

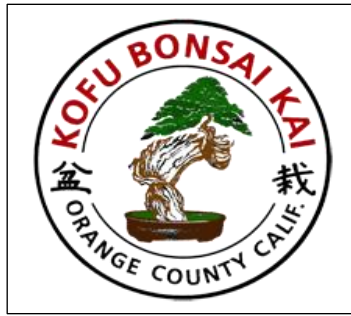
The Kofu Kai Review

The Monthly Newsletter of the Kofu Bonsai Kai Club

MEETING TIME and PLACE

March 19th, 2016, 7:00 pm

Anaheim Methodist Church, 1000 South State College Boulevard, Anaheim



DUES ARE DUE

Your newsletter will discontinue if you have not renewed. **Contact Ryan Cali at the meeting, or when making Annual Dues payments by mail, please use these directions:**

Make Checks out to: KOFU BONSAI KAI, \$20 per individual, or \$25 for couples or two persons at one address. Include your Name, Address, Telephone Number, and e-mail address is mandatory if you wish to receive a newsletter.

MAIL Checks to:

**RYAN CALI
52 Dianthus
Rancho Santa Margarita, CA 92688-1024**

*If you joined during the months of October, November, or December 2015,
you are paid for 2016.*

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March 19th Demonstration

Carol Upston



Flowering Bonsai That Do Well in So Cal and Dealing with Hot Weather

For the March meeting, Carol Upston will discuss and show examples of some plants that make good flowering bonsai in our warm winter climate.

We often look with envy at photos of flowering trees from cold winter areas and wish we could get the same results. There are plenty of flowering plants that do well here with minimal winter chill as long as we take into consideration their special needs. Among the plants will discuss will be flowering quince including the rare and elusive Chyo Ju Bai, warm climate flowering and even one fruiting cherry, Hawthorne, and others including native species of flowering gooseberry.

Also discussed will be strategies for dealing with water restrictions, heat waves, alkaline water problems and lack of winter chill.

February Meeting

Manuel Martinez talk on soil & Fertilizers



At the February meeting some soil mixtures were talked about to introduce members to some alternatives and hopefully less expensive products. It was pointed out that all of the products that were talked about and donated to the raffle were mined or produced in the USA.

Products that were discussed:

Agricultural Pumice, Earth Gro top soil(Home Depot generic), Axis by EP minerals, Good earth or Dr Earth fish-bone meal, Growinn worm castings and Powdered minerals, Dyna-Gro grow and bloom fertilizers, Neptune liquid fish fertilizer

The general soil mix is simply equal portions of DE (Diatomaceous Earth-Axis) or AP (Agricultural Pumice) with your organic, 50/50, mixed well. TAP should be washed prior to using to remove the fine particles.

The top soil mixture is equal portions of DE or AP with worm castings, fish-bone meal, and the crushed mineral. This mixture should be mixed well and applied to the top portion of your regular soil after your tree is settled into the pot or container. The purpose of this is to allow the benefits of the nutrients to leach down to the root mass.

The DE can be purchased at NAPA auto parts and O'Rielly auto parts. On the bottom of the bag or on the back you should find the initials EP mining with the words all natural DE.or similar. The crushed rock is only available at Orange County Farm supply, to the best of my knowledge. Fish-bone meal, Dr earth or Good Earth brands, and worm castings can be obtained at Green thumb or Orange County Farm supply.

It was also recommend to soak you transplanted tree so that all the soil is well hydrated and there are no dry areas in the pot.



Manuel Martinez with the proud winner of the demo prize,
Takuo Nakamura

Bonsai Exhibit

The following local Bonsai Societies will be hosting
the Bonsai Trees on display

Orange Empire Bonsai Society

Orange County Bonsai Society

Kofu Bonsai Kai

Dai Ichi Bonsai Society

At The

Fullerton Arboretum

1900 Associated Rd.

April 16, 2016 to June 19, 2016

Saturdays & Sundays

10:00am to 4:00pm

KOFU BONSAI KAI - BONSAI IDEAS

**BY MARTY MANN
MARCH**

The prime time for potting is March. If you have created a supply of good basic potting soil, fertilizers and other chemicals you are ready to go. Are all the used pots clean? Do you have an assortment of good new pots to select for new plantings?

Your projects can be threefold:

- moving pre-trained material from nursery cans to selected bonsai pots, either for further training or for show.
- transferring trees which are already potted into larger or more appropriate pots because of changes in the basic shape, size or design of the trees.
- repotting trees that are ready to be refreshed with new soil and removal of excessive root growth to generally improve the health of the trees.

During repotting activities it is wise to study the tree. Remove excess branch growth, crossing branches and long internodes that may have been overlooked during the dormant months. Trees should be somewhat on the dry side when they are ready for repotting. The tree will be easier to remove from the pot. The combing of the root ball, after cutting away about 1/3, will free the fine roots and encourage regrowth. Do not allow fine roots to be exposed to the sun or drying winds—keep a spray bottle handy. Screen new soil mixes to remove the harmful fine dust. Keep newly potted material in partial shade for a week or so and then move them out into full sun. Allow new feeder roots to develop. Replace and replenish any lost soil.

Prioritize your work schedule. Varieties of conifers, such as Spruce, Fir, Hinoki Cypress, etc., can be done first. Next, take care of the deciduous trees that are best done while the leaf buds are still tight. Finally, do all of the Juniper varieties and the Bamboo specimens. Don't wait until late into April. Give newly potted material a chance to develop new growth in their new medium as the weather warms.

It is advisable to remove portions of the old foliage, as well as the heavier old roots, to encourage new growth. Do so with some limitation—to much removal shocks the tree. Root divisions form whenever a root cut takes place. These divisions provide for better nutrient absorption. Branch trimming allows new branch divisions and desired branch twiggyness.

Deciduous trees, such as Japanese Maple, Trident Maple, Ginkgo and Liquid Amber, can now be trimmed but wait a few weeks until the new growth has matured.

This is the time to begin the fertilization program on established trees. Use a slow release fertilizer just prior to the signs of new growth. Organic fertilizers such as Cottonseed Meal (75%), with a proportion of Bone Meal (25%), give the trees the desired boost during this growing season. Bone Meal is very slow acting but is beneficial in the long run. To insure the maximum blooming potential, new growth on flowering trees and azaleas should be watched. Keep the nitrogen content of fertilizers at a minimum in these early feedings since excessive green foliage and leaf growth weakens the flowering effort. Use a weak application just as the flower buds begin to swell and again as they open and develop. Do not feed after the flowers are fully open. Miracle-Gro®, applied on a bi-weekly basis, is an excellent all purpose fertilizer. Plants are now growing vigorously. It's better to feed more often with light applications than less often with a heavy hand. Keep fertilizers away from the trunk of the tree. Broadcast granular food lightly over the pot surface and close to the pot edges. Do not feed newly transplanted or repotted trees for a month or two to let them become established. A low nitrogen fertilizers such as Super Phosphate keeps fruit and berries from falling off prematurely.

By Marty Mann

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- March 19-20 **California Bonsai Society** Annual Show, Huntington Library, 1151 Oxford Rd, San Marino, 10am to 4pm daily.
- March 20 **The Next LA Community Bonsai Swap Meet**
Sunday, from 10 am to 3 pm at Jesse Owens Park
at 7100 White Oak Ave., Reseda
- April 23-24 **San Diego Bonsai Club** Spring Bonsai Exhibition at the Casa Del Prado, Room 101, Balboa Park, from 10 am to 5 pm both days with demonstrations at 11 am and 1 pm. Free admission. Bonsai pots and trees for sale, as well as other bonsai-related items. For more information, visit www.sandiegobonsai.com.

SPECIAL THANK YOU

Raffle Donors

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Peter Macasieb
Carol Upston

Refreshment Donors

Justine Keller
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PRE-MEETING WORKSHOP

WANT TO START OFF 2016
IMPROVING YOUR BONSAI
ARTISTRY AND TECHNIQUE?
BEGINNERS: WONDERING HOW TO
GET STARTED IN BONSAI AND
HAVE MANY QUESTIONS? HAVE
QUESTIONS ON HOW TO PREPARE
AND DISPLAY YOUR TREE AT THE
ANNUAL SHOW?

NO MATTER WHAT YOUR
OBJECTIVES ARE, COME TO THE
PRE-MEETING WORKSHOP FROM 4
PM – 6 PM BEFORE THE JANUARY
23 MEETING. LET EXPERT KOFU
MEMBERS **RYAN CALI**, AND
HARLEY NEWMAN HELP YOU WITH
YOUR BONSAI QUESTIONS AND
OBJECTIVES.