



# San Pu Kai Record

Monthly Newsletter of the San Pu Kai Bonsai Club



January 2016



## President's Message

Happy New Year to everyone, hope you all had a wonderful holiday.

We are having wonderful rain. I hope some of you are able to be saving some of it in rain barrels. We filled 2 large ones in the second big rain. Our trees will love the fresh water

later.

Ted did a wonderful demo at our last meeting. He worked on one of Steve's shohin black pines. He started to lace it out, removed some branches. The black pine is a wonderful little tree from Round Valley Nursery, in Lindsay, CA. Thankfully Forrest took photos, as I forgot my camera.

Sandra did a wonderful job of treats, and our special treat bags to go home with everyone, she made the room look so festive. Thank you so much again Sandra.

Dues are now do for your membership. Please bring your check to the dinner meeting, I'll be collecting them or you can mail them to me at: 1010 Phillips Street, Vista, CA 92083  
Dues are \$20.00 per person or family \$25.00

January Christmas party is on the 12th at 6:30 pm. \$20.00 a gift exchange, which is always fun. You just never know what you may get, try and make it bonsai related. We will have it at the same restaurant. Pan Asian Buffet at 707 Center Drive, San Marcos at 6:30 pm. Hope to see you all there, last year was a lot of fun and the food, so much food to pick from.

We will be having a board meeting, planing our meeting, trips, classes for 2016. If you have any ideas, suggestions, or wants please let me know.  
2016 will be a great learning year.

We have 2 big free bonsai events coming up in the LA. Area that I hope you all can take advantage to go and see and learn. You can carpool with members or San Diego Bonsai club has a bus going up to both events on Saturday.

1. Winter Silhouettes 52nd annual exhibition. Baikoen Bonsai Kenkyukai. Saturday January 16th at 10-4:30  
Saturday night reception from 6:30-9:00, please bring a dessert to share, dinner is free there will be a great raffle, you can also bring something to donate to the raffle, live auction. San Diego bonsai club will be one of the clubs participating in the 3 club demo. There will also be a sales area. Aires Hall at the Arboretum of Los Angles County

2. Bonsai A Thon XX Saturday February 27th & 28th 8:00-4:30

Early bird pancake breakfast, bazaar area, bonsai exhibit by Orange County Bonsai Society & Orange Empire Bonsai Society. Guided tour, demos by Jason Chan, Tak Shamizu, Tom Vuong, Peter Macasieb and Paul Minerich. There will be a hamburger and hotdog lunch on Saturday.

Organic fertilizer seminar, behind the scenes tour with Ted Matson.

There will be a lot of Harry Hirao items in the auction, in the raffle, trees, stones, stands etc. you will not want to miss out on this one, when they're gone, they're gone.

This is a fundraiser for the GSBF collection at the Huntington. Brody Botanical Center, Huntington Library. [www.gsbfhuntington.com](http://www.gsbfhuntington.com)

When we get closer I will have passes to hand out to all.

Happy New Years, see you at the party, stay safe and dry,

**Caryl Sullivan-Valentine**

*President*  
*caryme2@yahoo.com*



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<http://www.sanpukai.org>

## 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.

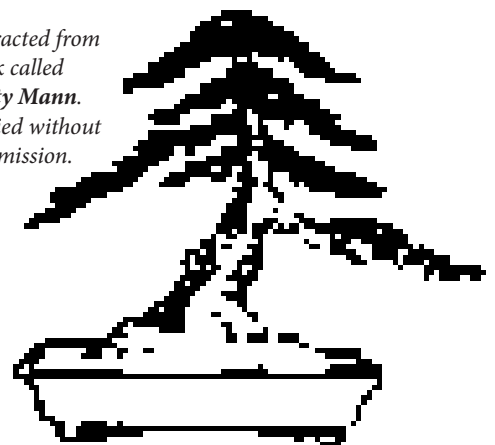
We have had our share of windy, drying low humidity days lately. Be sure you do not overlook the plants need for water-- and a daily misting of the drying trees will keep them happy.

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 Bonsai Pavilion Volunteers donated 2620 hours while caring and improving the Bonsai Collection and the Pavilion in 2015. Our congratulations and thanks to the 50+ volunteers! Over 200 hours each month show a definite commitment by this elite group beyond their activities in the SDBC. The San Diego Zoo and the Safari Park continue to recognize this beautiful, educational, aesthetic asset which is enjoyed by thousands of visitors at Safari Park Pavilion during the year.

In December, the Bonsai Volunteers celebrated with their annual pot luck Christmas Party at the Park. Marcella Perez and Sonya Holmquist chaired the luncheon with an array of gourmet foods, a fun raffle, taped music, and wonderful sing-a-long carols led by Janice Hale's guitar accompaniment. Thanks to all the December volunteers: Neil Auwarter, Susan Baker, Ken Bross, Peter Chong, Julia Chow, Cathy & Mark Edgar, Bob & Janice Hale, Susan Holmquist, John Jackson, Jaya Kaelberer, Jim & Susan Kirchmer, Charlie & Sylvia Mosse, Ron Ogdon, Janet & Ron Palmer, Marcella Perez, Sally Prestele, Mike Shelly, Chusub Sresthadatta, 'lyn Stevenson, John Voss, Dennis Wagner, new volunteer Nancy Wilson-Ramon, and Dave Woodall. The special treats in December were even more delicious than normal. . .many thanks to all the donors!

Safari Park has been busy erecting some appropriate wood fencing below our entrance pond area which encloses and disguises their service vehicles that are parked there. Perhaps it will also discourage the visiting mule deer who find the Pavilion area enticing. Our volunteers followed up with transplanting some of our garden accents plants around the pond and in front of the fencing. The Pavilion has also received a beautiful, old cork oak from SDBC member Larry Upp's collection. It has already been trimmed, groomed, and placed on display. Bob Hale announced a large California Oak has been generously donated by our Pavilion bonsai friend from Orange County,

Al Nelson. Jerry Meislik donated 2 copies of his book, *Ficus-The Exotic Bonsai*, to SDBC after his visit to the Pavilion last month. Generous and thoughtful donors help to increase the quality of the collection and allow us to change the bonsai around for the different seasons.

Due to the SDBC bus trip on January 16th which is also our usual third Saturday work day, Curator John has scheduled the workdays for January for the 2nd and the 23rd (conveniently, there are five Saturdays in January 2016). Some of our volunteers come in more often than are scheduled work days but they check with Curator John Jackson or Assistant Dennis Wagner beforehand for particular work projects. SDBC members who would like to join the Pavilion Volunteers need to check with Liaison 'lyn for procedure requirements and procedures. All are welcome to participate!

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







## San Pu Kai

c/o Membership  
1010 Phillips Street  
Vista, CA 92083

<http://www.sanpukai.org>

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## Calendar of Events

Tuesday, January 12, 2016	6:30 - 9pm	San Pu Kai Bonsai Club Christmas Party: Pan Asian Buffet 707 Center Drive, San Marcos, CA
Saturday, January 16, 2016	9am - Noon	San Diego Zoo Safari Park Bonsai Pavilion Workday
Saturday, January 16, 2016	10am - 9pm	Winter Silhouettes 52nd annual exhibition Aires Hall at the Arboretum of Los Angeles County
Saturday, January 30, 2016	9am - Noon	San Diego Zoo Safari Park Bonsai Pavilion Workday
Saturday, February 27, 2016	9am - Noon	Bonsai-A-Thon XX The Huntington Library Botanical Center