



# SAN PU KAI

March 2008

Editor: Joanie Berkwitz  
Distributor: Sally Bencangey

## Message from *Mary-Anne*

Our first meeting of the year, February, featured work on the club junipers, which were brought in by their "minders". **Marty Mann** and **Phil Tacktil** were notable in demonstrating work on these and member trees, in early preparation for the May show and sale. The trees will then be at their peak for the show. **John Voss** did bring in his juniper that Ted Matson 'shohin-ed' in November. It's always a treat to see **John's** trees.

Refreshments for February were amply provided by **Greg and Pam Payne** who brought **Tom Ohgi's** favorite Valentines Day cake, covered in luscious strawberries. We hope you'll sign up for February again next year **Greg and Pam!**

For the March meeting, **Ruth and Marty Mann** will be our caterers. We're going to try going back to the old system of handing the "goodie box" at each meeting to the person who will supply the following month's treats. It is too much to ask the same person to haul that box to every meeting and we thank **Cary Sullivan/Valentine** for doing so. At the March meeting **Ruth and Marty** will hand off the box to **Forrest and Michelle Vess** for April.

*Our March demonstration will be "Suiseki: All About Rocks" with **Cindy Read**, SPK member, President of San Diego Bonsai Club and owner of Kuma Bonsai Nursery in Lakeside ([www.kumabonsai.com](http://www.kumabonsai.com)). **Cindy** and the *Ishi Atima* group regularly make one and two day expeditions to the desert for rock hounding. She will tell us about the next outing.*

### Announcements:

We discussed the Executive session, the year's programs, our financial status (good) and our meeting location. It was agreed, by majority vote, to stay at the Carlsbad Senior Center for our meetings and the May show. If someone finds a cheaper location, on the same night and time, we can change and get our deposit and any pre-paid amounts back. So the Executive's decision to have the Treasurer forward payment for three months at a time to the Senior Center was approved by the membership.

The Minutes of the Executive Meeting were distributed, complete with financials. Extra copies are available. I also distributed a first attempt at a "budget projection for 2008" so we will have some idea where we're going as well as the year end "where we've been" financials, so ably supplied by **Tom**.

**Joanie Berkwitz** will try to fit 6 month's of our program schedule into the newsletter so you can plan ahead for those "you just can't miss". Thanks to **Sally Bencangey** for her help with the newsletter and the offer to send them by email to all those who signed up. The balance will be mailed as usual.

We had a new visitor, Atsuko Taylor from Oceanside, who we hope to see again soon as a member.

**Mary-Anne Monck**, President

P.S. Dues are Past Due,  
so please renew.  
(Not quite Hai Ku)

## BONSAI PAVILIONS AT THE WILD ANIMAL PARK

The rains continued to cause some extra work and some grief at the Pavilions during this past month. Many thanks to the volunteers for coming to the rescue on Saturday, February 16th! We had a great, energetic group and introduced several newcomers to the volunteer roster too. Welcome to Brad Bennett, Florentina Cruz, Brielle Rainey (scholarship student) and her parents, Mikki & Rob! They joined Joyce Goldman, John Jackson, **Marty & Ruth Mann**, Jon & Terri Petrescu, Harlan & Mary Ann Price, **'lyn Stevenson**, Charlie Tamm, Dennis Wagner, and **Dave Woodall** who all came out to help in February. Thanks to **Marty** for orientating our newcomers and thanks to Joyce and **'lyn** for refreshments.

The rains had caused quite a bit of mud to run down into the Pavilion area and also left large puddles, which had to be filled so that visitors could walk through without slipping and falling. By the end of the work day which also included weeding, pot cleaning, trimming, etc., the Pavilion and the bonsai were all in good shape. Once again we were able to share the bonsai with lots of local guests as well as visitors from France, Delaware, Minnesota, and the east coast of the USA.

Cary Sharp, the WAP Horticulturist, and his staff followed up the next week with a tractor and sand bags, etc. to remedy the situation before another storm arrived.

In the construction site, the WAP had delivered a 40' dumpster that we had requested. John Jackson directed the volunteers to fill it with more trash, cuttings, and debris. Fortunately, we had shovels, wheelbarrows, and chain saws to make the work somewhat easier — a true labor of bonsai love! John also had invited Thomas Winter to consult with us and offer his advice for future landscaping development. We are anxious to move into this next phase.

We always want and need volunteers in both Pavilion areas! The weather should be great for the March 15th workday and it will be a great time for transplanting. If you have not joined our list of volunteers, please call **'lyn** and become a part of this priority project for our Club.

**'lyn Stevenson**  
**SDBC-WAP Liaison**  
**858-486-4805**

### Schedule at a Glance for the 2008 San Pu Kai Meetings

April 8 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Accent plants/Kusamono</b> with <b>Janet Wanerka</b>
May 13 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Club Experts Demo</b> with <b>Marty Mann, BJ Patterson, John Voss, Dave Woodall and Tom Ohgi</b>
May 16 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Annual Spring Show set up</b> at the Carlsbad Senior Center
May 17 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Annual Spring Show</b> at the Carlsbad Senior Center
June 10	<b>Accent Scrolls for Tokonoma</b> with <b>VanMoch Nguyen</b>
July 8 <sup>th</sup>	<b>“Magic of Kimura”</b> video and lecture by <b>Phil Tackill</b>
August	<b>Mame (Mini Bonsai)</b> with <b>Shirley Kavanaugh</b>
Sept. 9 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Bonsai Pottery</b> with <b>Michelle Dougherty</b>
Oct. 14 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Critique of Member Trees</b> by <b>Club Experts</b>
Nov. 11	<b>Shohin Workshop</b> with <b>Ted Matson</b>
Dec. 9 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Collecting Methods</b> with <b>Ron Descoteau</b>
Jan. 13 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Holiday Dinner</b> (location undetermined)

# SAN PU KAI BONSAI- BONSAI IDEAS

BY MARTY MANN  
MARCH 2008 (#51)

## SPRING-- RENEWAL TIME.... REACTIVATE EVERYTHING!

Spring is the time of renewal. It's time to take stock of your trees, whether in pots or still in training stages. Review their future. It's time to resume a regular schedule of fertilization since the nutrients in the soil are leached during the dormant winter months. Bud swelling, the sign of spring awakening, begins to show and repotting time is upon us.

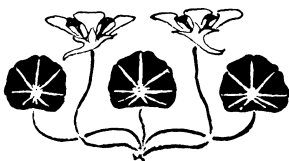
Last month was the time to ready repotting supplies - a well drained soil mix, clean pots, supplies of insecticides and fungicides, etc. etc. Now is time for a repotting schedule-- before the buds open up. Finish your activity before the leaves begin to show. This timing applies primarily to deciduous and flowering trees. Evergreens and conifers such as junipers, fir, spruce and pines can follow. If the tree has begun to flower or develop fruit delay repotting until after blooming. Until the plants become re-established- water cautiously

A bonsai, to be ready for repotting, should be somewhat dry. This facilitates removal from the 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. Cut away heavy old roots. Trim to reduce the ball to fit into its new pot. Keep fine roots sprayed. Don't allow them to dry.

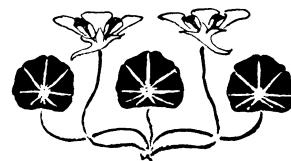
When repotting, it's a good time to reposition the tree if it's required. Change the position in the pot, adjust its height, change the trunk angle, add more potting soil around the root ball, and work it in with your chopstick to fill in the air pockets. Slope the soil surface slightly from the trunk 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. Place repotted material 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. Don't feed for 4 to 5 weeks. March and April can be capricious months--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.

Watch for beginning signs of new growth. Insects come back to life with the arrival of steady warmth. Start with Malathion ® to attack most predators but don't overlook Seven ® if signs of chewing damage show on the 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 pesticide. While introducing fertilizers watch for fungus. Use the new Ortho Garden Disease Spray to kill mildew. Spray on warm and dry days. It is best done in the mid-morning to allow the spray material to dry on the plant surfaces. Avoid watering until spray can be effective.

This article has been extracted from the recently published book called 'Bonsai Ideas' © By Marty Mann. Material is not to be copied without publisher or author's permission. March 2008



*'Till dawn brings sunshine  
Seedlings do struggle to rise  
With stored energy  
- Marty Mann*



Visit our club's website at [www.sanpukai.org](http://www.sanpukai.org)

## Calendar of Events

<b>Tuesday, March 11<sup>th</sup>, 2008</b>	<b>7 pm to 9 pm</b>	<b>Regular meeting, Carlsbad Senior Center, 799 Pine Ave</b>
<b>Saturday, March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2008</b>	<b>9:00 am to noon</b>	<b>Work Day, Wild Animal Park Pavilions</b>
<b>Tuesday, April 8<sup>th</sup>, 2008</b>	<b>7 pm to 9 pm</b>	<b>Regular meeting, Carlsbad Senior Center, 799 Pine Ave</b>

**\*\*\*\*\*The program schedule for 2008 meetings is inside\*\*\*\*\***

**This pdf file is intended for emailing and website viewing, and is not formatted to be mailed to members.**

**Thank you for reading our online newsletter, it saves trees so that we can dig them up and create more bonsai!**