

The Kofu Kai Review

The Monthly Newsletter of the Kofu Kai Bonsai Club

Volume 30, Number 5

May 2011



Meeting Time and Place

May 21, 2011 at 7:00 p.m.

Anaheim Methodist Church, 1000 South State College Blvd, Anaheim

May Demonstration by Mel Ikeda



Mel Ikeda

Mel Ikeda is a constant presence in the Bonsai community and a talented artist. He has been absent from Kofu Kai for some time and we welcome him back as this month's demonstrator. Mel has developed a technique for creating a raft style planting and will be sharing it with us.

Mel Ikeda grew up with bonsai, working with his father at the family's Ikeda Bonsai Garden nursery. Mel also studied with John Naka, Harry Hirao, and Khan Komai. His abilities to skillfully teach bonsai have made him a greatly sought after instructor. Mel is also currently the President of Nampu Kai.

Manuel Martinez IV

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Pre-Meeting Workshop

Al Nelson 949-854-2681

Program

Carol Upston 310-346-4203

Publicity

open

Show Co-Chairs

Anthony Chiusolo 714-998-3420

Mike Viljak 949-642-3577

Sunshine

Marybel Balendonck 714-524-0275

Website

Ryan Cali 949-735-3463

WWW.KOFUKAI.ORG



Kofu Kai needs you and your trees.

Display or docent at the Orange County Fair exhibit

July 15th to August 14th.

Contact Anthony Chiusolo 714-998-3720 or

Michael Viljak 949-642-3577



On April 2nd members of Kofu Kai accompanied or leader, Harry Hirao, to the Tehachapi Mountains for a club sponsored dig. The weather was perfect and so were the digging conditions. Everyone seemed to have a good time and I am sure some masterpieces were taken home, as evidenced by the photos above.

Manuel Martinez IV



John Nielson:

At last month's meeting, horticultural expert John Nielson instructed and entertained us with his knowledge of sound growing practices as well as a demonstration of carving. Club members had many questions for John about the technical aspects of growing and maintaining healthy bonsai.

John's carving demonstration was a bonus as he showed in very specific detail the techniques and tools he uses to achieve a naturally weathered surface on his deadwood. The program was so well received that we hope to bring back John regularly to Kofu Kai.

Carol Upston

Hanamatsuri Festival



Kofu Kai would like to thank the following members for their support at the HANAMATSURI festival at the Anaheim Buddhist Temple April 16th and 17. The following individuals displayed trees and helped with docent duties. Thank you for representing Kofu Kai. Bill & Lois Hutchinson, Anthony Chiusolo, Michael Viljak, Dan & Wanda Danesi, Tak Nakamura, Jack Holm, Ryan Cali, Jerry Shipman, Harry Hirao, Paul Vasina, Gary Lai, Harley Newman , and a special thanks to Jimmy Nguyen who displayed and put in two days of docent duty. Everyone did a great job showing their trees and representing Kofu Kai.

Manuel Martinez IV

Bowers Museum Show

I would like to thank Harry Hirao, David Nguy and Mel Ikeda for their demonstration and Larry Ragle for his lecture on Bonsai at the Bowers Museum display April 16th & 17th. The members that represented Kofu Kai at the Bowers Museum by displaying their trees were Carol Upston, Harry Hirao, Marybel Balendonck, Larry Ragle, David Nguy, June Nguy, Mel Ikeda, Harley Newman. Paul Vasina and Manuel Martinez

We were well received and being asked to return in the fall. The dates will be announced so get you trees ready if you wish to display.

Manuel Martinez IV

UP COMING EVENTS

South Coast Bonsai Association, May 21-22, 2011, South Coast Botanical Garden, Palos Verdes Peninsula

Santa Anita Bonsai May 28 to 30, 2011, L.A. County Arboretum

Descanso Bonsai Club . June 18 to 19, 2011, Descanso, Gardens

July Kofu Kai meeting well have Lindsey Shiba as our demonstrator. Lindsey wants to do a critique work shop where advice will be given on your tree and if everyone is in agreement the work will be done during the meeting. If you are interested in getting some help with one of your trees and want to participate contact Carol Upston at jackdraw@earthlink.net or 310-346-4203

SPECIAL GET WELL

**And speedy recovery to Sharon Bassin who is
Recovering from a minor Stroke**

KOFU BONSAI KAI - BONSAI IDEAS

SPRING JUVENILE GROWTH, BECOMES SUMMER MATURITY

BY MARTY MANN

MAY 2011 (#73)

Different trees have varied needs, as one may be more vigorous than another. The soil mix, pot size, and the environmental exposure to wind and sun affect watering methods. Just follow the ideals: water deeply; keep your bonsai damp, not wet and never dry. Judge by the weather conditions. Daily routines might instead become patterns of early morning watering on alternate days, as needed.

Continue to pinch and trim but hold off on wiring soft deciduous growth until it hardens. Direct your attention to the upper portion of most bonsai since this is the area that tends to grow fastest. Allowing this growth to develop too freely will deprive the lower branches of strength and nourishment. Check your wiring during this fast growing period. Don't let it cut into the tree.

Eliminate spurts of new branch growth. Cut back young whips to two or three leaf clusters to encourage fine twiggy branching and shorter internodes. Remove opposite branches that tend to form on many species naturally. Avoid bar branches throughout your design, however, this is not too important in the upper structures.

May's mild weather conditions encourage the population of undesirable insects such as aphids, white flies, spider mites and that nasty scale. Particularly, if you failed to spray the wintering trees with a dormant spray application then you will have to be attentive to the presence of a new crop of insects. Pay attention to regular applications of insecticides such as Malathion, Sevin, Isotex, etc. Maples are particularly susceptible to fungus diseases such as mildew when kept in the shade. Apply general-purpose fungicides such as Ortho Garden Disease Control at this time to ward off early summer damage. Avoid watering the foliage and allow air circulation and good light exposure.

Continue your repotting schedule into early May, if you have not already begun. Don't overlook the deciduous material that has already opened; however in these cases care should be taken to retain more of the old rootage and soil ball to prevent transplant shock and dieback. Be sure to provide good after-care. Protect from too much strong sun and wind for at least 2 to 3 weeks. Maintain the schedule of trimming and plucking as you repot. Prune the Elms, Maples and Gingkos.

HAIKU POEM:

Soft hills of clouds drifting by
Warm days, sunlit skies
With comfort and nurturing

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.

May, 2011

NEW MEMBERS

Robert Lee Lackey
Louis & Imelda Palacpac
Quin Thai & Leythien 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. 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
Bob White
Bill & Lois Hutchinson
Helen Ho
John Nielsey
Al Nelson
Dan & Wanda Danesi
Barry & Sandy Josephson

March Refreshments:

Bill & Lois Hutchinson
Tom Culton
Harry Hirao
Helen Ho
Manuel Martinez
Marge Blasingame
Bobbie Hoffman
Glen Sity

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.