



San Pu Kai Record

Monthly Newsletter of the San Pu Kai Bonsai Club



December 2015



President's Message

We had a great meeting in October Martha gave a great demo. She demonstrated on a juniper that she did a workshop at the GSBF convention. She was very informative and has started the first trimming of the juniper. We are very lucky to have Martha and for her to share to bonsai knowledge and talent that she learned while studying in Japan.

The Ramona girls supplied us with wonderful treats, oh they were so good, thank you both.

At the December meeting we will have Ted Matson back again, he will be working on the olive and maybe a juniper or black pine. Sharing more of his knowledge and talent on the shohin style. I know you guys will not want to miss out on this meeting. Ted is very busy, so we are very lucky to be able to get him again. Ted is the education curator at the Huntington Garden, he has been caring for the bonsai in the back growing area, getting them back to health, repotting and logging in the trees and pots etc.

Sandra will be bringing us treats this month, she does a wonderful job at the festive season.

Dues are now due for your membership. Please either bring cash or a check to the meeting, I'll be collecting them or you can mail them to me at
1010 Phillips Street, Vista CA 92083
Dues are \$20.00 per person or family \$25.00

I also will have a sign up sheet for our January Christmas party. We will be having it on January 12 in the place of our January Meeting at 6:30pm at the same restaurant as last year:
Pan Asian Buffet, 707 Center Drive, San Marcos.
The cost is \$20.00 per person. We will also be having our gift exchange, which is always fun. You just never know what you may get, try and make it bonsai related.

Cary Sullivan-Valentine

President
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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.



Bonsai Pavilion at the Safari Park

Through the years, the Bonsai Pavilion has had many transitions: from the old lower area in the old Wild Animal Park to the larger garden and collection in our now four year old installation. We have increased our volunteer group to over fifty and have also bid farewells to several of our past support crew. Last month, we especially remembered Maude Laracy. This month, we unfortunately have lost a significant early designer of the current Pavilion, David Strickland, who died just before Thanksgiving while undergoing chemo treatments. Dave was most generous with his time and professional architectural abilities in designing the initial concepts and drawings for our current Bonsai Garden and Collection. He spent countless hours preparing the drafts, the cost analysis, presentations to the SDBC membership, and to the Wild Animal Park management so that we could get the necessary approvals to break ground on this beautiful location. We would not have moved along as efficiently and beautifully if Dave had not donated so much of his personal support to the project. We shall remember him fondly and thankfully!

Each month, we continue to say thanks to our current volunteers who keep improving the Pavilion. In November, much help was donated by: Neil Auwarter, Julia Chow, Cathy & Mark Edgar, Sonya Holmquist, Curator John Jackson, Jaya Kaelberer, Jim Kirchmer, Jim Lang, newcomer Daniel Luczak, Charlie Mosse, Ron Ogdon, Janet & Ron Palmer, newcomer Mariah Peterson, Marcella Perez, Sally Prestele, Harland & Mary Ann Price, Mike Shelly, 'lyn Stevenson, John Voss, Assisant Curator Dennis Wagner, Mark Walters, Dave Woodall and Roger Ziegelman. Our newcomers have received their I.D. photo cards, Zoo and Park orientation, and their red shirts but our own volunteers help them acclimate to the responsibilities of the important bonsai care needed in our bonsai garden.

Of course, everyone is treated to the delicious snacks. This past month our thanks to: Janet,

Julia, Curator John, Cathy, Charlie, Marcella, Jaya, 'lyn, and Mark Walters. Marcella Perez and Sonya Holmquist have volunteered to chair the December Bonsai Pavilion Luncheon and are taking donations and replies from the volunteers for this now annual event.

Curator John Jackson hosted two special out-of-town guests to the Pavilion on November 14th for an in-depth tour. Author Jerry Meislik who wrote the book on "Ficus—the exotic bonsai" and Ficus expert, Tim Hoehn Boydston. Both were truly impressed with the SDBC Bonsai Pavilion and commented on their visit on "face book" afterwards. John also took them to visit our Pavilion volunteers Jamie and Ron Ogdon's home to see a 143 year old awesome Ficus Macrophylla. Bonsaiists always like to share!

Fall work continues in the Pavilion and some of the golden deciduous ginkgo bilobas and fruiting pomegranates are worthy of photographs by our many visitors. We sometimes have little garden problems but thanks to Dennis and the Safari Park Staff adjustments on the water valves and water pressure are being resolved. Constant checking for insects, breaks or leaks on the water spitters and drippers, ugly weeds, messy benches and pots, dried mosses, etc. have become routine for all along with trimming and weeding and of course, enjoyable visits with the many visitors to the Pavilion. Their comments and compliments put more smiles on our faces too!!

'lyn Stevenson
SDBC-Safari Park Liaison







San Pu Kai

c/o Membership
1010 Phillips Street
Vista, CA 92083

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Calender of Events

Tuesday, December 8, 2015	7 - 9pm	San Pu Kai Bonsai Club Meeting: Brenge Terrace Senior Center 1400 Vale Terrace, Vista CA
Saturday, December 19, 2015	9am - Noon	San Diego Zoo Safari Park Bonsai Pavilion Workday
Saturday, January 2, 2016	9am - Noon	San Diego Zoo Safari Park Bonsai Pavilion Workday
Tuesday, January 12, 2016	6:30 - 9pm	San Pu Kai Bonsai Club Christmas Party: Pan Asian Buffet 707 Center Drive, San Marcos, CA
Saturday, January 16, 2016	9am - Noon	San Diego Zoo Safari Park Bonsai Pavilion Workday