



San Pu Kai

July 2009

Editor: Joanie Berkwitz

Distributor: Sally Bencangey

President's Message

We had an exciting meeting in June, and our demonstrator gave us a lot of good insights into growing pomegranate and tamarisk bonsai in the ground, as well as general ways of thinking about ground growing for trunk size. Thank you very much, **Glenn Jensen**, for the enjoyable demonstration! Ground growing is a tool that we can use to create much more massive bonsai without waiting decades for trunk growth.

Our treats for July will be brought by **Maria Barbosa**, thank you **Maria**! We need someone to volunteer to bring the treats in August. Much as I love to, I've brought them twice already, so someone please take the August slot. Maybe you could just bring a couple of giant watermelons and some spoons!

For the August meeting, just so that you are thinking about it, we have our regular raffle fundraiser. Be looking at your trees, pots and bonsai related items to see if there is anything that you might want to pass on to someone else, and raise a little money for the club. This year, I am going to bring some newly purchased items and wrap them up, just to bring a little excitement into the mix. We are going to go back to selling tickets instead of a \$20 set price, so you can buy as many tickets as you like and everyone can participate at the level they are comfortable with. That's in August...

For July, it looks like we will have the special guest that we were hoping to have. If all goes well (fingers crossed!) we will have someone very special, well known and famous! So please bring a tree or two that you would like a critique on. Bring tools in case you want to work on the tree, also, and we will see how the meeting goes. If you don't have a tree that you would like to have a critique on, at least bring a tree that needs some attention or that you have a question about. We have a lot of knowledgeable people who can help you with the health and design of your trees.

From a preliminary email, it looks like we will be able to get the Flower Fields next year! So we have a lot to plan for, but plenty of time to plan it, and a better understanding of what we can do with the space and the venue. Hurray!

The Del Mar Fair bonsai exhibit was remarkably beautiful this year. I hope that you were able to go at some point and see the display. It takes a lot of work and thought to put together such a fantastic display, and kudos to Phil Tackill for the excellent work that he did! Outstanding!

Bonsai Day at the fair was July 5th, and we had a great turnout of volunteers who met with the public, answered questions and handed out fliers, and there were demonstrations throughout the day. **Steve Valentine** planned it, but was unable to be there, and did a lot of work to make sure that it ran smoothly. I didn't take notes on who was there, but the regular suspects... **Marty and Ruth Mann, Dave Woodall, Maria Barbosa, and John Voss** were in attendance. Thank you!

Don't forget about the GSBF convention... I sure haven't, it has taken a lot of my time lately! The registration has opened, and it's a stellar lineup. Registration forms will be available at the meeting, if you are interested.

So, see you on July 14th!

Joanie Berkwitz, President
760-431-1014
mold40@roadrunner.com

SAN PU KAI – BONSAI IDEAS

BY MARTY MANN
JULY 2009 (#67)

Summertime reduces the need to do any serious 'training' of bonsai. It's a period of watchful attention to the results of earlier care. July is the month to plan for the summer season changes of activities related to care and feeding of bonsai. Start a program that will provide fall colors by reducing the nitrogen content of your fertilizer mix. Continued use of the standard cottonseed/bone meal (70/30%) will provide most of the nutrients required for summer growth and good health. Introduce a change in food by using half strength liquid Hi-Bloom (2-2-10) that provides an excellent source of phosphorus. Continue to feed all conifers and other evergreen material to promote good summer health. More frequent feedings of milder solutions are in order.

Regular feeding during the hot summer months can also be supplemented by early morning refreshing foliar feeding of Miracle-Gro or a diluted solution of fish emulsion. Avoid daytime heat. Allow wet foliage to dry during the day to prevent night forming fungus infection. A brisk spraying of your trees before feeding will remove dust layers and discourage red spider, mites, ants and other insects. Be sure to spray both the top and the bottom of the foliage.

Watering is an important summer chore. Warm summer breezes encourage high levels of moisture expiration through healthy leaf surfaces. For balanced plant health a change in watering schedules consistently renews this moisture. Avoid wetting the leaves during the warm days- for two good reasons:

Daytime water that adheres to leaves can literally cook them and cause severe leaf burn. If overhead watering is unavoidable, do so early in the morning to give time for surface evaporation.

Excessive moisture in the crotch of leaf clusters or on their undersides creates environments that are ideal for the formation of fungus and the related health threatening damages.

Be reminded that summer vacationing puts an additional burden on your 'bonsai sitters'. A suggestion would be to let them water your trees for a few days before you leave to be sure that they are following your instructions. Trees requiring special care should be grouped together to simplify attention. Don't trust your automatic watering system without the back up of someone who can check from time to time to see if all is well.

Try forming a mutual watering pact with fellow bonsaiists. You do for them when you can and they will do for you. It's a great working arrangement and considerably safer than trusting your 'babies' to strangers.

Repotting ficus, pomegranates or other warm weather tropicals is encouraged at this time. Avoid most other transplanting activity during warm weather. Watch for wire cutting conditions. As bonsai matures in the summer growing period it does so primarily on its woody surfaces.

Chewing insects are hard at work eating their way thru leaves and stems. Spray with Sevin. Mites are also active during warm weather months. Discourage them with a good miticide or one of the new combination fungicides/insecticide products now on the market.. A small amount of Volck Oil with these products creates better adhesion.

Approach your summer activity with an eye to enjoyment of the form and color of the trees. Fall will come soon enough if you keep up with summertime care.

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. JULY 2009

BONSAI PAVILIONS AT THE WILD ANIMAL PARK

During the weeks of June, over 30 visits were made to the WAP Pavilions by our volunteers—that translates to over 140 hours of dedicated work in the two pavilion areas! Congratulations and thanks to all: **Maria Barbosa**, John Jackson, Jim Kirchmer, **Marty Mann**, Jon & Terri Petrescu, Harlan & Mary Ann Price, **'lyn Stevenson**, Charlie Tamm, **Cary & Steve Valentine**, Dennis Wagner, and **Dave Woodall**. A special welcome and thanks also to new volunteers: Maria & Tina Flores, Tom Krieger, and Lisa & Paul Welby who joined us at our June 20th work day! Delicious treats of donuts, banana breads, cookies, grapes, waters, and lemonade were enjoyed by all in between all the work activities. THANK YOU ALL!

Steve & John had arranged for the cables, hardware, and shade cloth to be at the work area early in the month so several sessions were spent measuring, planning, and installing the cables, and testing the shade cloth. This is a huge job but John Jackson always seems to have the right tools and the "know-how" for accomplishing this phase of the project. Thanks to everyone who brought ladders and extra needed tools also. Dennis also took some time and a smaller ladder and did necessary repair work on the shade cloths in the lower pavilion.

With the background noises emanating from the WAP's dinosaur exhibit, we trimmed, cleaned, watered, and rearranged the bonsai on exhibit. Most of the volunteers probably went home with the dino sounds ringing in their ears! Of course, the WAP visitors enjoyed the tranquility of our Pavilion in contrast to the "scary robots" across the way by the Kapanda Falls.

A special thanks to Jim and **Maria B.** who submitted a packet and presentation request to the SD Board of Supervisors for special funding for our construction project. We are awaiting a positive response!

We will continue to work each week at the Pavilions but the third Saturday each month is the normal work day in the exhibit area. E-mail notices are sent out when we are scheduling other work days. If you want to join the WAP-Bonsai volunteers and are not already on the list, please call 'lyn for instructions.

'lyn Stevenson
SDBC-WAP Pavilions' Liaison



Full days with hot sun
Bonsai-ing with great
pleasure
Why complain - love it

By Marty Mann





San Pu Kai
c/o Joanie Berkwitz
5440 El Arbol Drive
Carlsbad, CA 92008

The clearest way into the universe is through a forest wilderness.
-John Muir

Calendar of Events

Tuesday, July 14th	7 pm to 9 pm	Regular meeting, Carlsbad Senior Center, 799 Pine Ave
Saturday, July 18th	9 am to 12 pm	Workday, Wild Animal Park Bonsai Pavilions
Tuesday, August 11th	7 pm to 9 pm	Regular meeting, Carlsbad Senior Center, 799 Pine Ave
Saturday, August 15^h	9 am to 12 pm	Workday, Wild Animal Park Bonsai Pavilions