



# San Pu Kai Record

Monthly Newsletter of the San Pu Kai Bonsai Club

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**November 2013**

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## President's Message

If you were not able to make it on our retreat or the last meeting, you missed a lot of fun, friendship and wonderful tamarisk, swimming, paddle boating and great food. Steve BBQ'd some fresh tuna he caught on one of his fishing trips to Mexico.

Oh my, the kids that came were so perfect; they were a pleasure to have with us. The kids got to fish and each one caught a nice little fish. The guys went out early in the morning on their hunt for their tamarisk. Not really a dig, but with a good saw, they all came back with buckets full of tamarisk. We cannot wait to see how they all will look next year. San Pu Kai made enough to pay for the renting of Sunset Ranch Oasis and made a little extra money. Thanks to Stone Brewery for the beer donation, and the Valentines for the food.

During our last meeting Bob brought in some of his tamarisk, so we could see how wonderful they look in a bonsai pot. We discussed potting and caring for them. Steve did a wiring demo on an untrained tree. John Voss and Jeff Gerringer brought in their finds from Sunset Ranch and shared them with other club members who were not able to go with us. Now everyone is looking for tamarisk when they are out driving around. Maria Barbosa took wonderful photos of our retreat.

Thanks so much for the wonderful treats last month Maria.

## Program for November:

Steve will be doing a wiring demonstration on a collected California Juniper. Jeff will be giving us a GSBF convention report, as San Pu Kai sent him to the convention to be our "power of one" representative. Treats this month will be provided by **Lanny Chronert**.

I have confirmed with the Carlsbad Flower Fields that our club's annual show and sale will be May 10-11 2014, Mother's Day weekend, so please mark your calendars!

Happy Halloween.

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>

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

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**Wiring project for the November meeting**



## SEASONAL SUGGESTIONS

Light conditions begin to change. Trees that have had full sun exposure find themselves in more shade. Watch the location of trees at this time of year. Rotate them into more favorable light exposures. Allow them to continue storing strength and food for the winter. Late summer feeding, with reduced amounts of nitrogen, may be continued throughout the fall months into November. The recommended basic mix of 70% cottonseed meal, 30% bone meal may be supplemented with foliar feeding for evergreen, conifers and other non-deciduous material.

Warm spells are common at this time and trees often respond with new growth. This tender growth is susceptible to damage if any sudden cool weather occurs.

This is the best time to study the main trunk line and branch structure. Consider style changes suggested when the skeleton of the tree could be seen. Any activity after October should be limited to pot-to-pot transfers only. Wait until spring, just before new growth begins to do most repotting. Additional potting information for specific species is available in the recently published book, *BONSAI IDEAS*, by Marty Mann.

Expose pine trees and other conifers to full light during the forthcoming months. This encourages the formation of new candles and healthy root formation. Much of the new growth forms after the pines are decandled early in May or June. New growth appears in clusters of three to five candles. Remove all but two. Pluck all old needles to free the tree from a dense foliage mass to permit light and air to penetrate into the heart of the tree and encourage new interior growth.

Deciduous trees will begin to show fall colors as soon as cooler nights become more common. After they have had their moment of glory, be sure to remove any brown leaves as they appear. Keep the trees free

of accumulated trash that can house many undesirable wintering insects and encourage fungus buildup. Keep the trees open, light and airy.

Cut back on your watering schedule but don't allow the trees to dry. As the length of the day's sunshine is shortened, the trees require less water. A balance must be maintained between the minimal watering and the loss of moisture by transpiration during intermittent hot spells.

Continue to rotate all trees to maintain even exposure to the limited light conditions. This is the time for trees to store food for winter dormancy. It is also the time to keep trees free of accumulated trash. They could be the home for winterizing insects and fungus.

Keep up applications of an all-purpose insecticide and fungicide. Insect, such as aphids continue to suck sap and can be best controlled with an oily or systemic pesticide. Watch for signs of fungus infection such as dark spots on needles and leaves or a white powdery substance at the base of the leaves. Fungus infection can be prevented with applications of a copper-based Bordeaux® or Daconil® is effective for above ground infections.

**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.



*Some of the kids who enjoyed Sunset Ranch*

## ***Kay Komai passes***



Kay Komai, friend of everyone who knew her, passed away October 23. Kay was one of the nicest people you ever met and a great proponent of bonsai in Los Angeles.

Kay was an administrator at USC where she helped to guide some of the University's students who went on to become some of California's most influential politicians. Kay was the daughter of Frank Nagata who was a fellow student of John Naka and they were instrumental in teaching bonsai to the non-Asian L.A. community in the 1950s.

Kay married Khan Komai, a student of Frank's who established Komai Bonsai Nursery in Temple City, CA. Jim Barrett was an early student of Khan's and became a teacher at the nursery. Jim went on to become the first president of Golden State Bonsai Society. Melba Tucker was also a teacher at the nursery. Yuji Yoshimura, taught there and later brought bonsai to the east coast becoming famous for his book "The Art of Bonsai".

There will be a graveside service Friday November 1st at 11:00 a.m. for Kay at the Centenary United Methodist Church, 300 S. Central, Los Angeles, CA 90013. Please contact the church at 213-617-9079 for more information.



***Chelle Vess cooking a gourmet meal***



***Jeff Gerringer and Charles Grooms with treasures***





*One of the beautiful tamarisk in bloom*



*Bobby Knox discusses collecting tamarisk*



*Steve wires a recently collected tree*



*Some examples of collected tamarisk*



*The tree prior to wiring*



*Freshly collected tamarisk from the Sunset Ranch retreat*



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

### Calendar of Events

<b>Thursday October 31– Sunday November 3 , 2013</b>	<b>All day</b>	<b>GSBF Convention XXXVI Burbank Airport Marriott Hotel</b>
<b>Saturday, November 2, 2013</b>	<b>9 am - Noon</b>	<b>San Diego Zoo Safari Park Bonsai Pavilion Workdays</b>
<b>Tuesday November 12, 2013</b>	<b>7 pm – 9 pm</b>	<b>Regular Meeting: CA Juniper wiring demonstration Brenge Terrace Senior Center 1400 Vale Terrace, Vista CA</b>
<b>Saturday, November 16, 2013</b>	<b>9 am - Noon</b>	<b>San Diego Zoo Safari Park Bonsai Pavilion Workdays</b>
<b>Tuesday December 10, 2013</b>	<b>7 pm – 9 pm</b>	<b>Regular Meeting: Ted Matson demonstration!! Brenge Terrace Senior Center 1400 Vale Terrace, Vista CA</b>