



San Pu Kai Record

Monthly Newsletter of the San Pu Kai Bonsai Club

December 2012

Editor: Maria Barbosa



President's Message

November's Program: We had a great meeting thanks to **Joe DuPont**. He sure did a wonderful job with his talk on propagation and sharing all of his plant material and tools. A few members were lucky enough to get some of the cuttings Joe used to take home and try their hand at getting them to propagate.



Dave Woodall and Joe DuPont

I hope that everyone came away with something that they learned and can use for their own material. I learned that after dipping the cutting into the rooting compound to have the hole ready in the soil, since in this way, when putting the cutting into the soil, you are not rubbing off some of the rooting compound. Also always wear gloves when working with rooting compound. Great tip, thanks Joe.

Steve Valentine also did a nice demonstration on air layering Joe's tree. The wrapping material that Steve used is available at Home Depot for about \$8.00 and it works great. This wrapping material is also very effective to use when digging a tree because it keeps the fine roots nice and secure and retains moisture. I am sure Joe will be willing to bring the tree back when it is time to take the newly rooted plant off the parent plant. This is a nice way of getting the tree that you want.



Steve Valentine, Air Layering Demo

2013 Elections: Well I meant to put this in the newsletter last month. I am sorry I forgot to send it to Maria. We need to talk about elections for San Pu Kai. The slate as it stands now is:

President: Cary Valentine

V President: Bob Knox

Treasure: Maria Barbosa

Secretary: Sandra Knowles

At large: John Voss & Steve Valentine

I will be taking nominations from the floor for 2013 elections at the meeting and then we will vote.

Holiday Party

Bob has found a different location for our annual Xmas party in January: **Marcos Buffett all you can eat Chinese, Japanese, American Cuisine: 100 N. Rancho Santa Fe Road, San Marcos 760-201-8845. Date is January 8, 2013 at 7:00 p.m.**

Price: \$16.00 per person, kids \$0.80 per year and drinks, tax and tip are included.

They have over 180 items to eat, so there is something for everyone. We will be in a private room, so we can still have our gift exchange: for new members we bring a bonsai-related gift wrapped to exchange with someone. It is a fun game, if some one after you likes your gift then they can steal it from you and than you gets another turn for another gift... This is not a mandatory gift exchange.



December Program: We are all excited to have **Ted Matson** back again for our next program. Ted will be working on a San Jose Juniper that I got from George Muranaka at this year's GSBF convention. This is a very nice tree for him to work on. Later on we will hold a silent auction for the tree for some lucky member to win and take home. We are very fortunate to have Ted come to our club; he has been coming to SPK ever since Steve's presidency, going on 10 years now.



Ted Matson

For those of you who do not know: Ted Matson is a past President of GSBF and is the curator for the GSBF collection at the Huntington Gardens.

Ted began studying bonsai in 1979 in San Francisco, where he learned the basics under John Boyce. He moved to Los Angeles in 1980, where he became involved in a number of clubs and began a serious pursuit of the art, taking classes from leading masters in Southern California, including Ben Suzuki, Shig and Roy Nagatoshi, Melba Tucker, Warren Hill and John Naka.

Ted was urged to get into teaching by Melba Tucker and he started offering classes at his home in Pasadena in 1988. Today, in addition to his own classes, he maintains a busy teaching schedule, traveling to nurseries, clubs and study groups throughout the state of California and across the U.S. for workshops and critiques. Also an in-demand demonstrator, Ted has conducted numerous programs (as well as workshops) at several bonsai conventions and conferences, and has been appearing more as a headliner/featured artist for major bonsai events.

Hospitality: Treats for the December Meeting will be provided by **Sandra Knowles**.

Cary Sullivan-Valentine,
President
caryme2@yahoo.com

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

San Pu Kai WEBPAGE is <http://www.sanpukai.org/>

Officers

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BONSAI IDEAS

December #108

WINTER CARE –GETTING READY FOR THE NEW YEAR

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.

A final word to remember---

May your day be filled to overflow
With all that makes you happiest

Have a happy holiday season.

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.
December 2012

HAIKU POEM

***Be at peace with life
Let your thoughts improve your day
Enjoy all things now***

Marty Mann

December 2012



San Pu Kai

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

Calendar of Events

Tuesday, December 11, 2012	7 pm – 9 pm	Regular Meeting: Ted Matson Demonstration Brenge Terrace Senior Center 1400 Vale Terrace, Vista CA
Saturday, December 15, 2012	9 am - Noon	San Diego Zoo Safari Park Bonsai Pavilion <i>Workday</i>
Saturday, January 5 & 19, 2013	9 am - Noon	San Diego Zoo Safari Park Bonsai Pavilion <i>Workdays</i>
Tuesday, January 8, 2013	7 pm – 9 pm	HOLIDAY DINNER <i>Marcos Buffett: 100 N. Rancho Santa Fe Road, San Marcos</i>
Saturday, February 2 & 16, 2013	9 am - Noon	San Diego Zoo Safari Park Bonsai Pavilion <i>Workdays</i>
Tuesday, February 12, 2013	7 pm – 9 pm	Regular Meeting: TBD <i>(Bring your own Bonsai to work on)</i> Brenge Terrace Senior Center 1400 Vale Terrace, Vista CA