



# San Pu Kai Record

Monthly Newsletter of the San Pu Kai Bonsai Club



February 2015



## President's Message

We had a very fun, delicious and successful holiday party last month. 20 members came to enjoy the evening and a really fun gift exchange.

We are starting our year of demos off with San Pu a Kai member Ken Bross doing the

demo on grafting. Ken has been doing bonsai for many years, he has been teaching demos at San Diego Bonsai Club and going to the GSBF Bonsai convention, he has much to share with us. He would like anyone who has grafting knives to bring them to the meeting. This is a great technique to learn because you can put the right kind of foliage on old wood and you can put branches where they are needed.

The club board has had it's first meeting of the year, making sure the club runs efficiently and brings our club members the best programs we can. So far on our list we are going to have several outside demonstrators; David Nguy working his magic on Bob Knox's collected in the wild California juniper, this will be part of the GSBF workshop grant program we were awarded at the last convention; Carol Upston possibly with a workshop on moss balls so members can make their own; Ted Matson again in December. We will also have several "bring your own tree" nights, this always is a good meeting, we never have enough time to work on our own trees. If there are any suggestions for meeting/demos you would like to see or learn about please let me know and we will try our best get it on the program list.

We are also planning several field trips, digs, rock hunts and nursery visits, as well as preparing for our Annual Mothers Day Flower Fields Bonsai Show and plant sale.

We have been asked to do a demo at this years **Hanamatsuri Festival** at the Vista Buddhist Temple, on Sunday April 26th 4:30-5:00pm, they provide the

demonstrator a free meal. If you are interested in doing this, please see me. It is lots of fun, there will be lots of people to share our bonsai knowledge and club information with.

**Bonsai-a-Thon**, February 28 - March 1, 8am-4:30pm at the Huntington Botanical Gardens, 1151 Oxford Rd., San Marino, located in the botanical building.

- Extensive bonsai bazaar area
- Bonsai exhibit
- Daily demonstration
- Pancake breakfast 8:00-9:30am
- Daily guided tour by Director of the Huntington Botanical Gardens, Jim Folsom 10:00am
- Lunch (hotdog or hamburger) 11:30am-1:30pm
- Daily raffle 3:30-4:30pm

**Please see me for free entrance badges.**

I will bring the treats this month and will have the treat sign up sheet. This is a great way to give back to your club. Everyone enjoys a little refreshment at the meetings.

Please remember, club dues are now due.

**Individual membership \$20**

**Couples membership \$25**

Please make checks out to San Pu Kai. Maria Barbosa will be there to take your dues at the meeting or can be mailed to her at, 2727 De Anza Road, #J-26, San Diego, CA 92109

See you at our meeting,

**Special Note:** *John Voss is always on the hunt for pre-bonsai. He found 12 Yopan Holly at Plaza Nursery, 1450 Keys Pace, Vista 92081. They are 10 years old in 15 gallon cans, \$40.00.*

**Cary Sullivan-Valentine**

*President*  
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<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.

**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.*





## Bonsai Pavilion at the Safari Park

The SDBC should be overjoyed with the statistics of volunteer hours spent at the Club's Bonsai Pavilion at Safari Park for 2014. The 51 active volunteers donated over 200 hours each month for a total of 2669 hours for the year. Over 70 hours were donated by Jim Kirchmer, Charlie Mosse, Sonya Holmquist, Ron Palmer, Harlan Price, and Mark Walters. Over 100 hours were contributed by: Cathy Edgar, Mark Edgar, John Jackson, Sally Prestele, 'lyn Stevenson, Dennis Wagner, and Dave Woodall. Those dedicated hours are most impressive and generous. Congratulations and thanks to all 51 who took their time, effort, and talents to enhance the quality of this beautiful area at Safari Park.

We also started this January with a very nice turnout on the 3rd, 10th, and 17th although several volunteers opted for the January 17th Club's bus trip. Thanks this month to: Neil Auwarter, Susan Baker, Ken Bros, Alan Burrows, Julia Chow, Cathy & Mark Edgar, Janice & Bob Hale, Sonya Holmquist, Curator John Jackson, Lin Koelmel, Charlie & Sylvia Mosse, Janet & Ron Palmer, Marcella Perez, Sally Prestele, Harlan & Mary Ann Price, Dan Sola, 'lyn Stevenson, John Voss, Dennis Wagner, Mark Walters, and Dave Woodall.

Delicious high energy (low calorie?) snacks/contributions included: coffee cake, Mexican (key) limes, muffins, fudge, cookies, donuts, banana, blueberry, and sweet breads, mini sandwiches, rice cakes, and waters which were supplied by Charlie, Julia, Mary Ann, Marcella, Janice, 'lyn, Cathy, and Curator John.

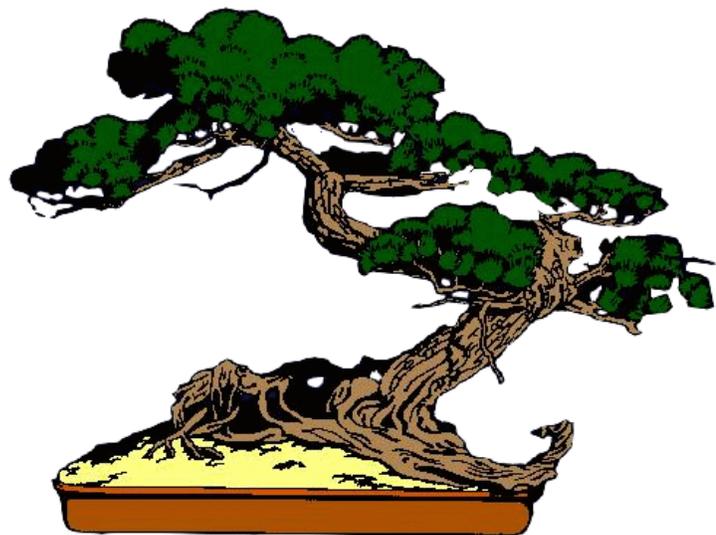
Major cleanup continued above the waterfall and near the upper road. Due to recent rains, the bonsai pots all

needed vigorous cleaning too. A new supply of Club brochures were added to our Pavilion kiosk re SDBC and the upcoming 50th Anniversary show at Balboa. This kiosk proves to be a great public relations place with visitors to the Park along with conversations by our volunteers about the Bonsai collections and the work that we are doing. Many visitors are also interested to learn that the deciduous trees are not dead but just dormant as opposed to evergreen trees.

The construction on the expanded volunteer work area is progressing: 10 holes have been dug and the poles are cemented and set. The planks/boards for the walls are being attached. Curator John has been shopping and acquiring the necessary materials for this project. Assistant Dennis provided the plans which were approved by the Park's Horticulturist. We also had informal meetings to discuss finances, grants, permits, moss coverings for our recent transplants, 2015 ID stickers, plans for the May SDBC meeting at Safari Park, future visits from other Bonsai clubs, tools and supplies needed at the Pavilion, etc. Curator John Jackson will be making a very special presentation at the February SDBC meeting.

Every SDBC Club member is always encouraged to join this endeavor. . .Typically we meet on the first and third Saturdays from 9 to noon of each month but we are now considering other Saturdays and week days as the work continues to expand. Also, some volunteers come much earlier and stay later since we seem to forget time when we are having fun! Thanks always!

**'lyn Stevenson**  
*SDBC-Safari Park Liaison*





## San Pu Kai

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

<http://www.sanpukai.org>

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## Calendar of Events

Tuesday, February 10, 2015	7 - 9pm	San Pu Kai Bonsai Club Meeting: Brenge Terrace Senior Center 1400 Vale Terrace, Vista CA
Saturday, February 21, 2015	9am - Noon	San Diego Zoo Safari Park Bonsai Pavilion Workday
February 28 & March 1, 2015	10:30am - 4:30pm	Bonsai-a-Thon at The Huntington 1151 Oxford Road, San Marino, CA 91108
Tuesday, March 10, 2015	7 - 9pm	San Pu Kai Bonsai Club Meeting: Brenge Terrace Senior Center 1400 Vale Terrace, Vista CA
Saturday March 14, 2015		Juniper Dig More info coming soon