



# San Pu Kai Record



Monthly Newsletter of the San Pu Kai Bonsai Club

February 2017



## President's Message

Our January Dinner meeting at Pan Asia buffet was great fun, lots of food, the gift exchange was so much fun, I think everyone went home with something special. We celebrated our new GSBF teacher John Voss and our plant-a-seed winner Finnegan Vess, congratulations to them both. Thank you to everyone who joined us!

At our February meeting Ken Bross will be doing a grafting demo on junipers. This will be very interesting to learn and see Ken doing this. It's great to know how to get different types of foliage on your tree and add it where you might need some. You will not want to miss this, Ken does a really great job.

We will be having a board meeting this month, so if you have any ideas, questions or concerns please let me know so I can bring them up at our board meeting, we are planning a busy, learning year.

I hope everyone will be able to go to the Bonsai-a-Thon at the Huntington gardens, it's the next best thing to going to a GSBF convention, vendors, demos, tours, auctions, raffle, food and it is all free to bonsai club members. If you do plan on going, please remember to buy raffle tickets, and to donate something to the raffle, this is their fundraiser for the bonsai collection at the Huntington.

Please follow the GSBF Collections on Facebook and Twitter. They can be found at: Clark Center Bonsai Collection, Huntington Botanical Gardens & Bonsai Garden at Lake Merritt.

### **2017 Membership due to Chelle Vess**

**Family:** \$25.00

**Single:** \$20.00

If you have joined in the last several months you are good for the 2017 year.

Here is looking to a great 2017 for everyone and our club.

**Cary Sullivan-Valentine**

*President*

*caryme2@yahoo.com*



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

<http://www.sanpukai.org>

## **Bonsai-A-Thon XXI**

February 25<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup> 2017, 10:30am – 4:30pm

GSBF Collection at the Huntington

1151 Oxford Road, San Marino, CA

This is like a free mini bonsai convention, lots of vendors, demos, bonsai exhibit, tour of the bonsai garden, raffle and auction. Lunch can be bought at the bonsai a thon or at the Huntington. Please bring an item for their raffle.

It would be really great to see all members go to these, I think you will find you will learn a lot and see some great trees.



This Black pine is just one of the trees in the Bonsai-a-Thon auction



If you would like to volunteer at the Huntington gardens please see Steve or Carrie. Ted can always use the help.

# SEASONAL SUGGESTIONS

## PREPARE FOR SPRING (It's not here yet!)

When trees are dormant, slowed down and resting, they allow us to see them as twiggy silhouettes—deciduous or conifers. Whether potted or still in training, now is the time to critique your own trees. Often, when we attend conventions or club meetings we hear well-informed sensei or senior bonsaiist look at a tree and make educated and constructive observations that may improve or change. We fail however to take the spirit of these programs and apply them to our own material.

Take the time to do a critique. Observe your bonsai. Think of their future. Plan changes for improvement or change. Every piece of material you own deserves this New Year review. Your hobby should always seek an improvement challenge. Survey the finished trees you have in bonsai pots. Are they still in a proper match in size or color to the tree? Has the maturity and styling of the tree changed? Is it enough to consider repotting into a new pot? Is it taller, wider, fatter? Does the tree deserve a pot of better quality? Now is the time to redesign each completed tree. Review your nursery stock to determine the readiness of some of the partially trained material for transfer to a training or display pot. Check your inventory of pots. If you don't have one that fits your need, now is the time to shop at a bonsai nursery or attend one of the many local conventions. Bazaar vendors offer so many varieties and sizes. Maybe you will find the perfect 'domestic made' pot to fit the bill.

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 will cause 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 is a good time to prepare fertilizer supplies. Chemical and organic liquid fertilizers require no advance planning. They can be freshly mixed when ready to apply. If you are a user of the recommended dry mixes such as cottonseed meal (75%) with bone meal (25%) now is the time to prepare for next month. Keep the finished product in a dry place. If it gets wet it will begin to ferment and will drive you out of your yard! Remember, acid fertilizers are best for azaleas and camellias as well as conifers and junipers. The idea, when feeding in early spring is slow release. Don't rush your trees into a spurt of new growth too soon.

The time to spray your deciduous trees with a dormant spray (lime sulfur) is before any sign of new growth appears. February is a good month for this application. Keep this chemical away from the soil—roots can be damaged.

**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.*









## San Pu Kai

c/o Membership  
1010 Phillips Street  
Vista, CA 92083

<http://www.sanpukai.org>

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

## Calendar of Events

Tuesday, February 14, 2017	6:00 - 9pm	San Pu Kai Bonsai Club Meeting: Brenge Terrace Senior Center 1400 Vale Terrace, Vista CA
Saturday, February 18, 2017	9am - Noon	San Diego Zoo Safari Park Bonsai Pavilion Workday
February 25 & 26, 2017		Bonsai-a-Thon XXI GSBF Collection at the Huntington 1151 Oxford Road, San Marino, CA
Saturday, March 4, 2017	9am - Noon	San Diego Zoo Safari Park Bonsai Pavilion Workday
Tuesday, March 14, 2017	6:00 - 9pm	San Pu Kai Bonsai Club Meeting: Brenge Terrace Senior Center 1400 Vale Terrace, Vista CA