



# San Pu Kai Record

Monthly Newsletter of the San Pu Kai Bonsai Club



March 2018



## President's Message

Ken did a great job at the February meeting teaching us about grafting junipers. I hope you all enjoyed and learned a lot.

At the March meeting

Ken will be doing another demo and starting the process of exposed root style on black pines. So you don't want to miss it, as a Ken is great at teaching us with his demos. This will be very interesting to watch. We have such wonderful, knowledge members to learn from.

Of course you can also bring in your tree in to work on. I also will have Waso Boco, Japanese paper boxes and I will teach you how to make them. Kits are \$10 each. they are lots of fun to make.

Treats this meeting are provided by Ute. There still are a few months to sign up for the treat. Remember club provides the plates, napkins, cups. So you just need to bring in the treats. Thanks so much in advance for sharing.

at the April meeting we will be getting ready for our show and club sales table. I will have sign up sheets, for showing your trees, security for the weekend, treat list etc. this is a whole club event, we really need everyone's help. Thank you in advance. We also will be making moss balls to sell at our Mother's Day show. Also please bring In Your show

trees, if you need help with final preparation for our show. Clean the pots, dress the soil with moss, last minute shaping of your tree.

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.

There still are a few members who need to send in their renewal membership .

Always remember volunteering and learning at the same time at the Safari Park Bonsai Collection the 1st & 3rd Saturday every month. There is still a lot of work, even while it is closed for safari upgrades.

## **Cary Sullivan-Valentine**

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<http://www.sanpukai.org>

## **Upcoming Bonsai Events**

**California Bonsai Society  
Bonsai Show at the Huntington**

San Marino, CA  
March 24 & 25 2018

# SEASONAL SUGGESTIONS

Plan your repotting activity. Now is the time, before the trees awaken. Take this opportunity to change from training pots or oversized pots to appropriate display pots more suitable to the finished bonsai. Determine the size, shape, color and style to complement your tree. If you see an appropriate pot at a nursery or bazaar, buy it when you see it.

A bonsai, to be ready for repotting, should be somewhat dry. This facilitates removal from a tight pot. Unwind twisted roots that have circled the outer rim and free them of hardened or compacted soil.

Usually, with deciduous or conifers, it's best to cut about 1/3 of the root ball away as the roots are freed. Trim to reduce the ball to fit into its new pot. Keep fine roots sprayed. Don't allow them to dry. Cut away heavy old roots.

When repotting, it's a good time to reposition the tree if it is required. Change the height, adjust the trunk angle, add more potting soil around the root ball, and work it in with your chopstick to fill in as many air pockets as possible. Remember to slope your surface slightly from the trunk to the lip of the pot. Leave an indentation along the rim of the pot to prevent water run-off. A good soaking removes destructive air pockets.

Repotted material may be placed in semi-shade for a week or so. Don't water heavily. Introduce the tree back to full light and warmth to encourage root and bud growth to begin.

Don't feed for 4 to 5 weeks. March can be a capricious month--ranging from cool to hot. Don't encourage too much quick growth since this creates unsightly long internodes and large leaves. Pay particular attention to fruiting and flowering trees. If they have been too active in directing their energy into flowers and buds then some pinching back can help them pay attention to leaves and woody branching.

Repotting activity should be regulated. Know when and what has been done to each tree. Plan your activity around a review of this generalized schedule of repotting as follows: Young trees, less than 5 years

old--repot every 1-2-3 years, depending upon growth and needs. Be sure you have strong root development before you repot young trees. Somewhat older trees, 5 to 20 years old--repot every 2-3-4 years. Check the root ball for good health. Very old trees, 20 or more years --repot every 4-5-6 years, depending upon the condition of the tree.

Review specie habits. Some like to be crowded and may not need to be repotted. Fertilization programs can resume. Don't feed newly potted material too soon. Fast growth causes long internodes and large leaves. Keep nitrogen content low for the first month or so as the plant comes out of dormancy.

If the new growth is too active, keep it pinched. Whenever a new set of leaves appears, pinch back on the center set. If your objective is to improve twiggyiness on elms, zelkovas, maples, etc. cut new internodes to two sets of leaves. Pinch new evergreen growth to encourage density. Don't pinch fruiting or flowering trees such as bougainvilleas, pomegranates, ume, crabapples, quince or azaleas. Early spring pinching removes the forming flower and fruit buds.

Insects come back to life with the arrival of steady warmth. Start with Malathion to attack most predators but don't overlook Seven or Isotox if signs of chewing damage show on your leaves. Spray well into the interior of the tree and onto the undersides of the leaves. Sucking insects such as scale, aphids, white flies, mealy bugs and mites require a systemic action in the pesticide you use. Watch for fungus. Use Benomyl to kill mildew. Spray on warm, dry days. Mid-morning is best to allow the spray material to dry onto the plant surfaces. Avoid watering until the sprays can be effective.

**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  
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<http://www.sanpukai.org>

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## Calendar of Events

Tuesday, March 13, 2018	6:00 - 9pm	San Pu Kai Bonsai Club Meeting: 973 Vale Terrace Dr. Room #108, Vista
Saturday, March 17, 2018	9am - Noon	San Diego Zoo Safari Park Bonsai Pavilion Workday
Saturday & Sunday, March 24 & 25, 2018		California Bonsai Society Bonsai Show at the Huntington San Marino, CA
Saturday, April 7, 2018	9am - Noon	San Diego Zoo Safari Park Bonsai Pavilion Workday
Tuesday, April 10, 2018	6:00 - 9pm	San Pu Kai Bonsai Club Meeting: 973 Vale Terrace Dr. Room #108, Vista