

The Kofu Kai Review

The Monthly Newsletter of the Kofu Kai Bonsai Club



Meeting Time and Place

AUGUST 17, 2013 at 7:00 p.m.

Anaheim Methodist Church, 1000 South State College Blvd, Anaheim

AUGUST MEETING

It's Auction Time!!!

This is our chance to not only support our club but to clear out material and trees that we're done with, tired of or just don't want to take care of anymore. The auction is a great opportunity for both newer bonsai enthusiasts and the more experienced to acquire good material at a reasonable price and is also an opportunity for all of us to support our club. The money we raise at the auction goes to pay for the things we enjoy all year long at our meetings, the cost of demonstrators and material as well as the general costs to put on exhibits and events.

Even if you can't attend the auction in person, please consider donating something to the sale, just contact one of the officers listed on the website and we will arrange to get your donation to the auction. Thank you very much for your support.

Carol Upston

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

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 Danesi 714-826-5024

Meeting Refreshments

Helen Ho 714-828-9852

Membership

An D. Truong 714-932-1244

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 Balendonk 714-524-0275

Balendonk

Website

Open

WWW.KOFUKAI.ORG

July Meeting



At our last Kofu meeting, after a *slightly* late start, Roy Nagatoshi entertained us with a critique of trees brought by seven Kofu members. Rishi Bissoon brought a very nice azalea with a large tapering trunk and healthy deep green foliage. Roy discussed the possibility of improving the tree by first choosing the best front, a better front than the current one and also suggested removing some large branches which were in the wrong places. He explained that azaleas respond very quickly to severe pruning, assuming they're in good health, and that within a month there would be large numbers of new buds to choose from. He said that right now, after flowering is finished, is a good time to do the heavy pruning and mentioned that in Japan they don't hesitate to improve the design of an azalea by very heavy pruning.

The next tree was a chinese elm owned by Gabe Gunz with two fairly equal trunks and Roy's suggestion was to reduce one trunk so that it became a big branch in order to improve the design. He also said that dead wood or jin on chinese elm and other deciduous trees suggests illness rather than age since those types of trees do not retain dead branches in nature the way conifers do.

Harley Newman brought a large and beautiful prostrata juniper for Roy to evaluate. The tree was very healthy and seemed very close to done but Harley was undecided about how to finish the apex. Roy complemented the overall design and health of the tree and suggested a reduction in the youngest part of the apex to make it look more harmonious with the rest of the design. I noticed that the tree's foliage was a very deep green and since prostrata have a waxy bluish coating on their needles which gives them a bluish cast, I asked Harley if he was using any horticultural oil sprays. He said yes, he uses volk oil once a year in the fall. Horticultural oils like volk or ultra-fine are used to control insect pests. The deep green color they reveal on junipers is a bonus.

Next up was David Bedford's Italian stone pine, a readily available material used for living christmas trees and coincidentally, one of Roy's favorite materials to work with. He explained that they are showing small juvenile foliage and that the mature large needles would never emerge in a bonsai because we prune pines each year. With the owner's permission he removed many branches and created a good basic structure to begin the design of the future tree.

I couldn't help but notice that when Roy is chopping large chunks off of trees he has the biggest smile on his face.

Michael Walsh and his daughter Amy brought in a tall multi trunked boxwood for Roy to critique and I have to thank both Michael and Amy for being such good sports and letting Roy have his way with their tree. I think the before and after photos say it all!

Another boxwood was brought by Ruben Ayala. This was a larger piece of material, just sprouting new growth from a good sized multiple trunk. Roy talked in general about the several possible ways to go with it and also about what good wood boxwood is for carving; very dense and hard and likely to last for a long time as jin or shari.

The final victim, I mean lucky participant was the intrepid Dave Miles who must have been wondering what was in store for his prostrata. But no worries, he and Roy discussed it's health and what it needed in order to be improved for the future.

With that we gave Roy a big round of applause. We thank him very much for his insights and sense of humor and for making the long trek to Anaheim.

If you haven't been to Roy's place, Fuji Bonsai Nursery in Sylmar, you're doing yourself a disservice. Roy has a very well kept and interesting nursery with lots of good material for sale. Call in advance to make sure he'll be there because he travels to many parts of the country and world to teach and demonstrate.

Carol Upston

CONGRATULATIONS

BADGE WINNER

Any Walsh

NEW MEMBERS WELCOME (none this month)



KOFU BONSAI KAI - BONSAI IDEAS

BY MARTY MANN

AUGUST, 2013 (#84)

Summertime, and the living is easy - so goes the song. August brings some respite from the busy spring chores. It is still a period of vigorous growth and greater responsibility. August brings higher temperatures that slows down new growth and reduces pruning requirements. Trimming, repotting and styling is still in order. Continue to pinch the trees that require it, daily.

Be reminded that summer vacationing puts an additional burden on your 'bonsai sitters'. A suggestion would be to let them water your trees for you for a few days before you leave to be sure that they are following your instructions. Trees requiring special care should be grouped together to simplify attention. Don't trust your automatic watering system without the back-up of someone who can check from time to time to audit its functions.

Try forming a mutual watering pact with fellow bonsaiists. You do for them when you can and they will do for you. It's a great working arrangement and considerably safer than trusting your 'babies' to strangers.

With the arrival of summer most of the formal bonsai shows have passed and the bonsaiist has the pleasure of displaying their own trees. The objective of a good hobbyist is pride in the finished tree. This is achieved by maintaining good health, continuing a selective feeding routine and paying attention to weather conditions that set the guidelines for proper watering requirements. Summer maintenance prepares the trees for fall and winter. Plan ahead.

Start with the constant surveillance of fast summer growth. Warm days and cool nights encourage the development of new tip growth, long internodes and lush foliage. Maintenance must include pinching and plucking of the growing tips as well as cutting back the branches. Reducing the branch extensions encourages shorter internodes, tighter evergreen formations and develops desirable twiggytness on deciduous trees. Trim and shape unwanted growth. Maintain form and design.

A regular program of feeding during the summer months is important. Reduction of the nitrogen content of the fertilizer mix inhibits excessive green growth and allows the

formation of chemical changes that produces the best fall colors. The basic mix of cottonseed meal (70%) and bone meal (30 %) can be altered to increase the bone meal, thereby providing more potassium and phosphorus to harden the woody growth. It also induces the development of fruit and flower buds for next year. Do not feed plants that appear to be suffering from summer stress due to oppressive heat or moisture deprivation. It's too late and risky to leaf prune in the hot summer months. If you wish, you can do selective pruning of large leaves, burnt leaves and the obvious unwanted elongated branches and crossing branches. Keep your pots from getting too hot. Roots are easily damaged by excessive heat. Be sure your soil stays damp at all times. Keep the humidity high and the air moving around all of your trees.

Watch the wires. You would be surprised how fast spring training wire can cut into growing branches and leave permanent scars. Turn your trees to give them equal light exposure and even growth. Avoid placing trees on display benches next to hot reflecting walls. Be sure to rotate frequently.

Unfortunately, the restful summer period of bonsai enjoyment is also the most active period of pest proliferation. *Bugs* love the combination of warmth and moisture. They grow and attack your trees with relish. Keep up with regular spraying of Malathion, Isotex, Sevin, Orthorix Dormant Spray (Lime Sulfur), etc. You pick what works best for you. Apply under and over the leaf surface but out of the hot sun and not just before you water. Don't apply any chemicals when temperatures are too high.

No transplanting during the summer months. However certain materials such as Pomegranates, Ficus, Buttonwood, Cotoneaster, Pyracantha and most Bamboo can be repotted or transplanted at this time. Trees that were defoliated late in June are vulnerable to damage during the heat of the summer. Keep these trees in partial shade until they start growing again.

HAIKU POEM

A smile brings good thoughts
Of days that are forgotten
But memory stays

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. 8/12 August, 2012

UP COMING EVENTS

Nambu Kai Bonsai Show August 17th and 18th. From 10am to 5pm at the Japanese American Cultural Center, 244 S. San Pedro St., LA

Satsuki Bonsai Society Bonsai Show at the Full Moon Festival Chua Bao Quang Temple August 24 & 25, 2013 10am to 5pm, 713 N. Newhope St. Santa Ana. Demonstrations scheduled on Saturday: 10am David Nguy, 1pm Ben Oki. Call 323-842-6188 for more information.

Bowers Museum Show, September 10-15. Please mark this on your calendar and start preparing your tree. If you wish to display please contact our show chair people Anthony Chiusolo or Michael Viljak. For those who displayed last year and wish to do so again please have a different tree as we will be having the show professionally photographed, for a new calendar and upcoming book

October 30 – November 3, 2013 Burbank, California

Golden State Bonsai Federation (GSBF) Convention XXXVI “Bonsai Artist Studio: Outside the Box” will be held at Marriott Hotel Los Angeles Burbank Airport. Headliners David DeGroot, Suthin Sukosolvisit and Peter Warren. Wonderful offsite field trips on Wednesday, October 30. Convention to be held Friday, October 31 through Sunday, November 3, 2013. Be sure to watch for pre-convention tours and activities. Visit our convention website <http://www.gsbf-bonsai.org/convention>

Special Thank You

April Refreshments:

Manuel Martinez
Helen Ho
Tisa Miya
Harry Hirao
Tom Culton
David & June Nguy

April Donations:

Harry Hirao
Bill & Lois Hutchinson
Manuel Martinez
Dave Miles
Al Nelson
Harley Newman
Carol Upston

PRE-MEETING WORKSHOP

DUE TO AUCTION, NO PRE-MEETING WORKSHOP IN AUGUST.