

# The Kofu Kai Review

The Monthly Newsletter of the Kofu Kai Bonsai Club



## Meeting Time and Place

NOVEMBER 16, 2013 at 7:00 p.m.

Anaheim Methodist Church, 1000 South State College Blvd, Anaheim

## NOVEMBER MEETING



This month we will have two demonstrations. First Stuart Shim will be talking briefly about "How much fertilizer do bonsai require?" Stuart is an expert on fertilizing your trees and a distributor of HB101, which he will have available for purchase. I will then present my trip to Japan and in particular my trip to a shohin nursery in Kyoto, the Omiya Bonsai Village (including Kimura's Nursery) and Kobayashi's nursery in Tokyo. Being only 6 years into Bonsai, this trip has changed my understanding of Bonsai and I hope that I can give you additional insight to your own approach to Bonsai creation, and perhaps give you a desire to visit Japan and these wonderful places. Not to leave you empty handed I have a gift I brought back from the Omiya Bonsai Museum for the raffle. Please join me in the rare sharing opportunity. Kanpai!

Ron Reekers

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# October Meeting

## AL Nelson Unleashes Minions



At our last Kofu meeting, Al Nelson, ably assisted by Ryan Cali, Joyce Battell and Howie Kawahara, created a unique Saikei featuring a single upright Foemina Juniper in a rocky landscape. Al had a lot of practical and very specific information to share with us and I hope you were taking notes. He mentioned the slab used as the foundation for the Saikei, Kashmir slate which is available at some stone supply yards for a very reasonable price. He discussed his favored soil mix and the usefulness of some organic additions to our usual rocky soil such as worm castings and finely shredded New Zealand sphagnum moss. I'd like to add that the New Zealand sphagnum is being farmed in man-made bogs now so there's no concern about destroying natural landscapes to harvest it. Al used a waterproof silicone sealant to affix a ring of tufa type rocks around the perimeter of the design to act as a barrier to hold in the soil mix and he filled any chinks in the rocks with his homemade muck which is basically clay or Akadama dust mixed with milled peat moss. After placing the tree and filling in the soil Al's minions covered the soil with lovely moss to complete the picture. Al also shared his favorite tips on fertilizing, pest control, watering and collecting wild trees. This guy is an encyclopedia of bonsai experience and I know everyone who was there took away some useful information. Thanks Al! And Minions!

Carol Upston

## DEMO PRIZE WINNERS



*Jeff Straley*



*An Truong*

**SO**  **RRRY!**

**Last Month's Demo Winner was Louis Palacpac**

**KOFU BONSAI KAI - BONSAI IDEAS**

**BY MARTY MANN**

**NOVEMBER, 2013**

Fall is generally the climax of the luxurious growth of summer and the last spurt of activity before settling down for winter dormancy.

As leaved begins to drop be sure to remove the trash around your trees and on the surface of your pots. If clean-up is neglected these areas become a refuse for slugs, sow bugs and other undesirable creatures.

Transplanting is permissible at this time of year, specifically bamboo, boxwood, conifers, hornbeams, cotoneaster, podocarpus, privets, Pyracantha, wisteria, willows and most varieties of deciduous trees. The key to safe fall repotting is to minimize root disturbance and severe pruning but trees can be transferred into larger or different containers. If in doubt about the health or condition of a tree, wait until spring to repot.

As leaved begins to drop be sure to remove the trash around your trees and on the surface of your pots. If clean-up is neglected these areas become a refuse for slugs, sow bugs and other undesirable creatures.

Now is the time to anticipate and enjoy better autumn color by reducing watering time as well. As the length of the day's sunshine is shortened, the trees require less water. A balance must be maintained between the minimal watering and the loss of moisture by transpiration during intermittent warm spells.

Once the leaves on trident maple, Japanese maple, liquid amber, ginkgo, hornbeam and other colorful deciduous trees begin to lose their vigor and drop, keep the bonsai areas and pot surfaces cleared. Remove trash promptly. Continue to spray benches with an all-purpose insecticide and a final spray of fungicide. Pests seem to make a final effort to destroy and injure trees as they feed heavily prior to moving into the pupa stage.

Light conditions begin to change. Trees that have had full sun exposure find themselves in more shade. So, watch the location of trees at this time of year and rotate them into more favorable light exposures allowing them to continue storing strength and food for the winter.

This is a good time to work on basic training and design. Remove the wire applied this past year. Check for wire cuts. New wire can be applied but avoid the curls and marks of previous efforts. In spite of this period of slow growth, fall and winter training can still be effective. Before spring approaches don't overlook the new wire since new growth quickly causes wire damage. Study improper branch placement – crossing, bars, up and down growth.

There is still time to give bonsai a last good feeding. Evergreen and conifers may be lightly fertilized on a regular basis through the winter months since they continue to grow in our mild climate. Use food with little nitrogen--mainly

potash and phosphorous, a 0-10-10 Low nitrogen fertilizers build dormant buds and store food in the form of starch used to produce healthy growth in spring. This is especially important for fruiting and flowering trees. Specifically azaleas, crabapples, ume and pomegranates improve after late feedings.

Limit cuttings, at this time of year, to hardwood specimens or tropical varieties. The use of a rooting hormones and a pre-soaking of a rooting stimulant, such as B-1 or Superthrive, improves the odds of success. A basic rooting medium such as 2 parts peat moss with 1 part perlite or coarse river sand will serve you well. Keep the rooting medium slightly moist and shaded until evidence of new growth appears.

#### HAIKU POEM:

When one views his trees  
The illusion of sight must  
Feel wind and warm sun

By Marty Mann

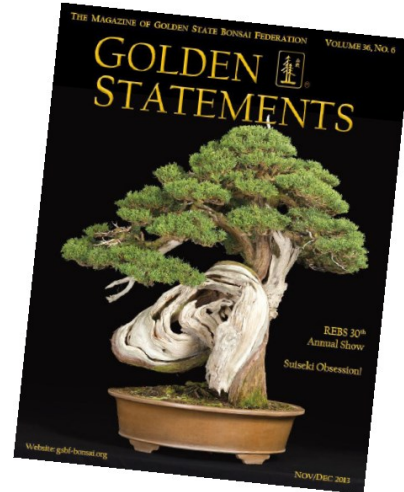
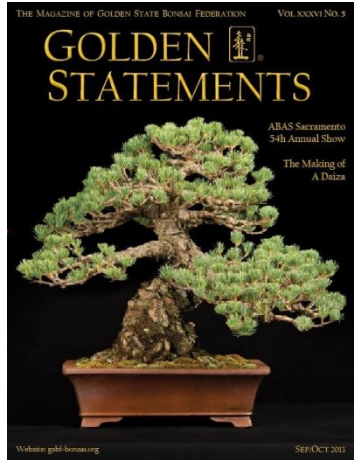
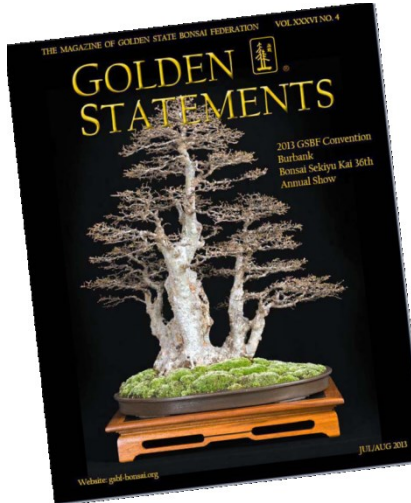
<p>This article has been extracted from the recently published book called 'Bonsai Ideas'. © By Marty Mann. Material is not to be copied without publisher or author's permission November-2013</p>
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***NEW MEMBERS WELCOME***

***Bin Van, Tom Lau, Quan Tran***

***Say hello to them when you see them***

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## UP COMING EVENTS



*It is that time of the year again. Our gala Christmas party is at St. Wilfrid Episcopal Church, Noon till 4pm, **Saturday, December 14<sup>th</sup>**, 18631 Chapel Ln, Huntington Beach; Kofu Bonsai will supply a ham, turkey and drinks. This is also the best Raffle of the year. Set the date and come enjoy an afternoon with your Bonsai friends. This will be a pot-luck, so bring your favorite dish that will serve 10 people*

### **December 26, 2013 – January 2, 2014: San Marino, CA**

**California Aiseki Kai: 24<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary Exhibition of Viewing Stones Show**, located in Friends Hall at The Huntington Library and Botanical Gardens, 1151 Oxford Road. Hours are 10:30 AM – 4:30 PM each day. Closed on New Year's Day. Free parking and free entry into the exhibit. For more information see our website: [www.aisekikai.com](http://www.aisekikai.com) and/or contact [hutch@aisekikai.com](mailto:hutch@aisekikai.com)

### **January 18 to 19, 2014 San Marino, California**

**Winter Silhouettes** at the Los Angeles Arboretum. Call the Arboretum for times.

### **February 22 & 23, 2014: San Marino, California**

**Bonsai-A-Thon XVII** at The Huntington Library and Botanical Gardens, 1151 Oxford Road. This is the annual fundraiser for the GSBF Collection at The Huntington. Admission to the event and to the

Huntington Gardens is free with Bonsai-A-Thon "Early Bird" Registration. Hours are 7:30 AM – 4:30 PM both days. Pancake breakfast, tour hosted by Jim Folsom (Director of the Garden), demonstrations, lunch, bonsai exhibits, large sales area, raffle, and auction. For more information, contact Marge Blasingame, 626-579-0420 or [margeblasingame@att.net](mailto:margeblasingame@att.net).

### ***Special Thank You***

#### **October Refreshments:**

Tish Miya  
Tom Culton  
Harry Hirao  
Howie Kawahara  
Harry & Kay Inami  
Larry & Nina Ragle  
Helen Ho  
Chizo(?)

#### **October Donations:**

Harley Newman  
Paul Vasina  
Harry Hirao  
Wendy Tsai  
Bill & Lois Hutchinson  
Manuel Martinez  
Louie Palacpac  
Bob White

### **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.**