

# The Kofu Kai Review

The Monthly Newsletter of the Kofu Kai Bonsai Club

Volume 30, Number 4

April 2011



## Meeting Time and Place

April 16, 2011 at 7:00 p.m.

Anaheim Methodist Church, 1000 South State College Blvd, Anaheim

### April Demo by John L Nielson

Bring Your Bonsai Questions, Problems and Dilemmas!

What is the real difference between bonsai soils? What effect do fertilizers, pesticides and soil PH have on your trees? Can beneficial fungi be added to the soil with commercial products?

These are just a few of the questions we'll ask of our April speaker, John L Nielson. Mr. Nielson is certified in many aspects of horticulture including certified arborist, pest management, Irrigation systems, tree injection, and is a graduate of the turfgrass management program at UC Riverside and is currently managing a large tree care company in Orange County.

He is also an active member of the bonsai community and has studied with Harry Hirao, Mel Ikeda and Tak Shimazu and is a member of Kofu Kai, GSBF, and the California Bonsai Society.

Let's pick this guys brain. I know everyone in this club has unanswered questions about Bonsai cultivation and I hope you will write them down and ask them at this meeting.

If you have a particularly vexing technical problem, feel free to email it to me, Carol Upston at jackdraw@earthlink.net and I'll send it to John ahead of time for research.

Don't let this opportunity slip away!

By Carol Upston

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Ryan Cali 949-735-3463

**WWW.KOFUKAI.ORG**

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## March meeting



### ***Marcus Juniel Entertains and Instructs at Kofu Kai***

*At our March meeting we enjoyed a demonstration of radical trunk bending with Marcus Juniel, ably assisted by Lee Anthony. Prostrata Juniper is among the most available large-trunked material that California bonsai artists have to work with but it often offers little in the way of dramatic trunk movement. Marcus' mission includes demonstrating that radical movement can be safely imposed on this material if you carefully prepare the trunk by wrapping and apply the bending techniques thoughtfully. The newly pretzeled demo tree was won by a delighted Dr. Walter Johnson and his wife Donna. We look forward to seeing it's future development.*

*By Carol Upston*

## San Diego Bus trip

There has been an excellent response to the bus trip for the dedication of the new pavilion at the Collection South. There are only a few seats left so if you want to go don't hesitate. The cost of \$30 per person for the trip also gets you free access to the wild animal park which is usually a \$40 fee.

The bus will pick up Los Angeles passengers at the L. A. Arboretum about 8:45 AM so that the bus can leave Arcadia by 9:00 AM.

Pick up for Orange County passengers is at 9:30. Park near the Amtrak station off of east Katella , Anaheim Stadium parking lot. We will leave at 9:45 AM

If you wish to get on board or have any questions about the trip, Please contact Nina Ragle 949-497-5626 or email her at [ragle@cox.net](mailto:ragle@cox.net)

### **KOFU BONSAI KAI - ODDS & ENDS**

**BY MARTY MANN**

**APRIL, 2011 (#72)**

Advisable to remove the old foliage of deciduous trees if you have not done so. While repotting it is best to remove the heavier old roots, to encourage new growth. Do so with some limitation--to much removal will shock the tree.

Root divisions form whenever a root cut takes place. These divisions provide for better nutrient absorption. Branch trimming allows new branch divisions and desired branch twiggyness. While deciduous trees, such as Japanese Maple, Trident Maple, Gingko and Liquid Amber, can now be trimmed, it's best to wait a few weeks until the new growth has matured.

Cut the new candles that may have formed on older Japanese Black Pines. Do this late April or early in May. Wait another month before you work on younger trees. By waiting, shorter and stronger needle growth will appear as the candles open. New candles generally form twice a year, in April and September. They form clusters of from 2 to 5 candles. Usually one or two will dominate. Retain only two candles--one as a leader and another to form the side branch.

Always remove the largest candles first but do not cut the existing 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 activities somewhat to slow down the new growth but don't allow the fine rootage to become dry.

Trim flowering and fruiting trees such as Pomegranates, Ume, Plum, Apple, Quince and Bougainvillea late in April or early in May. If pruning is done too early, the newly formed flower/fruit buds will be destroyed. It's prudent to hold off until the new spring growth has hardened and the branches have lignified. If you choose to wait until May to do any serious pruning, then control rampant growth by pinching and nipping the terminal buds on each branch. This restraint will encourage the formation of side branches and create a denser foliage mass.

This is the time to begin the fertilization program on established trees. Use a slow release fertilizer just prior to the signs of new growth. Organic fertilizers such as Cottonseed Meal (75%), with a proportion of Bone Meal(25%), give the trees the desired boost during this growing season. Bone Meal is very slow acting but is beneficial in the long run.

To insure the maximum blooming potential, new growth on flowering trees and azaleas should be watched. Keep the nitrogen content of fertilizers at a minimum in these early feedings since excessive green foliage and leaf growth will weaken the flowering effort. Use a weak application just as the flower buds begin to swell and again as they open and develop. Do not feed after the flowers are fully open. Miracle-Grow®, applied on a bi-weekly basis, is an excellent all purpose fertilizer.

Plants are now growing vigorously. It's better to feed more often with light applications than less often with a heavy hand. Keep fertilizers away from the trunk of the tree. Broadcast granular food lightly over the pot surface and close to the pot edges. Do not feed newly transplanted or repotted trees for a month or two to let them become established. A low nitrogen fertilizer such as Super Phosphate keeps fruit and berries from falling off prematurely.

#### **HAIKU POEM:**

As birds fly this day  
We are aware of flurry  
Through our trees, with songs

**this article has been extracted from RECENTLY published book called ' bonsai ideas©'. material is not to be copied without publisher or AUthOr'S permission.**

**April, 2011**

## Kofu Bonsai Kai Convention Grant

As part of Kofu Bonsai Kai's endeavor to educate, instruct, share, and encourage others in the art of Bonsai, Kofu Bonsai Kai will provide a Southern California Convention Registration Grant.

This grant will cover the cost of full registration at certain Southern California Bonsai conventions, which usually includes:

- Entry to all demonstrations
- Silent observer in all workshops and competitions
- Bonsai and viewing stone exhibit
- Benefit drawing
- Vendor area
- Some lunches and dinners

The recipient of this grant will be financially responsible for transportation, lodging, outside meals, critiques, and field trips and will be asked to take one or more workshops and share their Bonsai convention experience with the membership.

This grant will be made available to a Kofu Bonsai Kai member in good standing who is a serious Bonsai enthusiast. The grantee will be selected by the Kofu Bonsai Kai Board of Directors from submitted applications.

An applicant may be nominated by any Kofu Kai member or they may submit an application on their own behalf.

Al Nelson  
Grant Chair  
949-413-4060  
[papasan@cox.net](mailto:papasan@cox.net)

# Application Kofu Bonsai Kai Convention Grant

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Nominated By (Optional): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone Number: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

How were you introduced to Bonsai? \_\_\_\_\_

How long have you been involved with Bonsai? \_\_\_\_\_

Do you have Bonsai tools?  Yes  No

Do you have Bonsai books?  Yes  No

Do you have Bonsai trees?  Yes  No

If yes, approximately how many? \_\_\_\_\_

Have you had a tree in a Bonsai show?  Yes  No

Have you taken Bonsai lessons?  Yes  No

If yes, for how long? \_\_\_\_\_ With whom? \_\_\_\_\_

Have you previously attended a Bonsai convention?

Yes  No

Would you attend one or more workshops at your own expense?

Yes  No

Would you be willing to share your convention experience with the Kofu Kai membership?

Yes  No

I am serving () or would be willing to serve () Kofu Bonsai Kai in the following area(s):

- |   |                                      |   |
|---|--------------------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Meeting setup & takedown | <input type="checkbox"/> Website     | <input type="checkbox"/> Bus Trips                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Refreshments             | <input type="checkbox"/> Program     | <input type="checkbox"/> Show setup &/or takedown |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Publicity                | <input type="checkbox"/> Workshops   | <input type="checkbox"/> Auction                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter               | <input type="checkbox"/> Hospitality | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____             |

I would like to be considered for this grant because \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Bowers Museum** 2002 N. Main St., Santa Ana on April 14 to 17, Kofu Bonsai Kai to have displays and demo. Larry Ragle will do a talk and video at 1pm followed by Harry Hirao demo.

**BUDDHIST TEMPLE** 909 South Dale Ave., Anaheim, 1pm to 8pm on April 16 and 17 Bonsai display during festival. Contact Show Chairs Michael Viljak or Anthony Chiusolo

A VERY SPECIAL THANK YOU TO

MAY MCNEY FOR HER VERY GENERIOUS DONATION

## NEW MEMBERS

N. T. Nguyen

Say hello when you see them and welcome to Kofu Bonsai Kai

### **Bonsai Tools and Supplies:**

If you need any tools or supplies from Everett Bassin, contact him at 714-827-0661 or 714-392-5149 or email him a [bonsaitools@mindspring.com](mailto:bonsaitools@mindspring.com). He will bring them to the meetings. He will not be bringing his entire inventory to the meetings.

## ***Special Thank You***

### **March Donations/Raffle:**

Manuel Martinez  
Harley Newman  
Harry Hirao  
Carol Upston  
Ryan Cali  
Bob White  
Larry Ragle  
Bassin Bonsai Tools  
Helen Ho  
Gib & Elissa Hoxie  
Al Nelson

### **March Refreshments:**

Everett & Sharyn Bassin  
Tom Culton  
Harry Hirao  
Helen Ho  
Manuel Martinez

## **PRE-MEETING WORKSHOP**

· **Improve your bonsai artistry and technique!**  
· **Prepare your trees for exhibition!**  
**Most of us have a tree that is "difficult" to style and we may not know what to do with it. Most of us need to prepare our trees for the Annual Show or just simply would like to improve our techniques. No matter what our objectives are, we all can bring our trees to work on at the pre-meeting workshop were experts like Al Nelson, Paul Vasina and Harley Newman are near to lend a helping hand. Come and join us from 4:00pm -6:00pm prior to our monthly meeting.**