

# The Kofu Kai Review

The Monthly Newsletter of the Kofu Bonsai Kai Club



## MEETING TIME and PLACE

June 20, 2015, at 7:00 pm

Anaheim Methodist Church, 1000 South State College Blvd, Anaheim

## JUNE 20 DEMONSTRATION

### TED MATSON



Photo by Carol Upston

Our June demonstration features **Ted Matson** who will go over a topic that many of us are interested in: Deadwood carving. The power tools are coming out for this month's meeting so we're expecting to have a lot of fun.

**Ted Matson** has been involved in the industry for many years and belongs to a variety of bonsai clubs including the California Bonsai Society and Nanpu kai, a group of **John Naka's** students. He has also served as President of the Golden State Bonsai Federation and has written many articles for *Golden Statements* and various other bonsai publications. He currently manages the bonsai collection at the Huntington Library, Art Collections, and Botanical Gardens. He teaches various classes for the Huntington and is actively involved in the bonsai community.

He has extensive experience with *shohin* bonsai trees. However, during the June demonstration he will go over deadwood carving, a popular technique for creating age and character to bonsai trees. We look forward to seeing him in June. Don't forget to bring your masks and protective eyewear for those in the "splash zone." ---Jason Chan

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**WWW.KOFUKAI.ORG**

# May 16 Demonstration

## JOHN NIELSEN



Photo by Carol Upston

We had the pleasure of having **John Nielsen** for our last month's demonstration. We would like to thank **John** for his multiple generous donations to our raffle. His demonstration consisted of mini demonstrations on some of his selected trees and covered a variety of topics.

He discussed how he employs his pruning techniques on olive trees, Chinese elms, and junipers. It was great to see him demonstrate on a few of his trees how a few cuts here and there can open up the tree to start developing pad layers. He explained the growing patterns on olives and elms so that we can shape our trees based on how they grow. He also discussed at length various pest issues that have been affecting us recently and methods for controlling them.

One of the most notable demonstrations was his method for air layering a tree. He would use the small growers pots to hold the soil and employ wire to cut the sap flow off on the trunk to stimulate root growth. Using this method, he showed how we can create multiple air layers at once and end up with multiple trees from a single stock. Afterwards, he showed us a few of the styled trees that derived from this method.

It was nice to hear his perspective on a variety of subjects and how they can benefit us when we are working on our trees.

Jason Chan



Photo by Carol Upston

# KOFU BONSAI KAI - BONSAI IDEAS

BY MARTY MANN

## JUNE

The end of June or early July 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.

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 growing 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 can be 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 sunburn. 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 attention be made to these 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 can 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 which 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

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. June-2012

# CALENDAR of EVENTS

- June 13-14 **Descanso Bonsai Society** 46<sup>th</sup> annual exhibit, 9 am to 4 pm and demonstrations at 11 am and 1:30 pm both days, in Van De Kamp Hall, Descanso Gardens, 1418 Descanso Drive, La Cañada/Flintridge 91011. Reception on Saturday night 6 pm to 7 pm with raffle at 8 pm. Bonsai trees, pots, bonsai stock and accessories will be for sale. All events are free with garden admission.
- June 13-14 **Orange County Bonsai Society** 51<sup>st</sup> annual bonsai exhibit, 10 am to 4 pm both days, at the Orange County Buddhist Church, 909 South Dale Street, Anaheim. Demos by Uyen Truong on Saturday, Peter Macasieb on Sunday. Free admission and parking.
- August 15-16 **Nanpu Kai** annual bonsai exhibit as part of Nisei Week, 10 am to 5 pm both days, at the Japanese American Cultural and Community Center, 244 South San Pedro Street, Los Angeles.
- September 22-27 **Kofu Bonsai Kai** annual exhibit at Bowers Museum, 2002 North Main Street, Santa Ana. Set up and photos will be on the 22<sup>nd</sup>. Further information will be forthcoming.
- October 29 - **Golden Statement Bonsai Federation (GSBF)** 2015 Convention 38 "Bonsai Fusion: Where Tradition Meets Innovation at the Riverside Convention Center, 3637 Fifth Street near Main, November 1 Riverside. Headliners: Bjorn Bjorholm and John Wang. Guest Artists: David Nguy and Tak Shimazu. Demonstrations, seminars, critiques, workshops, benefit drawings, vendors, and much more. Additional information available at [www.GSBF2015.co](http://www.GSBF2015.co)

## BON VOYAGE to the HUTCHINSON'S

Kofu Bonsai Kai bids a fond farewell to **Lois** and **Bill Hutchinson**, who are moving to Pennsylvania in July. The **Hutchinson's** have been the backbone of Kofu working hard behind the scenes and volunteering for many positions on the executive board and committees. Thank you both for the many hours and days you have spent promoting bonsai. **Lois** and **Bill**, you will be missed tremendously! We hope Pennsylvania realizes the treasures that they are getting. Happy sailing to your next new adventures!

### SPECIAL THANK YOU

#### May Refreshments:

Tom Culton, Bob and Kim Warner, Justine Keller, and Dr. Walt Johnson.

#### Raffle Donations:

John Nielsen, Carol Upston, Dan and Wanda Danesi, Bill and Lois Hutchinson, Justine Keller, and Larry Ragle.

### PRE-MEETING WORKSHOP

There will be a pre-meeting workshop from 4 pm – 6 pm before the June 20 meeting. Let expert Kofu members **Ryan Cali**, **Paul Vasina**, and **Harley Newman** help you with your bonsai questions and objectives. Bring your tree in to get it spruced up for the annual exhibit.