

# The Kofu Kai Review

The Monthly Newsletter of the Kofu Bonsai Kai Club

## Meeting Time and Place

May 17, 2014 at 7:00 pm

Anaheim Methodist Church, 1000 South State College Blvd, Anaheim



## MAY DEMONSTRATOR

## RYAN NICHOLS



***Ryan Nichols will be returning with a follow-up presentation on Bonsai Tree health and care. He will discuss the specific needs of spring care required to develop a healthy summer tree. He will also do a quick review of past presentations and focus on watering, light requirements and nutrients required for our climate and time of year. As many of you know Ryan is a Master graduate working towards a doctorate in horticulture and does a well-conceived and informative presentation. It will certainly be in your best interest to attend this presentation.***

Ron Reekers

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# *April Demonstration*

## *Ted Matson*



***Ted Matson's demonstration focused on Shohin (less than 20cm in height) and Mame (less than 10 cm in height) development and design, with the added detail of the type of material that can be used in bonsai. All totaled he presented over six varieties of species that can be used; such as Gingko, Ficus, Persimmons, Silverberry and Potentilla. Regardless of the species Ted has five important factors that dictate the quality of the tree; movement, taper, segmentation, compression and ramification.***

***Movement of the tree builds the strength of the design of your Shohin, which is particularly important to small tree design. The lack of movement, except in the case of a formal upright design, tends to look stagnant and artificial. Therefore keeping aware where judicious pruning and wiring can increase movement will enhance your overall tree aesthetics.***

***Taper is best described as the relative thickness of the tip of the tree trunk to the base of the trunk, and the thickness delineation from bottom branch to top branches. The greater amount of difference between the thicknesses versus height of the tree the greater the taper. This is best achieved by selectively pruning the trunk line. Ted noted though, it is particularly difficult to do this by growing a large trunk then pruning to a secondary branch which will continue the trunk line, the pitfall is a large scar at the pruned location. As in many cases for Bonsai, it is best to be patient and develop taper over time.***

*Segmentation refers to the growth spurts that are evident in the tree, which are marked by a change in taper, angle, or fork (which is the location of the branching all the way to twigs). Whether the tree style is formal (straight trunk and branching) or informal (curved trunk and branching) if there exist signs of growth accented by the tree's articulation then the Shohin will develop characteristics of an aged and refined tree.*

*Compression can be defined as how short and dense a tree appears. The natural reduction in the spacing starting from the nebari (base root of the tree) and the first branch is where compression is evident. This can also be magnified as a result of how low your first branch is. It's logical to have the tachi-agari (space between nebari and first branch) as the longest, thickest segment on the tree, but each segment from there on up should shorten as they extend in order emphasize compression. Having a large space between the nebari (base root of the tree) and the first branch not only greatest a large area of negative space, it will give an artificial form to the design, so care is required to develop and natural reduction in trunk and branch reduction, defined previously as taper.*

*Ramification is essentially the twiggy of the tree. The more branching the twiggy the tree, and the better to sense of age, which is always impressive in Shohin design. This is achieved by defoliation, and inner pruning. In most case, this will trigger the tree to develop more branches and consequently buds will begin to appear at junctions where leaves were trimmed back. As this is done, (Ted will defoliate some species up to three times a year) a greater amount of branching will occur, thus producing a large amount of branching and foliage. The particular challenge with Shohin is that you have to start with a very compact segment to begin with, and there's not a lot of space to allow secondary and tertiary segments to grow. The Bonsai Artist should be more precise and conscious of pruning to ensure continued seasonal growth in a balanced way, thereby producing a very refined looking tree.*

*After mastering the above conditions, one can have a beautiful small tree to be proud of and cherish for many years.*

*(Author's note: I found that challenging myself to achieve the ideals above is the fun and rewarding, and being relatively new to the art I continue to enjoy seeing my tree develop. I hope this is the same for you.)*

*The Kofu Kai thanks Ted Matson very much for this insightful and enlightening demonstration on Shohin/Mame development.*

Ron Reekers

**MAY**

**KOFU BONSAI KAI - BONSAI IDEAS**

**SPRING JUVENILE GROWTH, BECOMES SUMMER MATURITY**

**BY MARTY MANN**

Different trees have varied needs, as one may be more vigorous than another. The soil mix, pot size, and the environmental exposure to wind and sun affect watering methods. Just follow the ideals: water deeply; keep your bonsai damp, not wet and never dry. Judge by the weather conditions. Daily routines might instead become patterns of early morning watering on alternate days, as needed.

Continue to pinch and trim but hold off on wiring soft deciduous growth until it hardens. Direct your attention to the upper portion of most bonsai since this is the area that tends to grow fastest. Allowing this growth to develop too freely will deprive the lower branches of strength and nourishment. Check your wiring during this fast growing period. Don't let it cut into the tree.

Eliminate spurts of new branch growth. Cut back young whips to two or three leaf clusters to encourage fine twiggy branching and shorter internodes. Remove opposite branches that tend to form on many species naturally. Avoid bar branches throughout your design, however, this is not too important in the upper structures.

May's mild weather conditions encourage the population of undesirable insects such as aphids, white flies, spider mites and that nasty scale. Particularly, if you failed to spray the wintering trees with a dormant spray application then you will have to be attentive to the presence of a new crop of insects. Pay attention to regular applications of insecticides such as Malathion, Sevin, Isotex, etc. Maples are particularly susceptible to fungus diseases such as mildew when kept in the shade. Apply general-purpose fungicides such as Ortho Garden Disease Control at this time to ward off early summer damage. Avoid watering the foliage and allow air circulation and good light exposure.

Continue your repotting schedule into early May, if you have not already begun. Don't overlook the deciduous material that has already opened; however in these cases care should be taken to retain more of the old rootage and soil ball to prevent transplant shock and dieback. Be sure to provide good after-care. Protect from too much strong sun and wind for at least 2 to 3 weeks. Maintain the schedule of trimming and plucking as you repot. Prune the Elms, Maples and Ginkos.

We still hear criticism by many Japanese Masters about the timid habits of underfeeding American trees. The best all around fertilizer is still the basic mix of 70% cottonseed meal and 30% bone meal or, if you have it, rape seed cakes. Foliar feeding with Miracle Gro is excellent. In all cases it's important during this fast growing period to feed as the new growth emerges. As this growth increases in size and diverts its sugar production from photosynthesis to woody growth, keep your eyes open for wire damage from earlier training efforts.

Azaleas require special care during this period. Some varieties may have completed flowering while others may still be in full bloom well into June. Wait until the blooms are faded before trimming, shaping, repotting or feeding.

It's also a good time of year to sit back and enjoy your trees.

#### HAIKU POEM:

May your trees grow well  
Beauty and visual joy  
From strength and good health

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.

May 2011

***NEW MEMBERS WELCOME !!***

***Michael Sykes, Kate Woodworth, Mark & CJ Harmatz,  
Dung Pham, Mike Scott***

# *Badge prize Winner Wanda Danesi*

## **UP COMING EVENTS**

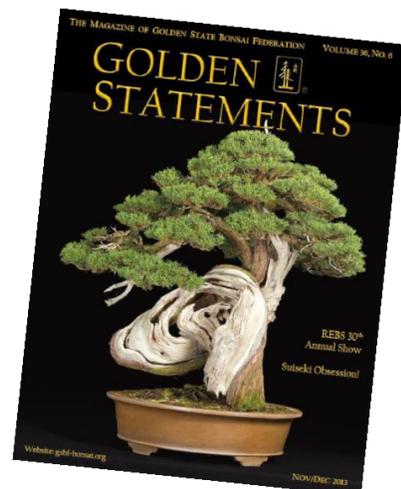
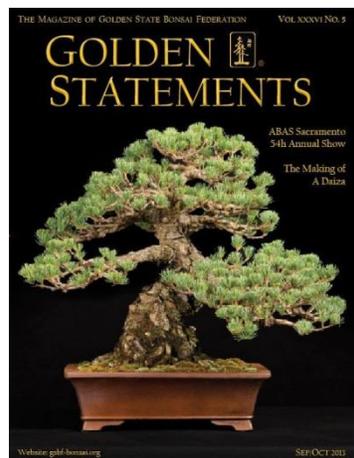
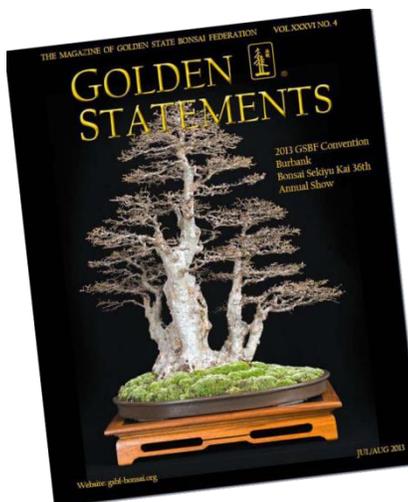
Dai Ichi Kai ~ May 3-4, 10am to 4pm daily, Ken Nakaoka Community Center, 1670 W. 162 St, Gardena, Show, Demonstrations and vendor area.

Descanso Bonsai Society 45th Annual Bonsai Show. June 14-15, 2014.  
9:00 a.m.-5:00p.m. last admission is 4:30 p.m.

1418 Descanso Dr. La Canada Flintridge, CA. 91011. (818) 949-4200

*Kofu Bonsai Kai, Bowers Museum Show, September 24 to 28, 2002 N. Main St., Santa Ana, CA. Daily 10am to 4pm, Presentations by Dr Tom Elias on Sept 27, Viewing Stones of North America, Dr Kendall Brown, Sept 26, Japanese Art Deco*

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### **Special Thank You**

#### **December Refreshments:**

Bob & Kim Warner  
Tish Miya  
Tom Culton

#### **Raffle Donations:**

Harley Newman  
Wendy Tsai  
Lyn Stevenson  
Jae Kwon  
Dan & Wanda Danesi  
Ryan Cali  
Rishi Bissoon  
Harry Hirao  
Bill & Lois Hutchinson  
Manuel & Cheryl Martinez

### **PRE-MEETING WORKSHOP**

**Beginners, looking to get started!**

**Looking to improve your bonsai artistry and technique! Preparing your trees for exhibition! Wondering how to get started in Bonsai and have questions? Have a tree that is "difficult" to style and you may not know what to do. Questions on preparing your tree or displaying it at the Annual Show? No matter what your objectives are, you can bring your trees to work on at the pre-meeting workshop where experienced members will assist and advise. Meet from 4:00pm -6:00pm prior to the monthly meeting.**