



San Pu Kai Record

Monthly Newsletter of the San Pu Kai Bonsai Club



December 2017



President's Message

For our December meeting we will have David Nguy. You will not want to miss this meeting, he has so much to teach us. He will also be doing a workshop that afternoon, so if you are interested please let me

know. \$50.00 gets you a spot in this wonderful workshop. The workshop starts at 12:30 and will be at our new meeting place. This is a bring your own tree to work on with David, so bring your trees, tools and wire. We have 4 members signed up already. David was one of the GSBF headliners. He also has his school set up at his home in Chino. Bonsai Jidai, www.bonsaijidai.com

Treats this month will be provided by Sandra, and you all know how great they are.

We all enjoyed working on our trees last month, so busy we didn't watch our movie. I love watching you all so busy working learning, getting your trees in shape.

In January We will again have our Christmas party, you can sign up now or RSVP to me. \$20.00 per person, with a wrapped bonsai gift for our very fun gift exchange. I know we all have so much fun doing this. January 9th 2018, 6:30, can you believe it, another year gone by.

at the February meeting we will have Ken doing a demo. You don't want to miss it, as a Ken is great at teaching us during his demos. We have such wonderful, knowledge members to learn from.

In March will be doing a workshop on moss balls, we will be making them for our May plant sale. We will be getting the plants from John, and Steve and I will be bringing all the other supplies. If we make enough, we can sell some to club members too.

We will be having our program planning meeting soon. So please feel free to tell me what you want in programs workshops, demos, etc. for 2018. I really need to hear from you all, it's your club.

Cary Sullivan-Valentine

President
caryme2@yahoo.com



<https://www.facebook.com/SanPuKai>
<http://www.sanpukai.org>

Upcoming Bonsai Events

California Shohin Society Seminar

Santa Nella, Ca

February 2-4 2018

I will have handouts available.

Signup ASAP, space is limited

Winter Silhouettes

LA Arboretum, Ayres Hall

January 13 & 14 2018

10:00am to 4:30pm

Bonsai-A-Thon XXII

GSBF Collection at The Huntington

San Marino, CA

February 24 & 25 2018

10:00am - 5:00pm

SEASONAL SUGGESTIONS

This is a good time of year to concentrate on clean up. Be sure to remove all leaf droppings and flower buds left over from summer. Removal of trash from your bonsai area is always an important practice. If old leaves hang on, take them off.

Continue to protect hibernating trees from excessive moisture (I almost said RAIN) and prevailing winds. Many a fine bonsai is lost due to neglect during the winter months. While freezing is not usually a concern to most in Northern or Southern California many may remember the damaging frost we experienced a few years ago from pockets of cold air during low temperature periods. Be prepared to protect tender stock at all times. Continue to monitor bonsai for watering requirements. Inspect for infestations of mites and scale.

December is a wonderful time to really see your trees. The foliage during most of the year obscures the skeleton branch formations of the inner tree. Now is the time to trim excess branches, as well as crossing, misplaced and malformed branches. Study the radial formation of the rootage. Study the taper of the trunk line. Concentrate on building a twiggy branch structure. Wire branches during this dormant period with great care since they are brittle during cooler weather months. Try to see your tree with strong background light in order to study its design, shape and position in the pot. Deciduous material that is fully exposed can now be photographed. Black and white is preferred. Study and refine.

Now is the time to study groves or multi-tree arrangements. Trunks stand out with strong detail. An overview of a group planting will show clearly how the trees are positioned and how they relate to each other. The visual view offers an opportunity to improve the placement of individual or groups of trees in the pot before spring planting plans are finalized.

Preserving bonsai during winter months does not involve the usual attention to feeding requirements. Conifers and evergreen trees continue to grow in the California

climate. Partial dormancy requires some nourishment. A light feeding of cottonseed meal (70%) and bone meal (30%) is best. Apply food only to the soil surfaces. Foliar feeding encourages green growth that can be severely damaged if a cold spell occurs. Deciduous trees will

have transformed from the beautiful fall colors to barren silhouettes. Be sure to remove all dead leaves, fruit and flower buds that may still be hanging on. The evergreen trees will appear to be dull and inactive.

Fungus thrives during the dormant months. The application of fungicides is as important now as it is in spring when active reproduction takes place. When trees are bare, a dormant spray such as ORTHORIX (lime sulfur) may be used as a fungicide to destroy overwintering spores. Take care to avoid root damage by covering the surface of the pot with plastic to prevent run-off or drip of the spray. A light mist of lime sulfur on the top and bottom of the foliage and woody branches is quite effective. Lime sulfur may be applied at full strength on wet, aged, dead wood such as Jin and Shari. A few drops of black ink or artist black acrylic pigment will tone down the usual unsightly orange color of this product.

Review the rootage of potted trees. If the tree is lifting out of the pot or appears to be root bound then plan ahead by identifying and marking those ready for early repotting in spring.

California winters are usually interspersed with many warmer days. Potted trees must. Cooler weather means slower growth. During this period of dormancy, trees require a regular dampening of the root zone. Transpiration of moisture is almost non-existent due to the absence of foliage. Watch out for prevailing, drying winds.

Prepare your spring inventory of potting soil mix, screening materials, and aggregates (i.e. pumice, sand, lava rock, D. G., etc.) as well as humus (i.e. fir bark, redwood bark, peat moss, etc.).

Take care of your tools. Winter rain and general high humidity encourages rust. Clean and sharpen them and apply good rust inhibiting oil finish. Clean up those accumulated old pots that you may need during the repotting season in spring. Get rid of accumulated trash.

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.







San Pu Kai

c/o Membership
1010 Phillips Street
Vista, CA 92083

<http://www.sanpukai.org>

<https://www.facebook.com/SanPuKai>

Calendar of Events

Tuesday, December 12, 2017	6:00 - 9pm	San Pu Kai Bonsai Club Meeting: 973 Vale Terrace Dr. Room #108, Vista
Saturday, December 16, 2017	9am - Noon	San Diego Zoo Safari Park Bonsai Pavilion Workday
Saturday, January 6, 2017	9am - Noon	San Diego Zoo Safari Park Bonsai Pavilion Workday
Tuesday, January 9, 2017	6:00 - 9pm	San Pu Kai Bonsai Christmas Party: Pan Asia Buffet, 707 Center Dr, San Marcos, 92069
Saturday, January 20, 2017	9am - Noon	San Diego Zoo Safari Park Bonsai Pavilion Workday