



San Pu Kai Record

Monthly Newsletter of the San Pu Kai Bonsai Club

March 2013

Editor: Bob Knox



President's Message

We had a wonderful meeting, lots of members were there and several new members to clean up the trees from House of Bonsai. These trees will be repotted at our next meeting, and then we will sell them at our May Bonsai Show at the Carlsbad Flower Fields. Several members could not wait, so they bought the trees that night. Bob is taking care of them until the show. Thank so much to Bob for taking such good care of our trees. It was wonderful to see so many members busy and having so much fun working on these little trees. Steve and John, thanks so much for all the extra help with the newer club members.

When you see some of our new members, please make them feel welcome and help share some of your bonsai knowledge with them. Remember that any new member gets a signed copy of Marty Mann's book "Bonsai Ideas".

John Voss had the first session of his beginning bonsai class at Alta Vista Gardens. There were 8 students, 4 were San Pu Kai members. The club may just get a few new members from the other 4 who were in the class. John did a real nice job of informing his new students on formal upright bonsai, he did have some help from Steve.

All of the students went home with a foemina juniper and a hand out on formal upright style. They did some wiring on the trees. Next month the students will get their pots and then learn how to repot their trees.

I saw Ted Matson at the Bonsai-a-Thon; he is coming to do the demonstration at our June meeting and also his regular December meeting demo. How great that we will have Ted doing demonstrations for the club 2 times this year. So mark your calendars, you don't want to miss him.

Program for March:

We will be repotting the junipers purchased at House of Bonsai for the fundraising sale at our May show at the Carlsbad Flower Fields. The trees will have plenty of time to adjust before we sell them in May.

Treats will be provided by Charles Grooms. Thank you in advance for helping by providing refreshments for the meeting. I know we all like a little treat during the meetings.

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/>

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BONSAI IDEAS

March 2013

Plan your repotting activity. Now is the time, before the trees awaken. Take this opportunity to change from training pots or oversized pots to appropriate display pots more suitable to the finished bonsai. Determine the size, shape, color and style to complement your tree. If you see an appropriate pot at a nursery or bazaar, buy it when you see it.

A bonsai, to be ready for repotting, should be somewhat dry. This facilitates removal from a tight pot. Unwind twisted roots that have circled the outer rim and free them of hardened or compacted soil.

Usually, with deciduous or conifers, it's best to cut about 1/3 of the root ball away as the roots are freed. Trim to reduce the ball to fit into its new pot. Keep fine roots sprayed. Don't allow them to dry. Cut away heavy old roots.

When repotting, it's a good time to reposition the tree if it is required. Change the height, adjust the trunk angle, add more potting soil around the root ball, and work it in with your chopstick to fill in as many air pockets as possible. Remember to slope your surface slightly from the trunk to the lip of the pot. Leave an indentation along the rim of the pot to prevent water run-off. A good soaking removes destructive air pockets.

Repotted material may be placed in semi-shade for a week or so. Don't water heavily. Introduce the tree back to full light and warmth to encourage root and bud growth to begin.

Don't feed for 4 to 5 weeks. March can be a capricious month--ranging from cool to hot. Don't encourage too much quick growth since this creates unsightly long internodes and large leaves. Pay particular attention to fruiting and flowering trees. If they have been too active in directing their energy into flowers and buds then some

pinching back can help them pay attention to leaves and woody branching.

Repotting activity should be regulated. Know when and what has been done to each tree. Plan your activity around a review of this generalized schedule of repotting as follows:

Young trees, less than 5 years old--repot every 1-2-3 years, depending upon growth and needs.

Be sure you have strong root development before you repot young trees. Somewhat older trees, 5 to 20 years old--repot every 2-3-4 years. Check the root ball for good health. Very old trees, 20 or more years --repot every 4-5-6 years, depending upon the condition of the tree.

Review specie habits. Some like to be crowded and may not need to be repotted. Fertilization programs can resume. Don't feed newly potted material too soon. Fast growth causes long internodes and large leaves. Keep nitrogen content low for the first month or so as the plant comes out of dormancy.

If the new growth is too active, keep it pinched. Whenever a new set of leaves appears, pinch back on the center set. If your objective is to improve twiggy on elms, zelkovas, maples, etc. cut new internodes to two sets of leaves. Pinch new evergreen growth to encourage density. Don't pinch fruiting or flowering trees such as bougainvilleas, pomegranates, ume, crabapples, quince or azaleas. Early spring pinching removes the forming flower and fruit buds.

Insects come back to life with the arrival of steady warmth. Start with Malathion to attack most predators but don't overlook Seven or Isotox if signs of chewing damage show on your leaves. Spray well into the interior of the tree and onto the undersides of the leaves. Sucking insects such as scale, aphids, white flies, mealy bugs and mites require a systemic action in the pesticide you use. Watch for fungus. Use Benomyl to kill mildew. Spray on warm, dry days. Mid-morning is best to allow the spray material to dry onto the plant surfaces. Avoid watering until the sprays can be effective.

This article has been extracted from the 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 THE SAFARI PARK

We have started the 2013 year at the Pavilion with great volunteer attendance!

That translates too much work being accomplished!
Thanks to the February volunteers: Neil Auwarter, Susan Baker, **Ken Bross**, Andres & Martha Choy, Cathy & Mark Edgar, Allan Edwin, Barbara French-Lee, Maria & Tina Flores, Sonya Holmquist, Curator, John Jackson, **Marty & Ruth Mann**, Jon & Terri Petrescu, John & Meg Polo, **Sally Prestele**, Mary Ann & Harlan Price, Dan Sola, 'lyn Stevenson, Charlie Tamm, Mark Walters, **John Voss**, Dennis Wagner, Mark Walters, & **Dave Woodall**.

Special welcome and thanks to Sonya and the Polos for joining our Volunteer group . . . they are most welcome and energetic additions! Generous Thanks for the delicious donations of tasty treats contributed by Martha Choy, Cathy Edgar, Allan Edwin, John Jackson, Maria & Tina Flores, **Ruth Mann**, **Sally Prestele**, Meg & John Polo, Mary Ann Price, 'lyn Stevenson, Charlie Tamm, and **Dave Woodall**.

We have fun at the Pavilion and love to party with great foods too. Thanks always for the donations!

Slight frost die back was detected on a couple of our ficus nerifolias, but the cooler weather and rains have been most welcomed by the rest of the bonsai collection. Several major transplants and repottings have been done. New additions on the Shohin shelves include donations from **Ken Bross**, Jon & Terri Petrescu and **Marty Mann**.

An excellent air layering technique demo from Curator John on a very large juniper from the Bish Estate was much appreciated by all the volunteers. Now, we will have another two bonsai in our inventory. All the bonsai in the collection received fertilizer, moss was cleaned off trees and the pots were cleaned. Another major pruning/clearing was done on the in-ground plantings around the waterfall and a blue Atlas cedar was moved to another location in the Garden. Some restyling of a couple of bonsai is another task that takes study,

discussion, and learning but is helpful to all of the volunteers.

We all continue to enjoy and learn and share with all the visitors but we have now completely run out of brochures in our information kiosk . . . they are very popular with Pavilion visitors.

There is a definite need for new flyers, a poster re our new web site, club information etc. These pieces of information can be contained in the three box compartments and the cork boards in the kiosk at the entrance to the Pavilion.

The volunteers are racking up many appreciated volunteer hours . . . the Safari Park / Zoo wants all volunteers to register at least 60 hours per year in order to receive their ID cards and gratis entrance and parking. That goal will easily be reached by our Pavilion roster! Hours are posted on our bulletin board on the inside of the new closet door. THANKS ALWAYS!!!

'lyn Stevenson
SDBC-SPark Liaison
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Working on the trees



Shohin display at Bonsai-a-Thon



John Voss instructs



Juniper tray landscape at Bonsai-a-Thon



A question for John



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Calendar of Events

Tuesday, March 12, 2013	7 pm – 9 pm	Regular Meeting: Juniper repotting workshop Bring your tools!! Brenge Terrace Senior Center 1400 Vale Terrace, Vista CA
Saturday, March 9 & 16	9 am - Noon	San Diego Zoo Safari Park Bonsai Pavilion Workdays
Saturday, April 6 & 20	9 am - Noon	San Diego Zoo Safari Park Bonsai Pavilion Workdays
Tuesday, April 9, 2013	7 pm – 9 pm	Regular Meeting: Display techniques Brenge Terrace Senior Center 1400 Vale Terrace, Vista CA
Saturday & Sunday May 11 & 12, 2013	9 am -4 pm	Annual Bonsai Show & Sale Carlsbad Flower Fields