

The Kofu Kai Review

The Monthly Newsletter of the Kofu Bonsai Kai Club

MEETING TIME and PLACE

April 18, 2015, at 7:00 pm

Anaheim Methodist Church, 1000 South State College Blvd, Anaheim



APRIL 18 DEMONSTRATOR

MICHAEL SYKES



We have the pleasure of welcoming **Michael Sykes** as our next demonstrator for the Kofu Kai Bonsai Club. **Michael** is a major figure in the bonsai communities of San Diego and has been a demonstrator at events in Los Angeles such as the Bonsai-A-Thon. **Michael** has over 20 years of experience in bonsai, working under **Fred Miyahara**, and currently working with **Kenji Miyata**. Like many of us, he started by joining a bonsai club (San Diego Bonsai Club) and began to take beginner's classes. He advanced in the club to eventually take on the task as President. Though he is no longer President of the club, he still helps with the Club's classes and general business. **Michael** will be taking his extensive knowledge and will demonstrate at the April meeting the various stages of bonsai development, particularly using *foemina juniper* as a material. He will show you what to look for, how to approach nursery material, and how to develop the tree to be a well thought out Bonsai. He is generously donating the tree to the raffle. Please welcome **Michael** with your attendance to this rare demo opportunity in April.

-Ron Reekers

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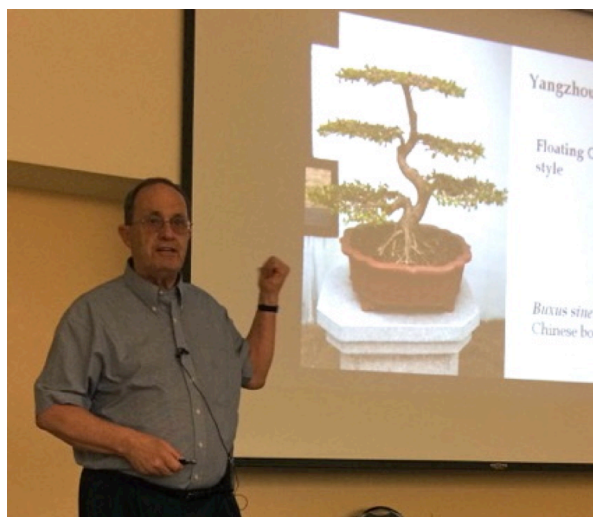
Workshops:

Bill Vincent

Bill Ward

WWW.KOFUKAI.ORG

Photo by Carol Upston



March Demonstrator **DR. THOMAS ELIAS**

We would like to thank everybody for joining us this past Saturday for **Dr. Thomas Elias's** presentation on the history and development of *Penjing*. As the former director of the United States National Arboretum and the author of many books and articles, **Dr. Elias** had a wealth of information to share with the club.

Dr. Elias and his wife **Hiromi** prepared a great presentation and slideshow going over the history and development of *penjing*. His presentation discussed the development of *penjing* from

ancient artwork featuring pictures of potted plants to the present, where we now see the fusion of both Chinese *penjing* and Japanese bonsai. **Dr. Elias** discussed the evolution of simple potted trees to styled and shaped trees over the course of 3000 years. His presentation also showed how relics gave us glimpses toward the development of styled trees. By following evidence of potted trees, we could see how it developed over time.

He discussed the prevalent schools of *penjing* styles at the time and how their influence still continue to shape the way that we train our trees today. One of the most interesting topics that was covered was the effect of politics and war and the impact they had on the art and development over the course of time. He explained how many caretakers of trees risked their lives to preserve the art.

As the world changed and influence spread, he explained how the world was formally introduced to the art of *penjing* and bonsai through many expositions in which many countries would display aspects of their culture, of them being *penjing* and bonsai. As the cultures and countries interacted more, he explained that the styles started to blend together, something that continues to this day.

Dr. Tom Elias is currently the president of Bonsai Clubs International. For more information, please visit <http://www.bonsai-bci.com/>. They have a great publication that features many articles on techniques as well as international events, including an upcoming event in Guangzhou, China, September 17-21, 2015. www.gzbci2015.com

-Jason Chan



INFORMATION ON WORM CASTINGS

Ginger Ragazzi mentioned at a previous meeting how to buy fresh worm casts in a large bag at a reasonable price. Here is the information on how to obtain the worm casts. Call ahead to have the worm casts bagged and ready for pick up.

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3RD L.A. BONSAI SWAPMEET

SUNDAY APRIL 12, FROM 10:00 TO 3:00

JESSE OWENS PARK

7100 WHITE OAK AVENUE, RESEDA, CA 91335

South of Sherman Way on White Oak Avenue

Come out and enjoy a day of buying, selling or swapping bonsai trees, tools, pots and paraphernalia with the Los Angeles Bonsai Community. Everybody is welcome and there is no charge to attend or participate.

If you plan to sell please arrive between 8 am - 10 am to unload on the east side of the park on Jellico Avenue and then move your vehicle further down the block to allow others access to loading and unloading.

Come out and see what may be available for you to experience in this 2nd great bonsai community event.

YOU CAN VISIT THE LA BONSAI COMMUNITY SWAPMEET TO TELL US WHAT YOU'RE BRINGING

<https://www.facebook.com/#!/groups/983584171671710/?fref=ts>

Disclaimer: This event is set up and produced by the Los Angeles bonsai community in general and is not club or federation sponsored. Individuals are responsible for any applicable taxes and methods of payment. The organizers of this event are not responsible for the outcomes of any transaction and no guarantees are implied. For more info contact Keith Martin.

KOFU BONSAI KAI - BONSAI IDEAS

BY MARTY MANN

APRIL

New candles that have begun to form on older pines can be cut back in April but wait another month before you work on younger trees. Candles generally form twice a year, in April and August. They form in clusters of from 2 to 5. Usually one will dominate. Retain one as leader and another to form the side branch. Always remove the largest candle but don't cut the other candles until needles just begin to open and expand. This timing prevents excessively long internodes between last year's branch tip and the new needle growth. Reduce watering somewhat to slow down the new growth but don't allow the fine rootage to dry. Keep pine needles short and strong.

This is a serious time to seek and destroy plant pests. The prolific aphid has come to life. Chewers, suckers and borers are all back in action. White flies, mealy bugs, spider mites and scale are all out to get us. Use systemic action insecticides, such as Isotex, as well as the reliable Malathion and Seven sprays. Damage cannot always be seen unless you examine the plant carefully. Sucking causes leaves to change color and drop. Read the pesticide labels to see what is best for your problems.

As spring growth develops, special attention should be given to continued good watering habits. We may face watering restrictions and should be selective as to time and method in order not to waste it's important benefits. Consider minimizing your automated systems in order to apply water more directly to each tree rather than the bench or area in which it is located. Consider watering early in the morning or late in the day in order to minimize evaporation losses. If plants have just been repotted, hold back on excessive watering since the newly developing rootage cannot dispose of moisture through new and sparse leaf growth. Transpiration is minimal. Older, more established trees need more water since they are usually root bound and are always thirsty. Don't overlook drainage. Water usually kills more trees than any other condition.

Bring most trees out into the open. While new growth requires sunlight and warmth it can become unseasonably warm causing new sprouts to grow actively. Then consider moving deciduous trees back into a partially shaded area until the new growth has hardened. Keep trees well spaced to allow free air circulation and light penetration.

Potted trees build up salts due to our more alkaline water. An additive of a soil sulfur or gypsum helps offset this condition by allowing more acidity to service the plants. Alkaline soil tends to reduce the color in the leaves of trees. If rain or your use of dionized water causes too much acidity, apply some wood ash or lime to sweeten the soil.

The love of nature is rewarded by the love of bonsai. Enjoy the fresh colors of spring and the new foliage before the heat of summer arrives.

HAIKU POEM :

We live in a land of awe

To see and enjoy

What pleasures we are given

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 April -2012

CALENDAR of EVENTS

- April 12 **3RD L.A. Bonsai Swap Meet** 10 am to 3 pm at Jesse Owens Park, 7100 White Oak Avenue, Reseda, CA 91335 (south of Sherman Way on White Oak Avenue. If you plan to sell, please arrive between 8 am to 10 am to unload on the east side of the park on Jellico Avenue. Then move your vehicle further down the block to allow others access to load and unload.
- April 17-19 **Green Scene at the Fullerton Arboretum:** Kofu Bonsai Kai will have an informational table/booth set up. Set up is on Friday, April 17 and goes through Sunday, April 19. Contact Carol Upston at carolupston@me.com if you'd like to join in the fun.
- April 25-26 **San Diego Bonsai Club** 50th Anniversary Spring Show, 10 am to 5 pm and demonstrations at 11 am and 1 pm both days, at Casa Del Prado, Room 101, Balboa Park. Bonsai trees, plant material and other related items for sale. Bring a dessert for their reception.
- June 13-14 **Descanso Bonsai Society** 46th annual exhibit, 9 am to 4 pm and demonstrations at 11 am and 1:30 pm both days, in Van De Kamp Hall, Descanso Gardens, 1418 Descanso Drive, La Cañada Flintridge 91011. Reception on Saturday night 6 pm to 7 pm with raffle at 8 pm. Bonsai trees, pots, bonsai stock and accessories will be for sale. All events are free with garden admission.
- August 16-17 **Nanpu Kai** annual bonsai exhibit as part of Nisei Week, 10 am to 5 pm both days, at the Japanese American Cultural Center, 244 South San Pedro Street, Los Angeles.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

MAYUMI HASHIMOTO *and* BILL OSTER

SPECIAL THANK YOU

March Refreshments:

Tish Miya, Dan and Wanda Danesi,
Wendy Tsai

Raffle Donations:

Carol Upston, Bill and Lois Hutchinson,
Dan and Wanda Danesi, Rishi Bissoon.

PRE-MEETING WORKSHOP

There will be a pre-meeting workshop from 4 pm-6 pm before the April 18 meeting. Let expert Kofu members help you with your bonsai questions and objectives. Bring your tree in to get it spruced up for the annual exhibit.