

- Message from your President
- Club Information
- Bonsai Classes

- Calendar of Events
- March Checklist
- Spring Show Flyer

THE BONSAI GAKUSEI

*Newsletter of the Modesto Bonsai Club
March 2006*

PROGRAM

Date: Saturday, March 18, 2006

Location: Blue Oak Nursery, 784 Albers Road.

Program Schedule:

- 9:00a Executive Board Meeting
- 10:00a Members Arrive/Set-Up
- 11:00a Beginning/Intermediate Program – Sam Adina
- 12:30p Lunch Break/Business Meeting: Bring a brown bag lunch. Drinks/snacks available
- 1:00p - ? Scott Chadd's Maple Demonstration

REMINDER: Each member is responsible for cleaning his/her work area/table before leaving.

A Message from your President...

February's Bonsai club meeting was held at Blue Oak Nursery. Some of the members felt cold enough to qualify as blue. The weather was crisp enough to see our breath and the breeze pushed packs of clouds across the sky teasing us with threats of rain.

We had a fairly good turnout for the meeting proving that Bonsai enthusiasts can be as stalwart as their trees.

Sam Adina demonstrated styling techniques and then circulated the membership helping to refine the show, donation, and foster trees. By the progress being made on the show trees we will have another beautiful display at our April event. Our annual show is rapidly approaching and we are in a busy season. The Foster trees should be potted now and finishing touches effected. **Show trees will need their Dai (stands) located and readied.** Raffle trees need potting and top dressing decided upon. Clay pots should be cleaned. Transplanting of some species is possible now.

Pam Grassmidt, our Show Chairperson, still has committees needing volunteers to sign up. Hospitality Hostess, Hana, needs members to sign up to bring luncheon items for Saturday and Sunday.

March 31st, Friday, the members need to bring their trees to Downey High Cafeteria between 4 and 7 pm. We will be arranging the stage and chairs along with the club sales and greeting tables. Doris Gaberel will be directing the display area for the Bonsai trees. Your committee assignments will have your times of service listed. Those members bringing in food for Saturday lunch may bring in those items Saturday from 9 to 11 am. Sunday potluck items can be brought in at 10:30 am.

Our club continues to expand. We gained a couple of new members at this last meeting. I know everyone will introduce themselves, welcome and assist our new friends.

We need about 3 members for each club meeting to sign up to bring in food for our shared luncheon. There is a sign-up sheet for hospitality next to the attendance roster at the meeting information table.

At the March meeting we will be enjoying instruction by Scott Chad on Maples. Scott has a Bonsai nursery near Placerville. He will be available for a workshop after lunch at a fee of \$10.00 each. Don't miss this opportunity to gain styling advice from such an experienced artist. Bring your Bonsai to his workshop for a check-up.

The club will be displaying a dozen or so of the member's Bonsai trees at the Aqua Shi Restaurant on 12th Street in Modesto. The trees will be cared for by members in small teams. The club will be paid a service fee for this. Those willing to participate, please contact Richard McKinstry.

The trees will be at the site for about a month. Some trees will be inside under plant lights and others will be outside on shelves for morning light. The trees will be rotated out and others will be displayed the following month. The club will be mentioned by signs at the restaurant. This is an opportunity for public education about the trees and our club. Also, the club can make a little more money with this service.

I'll see you at the March meeting on the 18th.
Your President,
Richard McKinstry

CRATAEGUS MONOGYNA

Seed sown in 1975

20cm high - 22cm wide

Pot: Gordon Duffett



My second ever attempt at bonsai. The seed came from a seedling I planted in my father's garden when I was seven years old! At one stage the roots began to rot due to daily drying and soaking in a too-shallow pot, so the trunk was layered and the tree is now growing on a new set of healthy roots. The bark texture is a result of the ["sphagnum wrap"](#) technique.

“The irony of bonsai is that whilst the artist seeks to achieve the illusion of great age, the horticulturist seeks to maintain the vigor of a young tree.”

Colin Lewis



ONE: With a piece of coarse abrasive paper, very gently stroke the trunk in a vertical direction once or twice to penetrate the outermost "skin". Don't go as deep as the cambium, and remember that you're not trying to remove the skin, just to score it in a few places. Go as high on the trunk as you can and, if possible, include any heavy lower branches.

TWO: Take some moist sphagnum moss (or any other dead, water retaining vegetable matter) and pack 20mm layer LOOSELY around the scored area. Hold the moss in place with twine, wire or open mesh of some sort, making sure it's not compacted at all.

THREE: Keep the moss wet at all times, even if this means placing the tree in the shade and heaping extra moss around the trunk in dry weather. Inspect the trunk every month or so to make sure you're not inadvertently layering the trunk! If you see roots forming, break them off and remove the moss for a couple of days, replacing it as soon as the bark appears dry.

This procedure prevents the normal drying and erosion of the outer "onion-skin" layers and allows moisture to soak into and expand the still porous spent phloem. The time required for fissures to appear will depend on the thickness of the existing bark itself and the amount of new phloem produced during the process, but be prepared to keep the "sphagnum-wrap" in place for up to two years, possibly longer. Allow the tree to bear as much foliage as possible to maximize the phloem production. Balancing this need with the need to maintain shape can be tricky, but even if you have to spend a year or two re-refining the branches, the improvement that mature bark will bring to your tree will be well worth the wait.

CLUB INFORMATION

If you haven't paid your membership dues... why not? Unfortunately this will be your last newsletter unless you get that done this month. We want you to continue to get all the benefits of being a member such as the 10% discount and no sales tax at Blue Oak on meeting days!

Club Sales! Get ready to show your club pride at the Show this April. See Pam or Faye at the meeting.

T-Shirts \$12 Name Tags \$8
2X or 3X \$15 Aprons \$12

Please remember to **Support Your Club** by picking a month or two per year and sign up for the snack table. Mary Miller will bring a snack in March. Thank you to Hana for taking care of this for us.

Welcome New Members! Glad you're here.

Terry&Mary Jo Melrose
Maxine Jacobsen
Jack Kirchert

If you would like to **advertise your business** in the Modesto Bonsai Club Show Brochure you must contact Pam Grassmidt by March 18. You can reach her at 529-1434. \$25 for business card size ad or \$100 for full page ad.

Thanks to Brad Coleman for donating plants and bonsai accessories for our **February raffle**, and, of course, thank you members for purchasing tickets!

Blue Oak Nursery has just brought in some great little accent plants (3 & 4 in. pots) from our friends at Lone Pine Gardens in Sebastopol, and this time of year is a great time to make sure you have soil mix on hand, so Brad got in new akadama as well.

As you know Michael Bennet has been nice enough to snap some photos for us all to enjoy of demos, etc. If for any reason you would prefer not to have your picture taken please let Michael or Betty know.

Instructor

Sam Adina

Board of Directors

President
Richard McKinstry

Vice President
Pam Grassmidt

Treasurer
Janet Wakefield

Secretary
Faye Nunes

Members-at-Large
Bill Hawley
Mary Miller
Spencer Tope

**Past President/
Membership Chair**
Doris Gaberel
209-524-2730

Other Support

Club Wire Supply
Spencer Tope

Hostess
Hanna McKinstry

Librarian
Betty Bennett

Newsletter Editor
Mary Miller
mary.k.miller@sbcglobal.net
523-6942

*gakusei (gok-say) noun a student or scholar

UPCOMING SHOWS AND EVENTS

March 15-19 **San Francisco, CA**
Bonsai Society of San Francisco Annual Exhibit at the San Francisco Flower and Garden Show, Cow Palace. Show hours are 9AM-8PM on Wednesday through Saturday, and 9AM-6:30PM on Sunday. In addition, there will be a bonsai demonstration in the public presentations area, on-going demos in the exhibit area, and a special children's activity. Bonsai materials are available for sale

2006 MEETING SCHEDULE

March18: Scott Chadd-12 tree Maple in forest style

April15: Doug Phillips – Olives

May20: Janet Walters – Satsuki

June17: Sam and Mentors discuss:

1. Air-layering
2. Trimming Maples
3. Trimming Azaleas
4. How to Buy

July15 and August19: Member Workshop 10AM-1PM

September16: Johnny Uchida-Topic TBA

October21: Ruben Guzman – Juniper

November18: Pick trees for 2007 Show, work on styling.

December: Holiday Social

BONSAI CLASSES

The Modesto Bonsai Club has decided to offer a series of four classes to be held at Blue Oak Nursery in April. Sam Adina will instruct them with aid from our mentors. The cost will be \$80 covering all four classes plus a plant will be provided on the first night. Class will be from 6-9pm April 6, 13, 20, and 27. We are looking for the class to fill up quickly due to increased interest generated by the spring show. Call Richard for info. 577-4174

MARCH CHECKLIST

- ___ Wire deciduous trees before tender shoots appear
- ___ Remove wire applied last year if branches are set or if wires are beginning to cut in
- ___ Repot and root prune bonsai except for spring flowering species
- ___ Start feeding evergreens not recently repotted
- ___ Start feeding deciduous trees when they show signs of growth, but not the recently repotted
- ___ Shelter newly potted trees from harsh sun, wind, rain or frost
- ___ Replenish wire and soil supply
- ___ Wipe down your show pots and rub in a little mineral oil to get them ready for April 1&2 !

Directions to Meeting Site: The **Blue Oak Nursery** is on the east side of Albers Road, 1 mile north of Hwy. 132 (Yosemite Blvd.). Watch for the big blue sign with the blue oak silhouette. Turn into the gravel lane and follow it to the end. Park in designated areas.

Modesto Bonsai Club Mailing Address:
P.O. Box 578518
Modesto, CA 95357

The Modesto Bonsai Club
2006 Spring



Bonsai Show

The Largest Annual Bonsai Exhibit in the Modesto Area

Saturday April 1st 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Sunday April 2nd 12 noon - 4 p.m.



★ **Show Location** ★

Thomas Downey High School
1000 Coffee Rd.
Modesto



Bonsai Demonstration

By Sam Adina 2:00 p.m. Each Day
Club Member Demo Starting 11:00 a.m. Saturday
Demo Plant Raffles Each Day

Grand Prize Raffle

After Sunday Demonstration
Winner Need Not Be Present
Donation \$1.00

Sales of Bonsai and
Pre-Bonsai Plants
And Accessories

Free Admission
Free Door Prizes