

The Kofu Kai Review

The Monthly Newsletter of the Kofu Bonsai Kai Club



MEETING TIME and PLACE

Meeting Date: February 18, 2017, at 7:00 pm

Anaheim Methodist Church, 1000 South State College Boulevard, Anaheim



It's that time of the year, **DUES ARE DUE!** Your newsletter will discontinue if you have not renewed. Contact **Ryan Cali** at the meeting, or when making Annual Dues payments by mail, please use these directions:

Make Checks out to: **KOFU BONSAI KAI**, \$20 per individual, or \$25 for couples or two persons at one address. Include your Name, Address, Telephone Number, and **e-mail address is mandatory if you wish to receive a newsletter.**

MAIL Checks to:

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Rancho Santa Margarita, CA 92688-1024

If you joined during the months of October, November, or December 2016, you are paid for 2017.

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February 18 Demonstration - Tom Vuong (Grafting)

Grafting is a process that is simple to learn, but difficult to master. In bonsai, we graft for several reasons. Sometimes, it is to place a branch on a tree where one is needed, but not growing naturally. Often, it is done to place more attractive foliage (e.g., from an Itoigawa juniper) onto another tree with a stronger root system (e.g., San Jose or Prostrata juniper) or a more attractive trunk (e.g., California juniper). One can even graft roots to improve the nebari. There are several different types of grafting techniques, including scion or "free" grafts, approach grafts, bud grafts or thread grafts. In Southern California, mid-to-late winter is often a prime time to do scion grafts on juniper species.



It is important to use only very healthy foliage and root stock, to match the cambium between the base and the new branch, to secure the branch in place, and to protect it from drying out as it takes. You'll need the right tools, including a razor sharp grafting knife and something to wrap and seal the area around the incision. You need to know where to place the new branch on the base tree. A good graft is one that is placed in a spot where it will be able to grow and thrive; a better will be please where it won't just thrive, but it will look like a natural extension of the base tree. The better the artist, the harder it is to tell where the graft was placed.

This month, we bring back Tom Vuong, who spent some time touching on the subject of grafting last year when he came in to work on a Japanese black pine. This time of year, Tom recommends grafting your junipers, and he will be demonstrating grafting techniques on junipers. Tom is a self-taught bonsai artist who had formal instruction or sensei. He is a past president of the Vietnamese Bonsai Society who has been doing bonsai for about two decades, but more seriously only for about ten years. He has, in that time, amassed a large collection of impressive trees, including many outstanding grafted junipers.

BAIKOEN BONSAI KENKYUKAI 2017 SILHOUETTES SHOW



Tak Nakamura - Cork Elm Forest



Carol Upston – Cascade Chinese Elm

Photos by Carol Upston

Manny's Caitlin Elm

The Caitlin Elm of **Manny Martinez's** caught my eye for several reasons. Even though it was a small tree, it's style and the way it was displayed gave it impact. A windswept tree is always dramatic and suggests intense weather. I liked the way Manny placed the tree on a larger than usual display table. This gave the tree greater impact and dignity which is important in an exhibit which features many large trees which may visually overwhelm some of the smaller ones shown by themselves. I was also glad to see that it was from a root cutting, which is a good and reliable way to start elms and to begin with a large trunk. Caitlin Elms are one of the zillions of natural mutations of Chinese Elm and are a very small-leaf variety discovered and popularized by a guy with the last name of **Caitlin**.

Here's what Manny says about his tree:

"This small tree started as a root cutting. Its origin was from a large tree that belonged to **Elaine Graczyk**. She brought the tree to **John Naka's** class at **Marybel Balendonck's** residence to have John advice on its styling. John took a liking to the tree and asked permission to trim the tree and its roots. As he was doing this, I was sitting next to him watching. He turned to me and said you can start another tree very easily from these, meaning the root cuttings. I asked Elaine if I could take a few and was given permission. So it began some 25 years ago.

"The cutting took and started a very nice upright trunk and base. It was my intention to keep the tree on the small side due to the leaf size. Caitlin has one of the smallest leaves in the elm family. As time went on the branching development was uneven, and I found myself disappointed with the small tree. I ignored it for some time and one day noticed die back in the top branches. I cut the tree back in hopes of getting it to produce new growth, but met with continued die back. I finally lost the upright portion of the tree and was left with a strong and healthy low branch. Once again disappointed, I put the tree off to the side and gave it no great attention. During one of my clean up times I looked at the tree as a possible raffle donation as it still had the deadwood still attached. As I examined it, I remembered the words John had spoken on more than one occasion 'work with what the tree gives you.' That coupled with the information and images I recently read in GSBF magazine article, The trees windswept design began. The design progressed nicely and easily.

Over the years I have only shown the tree twice, most recently at winter silhouettes, and about 10 years ago at a Nanpu Kai show."



KOFU BONSAI KAI - BONSAI IDEAS

BY MARTY MANN

FEBRUARY

It's still too early to concern yourself about feeding the trees. It is a good time to prepare fertilizer supplies. Chemical and organic liquid fertilizers require no advance planning. They can be freshly mixed when you are ready to apply. If you are a user of the recommended dry mixes such as Cottonseed Meal (75%) with Bone Meal (25%), now is the time to make a supply. Keep the finished product in a dry place. If it gets wet it will begin to ferment and will drive you out of your home! Acid based fertilizers are best for azaleas and camellias as well as conifers and junipers. The idea, when feeding in early spring is *slow release*. Don't rush your trees into a spurt of new growth too soon.

During this 'idle' time, occupy yourself with a program of pot cleanup. All those pots, that have been sitting around waiting for your repotting activities to begin, have probably accumulated layers of soil and salt deposits. Scrub them with a strong soapy solution and bleach. Apply a lime-off cleaner or a strong vinegar solution to the white spots, or just some elbow grease and cleanser. Try using one of the new Japanese erasers to work on the stubborn spots. Rinse the pots well. Allow them to dry in the full sun to prevent infestation carryover.

Don't overlook the last step in your pre-spring dress-up program. Look at all of the finished trees. Are the pots clean? Is the surface of each planting clear of winter trash and properly surfaced with fresh soil or dressed with D.G.? Are there signs of moss growth? Are the edges of the pots trimmed to allow a channel along the rim for drainage?

The tendency at this time of year, during the last months of dormancy, is to ignore normal bonsai care. Don't stop your regular routines. Watch for insect or fungus activities that silently harm the trees. Aphids, in particular, become active when the weather turns slightly warm. Look for these destructive wingless creatures that damage plants by sucking the juice out of new growth, causing twisting and curling effects. There are four kinds of aphids--the bright-green, the yellowish- melon, the reddish- brown and the almost black variety. The aphid nymphs are usually yellow-green and the adults are dark green. Control is relatively easy with most of the common brands of insecticides. Follow label directions to get the best results.

HAIKU POEM

*As the sun does shine
The birds, the bees arrive
The bright day begins*

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

February - 2012

CALENDAR of EVENTS

- February 18-19 **Annual Mammoth Auction and Sale Fund Raiser** at GSBF Bonsai Garden at Lake Merritt, 666 Bellevue Avenue (Garden Center Building), Oakland. Auction preview at noon with Auction starting at 1 pm. Vendor sales start at 9 am. Plant sales start at 10 am, and demonstrations at 1 pm. The Bonsai Garden will be open Saturday 10 am-4pm and Sunday 12 noon-4 pm.
- February 25-26 **Bonsai-A-Thon XXI** at The Huntington Library and Botanical Gardens, 1151 Oxford Road, San Marino. This is the annual fundraiser for the GSBF Collection at the Huntington. Event admission is free with Bonsai-A-Thon "early bird" registration between 8 am to 9 am. Event hours 8:00 am to 4:30 pm both days. Pancake breakfast, demonstrations, lunch, bonsai exhibits, large sales area, raffle, and auction. For more information visit www.gsbfhuntington.com.
- March 25-26 **California Bonsai Society** annual exhibit at the **Brody Botanical Center**, Huntington Library, At Collections, and Botanical Gardens, 1151 Oxford Road, San Marino, CA. Reception on Saturday evening, March 25, at 6:00 p.m.
- April 22-23 **Koen-Nai No Bonsai 2nd Annual Fund Raiser for the Clark Bonsai Collection at Shinzen**, Shinzen Friendship Garden at Woodward Park, at Friant and Audubon Roads, Fresno. Hours are Saturday 9:30 am to 5:30 pm and Sunday 9:30 am to 4:30 pm. Demonstrations by Peter Tea and David Nguy. Huge auction and mammoth vender area. Toko-Kazari Display Competition and tours of the Regional Bonsai Exhibit in the garden. Several shohin workshops will be offered. For more information, contact Bob Hilvers at bonsaigui@comcast.net.
- April 27-30 **World Bonsai Friendship Federation 8th World Bonsai Convention** at Saitama Super Arena, Saitama City, Japan. Japan's highest class bonsai and suiseki masterpieces. Extensive sales area, various on-stage events, and demonstrations by bonsai artists from all over the world. For registration forms and information to <http://world-bonsai-saitama.jp/en/index.html#>
- April 29-30 **San Diego Bonsai Club** spring bonsai exhibit at Casa Del Prado, Room 101, Balboa Park, San Diego. Show hours are 10 am to 5 pm both days. Demonstrations at 11 am and 1 pm. Free admission. Bonsai pots, trees, and other related bonsai items for sale. For more information, visit www.sandiegobonsaiclub.
- May 29-21 **Bonsai Club of Santa Barbara** annual bonsai exhibit at the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden, 1212 Mission Canyon Road, Santa Barbara. Hours are Saturday 11 am to 4 pm and Sunday 10 am to 4 pm. Demonstrations at 1 pm both days. Plant sale by the club. For more information, contact Joe Olson at 805/964-0869 or email joeyuccaseed@verizon.net or visit www.santabarbarbonsai.org.

FEBRUARY 2017 PRE-MEETING WORKSHOP

Want to start off 2017 improving your bonsai artistry and technique? Beginners: Wondering how to get started in bonsai and have many questions on how to prepare and display your tree at the Annual Show?

Come to the Pre-Meeting Workshops from 4 pm to 6 pm before the February 18 meeting.