

KOFU BONSAI KAI KOFUKAI.ORG

JULY 2021 NEWSLETTER

Meeting Again at the Anaheim United Methodist Church, 1000 S. State College Blvd., Anaheim, East Classroom at 6 PM on Saturday, July 17

Christopher Sambolin is our guest demonstrator from the California Bonsai Society Visiting Artists Program



Our June meeting went very well and those who attended had a chance to talk over the future of the club and how we can move forward and make things better. We had people offering to help out more and heard some good suggestions. Tak Nakamura suggested that we begin a monthly bonsai workshop on a Saturday morning where new members can bring trees and interact with veteran members who would bring trees to work on. Tak is working on finding a place to do that.

Several members offered to help with setting up for meetings and managing the raffle and that's in the works too. Since we probably won't have a benefit auction this year, our raffles will become more important and thanks to a generous gift, we have a lot

of good pots which will be featured on the raffle table. **Please donate generously to the raffle. And please buy some raffle tickets too.** You may think "I don't need any of that stuff". That's fine, just buy some tickets anyway and pass them off to someone else or donate the items you win back to the club, or just don't put your tickets in the bin. The point is to pay the bills so that we can continue to enjoy and share this remarkable art form and to also enjoy the camaraderie of our club.

Of course everything is still tenuous and the church asks that we observe their Covid protocols which may change at any time. For now, expect to wear a mask and also bring your own water or coffee or whatever; we won't be having refreshments. I can't require you to be vaccinated but I sincerely hope that you are. Last meeting we asked people to move their chairs to a position that they found comfortable.

Are we going to have a show this year? Maybe. The Bowers very much wants us to continue to hold our annual exhibit there but they're hesitant to set a date yet. They've had to close and open so many times and they don't want to have to cancel our event at the last minute. BUT I seriously request of everyone who has previously shown trees to get a tree ready and keep it groomed. If a date is offered, I'm going to say 'yes we can' and who knows how much lead time there will be.

I very much look forward to seeing you all again.

Carol Upston

Christopher Sambolin

Christopher A. Sambolin Perez was born in Mayaguez, Puerto Rico. He received his bachelors degree in 2019 in microbiology from the Interamerican University of Puerto Rico where he is currently working to obtain a master's degree in plant biotechnology. In June of 2010, he began working with bonsai because of his aunt who had inspired him from a young age. She took him to visit Futago Bonsai, Pedro Morales' garden and it was there that the passion for bonsai came to life and he was given the opportunity to work on his first bonsai tree. He joined the Bonsai Club of Puerto Rico, Mayaguez chapter where he is the current president.

Christopher then started to take many workshops around the island and took every chance he had to meet different bonsai masters and learn more through workshops and seminars. He became a student of William Acosta and Pedro Morales and started attending seminars, lectures and workshops with international artists from all around the world including from Japan, Italy Indonesia, China, USA, Spain and Mexico. He participated in the FELab 2016 new talent contest where he finished second out of 6 countries. He also performed demonstrations at the National Bonsai Show of Puerto Rico and has assisted in demonstrations of bonsai artists like Hugo Zamora from Mexico and his mentors and teachers, Pedro Morales and William Acosta.

In 2015 Christopher met his idol Mauro Stemberger in a workshop in Futago, and since has been in close touch with Mauro. He became a student of Mauro's and began traveling to the Italian Bonsai Dream School in Feltre, Italy. Currently, Christopher is working on improving his skills and knowledge about bonsai and also is studying microbiology and plant biotechnology. He has been studying the microorganisms related to plants and hopes that knowing more about the biology of the plant will help him have a better relationship with his bonsai.

For Christopher, bonsai is a lifestyle that he has decided to pursue for the rest of his life and he is extremely grateful for all of the support he has received from his mim, family and friends throughout the years of his bonsai journey. With our their continued support he wouldn't have had the same success in his academics or in bonsai.



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