



San Pu Kai Record

Monthly Newsletter of the San Pu Kai Bonsai Club



March 2015



President's Message

We had a wonderful demo on grafting by Ken Bross. I think we all learned a lot and enjoyed it. It will be interesting to see when the members bring the 3 little grafted trees back in. That was so generous of Ken to donate the trees. Ken's hand out was very informative

and helpful. We should have his video of the demo on the website soon. Thanks again Ken you did a great job. Ken is also going to do a demo at our Mother's day show, so you will want to be sure to be there for that.

Our next meeting we will be cleaning up and repotting the junipers we got at House of Bonsai to sell at our Mother's Day show and plant sale. We only purchased 25 trees this time, as always prices are going up on growing stock, and I think it is time to start looking for another place to by our little trees to sell. So we are keeping our eye out for a source.

Steve will also be doing a short demo on his air layered elm, time to take it off. It will be interesting to watch.

Marie will be bring this month's treats.

Notice: Bob will be heading a Juniper dig this month: March 15th 7:00 am. Bob will be contacting everyone who signed up to go with a list of what you need to bring, where to meet, don't forget to bring a lunch, water and a sun hat.

I will be leading the rock group for a hunt in the Yuha, March 28th 7:00am, I will also be contacting everyone with what to bring, where we will meet, please bring a lunch, water and a sun hat.

Remember at both locations there are no facilities for food, water, or bathroom.

Several members went up to the Huntington for the Bonsai a thon. John Voss helped teach in the adult beginning bonsai class. It was a really nice day, no rain, great demos,

raffle and auction. Lois and Bill Hutchinson were honored for all their years' of dedication to the Huntington and GSBF. They are moving back east and they sure will be missed. Several member's got goodies in the vendor area.

April meeting we will be going over our show, I will have a sign-up sheet. We need to know who is showing trees how many, if you need stands, accent plants etc. We will need 100% help at our show, small club, big show. So please plan on helping your club.

I don't know if many of you know, that the Huntington has a free admission policy on the first Thursday of the month. This program has been around for some time, but what you also may not know that GSBF first Thursday program has been around for 15 years, but a fairly well-kept secret. This program furnishes bonsai specialist for the d2 bonsai court. The will answer questions, it is what we do at the Safari Park, or at our shows, answering lots of questions to the public. This is one of the business days at the Huntington, and we are reaching out to the public. The Bonsai specialist are volunteers from local clubs, If there are any members who might like to take a trip up and help out, you can sign up for several Thursdays or for all 12 of them, please contact Bill Wawrychuk@yahoo.com or 818-790-9415

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SEASONAL SUGGESTIONS

Plan your repotting activity. Now is the time, before the trees awaken. Take this opportunity to change from training pots or oversized pots to appropriate display pots more suitable to the finished bonsai. Determine the size, shape, color and style to complement your tree. If you see an appropriate pot at a nursery or bazaar, buy it when you see it.

A bonsai, to be ready for repotting, should be somewhat dry. This facilitates removal from a tight pot. Unwind twisted roots that have circled the outer rim and free them of hardened or compacted soil.

Usually, with deciduous or conifers, it's best to cut about 1/3 of the root ball away as the roots are freed. Trim to reduce the ball to fit into its new pot. Keep fine roots sprayed. Don't allow them to dry. Cut away heavy old roots.

When repotting, it's a good time to reposition the tree if it is required. Change the height, adjust the trunk angle, add more potting soil around the root ball, and work it in with your chopstick to fill in as many air pockets as possible. Remember to slope your surface slightly from the trunk to the lip of the pot. Leave an indentation along the rim of the pot to prevent water run-off. A good soaking removes destructive air pockets.

Repotted material may be placed in semi-shade for a week or so. Don't water heavily. Introduce the tree back to full light and warmth to encourage root and bud growth to begin.

Don't feed for 4 to 5 weeks. March can be a capricious month--ranging from cool to hot. Don't encourage too much quick growth since this creates unsightly long internodes and large leaves. Pay particular attention to fruiting and flowering trees. If they have been too active in directing their energy into flowers and buds then some pinching back can help them pay attention to leaves and woody branching.

Repotting activity should be regulated. Know when and what has been done to each tree. Plan your activity around a review of this generalized schedule of repotting as follows: Young trees, less than 5 years

old--repot every 1-2-3 years, depending upon growth and needs. Be sure you have strong root development before you repot young trees. Somewhat older trees, 5 to 20 years old--repot every 2-3-4 years. Check the root ball for good health. Very old trees, 20 or more years --repot every 4-5-6 years, depending upon the condition of the tree.

Review specie habits. Some like to be crowded and may not need to be repotted. Fertilization programs can resume. Don't feed newly potted material too soon. Fast growth causes long internodes and large leaves. Keep nitrogen content low for the first month or so as the plant comes out of dormancy.

If the new growth is too active, keep it pinched. Whenever a new set of leaves appears, pinch back on the center set. If your objective is to improve twiggyiness on elms, zelkovas, maples, etc. cut new internodes to two sets of leaves. Pinch new evergreen growth to encourage density. Don't pinch fruiting or flowering trees such as bougainvilleas, pomegranates, ume, crabapples, quince or azaleas. Early spring pinching removes the forming flower and fruit buds.

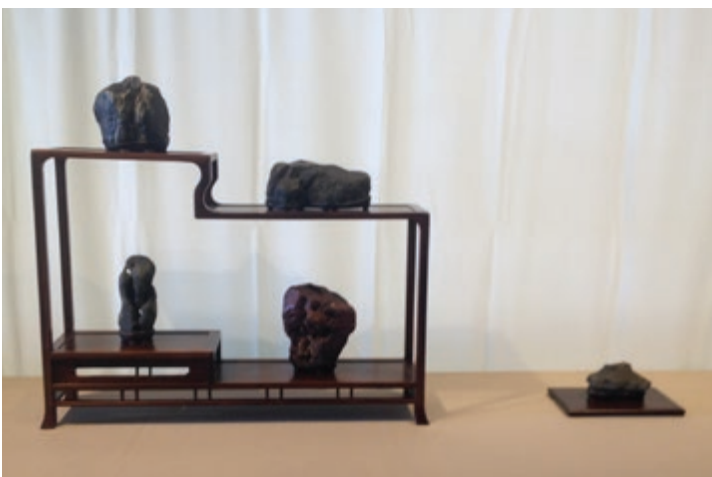
Insects come back to life with the arrival of steady warmth. Start with Malathion to attack most predators but don't overlook Seven or Isotox if signs of chewing damage show on your leaves. Spray well into the interior of the tree and onto the undersides of the leaves. Sucking insects such as scale, aphids, white flies, mealy bugs and mites require a systemic action in the pesticide you use. Watch for fungus. Use Benomyl to kill mildew. Spray on warm, dry days. Mid-morning is best to allow the spray material to dry onto the plant surfaces. Avoid watering until the sprays can be effective.

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.









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Calendar of Events

Tuesday, March 10, 2015	7 - 9pm	San Pu Kai Bonsai Club Meeting: Brenge Terrace Senior Center 1400 Vale Terrace, Vista CA
Sunday March 15, 2015	7am	Juniper Dig See Bobby Knox for more information at the March meeting
March 28, 2015	7am	Rock Hunt Date may change. More info coming soon.
March 28 & 29, 2015	10am - 4:30pm	58th California Bonsai Society Bonsai exhibition Reception 6-9 pm Botanical Center, Huntington Library and Botanical Garden
April 17th & 18th, 2015		Clark Bonsai Collection: Shinzen Garden Opening of the collection Shinzen friendship garden, in woodward park. shinzenjapanesegarden.org