



San Pu Kai Record

Monthly Newsletter of the San Pu Kai Bonsai Club

December 2013



President's Message

I hope you all had a wonderful Thanksgiving with your family and friends.

We had a great November meeting talking about California Juniper and learning how to wire it. Thanks to Steve and Bob for conducting the meeting. We also got a nice report on the GSBF convention from our "power of one" representative Jeff. He also shared with us the trees from the workshop he attended and what he bought from vendor Gary Isshi. Jeff described how Gary helped him pick out the best tree and work on the tree and what next to do. John Voss also shared his workshop experience.

We are very proud that San Pu Kai past president Marty Mann was given the GSBF "Gold Presidents" pin, for his many years of hard dedicated work for GSBF. Congratulations, Marty!

At the November meeting we discussed next year's programs and field trips club members would like, juniper collecting, viewing stone collecting to mention a few.

Thank you for the wonderful treats Lanny. Yes I have a copy of your yummy pumpkin bars recipe.

San Pu Kai will be having a board and budget meeting soon so we can prepare for 2014. We have confirmed our date with the Carlsbad Flower Fields for our Mother's Day show and plant sale. Yes, I think we need to buy and work on more small juniper bonsai to sell to the public, they were a big hit.

Program for December:

Please be sure to attend our December meeting. Ted Matson will be conducting a demonstration using the same olive tree that he worked on last year, collected from the wild of Hawaii. Hopefully Ted will have time to critique the juniper that Sandra Knowles won earlier this year. Treats this month will be provided by Sandra.

Our program for January is our annual holiday dinner with a gift exchange. There is no regular meeting.

Wishing everyone happiness, health and great bonsai in the New Year, and Happy Holidays to all.

Caryl 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/>



SEASONAL SUGGESTIONS

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 overwintering 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.

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.



SDBC BONSAI PAVILION at SD ZOO SAFARI PARK . . . FOR DECEMBER, 2013

Many of our Pavilion volunteers attended the Golden State Bonsai Convention early in November. Even with their participation at the convention, the workdays at the Pavilion were well attended both during the Convention and on other workdays. Many thanks to: Armand Bryant, Kathy & Mark Edgar, Allan Edwin, Maria & Tina Flores, **Jeff Gerringer**, Sonya Holmquist, John Jackson, Jaya Kaelberer, Jim & Sue Kirchmer, **Marty & Ruth Mann**, Charlie Mosse, Jon & Terri Petrescu, **Sally Prestele**, Harlan Price, Dan Sola, **'lyn Stevenson**, Charlie Tamm, Mark Walters, Dennis Wagner, and **Dave Woodall** for putting in many excellent hours of dedicated and useful bonsai work.

The Convention was an opportunity for many of us to participate in workshops and attend presentations by outstanding bonsai masters. Bonsai Master Peter Warren from London chose to work on an Olive which was purchased from the Dave Rochester Estate. At one of the dinners, this shohin was auctioned and SDBC member, Bob Meyer, had the winning bid of \$300. Bob then generously donated the olive to the shohin collection at Safari Park. Many thanks to Bob Meyer for this donation. Terri and Jon Petrescu have recently donated a shimpaku shohin to the collection also. We are most grateful for this generosity from our members always!

Curator John Jackson has been most anxious to start transplanting many of our bonsai. November's

work sessions were the start of this ongoing project. In spite of very wet weather, we were able to transplant seven bonsai in the collection which also included potting four bonsai from the Bish Estate donations that had been donated this past year and were overdo for new soil and pots. This was helpful education for our newer volunteers and a challenge for our veterans! Thanks to all!

On December 1st, the Zoo Foundation honored all the volunteers who have donated at least 60 hours during 2013. On December 7th work day, our Pavilion volunteers will have a Christmas Pot Luck Party at the Safari Park to recognize and thank all the SDBC and San Pu Kai volunteers who have participated in our Pavilion work activities during this year.

SDBC members who would like to join in our Bonsai Pavilion activities in the future will need to get their credentials from the Zoo-Safari Park. Contact 'lyn Stevenson for further information on the process. We welcome your participation. . . there is plenty of work for everyone and lots of learning and fun in the process too!

'lyn Stevenson
SDBC-Safari Park Liaison



Nice work, Jeff !



Cary with accent plants at GSBF



John Voss working on his new Quince



Great trees that were purchased at GSBF



Steve instructs during his workshop



A beautiful variegated bougainvillea

COMING EVENTS:

Saturday December 14 9 am-
3 pm

Final sale of Dave
Rochester's collection of
bonsai

**2016 Sakina Street
San Diego 92019**

**California Aiseki Kai 24 th
Anniversary Exhibit viewing
stone show
Dec 26-Jan 2 closed New
Year's Day
10:30-4:30 free
Huntington Library Botanical
Center
1151 Oxford Road
San Marino, CA**



Ted Matson at work

**Winter Silhouettes 50 th
annual Celebration
Jan 18th & 19th 10 am- 4:30
pm
Sat night reception 5:30 to 9pm
demonstration both days 1 pm
Taiko drum entertainment
Three club round robin
Exhibit, giant raffle, auction,
food, free
Special award ceremony for
Jim Barrett
Ayers Hall, LA Arboretum
310 north Baldwin Ave
Arcadia, CA**



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

Calendar of Events

Tuesday December 10, 2013	7 pm – 9 pm	Regular Meeting: Ted Matson demonstration!! Brenge Terrace Senior Center 1400 Vale Terrace, Vista CA
Saturday, December 21, 2013	9 am - Noon	San Diego Zoo Safari Park Bonsai Pavilion Workday
Tuesday January 14, 2014	7 pm – 9 pm	Holiday dinner party / gift exchange Pan Asia Buffet, 707 Center Drive, San Marcos CA
Saturday, January 4, 2014	9 am - Noon	San Diego Zoo Safari Park Bonsai Pavilion Workday