

The Kofu Kai Review

The Monthly Newsletter of the Kofu Kai Bonsai Club

Meeting Time and Place

March 16, 2013 at 7:00 p.m.

Anaheim Methodist Church, 1000 South State College Blvd, Anaheim



THIS WILL BE YOUR LAST NEWSLETTER IF YOU HAVE NOT PAID

It's that time of the year, **DUES ARE DUE**. Your newsletter will discontinue if you have not renewed. **Contact Bill Hutchinson 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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MAIL Checks To:

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If you joined during the months of Oct., Nov., or Dec. you are paid for 2013

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WWW.KOFUKAI.ORG

MARCH MEETING



Ryan Nichols

Ryan is an enthusiastic bonsai practitioner who has combined his extensive knowledge of plant science (Ryan is currently working on his PhD in Horticulture) with his love of the art of Bonsai. His initial journey started with his desire to be a Landscape Architect, but soon learned that having a working knowledge of how a plant survives and thrives was where his heart was at. Along the way of his educational journey he fell in love with bonsai and began taking classes from Al Nelson and Ryan Neil both of which showed him that a slow, concise and balanced approach to the art will manifest itself in the best results for Artist and Plant. He will be sharing his knowledge with the Kofu Kai members with an emphasis on repotting, Bonsai soil and aftercare.

By Ronald Reekers

Hana Matsuri Festival, April 13 & 14, 2013 at Buddhist Temple, 909 S. Dale Ave in Anaheim, *WE NEED YOU TO DISPLAY YOUR TREES*, contact Mike Viljak at 949-642-3577, or Anthony Chiusolo at 714-998-3420

FEBRUARY MEETING



At the February meeting Harry Hirao was assisted by Mel Ikeda and Tom Culton. The tree of choice was Harry's favorite, California Juniper. The tree was collect last year on one of Harry's trips to the desert.

During the demonstration there was some lively discussion about collecting trips with Harry and some of the difficulties of collecting this type of material.

The tree was styled with the possibility of having two fronts and having a compact structure. Harry donated the tree to the club raffle

BADGE PRIZE WINNER

NINA RAGLE



Leila Montero

DEMO TREE WINNER

KOFU KAI SPONSORED WORKSHOP TUESDAY MARCH 26, 2013

This spring we have arranged for a special workshop by renowned European bonsai artist Mauro Stemberger. Kofu will host this event on Tuesday March 26th at our usual meeting place. The workshop will be divided into morning and afternoon sessions and you can sign up for either morning or afternoon or both. This will be a bring-your-own material type of event and is for members who are currently actively taking bonsai lessons or have already studied bonsai. In addition to the bonsai material you'll work on, you will also need to bring your own tools. We will be limiting the number of participants to make sure that everyone gets plenty of time with Mauro. The fees will be as follows,

1/2 day 40.00, with lunch 45.00, full day 70.00, lunch included

silent observer 5.00 for either morning or afternoon session, 10.00 for all day, add 5.00 for lunch
just a note, silent observer means just that, watching and listening. The folks who are paying to be there get to ask the questions.

The exact times for the sessions will be announced later. Contact me, Carol Upston as soon as possible to reserve your spot. My emails are <jackdraw@earthlink.net>, <carol@mossfactory.com> or you can text me at 310-346-4203 or just call me. Email and texting are best.

This is an amazing opportunity to work with a bonsai artist who understands the Mediterranean climate. He was born and lives in Feltre, Italy which according to Google maps is about 100 k north of Venice in northeast Italy. He is a practicing architect as well as a bonsai teacher and enthusiast. I hope you will visit his blog at italianbonsaidream.com and take a look at his work and adventures. I first noticed him in an issue of Bonsai Focus Magazine and the thing that caught my eye, aside from his beautiful trees was the way he uses every square inch of balcony and roof space at his home to cram as many bonsai as possible into an urban setting. I can relate to that! Also, check out his Facebook page. We have plenty of spaces available in this workshop but they may fill up fast so please contact me, Carol Upston as soon as possible to reserve your spot.



KOFU BONSAI KAI - BONSAI IDEAS

BY MARTY MANN

MARCH, 2013 (#79)

The prime time for potting is March. If you have created a supply of good basic potting soil, fertilizers and other chemicals you are ready to go. Are all the used pots clean? Do you have an assortment of good new pots to select for new plantings?

Your projects can be threefold:

- moving pre-trained material from nursery cans to selected bonsai pots, either for further training or for show.
- transferring trees which are already potted into larger or more appropriate pots because of changes in the basic shape, size or design of the trees.
- repotting trees that are ready to be refreshed with new soil and removal of excessive root growth to generally improve the health of the trees.

During repotting activities it is wise to study the tree. Remove excess branch growth, crossing branches and long internodes that may have been overlooked during the dormant months. Trees should be somewhat on the dry side when they are ready for repotting. The tree will be easier to remove from the pot. The combing of the root ball, after cutting away about 1/3, will free the fine roots and encourage regrowth. Do not allow fine roots to be exposed to the sun or drying winds—keep a spray bottle handy. Screen new soil mixes to remove the harmful fine dust. Keep newly potted material in partial shade for a week or so and then move them out into full sun. Allow new feeder roots to develop. Replace and replenish any lost soil.

Prioritize your work schedule. Varieties of conifers, such as Spruce, Fir, Hinoki Cypress, etc., can be done first. Next, take care of the deciduous trees that are best done while the leaf buds are still tight. Finally, do the entire Juniper varieties and the Bamboo specimens. Don't wait until late into April. Give newly potted material a chance to develop new growth in their new medium as the weather warms.

It is advisable to remove portions of the old foliage, as well as the heavier old roots, to encourage new growth. Do so with some limitation—to much removal shocks the tree. Root divisions form whenever a root cut takes place. These divisions provide for better nutrient absorption. Branch trimming allows new branch divisions and desired branch twiggyness.

Deciduous trees, such as Japanese Maple, Trident Maple, Ginkgo and Liquid Amber, can now be trimmed but wait a few weeks until the new growth has matured.

This is the time to begin the fertilization program on established trees. Use a slow release fertilizer just prior to the signs of new growth. Organic fertilizers such as Cottonseed Meal (75%), with a proportion of Bone Meal (25%), give the trees the desired boost during this growing season. Bone Meal is very slow acting but is beneficial in the long run. To insure the maximum blooming potential, new growth on flowering trees and azaleas should be watched. Keep the nitrogen content of fertilizers at a minimum in these early feedings since excessive green foliage and leaf growth weakens the flowering effort. Use a weak application just as the flower buds begin to swell and again as they open and develop. Do not feed after the flowers are fully open. Miracle-Gro®, applied on a bi-weekly basis, is an excellent all-purpose fertilizer.

Plants are now growing vigorously. It's better to feed more often with light applications than less often with a heavy hand. Keep fertilizers away from the trunk of the tree. Broadcast granular food lightly over the pot surface and close to the pot edges. Do not feed newly transplanted or repotted trees for a month or two to let them become established. A low nitrogen fertilizer such as Super Phosphate keeps fruit and berries from falling off prematurely.

HAIKU POEM:

Tensely, I stride home
But, I stop in my garden
I stand calm again

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 March -2012</p>

NEW MEMBERS WELCOME

Paul Methof

SAY HELLO WHEN YOU SEE THEM

UP COMING EVENTS

BOWERS MUSEUM SPRING FESTIVAL-April 7, 2013 from 10-4 free admission to first 100 people. Kofi will have small exhibit.

Special Thank You

January Refreshments:

Gary & Dorothy Cleaveland
Helen Ho
Harry Hirao
Tish Miya
Marge Blasingame
Bob & Kim Warner
Tom Culton
Ron Reekers
Larry Ragle
Wendy Tsai

August Donations:

Harley Newman
Manuel Martinez
Helen Ho
Bill & Lois Hutchinson
Harry Hirao
Gary Lai
Marge Blasingame
Dee Fann
Bill Vincent
Bob White
Take Nakamura
Rishi Bisson
Mel Ikeda

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.