



SAN PU KAI

April 2009

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President's Message

When we think of bonsai, most people visualize trees that are small enough for one person to carry, yet large enough to be exhibited as an individual tree. However, there are many paths in bonsai, and one path lies down the ever-shrinking specialty of mame. **Shirley Kavanaugh** from the San Diego Bonsai Club once again delighted us with her tiny trees, talked about her display philosophy, and brought in kits and individual trees to sell. Thank you, Shirley, we all enjoyed your presentation and your display very much!

In April, **Forrest and Michelle Vess** will be bringing the treats, thank you **Forrest and Michelle!**

For our May meeting, we will be talking about exhibiting trees, but we will also be working on trees. Those people who know how to display their trees can either bring a tree to work on, or to discuss, and those of us who could use some pointers can bring in trees on which we need advice. BRING TREES and let's have a wide-ranging discussion! Our show is next month, and we will have sign up sheets for jobs at the Flower Fields. Remember, too, that anything that you would like to sell will be appreciated. You can either sell it and the club takes a small commission, or donate it outright if you wish. Tags and sales sheets will also be available for you to take home to mark your sales items. We expect about 3,000 people through our exhibit and sales area, so let's get serious and see what we can do to bring the art of bonsai to new people, and to make the exhibit a success!

We are going to purchase some ready-made bonsai for resale at the show, since typically our sales consists of trees and items that are more useful to a bonsai enthusiast than to the visiting public. So, a small investment in stock will give us the ability to sell 'finished' bonsai and hand out care sheets and club information. We can reach out to possible new members in this way.

At the last meeting, we decided that in May we will participate in the San Diego Bonsai Club's annual picnic at the Wild Animal Park, rather than have our regular meeting. It will be free to all of our club members, the only requirement is that you need to sign up. A sign up sheet will be at the April meeting. You bring your own picnic, and you can participate in the silent auction there. The most important part, though, is seeing the progress at the new Pavilion. San Pu Kai has always played a vital part in the Bonsai Pavilion, and we continue to support and maintain the collection. So join the fun!

Our next meeting is April 14th at the Senior Center, see you there!

Joanie Berkwitz, President
760-431-1014

SAN PU KAI – BONSAI IDEAS

BY MARTY MANN

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New candles that have begun to form on older pines can be cut back in April but wait another month before you work on younger trees. Candles generally form twice a year, in April and August. They form in clusters of from 2 to 5. Usually one will dominate. Retain one as leader and another to form the side branch. Always remove the largest candle but don't cut the other candles until needles just begin to open and expand. This timing prevents excessively long internodes between last year's branch tip and the new needle growth. Reduce watering somewhat to slow down the new growth but don't allow the fine rootage to dry. Keep pine needles short and strong.

This is a serious time to seek and destroy plant pests. The prolific aphid has come to life. Chewers, suckers and borers are all back in action. White flies, mealy bugs, spider mites and scale are all out to get us. Use systemic action insecticides, such as Isotex, as well as the reliable Malathion and Seven sprays. Damage cannot always be seen unless you examine the plant carefully. Sucking causes leaves to change color and drop. Read the pesticide labels to see what is best for your problems.

As spring growth develops, special attention should be given to continued good watering habits. We may face watering restrictions and should be selective as to time and method in order not to waste its important benefits. Consider minimizing your automated systems in order to apply water more directly to each tree rather than the bench or area in which it is located. Consider watering early in the morning or late in the day in order to minimize evaporation losses. If plants have just been repotted, hold back on excessive watering since the newly developing rootage cannot dispose of moisture through new and sparse leaf growth. Transpiration is minimal. Older, more established trees need more water since they are usually root bound and are always thirsty. Don't overlook drainage. Water usually kills more trees than any other condition.

Bring most trees out into the open. While new growth requires sunlight and warmth it can become unseasonably warm causing new sprouts to grow actively. Then consider moving deciduous trees back into a partially shaded area until the new growth has hardened. Keep trees well spaced to allow free air circulation and light penetration.

Potted trees build up salts due to our more alkaline water. An additive of a soil sulfur or gypsum helps offset this condition by allowing more acidity to service the plants. Alkaline soil tends to reduce the color in the leaves of trees. If rain or your use of dionized water causes too much acidity, apply some wood ash or lime to sweeten the soil.

The love of nature is rewarded by the love of bonsai. Enjoy the fresh colors of spring and the new foliage before the heat of summer arrives.



BONSAI PAVILIONS AT THE WILD ANIMAL PARK

Our monthly work session in March was most productive — thanks to all the volunteers! Grooming and styling of the bonsai, transplanting a couple of the older trees, weeding, fertilizing, visiting with Pavilion visitors, pot cleaning, and more weeding were some of the needed and worthwhile activities. Special thanks to: **Sally Bencangey, Maria Barbosa, Joanie Berkwitz**, John Jackson, Gary Jones, **Marty Mann**, Harlan & Mary Ann Price, **'Iyn Stevenson**, Charlie Tamm, **Cary & Steve Valentine, Forrest & Michele Vess, John Voss**, Dennis Wagner, & **Dave Woodall** — their participation in March was valuable! **Joanie** is also President of **San Pu Kai** and has been encouraging SPK members to come out and participate in our sessions. **Curator Steve** and the other more experienced bonsaiists have been mentoring the newcomers too so education at the Pavilion is also valuable for teachers and students alike.

The SDBC Construction and Finance Committees for the new construction area have met with Schnetz Landscape Inc. a couple of times and have accepted their proposal to assist us in further development of the site. This will be especially helpful with the landscaping and the development of the hardscape features. The two committees include: Alan Burrows, John Jackson, Jim Kirchmer, **Marty Mann**, Jon Petrescu, **'Iyn Stevenson, Steve Valentine**, Dennis Wagner, and **Dave Woodall**. Of course, assistance and cooperation continues with the Horticultural Department of the WAP also.

On April 4th and 5th, the WAP is having the Garden Societies Celebration 2009, in conjunction with "Butterfly Jungle" and we will again participate with a display of a few bonsai from the Pavilion. Several SDBC members will be on hand to answer questions and demonstrate some of the work involved.

The next work day at the WAP is scheduled for **Saturday, April 18th** (the third Saturday of the month). If you are joining the volunteers for the first time, please let me know so that you will be included in the gate entrance list. If we schedule any other work sessions before then, I will send out a SOS message via e-mail to all the volunteers on the list.

'Iyn Stevenson 858-486-4805
SDBC-WAP Liaison



*Blue sky, green trees live
Red sunset, flowers may bloom
Colors calm, enjoy*

---Marty Mann



SAN PU KAI

**c/o Joanie Berkwitz
5440 El Arbol Drive
Carlsbad, CA 92008**

Our Spring Show will be held in the Carlsbad Flower Fields, on May 9th and 10th

Calendar of Events

Tuesday, April 14th, 2009	7 pm to 9 pm	Regular meeting, Carlsbad Senior Center, 799 Pine Ave
Saturday, April 18th, 2009	9 am – 12 pm	Workday, Bonsai Pavilions Wild Animal Park
Saturday, May 3rd, 2009	9 am – 12 pm	Picnic, Wild Animal Park
Tuesday, May 12th NO MEETING!!		NO MEETING