



San Pu Kai Record

Monthly Newsletter of the San Pu Kai Bonsai Club



January 2015



President's Message

I hope everyone had a great holiday and a wonderful new year. With the new year we will start off with our annual holiday party at **Pan Asian Buffet 6:30 pm**, 707 Center Dr. San Marcos, we will also have a wrapped bonsai related gift exchange, so much fun.

Family and guest welcome cost \$20 per person, (they do have a different price for kids, if any members want to bring their kids) please RSVP, so we can tell them how many are coming. 760-445-2548

Remember it's time to renew your club membership.

Individual membership \$20

Couples membership \$25

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

Much thanks goes to Sandra, for the wonderful treats and sweets in our little treat gift bags. Everything was so special and good, I love my poinsettia plant.

We will be having a board meeting at my house in January. I will be letting the board members know at our party.

January 17 is the 51st Anniversary of Baikoen Bonsai Kenkyukai Winter Silhouette show at the Los Angeles County Arboretum and Botanic Garden, 301 N. Baldwin Ave. The show hours are 10 am -4:30 pm, demonstrations at 1 pm Saturday and Sunday. Trees, pots, bonsai related items will be for sale. A raffle is held during the reception. The dinner reception is at 6 pm. Guest please bring a dessert to share, Baikoen members provide the dinner.

This is the only winter silhouette show in the state and a really wonderful way to see the trees. I would really like to see more of our members go to this show, maybe you all could car pool, to make the drive easier.

We will have our trip to House of Bonsai this month, I'll be planning with Bob on the date and let everyone know at the dinner and in email. We have several members going, so another carpooling trip, just fun to go see what she has even if you don't buy any trees. Our club will be getting trees for us to work on, repot and sell at our Mother's Day show and plant sale.

February 10th Meeting- member Ken Bross will be doing a demo on grafting. This will be very educational, so please don't miss this meeting. Ken has been doing bonsai for a long time, doing demos at the San Diego Bonsai Club and goes to the GSBF Conventions, so he has a lot to teach us. I will bring treats to start the year off and I will have the treat sign up list. Please help out.

We have had some nice rain, some very cold nights. Please keep checking on your trees, it's cold but dry, and our trees are not growing as much, but still need water, may need to cover up some in this cold snap.

See you the party!

Cary Sullivan-Valentine

President

caryme2@yahoo.com



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SEASONAL SUGGESTIONS

January's weather is relatively cool. Many parts of the yard may now be in shade for much of the day. Deciduous trees are showing their best silhouettes. The leaves of summer are gone but dormancy is misleading.

Tree surfaces are evaporating moisture through the bark and twigs--just as they do on a summer day. The winter sky provides a low angle sun that is not hot and drying however routine bonsai watering habits cause over-watering of the trees -- cut back. Avoid winter root rot conditions. Maintain even moisture content in all bonsai material. Move deciduous trees out into brighter bench areas. Evergreens and conifers will also do better with full sun to encourage new bud development. Face the weaker sides of each tree to the best light exposure.

The soil in potted trees has been inactive due to the cool weather of the past few months. Soil bacterium, in its dormant state, has not been providing any nitrogen to growing plants while they rested. Now is the time to plan ahead for your supplies of fertilizers and other supplies. You will be resuming your feeding schedules in late February. January is a good time to do clean up chores. Remove winter trash around the work area, the potted trees and growing stock cans. It's the best way to prevent infestation of insects and fungus disease. Don't throw any of this late winter trash into your compost heap since it may be infectious. It's safer to throw it away.

It's the best time to study plant designs. Spend some serious time with each tree by carefully reviewing the branch structures, the trunk lines, their placement and relationships. In the case of deciduous trees, you can see them clearly, in a winter silhouette, without the disguise of a blanket of leaves that hide their faults and problem areas. Remember the basic bonsai design principals of crossing branches, bars,

angles, elevations, and relationships to the trunk movement. These important design points distinguish your tree's quality from just any other bonsai.

Your study may disclose the need to re-wire and reposition various branches. Do so with great care since the dormant season is a time of brittle branches on most varieties of trees. Look for signs of wire

damage. Scars look unnatural and are difficult to hide. Consider doing some heavy pruning later this month or in February before any signs of new growth appear. This activity gives the tree a head start prior to repotting-- when the roots are drastically disturbed. Plan your repotting schedule in advance.

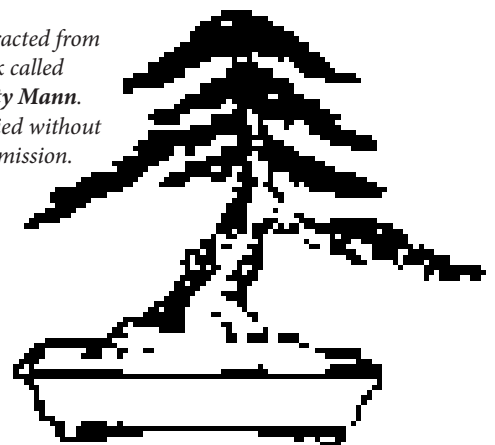
We have had our share of windy, drying low humidity days lately. Be sure you do not overlook the plants need for water-- and a daily misting of the drying trees will keep them happy.

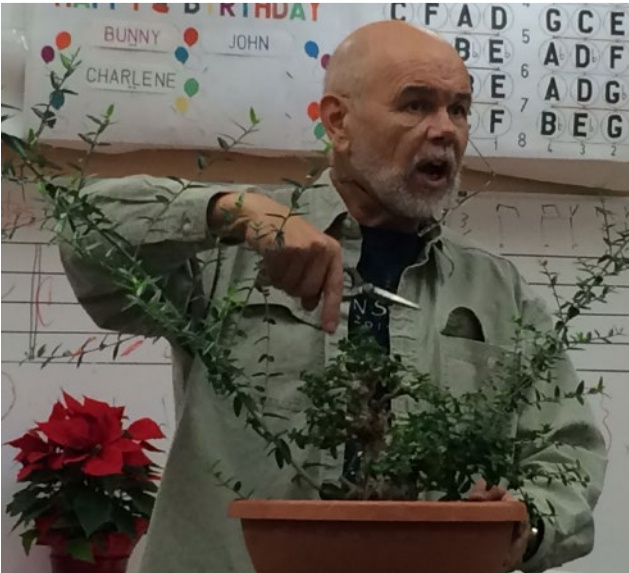
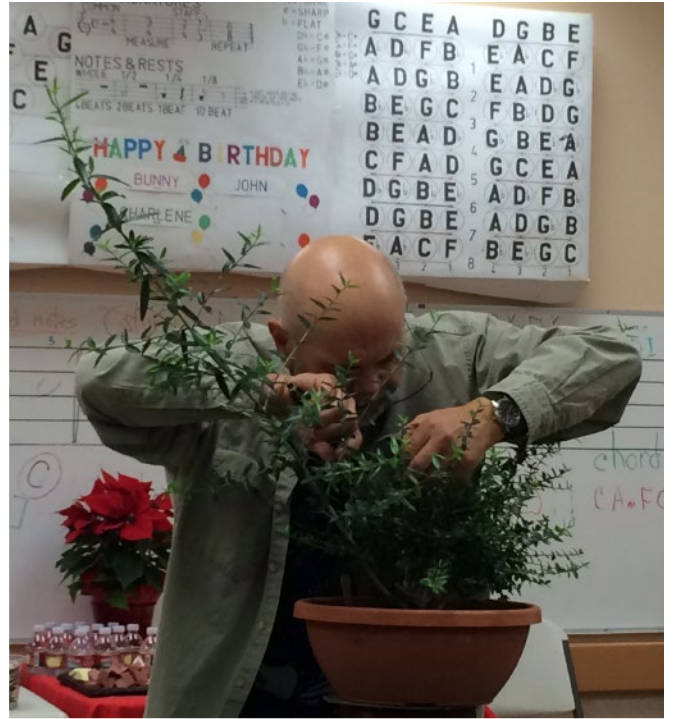
It is still too early to concern yourself about the feeding program each tree will soon require however now is the best time to improve the soil condition. The addition of lime can normalize the acidity of the soil. The additions of gypsum will loosen hard clay soil and improve acidity. Decomposed granite or coarse sand adds to the porosity and improves the potassium qualities in poor soil. Adding organic matter to a potting mix stimulates the soil microorganisms. Putting trace elements and minerals into the soil, along with major nutrients such as cottonseed meal or bone meal, provide a proper base of a food source for continued plant health. Build repotting soil mixtures based upon the type of plant material you work with and the type of trees you will be repotting. Plan ahead.

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 causes 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.

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 Pavilion Safari Park Volunteers celebrated the 2014 Pavilion year with many improvements to the Bonsai Pavilion Garden areas as well as with the Bonsai Collection. There are now about fifty volunteers from SDBC on the roster and they have been joined by a few members from the San Pu Kai Club also. Having a great cadre of enthusiastic volunteers helps make the lists of responsibilities easier for everyone. Sharing talents, hints, and “know-hows” with each other has also proved to be educational and most enjoyable. Thanks to everyone who has participated throughout the year. All Pavilion volunteers are now in the process of renewing their Safari Park I.D. passes with 2015 stickers issued by the Safari Park Volunteers’ Office Staff.

At our December 6th work session, we adjourned to the Horticulture Department’s Round House area for our December Pot Luck Christmas Party Luncheon and free gift raffle. The food contributions were varied, unique, and very delicious. The bonsai gift raffles were generous and fun and also included some items donated by the Safari Park volunteer Office. Thanks to everyone for their contributions. December volunteers included Susan Baker, Ken Bross, Armand Bryant, Julia Chow, Steve Clemons, Cathy & Mark Edgar, Bob & Janice Hale, Sonya Holmquist, John Jackson, Jaya Kaelberer, Jim & Sue Kirchmer, Marty & Ruth Mann, Charlie & Sylvia Mosse, Janie & Ron Ogdon, Janet and Ron Palmer, Marcella Perez, Terri Petrescu, Sally Prestele, Harlan & Mary Ann Price, Dan Sola, ‘lyn Stevenson, Charlie Tamm, John Voss, Dennis Wagner, Mark Walters, and Dave Woodall. What an impressive list of generous talent for a cold and sometimes rainy December!

We look forward to 2015 with more new Pavilion improvements. Plans have been submitted to the Horticulture Office for the expansion of the work and storage areas which will be the first of the new projects. The bonsai that are in the back area are under special care, need repotting, or additional refinement and/or styling so many volunteers are working in this area regularly and more space is needed for them and for additions to the collection. Recent new donations from Marty Mann include two tray landscapes, a trident maple, and a liquid amber along with about 40 stone blocks that we will use in our work area expansion. Many thanks to Marty for these latest generous donations.

Pavilion cash donations are acknowledged on the Honor Board at the front of the Pavilion. Cathy & Mark Edgar recently donated \$1000 and a plaque will be added to the Honor Board in their names. They also donated a large tokonoma pot to our pot closet collection. Thanks to them and all our former donors! We welcome other members to join us in volunteering as well as donating their time and their talents. A great New Year Resolution for all SDBC members would be to visit and enjoy the Bonsai Pavilion often in 2015 and perhaps join the wonderful, friendly, dedicated group of volunteers with their red shirts and name badges who enjoy explaining the art of bonsai to Safari Park visitors.

‘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, January 13, 2015	6:30 - 9pm	Christmas in January Party Pan Asian Buffet, 707 Center Dr. San Marcos
Saturday, January 17, 2015	10am - 4:30pm	Winter Silhouettes Los Angeles County Arboretum and Botanic Garden 301 N. Baldwin Ave.
Saturday, January 17, 2015	9am - Noon	San Diego Zoo Safari Park Bonsai Pavilion Workday
Tuesday, February 10, 2015	6:30 - 9pm	San Pu Kai Bonsai Club Meeting: Brenge Terrace Senior Center 1400 Vale Terrace, Vista CA
February 22 & 23, 2015	10:30am - 4:30pm	Bonsai-a-Thon at The Huntington 1151 Oxford Road, San Marino, CA 91108