



# San Pu Kai Record

Monthly Newsletter of the San Pu Kai Bonsai Club

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March 2012

Editor: Maria Barbosa

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## President's Message

Is it spring time yet? Time to repot, but as I am writing this, it is hailing at our house and is very cold outside. The rain is wonderful for washing off our trees and giving them clean water.

**March Program: MARCH13TH: repotting of the juniper donated by John Voss.** He will be donating this tree to our show plant sale in May. A BIG THANK YOU goes to John, our club members really do appreciate this very much. Please feel free to bring in your trees to repot. Bring in your tools and anything you may need to repot your own tree.

**Day at the Huntington:** Steve and I were very lucky to be asked to join Ted Matson and a group to repot some of the trees at the Huntington collection, so in a weekend the group repotted 50 trees,--- most very large trees. Steve and I repotted 5 trees on Sunday. We were also lucky to be able to repot one of John Naka's tree - it was a Wisteria and in a wonderful pot, with the Help of Jim Barrett and Bruce, we found that the pot was seizan (made by) Watanabe ( maker). It was a very special day for all. Pizza made for a nice lunch.

**Sunset Ranch Date Change:** We have changed our reservation date for the Sunset Ranch trip to this coming Fall. I believe it will be **October 5-7, 2012**. That way we can all plan to make it and it will give us more time to plan our bonsai evening presentations. Maybe a power point presentation one night and something on collecting bonsai in the wild the next night. More to come as time passes. The price will still remain at \$65.00 per adult. And family members are very welcome to join us. This is a kid friendly event and at no charge for your kids under 10. We just ask that you bring what they like to eat, treat, etc. and you must watch your own kids.

**Coming Events:** Please see the section on upcoming special events in the bonsai community: we are lucky to be invited to many special events. #1- Chiara Padrini from Italy Lecture on the origin of Suseok, Korean Viewing Stones. hosted by Ca. Aiseki Kai. #2- Ca. Bonsai Society 55th Exhibit & reception - hosted by CBS , #3- Ca. Bonsai Society 55th anniversary convention hosted by CBS. So mark your calendars, it would be nice to see SPK members at some of these functions. I know that it is in the LA area, but think of the education you will be getting and seeing some of the finest trees in the area.

**Prepare for our Show and Sale:** Start looking around your yard for plants, trees, pots that you may like to sell at our May show and plant sale. This is where the club helps you and you really help the club. Also think about if you would like to do a demonstration at the show. This year we will have a stage, covered area, and benches for the audience to watch and learn. I will be doing a demonstration on Kusamono - accent plants for your bonsai display, and moss ball accent plants. These are so fun to make & are really a nice accent to your bonsai display or as a nice gift for someone special. In April we will be having a meeting on display and getting ready for our show in May, Yes it is just right around the corner.

**JUNIPER DIG:** *Bob Knot* is having a juniper dig on **March 17th**. I will have some handouts on juniper digging, after care, what to bring with you, as well as the time and location of the dig. This is on land that Bob had permission to dig, which is a **must** & we must respect the land, take home what you bring, and leave the land as you found it.

Good bonsai to all,

Cary Sullivan-Valentine, President

[caryme2@yahoo.com](mailto:caryme2@yahoo.com)

**San Pu Kai is on FACEBOOK – link is**

<http://www.facebook.com/#!/pages/San-Pu-Kai-Bonsai-Club/184125964939396>



## BONSAI PAVILIONS AT THE SAN DIEGO ZOO SAFARI PARK

John Jackson has been appointed as the new Bonsai Pavilion Curator at the Safari Park and Dennis Wagner was appointed his Assistant Curator. The volunteers thanked and applauded former Curator, **Steve Valentine**, at our February work day meeting. **Steve** had served in that capacity for **17 years** at both the former and the new Pavilion and has agreed to continue to be an active volunteer. His past experience and background will continue to be sought. Many thanks to Steve for his many contributions!

February volunteers at the Pavilion included Neil Auwarter, Susan Baker, Alan Burrows, Andrew & Martha Choy, Cathy & Mark Edgar, Maria & Tina Flores, Barbara French-Lee, **Joyce Goldman**, John Jackson, Jim Kirchmer, Kris Landwehr, Charlie Mosse, Patrick O'brien, **Sally Prestele**, Harlan & Mary Ann Price, new member and volunteer Dan Sola, **'lyn Stevenson**, Charlie Tamm, **Cary & Steve Valentine**, Dennis Wagner, and **Dave Woodall**. Wonderful nourishment in the way of tantalizing snacks were provided by Cathy Edgar, John Jackson, Dan Sola, **Cary Valentine**, Mary Ann Price, Charlie Mosse, and **'lyn Stevenson**. Many thanks all for your participation and donations.

John Jackson and volunteers finished the storage cabinets for all our inventory of unspotted pots! The cabinets/closets are beautiful, functional, and much needed. John donated his talent and good work and the materials were supplied under our last grant from the SD County request.

Several major transplanting projects were completed in February including a couple of huge bonsai that will be debuted into the Pavilion very soon. The usual gardening, raking, pot cleaning, fertilizing, and trimming projects were completed most efficiently. . .the Pavilion is always left in true show quality. Congratulations and thanks always to all our volunteers!

The Zoo and the Safari Park have asked the Bonsai Pavilion to be featured at their volunteer meeting on March 12th at the Hunter Pavilion in Safari Park. We are delighted to be able to present the features of the bonsai and the lovely garden that SDBC and San Pu Kai supporters have created and to help educate all the

personnel to this wonderful art that we are sharing with all visitors to Safari Park.

We are continuing to have scheduled work days at the Pavilion on the first and third Saturdays of each month. Remember to bring your tools, sun visors, gloves, snacks, and your I.D. cards when you enter the back gate for admission. For further information, please call 'lyn Stevenson at 858-486-4805.

'lyn Stevenson  
SDBC-Safari Park Liaison

**2012 Memberships DUE NOW**  
Please mail your dues to: **Maria Barbosa, SPK membership, 2727 De Anza Road, #J-26 San Diego, CA 92109**  
  
Make your check out to **“San Pu Kai”**  
  
**\$20.00 for single membership**  
**\$25.00 for a couple**

**JUNIPER DIG**

If you are interested in a day trip to the nearby mountains to collect California junipers - NOW is your chance. On **March 17th**, small groups of club members are invited to dig junipers on private property with owner's written permission.

The activity is strenuous and you must be self-contained. Contact **Bob Knox** if you are interested or would like further information- **(760) 727-7317**  
**robertk44@cox.net**

**Officers**

President – Cary Sullivan-Valentine  
760-445-2548 [Caryme2@yahoo.com](mailto:Caryme2@yahoo.com)

Vice-President – Bob Knox  
760-727-7317 [robertk44@cox.net](mailto:robertk44@cox.net)

Secretary – Sandra Knowles  
760-753-9493 [b.knowles@sbcglobal.net](mailto:b.knowles@sbcglobal.net)

Treasurer/Membership – Maria Barbosa  
619-606-6523 [bonsaigarden@earthlink.net](mailto:bonsaigarden@earthlink.net)



# BONSAI IDEAS

DECEMBER, #99

## REPOTTING, REFINEMENT AND REVIVAL

The time for reflection and study of your trees is never over. Once the dormant period passes, it's important to begin the repotting activities of early spring. March is a good time, just as the buds begin to move with the warmth of the season. Start with your evergreen trees and conifers in March since they tend to be stronger during the winter months and can handle the shock of transplanting and severe root disturbance. It's generally better to work on deciduous trees later in April when their activities come to life.

After a welcome rainy season, prepare for a serious period of repotting. It's time to energize your thoughts and efforts. If you have already created your supply of good basic potting soil and clean pots, you should be ready to go.

Your projects can be threefold:

- Move pre-trained material from nursery cans to selected bonsai pots, either for further training or for shows.
- Transfer trees that are already potted into larger and/or more decorative pots due to changes in the basic shape, size or design of the trees.
- Repot trees that are ready to be refreshed with new soil. Remove excessive root growth to generally improve their health.

The process of potting and repotting is very important at this time. Part of the responsibility of maintaining an attractive and healthy bonsai collection is the never-ending process of providing the proper growing environment. The best guideline is not just the question of the recommended *time to repot*, but more so, the *need* to repot based upon the condition of the trees. Depending upon the particular weather conditions in your area during recent weeks, signs of growing activity may have already begun. It's best to repot before any significant signs of bud swelling has started. This is especially true

of fruiting and flowering varieties. Fruiting and deciduous trees benefit from annual or frequent repotting. Don't overlook the smaller Shohin trees. It's even more important to be watchful of this class of bonsai since they will quickly reflect your neglect.

Bonsai, ready for repotting should be somewhat on the dry side. The trees are easier to remove from the pot. The combing of the root ball, after cutting away the traditional 1/3, free the fine roots and encourage regrowth. While repotting, don't allow the fine roots to be exposed to the sun or drying winds-keep a spray bottle handy. Be sure that the new soil mix has been screened to remove harmful fine dust. Newly potted material are kept in partial shade for a week or so and then moved into full sun to allow the roots to redevelop.

It's a good idea to include a small amount of bone meal and Ironite in the soil mixture to encourage development of new fine rootage. There is a difference of opinion as to the value of including cottonseed meal at this time, however we believe that this fertilizer is better applied a month or so later since early feeding can be harmful to new growth. Cottonseed meal is a slow starter before it adds any nutrient benefit to the plant. Repotted plants may be fed as soon as signs of new growth are apparent. A suggested mix is 75% cottonseed meal / 25% bone meal.

Newly potted trees should be shaded from direct sun until new growth begins. By moving trees into sunny areas, it will stimulate the growth of foliage. Newly potted trees should first be allowed to develop new fine rootage that can then support new foliage. When new growth is evident, it's time to begin light fertilization. Full sun encourages smaller leaves and shorter internodes.

**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.  
March 2012

### **HAIKU POEM**

***The Earth yields greatly  
With warm sun and glowing light  
Nature brings new life***

**Marty Mann**

**March 2012**



## San Pu Kai

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

### Calendar of Events

Tuesday, March 13, 2012	7 pm - 9 pm	<b>JOHN VOSS – JUNIPER REPOT, also BRING YOUR BONSAI TREES and TOOLS!</b> Regular meeting, Bregle Terrace Senior Center, 1400 Vale Terrace, Vista, CA
Saturday, March 17, 2012	9 am - Noon	San Diego Zoo Safari Park Bonsai Pavilion <a href="#">Workday</a>
Saturday/Sunday March 24 & 25, 2012	10am – 4:30 pm	Bonsai Exhibition by the California Bonsai Society, Friendship Hall, Huntington Library, San Marino - FREE
Saturday, April 7, 2012	9 am - Noon	San Diego Zoo Safari Park Bonsai Pavilion <a href="#">Workday</a>
Tuesday, April 10, 2012	7 pm - 9 pm	<b>DISPLAY Demo &amp; show program</b> Regular meeting, Bregle Terrace Senior Center, 1400 Vale Terrace, Vista, CA
Saturday/Sunday April 11 -15, 2012	All weekend	The IRON MEN of John Naka, Crown Plaza Garden Grove Registration information, Elizabeth Partch, email: <a href="mailto:elizabethpartch@yahoo.com">elizabethpartch@yahoo.com</a>