

The Kofu Kai Review

The Monthly Newsletter of the Kofu Bonsai Kai Club

MEETING TIME and PLACE

March 21, 2015, at 7:00 pm

Anaheim Methodist Church, 1000 South State College Blvd, Anaheim



THIS IS YOUR LAST
NEWSLETTER!



DUES ARE DUE NOW! You will *NOT* be receiving any more Kofu newsletters. Contact **Ryan Cali** at the meeting or mail in your payment as follows:

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 (mandatory to receive a newsletter).

MAIL Checks To:

Ryan Cali, 52 Dianthus, Rancho Santa Margarita, CA 92688

If you joined during the months of Oct., Nov., or Dec. 2014, you are paid for 2015.

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MARCH DEMONSTRATOR

Dr. Thomas Elias



Left to right: Hiromi Nakaoji (Dr. Elias' wife), Dr. Thomas Elias, and bonsai enthusiast Gonzalo Rodriguez. –Photo by Carol Upston

At the March 21 meeting, **Dr. Thomas Elias** will be giving a presentation on the history and development of Penjing. **Dr. Elias** has given many lectures and seminars both nationally and internationally. He was the former director of the United States National Arboretum in Washington, D.C. He also currently serves as the president of Bonsai Club International, which publishes the popular *Bonsai* and *Stone Appreciation* magazines. Locally, he is the president of the Southern Breeze Society at the Huntington Library, Art Collections, and Botanical Gardens. His involvement with bonsai, penjing, and viewing stones has spanned over the last 20 years. We hope everyone can join us in welcoming **Dr. Elias** this month.

Jason Chan

BUS TRIP TO SAN DIEGO BONSAI CLUB'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY SPRING SHOW

Saturday, April 25th, \$30 per person, includes the show, buffet dinner, entertainment, and raffle/auction. The bus will leave the Los Angeles County Arboretum in Arcadia at 10 AM and will make a stop at approximately 10:45 AM in Orange County at the Metrolink station parking lot at Angel Stadium to pick up Orange County participants. The bus will return to both stops later that evening.

The bus trip is sponsored by Baikoen Bonsai Kenkyukai. If you are interested in going, you must contact **Lindsay Shiba** right away and mail him a check for \$30. His contact info: **Lindsay Shiba**, 909-806-0937, ljshiba@juno.com.

After talking to him to confirm your spot, mail check to him at: 1555 West Foothill, Upland, CA 91786.

▣ DAVID NGUY ▣

FEBRUARY DEMONSTRATION



-Photo by Jason Chan

Kofu Bonsai Kai was honored to have another wonderful demonstration from **David Nguy**. The latest demo was on heavy bending of a California Juniper. In order to perform such an extensive bending operation, it has to be the correct time of year. It is best done in the coldest part of the year, and late February is getting close to the last time of year for this kind of work to be done. **David** explained to the members that a lot of material is discarded because the inability to maneuver branches into an optimum position, therefore having this skill is very important to the bonsai enthusiast. The technique is to bring heavy branch down to enhance the sense of age and accentuate the style (whatever that might be). He began by making a detailed observation of the 'live vein;' California Junipers are in a constant state of discarding old branches and growing new branches supported by roots unique to that branch. One can find the live vein by carefully removing the top layer of bark which will reveal the red outer layer (bark) of the live vein. Note: The roots on a California Juniper are very sensitive and cannot be disturbed. To prevent any movement of the tree relative to the pot, the tree must have strong supports between the two. This can be done by wire, rope, wood blocking, or any other means to prevent this movement. He then began to cut away that vein to a point where he wanted to start his bend. In order to secure any further separation of the vein (which I will now call 'the branch'), he wrapped graphing tape around the deadwood and branch. Since the branch was relatively small, it did not require placing a groove in the branch to place a supporting wire. In this case, he simply placed a #7 aluminum wire on the outside of the branch then wrapped the branch tightly with raffia. This technique is essential in providing support in the bended shape as well as providing hoop tension to prevent splitting or cracking of the branch. The bending itself is done by hand so he can 'feel' the branch. To see **David** bend the branch into place is exciting and scary all at the same time; it is also where experience is everything. Outside supporting wire and guide wire is applied to keep the branch in place. Once the branches were secured, detail wiring was quickly applied to the secondary and tertiary branch, allowing David to finish the styling.

From start to finish this was a very informative and exciting demonstration to watch and participate in. **David** graciously donated the tree to the raffle, and **Jeff Straley** was the very lucky winner of this tree. I would like to thank **David** on behalf of the Kofu Kai and we look forward to future demonstrations. —Ron Reekers



-Photo by Carol Upston

AND THE WINNER OF DAVID NGUY'S DONATED TREE IS..

JEFF STRALEY

UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES

Representing the club in public and talking with people about bonsai is both enjoyable and helpful to your own growth as a bonsai artist. We have two opportunities coming in April for members to help in an informal way to promote our club and the art of bonsai.

The first event coming up is the annual **Spring Festival on Sunday April 5 at the Bowers Museum in Santa Ana.**

This is their 'First Sunday' event which allows the public free admission to most exhibits and includes various Japanese cultural performances like music and dance. This year the first Sunday in April is also Easter Sunday. The Bowers provides us with a few tables in the shaded colonnade off the main courtyard. We bring the tablecloths, and each person brings a display tree and accent plant and can bring a tree to work on as well. We need between 4 and 6 people to volunteer for this one-day event. It's always a fun experience being part of the festival and talking to people about what we do. If you're interested e-mail me, Carol Upston at carolupstone@me.com.

At last year's First Sunday event, Carol enlisted a helpful Samurai



in Ray-Bans to trim her juniper.

—Photo by Carol Upston

The second upcoming event is the **Green Scene at the Fullerton Arboretum.** We will have an informational table or booth, and will display at least 2 trees, informally, each day and can work on trees or have a little informal demo, too. Set up is on Friday April 17 and the event spans Saturday April 18 and Sunday April 19. We need 2 or 3 people each day to man the tables. More than two or three would be fine too. I hear it's a busy event. Saturday the 18th is also our meeting night, but I don't see any conflict there. Let me know if you'd like to join us. I'd especially like to see some new people helping at these two events. E-mail me if you'd like to help carolupston@me.com.

Carol Upston

GOLDEN STATE BONSAI FEDERATION

HARRY HIRAO ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP

INTRODUCTION;

The purpose of the Harry Hirao Annual Scholarship (HHAS) is to provide a onetime grant of \$1,500 to a worthy bonsai enthusiast. This money must be used for educational purposes in the art of bonsai within one year of receiving the scholarship. The recipient cannot use these funds to acquire bonsai, pots, tools, books, or other physical items; it is to be used to further education in bonsai by studying with a recognized bonsai artist.

APPLICATION;

An application must be submitted no later than midnight on July 15 to receive consideration. The application is to be submitted to the Editor of the *Golden Statements* designate George Haas, 707-762-9154, email

gwhaas@comcast.net.

The application must include, at a minimum, the following information:

1. Name, address, phone number, and e-mail address of the applicant.
2. Primary bonsai club and club membership history.
3. How many years of bonsai experience.
4. In 500 words or less, applicant will describe their bonsai educational goals and why they should receive the HHAS.
5. A brief description of how the funds will be used, and the person with whom the applicant will study.
6. If awarded the HHAS, applicant agrees that all funds awarded will be expended prior to the following annual convention.
7. Applicant will cooperate with and submit at least one article to the *Golden Statements* describing activities while using the HHAS funds, such as: demonstrations, workshops conducted or lectures given, and other actions with the bonsai teacher that increase skill and knowledge of bonsai. The deadline for submission of this article is **July 20** following receipt of the scholarship.
8. Verification by the applicant's Club President of member in good standing with a GSBF Club.

SELECTION PROCESS;

HHAS Scholarship Committee will review all timely applications and verify eligibility. The selection committee will be made up of the GSBF President, Vice President, two board members appointed by the President, and the editor of *Golden Statements*. The selection committee's decision is final and the award shall be given at the annual GSBF convention. If no application is deemed worthy, the committee reserves the right not to award the scholarship for that year.

M A R C H

KOFU BONSAI KAI - BONSAI IDEAS

BY MARTY MANN

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, Gingko 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.

HAIKU POEM:

Tensely, I stride home
But, I stop in my garden
I stand calm again

By Marty Mann

This article has been extracted from the recently published book called ' Bonsai Ideas'.© By Marty Mann. Material is not to be copied without publisher or author's permission

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CALENDAR of EVENTS

- March 28-29 **California Bonsai Society** 58th annual exhibit, 10:00 am to 4:30 pm, at the **Brody Botanical Center**, Huntington Library, Art Collections, and Botanical Gardens, 1151 Oxford Road, San Marino. Reception at 6:00 pm on Saturday, March 28.
- April 5 **Spring Festival at Bowers Museum** "First Sunday" public free admission to most exhibits and includes various Japanese cultural music and dance performances. Contact Carol Upston for details at carolupston@me.com.
- April 17-19 **Green Scene at the Fullerton Arboretum:** Kofu Bonsai Kai will have an informational table/booth set up. Set up is on Friday, April 17 and goes through Sunday, April 19. Contact Carol Upston at carolupston@me.com if you'd like to join in the fun.
- April 25-26 **San Diego Bonsai Club** 50th Anniversary Spring Show, 10 am to 5 pm and demonstrations at 11 am and 1 pm both days, at Casa Del Prado, Room 101, Balboa Park. Bonsai trees, plant material and other related items for sale. Bring a dessert for their reception.
- June 13-14 **Descanso Bonsai Society** 46th annual exhibit, 9 am to 4 pm and demonstrations at 11 am and 1:30 pm both days, in Van De Kamp Hall, Descanso Gardens, 1418 Descanso Drive, La Cañada Flintridge 91011. Reception on Saturday night 6 pm to 7 pm with raffle at 8 pm. Bonsai trees, pots, bonsai stock and accessories will be for sale. All events are free with garden admission.
- August 16-17 **Nanpu Kai** annual bonsai exhibit as part of Nisei Week, 10 am to 5 pm both days, at the Japanese American Cultural Center, 244 South San Pedro Street, Los Angeles.
- September 23-28 **Kofu Bonsai Kai** annual exhibit, 10 am to 4 pm, at Bowers Museum, 2002 North Main Street, Santa Ana. Presentations on Viewing Stones of North America by Dr. Tom Elias on September 27, and Japanese Art Deco by Dr. Kendall Brown on September 26.

SPECIAL THANK YOU

February Refreshments:

Tish Miya, Bob and Kim Warner, Justine Keller, Dr. Walter Johnson, Wendy Tsai

Raffle Donations:

Carol Upston, Bill and Lois Hutchinson, An *unintelligible scribble*, Bob White, Dave Miles, Julio

PRE-MEETING WORKSHOP

THERE WILL BE A PRE-MEETING WORKSHOP FROM 4 PM – 6 PM BEFORE THE MARCH 21 MEETING. LET EXPERT KOFU MEMBERS **RYAN CALI, PAUL VASINA, AND HARLEY NEWMAN** HELP YOU WITH YOUR BONSAI QUESTIONS AND OBJECTIVES. BRING YOUR TREE