

The Kofu Kai Review

The Monthly Newsletter of the Kofu Kai Bonsai Club



Meeting Time and Place

May 19, 2012 at 7:00 p.m.

Anaheim Methodist Church, 1000 South State College Blvd, Anaheim

MAY MEETING



This month we have the always entertaining (and always growing!) Al Nelson and crew who will be making for us an "extra special, super-duper saiikei extravaganza" to quote Al. This beautiful landscape creation will be featured in the raffle. Al and his assistants will be explaining every step of the process of creating a slab planting and will share all of their sources for materials, and secrets of construction, so bring your notebook. Also, Al is a real expert on oak trees, among many other things, so feel free to ask him any questions about your oaks or oaks in general. He's the go-to guy. Should we start calling him Mr. California Oak? Seriously, creating bonsai landscapes is something bonsai artists can do right from the start of their bonsai efforts because very small young plant material can be used and we can find small young plants at any nursery. So even if you don't have the good fortune to win the demo planting, with the information provided at this meeting you can make your very own. So get out there!

Carol Upston

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April Meeting

At our April meeting Ryan Nichols did a thorough and entertaining job of explaining how plants function and how they respond to bonsai training techniques. The club members seemed to enjoy this talk a lot and during the break had many questions for Ryan. He also brought a beautiful large Japanese maple clump to donate to the raffle. This kind of program is part of our continuing effort to bring useful information to our members about the health and training of their trees. I hope Ryan will be a regular speaker for us. He has a lot more to say! As always, if there are specific questions, suggestions or issues you'd like addressed in our programs, don't hesitate to get in touch with me, Carol Upston or Manny Martinez. Your input is always welcome and we're always interested in finding out about new demonstrators.

Carol Upston

KOFU BONSAI KAI - BONSAI IDEAS

BY MARTY MANN

MAY, 2012 (#81)

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.

May and early June are excellent air-layering months since this fast growing period encourages the formation of new roots much more easily.

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 2012



Pat Wheeler

BADGE WINNER

DEMO WINNER

Ron Stubbe

Pat Wheeler

CONGRATULATIONS !!!

NEW MEMBERS WELCOME

***PHIL & KATHY HOGAN
ALI & CELIA ZAREE***

Say hello to them when you see them

UP COMING EVENTS

42ND Annual Exhibit Descanso Bonsai Society June 16-17. Contact Elizabeth Likes, Registration Chairperson Phone & Fax (818) 352-3064, e-mail LizLikes@aol.com

We need you for the Orange County Fair, July 17th to the 30th, Contact Mike Viljak - 949-642-0275 or Anthony Chiusolo - 714-998-3420

Bonsai Tools and Supplies:

If you need any tools or supplies from Everett Bassin, contact him at 714-827-0661 or 714-392-5149 or email him at bonsaitools@mindspring.com. He will bring them to the meetings. He will not be bringing his entire inventory to the meetings.

A note from Everett Bassin

It is with deep feeling of regret I must close my Business, "Bassin Bonsai Tools, etc." due to health issues of myself and my wife Sharyn. My number 1 priority is taking care of Sharyn now in Rehab. My heart issues are on hold – I cannot do shows, conventions nor club meetings. And so, I will sell all my stock of tools, wire, books, etc., at my cost. This will save on cost of shipping them to my wholesaler in Oregon. All my pots, Dais, special equipment, etc. are to go. Included are Hapi Coats with attached pins collected from conventions, nationally and locally, plus Bonsai Jewelry (gold earrings), etc. Since nearly all my time is at Rehab with my wife, comforting her, **I can only make time by phone to sell before 11am and after 6pm, call me at 714-827-0661 or 714-392-5149** to set up a time. I will continue the sales until June, at which time everything will be boxed up and returned to Joshua Roth in Oregon. Thanks to all of *my Friends, customers and club members* that I have done business with in the past, you've made it worthwhile. Stay well and safe and "Think Small Grow Bonsai"

Everett "Tool Guy" Bassin

And remember I take checks, cash and abuse, sorry no credit cards.

Special Thank You

April Raffle Donations:

Manuel Martinez
Harry Hirao
Bill & Lois Hutchinson
Harley Newman
John Deluca
Larry Ragle
Delia & Alex Espinoza
Dave Miles

April Refreshments:

Tish Miya
Manuel Martinez
Tom Culton
An Truong
Harry Hirao
John Deluca

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 were experts like
Al Nelson, Paul Vasina and Harley
Newman can assist. Meet from
4:00pm -6:00pm prior to the
monthly meeting.**