



San Pu Kai Record

Monthly Newsletter of the San Pu Kai Bonsai Club

March 2014



President's Message

We had a great turn out at our last meeting. Everyone was very busy working on the Japanese garden junipers that the club bought at House of Bonsai, getting them trimmed and ready for our May show and plant sale. Several members took advantage and bought some of the junipers; they fell in love with them and took them home at a discounted price.

Please remember to save this date, Mother's Day week end May 10 and 11. We really need every member to participate to make our show easier on everyone, remember we are a small club. Coffee, bagels, ice tea and pizza will be provided both days for all of our club volunteers.

For our March program we will be repotting the junipers at this time, so please bring your tools, gloves etc. John Voss is generously supplying the club with potting soil mix for the junipers. We will be potting them in the little plastic pots also from house of bonsai. We are very lucky to have this great source of material to buy for the club. You can find house of bonsai 5214 Palo Verde Ave, Lakewood, CA 562-804-6888 or www.houseofbonsai.com. Please let the owner Vickie know you are a San Pu Kai member.

A reminder that the San Diego County Fair "The Fab Fair" runs from June 7th through July 6th this summer. Entries are now open for the bonsai display and contest. The deadline to enter is May 5th, more info is available at: entry@sdfair.com. Remember also there is the San Diego Bonsai Club Bill Murphy award for novice entry. You win an extra \$100.00 in this division. Entry fee is \$15.00 and there are cash prizes for first place \$110.00, second place \$85.00, third place \$65.00, and fourth place \$30.00 not bad. Give it a try and when attending the fair do stop by to see the bonsai display.

Jeff Geringer is busy on the redesign of our club website. Check in at www.sanpukai.org for updates, such as the article about collecting California junipers. Many thanks to Jeff for his hard work on this.

We had some nice rain for our trees; I hope some of you have rain collection barrels set up. Our trees love fresh rain water. The rain was great for our upcoming juniper dig.

Cary Sullivan-Valentine, President

caryme2@yahoo.com

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



SEASONAL SUGGESTIONS

Plan your repotting activity. Now is the time, before the trees awaken. Take this opportunity to change from training pots or oversized pots to appropriate display pots more suitable to the finished bonsai. Determine the size, shape, color and style to complement your tree. If you see an appropriate pot at a nursery or bazaar, buy it when you see it.

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

When repotting, it's a good time to reposition the tree if it is required. Change the height, adjust the trunk angle, add more potting soil around the root ball, and work it in with your chopstick to fill in as many air pockets as possible. Remember to slope your 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.

Reotted material may be placed 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 to begin.

Don't feed for 4 to 5 weeks. March can be a capricious month--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. If they have been too active in directing their energy into flowers and buds then some pinching back can help them pay attention to leaves and woody branching.

Repotting activity should be regulated. Know when and what has been done to each tree. Plan your activity around a review of this generalized schedule of repotting as follows: Young trees, less than 5 years old--repot every 1-2-3 years, depending upon growth and needs. Be sure you have strong root development before you repot young trees.

Somewhat older trees, 5 to 20 years old--repot every 2-3-4 years. Check the root ball for good health.

Very old trees, 20 or more years --repot every 4-5-6 years, depending upon the condition of the tree.

Review specie habits. Some like to be crowded and may not need to be repotted. Fertilization programs can resume. Don't feed newly potted material too soon. Fast growth causes long internodes and large leaves. Keep nitrogen content low for the first month or so as the plant comes out of dormancy.

If the new growth is too active, keep it pinched. Whenever a new set of leaves appears, pinch back on the center set. If your objective is to improve twigginess on elms, zelkovas, maples, etc. cut new internodes to two sets of leaves. Pinch new evergreen growth to encourage density. Don't pinch fruiting or flowering trees such as bougainvilleas, pomegranates, ume, crabapples, quince or azaleas. Early spring pinching removes the forming flower and fruit buds.

Insects come back to life with the arrival of steady warmth. Start with Malathion to attack most predators but don't overlook Seven or Isotox if signs of chewing damage show on your 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 in the pesticide you use. Watch for fungus. Use Benomyl to kill mildew. Spray on warm, dry days. Mid-morning is best to allow the spray material to dry onto the plant surfaces. Avoid watering until the sprays can be effective.

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.
March 2014



SDBC BONSAI PAVILION at SAFARI PARK

March 2014

March 1st and 15th workdays will initiate special presentations by the Pavilion Volunteers to all the Safari Park visitors. In our original plan for this new Pavilion, space was allocated and designated to present educational program for all friends, volunteers, and visitors. We are now prepared to share a special potting and replanting bonsai demonstration to the visitors and other Zoo volunteers and friends on those days from 9:30 to 1:30. There will be adequate seating around the Shohin open area and our work tables will be located in that area for everyone to be able to view the potting process.. A microphone will be available and our volunteers in their red Safari shirts will be available to greet, guide, answer questions, and explain the process. A display of tools and pots will also be set up. It will be an informal, continuous four hours since visitors will be visiting the pavilion at different times. We hope this will be the first of many, different educational programs in the months and years to come.

In preparation for our special demonstrations in March, several garden-keeping chores were accomplished at the work sessions in February. At the front of the Pavilion, the Mas Takanashi front gate was cleaned and polished and the plaques on the Honor Board as well as the large entrance plaque were cleaned. All the bonsai pots in the Pavilion were also cleaned and oiled. Moss was appropriately transplanted or removed. Curator John directed the transplanting/repotting and restyling of several of the most heavy and largest

bonsai with the help of several, physically-strong, volunteers! These bonsai are really wonderful show stoppers in the Pavilion but need the assistance of several people and our "elevator" cart to place them on the display tables in the Pavilion. We will still have several bonsai to transplant at our March workdays so the visitors on those days will see this important process in bonsai care and training. The early springtime is especially desirable for repotting of the deciduous trees before they leaf out. Assistant Curator Dennis is the volunteer who is called on repeatedly for advice on the great black pines in the Pavilion; some of which are potted bonsai and others in the garden area are landscape plantings.

Many thanks to our volunteers for all their careful preparation work: Neil Auwarter, Susan Baker, Armand Bryant, Julia Chow, Cathy & Mark Edgar, Maria & Tina Flores, **Jeff Gerringer**, Bill Graham, Curator John Jackson, Jaya Kaelberer, Jim Kirchmer, early bird Charlie Mosse, new volunteers Janet & Bob Palmer, **Sally Prestele**, Harlan Price, Dan Sola, **'lyn Stevenson**, Charlie Tamm, Dennis & Sue Wagner, Mark Walters, & **Dave Woodall**. All these helpers are valuable to keep the Bonsai Pavilion looking fantastic!

The February refreshments were most welcome by all: snickerdoodles, corn bread, donuts, brownies, watermelon, and specially baked Valentine cookies went over well with the coffee and lemonade. Many thanks to Charlie, Harlan, Cathy, John, Maria, Tina and 'lyn.

Thanks also to SDBC and **San Pu Kai members** who make financial donations toward the Pavilion Fund also. Wires, fertilizers, soil mixes, small tools, and bonsai pots are always on the shopping list and we are thankful for all contributions. This past month, \$50 from Bill Graham and \$100 from Rita Hwang helped increase the Fund. Many thanks always!

Looking forward to seeing all the Bonsai Wire readers coming to the Pavilion in March!

'lyn Stevenson
SDBC-Safari Park Liaison



San Pu Kai members at work



Our canine guest



Good material getting better



Members discussing options

San Pu Kai 2014

Memberships DUE

Please pay at the March meeting, or mail your dues to:

Maria Barbosa, SPK membership

2727 De Anza Road, #J-26 San Diego, CA 92109

Make your check to "San Pu Kai"

\$20.00 for single membership

\$25.00 for a couple



Ready for potting this month



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

Calendar of Events

Tuesday March 11, 2014	7 pm – 9 pm	Regular Meeting: Juniper potting workshop Brenge Terrace Senior Center 1400 Vale Terrace, Vista CA
Saturday, March 15, 2014	9 am - Noon	San Diego Zoo Safari Park Bonsai Pavilion Workday
Saturday March 15, 2014	6 am- 4:30 pm	California Juniper collecting trip Local mountains
Tuesday, April 8, 2014	7 pm – 9 pm	Regular Meeting: Ground layering demonstration Brenge Terrace Senior Center 1400 Vale Terrace, Vista CA
May 10 and 11, 2014	7 am- 5 pm	Annual Bonsai Show and Sale Carlsbad Flower Fields