



San Pu Kai Record

Monthly Newsletter of the San Pu Kai Bonsai Club

October/November 2012

(Double Issue)

Editor: Maria Barbosa



President's Message

The last few months we have had some wonderful meetings. I want to really **thank every member** who helped with the club yearly fundraising. You all were so generous with your donations to the club and for buying the \$20.00 raffle tickets during the September Annual Club Raffle. We had such a great time and everyone went home with lots of bonsai goodies. Plus the club brought in \$420.00 for the regular raffle and on the special silent auction raised another \$150.00... so a total of \$570.00!

Club's Fundraising: We are building our bank account towards purchasing a storage shed for all of the clubs bonsai show backdrops and table covering that we use at the club's annual show at the Flower Fields. In previous years, past president, **Joanie Berkwitz**, has graciously stored them at her home, of which we are very grateful,...but it now time to find a new home for all of the club's storage. John Voss is nice enough to let us house the storage shed on his nursery property. So when we raise enough for the purchase we will be making arrangements with John to build the shed on his property and store the club's material on that site

After that main purchase, we will begin to fundraise and save to buy tables and chairs so we do not have to rent them every year for the show. This would be a saving of about \$250.00 yearly, making our club show costing only the \$250.00 to the Flower Fields. This would be a great saving to our club and more profit at our show.

2013 SPK Bonsai Show: I have already been in contact with the Flower Fields and have set the date with them for our Bonsai show the Mother's Day weekend in 2013.



2013 Bonsai Education: We are slowly getting more members joining our club, great new. We have so many new members and members new to bonsai that the Board is working on some classes and workshop programs. More to come on this when we get all the kinks worked out and a place to hold the classes.



Joe Dupont & Steve Valentine looking into a member's bonsai and being bold!

October Meeting: We all learned a lot from the "bring your own tree to work on" meeting. We did not really work on the trees, but I think bringing them up to the front of the room and

talking about each tree really helped a lot of members understand the direction of what you want the tree is go in and the future and care of the tree. It was fun to see the big cuts that Steve so confidently made.



Steve Valentine & John Voss discussing style options for a member's bonsai.

Refreshments: The treats were so good that I know everyone loved the brownies and the pumpkin cookies. Charley, thank you so much!

November Program: Joe DuPont will be doing another one of his wonderful and very informative talks, this time on Bonsai Propagation. This is a really great tool to have in your bonsai skills and also saves you money. Joe has worked in the Nursery field for many years and has a lot of bonsai and general plant knowledge to share. He is also a soil science graduate of Cal Poly. We are very lucky to have him. This meeting will be fun and chocked full of a lot of information, so you really do not want to miss this one. Great bonsai growing to you all,

Cary Sullivan-Valentine, President
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San Pu Kai is on FACEBOOK – link is
<http://www.facebook.com/SanPuKai#!/SanPuKai/info>



BONSAI PAVILIONS AT THE SAN DIEGO ZOO SAFARI PARK

The beautiful autumn weather has been a great time at the Bonsai Pavilion for our volunteers and all the Safari Park visitors too. October volunteers included 27 special helpers: Neil Auwarter, Susan Baker, Alan Burrows, Martha Choy, Cathy & Mark Edgar, Maria & Tina Flores, Allan Edwin, Barb French-Lee, John Jackson, Jim Kirchmer, Charlie Mosse, Patrick O'Brien, **Sally Prestele**, Harlan & Mary Ann Price, Bill Quillin, Dan Sola, **Iyn Stevenson**, Charlie Tamm, **Forrest & Michele Vess**, **John Voss**, Dennis Wagner, and Mark Walters and **Dave Woodall**. Allan Edwin is our newest volunteer in October; he received helpful directions and welcomes from John and others in his new venture to the Pavilion. We continue to appreciate each person's willingness to participate and welcome any other SDBC members who would like to join us.

Due to the SDBC's bus trip on Saturday,, November 3rd and the Zoo's Volunteer Tribute Program at Safari Park on December 1st, we will not have work sessions at the Pavilion on those days but we will work other Saturdays in November as we prepare for all the bonsai transplanting that needs to be done this season. Major trash cleanup around the Pavilion and our work and shed areas along with removal of an incredible amount of overgrown brush on the hillside were impressive projects that improved the Pavilion area. Meticulous bonsai trimming and pinching and wiring along with pot cleaning kept everyone very involved but time was taken for some delicious snack breaks and friendly conversations too. Our constant concern over the proper watering of the bonsai and the Pavilion areas is a regular task as well as keeping the ponds and stream clear of overgrown vegetation. So there are many responsibilities that the volunteers have most willingly assumed each work session. Many thanks to each of them for their efforts!

Thanks also for the gourmet goodies that were donated this month by Cathy, Charlie, John, Barb, Dan, Mary Ann, and 'lyn. Thanks also to **Marty Mann** for donating two more trash barrels to our inventory; we separate trash, green waste, and recyclables each time and the **Safari Park Staff** takes care of the disposals. Thank goodness!

All SDBC and SPK members are always welcome at the Bonsai Pavilion. . .even if you are not a volunteer, come and visit and enjoy the beauty of these outstanding bonsai presented in a lovely, inviting, restful corner of the Safari Park. We notice guests are now taking time to sit on one of the new benches, take photos, and ask questions. We always enjoy sharing this wonderful art and experience.

'lyn Stevenson
SDBC-Safari Park Administrative Liaison



John's wiring larger branches to the pot to bring the branches downward, and stripping bark and branch ends of the cut branches to give the appearance of age and stress to the tree.



Another view of the branch wiring



John Jackson, August Demonstrator (below) John wiring the branches to give weight and age to tree



The bonsai, donated by Bobby Knox, is now taking shape, thanks to John's vision.



BONSAI IDEAS

OCTOBER, #106

FALLING LEAVES AND FALL COLORS – ENJOY THE SEASON

Light conditions begin to change. Trees that have had full sun exposure find themselves in more shade. Watch the location of trees at this time of year. Rotate them into more favorable light exposures. Allow them to continue storing strength and food for the winter. Late summer feeding, with reduced amounts of nitrogen, may be continued throughout the fall months into November. The recommended basic mix of 70% cottonseed meal, 30% bone meal may be supplemented with foliar feeding for evergreen, conifers and other non-deciduous material. Warm spells are common at this time and trees often respond with new growth. This tender growth is susceptible to damage if any sudden cool weather occurs.

Deciduous trees will begin to show fall colors as soon as cooler nights become more common. After they have had their moment of glory be sure to remove any brown leaves as they appear. Keep the trees free of accumulated trash that can house many undesirable wintering insects and encourage fungus buildup. Keep the trees open, light and airy.

This is the best time to study the main trunk line and branch structure. Consider style changes suggested when the skeleton of the tree could be seen. September and October can still be considered for repotting certain species of material such as bamboo, boxwood, junipers, conifers, citrus, cotoneaster, elm, ginkgo, hornbeam, maples and privet. (Ref: BONSAI TECHNIQUES 1-By JOHN Y. NAKA.) Usually, potting is best done when trees begin their normal dormant period. Any activity after October should be limited to pot-to-pot

transfers only. Wait until spring, just before new growth begins to do most repotting. Additional potting information for specific species is available in the recently published book, *BONSAI IDEAS*, By Marty Mann.

Expose pine trees and other conifers to full light during the forthcoming months. This encourages the formation of new candles and healthy root formation. Much of the new growth forms after the pines are de-candled early in May or June. New growth appears in clusters of three to five candles. Remove all but two. Pluck all old needles to free the tree from a dense foliage mass to permit light and air to penetrate into the heart of the tree and encourage new interior growth.

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Cut back on your watering schedule but don't allow the trees to dry. As the length of the day's sunshine is shortened, the trees require less water. A balance must be maintained between the minimal watering and the loss of moisture by transpiration during intermittent hot spells.

Continue to rotate all trees to maintain even exposure to the limited light conditions. This is the time for trees to store food for winter dormancy. It is also the time to keep trees free of accumulated trash. They could be the home for winterizing insects and fungus. Keep all trees open, airy and exposed to the light.

Keep up applications of an all-purpose insecticide and fungicide. Insect, such as aphids continue to suck sap and can be best controlled with an oily or systemic pesticide. Watch for signs of fungus infection such as dark spots on needles and leaves or a white powdery substance at the base of the leaves. Fungus infection can be prevented with applications of a copper-based Bordeaux® or Daconil® is effective for above ground infections.

By Marty Mann



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

MORE BONSAI IDEAS

NOVEMBER, #107

A TIME TABLE – WINTER ACTIVITY

Following the autumnal equinox, nature allows the ever-active growth cycle of trees to slow down, to hibernate until the warmth and sunshine of spring returns. While we avoid the difficulties of inclement, bleak weather season we must also be watchful. Preservation of the good health and style of our trees never stops.

Special attention can be given to your bonsai at this time of year. Allow all activities to dovetail into the last quarter of the year, before the arrival of the new growing season.

Preserving the health of a tree involves proper watering procedures during the dormant period in cool weather. Deciduous trees have transformed from the beautiful fall colors to barren silhouettes. Evergreen trees appear dull, inactive and unchanging. Since warm weather does occur at this time of year, potted trees must be watered regularly, but cautiously, even if brief winter rains happen. Coolness brings slow growth and during periods of dormancy. Trees require only a dampening of the root zone since transpiration of moisture is essentially non-existent. Watch for prevailing and drying winds. The porosity of a good bonsai soil mix allows moisture to quickly escape a shallow pot. If you count on the regularity of an automatic

timed watering system, the timing cycle should be adjusted for winter requirements.

November should end any new plant growth activity. Unless the high temperatures continue, it is a good time to let trees rest. Reduce your watering (don't allow anything to dry. Avoid any feeding. The only exception to the fertilization recommendation might be a 0-10-10 application to flowering and fruiting material.

Winter moss that may be forming in the shaded areas around the yard can be gathered and placed in flats. Let it grow for use in the spring to dress your bonsai. It's advisable to remove any build-up of moss that accumulated as a thatch on potted material. This build-up tends to reject surface watering and prevents moisture from penetrating to the root mass.

Reconsider the arrangement of trees on benches. Those that may have been moved into shaded areas to avoid hot summer sun can now be exposed to better light. This is an excellent time to sort out trees into *first-things-first* categories. Attend to those trees that require winter trimming while the branch silhouettes are easy to study. Repot those trees showing signs of being root bound early in spring. Check the rootage on all trees. Allow some surface exposure to encourage a change from soft surface tissue to the adaptation of textures similar to the outer trunk bark.

Apply Orthorix® Lime Sulphur as a dormant spray, especially on aged or dead wood Jin and Shari areas. Keep lime sulphur away from pine needles or any material showing signs of new buds. Another good dormant mixture is a combination of a copper based Bordeaux® fungicide and Volck Oil®. Avoid dripping spray into the root systems. It has been found that lime sulphur is also quite effective in controlling scale and spider mite infestations. Use it as a diluted spray (15 tablespoons to a gallon of water). Malathion, or Seven are best for your battle with aphids or ants. Read product directions

By Marty Mann

These articles have 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.
November 2012

POSTSCRIPT FROM MARTY:

You don't stop laughing because you grow old. You grow old because you stop laughing.

Have a great day, and know that someone has thought about you today.



Setting up for the September Fundraiser



Silent Auction Items:
A great bonsai pot and the demo tree from the August demonstration

HAIKU POEM
*At peace with your thoughts
Think often of great pleasures
Life and time passes*

Marty Mann *October 2012*



HAIKU POEM
*November show times
Leave fine memories
Will another come too soon?*

Marty Mann *November 2012*

Officers

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UPCOMING EVENTS:

**December 27, 2012 – January 2, 2013:
San Marino, CA**

California Aiseki Kai: 23rd Anniversary Exhibition of Viewing Stones Show, located in Friends Hall at The Huntington Library and Botanical Gardens, 1151 Oxford Road. Hours are 10:30 AM – 4:30 PM each day. Closed on New Year's Day. Free parking and free entry into exhibit. For more information see website:

www.aisekikai.com and/or contact hutch@aisekikai.com.

February 23 & 24, 2013: San Marino, California

Bonsai-A-Thon XVII at The Huntington Library and Botanical Gardens, 1151 Oxford Road. This is the annual fundraiser for the GSBF Collection at The Huntington.

Admission to the event and to the Huntington Gardens is free with Bonsai-A-Thon "Early Bird" Registration. Hours are 7:30 AM – 4:30 PM both days. Pancake breakfast, tour hosted by Jim Folsom (Director of the Garden), demonstrations, lunch, bonsai exhibits, large sales area, raffle, and auction. For more information, contact Marge Blasingame, 626-579-0420 or margeblasingame@att.net.

PLAN AHEAD!

2013 GSBF Convention in Los Angeles

Next year's Golden State Bonsai Federation's convention will be **October 31 through November 3, 2013**, at the Los Angeles Marriott Burbank Airport, Hotel and Convention Center, [2500 North Hollywood Way, Burbank, CA 91505](http://www.gsbfbonsai.org/convention/). Visit the GSBF website for periodic updates.

<http://www.gsbfbonsai.org/convention/>

"Early Bird" Registration will begin **July 1, 2013**.

GSBF conventions have a large vendor room, bonsai displays, competitions, workshops and seminars.



San Pu Kai

*c/o Maria Barbosa, Membership
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Calendar of Events

Tuesday, November 13, 2012	7 pm – 9 pm	Regular Meeting: JOE DUPONT BONSAI PROPAGATION Brenge Terrace Senior Center 1400 Vale Terrace, Vista CA
Saturday, November 17, 2012	9 am - Noon	San Diego Zoo Safari Park Bonsai Pavilion <i>Workdays</i>
Tuesday, December 11, 2012	7 pm – 9 pm	Regular Meeting: TED MATSON DEMONSTRATION Brenge Terrace Senior Center 1400 Vale Terrace, Vista CA
Saturday, December 15, 2012	9 am - Noon	San Diego Zoo Safari Park Bonsai Pavilion <i>Workdays</i>
Tuesday, January 8, 2012	7 pm – 9 pm	SAN PU KAI HOLIDAY PARTY (location to be announced)