

The Kofu Kai Review

The Monthly Newsletter of the Kofu Bonsai Kai Club

Meeting Time and Place

October 18, 2014 at 7:00 pm

Anaheim Methodist Church, 1000 South State College Blvd, Anaheim



October Demonstrator

Mel Ikeda



Mel Ikeda will be our October Demonstrator. Mel has been a member of Kofu Kai, as well as the President of the Nanpu Kai (John Naka's original Bonsai club) for the past 18 years. He essentially grew up doing bonsai or being surrounded by the art. In the 1960's his father Masayuki Ikeda, started the Ikeda Bonsai Gardens. Mel had the opportunity to study under many masters such as Harry Hirao, Khan Komai, John Naka and Kenji Miyata. From this experience he has been an active Bonsai enthusiast and a teacher to many.

This month he will be showing Kofu Kai club members how create a raft style bonsai. Raft-style or netsuranari bonsai mimic a natural phenomenon that occurs when a tree topples onto its side. Branches along the top side of the trunk continue to grow as a group of new trunks. This will be a very special and unique demonstration and well worth watching. Please welcome Mel to Kofu Bonsai Kai.

Ron Reekers

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September Presentation



Larry Ragle's slide presentation described the development and display of shohin bonsai which are trees that are 6-8" tall. Larry showed how to reduce the size of 5 gallon juniper nursery stock to achieve this goal. He also explained how to grow interesting, distorted trunks using black pine and maple material from seed. He showed us his soil mix and his method of repotting shohin. Larry emphasized the importance of deadwood to achieve an aged appearance in his small junipers and showed that process from start to finish. The second portion of the presentation was on displaying trees. Larry and Nina studied Keido Display in Japan with Uhaku Sudo. They learned how to properly display one's trees in a tokonoma (traditional Japanese alcove) as well as on table tops, as we do at our shows here in California. He presented this in detail a couple years ago, and it was good to be refreshed on the hierarchy of pots and tables and the types and range of displays noting that a good tree is improved by a well thought out display. Our goal of creating a display about nature and harmony is best served by careful reflection. Larry donated a fine shohin that was won by Jeff Straley; congratulations.

Ron Reekers

BOWERS MUSEUM SHOW

This was Kofu Kais 4th show at the museum and a great showing of trees was presented by the membership. I wish to thank Nancy Warzer- Brady, Vice President of education, Vanessa Valdes, Program Associate, Judy Mers, Director of Gala & Special events, of the Bowers Museum, for all their support and efforts to help Kofu Kai have a successful event.

There were several events at the museum during or display which brought the public to us and the ability for our docents to talk about our organization and Bonsai. The reception we held on Saturday was well attended.

This show would not be possible without the wonderful trees that were provided by our members and the volunteers who acted as docents. Because of your efforts Kofu Kai is able to continue its goal of educating the public in the art of Bonsai.

Thank You

Tak Nakamura, John Nielsen, Paul Vasina, Larry Ragle, David Nguy, June Nguy, Harry Hirao, David Nadzam, Dave Miles, Anthony Chiusolo, Carol Upston, Manuel Martinez, Albert Nelson, Bob White, Harley Newman, Marybel Balendonck, Doug McGavin, Joe James, Gonzalo Rodriguez, Gary Lai, Wanda & Dan Danesi, Lindsey Shiba, Neil Nguyen, Peter Macaseib, Bob Warner, Jerry Shipman, Mike Viljak, Mike Walsh, Ryan Cali, Gabriel Gonzalez, Marshall Amaranto, Marissa Macaseib, Amy Chiusolo, Creryl Chassagne

If I missed anyone please forgive me!

October

KOFU BONSAI KAI - BONSAI IDEAS

BY MARTY MANN

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.

Some transplanting is permissible at this time of year, specifically Bamboo, Boxwood, conifers, Hornbeams, Cotoneaster, Podocarpus, Privets, Pyracantha, Wisteria, Willows and many 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.

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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.

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 or no nitrogen—mainly potash and phosphorous, a 0-10-10 fertilizer. 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.

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.

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 sand will serve you well. Keep the rooting medium slightly moist and shaded until evidence of new growth appears.

POSTSCRIPT:

You don't stop laughing because you grow old. You grow old because you stop laughing. Have a great day, and know that someone has thought about you today.

HAIKU POEM

By Marty Mann

Pleasure is offered
Be aware of good fortune
Enjoy what you do

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

***Badge Prize winner
Gonzalo Rodriguez***

UP COMING EVENTS

Golden State Bonsai Federation and American Bonsai Society
2014 Convention XXXVII, Bonsai Visions of the West
Doubletree Hotel, Sacramento, CA. Oct. 30 - Nov.2, 2014

HELP WANTED!

The staff of Golden State Bonsai Federation (GSBF) publication *Golden Statements Magazine* is in need to fill the following positions:

- Treasurer
- Advertising Manager
- Subscriptions Manager
- Part Time Assistants

For more details on duties and special perks, contact George Haas, Past Editor of *Golden Statements Magazine*, 707-762-9154 or gwhaas@comcast.net

Special Thank You

July Refreshments:

Bob & Kim Warner, David & June
Nguy, Wendy Tsai, Peter Macasieb,
Dan & Wanda Danesi

Raffle Donations:

Ron Reekers, Dave Miles, Bill
& Lois Hutchinson, Dan &
Wanda Danesi, Mike Caldare,
Jeff Ho, Quan Nguyen.
Manuel 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 Ryan Cali, Paul Vasina and Harley Newman can assist. Meet from 4:00pm -