



San Pu Kai Record



Monthly Newsletter of the San Pu Kai Bonsai Club

February 2019



President's Message

We will had a great holiday party at the Chinese buffet for our January meeting. It was so much fun and to see so many members and new members joining us for the good time and food. Everyone left with a wonderful gift, some stealing was involved. We were so happy to come home with beautiful pots made by new

member Pat, they are already in our pot collection cabinet.

The February meeting will be a demo workshop. Ken and Steve will be demonstrating grafting. A bit different than we have done before. The 3 of us went to Ko Fu Kai meeting at Tom Young's house. Tom did a wonderful demo on grafting, as I said a bit different than we have shown before or that you have learned. You will want to try this for sure. So bring in your San Jose or Prostrata junipers that you want to graft. There will be a small charge of \$5 per tree. Usually you will pay \$7 or more per graft. Steve and Ken will bring the Sions and all the material needed to do the grafts. Grafting is great to learn, because you get branches where you need them, you get the foliage you want on your tree, and you don't have to pay to have someone else do this for you. Please let Steve (cell: 760-445-2548) know, so we know how many sions he needs to bring.

The Valentines will bring treats this month and I will have a treat list for members to sign up to bring treats for the year.

We will have a juniper dig this month on February 16th. We leave vista at 8 am. I'll have a hand out on what you need to bring, club will bring extra water. Pack a lunch, remember we are way out, no facilities are available. I will have a sign up sheet and please add your cell phone numbers, just in case someone gets lost. Most of our members have been to our location. We have permission from the land owner to dig. But we must be respectful of their property. And can only be there in our group with proper paperwork to be there.

I will also have information and badges for the wonderful Bonsai-a-Thon at the Huntington Gardens on February 23-24th. This is a free event only for Bonsai clubs. So you will need to have a badge for you and your family members. You will be able to enjoy the bonsai exhibit, demos each day, guided tour of the bonsai area and the tour of the behind bonsai growing grounds, vendors selling everything you can think of for bonsai lovers, trees, tools, pots. There will be

a special sales area for members of Calif. Bonsai Society to sell their trees. (Steve and I will be manning this area). They also have a pancake breakfast and a hamburger and hotdog lunch. Plus you can wonder the grounds of the Huntington (just ask for the sticker at the check in table) Remember as I remind our members this is a free event, but it is the GSBF Huntington collections only fundraiser, so please buy raffle tickets, donate something to their raffle, or make a cash donation. At the end of both days there is an auction on the demos trees and a great raffle. We are very lucky to have such a wonderful collection in our area to enjoy. If you are a member of San Diego Bonsai Club, they will have a bus going, \$20 per person, see Abe Far for more details.

It is also that time of year to renew your membership. \$20. For a signal membership, \$25 for 2 members. Please give your money to Chelle or myself. I believe most members paid at the January Meeting. Thank you.

We are still trying to work with the Carlsbad Flower Field for our annual Mother's Day show and plant sell. More to come on this.

Remember the Bonsai Pavilion at the Safari Park they have workdays, the 1st & 3 rd, Saturday of the month, they may be having extra work days. Check with Lyn Stevenson for more details.

Huntington gardens needs your help, become a bonsai volunteer. They can use your help on the first Thursday and first Saturday of each month, you get in free, get volunteer hours, and get to talk with guests who want to know about bonsai. These are dates when guests get in free to the Huntington, so extra help is needed. If interested please email: Ellen Keneshea GSBF Huntington chairman

See you all at the meeting, it has been very cold in the mornings and evenings, watch your sensitive trees for frost.

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 New Year has started with much activity and volunteer participation. Congratulations to all the volunteers who have renewed their Zoo/Park credentials for 2019! Beautiful weather also was an aid to accomplishing more projects in the Pavilion. Special thanks to our January volunteers:

Neil Auwarter, Steven Bleeke, Alan Burrows, Jenny Chin, Julia Chow, Sally & Steve Dischinger, Cathy & Mark Edgar, Paris Haber, Bob Hale, Sonya Holmquist, John Jackson, Jaya Kaelberer, Bob & Janet Liggett, Carla Marasco, David Meyer, Janet & Ron Palmer, Shawn & Yvette Palmer, Sally Prestele, Clare & Ron Boberts, Dan Sola, 'lyn Stevenson, Yoichiro Suemori, Dennis Wagner, and Dave Woodall. These thirty volunteers are part of Pavilion Volunteers who donated over 2800 hours in 2018. This was an impressive increase for the yearly contribution even though the Pavilion had been closed during the construction of the Australian exhibit. Many of these special people also make an extra effort to bring refreshments to share while working on projects. SUPER THANKS ALWAYS!

In January, the juniper bonsai repotting was completed. There are still about 17 other bonsais to do in February and March and there are tentative plans for a repot-a-thon as has been done in the past. It was a popular event with visitors since we set it up in the visitor area for viewing so many questions were answered and techniques were explained. It also allows for more planting to be done at the same time in a larger area.

Another project currently underway is the construction of four more backdrops behind the bonsai on the east side of the Pavilion which will match the other back drops already in place at the more forward area of the Pavilion. Curator John, Assistant Dennis, Ron, Shawn and Steven have already dug the holes, set, and cemented the poles.

Jim will order the further material requirement shortly to finish this project.

Since the reopening of the Pavilion, there has been a problem with the pool circulation and cleanliness. James Ritchie and Charles Fleuret from the

Safari Park Staff met with John and Mark this past month and the Park is now implementing a course of action items to rectify the problems. A chlorinator with tablet additives will be installed and Ph will be monitored, hose bibs will be installed, and the watering schedules will also be monitored. A planting of more dymondia ground cover is on the agenda for an appropriate time also. We are always grateful for the cooperation and service that the Staff provides in our volunteer garden areas. This is a very popular visitor exhibition and it takes much constant care from both the Park and our SDBC Volunteers to make it a significant contribution to all.

'lyn Stevenson
SDBC-Safari Park Liaison





Ken's trees at Winter Silhouettes



Steve's trees at Winter Silhouettes



Ton Voung's Juniper



San Pu Kai

c/o Membership
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<http://www.sanpukai.org>

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Calendar of Events

Tuesday, February 12, 2019	6:00 - 9pm	San Pu Kai Bonsai Club Meeting: 973 Vale Terrace Dr. Room #108, Vista
Saturday, February 16, 2019	8:00am	San Pu Kai Juniper Dig See newsletter for more details
Saturday, February 16, 2019	9am - Noon	San Diego Zoo Safari Park Bonsai Pavilion Workday
Saturday & Sunday February 23 & 24, 2019		Bonsai-A-Thon XXIII GSBF Collection at the Huntington 1151 Oxford Road, San Marino, CA
Saturday, March 2, 2019	9am - Noon	San Diego Zoo Safari Park Bonsai Pavilion Workday