



San Pu Kai Record

Monthly Newsletter of the San Pu Kai Bonsai Club



December 2018



President's Message

This month we will be doing a twisted pine demonstration and workshop. Darryl and Ken will be teaching this workshop. Everyone will go home with a little twisted pine. They are fun to do, and look great years later. There will not be a cost to club members. Darryl and Ken are so generous of their supplies and talents. Please bring your tools. We might have time if any one needs help with your trees or to watch a bonsai movie. Sandra will be providing the treats.

It was so nice to see everyone working on their trees. last month, some members got to glaze their pots thhat we made the month before. They just might be ready for us this month. Also we had a guest visitor, Gary, was nice to meet him.

Last month's shohin meeting was at Darryl and Chris's house. Thanks for hosting our meeting. We all worked on trees, and toured their trees, which was great fun. And a few of us finished glazing our pots. Let's decided if we want to take December off for shohin meetings. It is a busy time of year.

Remember we do not meet in January, we have a holiday party January 8th at 6pm, dinner costs \$20 per person. At Pan Asia Buffet in San Marcos, (in the Walmart shopping center). Bring a wrapped bonsai related gift for our fun gift exchange. Please RSVP, I will need to let the restaurant know how many will be coming. This is always lots of fun and great food.

It is also that time of year to renew your membership. \$20. For a signal membership, \$25.00 for 2 members. Please give your money to Chelle or myself.

Remember the bonsai pavilion at the Safari Park has workdays on the 1st & 3rd, Saturday of the month, they may be having extra work days. Check with Lyn Stevenson.

Huntington gardens needs your help, become a bonsai volunteer. They can use your help on the first Thursday and first Saturday of each month, you get in free, get

volunteer hours, talk with guests who want to know about bonsai. These are dates when guest get in free to the Huntington, so extra help is needed. If interested please email : Ellen Keneshea, GSBF Huntington chairman, ekeneshea@socal.com

Please put on your calendar Winter Silhouettes, Saturday January 29th. 10-4pm. Demos on Saturday by Ken Teh. Also I will be teaching my Waco Baco,(Japanese paper boxes) in the afternoon. \$20 per kit. This years Nagata-Komai awards goes to Ted Matson, his tree will be in the Tokanoma. There will be a round robin demo auction, raffle, food, and vendors with bonsai items for sale. Reception is in the evening all are welcome. Just remember this is a free event and dinner. So please bring an item for the raffle or a cash donation helps also. And buy raffle tickets. This is Baikoen's only fund-raiser. If you are a member of SDBC they will have a bus at a cost of \$40 check with Abe Far.

On another note. I will have a jar for anyone who would like to donate to our dear bonsai friend and past treasure and member of SPK and SDBC, Maria Barbosa. She lost everything in the fires in Paradise. She and her dog did make out safe and is now living in a motel. She has yet been able to go to her property. From the cal fire photos the only thing left was the bird bath. All bonsai and pots and tool are gone. Much of what she once had are just ashes. Please keep her in your thoughts and prayers.

See you all at the meeting, it is nice to see cooler mornings and evenings, and the rain is wonderful. Our water storage containers are almost full, but please keep the rain coming. But keep checking your trees.

Cary Sullivan-Valentine

President
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SEASONAL SUGGESTIONS

This is a good time of year to concentrate on clean up. Be sure to remove all leaf droppings and flower buds left over from summer. Removal of trash from your bonsai area is always an important practice. If old leaves hang on, take them off.

Continue to protect hibernating trees from excessive moisture (I almost said RAIN) and prevailing winds. Many a fine bonsai is lost due to neglect during the winter months. While freezing is not usually a concern to most in Northern or Southern California many may remember the damaging frost we experienced a few years ago from pockets of cold air during low temperature periods. Be prepared to protect tender stock at all times. Continue to monitor bonsai for watering requirements. Inspect for infestations of mites and scale.

December is a wonderful time to really see your trees. The foliage during most of the year obscures the skeleton branch formations of the inner tree. Now is the time to trim excess branches, as well as crossing, misplaced and malformed branches. Study the radial formation of the rootage. Study the taper of the trunk line. Concentrate on building a twiggy branch structure. Wire branches during this dormant period with great care since they are brittle during cooler weather months. Try to see your tree with strong background light in order to study its design, shape and position in the pot. Deciduous material that is fully exposed can now be photographed. Black and white is preferred. Study and refine.

Now is the time to study groves or multi-tree arrangements. Trunks stand out with strong detail. An overview of a group planting will show clearly how the trees are positioned and how they relate to each other. The visual view offers an opportunity to improve the placement of individual or groups of trees in the pot before spring planting plans are finalized.

Preserving bonsai during winter months does not involve the usual attention to feeding requirements. Conifers and evergreen trees continue to grow in the California

climate. Partial dormancy requires some nourishment. A light feeding of cottonseed meal (70%) and bone meal (30%) is best. Apply food only to the soil surfaces. Foliar feeding encourages green growth that can be severely damaged if a cold spell occurs. Deciduous trees will

have transformed from the beautiful fall colors to barren silhouettes. Be sure to remove all dead leaves, fruit and flower buds that may still be hanging on. The evergreen trees will appear to be dull and inactive.

Fungus thrives during the dormant months. The application of fungicides is as important now as it is in spring when active reproduction takes place. When trees are bare, a dormant spray such as ORTHORIX (lime sulfur) may be used as a fungicide to destroy over wintering spores. Take care to avoid root damage by covering the surface of the pot with plastic to prevent run-off or drip of the spray. A light mist of lime sulfur on the top and bottom of the foliage and woody branches is quite effective. Lime sulfur may be applied at full strength on wet, aged, dead wood such as Jin and Shari. A few drops of black ink or artist black acrylic pigment will tone down the usual unsightly orange color of this product.

Review the rootage of potted trees. If the tree is lifting out of the pot or appears to be root bound then plan ahead by identifying and marking those ready for early repotting in spring.

California winters are usually interspersed with many warmer days. Potted trees must cooler weather means slower growth. During this period of dormancy, trees require a regular dampening of the root zone. Transpiration of moisture is almost non-existent due to the absence of foliage. Watch out for prevailing, drying winds.

Prepare your spring inventory of potting soil mix, screening materials, and aggregates (i.e. pumice, sand, lava rock, D.G., etc.) as well as humus (i.e. fir bark, redwood bark, peat moss, etc.).

Take care of your tools. Winter rain and general high humidity encourages rust. Clean and sharpen them and apply good rust inhibiting oil finish. Clean up those accumulated old pots that you may need during the repotting season in spring. Get rid of accumulated trash.

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

Beautiful, balmy, fall weather at the Bonsai Pavilion was enjoyed by the many volunteers and shared with the Park guests as well who enjoyed the tranquil setting. We continue to share the SDBC brochure with the guests who often inquire about classes and plant sales, etc. The brochures are replenished regularly in our information box at the front end of the Pavilion.

The volunteers in November included: Tobin Barrasco, Allan Burrows, Jenny Chin, Julia Chow, Dave & Sally Dischinger, Cathy & Mark Edgar, Sonya Holmquist, John Jackson, Janet Kaelberer, Jim & Sue Kirchmer, Bob & Janet Liggett, Janet & Ron Palmer, Sally Prestele, Clare & Ron Roberts, Dan Sola, 'lyn Stevenson, Yoichiro Suemori, Dennis Wagner, and Dave Woodall. In between the Halloween and Thanksgiving Hollidays, we all enjoyed sharing information about some great summer vacation trips while working on the bonsai and also remembering fondly conversations with our recently deceased volunteer, Ray Stives. Many thanks to Curator John, Janet Palmer, Julia Chow, Cathy Edgar, 'lyn, and anonymous angel for providing the refreshments. Thanks also to Clare and Ron Roberts who are now supplying us with buckets for the trimmings, cuttings, weeds, etc. which we all seem to collect every work day.

Dan Sola took care and time this month to photograph all the bonsai individually for our inventory books and to share some of them with the Bonsai Wire from time to time. It is really significant to have the photos in our records and also to show the progression of improvements through the seasons and years of the individual bonsai. . sometimes showing different pots and style changes.

Each year, the San Diego Zoo and Safari Park do an annual tribute to all their volunteers. This year, this special event is on December 2nd and will be at Safari Park with special programs, cocktails and dinner, and special "goody" bags for the honorees.

We have quite a few Pavilion volunteers who will be recognized for their many accumulated hours and years of service too. SDBC and our own Pavilion members are always appreciative of the special work the Pavilion volunteers do throughout the year, but this is a very nice tribute from the Zoo and Safari Park. Congratulations and Thanks always!

We have several of our active volunteers who are going through major medical procedures currently and we do miss them at the Pavilion but we continue to wish them improved good health and prayers and await their return to the Pavilion activities. . Charlie Mosse and Mark Edgar and Mark Walters are all very positive and optimistic individuals who are looking at their temporary setbacks as challenges with solutions. We all agree and keep them in our thoughts and prayers.

Volunteers will be renewing their credentials for the Safari Park for 2019 and we invite other Club members to join us in the coming year. We continue to improve the collection and individually, we also learn new ideas, techniques, soil mixes, and aesthetics as we share in the care of this valuable collection in a most lovely setting.

'lyn Stevenson
SDBC-Safari Park Liaison







San Pu Kai

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Calender of Events

Tuesday, December 11, 2018	6:00 - 9pm	San Pu Kai Bonsai Club Meeting: 973 Vale Terrace Dr. Room #108, Vista
Saturday, December 15, 2018	9am - Noon	San Diego Zoo Safari Park Bonsai Pavilion Workday
Saturday, January 5, 2018	9am - Noon	San Diego Zoo Safari Park Bonsai Pavilion Workday
Tuesday, January 8, 2018	6:00 - 9pm	San Pu Kai Bonsai Holiday Dinner: Pan Asia Buffet, 707 Center Dr, San Marcos 92069
Saturday, January 19, 2018	9am - Noon	San Diego Zoo Safari Park Bonsai Pavilion Workday