



San Pu Kai Record

Monthly Newsletter of the San Pu Kai Bonsai Club

February 2012

Editor: Maria Barbosa



President's Message

I just want to **thank** all of the members who were able to make it to our annual dinner at Chin's, it was a smaller group this year, but we all had a good visit and good food, ...even the jelly fish. We had a great time with the gift exchange plus a little something extra for everyone for the New Year and re-potting time.

Board Meeting: I want the club to know; we had our first board meeting and went over the 2011 profit and loss and have set a budget for 2012. **Maria** has done a wonderful job with our budget and keeping all of the clubs financial obligations up to date. **Sandra** is so great to keep track of the club board decisions and discussions. We also had great help from our **program chair Bob**; we will have wonderful programs for the coming year. Many demonstrations and workshops, so there will be a lot of learning this year!

May Bonsai Show: We also discussed our show at the Carlsbad flower fields in May. The flower fields management have reserved a space for our show in a different location than where we have been before - but the new location is pretty nice also since we will have a nice stage with chairs, so we can do demos during the day. This will be great, as it will help with our plant sales. So please do think of trees that you may want to sell at our bonsai show. Also start thinking of the trees that you want to show. We will have a meeting on display and getting our trees ready for the Bonsai show.

Website Update: **Bob** has also been doing a wonderful job with our website; keeping it up to date and adding in our club's history. My at-large members remind us of what we may have forgotten

and help in so many ways, **Thank you John Voss & Steve!** See the updates at <http://sanpukai.org/>

February's Program: The program for our next meeting is: **Please everyone come and bring your tools!** We are having a juniper workshop (*we got the Junipers at the House of Bonsai in Lakewood and Vickie, the owner, gave us a great deal on them*) You will be cleaning them up and re-potting them so we can sell them at our main fundraiser of the year, our May Bonsai show. The trees will be used as a fundraiser for the club. **John Voss** is kind enough to be donating the soil for this workshop.

SUNSET RANCH RETREAT and TAMARISK DIG: I will have a sign-up sheet for our first **field trip/fundraiser to Sunset Ranch** for the week end of **March 31st & April 1st**. We can have up to 20 members. This is a **Tamarisk dig**, very easy for all and on flat sandy ground. This will be lots of fun because there is so much to do. If you get tired of digging up those Tamarisks, then there is bass fishing in their lake, or swimming or just relaxing and reading by the pool. You can get as many Tamarisks as you can; we also will have information on how to do this and the after care of the Tamarisk. We also will be having a special event for Saturday evening after dinner. **The cost of the weekend will include 3 meals and a night stay at the Ranch.** I will have more information at the next meeting.

Meeting Day Change? We are looking into changing our meeting night from AA Tuesday, so we can hear our speakers. I will give you more information as I get it.

Treats: I will be bringing the treat for this meeting, so save some room after dinner for treats.

Enjoy the rain. Our trees love it, but still water them.

Cary Sullivan-Valentine, President
760-445-2548 caryme2@yahoo.com

San Pu Kai is on FACEBOOK – link is
<http://www.facebook.com/#!/pages/San-Pu-Kai-Bonsai-Club/184125964939396>

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A Brief History of San Pu Kai

By Tom Honda

Bonsai classes were first offered in the North San Diego County when Jerry Hoover, a nursery owner, contacted **Tom Honda** of the North San Diego County Gardeners Association about having **John Naka** teach classes at Jerry's nursery. When Tom brought the matter up with the gardeners, they responded with enthusiasm.

Mike Hisashi Inouye, Sachio Matsubara, William Harada, Toru Hirai, Bill Watanabe, Sam Endow and Tom Honda agreed to take the class if it were offered. Also interested were three ladies, Michiko Honda (Tom's sister-in-law), Megumi Inada and Keiko Fukada, bringing the total number of students to ten. The classes were first offered in 1974 and held once a month at Jerry Hoover's nursery.

Shortly thereafter, Mary Varian (whose husband Dusty later designed the San Pu Kai logo) and Helen Burton joined the class. As word spread, many others came for lessons. As the classes grew, the students felt a club was needed so the students could practice their craft together and exchange ideas between visits from John Naka. A meeting was held in 1976 at which time **Tom Honda** was elected President of the organization which was named the North County Bonsai Club. **Jerry Hoover** was elected Vice President, **Mary Varain** – Secretary, **Bill Watanabe**- Treasurer and **Sam Endow, Mike Inouye** and **Jerry Hoover**- Advisors.

In 1977 with the same officers re-elected, committee chairpersons were chosen as follows:

- **Education**- Sam Endow assisted by Miki Inouye and Jerry Hoover
- **Publicity**- Toru Hirai
- **Show**- Jessica Van Dyke assisted by Paul Grigsby and Neil Poppendick
- **Program / Demonstrations**- Jerry Hoover
- **Field Trips**- Jerry Hoover
- **Telephone**- Mary Varain assisted by Helen Burton and George Hasegawa
- **Library**- Kathleen Jolly assisted by Hildegard Stubbs
- **Membership**- Bill Watanabe assisted by Victor Hayden

The Club's first anniversary dinner and installation party was held in the newly completed North San Diego Church (now renamed the Japanese Cultural Center) in Vista, co-chaired by Rinko Ozaki and Mary Varain. Japanese music was provided by Mike Inouye, and Hildegard Stubbs, Sam Endow and Bill Watanabe

donated pots and trees for door prizes. Bonsai were displayed by Sam Endow and Jerry Hoover.

After Jerry sold his nursery, classes were held at the North San Diego Church judo dojo, where the first bonsai exhibition was held (*year unknown*). The show was held in conjunction with the Hanamatsuri (Flower Festival). Tom Honda and Victor Hayden did bonsai demonstrations during the festival.

Subsequent bonsai shows were held yearly in the main hall of the church when Aubrey Pollard, Helen Means, Hue and Margaret Harper, Barney and Eileen Goldman, Gladys Wirth, B.J. Patterson and Ralph Birt joined the Club.

Aubrey built the backdrops for the bonsai, Hue built the stands and slabs to display the bonsai and Ralph sold plants to members and discounted prices. The combination of the beautiful hall, excellent backdrops and careful display engineered by **B.J. Patterson**, show chairman, made for a greatly enhanced appearance of the shows.

Some members suggested that the Club's name was vague and that it should have a Japanese name. Tom Honda asked John Naka for input and Mr. Naka suggested the name "**San Pu Kai**" which in English means "*wind from the mountains*". The club was renamed San Pu Kai and is known by that title to this day.



John Naka, 1980

John Naka continued to conduct classes until he reached an age where he found it difficult to drive from Los Angeles to Vista. Reluctantly he stopped giving classes to San Pu Kai in the mid-1980s.

The Club secured the services of other notable bonsai artists who came from Orange and Los Angeles counties to give demonstrations at meetings. Because of the cost involved, the Club had only limited exposure to these artists. Fortunately, some of our "home grown" members had become sufficiently skilled to conduct workshops, as well as the arrival of talented bonsai artists moving to North County to sustain the interest in San Pu Kai.

(You can find this article on San Pu Kai's website under "history" with a link to John Naka information)

BONSAI STAMPS ISSUED JANUARY 2012

Art director and stamp designer Ethel Kessler worked with artist John D. Dawson on the BONSAI stamps. They are being issued as Forever stamps, which are always equal in value to the current First-Class Mail one-ounce rate.



JUNIPER DIG

If you are interested in a day trip to the nearby mountains to collect California junipers - NOW is your chance. In the near future, small groups of club members are invited to dig junipers on private property with owner's written permission.

The activity is strenuous and you must be self-contained. Contact **Bob Knox** if you are interested or would like further information- (760) 727-7317 robertk44@cox.net

LETTER FROM TED MATSON

To All Southern California Bonsai Enthusiasts 2012 NATIONAL BONSAI EXHIBITION

As you know, Bill Valavanis will be staging the third **U.S. National Bonsai Exhibition** on the weekend of **June 9-10, 2012**. This event will take place at a new venue, The Fair and Expo Center, in Rochester, New York. I was lucky to be able to attend the last exhibit in 2010, and was very impressed by the variety and quality of the trees. However, what also struck me was the noticeable absence of trees from Southern California. (*Larry Ragle was the lone entry.*)

I'm as much a reason for this as anyone. In past years, I've been reluctant to participate in this exhibit, mostly due to logistical concerns over transporting trees across the country. However, after working out many of the bugs in the two prior events and also offering to provide a refrigerated truck specifically for our trees for this upcoming show, I think Bill has made it a more practical endeavor.

I know that there are many excellent trees in Southern California worthy of entry into this exhibit. There are also substantial cash prizes to be won. But, most of all, I really feel that for this to be considered a true national exhibition, it needs the support of bonsai folks from everywhere, including here. And, I'd like to help make that happen.

For this reason, I've offered to be a driver of the truck to haul trees across country to and from New York. With this letter, I'd extend an invitation to Southern California bonsaiists who'd like to enter a tree in the U.S. National Exhibition to select their trees, submit their entries and start preparing for the competition. For rules and to submit an entry, go to Bill's website at <http://www.internationalbonsai.com>, and follow the link to the "**2012 US National Bonsai Exhibition**" where you'll be able to learn everything about the event. **Entry deadline is April 15.**

In transporting these precious artworks, I will take every precaution to ensure that all trees are cared for along the way and during the return. However, the one thing I will not be able to do is to prepare, pack/crate and label your tree, along with the necessary stands, accents, etc., for your display. Each individual must be responsible for ensuring that your bonsai are pest/disease free and packed/padded/boxed to protect branches, twigs and pots, while also allowing for watering. We'll arrange logistics for collecting/returning entries once they're identified.

If you have any questions about the event, your best bet is to go to Bill's website. For questions about the transport, don't hesitate to contact me, either via email at tmatson@earthlink.net, or via phone at **626-398-8412**. I'm hoping for an enthusiastic response to this invitation. I hope you join me in bringing a strong California presence to the next U.S. National Bonsai Exhibition.

Thanks,
Ted Matson

SATURDAY AND SUNDAY SCHEDULE

7:30 AM – 9:30 AM	Pancake Breakfast ¹
8:00 AM – 5:00 PM	Bazaar and Bonsai Exhibits
10:00 AM – 11:30 AM	Jim Folsom tour of the GSBF Bonsai Collection at the Huntington
11:00 AM – 3:00 PM	Demonstrations ²
11:30 AM – 1:30 PM	Hotdogs and Hamburgers Lunch ¹
2:00 PM – 3:00 PM	ONLY ON SUNDAY: Larry Ragle PowerPoint presentation
3:00 PM – 4:30 PM	Raffle and live auction

- 1 Registered Bonsai-A-Thon attendees may purchase breakfast and lunch in the Head House west of the Conservatory building.
- 2 Initial styling and advanced refinement demonstrations by:

Saturday...

- Bob Hilvers
- Harry Hirao
- Mel Ikeda
- Cheryl Manning
- Tak Shimazu

Sunday...

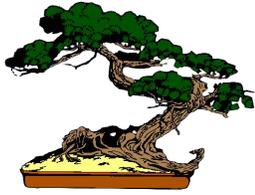
- Kathy Benson
- Marcus Juniel
- Peter Macasieb
- Roy Nagatoshi
- Ken Teh

NOTE: Bonsai styled by these experts will be available in the auctions and raffles. This is your chance to own a tree with a pedigree!

HOW TO GET IN

Attending the Bonsai-A-Thon is free, but does require registration at the Botanic Center. You can speed the process by filling in the badge “ticket” to the right and showing it to the Bonsai-A-Thon registrar or the Huntington security guard.

	Feb 25 - Feb 26 2012
	Bonsai-A-Thon Participant



BONSAI PAVILIONS AT THE SAN DIEGO ZOO SAFARI PARK

The Bonsai Pavilion activities begin the New Year with many items that have been planned and partially executed for the past many months. In 2012, there will be additional construction and garden planting along with much additional bonsai work on new additions to the collection as well as continued work on many of the seventy-plus trees already on display. The sense of accomplishment thus far continues to encourage all the volunteers to make the displays even better.

Our architect-member, Roger Marr, is working on the plans for the shohin and tokonoma display areas for the Pavilion. Since the San Diego County awarded the latest grant to us, we need to proceed with the construction and provide the County with our costs, etc. by September, 2012. This will certainly be another beautiful addition to the Bonsai Pavilion.

In spite of some inclement January weather, a courageous group of volunteers arrived to work. . .rain or shine! Many thanks to: Susan Baker, Jim Cathy & Mark Edgar, Maria & Tina Flores, John Jackson, Jim Kirchmer, **Bobby Knox, Marty Mann**, Patrick O'brien, **Sally Prestele**, Harlan & Mary Ann Price, **'lyn Stevenson**, Charlie Tamm, **Cary & Steve Valentine, Forrest & Michele Vess, John Voss**, Dennis Wagner, & **Dave Woodall**. Special thanks always for the nourishing snacks that Cathy Edgar, John Jackson, Mary Ann Price, Maria & Tina, Cary and 'lyn provided for our break time.

A large identification plaque has been installed at the entrance to the Pavilion near the TORII GATE. The volunteers all gathered around it in December for a photo and can probably be seen on our SDBC web site now. It has the SDBC logo and the words "BONSAI PAVILION" handsomely engraved on it. It was mounted on the granite boulder that was formerly in front of the old pavilion. It is most inviting to Safari visitors coming up the hill from Condor Ridge.

Steve has ordered 100 Tree Identification Donor Name Plates to be affixed to the bonsai benches next to each bonsai pot. The volunteers will attach them to the tables/stands appropriately as the trees are displayed. The plates will be moveable whenever a bonsai is

changed to another location in the Pavilion. Many visitors have asked for this information even though Cary and Joyce previously had put permanent, moveable charts in our kiosk at the entry to the Pavilion. Hopefully, this will be more visitor friendly.

In 2012, we will continue to meet on the first and third Saturdays from 9:00 a.m. to Noon (or later) each month for work sessions at the Pavilion. All volunteers need Safari Park credentials for admission at the back service entrance—the Zoo-Safari Park requests volunteers to be available to donate at least 60 hours a year. More volunteers are always invited to join our bonsai volunteers. For further information, please call 'lyn Stevenson at 858-486-4805.

'lyn Stevenson
SDBC-Safari Park Liaison

BUS TRIP TO THE SEQUOIAS June 2012

This is great deal for a bus excursion to the heart of the Sequoias, stay in the Sequoias, and get not only the bus ride included with the cost of the trip, but also the lodging and most of the meals! See Maria Barbosa if you are interested.

February 25th - 26th GSBF Bonsai-A-Thon XVI

Botanical Center, Huntington Library and Botanical Gardens
7:30AM-4:30PM both days

Extensive Bazaar Area – Top-quality tools, pots and trees on sale; masterpiece trees on display

Bonsai Exhibit – By Russell Benson & Sansui-Kai members

Special Exhibit – By the Huntington in the Flora-Legium room

Demonstrations – Initial and advanced styling by experts

Daily Raffle & Auction – Pots, tools, demo & donated trees...

Guided Tours – Led by Jim Folsom, Director of the Huntington Botanical Gardens, at 10:00AM each day

- GSBF Bonsai Collection at the Huntington
- Proposed expansion of the Japanese Garden

2011 Memberships DUE

Please pay at the January Holiday Party...or mail your dues to: **Maria Barbosa, SPK membership**

2727 De Anza Road, #J-26

San Diego, CA 92109

Make your check out to "San Pu Kai"

\$20.00 for single membership

\$25.00 for a couple



BONSAI IDEAS

DECEMBER, #98

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.
February 2012

HAIKU POEM
Ordinary days
Have a magic and beauty
Trees thrive to give joy

Marty Mann

February 2012



**Marty's repotted tree at the
San Diego Zoo Safari Park Pavilion**

Candids from the Winter Silhouettes Bonsai Show.....



Kay Komai and Dave Woodard



Flowering Ume



Pomegranate with one fruit



Winter Silhouettes Tokonama



Intricate branching revealed

Officers

President – Cary Sullivan-Valentine
760-445-2548 Caryme2@yahoo.com

Vice-President – Bob Knox
760-727-7317 robertk44@cox.net

Secretary – Sandra Knowles
760-753-9493 b.knowles@sbcglobal.net

Treasurer/Membership – Maria Barbosa
619-606-6523 bonsaigarden@earthlink.net



San Pu Kai

*c/o Maria Barbosa, Membership
2727 De Anza Road, #J-26
San Diego, CA 92109*

Calendar of Events

Saturday, February 4, 2012	9 am - Noon	San Diego Zoo Safari Park Bonsai Pavilion <i>Workday</i>
Tuesday, February 14, 2012	7 pm - 9 pm	BRING YOUR BONSAI TOOLS! Juniper workshop – to work on the May Bonsai Fundraiser trees. Regular meeting, Brenge Terrace Senior Center, 1400 Vale Terrace, Vista, CA
Saturday, February 18, 2012	9 am - Noon	San Diego Zoo Safari Park Bonsai Pavilion <i>Workday</i>
Saturday, March 3, 2012	9 am - Noon	San Diego Zoo Safari Park Bonsai Pavilion <i>Workday</i>
Tuesday, March 13, 2012	7 pm - 9 pm	BRING YOUR BONSAI TREES and TOOLS! Regular meeting, Brenge Terrace Senior Center, 1400 Vale Terrace, Vista, CA
Saturday, March 31 – April 1, 2012	All weekend	SUNSET RANCH Field Trip/Fundraiser (Tamarisk Dig)