

The Kofu Kai Review

The Monthly Newsletter of the Kofu Kai Bonsai Club

Volume 30, Number 2

February 2011



Meeting Time and Place

February 19, 2011 at 7:00 p.m.

Anaheim Methodist Church, 1000 South State College Blvd, Anaheim

February Grand Master Demo

Harry Hirao



Harry is the Founding President of the Kofu Kai Bonsai Club. He is internationally known for his experience of over 60 years working on California Junipers. This is the event that many enthusiasts around the world would love to witness. You will be able to ask questions regarding care and maintenance of California Junipers. We look forward to seeing you at the next meeting.

Do not miss it, you may WIN the California Raffled Tree!

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WWW.KOFUKAI.ORG



It's that time of the year, **DUES ARE DUE**. Your newsletter will discontinue as of March if you have not renewed. **Contact Bill Hutchinson 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: BILL HUTCHINSON

18317 COLVILLE STREET

FOUNTAIN VALLEY, CA. 92708

If you joined during the months of Oct., Nov., or Dec. you are paid for 2011.

January meeting

The January meeting was an attempt to address some requests or suggestions made by members. The workshop demo was designed to create an atmosphere of member involvement and instruction on basics.

There were 10 people who signed up for the workshop and they were split into two groups. Five participants started at 4PM, finishing their trees at 6pm or shortly thereafter. The second group started their trees at 7PM and was the demo for the meeting. The participants were Tish Miya, Alonso Uribe, Leopoldo Valenzuela, Dave Miles, Gary Oden, Wayne?, Helen Spiro, Ryan Cali, John Kishel, and we lost a name, Please advise.

The material was provided by Carol Upston and was Bald Cypress. While these trees were small, 15 to 20 inches in height, they will ultimately reflect the character of the tree in nature. Of course this will depend on the care they

are given by their new owners. We hope to see them return at future meetings so we can monitor their progress and if need be help in its design.

Besides the characteristics of the material we covered some basics for care which occur this time of year. The most relevant issue covered was transplanting. Root pruning, watering and exposure to sun and heat for successful transplant were all discussed.

It appeared that those involved in the workshop enjoyed themselves and there were some good questions from the audience. I know that this was geared more towards the beginner but if you think this type of demo is relevant or could be applied to other subjects that you would like more information on let me know. Please make sure that Kofu Kai is in the subject matter when emailing.

I would like to thank those who assisted in the demo, Carol Upston, Paul Vasina, Anthony Chiusolo, and Mike Veljak

Manuel Martinez
Manny22816@aol.com



UPCOMING EVENTS

GSBF 2011 BONSAI-A-THON, BEGINNER'S WORKSHOP –Saturday February 26, 2011, 9:00 am till Noon. Huntington Gardens and Library, 1151 Oxford Drive, San Marino, CA. Free pass to all of the Huntington Gardens. Bazaar with many vendors of top-quality plants, tools, pots and books. Breakfast and lunch will be available. FFI, Marge Blasingame: 626-579-0420 or margeblasingame@att.net

CBS Show March 26 and 27 at Huntington Gardens and Library, 1151 Oxford Drive, San Marino, CA.

Bowers Museum April 14 to 17, Kofu Bonsai Kai to have displays and demo. More information upcoming.

April 16 and 17 display at Buddhist Temple during festival. More information to come.

ANYONE INTERESTED??

San Diego Bonsai will be dedicating their new Bonsai Pavilion May 1st. at the Wild Animal Park. Kofu Kai and its members are invited to the opening and dedication. If there is enough interest in members attending we will do a bus trip. There will be food and we can party on the way down and back. We need to get 30 people to sign up at \$30 per person for the trip. If interested please contact me or Nina Ragle at the meeting. If you can't make it please send me a email at manny22816@aol.com to reserve a space.

KOFU BONSAI KAI - BONSAI IDEAS

BY MARTY MANN

FEBRUARY, 2011 (#67)

This is pot clean-up time. Remove accumulated layers of soil and lime deposits. Some chemicals may help but elbow grease works best. Try one of the new abrasive Japanese erasers that are usually available at convention bazaars and many bonsai shops.

Soil mixes should be prepared in advance. A good standard mix must be suitable to your climatic area and watering procedures. A basic mix must contain a combination of at least three types material.

These materials include some sandy garden loam mixed with portions of humus such as fir bark, redwood mulch or peat moss, and an aggregate such as decomposed granite, perlite, pumice or river sand. The proportions of this material

in your mix is best determined by your own regional requirements. Proportions should vary for different types of growing material. Organic matter stimulates soil. Important minerals and other trace elements are necessary for healthy plant growth provided by your fertilizers.

Don't be misled by the apparent lack of insect activity during quiet winter months. Snails and slugs are still active. The destructive habits of sucking insects continue. The application of a mild winter spray of a fungicide and an insecticide will help you get rid of mealy bugs, soil worms, mildew and fungus that may be attacking your trees. Spray deciduous trees with a dormant spray ORTHO GARDEN & DISEASE CONTROL (lime sulfur) before signs of new growth appear.

When trees are dormant, slow and resting, they allow us to see them as twiggy silhouettes (deciduous) or in full form (conifers and others). Whether potted or still in training, now is the time to critique your trees. We often attend conventions or club meetings to hear well-informed sensei or senior bonsaiists survey a tree and make an educated and constructive observation that improves or changes it. We fail, however, to take the spirit of these programs and apply them to our own material.

Wires should be well exposed on most of your trees since foliage dropped and new growth is not obstructing your inspection. Remove all of last year's wire. Severe bark cuts may have occurred during the slow winter months when the woody portions of the trees lignified. Early spring spurts can engulf old wire and cause damage.

Watering routines must be continued—but curtailed. Most bonsai can be maintained on minimal schedules however don't allow anything to become completely dry. Don't rely on possible light winter rains.

Don't overlook the last step in your spring dress-up program. Look at all 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 the beginning of moss color? Are the edges of the pots trimmed to allow a channel along the rims for drainage?

A good bonsai technique is to "rotate, rotate and rotate" your trees regularly. Exposing them to the light (sunny) side encourages budding development and balanced new growth.

HAIKU POEM:

Question the master
Finished product will then shine
Do all things his way

By Marty Mann

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| <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 February – 2011</p> |
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NEW MEMBER

Justine Keller

Say hello when you see her and welcome to Kofu Bonsai Kai

Special Thank You

January Donations/Raffle:

Everett & Sharyn Bassin
Manuel Martinez
Bill and Lois Hutchinson
Dan and Wanda Danesi
Bob White
John Deluca
Shari Religa

January Refreshments:

Sharyn & Ev Bassin
Ed & Nani Gonzales
John Deluca

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.