniper, donated by Brian Brewster, is being trained in a windswept style and was repotted in a gray Tokoname pot. This coming season volunteers will repot 31 trees – 7 down and only 24 more to go. All the trees will use the Pavilion soil mix of 4 parts scoria, 4 parts pumice (Drystall), and 2 parts orchid bark. . . which has been most successful in the Pavilion environment”

Congratulations to Curator John Jackson and Assistant Curator Dennis Wagner and all the Pavilion volunteers who have continued to do these important tasks along with the many other chores of pond cleaning, shrub pruning, general Pavilion clean-up, weeding, pruning, wiring, and styling, etc.

November Bonsai Pavilion volunteers included: Neil Auwarter, Susan Baker, Julia Chow, Cathy & Mark Edgar, Jeff Gerringer, Bob & Janice Hale, Sonya Holmquist, John Jackson, Jaya Kaelberer, Charlie Mosse, Janie & Ron Ogdon, Ron Palmer, Marcella Perez, Sally Prestele, Harlan & Mary Ann Price, Dan Sola, 'lyn Stevenson, John Voss, Dennis Wagner, Mark Walters, and Dave Woodall. Refreshments from Susan, John, Charlie, Cathy, Marcella, & 'lyn were truly enjoyed by all... Thanks for everyones participation.

November birthday congratulations to Pavilion volunteers:

Cathy Edgar, Barbara French-Lee, Bill Graham, Jaya Kaelberer, Jim Kirchner, and John Polo. The Zoo-Safari Park Volunteer Recognition Party was held on November 22nd at Safari Park and volunteers were given special thanks for hours (100 to 14,000) and years (5 to 25).

The Bonsai Pavilion Volunteers are planning an informal Christmas Party after their work session on December 6th. It includes a pot luck luncheon and an optional gift exchange and has now become an annual affair held in the covered “Round House” horticultural area at the Park. A truly fun way to celebrate another enjoyable, beautiful, and successful year of accomplishments at the Bonsai Pavilion.

Planning and implementation of several additions and improvements will continue into 2015. Harlan and Mary Ann Price and Dave Woodall, three of our longtime volunteers, have again donated cash to the Pavilion. Their names already appear on the Honor Board at the entrance but special thanks to the Mary Ann & Harlan for the additional \$100 in November and to Dave for his additional \$1500 gift. Dave also has donated several beautiful bonsai to this newest Pavilion since the Opening. These generous monetary gifts help with major capital expenses and are greatly appreciated. Much gratitude always to volunteers and donors!

Special thanks to longtime volunteers, Marty Mann and Charlie Tamm, who are retiring from active duty in the Pavilion but will always be welcomed whenever their time and health allow (age is never a consideration!).

As SDBC members decide on their bonsai activities for 2015, they should consider also joining the cadre of volunteers at the Bonsai Pavilion at Safari Park... currently, there are over 50 members on the active list... regular sessions are on the first and third Saturdays of each month... usually from 9 to 12... For 2015, there are also 5 scheduled educational bonsai programs for Safari visitors that will be held in the Pavilion along with renovations and regular activities. All volunteers will be kept as active as they choose. Volunteers receive credentials through the Zoo after brief registration and orientation procedures and also receive several volunteer perks throughout the year. Check with Curator John or Liaison 'lyn for more information.

**MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR
GREETINGS AND THANKS ALWAYS. . .**

'lyn Stevenson
SDBC-Safari Park Liaison



San Pu Kai

c/o Maria Barbosa, Membership
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<http://www.sanpukai.org>

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

Calender of Events

Saturday, December 6, 2014	9am - Noon	San Diego Zoo Safari Park Bonsai Pavilion Workday and Christmas Party
Tuesday, December 9, 2014	7-9pm	Regular Meeting: Ted Matson demonstration!! Brenge Terrace Senior Center 1400 Vale Terrace, Vista CA
Saturday, December 20, 2014	9am - Noon	San Diego Zoo Safari Park Bonsai Pavilion Workday
Tuesday, January 13, 2015	6:30-9pm	Christmas in January Party Pan Asian Buffet, 707 Center Dr. San Marcos