

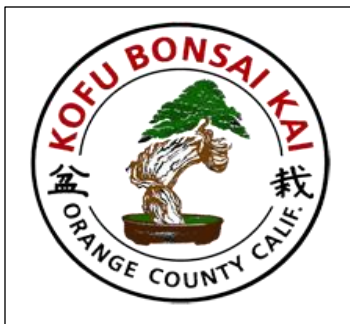
The Kofu Kai Review

The Monthly Newsletter of the Kofu Kai Bonsai Club

Meeting Time and Place

February 15, 2014 at 7:00 p.m.

Anaheim Methodist Church, 1000 South State College Blvd, Anaheim



It's that time of the year, **DUES ARE DUE**. Your newsletter will discontinue in

March if you have not renewed. **Contact An Truong 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

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An Truong

7875 E. Viewmount Court

Anaheim, CA 92808

If you joined during the months of Oct., Nov., or Dec. you are paid for 2014

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FEBRUARY MEETING



Harry Hirao

Harry Hirao, Mr. California Juniper Every year at this time it's my happy task to invite all of you to a demonstration of bonsai mastery by our sensei, Mr California Juniper, Harry Hirao. Harry is more than a bonsai master and living legend, he's a shining example to all of us of the way to stay young throughout a long life. Rather than issue another long list of Harry's many accomplishments and accolades, let me just say the art of bonsai in California, America and the world would not have evolved the way it has without him. His tireless generosity, along with that of his late friend John Naka, has helped make it all possible. Harry will donate the demo tree to the raffle and if you are very lucky, you may win a future masterpiece styled by a living legend. This is not a meeting to be missed and I hope to see everyone there for our friend and sensei, Harry Hirao.

Carol Upston

JANUARY MEETING



Kofu Kai started out the year 2014 with an excellent demonstration by Peter Macasieb. Though Peter has “only” been doing Bonsai for 10 years, his skill and accomplishments as a stylist is well known. He travels throughout the year in California, north and south, and has demonstrated in the Philippines. He has great respect for all his teachers, in particular Harry Hirao, Tak Shimazu and Boon Manakitivipart and acknowledged their mentorship at the meeting.

At the meeting Peter showed many fine (Shohin) Bonsai and explained how grafting is key to taking less than ideal material and transforming it to great material; basically taking a good trunk with mediocre foliage and through grafting designing a bonsai with better strategic branching and foliage quality (personal preference and style taken into account). The grafting material was a choice between using Kishu or Itoigawa Shimpaku foliage (Note: never combine the two on one tree). He explained how grafting, especially scion grafting, is all about timing and diligent after care. It is essential that the sap is flowing and the temperature is fairly ambient, in other words early spring, for us in SoCal that is between January and March and no Santa Anas (hot/dry and windy) or cold weather frost. He addresses this by either tenting the tree after grafting with a clear plastic bag, or by daily misting as in a green house. Both can work, tented grafts keep the moisture in and one can slowly poke holes in the bag after it appears the grafts have taken, thus exposing the graft to the environment. One can also go more high-tech by placing misters around your greenhouse with a timer that goes off periodically. There is of course the old fashion way of misting it by hand daily and often (Note: Peter works near his home so can run home to mist his trees in the afternoon). Do not allow direct sunlight on the graft and bring the tree into a temperate location if it looks like a cold icy night.

While doing the demonstration Peter took great care in cutting the scions such that one side is wedged longer than the other. The shorter edge will face in towards the branch when placing the graft. Then he cuts into the branch of the tree, careful to cut a slit that will match the scion. Not all edges of the scion needs to match, just one edge, but this insertion of the scion must be done once and the matching of one side is precise. Pulling out a scion and/or moving it into place damages the matching cambium and will not allow the scion to take to the mother tree. Then he would wrap the graft with grafting tape and seal with cut sealant.

His grafted trees show how important it is to place the graft in the most advantageous place. He does not use more than three branch starters on his scions and places them in the direction that will best serve the purpose, such as creating a new apex, developing foliage near the trunk, redirecting a branch to a bare area, etc... If you are successful, and the scion has been growing after a few seasons, one can begin to wire the branch. He suggests placing the start of the wire over the flap of the cut in order to further secure the bonding of the tree to the scion. With practice, and a little bit of luck, we make our own in a fairly short time turning mediocre material into great material.

We at Kofu Kai thank Peter for a fine demonstration and look forward to having him share with us his talents and enthusiasm for the Art of Bonsai at future meetings.

Congratulations go out to the winners of donated material to the raffle.

Ron Reekers

WINNERS OF DEMONSTRATION RAFFLE

Paul Vasina, Bill Vincent, Delia Spinoza, Matt Davis



KOFU BONSAI KAI - BONSAI IDEAS

BY MARTY MANN

FEBRUARY, 2014

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

This article has been extracted from the published book called 'Bonsai Ideas'. © By Marty Mann. Material is not to be copied without publisher or author's permission JAN 2014

NEW MEMBERS WELCOME

*Leif Schmit-kallas & Phuong Chau
Hank Faucett, Abraham Haary
Michael Kline & Denise Salvucci*

UP COMING EVENTS

February 22 & 23, 2014: San Marino, California

Bonsai-A-Thon XVII at the Huntington Library and Botanical Gardens, 1151 Oxford Road. This is the annual fundraiser for the GSBF Collection at The Huntington. Admission to the event and to the Huntington Gardens is free with Bonsai-A-Thon "Early Bird" Registration. Hours are 7:30 AM – 4:30 PM both days. Pancake breakfast, tour hosted by Jim Folsom (Director of the Garden), demonstrations, lunch, bonsai exhibits, large sales area, raffle, and auction. For more information, contact Marge Blasingame, 626-579-0420 or margeblasingame@att.net

March 29-30, 2014: California Bonsai Society Annual Show

The Huntington Library and Botanical Gardens, 1151 Oxford Road, San Marino, CA.

Badge Prize Winner

MICHAEL WALSH



Paul Vasina, who is recovering from surgery

Special Thank You

December Refreshments:

Dan & Wanda Danesi
Harry Hirao
Carol Upston
Gary Lai
Tish Miya
Manuel Martinez

January Raffle Donations:

Carol Upston
Harry Hirao
Gary Lai
Je Kwon
Kaz Hosozawa
Dan & Wanda Danesi
Mike Walsh
Harley Newman
Bill & Lois Hutchinson
Manuel Martinez

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 Ryan
Cali, Paul Vasina and Harley
Newman can assist. Meet from
4:00pm -6:00pm prior to the
monthly meeting.**