



San Pu Kai Record

Monthly Newsletter of the San Pu Kai Bonsai Club



September 2015

Editors Note:

This month is our annual fundraising event for the club, it is what I call a “bring and buy”, for \$20.00 you get your turn to select and keep what members have brought in to donate to the club. You usually get many turns and it is so fun to see what you might get. It is anything goes. This is another way the club raises funds to be able to afford demonstrators like Ted and David and Martha, I know how we all have enjoyed and really learned from these great teachers. So let’s make this a great turn out of members and donations.

Jeff will be providing treats for us this month.

See you at the fundraiser meeting, back to regular start time of 7 PM.



**In addition to the raffle, the David
Nguy demo tree and Steve’s slab
planting will be up for auction.**



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<http://www.sanpukai.org>

SEASONAL SUGGESTIONS

Growth patterns of most trees begin to slow down at this time. They no longer show signs of vigor or the blush of summer greenery. They will not show autumn colors yet since the chemical changes required do not begin to materialize until late in September. The "Autumnal Equinox" approaches - the day of equal nights and days that leads us into the fall season, areas in our yard, previously exposed to full sun, have more shade and conversely trees get less light than they are accustomed to having in order to grow.

Notice tree locations. Move deciduous trees into cooler areas if you have had recent periods of regrowth. In spite of periods of cool weather, trees can respond to the warmth of the late summer and develop new foliage.

Fall is generally the end of the luxurious growth of summer and the last spurt of activity before settling down for winter dormancy. Bonsai will no longer grow very much so the need for extensive pruning should be minimal. Since recent growth may have added girth to branches and trunks, check all wired branches to see if they are set and, if they are, remove the wires.

Assuming you have properly reduced the nitrogen feeding during the past few months the fall colors on deciduous trees will show on liquid ambers, maples, gingkoes, hornbeams and Zelkovas. Cool nights and the effect of equal days and nights add to this phenomenon. Winter growth generally goes into the lignification of woody branches and trunks.

Fall is an excellent time to gather tree seeds as they ripen. Seeds from oak tree acorns, pine tree cones and many varieties of maples are in profusion--an excellent source for stratification by over wintering in your refrigerator. Plant them in early spring for new nursery seedlings and future training stock.

Our climate allows plenty of time for new growth to develop and harden before winter cool days

encourages dormancy. Check the growth of new candles on pines. There is still time for second candle removal. Attentive cut back and pinching minimizes unattractive long internodes and loss of compactness. The more you pinch and cut the more branch diversification occurs and new buds form for spring. This constant attention from early fall, throughout the dormant winter season, will intensify your design objectives.

Limit cuttings, at this time of year, to hardwood specimens or tropical varieties. The use of a rooting hormones

and a pre-soaking of a rooting stimulant, such as B-1 or Superthrive, improves the odds of success. A basic rooting medium such as 2 parts peat moss with 1 part perlite or coarse sand will serve you well. Keep the rooting medium slightly moist and shaded until evidence of new growth appears.

As fall approaches, deciduous trees, in nature and in bonsai, turn gold, orange and crimson. We marvel at the beauty of these changes and accept this metamorphosis as a fact of life. It is generally assumed that these changes are just a byproduct of dying leaves due to the effects of weather and light. Leaves get their green color during spring and summer from chlorophyll, the pigment that captures sunlight. But leaves also contain other pigments whose colors are masked during the growing season. In fall, the absence of chlorophyll allows these color pigments to break out, draw into the leaf tissues and begin to show.

As leaves become more colorful, an interesting phenomenon occurs. Aphids and other insects avoid trees with bright fall color and tend to lay their eggs in less colorful trees. When the eggs hatch next spring, the larvae feed on the tree and are very destructive. Some studies suggest that trees with strong fall color tend to suffer less damage from insects in spring.

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

Even with the very warm days of August, the Pavilion volunteers responded generously with their time and participation in grooming the bonsai collection and the garden. . .Many thanks to these warm weather guardians: Neil Auwarter, Ken Bross, Alan Burrows, Julia Chow, Cathy & Mark Edgar, Bob & Janice Hale, Sonya Holmquist, Curator John Jackson, Jim Kirchmer, Charlie Mosse, Ron Ogdon, Ron Palmer, Marcella Perez, Jon & Terri Petrescu, Sally Prestele, Harlan & Mary Ann Price, 'lyn Stevenson, Dennis Wagner, and Dave Woodall. Additional thanks to Charlie, John, Cathy, Julia, Ron Ogdon, and 'lyn for tasty snacks. Jim Kirchmer has arranged with the Safari Park Volunteer Office to also help stock our Pavilion refrigerator with some special snacks in the future. We all appreciate that special gesture.

The Safari Park has now completed the requested drains in the work area extension that the Pavilion volunteers had completed several months ago. We are so thankful that the drains are now in place! We can now arrange adding new benches in that work area for our expanding collection. With everyone's concern about the possible El Niño rains later this year, this will greatly prevent any major problems that could arise in the work area of the Pavilion. Our thanks always to Cary Sharp, the Safari Park Horticulturist, and his Staff.

Several newer SDBC members are now completing their application process with the SD Zoo Volunteer Office and will be receiving their photo ID cards, volunteer shirts, and credentials as they join our team of volunteers. SDBC members are always welcome. Of course, Volunteers do not receive financial remuneration but there are perks for those who sign up and even more perks for those who donate at least fifty hours a year. Talk to any of our current volunteers if you have questions about the work we do.

'lyn Stevenson
SDBC-Safari Park Liaison







San Pu Kai

c/o Membership
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Calendar of Events

Tuesday, September 8, 2015	7 - 9pm	San Pu Kai Bonsai Club Meeting: Brenge Terrace Senior Center 1400 Vale Terrace, Vista CA
Saturday, September 19, 2015	9am - Noon	San Diego Zoo Safari Park Bonsai Pavilion Workday
Saturday, October 3, 2015	9am - Noon	San Diego Zoo Safari Park Bonsai Pavilion Workday
Tuesday, October 13, 2015	7 - 9pm	San Pu Kai Bonsai Club Meeting: Brenge Terrace Senior Center 1400 Vale Terrace, Vista CA
Saturday, October 17, 2015	9am - Noon	San Diego Zoo Safari Park Bonsai Pavilion Workday