

The Kofu Kai Review

The Monthly Newsletter of the Kofu Kai Bonsai Club



Meeting Time and Place

SEPTEMBER 21, 2013 at 7:00 p.m.

Anaheim Methodist Church, 1000 South State College Blvd, Anaheim



John Nielson

We are pleased to have John Nielsen back as the demonstrator for the September meeting. John is a licensed Arborist with 30 years' experience in the Art of Bonsai. Over the years he has studied under Harry Hirao, Mel Ikeda and Tak Shimazu. His passion for the Art of Bonsai continues to give him great pleasure and rewards as he strives to perfect his trees and share his knowledge with other enthusiasts at many levels of development. John will be demonstrating how to manipulate branches by proper wiring techniques in order to heighten the quality of any material. John will work on a large prostrata juniper with a 3" trunk. This completed tree will be raffled off at the end of the demo. In addition, he wanted to let the Kofu Kai members know that he will be bringing in a "bunch of stuff" for the raffle. This is a demo you do not want to miss; it is a great learning opportunity and chance to win some good material.

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WWW.KOFUKAI.ORG

August Meeting

We appreciate all of the members who donated to the Auction last month to once again make it a successful event. It is because of your generous donations that we will be able to continue offering the programs you enjoy.

NEW MEMBERS WELCOME

***Mike & Diane Winters, Marshall Anwranto, Vince Nguyen,
Steve & Shannon Phillips, George & Clarie Cheung,***

Say "Hello" to them when you see them

KOFU BONSAI KAI - BONSAI IDEAS

BY MARTY MANN

SEPTEMBER, 2012 (#85)

Growth patterns of most trees begin to slow down at this time. They no longer show signs of vigor or the blush of summer greenery. They will not show autumn colors yet since the chemical changes required do not begin to materialize until late in September. The "Autumnal Equinox" approaches -- the day of equal nights and days that leads us into the fall season, areas in our yard, previously exposed to full sun, have more shade and conversely trees get less light than they are accustomed to having in order to grow. Notice tree locations. Move deciduous trees into cooler areas if you have had recent periods of

regrowth. In spite of periods of cool weather, trees can respond to the warmth of the late summer and develop new foliage.

Fall is generally the end of the luxurious growth of summer and the last spurt of activity before settling down for winter dormancy. Bonsai will no longer grow very much so the need for extensive pruning should be minimal. Since recent growth may have added girth to branches and trunks, check all wired branches to see if they are set and, if they are, remove the wires.

Assuming you have properly reduced the nitrogen feeding during the past few months the fall colors on deciduous trees will show on liquid ambers, maples, ginkgoes, hornbeams and zelcova. Cool nights and the effect of equal days and nights add to this phenomenon. Winter growth generally goes into the lignification of woody branches and trunks.

Fall is an excellent time to gather tree seeds as they ripen. Seeds from oak tree acorns, pine tree cones and many varieties of maples are in profusion--an excellent source for stratification by over wintering in your refrigerator. Plant them in early spring for new nursery seedlings and future training stock.

Pruning and pinching is still an important activity in spite of the growth slow-down. Keep evergreens and conifers in shape. Our climate allows plenty of time for new growth to develop and harden before winter cool days encourage dormancy. Check the growth of new candles on pines. There is still time for second candle removal. Attentive cut back and pinching minimizes unattractive long internodes and loss of compactness. The more you pinch and cut the more branch diversification occurs and new buds form for spring. This constant attention from early fall, throughout the dormant winter season, will intensify your design objectives.

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.

Changing leaf colors - Cause and effect.

As fall approaches, deciduous trees, in nature and in bonsai, turn gold, orange and crimson. We marvel at the beauty of these changes and accept this metamorphosis as a fact of life. It is generally assumed that these changes are just a byproduct of dying leaves due to the effects of weather and light.

Leaves get their green color during spring and summer from chlorophyll, the pigment that captures sunlight. But leaves also contain other pigments whose colors are masked during the growing season. In fall, the absence of chlorophyll allows these color pigments to break out, draw into the leaf tissues and begin to show.

The chemical activity within the leaf is very active. As chlorophyll previously used primarily for photosynthesis fades, nutrients like nitrogen and phosphorus are absorbed into the tissue of the tree, stored and used in spring for growth and reproduction. Anthocyanin's, the pigment that creates the red and orange colors, become more dominant and appear to protect leaves by blocking some of the sunlight.

As leaves become more colorful, an interesting phenomenon occurs. Aphids and other insects avoid trees with bright fall color and tend to lay their eggs in less colorful trees. When the eggs hatch next spring, the larvae feed on the tree and are very destructive. Some studies suggest that trees with strong fall color tend to suffer less damage from insects in spring. This is an interesting observation?

Haiku Poem:

Quaking leaves stir in the breeze
To tell of soft winds
The day passes and night falls

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
September - 2012

UP COMING EVENTS

Bowers Museum Show at the John M. Lee Court, September 11-15 from 10am to 4pm. On Thursday, September 12, there will be extended hours until 8pm with special presentation by Dr. Kendall Brown of Long Beach St. University on Japanese Gardens and from 5-7pm a Koto Player. Kofu members will have free access to the Bonsai display during the show dates. Enter from north side John Lee Court.

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:

Helen Ho
Tisa Miya
Harry Hirao
Tom Culton
Nancy Reekers
Wendy Tsai

April Donations:

Dick Anderson
Bob White
Dave Miles
Harry Hirao
Kazuo Hosozawa
Bill & Lois Hutchinson
Harry Inami
Jeff Straley
Joe Szabo
Michael Viljak
Manuel Martinez
Tak Nakamura
Ron Reekers
Larry Ragle
Tish Miya

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