

KOFU BONSAI KAI KOFUKAI.ORG

NOVEMBER 2019 NEWSLETTER

Place Your 2020 Calendar Orders at this Meeting! or email carolupston@icloud.com asap!

Saturday November 16 at 7:00 PM

Anaheim United Methodist Church, 1000 S. State College Blvd., Anaheim, east classroom

Donations to the raffle and refreshment table are always welcome!

Kofu Kai welcomes California Bonsai Society guest artist **Todd Schlafer**



Todd's interest in bonsai began on a trip to Spain in 2002 when he purchased a bonsai seed kit. When it didn't grow a great bonsai in a matter of a few months, he decided to explore nearby nurseries for older material. This eventually led him to Harold Sasaki, proprietor of Colorado Bonsai, who allowed him to volunteer at his nursery. He did everything from pulling weeds to eventually styling trees.

Todd's obsession with collecting trees formed shortly thereafter, as Jerry Morris, another regular at Colorado Bonsai, invited him on a collecting trip to Utah. He learned

very quickly that basic design principles did not necessarily apply to collected material with sparse foliage and unconventional branches. Therefore, in 2012 he decided to further his studies with Ryan Neil to learn how to style and develop material of this caliber.

His study with Ryan focused on the advanced techniques of setting tree structure, which is the most difficult skill set to achieve in bonsai and refinement. Todd pushed himself to become proficient those techniques. With his skills well rounded, he was inspired to pursue bonsai practice full-time. And when others began to seek out his expertise, he started to instruct professionally.

People often ask Todd, 'is working on bonsai relaxing and Zen-like?' "Refining trees and maintaining foliage most certainly is", Todd responds. "But while setting the initial structure of a collected tree isn't remotely relaxing, when done correctly it's one of the most fulfilling aspects of bonsai design. Watching the tree flourish following such work can be unbelievably rewarding."

The Tree. Todd will be demonstrating on a beautiful California juniper which was donated to Kofu Kai by Dave Miles, president of the Santa Anita Bonsai Society. It's a very large juniper with good

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movement and age, a very generous gift. The tree will be in the 2020 Kofu Kai benefit auction next August. I hope to see many of you attending the annual Santa Anita show next year and supporting their club. They will have a nice club sales area and there are always good bargains to be had on trees and fine material as well as pots and viewing stones. Our bonsai community survives on donations of time, materials and money and it is a reciprocal community. I am a dues paying member of Santa Anita and show a tree in their exhibit. I buy material from their sale table. It's my way of supporting them and thanking them for their support of Kofu Kai. Please consider doing the same and mark your calendar for the Santa Anita Bonsai Society show and sale on Saturday, Sunday and Monday of the Memorial Day weekend at the Los Angeles County Arboretum on Baldwin Avenue in Arcadia. This suggestion of course applies to all of our local clubs, Orange County Bonsai Society, Orange Empire Bonsai Society, Dai Ichi Bonsai Kai, California Bonsai Society, Baikoen Bonsai Kenkyukai, Descanso Bonsai Society. They support us, lets make sure we give back.

To view Todd's portfolio and see a sample of the collected material he has to offer, please visit his site -firstbranchbonsai.com

Achievements

- Participated in Generation Bonsai which is held in Heidelberg Germany
- Was a featured artist on the Bonsai Empire live Q&A on Facebook
- Was featured on the Bonsai Mirai Livestream in April of 2017 <https://live.bonsaimirai.com/archive/video/energy-distribution>
- Past President of the Rocky Mountain Bonsai Society
- Rocky Mountain Bonsai Society's Artist of the Year - 2012
- Exhibitor at The Artisans Cup in Portland, Oregon - 2015
- Won Best North American Species award for my Colorado Blue Spruce at the National Bonsai Exhibition in Rochester, New York - 2016
- Recipient of the Malcolm Corel Award, an honor given to a member of the Rocky Mountain Bonsai Society from their peers - 2017

References: Ryan Neil of Bonsai Mirai: ryan@bonsaimirai.com or 503-396-6219

Kofu Kai Christmas Party

Pot Luck Dinner and the Biggest Raffle of the Year!
Join us on Saturday, December 21 from 12 - 3 pm

Saint Wilfrid's Episcopal Church
18631 Chapel Lane
Huntington Beach 92646

It's a pot Luck

Kofu Kai will supply a turkey, a ham and beverages
Please bring your favorite side dish, finger food, salad,
dessert, chicken wings or whatever and we'll make this
a grand feast.

Donate to the raffle

This will be our largest raffle of the year and our elves
are out shopping right now for prizes. Please donate
to the raffle and help make it truly amazing!

2020 Calendars must be pre-ordered. You can pay on delivery. Contact carolupston@icloud.com or call 310-346-4203 to order your calendars!

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The Future

Saturday November 16

Kofu Kai welcomes
CBS Visiting Artist
Todd Schlafer who will style
a very special California juniper which was
donated to Kofu Kai
by Dave Miles. It's a magnificent tree and
will be featured in our August 2020 benefit
auction.

Sunday December 1 at 9:00 AM

California Bonsai Society annual members
sale at Yamaguchi Bonsai Nursery
905 Sawtelle Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90025
Payment by check only

Saturday December 21

12 noon to 3 PM
Kofu Kai annual pot luck
Christmas Party and benefit drawing
St. Wilfrid's Episcopal Church
18631 Chapel Lane
Huntington Beach 92646
you bring food, we supply beverages

January 2020

There is no Kofu Kai meeting in January so
that we can go to the Baikoen show and
reception.

January 18 - 19

Baikoen Bonsai Kenkyukai
Silhouettes Show
at the Los Angeles Arboretum
Baldwin Ave., Arcadia
Fabulous reception on Saturday evening after
6, club sales and other vendors
demonstrations at 1 PM both days

February 15

Kofu Kai welcomes CBS Visiting Artist
Sergio Cuan

February 22 - 23

Kofu Bonsai Kai hosts the
Bonsai-A-Thon!!!
Huntington Botanic Gardens

March 21

Will Baddeley Carving Demo
at Kofu Bonsai Kai

Late March

California Bonsai Society
Annual Exhibit and reception at the
Huntington

April 5, 2020

Kofu Kai at the Bower's Museum
Spring Festival

April 4 - 5 2020

the Green Scene
Fullerton Arboretum

April 18, 2020

Sam Adina, Olives

Early May

Dai Ichi Bonsai Kai annual show
Serenity Through Bonsai
Nakaoka Community Center
Gardena

May 16

Kofu welcomes CBS visiting artist
Marjia Hardic

May 23,24,25

Santa Anita Bonsai Society show and sale
Los Angeles Arboretum
Arcadia

June 20

Kofu meeting TBA

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Debra Mauzy Melitz

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Our October meeting featured bonsai stalwart Mel Ikeda who explained and demonstrated the fascinating and useful raft technique. He began with a procumbens nana juniper that had grown many extended branches and he thoughtfully designed a forest style planting by turning the juniper on its side and arranging the branches as trunks.

Thank you very much Mel for a very interesting evening and warmest congratulations to Bob Warner for winning the raft.

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