



San Pu Kai Record

Monthly Newsletter of the San Pu Kai Bonsai Club

January 2014



President's Message

I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday and 2014 brings good health, happiness and great bonsai.

Ted Matson once again wowed us with his demonstration. While talking about the tree he worked on, an olive, he slowly reduced the foliage while explaining the reasons for what he is doing. Slowly and gently before your eyes the tree goes from overgrown with no shape, a shaggy dog so to say, to a wonderful Shohin styled tree.

Again Ted reminded us, no pinching; keep your trees strong and healthy by feeding, watering, and knowing your tree. Ted will return to do another demonstration next December.

Remember in January we have no regular meeting at the Vista Senior Center, but a holiday party. Please see information about the dinner below. Hoping everyone can make it to our holiday party and gift exchange (this is only if you want to take part in it).

We are having our board of directors meeting this month, planning programs for the upcoming year, including collecting trips. The club will soon purchase more of the small garden junipers so we can repot them, work them up into some nice little trees to sell at our show in May.

Getting the trees ready to sell at our show will be one of the upcoming club programs. Also helping members learn how to show their own trees, getting your show tree ready, which includes using the right accent plant and stand, will be an upcoming program.

Programs will include bringing your own tree in to work on, and demonstrations by outside bonsai artists. So much to do and learn in such a short time. Our goal is learning and getting better trees and sharing this love with others at our show. I like to remind members we have a wonderful fundraiser once a year, I always start the year by setting aside things here and there for this fundraiser.

The Komai family sent a very nice thank you note to San Pu Kai members thanking us for the donation to the Huntington in memory of Kay Komai. With the thank you note the family sent San Pu Kai a donation in the amount of \$250.00. I have sent the Komai family a thank you note from the membership.

Jeff Geringer will be doing a makeover our web site soon, including posting regular updates for San Pu Kai. Thank you Jeff for your time, and taking this on.

Happy new year to you all. I am looking forward to another great year in bonsai,

Cary Sullivan-Valentine, President
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/>



SEASONAL SUGGESTIONS

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.

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 2014



SDBC BONSAI PAVILION at SAFARI PARK
January, 2014

We ended a very busy, enjoyable, educational and productive 2013 at our Bonsai Pavilion with a much improved and enhanced bonsai collection. Our volunteers have continued to be very enthusiastic, dedicated, and generous in their participation. The number of volunteers has grown and the hours spent by all have increased. Thus, the bonsai and the pavilion are looking better and better each month. Visitors are often impressed that this beautiful and tranquil garden and bonsai collection are maintained by volunteers! Congratulations and Many Thanks to all these special volunteers!

December thanks to: Neil Auwarter, Armand Bryant, **Ken Boss**, Alan Burrows, Julia Chow, Nelson Cortes, Cathy & Mark Edgar, Allan Edwin, **Jeff Geringer**, Sonja Holmquist, John Jackson, Jaya Kaelberer, Jim & Susan Kirchmer, **Marty & Ruth Mann**, Chris Manzanares, Charlie Mosse, **Sally Prestele**, Dan Sola, **Iyn Stevenson**, Charlie Tamm, **John Voss**, Dennis Wagner, Mark Walters, **Dave Woodall** and Roger Ziegelman . We welcome especially: Chris, Julia and Nelson as our new team members; they will be getting their I.D. cards and credentials from the Zoo in January.

Curator John Jackson directed the major December activity of transplanting over 17 of our bonsai. There are over 30 more to do this winter and upcoming spring including several of the recently donated bonsai. Fortunately, we have added more bench space for them in the

work area. Moving bonsai that are on display is part of the routine for the deciduous as well as the evergreen bonsai, water schedules are changed, garden and pond grooming and clean-ups of the fallen leaf debris continue regularly. There are always plenty of work assignments for all!

Due to failed eyesight and hearing, longtime member and friend, Helen Mildner, is retiring from bonsai. She has generously donated her personal bonsai library and a large collection of bonsai pots to the Pavilion. We are truly gratified that she designated the Pavilion as the recipient of these treasures.

The scheduled work sessions at the Pavilion will continue to be the first and third Saturdays of each month in 2014. We will host the SDBC members at the Pavilion at our traditional picnic and silent auction in May. Members who would like to participate as volunteers at the Pavilion need to register with the Zoo for credentials. Call Iyn for further information.

Iyn Stevenson
SDBC-Safari Park Liaison

San Pu Kai 2014 **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

January Holiday Party

Tuesday January 14 6:30 PM

Pan Asia Buffet, 707 Center Drive, San Marcos CA

<https://plus.google.com/114402777512248903249/about?gl=us&hl=en>

\$20.00 per person includes drink, tax and tip for a wonderful buffet dinner. 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!!



The olive after Ted's demonstration



The demo tree prior to Ted Matson's work



Members enjoying treats courtesy of Sandra



Ted at work on the olive



Ted answers questions during the demo



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

Calendar of Events

<i>Tuesday January 14, 2014</i>	<i>6:30 pm</i>	<i>Holiday dinner party / gift exchange Pan Asia Buffet, 707 Center Drive, San Marcos CA</i>
<i>Saturday, January 18, 2014</i>	<i>9 am - Noon</i>	<i>San Diego Zoo Safari Park Bonsai Pavilion Workday</i>
<i>Saturday, January 18 & 19, 2014</i>	<i>10 am- 4:30 pm</i>	<i>Winter Silhouettes 50 th annual Celebration Ayers Hall, LA Arboretum 310 north Baldwin Ave, Arcadia, CA</i>
<i>Saturday, February 1, 2014</i>	<i>9 am - Noon</i>	<i>San Diego Zoo Safari Park Bonsai Pavilion Workday</i>
<i>Tuesday, February 11 2014</i>	<i>7 pm – 9 pm</i>	<i>Regular Meeting: Juniper styling workshop Brenge Terrace Senior Center 1400 Vale Terrace, Vista CA</i>