

The Kofu Kai Review

The Monthly Newsletter of the Kofu Bonsai Kai Club

MEETING TIME and PLACE

Meeting Date: May 21, 2016, 7:00 pm

Anaheim Methodist Church, 1000 South State College Boulevard, Anaheim



MAY 21 DEMONSTRATION

TOM VUONG



Japanese Black Pine



Photos by Carol Upston

This month's meeting will feature a bonsai artist who is seen everywhere lately in the local bonsai universe. **Tom Vuong** is self-taught and has developed a very individual style and an innovative approach to bonsai. For our June meeting, he will demonstrate Black Pine training on one of his own fine Japanese Black Pines and will be donating the smaller cork barked pine to the raffle. I hope you'll come out and join us for this event and see **Tom** in action.

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April 16th Demonstration

JOHN JACKSON



Mike Walsh giving some hands-on help to John Jackson.

At our April meeting, a good-sized crowd watched **John Jackson** of San Diego do a demo on root-over-rock elm. He showed every step in the process, so no excuses. Everyone knows exactly how to accomplish this now, right?

He also gave a short talk about the development and launch of the beautiful bonsai court at the San Diego Zoo Safari Park. You should go see it if you haven't. It's very nice, and a huge effort went into its design and construction, a partnership between the San Diego area clubs and the Park.

Thank you very much, **John**, for making the long drive. It was clear that the demo was very popular and well received.



A video presentation on the bonsai exhibit at the San Diego Zoo Safari Park.



Peter Macasieb took home the root-over-rock demo tree.

Photos by Carol Upston

Kofu Bonsai Kai and Everybody Else Too at the Fullerton Arboretum

This past weekend, May 7 and 8, was Kofu Bonsai Kai's first weekend to help out at the current bonsai exhibit at the Fullerton Arboretum on the campus of California State University at Fullerton. The exhibit has been put together by the bonsai clubs of Orange County plus the Dai Ichi club from Gardena. **Paul Minerich** is the guy responsible for making this happen, and we all owe him our thanks.

When this idea was proposed, I was skeptical that it would even happen. There were concerns about security, location, the health and care of the trees, and also a concern that not enough people would come to the exhibit. All of those concerns have been laid to rest. The setting is very nice, new benches were built by an Eagle Scout troop for the trees, new fencing was installed to improve security, and there have been plenty of volunteers available to water and take care of the trees. This is a changing exhibit with trees moving in and out of the show to keep the display fresh for repeat visitors. And, there have been a lot of them. I did not anticipate much foot traffic on the Mother's Day weekend at the arboretum, but I was so wrong. We must have talked to a hundred people each of the two days.

Kofu will be having another weekend at the exhibit on June 4 and 5. I will be there both days, and I urge all Kofu members who can make it to stop by and see how things are going. There is talk of extending the exhibit and also of making it an annual event with an eye to the possibility of a permanent collection at Fullerton in the future.

It also is a great venue for us to pursue our mission of reaching out to the public and finding those rare and eccentric few who might enjoy this amazing art.

Carol Upston



A truly enormous Chinese elm from Alice Liu.



Doug McGavin's sweeping California juniper.

Kofu Bonsai Kai and Everybody Else Too at the Fullerton Arboretum

(Continued)



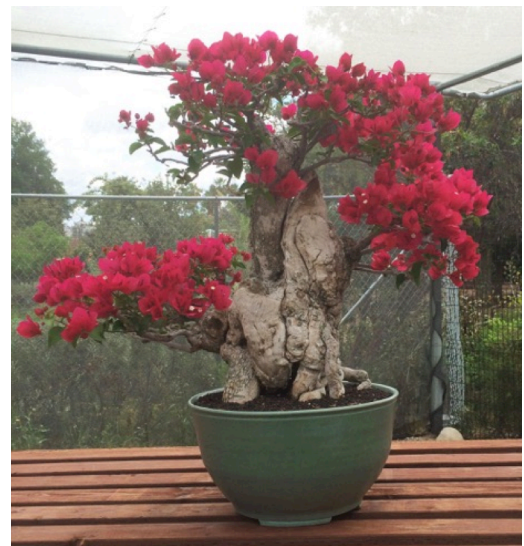
Tom Vuong's really big California juniper.



Bob White's tree was very popular. People like flowers.



Tak Nakamura's elm forest was also a big hit.



Paul Minerich's Bougainvillea.

Photos by Carol Upston

KOFU BONSAI KAI – BONSAI IDEAS

BY MARTY MANN

MAY

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 Ginkgos.

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

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- April 16-
June 19 **Bonsai Exhibit** continuing on Saturdays and Sundays through June 19, 2016, 10 am-4 pm, at the Fullerton Arboretum, 1900 Associated Road, Fullerton, CA 92831. Participating clubs will be: Orange Empire Bonsai Society, Orange County Bonsai Society, Kofu Bonsai Kai, and Dai Ichi Bonsai Kai.
- May 14-15 **Dai Ichi Bonsai Kai** Annual Bonsai Exhibit "Serenity through Bonsai" at the Ken Nakaoka Community Center, 1670 West 162nd Street, Gardena, from 10 am to 4 pm both days. Novice to master bonsai exhibits. Beginner's hands-on workshop at 10:30 am Saturday followed by a 1:00 pm round-robin demonstration. Sunday at 1:00 pm, there will be a *Saiki* demonstration by Frank Goya.
- May 20 **Dai Ichi Bonsai Kai** presents "An Evening with Michael Ryan Bell" at the Ken Nakaoka Community Center, 1670 West 162nd Street, Gardena. Michael has devoted years to the study of Japanese bonsai pots. He is currently working on several books on the subject. Attendees are encouraged to bring in pots for identification and discussion.
- May 21-22 **Bonsai Club of Santa Barbara** Annual Bonsai Exhibition at the Santa Barbara Botanic Gardens, 1212 Mission Canyon Road, Santa Barbara, in the Blaksley Library at the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden, from Saturday 11 am to 4 pm, Sunday 10 am to 4 pm. Demonstrations at 1 pm both days. Plant sale by club. Native plants suitable for bonsai in the Botanic Garden's nursery. For more information, contact Tom Post (805) 964-2717, email tompstart@yahoo.com or visit www.santabarbarabonsai.org.
- May 28-30 **Santa Anita Bonsai Society** 52nd Bonsai Exhibit at Los Angeles County Arboretum, 301 North Baldwin Avenue, Arcadia, CA 91007, 9 am-4 pm each day. Demonstrations at 1 pm. Bonsai trees and supplies on sale.
- June 11-12 **Descanso Bonsai Society** 46th Annual Exhibit at Descanso Gardens, 1418 Descanso Drive, La Canada Flintridge, CA 91011, from 9 am-5 pm both days. Reception on Saturday, June 11, at 6-7 pm. Trees, pots, and related bonsai items on sale.

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NO

MAY PRE-MEETING WORKSHOP

There will be **NO** Pre-Meeting Workshop in May.

Do take advantage of future Pre-meeting Workshops. They're FREE and where else can you spend 2 hours happily with your bonsai.