

# The Kofu Kai Review

The Monthly Newsletter of the Kofu Kai Bonsai Club



## Meeting Time and Place

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

Anaheim Methodist Church, 1000 South State College Blvd, Anaheim

## APRIL MEETING



*Larry Ragle is a founding member of Kofu Kai and a special mentor to many bonsai enthusiasts within our community of bonsai artists. He began his love of bonsai having seen a bonsai exhibit at the 1962 World's Fair in Seattle. Soon bonsai became his passion which developed into a great appreciation of these beautiful small trees, and very importantly helped with stress in his professional life. He was a founding member with Harry Hirao of Kofu Kai club so he has a special relationship with us members past and present. He has a love of shohin which he will talk about as well as how to properly display your trees. He will be presenting a brief retrospective of Harry and transform an olive into a shohin for the raffle. Please join us in our appreciation for a long time member and mentor of Kofu Bonsai Kai.*

Ron Reekers

## Executive Board

### Officers

#### Founding President:

Harry Hirao 714-847-1832

#### President

Manuel Martinez 949-770-9633

#### Vice President

Carol Upston 310-346-4203

#### Recording Secretary

Joe Szabo 312-523-3532

#### Treasurer:

An D. Truong 714-932-1244

#### Past President

Paul De Rose

#### Board of Directors

Larry Ragle 949-497-5626

## Committees

#### Auction

Bill Hutchinson 714-964-6973

#### Badges

Lois Hutchinson 714-964-6973

#### Benefit Drawing

Dan & Wanda 714-826-5024  
Danesi

#### Bus Trip

Nina Ragle 949-497-5626

#### Meeting Refreshments

Helen Ho 714-828-9852

#### Membership

Bill Hutchinson 714-964-6973

#### Newsletter Editor

Cheryl Chassagne 949-770-9633

#### Pre-Meeting Workshop

Al Nelson 949-854-2681

#### Program

Ron Reekers 714-585-6770

#### Publicity

Open

#### Show Co-Chairs

Anthony Chiusolo 714-998-3420

Mike Viljak 949-642-3577

#### Sunshine

Marybel 714-524-0275  
Balendonk

#### Website

Open

**WWW.KOFUKAI.ORG**

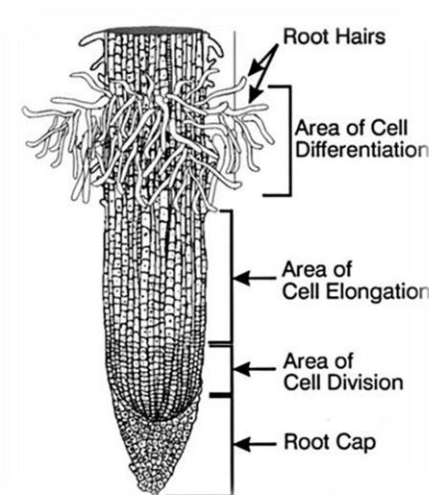
# March Meeting



**The Science of Bonsai:** by Ryan Nichols

## Notes for Roots Presentation

- Root tip anatomy:
  - Roots hairs are responsible for the water and nutrient uptake.
  - Root hairs are short lived and are found the fine feeder roots.
- Optimal temperatures for maximum root
  - Root activity temperature range: 43-
  - Maximum root growth temperature climate species 55-70°F, warm climate 85°F)
- Repotting vs. transplanting
  - Repotting involves extensive roots, through pruning and soil Should only be done at the right time under the right set of conditions (mild weather).
  - Transplanting involves moving a plant from one location/pot to another with little to not root disturbance or root pruning. Can be done carefully any time of year.
- Why repot? 4 main reasons
  - Increase soil porosity/maintain good drainage
  - Increase plant vigor
  - Replace structural roots with feeder roots
  - Change planting angle
- When to repot?
  - Spring is best



majority of all  
at the tips of  
growth:  
90°F  
ranges: (cool  
species 70-  
disturbance of  
removal.  
of year and

- Exact time varies among species and can even vary among plants
- Consider the cost benefit of leaves to roots
- Never replot a dehydrated tree! Soil should be moist rather than dry.
- Aftercare of newly repotted trees
  - One of the most important and most frequently over looked practices of bonsai is proper aftercare after extensive work such as styling or repotting.
  - Provide the best practices to maintain humidity around leaves and roots, allowing the roots to regenerate under minimal stress.
- Soil
  - Purposes of soil are to provide structural support, water, and nutrients
  - Ideal soil conditions for optimal plant growth are 25% water, 25% air, 50% mineral or soil particles.
  - Cation exchange capacity= soil nutrient holding capacity. Clay (found in akadama and other product such as calcined clay) had the highest nutrient holding capacity other than organic matter.
- Bonsai Soil
  - Bonsai soil should provide plants with all their basic soil requirement needs: structural support, water, and nutrient holding capacity.
  - Capillary action (small spaces hold water tighter than large spaces) works in bonsai soils just as in normal soils.
- Drainage Layer???
- Does a course layer of soil at the bottom of a bonsai pot help water to drain more? No. Due to capillary action water will be held in the soil directly above the course so called *drainage layer* until enough water builds up and gravity forces water to move from the finer soil layer through the course soil layer.
- So why does the drainage layer seem to yield good results if it doesn't provide more drainage? The answer is found in USGA golf course putting greens! [The perched water table](http://www.turfdiag.com/perched_water_table.htm) (http://www.turfdiag.com/perched\_water\_table.htm)
- As bonsai soils are course enough and provide more than adequate drainage, the *drainage layer* allows additional water to be held (perched) in the finer soil layer above, providing a water reservoir for bonsai trees between watering.
- The *drainage layer* helps our plants thrive, but needs to be named for what it actually does!

CONGRATULATIONS

BADGE WINNER

Sorry, name was lost

## *NEW MEMBERS WELCOME*

*James & Marina Joyce*

Say hello to them when you see them

### **KOFU BONSAI KAI - BONSAI IDEAS**

**BY MARTY MANN**

**APRIL, 2013 (#80)**

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 its 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 deionized 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**

<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 April -2012</p>
---

## ***UP COMING EVENTS***

**South Coast Plaza Spring Garden Show 2013**, this show features 3-floors of gardening, horticulture and anything else in between. If you can make it to the show, you should try. Orange Empire Bonsai Society will be conducting our annual exhibition during the 4 days of the show and on Saturday, 27 Apr 2013 from 6:00pm to 8:00pm Mr. Frank Goya will be conducting a seminar, demonstration on Saikei. California Bonsai will be at the show with trees and supplies. And this year is the first year that The House of Bonsai will be a joining the show. Admission is free.

**Dai Ichi Bonsai Kai**, annual exhibit, "Serenity through Bonsai" on May 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>, at Ken Nakaoka Community Centre, 1670 W. 162<sup>nd</sup> st from 10am to 4pm. Novice to master bonsai exhibits, beginner's hands-on workshop at 10:30am Saturday. Contact <http://daiichibonsaikai.wordpress.com>.



For those who haven't heard, Herb Eisenberg suffered a stroke on Friday evening and is hospitalized. He will be in the hospital till he's medically stable and then in a rehab facility. He says that he sleeps most of the time and so is not good company yet for visitors. Update, he is improving and Carol Upston will let everyone know when he is up for visitors.

We wish him a very speedy recovery

### **Special Thank You**

#### **March Refreshments:**

Harry Hirao  
Tom Culton  
Elizabeth Partch ?  
Tish Miya  
Helen Ho  
Wendy Tsai  
Amy Walsh

#### **March Donations:**

Bill & Lois Hutchinson  
Harry Hirao  
Bill Beck  
Dan & Wanda Danesi  
Manny Martinez

### **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.**