



San Pu Kai Record

Monthly Newsletter of the San Pu Kai Bonsai Club

February 2014



President's Message

If you missed the January Club dinner and gift exchange, you missed a great party. Thanks to Bob Knox for finding our new location. It was great for members who live on the east side of the county. It made it easier for them to join us and we were all happy to see them. The gift exchange was a big hit with most folks stealing to get the gift they wanted. Lots of fun. Thank you to everyone who came to the dinner.

San Pu Kai had its annual board meeting and planned the upcoming year of learning and bonsai education. Ted Matson will return in December for a demonstration and David Nguy will conduct a demonstration on a collected California Juniper that will be auctioned to a lucky club member. We will have workshops and meeting programs to work on your own trees.

San Pu Kai purchased 40 trees and pots from the House of Bonsai to work on for two meetings. The February program will be to trim and wire them, the March program will be to pot them up. These trees we will then sell at our Mother's Day bonsai show and fundraising plant sale. This is really great for the club because we have two meetings where we learn with the trees, then have nice trees for our show visitors to purchase.

I will bring the treats for our February meeting and have a sign up list for the year. We only have 9 months to fill in.

Please remember the Bonsai-a-thon at the Huntington Library on February 22 and 23. Please try to attend, great fun, you get in free with a name badge (I will have some for you at the February meeting). There is a bonsai exhibit, demonstrations, guided tour of the bonsai garden at 9 AM, breakfast and lunch, oh and the vendors! It's a great place to get what you need. There are tools, pots, trees, and trees. Both days are great. Yes, there is a raffle and auction each day in the late afternoon. If you have never gone, you really need to try to put it on your list to do and if you have been before, go again, you know how great this is, it is a free mini convention.

Steve and I just returned from going to the California Shohin Society seminar, what can I say- it was great fun, we learned so much. We will share. I took a workshop on accent plants, I think San Pu Kai should do a meeting workshop on this, you'll love it, just what you need to finish your bonsai display. Steve attended two workshops: Japanese scroll making including a wooden box to store the scroll in, very nice.

See you at our meeting, happy bonsai, pray for rain.

Cary Sullivan-Valentine, President
caryme2@yahoo.com

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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

PREPARE FOR SPRING (It's not here yet!)

When trees are dormant, slowed down and resting, they allow us to see them as twiggy silhouettes—deciduous or conifers. Whether potted or still in training, now is the time to critique your own trees. Often, when we attend conventions or club meetings we hear well-informed sensei or senior bonsaiist look at a tree and make educated and constructive observations that may improve or change. We fail however to take the spirit of these programs and apply them to our own material.

Take the time to do a critique. Observe your bonsai. Think of their future. Plan changes for improvement or change. Every piece of material you own deserves this New Year review. Your hobby should always seek an improvement challenge. Survey the finished trees you have in bonsai pots. Are they still in a proper match in size or color to the tree? Has the maturity and styling of the tree changed? Is it enough to consider repotting into a new pot? Is it taller, wider, fatter? Does the tree deserve a pot of better quality? Now is the time to redesign each completed tree. Review your nursery stock to determine the readiness of some of the partially trained material for transfer to a training or display pot. Check your inventory of pots. If you don't have one that fits your need, now is the time to shop at a bonsai nursery or attend one of the many local conventions. Bazaar vendors offer so many varieties and sizes. Maybe you will find the perfect 'domestic made' pot to fit the bill.

If deciduous trees start to sprout, bring them gradually into sunlight. If they are kept in a shaded area, new growth tends to be long, leggy and weak. Be careful to protect this new growth

from any surprise cold or frost that will cause dieback. When warm weather comes, so does the ever-present insect population. Be prepared to spray early with a good commercial insecticide or miticide. Follow manufacturer's directions.

This is a good time to prepare fertilizer supplies. Chemical and organic liquid fertilizers require no advance planning. They can be freshly mixed when ready to apply. If you are a user of the recommended dry mixes such as cottonseed meal (75%) with bone meal (25%) now is the time to prepare for next month. Keep the finished product in a dry place. If it gets wet it will begin to ferment and will drive you out of your yard! Remember, acid fertilizers are best for azaleas and camellias as well as conifers and junipers. The idea, when feeding in early spring is *slow release*. Don't rush your trees into a spurt of new growth too soon.

The time to spray your deciduous trees with a dormant spray (lime sulfur) is before any sign of new growth appears. February is a good month for this application. Keep this chemical away from the soil—roots can be damaged.

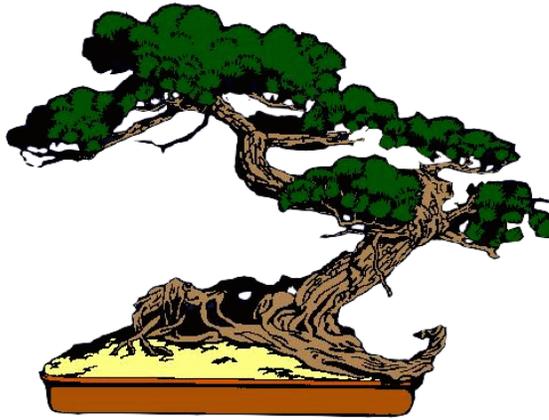
This article has been extracted from a recently published book called '**Bonsai Ideas**' © By **Marty Mann**. Material is not to be copied without publisher or author's permission.
February 2014

JUNIPER DIG

If you are interested in a day trip to the nearby mountains to collect California junipers - **NOW** is your chance. On Saturday and Sunday March 1 & 2, 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. You must be club member to participate.

Contact **Bob Knox**
(robertk44@cox.net) if you are interested or would like further information.



**SDBC BONSAI PAVILION at SAFARI
PARK February, 2014**

The year began with a very enthusiastic group of volunteers for the Bonsai Pavilion at Safari Park. Hopefully, every volunteer now has the 2014 validated ID card in hand! Several new members have joined our group and it will undoubtedly be another very successful year. Congratulations and January thanks to: Neil Auwarter, Susan Baker, **Ken Bross**, Armand Bryant, Alan Burrows, Julia Chow, Steve Clemons, Cathy & Mark Edgar, **Jeff Gerringer**, Bob & Janice Hale, John Jackson, Jim Kirchmer, Charlie Mosse, Patrick O'Brien, **Sally Prestele**, Harlan Price, Dan Sola, **Ilyn Stevenson**, **John Voss**, Dennis Wagner, **Dave Woodall**, and Roger Ziegelman for their commitments to this very special Bonsai priority. It was a great turn out even though there was a conflict with the Club bus trip to Winter Silhouettes.

Bonsai work in January included: defoliation on some deciduous trees (since Mother Nature did not complete the job); bonsai pots were cleaned; bonsai surfaces were weeded; a large orientalis and the large saikei elm forest were repotted; more soil mixtures were prepared for future potting sessions; and wiring was done on several trees. The Pavilion pathways were also raked; the hillside was weeded; rocks were redistributed around the lower pond and others

were cemented; huge branches were removed over the upper pond; smaller branches and debris were removed from the stream beds; and some landscape pines were trimmed. Thanks always to our Curator John Jackson for his usual guidance. We appreciated the special help from Robert Thurston and the Safari Horticultural Department this month also. We had marked a large boulder behind our Pavilion earlier and with their equipment, they were able to place it into the lower pond — another nice garden enhancement!

February workdays will be the first and third Saturdays as usual even though several members will be at the Shohin Convention but there will not be a conflict with the GSBF Bonsai-A-Thon bus trip fortunately. It is wonderful that we have enough members to cover all these Bonsai events!

Many thanks to **Sally Prestele** and Mark Edgar for providing much of the Pavilion information this month.

Ilyn Stevenson
SDBC-Safari Park Liaison

San Pu Kai 2014
Memberships DUE

Please pay at the February meeting, or
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**

Bonsai-A-Thon XVIII at the Huntington Library and Botanical Gardens

1151 Oxford Road, San Marino, CA
Saturday and Sunday
February 22 and 23 2014

Annual fundraiser for the GSBF
Collection at The Huntington Botanical
Gardens. Admission to the event is free
with Bonsai-A-Thon “early bird”
registration between 8 AM – 9:30 AM.
Event hours are 8 AM – 4:30 PM both
days. Sunday morning: bring-your-own-
tree workshop led by Ted Matson – limit
10 people (for details contact
tmatson@earthlink.net).

Pancake breakfast, tour hosted by Jim
Folsom (Director of the Garden),
demonstrations, lunch, bonsai exhibits,
large sales area, raffle, and auction.
For more information, contact Marge
Blasingame, (626) 579-0420
margeblasingame@att.net.



John with a great gift



Display at the Shohin Convention



Good chow!!



*Shohin display at the Santa Nella
convention*



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

Calendar of Events

<i>Tuesday February 11, 2014</i>	<i>7 pm – 9 pm</i>	<i>Regular Meeting: Juniper styling workshop Brenkle Terrace Senior Center 1400 Vale Terrace, Vista CA</i>
<i>Saturday, February 22, 2014</i>	<i>9 am - Noon</i>	<i>San Diego Zoo Safari Park Bonsai Pavilion Workday</i>
<i>Saturday and Sunday February 22 & 23, 2014</i>	<i>8 am- 4:30 pm</i>	<i>Bonsai-A-Thon XVIII at The Huntington Library and Botanical Gardens, 1151 Oxford Road, San Marino</i>
<i>Saturday and Sunday March 1 & 2</i>	<i>6 am – 5 pm</i>	<i>California Juniper collecting trip Local mountains</i>
<i>Tuesday, March 11, 2014</i>	<i>7 pm – 9 pm</i>	<i>Regular Meeting: Juniper potting workshop Brenkle Terrace Senior Center 1400 Vale Terrace, Vista CA</i>