



San Pu Kai Record



Monthly Newsletter of the San Pu Kai Bonsai Club

March 2017



President's Message

Ken Bross did a wonderful demo on grafting junipers. He used Itoigawa Junipers to graft onto San Jose Junipers. Steve took them home and bagged them, he will bring them back so members can see how they have taken. Thank you so much Ken and Steve great demo. I know we all learned a lot that night.

Please bring in your trees to work on at our March meeting, we are starting to get our trees ready for our May show. Also Ken is bring in some trees to sell to members, with some work they will be show ready. So bring your money. The Carlsbad Flower Field is open and our show is only 2½ months away.

There is a lot to prepare for our show, getting your trees ready, accent plants, stands, etc... We hope all members will have a tree to show and can help with set up, be at the show on Saturday or Sunday and then tear down. I will have sign up sheets, as this help show chairman John and Steve.

I have ordered our trees to sell from Jason, the 2 sizes of elms, and from Tom some Junipers. They will be ready to sell, so no repotting or styling for us to do. Hopefully members will bring in tress, pots, books to sell, all of this helps our club. This is the one big fundraiser that helps our club keep going.

Thank you to the Valentine's for the treats at the February meeting. Treats this month will be provided by Chris and Darryl.

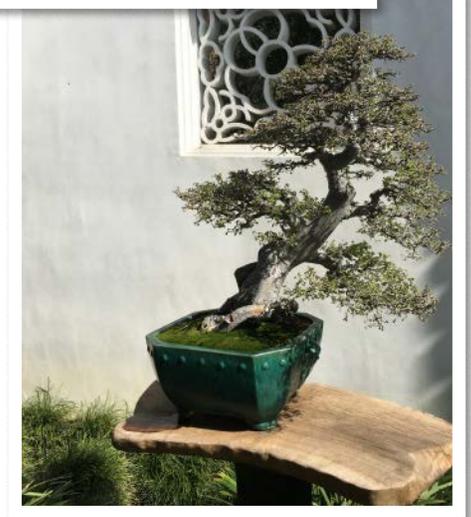
It was great to see so many members at this years Bonsai-a-thon. 12 members were there. I know they all enjoyed the display, demos, vendors and the Raffle. I know Darryl won a really nice pot. Finnegan Vess was able to get himself a nice little maple with his plant a seed money. I work at the event, which is great, but did not get to see the demos or the display, so I am very grateful of the photos put on Facebook, not the same, but I got to see them.

I know all of our trees are really liking the wonderful rain. I hope some of you are able to collect some of it for later use.

See you at the meeting with trees and tools to work.

Cary Sullivan-Valentine

President
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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.

Repotted 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 twiggyiness 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.

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.



Bonsai Pavilion at the Safari Park

We rarely get rained out at the Bonsai Pavilion but our unusual February caused some inconveniences for our volunteers. . .and, due to the bus trip to the Bonsai-a-thon, we did not schedule a make-up workday. . .we will have quite a bit to do on March 4th. . .

Thanks to dedicated volunteers, our bonsai were not neglected. . .Special thanks to Curator John Jackson, Assistant Dennis Wagner, Cathy and Mark Edgar for extra February days at the Pavilion. Other February volunteers included: Neil Auwarter, Susan Baker, Dave Barker, Ken Bross, Donna Carter, Julia Chow, Maria & Tina Flores, Sonya Holmquist, Jim Kirchmer, Charlie & Sylvia Mosse, Bob & Janet Palmer, Shawn Palmer, Marcella Perez, Sally Prestele, Chuy Rivera, Chusub Sresthadatta, 'lyn Stevenson, Mark Walters, and Dave Woodall. Everyone appreciated the treats that were supplied by Ken, Marcella, Chusub, Charlie, Sylvia, John. and 'lyn. Perhaps it was in celebration of the Tet New Year, because the volunteers received very wonderful surprise gifts from Chusub at the beginning of the month. She had made beautiful, assorted, carrying bags from colorful fabrics that could compete with the finest bags available at markets or boutiques. A very special Thank You to Chusub from all of us!

Our good friends, June and David Nguy, recently donated a very nice, large, oval bonsai pot for the Bonsai Collection inventory.

The Pavilion has a California Juniper bonsai that was donated by Brian Brewster awhile back and it was in need of an appropriate pot. The need has been answered. Thanks to June and David Nguy.

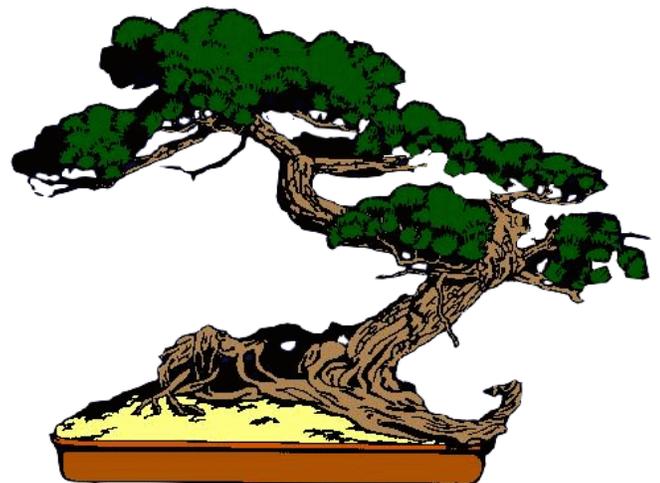
Because several of the volunteers arrive at the Pavilion prior to the opening of the Park to visitors, we often encounter wildlife ie: deers and

ducks and birds meandering in the Pavilion but sometimes we also greet a couple of the Safari Park handsome Cheetahs which the Park trainers bring for morning walks in the quiet of the Asian environment of our Bonsai garden and trees. . .the big cats seem to enjoy our benches as they stroll with their trainers. A bonus treat for all!

Happy transplanting and spring gardening will continue in March as all the bonsai and in ground plants need special attention. The volunteers are most capable, and efficient, and they are always teaching and learning from each other. It's a great way to enjoy the Art of Bonsai. Many bonsai "tricks" are also adaptable to our gardens as well and gardening tips are often useful in bonsai too.

Our May SDBC meeting will be held at the Safari Park Bonsai Pavilion and will include a picnic and silent auction. . .We encourage all members and volunteers to bring in items for the auction along with carts or wagons for their donated and/or purchased treasures. . .Plan ahead! Cash or checks for these tax deductible items will be necessary. Everyone will be able to sign up at the March and/or April SDBC meetings since reservations will be needed for all attendees.

'lyn Stevenson
SDBC-Safari Park Liaison







San Pu Kai

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<http://www.sanpukai.org>

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Calendar of Events

Tuesday, March 14, 2017	6:00 - 9pm	San Pu Kai Bonsai Club Meeting: Brenge Terrace Senior Center 1400 Vale Terrace, Vista CA
Saturday, March 18, 2017	9am - Noon	San Diego Zoo Safari Park Bonsai Pavilion Workday
Saturday, April 1, 2017	9am - Noon	San Diego Zoo Safari Park Bonsai Pavilion Workday
Tuesday, April 11, 2017	6:00 - 9pm	San Pu Kai Bonsai Club Meeting: Brenge Terrace Senior Center 1400 Vale Terrace, Vista CA
Saturday, April 15, 2017	9am - Noon	San Diego Zoo Safari Park Bonsai Pavilion Workday