

The Kofu Kai Review

The Monthly Newsletter of the Kofu Kai Bonsai Club

Meeting Time and Place

JULY 20, 2013 at 7:00 p.m.

Anaheim Methodist Church, 1000 South State College Blvd, Anaheim



JULY MEETING



We are pleased to present again to the Kofu Kai membership, Roy Nagatoshi. Roy is the owner and operator of Fuji Bonsai Nursery which was started in 1965 by his father Shigeru. Roy travels the world headlining and conducting demonstrations on a wide variety of Bonsai subjects. He invites Kofu Kai members to bring in a tree where he will critique and conduct a workshop with the member during the club meeting. Please contact myself at info@reekersart.com or call [714-585-6770](tel:714-585-6770) if you wish to bring a tree. I encourage you to take part in this exciting opportunity and to welcome Roy

Ron

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WWW.KOFUKAI.ORG

It's that time, the Kofu Bonsai Kai Annual Auction! AUGUST MEETING

A great opportunity to make room in your yard, donate that item and support Kofu Kai

We all have plants sitting around our yards being watered and cared for that we just aren't using to their full bonsai potential. Maybe your taste has changed, or you want to downsize your collection or you've had your fun with a particular tree and are over it. Why not pass that plant along to someone who will develop it and in the process support your club the programs and activities that you enjoy! And don't limit yourself to plants; think about pots, books, tools, whatever it is we'll auction it for the benefit of your club. Go on, get out there and rummage around!

June Meeting



David Nguy Masters Black Pine

At our June meeting David Nguy talked about the care and training of black pine. He brought two magnificent pines that he has trained. One was in the process of having its candles pruned in stages, the other had been damaged by spider mites and showed how much damage to your trees can be caused by this almost invisible pest.

David went through the process of candle pruning, assuring us that although black pine has a reputation for being difficult, it grows well in our climate and if you understand candle pruning, is easy to train compared to many other trees because it only needs pruning twice a year.

The important thing is to understand the timing of candle cutting and needle pulling and follow the schedule consistently. This will result in smaller needles, good ramification, and a good balance of strength and vigor over the entire tree.

David likes to feed his black pines well in April so that they will have a healthy surge of growth before he cuts candles during June or July. He prefers organic slow release food for bonsai in training to avoid pushing coarse growth, which can happen if you give too much nitrogen. However, if the tree is still in the pre-bonsai stage and you are trying to increase its size as fast as possible, commercial fertilizers can help push fast growth.]

David wants everyone to understand that if you are trying to increase the size of a trunk, you need to let a lead, apex branch grow upward unchecked till you achieve the trunk mass you want. You can also begin to build the lower branch structures while this growth is happening. Always be sure your lower branches are getting lots of light to keep them strong. The tendency of a tree that is rapidly getting taller and larger is to add more growth toward the top and weaken the lower branches.

You can decandle and pull excess older needles from early June through August. See the pdf hand-out below for an explanation and diagram of cutting the candles.

Black pine has two growth periods each year. The tree wakes up in late winter/early spring and starts to grow. The candles that grow in the first part of the year are the ones we cut in June-August. We also reduce the old needles. After we cut, new buds begin to form at the cut. This is the second phase of growth which continues till November when the growth slows during winter. In December/January we choose which of the new buds to keep. By then we can tell which are strong and weak. We remove the strongest and weakest buds and keep a pair of sideways facing buds. The cycle begins again.

Another important thing David said was that the best time to wire your pine is right after you cut the candles and reduce needles. This is because after you cut candles, all the needles left on the tree are mature and tough. If you try to wire the tree when new and tender needles are growing you will easily break and damage the needles.

One of the fine pines David brought as examples was originally a large landscape tree. This brought up the question of when to chop back large pines to begin training them as bonsai. David warns that if you do this kind of severe cut back on a black pine in the hot season, the risk of it dying is much higher. He recommends waiting till the coldest part of the year to do a big chopping. He also recommends reducing the roots also if you will be removing more than half of the original tree.

David demonstrated wiring and styling on a small pine that he has been developing for a number of years. Bill Hutchinson was the lucky winner of the tree.

An interesting side note to David's demo was a report by program chair Ron Reekers on his recent visit to Masahiko Kimura sensei in Japan. Ron was delivering several gifts from David and his wife June to Mr. Kimura. Several years ago, David was invited to study with him in Japan, which is a great honor and was able to go there and study for several months. Ron and his wife arrived at Mr. Kimura's nursery with no great expectations, having heard from many people that he rarely has time to greet people personally. They were very surprised and pleased to be invited to join him for tea during which Mr. Kimura expressed his great fondness and respect for David and June. We are fortunate to have David here to teach us some of the subtleties of the art of bonsai.

Black Pine Pruning

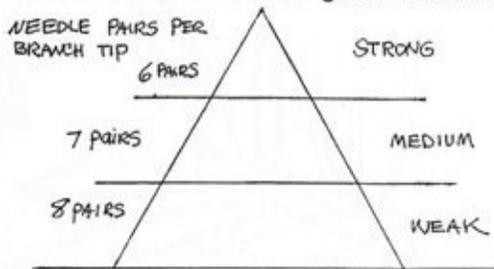
By David Nguy

We prune black pine in order to create ramification and to balance the strength of the tree between strong and weak areas.

Black pine puts out new growth twice a year, in early spring and again in mid summer. Trimming the shoots at the right place and at the right time is the key to developing and maintaining a black pine bonsai.

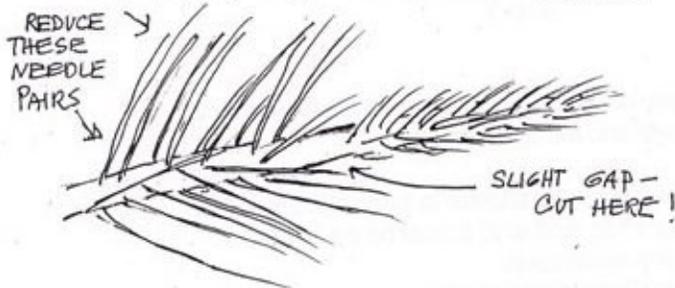
Zones of Strength

We imagine the tree divided into three zones. The top third is the strong zone, the middle third is the medium-strong zone and the lower third is the weak zone.



Stage One: Starting June 1st and through the End of July

In our climate this phase of trimming can be carried out in the time between the first of June and the end of July. Cut the candles in the slight gap between the early spring new growth and last summers growth.



First day: cut candles in weak zone and reduce needle pairs to 8.

10 days later: cut candles in medium zone and pull all but 7 pairs of needles.

10 days later: cut candles in strong zone and pull all but 6 pairs of needles.

Make sure the needle pairs you leave on the candle are pointing in the direction you want new buds to grow.

Then **leave it alone to grow**. New buds will form just below the cut with buds emerging from some of the needle pairs you left intact. Let all the buds grow and strengthen the tree. As they grow, you can see which buds are strongest, which are weakest.

I hope that his black pine demos will encourage more of you to work with this material.

Carol Upston

CONGRATULATIONS



Demo Tree Winner Bill Hutchinson

BADGE WINNER

Ryan Cali

NEW MEMBERS WELCOME

James Reese

Say hello to them when you see them

KOFU BONSAI KAI - BONSAI IDEAS

BY MARTY MANN

JULY, 2013

Summertime reduces the need to do any serious 'training' of bonsai. It's a period of watchful attention to the results of earlier care. July is the month to plan for the summer season changes of activities related to care and feeding of bonsai. Start a program that will provide fall colors by reducing the nitrogen content of your fertilizer. Continued use of the standard cottonseed/bone meal (70/30%) will provide most of the nutrients required for summer growth and good health. Introduce a change in food by using half strength liquid Hi-Bloom (2-2-10) that provides an excellent source of phosphorus. Continue to feed all conifers and other evergreen material to promote good summer health. Regular feedings of milder solutions are in order.

Regular feeding during the hot summer months can also be supplemented by early morning refreshing foliar feeding of Miracle-Gro or a diluted solution of fish emulsion. Avoid daytime heat. Allow wet foliage to dry during the day to prevent night forming fungus infection. A brisk spraying of your trees before feeding will remove dust layers and discourage red spider, mites, ants and other insects. Be sure to spray both the top and the bottom of the foliage.

Watering is an important summer chore. Warm summer breezes encourage high levels of moisture expiration through healthy leaf surfaces. For balanced plant health a change in watering schedules consistently renews this moisture. Avoid wetting the leaves during the warm days- for two good reasons:

- Daytime water that adheres to leaves can literally cook them and cause severe leaf burn. If overhead watering is unavoidable, do so early in the morning to give time for surface evaporation.
- Excessive moisture in the crotch of leaf clusters or on their undersides creates environments that are ideal for the formation of fungus and the related health threatening damages.

Be reminded that summer vacationing puts an additional burden on your 'bonsai sitters'. A suggestion would be to let them water your trees for a few days before you leave to be sure that they are following your instructions. Trees requiring special care should be grouped together to simplify attention. Don't trust your automatic watering system without the back up of someone who can check from time to time to see if all is well. Try forming a mutual watering pact with fellow bonsaiists. You do for them when you can and they will do

for you. It's a great working arrangement and considerably safer than trusting your 'babies' to strangers.

Repotting ficus, pomegranates or other warm weather tropicals is encouraged at this time. Avoid most other transplanting activity during warm weather. Watch for wire cutting conditions. As bonsai matures in the summer growing period it does so primarily on its woody surfaces.

Chewing insects are hard at work eating their way thru leaves and stems. Spray with Sevin. Mites are also active during warm weather months. Discourage them with a good miticide or one of the new combination fungicides/insecticide products now on the market.. A small amount of Volck Oil with these products creates better adhesion.

Approach your summer activity with an eye to enjoyment of the form and color of the trees. Fall will come soon enough if you keep up with summertime care.

HAIKU POEM:

Full days with hot sun
Bonsai-ing with great pleasure
Why complain - love it

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 July -2013</p>

UP COMING EVENTS

Bowers Museum Show, September 10-15. Please mark this on your calendar and start preparing your tree. If you wish to display please contact our show chair people Anthony Chiusolo or Michael Viljak. For those who displayed last year and wish to do so again please have a different tree as we will be having the show professionally photographed, for a new calendar and upcoming book

October 30 – November 3, 2013 Burbank, California

Golden State Bonsai Federation (GSBF) Convention XXXVI “Bonsai Artist Studio: Outside the Box” will be held at Marriott Hotel Los Angeles Burbank Airport. Headliners David DeGroot, Suthin Sukosolvisit and Peter Warren. Wonderful offsite field trips on Wednesday, October 30. Convention to be held Friday, October 31 through Sunday, November 3, 2013. Be sure to watch for pre-convention tours and activities. Visit our convention website <http://www.gsbf-bonsai.org/convention>

Nambu Kai Bonsai Show August 17th and 18th. From 10am to 5pm at the Japanese American Cultural Center, 244 S. San Pedro St., LA

Special Thank You

April Refreshments:

Gary & Dee Cleaveland
Justine Keller
Dr. Walter Johnson
Helen Ho
Harry Hirao
Tom Culton

April Donations:

Harry Hirao
An Truong
Bill & Lois Hutchinson
Kaz Hosozawa
Elizabeth Parth
Rishi Bissoon
David & June Nguy

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.**