

# The Kofu Kai Review

The Monthly Newsletter of the Kofu Kai Bonsai Club

Volume 30, Number 5

May 2011



## Meeting Time and Place

June 18, 2011 at 7:00 p.m.

Anaheim Methodist Church, 1000 South State College Blvd, Anaheim



## Kathy Shaner's June Workshop and Demo

**The Meeting for Kofu Kai will be on the 18<sup>th</sup> of June.** This meeting will be a joint venture with California Bonsai Society to bring Kathy Shaner as demonstrator and speaker. Meeting will be at the same location and time. **IN ADDITION TO THE MEETING THERE WILL BE A WORKSHOP.** The workshop will start at 2pm the same day and will run till 5:30pm and will be a bring your own tree workshop and is open to 5 participants. There will also be observers. The 5 participants will be at a cost of \$50 each. Silent observers will cost \$5. For reservations for the workshop, contact Larry Ragle at [crimescene@cox.net](mailto:crimescene@cox.net). On June 19<sup>th</sup> there will be 2 workshops at the Huntington Library. For more information contact Larry Ragle. Please bring your own tools, wire, and turn tables, etc. to the workshop.

Manuel Martinez

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Ryan Cali 949-735-3463

**WWW.KOFUKAI.ORG**



***Kofu Kai needs you and your trees.***

***Display or docent at the Orange County Fair exhibit***

***July 15th to August 14th.***

***Contact Anthony Chiusolo 714-998-3720 or***

***Michael Viljak 949-642-3577***

## June's Demonstration



### **Mel Ikeda Thinks " In The Box "**

At our May Kofu meeting we enjoyed a classic raft demonstration by one of the original members of Kofu Kai, Mel Ikeda. In fact, Mel remembered that the raft demo for which he is so well known was first done at a Kofu meeting many years ago when we were a small club meeting at a bank.

He said that the reason he developed the raft-in-a-box technique was to enable people to create something interesting and beautiful using material that anyone could easily obtain.

For our demo Mel used a procumbens nana which was fairly lanky and overgrown, giving many possible choices for trunk placement. He had pre-wired the many trunks. After sawing off part of the root ball, Mel lay the future raft down on the board he had prepared and - instant landscape. He continued to tie down the raft and position the trees and gave a preview of its future appearance by dressing it up with stones and sand. It was very beautiful and many of us were wishing to win it, I'm sure. The lucky winner was Tom Culton who was very pleased indeed.

Thanks, Mel!

Carol Upston

## KOFU BONSAI KAI – BONSAI IDEAS

### THE "GROWING-EST" TIME

BY MARTY MANN

JUNE 2011 (#74)

The end of May and early June is a good time to remove large leaves from the maturing spring foliage. This routine, just short of actual leaf pruning encourages smaller leaves to remain in scale with the tree. Do not do leaf pruning on an annual basis. Trim selectively, in stages, when new growth has hardened. Later in June is timely to work on leaf size reduction.

Feed the tree well for at least two weeks late in May before cutting Maple, Elm, Liquid Amber and Gingko. Use a low nitrogen formula to restrain spurts of new growth. Don't water as much during this regrowth period. Don't prune flowering trees until after flowering in order to allow new flower buds to form in the warm summer months, before fall and winter. This is the time for propagation by cuttings, planting seeds, and air-layering. Softwood cuttings are best taken from newly hardened wood. Try a group of cuttings with various diameters taken from a single variety of a tree to plant as a forest. Plan ahead and treat this group as a unit when it has rooted and begun to grow.

Harsh summer sun is coming. Guard against sun-burn. Protect deciduous trees as well as bamboo, especially if you use an overhead watering system. Rotate your trees regularly for even light exposure.

Reduce feeding deciduous trees in mid-June and for the last half of the year to discourage large leaves. Fall colors will improve (if nature co-operates with some cool nights) if fertilizers being used are low in Nitrogen (N) and higher in Potash (K) and Phosphorus (P). Flowering and fruiting trees can use some bone meal along with the regular fertilizing schedule.

With the renewal of active growth in May and into June so should pay attention to those ugly predators, insects and fungus. Aphids will multiply actively in warm weather. Fruit flies are attracted to the new young growth as the sugary sap flows. Continue your program of constant attention by the application of good commercial insecticides and fungicides. Check the underside of your leafy trees - a favorite hiding place for insect eggs and larvae growth. When you spray you must cover the upper and lower surfaces as well as the woody branches and trunk areas. While regularly scheduled spraying is the usual recommendation, it should be noted that too strong a chemical mixture could often do more harm than good. Don't overdo while emphasis is always on bugs and spores, attention should also be given to the accumulation of "trash" in your pots and in your growing containers. Keep your surfaces clean to discourage the harboring of unwanted tenants. Keep pulling those aggressive weeds that seem to find a home in well-fed plants in containers. Get them out before they become too much a part of your root ball.

Proper consideration to light conditions of each of your trees is very important during this active growing season. Keeping material in a sheltered or shaded area can produce lanky and weak growth. If the weather becomes excessively warm then the deciduous trees should be protected from too much hot sun. Conversely, conifers and evergreen junipers will benefit from substantial exposure to full sun that will create harder and firmer foliage. Do not react to the theory that the sun is harmful. The only negative effect of this exposure is the increased evaporation and excessive moisture loss. You must compensate for the benefit of good light by adjusting your watering schedules. Most of your trees will thrive in the warmer weather, however special care must be applied to the leafy Maples, Birch, and Liquid Ambers whose surfaces should not be wetted and allowed to broil.

Spring has sprung. Now be attentive to the maturing bonsai as they face the oncoming summer conditions.

HAIKU POEM:

**Soft** hills of clouds drifting by  
Warm days, sunlit skies  
With comfort and nurturing

**By Marty Mann**

June, 2011

## SPECIAL THANK YOU

DON MOFFETT FOR POT DONATIONS

### *UP COMING EVENTS*

Descanso Bonsai Club . June 18 to 19, 2011, Descanso, Gardens

July Kofu Kai meeting well have Lindsey Shiba as our demonstrator. Lindsey wants to do a critique work shop where advice will be given on your tree and if everyone is in agreement the work will be done during the meeting. If you are interested in getting some help with one of your trees and want to participate contact Carol Upston at [jackdraw@earthlink.net](mailto:jackdraw@earthlink.net) or 310-346-4203

**April 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 2012**

**Garden Grove, California**

**California Bonsai Society: 55th Convention and Show at the Crown Plaza** Anaheim Resort, 12021 harbor Blvd. and starring the iron men of Naka, Frank Goya, Harry Hirao, Shig Miya, Ben Oki and Richard Ota. Also featuring Tomohiro Masumi, Ryan Neil, and Cheryl Manning, Kenji Miyata, David Nguy, Kathy Shaner and the members of CBS. There will be workshops, demonstrations, auctions, drawings, a huge vendor area and prizes & awards for early registrations. For registration information contact Elizabeth Partch at [elizabethpartch@yahoo.com](mailto:elizabethpartch@yahoo.com)

## NEW MEMBERS

Summer Wilson Lopez &  
Anastazia Johns

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

## **Bonsai Tools and Supplies:**

If you need any tools or supplies from Everett Bassin, contact him at 714-827-0661 or 714-392-5149 or email him a [bonsaitools@mindspring.com](mailto:bonsaitools@mindspring.com). He will bring them to the meetings. He will not be bringing his entire inventory to the meetings.

### ***BADGE DRAWING WINNERS***

APRIL WINNER Kurt Eickhoff

MAY WINNER Steve Anthony

### ***Special Thank You***

#### **May Donations/Raffle:**

Manuel Martinez  
Harry Hirao  
Bob White  
Bill & Lois Hutchinson  
Helen Ho  
Dave Miles  
Bassin's Bonsai Tools  
Ryan Cali  
John Deluca

#### **May Refreshments:**

Tom Culton  
Harry Hirao  
Helen Ho  
Manuel Martinez  
Dan & Wanda Danesi  
Everett & Sharyn Bassin

### **PRE-MEETING WORKSHOP**

**WILL NOT BE THIS MONTH**