

# The Kofu Kai Review

The Monthly Newsletter of the Kofu Kai Bonsai Club



## Meeting Time and Place

February 18, 2012 at 7:00 p.m.

Anaheim Methodist Church, 1000 South State College Blvd, Anaheim

## February Meeting



Harry Hirao, Mr. California Juniper

Every year at this time it's my happy task to invite all of you to a demonstration of bonsai mastery by our sensei, Mr California Juniper, Harry Hirao.

Harry is more than a bonsai master and living legend, he's a shining example to all of us of the way to stay young throughout a long life. Rather than issue another long list of

Harry's many accomplishments and accolades, let me just say the art of bonsai in California, America and the world would have evolved the way it has without him. His tireless generosity, along with that of his late friend John Naka, has helped make it all possible.

Harry will donate the demo tree to the raffle and if you are very lucky, you may win a future masterpiece styled by a living legend. To better your chances I am not going to buy raffle tickets this time because I seem to be having a lucky streak and I want you all to have a shot at this tree.

This is not a meeting to be missed and I hope to see everyone there for our friend and sensei, Harry Hirao.

Carol Upston

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#### Website

Alonso Uribe 323-496-2154

[WWW.KOFUKAI.ORG](http://WWW.KOFUKAI.ORG)

## JANUARY MEETING

Kofu Kai kicked off 2012 with a demo by bonsai artist Marcus Juniel, ably assisted by Kofu member Lee Anthony. Fortunately the rain had stopped by that afternoon and there was a good turnout to see Marcus work his magic on a truly spectacular specimen of a prostrata juniper. He and Lee had done a lot of preparatory work ahead of time on the material so that the demo could focus more on refinement. Marcus gave a much-needed talk about wiring and showed his practical approach to making wiring easier and faster. He also discussed the possibility of grafting other foliage onto the tree. Marcus had pre-bent the crown of tree and he and Lee had done a beautiful job already of carving several areas. Lee spent some time showing the specific tools that were used and answering questions about the carving. Marcus explained that he was able to obtain this very large juniper at House of Bonsai in Lakewood. It had been sitting there for a long while because it originally had many overly large branches in awkward positions. He explained how they turned those liabilities into assets and that they had left some of the work to be done so that the winner of the tree could put their personal stamp on it. That turned out to be me, much to my surprise and I'm very grateful to have this fine tree in my collection. We thank Marcus and Lee for a first rate demo.

Carol Upston





Pictures courtesy of Alsono Uribe

BADGE WINNER

DEMO WINNER

TISH MIYA

CAROL UPSTON

CONGRATULATIONS !!!



It's that time of the year, **DUES ARE DUE**. Your newsletter will discontinue if you have not renewed. **Contact Bill Hutchinson at the meeting or when making Annual Dues payments by mail, please use these directions:**

**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 is mandatory if you wish to receive a newsletter.***

**MAIL Checks To:**

**BILL HUTCHINSON**

**18317 COLVILLE STREET**

**FOUNTAIN VALLEY, CA. 92708**

If you joined during the months of Oct., Nov., or Dec. you are paid for 2012

**KOFU BONSAI KAI - BONSAI IDEAS**

**BY MARTY MANN**

**FEBRUARY, 2012 (#78)**

It's still too early to concern yourself about feeding the trees. It is a good time to prepare fertilizer supplies. Chemical and organic liquid fertilizers require no advance planning. They can be freshly mixed when you are ready to apply. If you are a user of the recommended dry mixes such as Cottonseed Meal (75%) with Bone Meal (25%), now is the time to make a supply. Keep the finished product in a dry place. If it gets wet it will begin to ferment and will drive you out of your home! Acid based fertilizers are best for azaleas and camellias as well as conifers and junipers. The idea, when feeding in early spring is *slow release*. Don't rush your trees into a spurt of new growth too soon.

During this 'idle' time, occupy yourself with a program of pot cleanup. All those pots that have been sitting around waiting for your repotting activities to begin, have probably accumulated layers of soil and salt deposits. Scrub them with a strong soapy solution and bleach. Apply a lime-off cleaner or a strong vinegar solution to the white spots, or just some elbow grease and cleanser. Try using one of the new Japanese erasers to work on the stubborn spots. Rinse the pots well. Allow them to dry in the full sun to prevent infestation carryover.

Don't overlook the last step in your pre-spring dress-up program. Look at all of the finished trees. Are the pots clean? Is the surface of each planting clear of winter trash and properly surfaced with fresh soil or dressed with D.G.? Are there signs of moss growth? Are the edges of the pots trimmed to allow a channel along the rim for drainage?

The tendency at this time of year, during the last months of dormancy, is to ignore normal bonsai care. Don't stop your regular routines. Watch for insect or fungus activities that silently harm the trees. Aphids, in particular, become active when the weather turns slightly warm. Look for these destructive wingless creatures that damage plants by sucking the juice out of new growth, causing twisting and curling effects. There are four kinds of aphids--the bright-green, the yellowish- melon, the reddish- brown and the almost black variety. The aphid nymphs are usually yellow-green and the adults are dark green. Control is relatively easy with most of the common brands of insecticides. Follow label directions to get the best results.

#### **HAIKU POEM**

As the sun does shine  
The birds, the bees arrive  
The bright day begins

**By Marty Mann**

<p>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 February - 2012</p>
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## ***UP COMING EVENTS***

***John Y. Naka Design Award:*** The American Bonsai Society in fellowship and remembrance of our American Grand Master is pleased to announce that the 2012 John Y. Naka award program is now open and accepting photographic entries from across the North American continent. The program is open to both professionals and hobbyists, competing separately, using either Native American plant material or plant material grown entirely in North America. All North American regional associations, local clubs, study groups and professional Bonsai educators are encouraged to enter trees of members or students of their organizations who exhibit the spirit of artistic design taught by John Naka. Entry deadline is April 1, 2012. Visit the ABS website at <http://absbonsai.org> for details.

**April 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 2012**

**Garden Grove, California**

**California Bonsai Society: 55th Convention and Show at the Crown Plaza** Anaheim Resort, 12021 Harbor Blvd. and starring the Iron Men of Naka, Frank Goya, Harry Hirao, Shig Miya, Ben Oki and Richard Ota. Also featuring Tomohiro Masumi, Ryan Neil, and Cheryl Manning, Kenji Miyata, David Nguy, Kathy Shaner and the members of CBS. There will be workshops, demonstrations, auctions, drawings, a huge vendor area and prizes & awards for early registrations. For registration information contact Elizabeth Partch at [elizabethpartch@yahoo.com](mailto:elizabethpartch@yahoo.com)

If you have not seen the complete program for the 55<sup>th</sup>, "The Iron Men", it can be seen at <http://californiabonsaisociety.com>

**April 26, 27, 28, 29, 2012**

**Orange Empire Bonsai Society Exhibition** – 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Spring Garden Show at the South Coast Plaza. For more information contact David Nadzam at [dnadzam@socal.rr.com](mailto:dnadzam@socal.rr.com) or 714-345-6966

## **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](mailto:bonsaitools@mindspring.com). He will bring them to the meetings. He will not be bringing his entire inventory to the meetings.

## **BONSAI-A-THON**



Cut out or print out badge for free admittance to Bonsai-A Thon

**February 25-26  
San Marino, California**

**GSBF Bonsai-A-Thon XVI at The Huntington Library and Botanical Gardens, 1151 Oxford Road.** This is the annual fundraiser for the GSBF Collection at The Huntington.

Admission to the event and to the Huntington Gardens is free with Bonsai-A-Thon "Early Bird" Registration. Hours are 7:30AM-4:30PM, both days. A pancake breakfast, a tour hosted by Jim Folsom (Director of the Garden), demonstrations, lunch, bonsai exhibits, large sales area, raffle, and an auction will all be featured. For more information contact Marge Blasingame, 626-579-0420 or [margeblasingame@att.net](mailto:margeblasingame@att.net)

***Special Thank You***

**January Raffle Donations:**

Manuel Martinez  
Carol Upston  
Harry Hirao  
Bill & Lois Hutchinson  
Don Martin  
Dave Miles  
Bob White  
John Deluca

**January Refreshments:**

Wendy Tsai  
Manuel Martinez  
Harry Hirao  
Tom Culton  
Ev & Sharyn Bassin  
Tish Miya

**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.**