

The Kofu Kai Review

The Monthly Newsletter of the Kofu Bonsai Kai Club



MEETING TIME and PLACE

Meeting Date: October 15, 2016, at 7:00 pm

Anaheim Methodist Church, 1000 South State College Blvd, Anaheim

MICHAEL SYKES



This month, we welcome back **Michael Sykes** from San Diego, who is one of the leading experts on developing foemina juniper bonsai. A past president of the San Diego Bonsai Club, **Michael** is a fixture at southern California bonsai shows and bonsai demonstrations. He brings over 20 years of experience, having studied under **Fred Miyahara** and **Kenji Miyata**. **Michael** was inspired by **John Naka's** famous foemina forest "Goshin" and quickly discovered that the foemina could be used to develop excellent trees relatively quickly.

For our October meeting, **Michael** will be discussing the various stages of bonsai development, particularly using foemina juniper material. He will explain what to look for, how to approach nursery material, and how to develop the tree from initial styling to finished, show-quality tree.

Before the meeting, **Michael** will host a "bring your own tree" foemina juniper workshop. The workshop will last from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m., and the cost will be \$20 per person. **Michael** is particularly looking forward to seeing some of the trees that were worked on in the 2015 workshop. If you participated in that amazing workshop, and you are ready to take your tree to the next level, this is the perfect opportunity. If you missed that workshop, but you have foemina junipers that you aren't sure what to do with next, or you just want some help and guidance from one of the best foemina juniper artists around, be sure not to miss this opportunity. And if you've never worked with foemina junipers and want to start, get down to Lakewood Nursery and pick up one of their big foeminas in 5, 7, or 15 gallon cans and come to the workshop.

---Michael Walsh

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Michael Sykes will be discussing the various stages of bonsai development with foemina junipers.



Photos by Carol Upston

ANOTHER MEMORABLE WEEK AT THE BOWERS

We continue to be pleased and grateful that the Bowers Museum has provided such a beautiful and hospitable venue for the Kofu Bonsai Kai annual show. They make everything easy for us and could not be more welcoming. ***Our thanks to everyone at the Bowers for your efforts.***

We also should all thank **Manny Martinez** personally for his work every year to bring about this exhibit. I know he enjoys doing it, but it's a lot of work, too. It's because of **Manny's** effort to re-establish contact between Kofu and the Bowers after a lapse of years that this event even exists. Thank you, **Manny**, for your hard work, and a special thanks to **Manny's** wife **Cheryl** who has sewn our table covers and backdrops.

It takes time and effort to prepare a tree for a show, to transport it, set it up, and take it home. We have been able to bring mostly new trees to the Bowers each year, and I think that's important in maintaining a good relationship with the museum.

It's also good to note that we have several newer bonsai artists who will be showing trees next year.

A **huge thanks** to everyone who helped set up, tear down, and to those who came to help out and talk to visitors during the event.

Here are a few photos of the show, there will be many more posted soon on the Kofu Bonsai Kai Facebook page and on our website.





Article and photos by Carol Upston.

OCTOBER

KOFU BONSAI KAI - BONSAI IDEAS

BY MARTY MANN

Light conditions begin to change. Trees that have had full sun exposure find themselves in more shade. Watch the location of trees at this time of year. Rotate them into more favorable light exposures. Allow them to continue storing strength and food for the winter. Late summer feeding, with reduced amounts of nitrogen, may be continued throughout the fall months into November. The recommended basic mix of 70% cottonseed meal, 30% bone meal may be supplemented with foliar feeding for evergreen, conifers and other non-deciduous material. Warm spells are common at this time and trees often respond with new growth. This tender growth is susceptible to damage if any sudden cool weather occurs.

Deciduous trees will begin to show fall colors as soon as cooler nights become more common. After they have had their moment of glory be sure to remove any brown leaves as they appear. Keep the trees free of accumulated trash that house many undesirable wintering insects and encourage fungus buildup. Keep the trees open, light and airy.

This is the best time to study the main trunk line and branch structure. Consider style changes suggested when the skeleton of the tree could be seen. September and October can still be considered for repotting certain species of material such as bamboo, boxwood, junipers, conifers, citrus, cotoneaster, elm, ginkgo, hornbeam, maples and privet. (Ref: BONSAI TECHNIQUES 1-By JOHN Y. NAKA.) Usually, potting is best done when trees begin their normal dormant period. Any activity after October should be limited to pot-to-pot transfers only. Wait until spring, just before new growth begins to do most repotting. Additional potting information for specific species is available in the recently published book, BONSAI IDEAS, By Marty Mann.

Expose pine trees and other conifers to full light during the forthcoming months. This encourages the formation of new candles and healthy root formation. Much of the new growth forms after the pines are de-

canded early in May or June. New growth appears in clusters of three to five candles. Remove all but two. Pluck all old needles to free the tree from a dense foliage mass to permit light and air to penetrate into the heart of the tree and encourage new interior growth.

Deciduous trees will begin to show fall colors as soon as cooler nights become more common. After they have had their moment of glory be sure to remove any brown leaves as they appear. Keep the trees free of accumulated trash that can house many undesirable wintering insects and encourage fungus buildup. Keep the trees open, light and airy.

Cut back on your watering schedule but don't allow the trees to dry. As the length of the day's sunshine is shortened, the trees require less water. A balance must be maintained between the minimal watering and the loss of moisture by transpiration during intermittent hot spells.

Continue to rotate all trees to maintain even exposure to the limited light conditions. This is the time for trees to store food for winter dormancy. It is also the time to keep trees free of accumulated trash. They could be the home for winterizing insects and fungus. Keep all trees open, airy and exposed to the light.

Keep up applications of an all-purpose insecticide and fungicide. Insect, such as aphids continue to suck sap and can be best controlled with an oily or systemic pesticide. Watch for signs of fungus infection such as dark spots on needles and leaves or a white powdery substance at the base of the leaves. Fungus infection can be prevented with applications of a copper based Bordeaux[®] or Ortho Garden Disease Control is effective for above ground infections.

POSTSCRIPT:

You don't stop laughing because you grow old. You grow old because you stop laughing. Have a great day, and know that someone has thought about you today.

HAIKU POEM:

*Pleasure is offered
Be aware of good fortune
Enjoy what you do*

**This article has been extracted from the recently published book called ' Bonsai Ideas'.© By Marty Mann.
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CALENDAR of EVENTS

- October 27- **Golden State Bonsai Federation Convention 39** “A Bonsai Convergence: Gather At the Rivers” Convention” at Double Tree by Hilton, 2001 Point West Way, Sacramento, CA 95815, hotel phone 916-924-4900 (ask for the “GSBF Group Rate”). Headliners: Ryan Neil and Bjorn Bjornholm. Workshops and seminars from Kathy Shaner, David Nguy, Peter Tea, and others. For more information, contact: Scott Chadd, GSBF President, at 530-622-9681 or scottchadd@lotusbonsai.com. Also, go to <http://www.gsbfcconvention.org>. On-line registration opens on July 1, 2016.
- December 26 - 30 **California Aiseki Kai 27th** Anniversary Exhibition of Viewing Stones Show at the Botanical Center of The Huntington Library & Botanical Gardens, 1151 Oxford Road, San Marino. Hours 10 am-5 pm each day. Free parking. For more information, see their website [aisekikai.com](http://www.aisekikai.com) or contact sashaichris@gmail.com (<http://www.gsbfcconvention.org>).
- February 19- 20 **Annual Mammoth Auction and Sale Fund Raiser** at GSBF Bonsai Garden at Lake Merritt, 666 Bellevue Avenue (Garden Center Building), Oakland. Auction preview at noon with Auction starting at 1 pm. Vendor sales start at 9 am. Plant sales start at 10 am, and demonstrations at 1 pm. The Bonsai Garden will be open Saturday 10 am-4pm and Sunday 12 noon-4 pm.
- February 25- 26 **Bonsai-A-Thon XXI** at The Huntington Library and Botanical Gardens, 1151 Oxford Road, San Marino. This is the annual fundraiser for the GSBF Collection at the Huntington. Event admission is free with Bonsai-A-Thon “early bird” registration between 8 am to 9 am. Event hours 8:00 am to 4:30 pm both days. Pancake breakfast, demonstrations, lunch, bonsai exhibits, large sales area, raffle, and auction. For more information visit www.gsbfhuntington.com

SPECIAL THANK YOU

September Raffle
Donations:

Al Nelson
Manny Martinez

OCTOBER PRE-MEETING WORKSHOP

There will be a pre-meeting workshop from 4 pm – 6 pm before the October 15 meeting. Let expert Kofu members **Carole Upston**, **Ryan Cali**, **Paul Vasina**, and **Harley Newman** help you with your bonsai questions and objectives.