

Kofu Bonsai Kai kofukai.org

May 2022 Newsletter

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

Saturday May 21 at 6 PM

Kofu welcomes Yannick Kiggen from Belgium Bring-A-Tree Critique

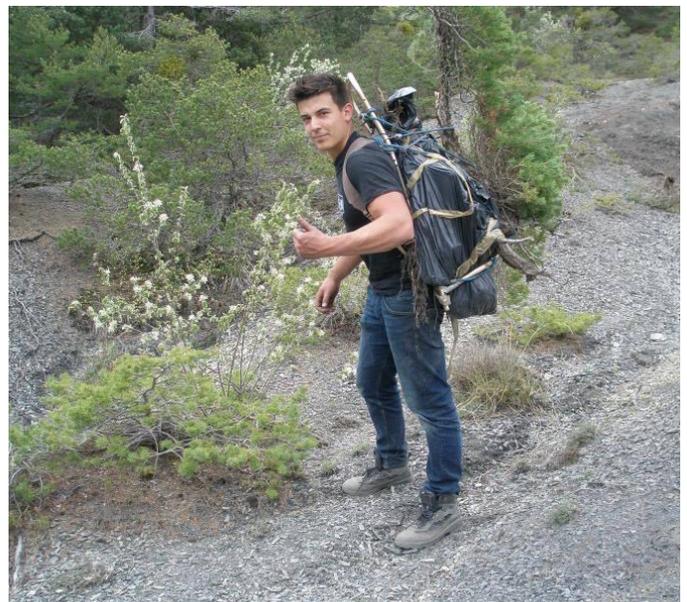


This month Kofu welcome CBS visiting artist Yannick Kiggen from Belgium. He has studied in Japan and has a well-respected bonsai school of his own, YAMA Bonsai Studio. Yannick is an in-demand demonstrator and instructor throughout Europe and we are lucky to have him visit our club, thanks to the CBS Visiting Artist program which funds the travel and housing expenses for artists and makes them available to local clubs for a reasonable cost. Here's a link to Yannick's site if you want to check it out. <http://www.yama-bonsai.be/> He and his studio can also be found on social media. He collects yamadori and works on many different kinds of material.

Yannick says he has been passionate about bonsai since the age of 10 and started his training two years later with lessons from various bonsai masters including Kunio

Kobayashi, Takeo Kawabe, Hotsumi Terakawa, Mario Komsta, Bonsai Studio Momiji, Pius Notter, Francois Jeker. He has also participated in various exhibitions such as the Noelanders Trophy, the Ginkgo Award, and the European Bonsai San show.

This will be a critique where you have a chance to bring in a tree or piece of bonsai materiel to get help and advice from an accomplished and knowledgeable bonsai artist. You can see by looking at Yannik's Facebook posts that he is experienced with junipers of all sorts as well as pines and some oaks and possibly olives. Please contact David Melitz to bring a tree dmelitz@uci.edu



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Our April demonstration by Ron Espiritu and Gabriel Gonzales featured a styling of a very nice protulacaria afra which was potted into a pot made by Gabriel and included in the raffle. The audience got to vote on which pot it went into and the tree was won by Bill Ward. That would have made for an outstanding evening's entertainment but this demo was much more. Ron gave a very interesting talk and slide presentation that touched on his teaching of ethnic studies in the public schools and featured bonsai created in the California internment camps which housed Japanese American citizens during WWII. One of the reasons I devote time and energy to the bonsai community is that it is a place

where all kinds of people can get to know each other on neutral ground. Bonsai is, among other great things, a place where we spend time with people we would otherwise never even meet; an activity that brings people together in a world with many opportunities to be pulled further apart. Thank you Ron and Gabriel for this surprising and interesting evening.



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Save the Date!

Kofu Kai Benefit Auction Returns!

Saturday, June 18 at 6:30 PM; drop-off of
auction items begins at 5 pm.

Anaheim United Methodist Church
100 S. State College Blvd.

This is our main fundraiser of the year and your support is greatly appreciated. We all have trees, pots, plant material, etc. that we are no longer actively working on. Why not pass that along to someone else and benefit the club at the same time. Please look around your yard and bring a donation or ten to help support the great programming provided by Kofu Kai.

Featuring the bonsai pot collection of the late Manny Martinez and the David Nguy demo tree.

We accept cash, checks and cards



Support your Club

Kofu Kai is a small organization. It costs an astonishing amount to put on our meetings every month. There's the cost of the room, liability insurance, fees to demonstrators, storage and so on. If you add it up it can cost at least \$500 for each month's meeting. Our fundraising has been limited by the covid situation and we need to increase our revenue. Please seriously consider bringing raffle donations and also please buy raffle tickets. Maybe you don't want anything on the raffle table; that's ok. You can gift your tickets to someone else at the meeting or just not put them in the drum. Think of raffle tickets as paying a small donation to help defray the cost of meetings.

We will be having a major benefit auction at the June meeting. Our benefit auctions are a great way to not only support the club but to obtain bonsai material and pots at a great price.

Now is the time to take a look around your yard and find the things you can donate to be auctioned. Maybe they are things you just never seem to get around to or that you have had your fun with and are ready to pass on to someone else. Maybe it's a weird pot that you can never find a tree to fit.

You get the picture, so have a look around. The tree styled by David Nguy at the March meeting will be featured in the auction.

One of our major expenses is storage. We pay a lot to store our display materials and some bonsai pot donations. It would save the club over \$1000 a year if we could find free storage. If you have a property where we could place a shed or have space that we could use please contact us.

The Ben Oki Scholarship

California Bonsai Society is proud to announce The Ben Oki Bonsai Scholarship Fund.

The California Bonsai Society (CBS) has set up a scholarship fund to honor Ben Oki: a man who devoted most of his life to enjoying and sharing bonsai. Ben was happiest when he was sharing his knowledge or working on a tree. To honor Ben's generous spirit, we will be making two \$1000 grants available to anyone in the bonsai community to be used to attend classes, workshops, studying with a professional, or other bonsai-related educational activity. Winners will be expected to do something to give back to the bonsai community in some way such as a club demonstration or online video showing what they've learned as a result of receiving the scholarship.

To apply, send an email to CaliforniaBonsaiSociety123@earthlink.net.

In that email, explain what you intend to do with the money to improve your bonsai skills, and what you will commit to doing to give back to the bonsai community. Be creative!

Applicants who receive scholarships agree that, in return for these funds, within 15 days of completing classes (or whichever activity they put this scholarship toward) they will provide photos and a short write-up of their experience using the scholarship that will be published on the California Bonsai Society website newsletter.

The application period will be from May 1 through May 30 annually with the scholarships awarded on June 15. Applications will be accepted from anyone in the bonsai community. Awarding of the scholarships will be by decision of a committee of California Bonsai Society Board members after going through all applicants. All committee decisions are final.



Also This Month

Santa Anita Bonsai Society
Annual Show

Memorial Weekend
May 28, 29, 30

Los Angeles County Arboretum
301 N. Baldwin Ave.
Arcadia 91007

Please visit the SABS website for information on
hours and getting into the show.

sabonsai.org