



San Pu Kai Record

Monthly Newsletter of the San Pu Kai Bonsai Club

September 2014



President's Message

Wow, I was so impressed at last month's meeting, with everyone enjoying working on trees you all brought in; there was so much help and fun. We will have to do this again; it seems with our busy life, there never is enough time to work on our trees. It was very nice to see Martha joining us in the fun and helping out.

This month is our annual fundraising event for the club, it is what I call a "bring and buy", for \$20.00 you get your turn to select and keep what members have brought in to donate to the club. You usually get many turns and it is so fun to see what you might get. It is anything goes. This is another way the club raises funds to be able to afford demonstrators like Ted and David and Martha, I know how we all have enjoyed and really learned from these great teachers. So let's make this a great turn out of members and donations. We have already a great start- Ted Schwartz has once again very generously donated several trees. Steve and Bob went to pick them up, and thanked Ted for his donation and support.

We need to start thinking of nominations for club officers, as it is that time of year again. Maria has said she is interested in continuing to be our treasurer, oh thank God, we are in good hands with her.

Treats this month will be provide by Michelle and Forrest Vess.

Check out his cool video from Cheryl Manning- it's a great tribute to the late John Naka:

<https://vimeo.com/103483741>

You will need to copy and paste the link into your browser.

I know we are in a drought, but it is still hot and we need to be watering our trees,

**See you at the fundraiser meeting,
back to regular start time of 7 PM**

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

Growth patterns of most trees begin to slow down at this time. They no longer show signs of vigor or the blush of summer greenery. They will not show autumn colors yet since the chemical changes required do not begin to materialize until late in September. The "**Autumnal Equinox**" approaches - the day of equal nights and days that leads us into the fall season, areas in our yard, previously exposed to full sun, have more shade and conversely trees get less light than they are accustomed to having in order to grow.

Notice tree locations. Move deciduous trees into cooler areas if you have had recent periods of regrowth. In spite of periods of cool weather, trees can respond to the warmth of the late summer and develop new foliage.

Fall is generally the end of the luxurious growth of summer and the last spurt of activity before settling down for winter dormancy. Bonsai will no longer grow very much so the need for extensive pruning should be minimal. Since recent growth may have added girth to branches and trunks, check all wired branches to see if they are set and, if they are, remove the wires.

Assuming you have properly reduced the nitrogen feeding during the past few months the fall colors on deciduous trees will show on liquid ambers, maples, ginkoes, hornbeams and Zelkovas. Cool nights and the effect of equal days and nights add to this phenomenon. Winter growth generally goes into the lignification of woody branches and trunks.

Fall is an excellent time to gather tree seeds as they ripen. Seeds from oak tree acorns, pine tree cones and many varieties of maples are in profusion--an excellent source for stratification by overwintering in your refrigerator. Plant them in early spring for new nursery seedlings and future training stock.

Our climate allows plenty of time for new growth to develop and harden before winter cool days

encourages dormancy. Check the growth of new candles on pines. There is still time for second candle removal. Attentive cut back and pinching minimizes unattractive long internodes and loss of compactness. The more you pinch and cut the more branch diversification occurs and new buds form for spring. This constant attention from early fall, throughout the dormant winter season, will intensify your design objectives.

Limit cuttings, at this time of year, to hardwood specimens or tropical varieties. The use of a rooting hormones and a pre-soaking of a rooting stimulant, such as B-1 or Superthrive, improves the odds of success. A basic rooting medium such as 2 parts peat moss with 1 part perlite or coarse sand will serve you well. Keep the rooting medium slightly moist and shaded until evidence of new growth appears.

As fall approaches, deciduous trees, in nature and in bonsai, turn gold, orange and crimson. We marvel at the beauty of these changes and accept this metamorphosis as a fact of life. It is generally assumed that these changes are just a byproduct of dying leaves due to the effects of weather and light.

Leaves get their green color during spring and summer from chlorophyll, the pigment that captures sunlight. But leaves also contain other pigments whose colors are masked during the growing season. In fall, the absence of chlorophyll allows these color pigments to break out, draw into the leaf tissues and begin to show.

As leaves become more colorful, an interesting phenomenon occurs. Aphids and other insects avoid trees with bright fall color and tend to lay their eggs in less colorful trees. When the eggs hatch next spring, the larvae feed on the tree and are very destructive. Some studies suggest that trees with strong fall color tend to suffer less damage from insects in spring.

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.



Members getting help with their trees



Expert advice from Martha Choy



So many great items at this month's raffle



More great material



Beautiful summer blooms



San Pu Kai
c/o Maria Barbosa, Membership
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San Diego, CA 92109

Calendar of Events

<i>Tuesday, September 9, 2014</i>	<i>7 pm – 9 pm</i>	<i>Regular Meeting: Member raffle!</i> <i>Brengle Terrace Senior Center</i> <i>1400 Vale Terrace, Vista CA</i>
<i>Saturday, September 6, 2014</i>	<i>9 am - Noon</i>	<i>San Diego Zoo Safari Park Bonsai Pavilion</i> <i>Workday</i>
<i>Saturday September 20, 2014</i>	<i>9 am - Noon</i>	<i>San Diego Zoo Safari Park Bonsai Pavilion</i> <i>Workday</i>
<i>Tuesday, October 14, 2014</i>	<i>7 pm – 9 pm</i>	<i>Regular Meeting:</i> <i>Brengle Terrace Senior Center</i> <i>1400 Vale Terrace, Vista CA</i>