

The Kofu Kai Review

The Monthly Newsletter of the Kofu Kai Bonsai Club



Meeting Time and Place

April 21, 2012 at 7:00 p.m.

Anaheim Methodist Church, 1000 South State College Blvd, Anaheim

APRIL MEETING



Our April 21st meeting will feature a new speaker for us, Ryan S. Nichols. Ryan is both a horticulturist and a very active bonsaist. He received his bachelors of science in plant science/horticulture from Cal Poly and is his second year as a PhD candidate in plant biology at the University of California, Riverside. He is currently studying with Ryan Neil and our own Al Nelson. Fortunately for us, his interest in bonsai has caused him to seek ways to apply his scientific knowledge specifically to bonsai and he wants to help all of us to have the healthiest trees possible.

He will be discussing many topics relating to training and growing bonsai and once again I hope you will all bring your most difficult and puzzling questions for Ryan.

See you all there, and hopefully even before that at the California Bonsai Society Convention. This one only happens once every five years so even if you only run in the door and see the exhibit, which is free, don't miss it!

Carol Upston

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March Meeting

I'd just like to say how happy I was to see so many people asking really good questions at our March meeting featuring Ray Blasingame. Ray is very experienced not only in bonsai training but in the practical knowledge of growing plants to their maximum potential from seed to tree. Ray worked on and donated to the raffle one of his beautiful trident maples. I won one of them a couple of years back and it is developing very well. Thanks Ray for making the long drive to Kofu.

Carol Upston





BADGE WINNER

DEMO WINNER

Nory Ngo

Don Martin

CONGRATULATIONS !!!

President's Message

At the last couple of meetings I have mentioned that Kofu Kai will have a chance to do a couple of shows and that I would like to hear from members who would like to display their trees. As of this writing I have only heard from two people and both of them always participate in shows. I pretty much know who I can call on to show but that is not the purpose of the announcements and request. I would like to get more members to participate in a show so as to have better representation. As much as I like to see long time members continue to show and support the club I would like to see some new names on the display tables.

I know stepping forward to say "I want to show a tree" is sometimes intimidating. There are those of us who want to help make that experience fun and enjoyable. The first time I ever displayed was at the Bowers museum back in the 80's. Bowers Was going to have a Kimono display at the museum and thought that the combination of Bonsai would be a great opener for the show. I must tell you that the kimonos were beautiful but the Bonsai stole the show. Because I was responsible for the show and the president of the club I was informed by the board I had to display. Well I didn't feel comfortable due to my collection being small at the time and felt it was more on the novice or beginners level. I was told that a couple of the board members would be visiting me to look at what I had and make the determination about me showing a tree. They showed up the following week and spent half a day with me picking out a tree and then giving me advice as to how to make it more presentable. Well the day finally came and my tree was on display. I actually

walked by it at the reception when my wife asked me where it was, that's how good it ended up looking under the lights and the backdrop.

I am not bragging about anything just trying to get you to understand that in those trees you have there may be a real gem that you are just not aware of. I know it is nice to sit in your back yard and enjoy your trees, but there is a real enjoyment in displaying them. It's always great to hear the public comment on the beauty of the trees on display. For me it has always been a pleasure to hear the enjoyment our member's trees give to others. Who knows your tree may be the inspiration for someone to get started in Bonsai.

One person asked me "why do we have shows". Good one and I will say that it is part of why Kofu Kai exists. The purpose of our organization is to promote the art of Bonsai. By having shows we invite the public to see our members efforts and see it in a variety of styles and types of material. This alone is often an education for the public and an invitation to pursue an interest in the art. It is with the shows we do that we also attract new members and sometimes new venues for future shows.

So if you are interested or curious about showing please contact me or Carol Upston, our contact information is on the front page of this newsletter.

Respectfully
Kofu Kai President
M. Martinez

KOFU BONSAI KAI - BONSAI IDEAS

BY MARTY MANN

APRIL, 2012 (#80)

New candles that have begun to form on older pines can be cut back in April but wait another month before you work on younger trees. Candles generally form twice a year, in April and August. They form in clusters of from 2 to 5. Usually one will dominate. Retain one as leader and another to form the side branch. Always remove the largest candle but don't cut the other candles until needles just begin to open and expand. This timing prevents excessively long internodes between last year's branch tip and the new needle growth. Reduce watering somewhat to slow down the new growth but don't allow the fine rootage to dry. Keep pine needles short and strong.

This is a serious time to seek and destroy plant pests. The prolific aphid has come to life. Chewers, suckers and borers are all back in action. White flies, mealy bugs, spider mites and scale are all out to get us. Use systemic action insecticides, such as Isotex, as well as the reliable Malathion and Seven sprays. Damage cannot always be seen unless you examine the plant carefully. Sucking causes leaves to change color and drop. Read the pesticide labels to see what is best for your problems.

As spring growth develops, special attention should be given to continued good watering habits. We may face watering restrictions and should be selective as to time and method in order not to waste it's important benefits. Consider minimizing your automated systems in order to apply water more directly to each tree rather than the bench or area in which it is located. Consider watering early in the morning or late in the day in order to minimize evaporation losses. If plants have just been repotted, hold back on excessive watering since the newly developing rootage cannot dispose of moisture through new and sparse leaf growth. Transpiration is minimal. Older, more established trees need more water since

they are usually root bound and are always thirsty. Don't overlook drainage. Water usually kills more trees than any other condition.

Bring most trees out into the open. While new growth requires sunlight and warmth it can become unseasonably warm causing new sprouts to grow actively. Then consider moving deciduous trees back into a partially shaded area until the new growth has hardened. Keep trees well-spaced to allow free air circulation and light penetration.

Potted trees build up salts due to our more alkaline water. An additive of a soil sulfur or gypsum helps offset this condition by allowing more acidity to service the plants. Alkaline soil tends to reduce the color in the leaves of trees. If rain or your use of dionized water causes too much acidity, apply some wood ash or lime to sweeten the soil.

The love of nature is rewarded by the love of bonsai. Enjoy the fresh colors of spring and the new foliage before the heat of summer arrives.

HAIKU POEM :

We live in a land of awe
To see and enjoy
What pleasures we are given

By Marty Mann

<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 April -2012</p>

NEW MEMBERS WELCOME

***Brain Grant, Bill & Susan Beck, Jim Riedel, Teresa Betts,
Don Teague, Bill & Carol Vincent***

Say hello to them when you see them

UP COMING EVENTS

THE 23RD Annual SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA SPRING GARDEN

SHOW April 26 – 29, 2012 put on by Presented by Orange Empire located at South Coast Plaza's Crate and Barrel/Macy's Home store Wing. San Diego Freeway (405) at Bristol Street or San Joaquin Corridor (73) at Bear street.

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 at bonsaitools@mindspring.com. He will bring them to the meetings. He will not be bringing his entire inventory to the meetings.

A note from Everett Bassin

It is with deep feeling of regret I must close my Business, "Bassin Bonsai Tools, etc." due to health issues of myself and my wife Sharyn. My number 1 priority is taking care of Sharyn now in Rehab. My heart issues are on hold – I cannot do shows, conventions nor club meetings. And so, I will sell all my stock of tools, wire, books, etc., at my cost. This will save on cost of shipping them to my wholesaler in Oregon. All my pots, Dais, special equipment, etc. are to go. Included are Hapi Coats with attached pins collected from conventions, nationally and locally, plus Bonsai Jewelry (gold earrings), etc. Since nearly all my time is at Rehab with my wife, comforting her, **I can only make time by phone to sell before 11am and after 6pm, call me at 714-827-0661 or 714-392-5149** to set up a time. I will continue the sales until June, at which time everything will be boxed up and returned to Josha Roth in Oregon. Thanks to all of *my Friends, customers and club members* that I have done business with in the past, you've made it worthwhile. Stay well and safe and "Think Small Grow Bonsai"

Everett "Tool Guy" Bassin

And remember I take checks, case and abuse, sorry no credit cards.

Special Thank You

March Raffle Donations:

Manuel Martinez
Carol Upston
Harry Hirao
Bill & Lois Hutchinson
Bassin Bonsai Tools
Bob White
Helen Ho

March Refreshments:

Tish Miya
Bob Warner
Tom Culton
Wendy Tsai
Harry Hirao
Helen Ho

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
monthly meeting.**

