



SAN PU KAI

June 2009

Editor: Joanie Berkwitz

Distributor: Sally Bencangey

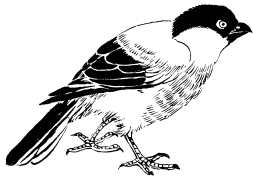
President's Message

It's been a busy month for bonsai, and since we didn't have a meeting in May, this President's Message is a little different than usual. So many club members are active in both the San Diego Bonsai Club, and San Pu Kai, that occasionally we need to combine events. The Picnic at the Wild Animal Park was something for us to join, in lieu of our monthly meeting, and I understand that it was a very well attended Picnic! Rumor has it that about a hundred people attended, which must have been quite fun. I'm sorry to have missed it but I was out of town, spending time with my Mom. We don't often get the chance to do that, so it was a great treat.

On Mother's Day weekend, San Pu Kai held our exhibit and sale at the Flower Fields, and everyone who attended was very pleased at the way it all worked out. We had plenty of room to display the trees... in fact, we could have had twice as many, if we had more tables! The exhibit area was large and airy, and we set up a sales area that was about 12' by 24', with plenty of room to display all of the club member's sales items, which **Tom Ohgi** and **Lanny Chronert** really appreciated. We had twenty exhibit tables, and had so many trees show up that we had to turn some away! **Steve Valentine** and **John Voss** worked their usual magic, setting up the display, and thanks to **Steve's** generous loan of stands, we made quite an excellent exhibit! A great crew turned out to talk to the crowd and work security, and **Marty** was in his glory, with a table for his books and thousands of people to talk to. **Marty** always makes a donation to the club from his book sales, and at this show, sales were brisk. Now, for the drumroll please.... We had OVER FOUR THOUSAND PEOPLE walk through our exhibit! We only counted the people who actually stopped and looked at the trees, or actually asked questions. Many people came just to see the exhibit, based on the extensive publicity that the Flower Fields provides to all of their special events. Those people who came to see our exhibit complimented us, and told the Flower Fields staff how much they admired and enjoyed the exhibit, and we sincerely hope that we will be invited back next year! On Sunday, we held an impromptu demonstration, and club members took turns playing with trees. The crowd always appreciates that. We could have used a lot more club sale items, particularly pots, but we did sell most of what was brought. So, a big THANKS to everyone who volunteered, we pulled it off without a hitch.

For our June meeting, we will have elusive San Pu Kai member **Glenn Jensen** giving a presentation on his techniques for building trunks by ground growing. Glenn will join us for the second half of the meeting, and during the first half we will discuss the show and what we can do better next year, and maybe we will have our snacks a little bit early. I'll provide the snacks for June. **So, see you on June 9th!**

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



BONSAI PAVILIONS AT THE WILD ANIMAL PARK



We accumulated lots of volunteer hours at the Bonsai Pavilions in April and May especially since the weather cooperated for comfortable working sessions. Many thanks to **Maria Barbosa**, Joyce Goldman, John Jackson, Gary Jones, Kris Landwehr, Ray Lish, **Marty Mann**, Harlan & Mary Ann Price, Jon & Terri Petresu, **'Iyn Stevenson**, Charlie Tamm, **Cary & Steve Valentine**, **John Voss**, Dennis Wagner, and **Dave Woodall** for their participation. Special treats are always appreciated during breaks from our bonsai and construction chores so the donuts, banana breads, brownies, raisin breads, cookies, lemonades, waters, etc. that Charlie, Dennis, **Cary**, Mary Ann, & **Iyn** brought during these warm spring days were a big hit! Many thanks also for all the ladders, brushes, tools, etc. which everyone brought to make the jobs move so professionally. Also, in April, Carey Kennedy from Schnetz Landscape met with us to go over the measurements for the future landscaping that we will be doing.

Preparing the 28 large poles in the new pavilion area took a couple of workdays but the results are most pleasing. Each pole had to be prepped (sanded, wire brushed, washed, treated, & primed) before it received the final coat of black paint. The poles are now ready for the shade cloths, which have been ordered.

Much grooming of the bonsai in the lower pavilion has been needed during this heavy springtime growing. Cary & Steve ordered and placed new small permanent signs on several of the benches to remind visitors not to touch the bonsai and not to sit on the display tables. The Pavilion receives hundreds of visitors each week and most are respectful and appreciative of the exhibits but reminders are also needed when supervision isn't available.

Besides our weekly chores at the pavilion and construction areas, we participated in the **Wild Animal Park's 2009 Garden Societies Celebration** on April 4th and 5th. It took place in the heart of Nairobi Village at the WAP and we displayed several bonsai from the Pavilion and answered hundreds of questions about the bonsai and our activities with our SDBC and our volunteer efforts at the WAP. Thanks especially to Alan Burrows, **Joanie Berkwitz**, Joyce Goldman, Karla & Gary Jones, Jim & Susan Kirchner, Kristine Landwehr, **Marty & Ruth Mann**, Harlan & Mary Ann Price, **'Iyn Stevenson**, & **Dave Woodall**, for being available during the 16 hours of the celebration. It was a great public relations and education event for all!

The Wild Animal Park Staff did an incredible job of arranging the Kapanda Pavilion for our annual May meeting at the Park with tables and chairs for all. Since the normal pathway over the wooden bridge was undergoing repairs, Horticulturist Cary Sharp and his staff provided special transportation for all our members from the front gate to Kapanda and back again afterwards along with other vehicles to transport all our gear and auction items. The logistics were complicated but moved very smoothly and everyone who attended appreciated the special attention that was given. It was a great meeting, picnic, and touring day for all. The auction was a success due to the generosity of our members with their donations and for the generosity of the bidders who received some great bargains too.

Our workdays continue in both pavilions. John Jackson directs the construction area and **Curator Steve Valentine** oversees the bonsai area. Members who have indicated their willingness to help will receive special e-mail notices when extra work or extra tools, etc. are needed in between our regular third Saturday of the month time. If you want to be included in this volunteer effort, please call **'Iyn Stevenson**, 858-486-4805, so that your name is included at the service entrance for admittance. All levels of bonsai knowledge and landscape/construction knowledge are appreciated! We all learn something new each time we are at the WAP.

'Iyn Stevenson
SDBC-WAP Liaison



Tips on Attaining Smaller Leaves

by Marty Mann



*In lieu of a **Bonsai Ideas** article this month, here are some ideas for growing leaves in proportion to your bonsai. Spring is always a time when strong growth causes leaves that are much too large. So, take it away Marty!*

The key words are proportion and relationship. Leaves of a tree present a finished look to a deciduous bonsai. If leaves are large and not in proportion to the size of the tree the image appears unnatural. If the small tree is to be a representation of a larger structure then leaves must be reduced in size.

SMALLER LEAVES

Smaller leaves improve design

Deciduous tree leaves can be changed to maintain proper relationship of leaf size to the tree. Proper trimming technique accomplishes this. The beauty of a bonsai lies in the visual balance of the container, trunk, branches and leaves. Consider leaf pruning as corrective surgery if the early leaves are oversized and unsightly.

Defoliation—a leaf reduction technique

Healthy trees can lose new leaf growth without much risk. New growth occurs more often than once during a growing season. Feed a tree for a few weeks before defoliation is attempted. Since nitrogen in plant foods encourages growth, use fertilizers that are low in nitrogen, higher in potassium and phosphorus. Potassium improves the growing quality of new leaves and phosphorus improves root development.

Nature provides each leaf with a reserve backup bud at its base. Leaf pruning is done late in June or early July after the first leaves have matured. Trim in a manner that protects the leaf bud or petiole (stem). Don't cut too much--a cut across the face of the leaf or half of the petiole will do. When early growth is removed, buds are forced into active growth and new leaves form. When secondary growth develops within a week or two new leaves will be smaller. This technique applies to most varieties of deciduous trees. The removal of foliage places a tree under considerable stress. It may take two or three growing seasons to accomplish leaf reduction on a more permanent basis. Defoliation causes a tree to experience two growing seasons in one year, two summers and two springs.

Understanding the effect of defoliation

Leaves are essentially factories producing carbohydrates (sugars and starches) by the utilization of light and the process of photosynthesis. Trees stop growing when their leaves are removed. They wait until they can recreate their productive capability. Since the healthy condition of the tree is a prerequisite, it's not advisable to perform this technique on young or weak specimens. Be sure to remove every leaf. Don't confuse the tree by directing its efforts to grow any remaining leaves.

Defoliated trees need plenty of light to create the new smaller leaves. Shade encourages large leaves. However, protect the defoliated tree from strong sunshine and drying winds. Delicate new leaves do not tolerate adverse conditions. Varieties of deciduous trees that are easily defoliated are Japanese and trident maples, zelcova, liquidambar, oaks and beech.

After defoliation care--design observations

It's best to reduce the frequency and duration of the watering schedule until new foliage appears and the tree is able to use more water. Don't feed a defoliated tree until the new leaves have fully matured.

Look at the skeletal shape of the tree before a new crop of leaves appear. Trim crossing or misplaced branches. Remove excess branches.

SNIP TIPS -subsequent horticultural effects

Reducing the leaf size may not alter the size of a tree's flowers or fruit. Nipping buds, reducing water and food, controls a tree's normal growth pattern. Trimming or nipping new growth removes the dominant hormone Auxin from the growing tip. Auxin is primarily responsible for the apical (tip) growth of the tree. This results in an increase of Cytokinin hormones in the root system that create branches and bark.

When branches develop during the time of the induced second spring, the first leaves to come will be smaller. As the branch grows, the new leaves may become larger. Large leaves may be selectively removed. Limit the extensions of long internodes to minimize leggy branches. Create more twiggyness by constantly trimming excess growth to form a compact and attractive tree.

The cultivation of trees is the cultivation of the good, the beautiful and the ennobling in man. - J. Sterling Morton

Calendar of Events

Tuesday, June 9th	7 pm to 9 pm	<i>Regular meeting, Carlsbad Senior Center, 799 Pine Ave</i>
Saturday, June 20th	9 am to 12 pm	Workday, Wild Animal Park Bonsai Pavilions
Tuesday, July 14th	7 pm to 9 pm	<i>Regular meeting, Carlsbad Senior Center, 799 Pine Ave</i>
Saturday, July 18th	9 am to 12 pm	Workday, Wild Animal Park Bonsai Pavilions