



San Pu Kai Record

Monthly Newsletter of the San Pu Kai Bonsai Club

August 2011

Editor: Maria Barbosa



President's Message

I hope everyone is having a nice summer, and that all water systems on our bonsai are working! We are starting to get into some hot weather and winds so watch your trees, as if they were your kids.

July's Program: A big thank you to Jon & Terri Petrescu for their wonderful slide show and talk about their trip to China, it was beyond great...and to think that the other travelers on the trip came to our meeting to help with Jon's narrative about the trip and the photos taken is very much appreciated.

July's Food: The treats by Marty & Ruth were so good!! I hope everyone got some of the wonderful strawberry pound cake. That cake was my favorite for sure. Thank you all so much, this really added to an already great meeting.

August Meeting: We are having a Shimpaku workshop. On the nursery buying bus trip that the San Diego Bonsai club had, I found some really nice *Juniper Chinensis "Sargentii"* or as we know them as *Shimpaku or Sargent Junipers* at *San Gabriel Nursery*, my favorite bonsai material to work on. We have 8 trees, so the first 8 that calls (760-445-2548) or e-mails (caryme2@yahoo.com) me will get them. **COST** for this workshop will be **\$15.00 per tree**. Steve will help us with these trees-- what to do with them, how to start to work on them, finding the front and style for these trees as well as share with us some good after care.

August Food: Treats this month will be by the Vess Family.

Safari Park Pavilion: A reminder, we are now working at the Safari Park Pavilion the 1st and 3rd Saturdays of the month. So that way you can come more often or one Saturday only or the alternate Saturday from 9:00 a.m. to Noon. We always bring treats to share and 'lyn brings her wonder iced lemonade for those warm mornings. I will also start to bring ice tea for all. The new shade cloth is in, so we will have it there to put up, so that the back work area and the back of the pavilion in the middle will have more shade for us as we work. The new benches that John Jackson, Mark Edgar and Steve built are so nice, and provide more places for visitors to sit and enjoy the trees.

Remember: **GSBF Convention early bird registration end on Aug.15th**, so get them in to me. Also if you work a half-day you get a half-day registration free, full-day, full-day free and a convention pin. Please see me to find out more. 9 workshops are already full. 'lyn can use help in the pavilion as docents on **Friday Oct.28th**, when the convention will have a bus trip coming down to the Safari Park and Bonsai Pavilion, they will be seeing the park and the park's tram ride and also seeing the pavilion. Then the group will have lunch in the pavilion. This also counts as volunteering at the convention, plus you get lunch. They then will be back on the bus by 3pm.

Happy Bonsai growing and see you all in August,

Cary Sullivan-Valentine, President
760-445-2548 caryme2@yahoo.com

San Pu Kai is on FACEBOOK – link is
<http://www.facebook.com/#!/pages/San-Pu-Kai-Bonsai-Club/184125964939396>

SPK TREAT LISTING for 2011

August – Michelle & Forrest Vess
September – Joyce Goldman
October – Dave Woodall
November – Lanny Chronert
December – Sandra Knowles

COMING EVENTS!

August 14, 2011: *Nisei Week* Parade on Sunday, August 14 in Little Tokyo, Downtown Los Angeles. Also there is a bonsai exhibit on the 13th & 14th in little Tokyo. Great show by Nam Pu Kai.

September 3, 2011: *Hanford, California -The Clark Center for Japanese Art and Culture Annual Spring Festival/Kazari Bonsai Display Competition 2011* at 15770 Tenth Avenue, featuring lectures, a workshop, and a Bonsai and Antique Fair with art and food vendors, sale of bonsai and plants, and an after-hours reception. Hours are 10AM-5PM. Prize money for the best judged Tokoname displays will be \$2500, \$1000, \$500 in the honor of the contributions of Japanese-American citizens. General admission: \$5. To reserve tickets for the lecture by Kathy Shaner, Curator of the GSBF Bonsai Garden at Lake Merritt, the Beginner Workshop or the Wine and Cheese Reception contact us at info@ccjac.org. For details about participating in the competition contact the Clark Center's Bonsai Curator, Bob Hilvers at bonsai@ccjac.org

September 24-25, 2011: *Annual Fall Bonsai Exhibition & Sale - San Diego Bonsai Club.* 10 am -5pm daily , free admission, Casa del Prado room 101, balboa Park. Grate place to find bonsai, pots and plant material.

News from Aiseki Kai:

We are saddened to tell you that **Alice Naka** passed away peacefully early this morning. She was 93 years young. Services will be held on Wednesday, August 10th at 7:30 p.m. at the Higashi Honganji Buddhist Temple, 505 East Third Street, Los Angeles, California



BONSAI PAVILIONS AT THE SAN DIEGO ZOO SAFARI PARK

We had a great response from our members for the July workdays at the Bonsai Pavilion. Everyone seems to enjoy the larger open spaces for our work each time. There is more space around each bonsai and definitely more space in the garden. Many more visitors enjoy strolling up and down across the bridges and perusing the identification cards as they view the bonsai and talk with our Safari shirted volunteers.

Of course, there is much more routine work for all too. The summer weeds filled over a dozen trash barrels, the paths needed raking, the bridges needed sweeping, the irrigation lines needed checking, and the precious bonsai needed more trimming, wiring, styling, fertilizing, and cleaning. Also, two more sitting benches were built and placed: one at the entrance area and another by the waterfall. These maintenance efforts have all been done by our most valued volunteers.



Curator, Steve Valentine taking British Columbia visitor on tour of Safari Park Bonsai Pavilion

Thanks this past month to: Neal Auwarter, Susan Baker, Judy Barnhurst, Allan Burrows, Andres & Martha Choy, Cathy & Mark Edgar, Maria & Tina

Flores, **Joyce Goldman**, John Jackson, Jim Kirchmer, **Marty Mann**, Charlie Mosse, Patrick O'Brien, Jon & Terri Petrescu, **Sally Prestele**, Harlan & Mary Ann Price, **'lyn Stevenson**, Charlie Tamm, **Cary & Curator Steve Valentine**, **Chelle & Forrest Vess**, Dennis Wagner, **Dave Woodall**, and an anonymous "Dr. Dirt". Special thanks also for the refreshments supplied by Charlie, **Cary & Steve**, Mary Ann, Cathy & Mark, John, Maria & Tina, and **'lyn**. Some volunteers travel a little farther than others to get to the Park but the Choys make the trip from Tijuana and spend extra time waiting at the border. Great dedication !

At the July 16th session, we also had a meeting to update Pavilion projects, finances, and future plans. We are hopeful the current grant request to the County is approved so we can move ahead with a Shohin/Tokanoma display area.

Page 2

Thanks to the 27 volunteers who participated at this meeting too. The continued camaraderie at these work sessions makes Curator Steve's responsibilities much easier. Call Steve or 'lyn if you have questions or want to join the volunteers. Once you have established your enrollment with the SD Zoo Safari Park Volunteer Program, you will have complimentary entrance.

'lyn Stevenson — 858-486-4805
SDBC-WAP Liaison, New Pavilion Project Manager



July Bus Trip to Bonsai Nurseries in Los Angeles Area



BONSAI IDEAS

July

SUMMERTIME, AND THE LIVING IS EASY

-- - so goes the song. August brings some respite from the busy spring chores. It is still a period of vigorous growth and greater responsibility. August brings higher temperatures that slows down new growth and reduces pruning requirements. Trimming, repotting and styling is still in order. Continue to pinch the trees that require it, daily.

Watering is an important summer chore. Warm summer breezes encourage high levels of moisture expiration through healthy leaf surfaces. For balanced plant health regular, increased watering schedules must consistently renew 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 you 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 audit its functions.

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.

With the arrival of summer most of the formal bonsai shows have passed and the bonsaiist has the pleasure of displaying their own trees. The objective of a good hobbyist is pride in the finished tree. This is achieved by maintaining good health, continuing a selective feeding routine and paying attention to weather conditions that set the guidelines for proper watering requirements. Summer maintenance prepares the trees for fall and winter. Plan ahead.

Start with the constant surveillance of fast summer growth. Warm days and cool nights encourage the development of new tip growth, long internodes and

lush foliage. Maintenance must include pinching and plucking of the growing tips as well as cutting back the branches. Reducing the branch extensions encourages shorter internodes, tighter evergreen formations and develops desirable twiggyness on deciduous trees. Trim and shape unwanted growth. Maintain form and design.

A regular program of feeding during the summer months is important. Reduction of the nitrogen content of the fertilizer mix inhibits excessive green growth and allows the formation of chemical changes that produces the best fall colors. The basic mix of cottonseed meal (70%) and bone meal (30 %) can be altered to increase the bone meal, thereby providing more potassium and phosphorus to harden the woody growth. It also induces the development of fruit and flower buds for next year. Do not feed plants that appear to be suffering from summer stress due to oppressive heat or moisture deprivation.

It's too late and risky to leaf prune in the hot summer months. If you wish, you can do selective pruning of large leaves, burnt leaves and the obvious unwanted elongated branches and crossing branches. Keep your pots from getting too hot. Roots are easily damaged by excessive heat. Be sure your soil stays damp at all times. Keep the humidity high and the air moving around all of your trees.

Watch the wires. You would be surprised how fast spring training wire can cut into growing branches and leave permanent scars. Turn your trees to give them equal light exposure and even growth. Avoid placing trees on display benches next to hot reflecting walls. Be sure to rotate frequently.

Unfortunately, the restful summer period of bonsai enjoyment is also the most active period of pest proliferation. *Bugs* love the combination of warmth and moisture. They grow and attack your trees with relish. Keep up with regular spraying of Malathion, Isotex, Sevin, Orthorix Dormant Spray (Lime Sulfur), etc. You pick what works best for you. Apply under and over the leaf surface but out of the hot sun and not just before you water. Don't apply any chemicals when temperatures are too high.

No transplanting during the summer months. However certain materials such as Pomegranates, Ficus, Buttonwood, Cotoneaster, Pyracantha and most Bamboo can be repotted or transplanted at this time. Trees that were defoliated late in June are vulnerable to damage during the heat of the summer. Keep these trees in partial shade until they start growing again.

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.
August 2011

HAIKU POEM

***A smile brings good thoughts
Of days that are forgotten
But memory stays***

Marty Mann

August 2011

Officers

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TRIP TO CHINA AND BCI BONSAI CONVENTION

Jon and Teri Petrescu graciously shared their trip to China and also their attendance at the BCI Bonsai Convention in September/October 2010. Joining them on the trip and also at San Pu Kai for the slideshow was **Dave Woodall**, Barbara French-Lee, Susan Baker and John and Margaret Jackson. They visited Hong Kong (9/25-28), Guangzhou (9/29-10/2), Nanjing (10/2-5), Beijing (10/6-8, and Tianjing (10/9-11). Below are a small sampling of pictures from their slide show and memories of their trip.





San Pu Kai

*c/o Maria Barbosa, Membership
2727 De Anza Road, #J-26
San Diego, CA 92109*

Calendar of Events

Tuesday, August 9, 2011	7 pm - 9 pm	Shimpuku Workshop Regular meeting, Brenge Terrace Senior Center, 1400 Vale Terrace, Vista, CA
Saturday, August 20, 2011	9 am - Noon	San Diego Zoo Safari Park Bonsai Pavilion <i>Workday</i>
Saturday, September 3, 2011	9 am - Noon	San Diego Zoo Safari Park Bonsai Pavilion <i>Workday</i>
Tuesday, September 13, 2011	7 pm - 9 pm	\$20 Raffle Night-Make \$\$ for the Club! Regular meeting, Brenge Terrace Senior Center, 1400 Vale Terrace, Vista, CA
Saturday, September 17, 2011	9 am - Noon	San Diego Zoo Safari Park Bonsai Pavilion <i>Workday</i>
Tuesday, October 11, 2011	7 pm - 9 pm	Speaker TBD Regular meeting, Brenge Terrace Senior Center, 1400 Vale Terrace, Vista, CA