

- Message from your President
- Club Information
- Meeting Schedule

- 10 Commandments of Bonsai
- Calendar of Events
- Tip of the Month

THE BONSAI GAKUSEI

*Newsletter of the Modesto Bonsai Club
AUGUST 2006*

PROGRAM

Date: Saturday, Aug. 19, 2006

Location: Blue Oak Nursery, 784 Albers Road.

Program Schedule:

9:00a Executive Board Meeting

10:00a Club Business Meeting/ Bonsai Basics

11:00a Lunch Break: Bring a brown bag lunch. Club provides some drinks and snacks.

12:00p Sams Demonstration-Juniper

1:30p Workshop

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

A Message from your President...

Our mid-year's meeting had a light turnout. A summer's breeze and the Blue Oak fans were helpful in taming the summer heat.

Janet Wakefield, our treasurer, reports the club balance is currently \$4542.25. The final profit on our Spring Show 2006 was \$2678.53 compared to the 2005 profit of \$1602.63 and the 2004 show profit of \$1429.60. Congratulations and thanks for all of the member's hard work in planning and producing a marvelous Bonsai event.

After a five month trial of supplying bonsai to the Aqua Shi restaurant in Modesto the club has decided to terminate it's agreement. I have consulted with the restaurant owners and agreed to sell them bonsai and give some of their staff some instruction for care. Our bonsai have generated such acclaim and admiration that the owners acknowledge their value. Hopefully our First Thursday gathering at Blue Oak will produce the

necessary trees plus whichever trees the members wish to bring out that evening to add to the collection.

A small change will be made in the hospitality department of the club meetings. The club will provide an allowance for some basic items to be brought to the meetings by the hospitality coordinator. Please feel free to add to the luncheon some of your favorite recipes.

The Greeter position has been filled by Audrey Poulo. She will meet and direct visitors and new members at the start of the meetings. Also, a dry-erase board will be at the entrance scheduling the day's events.

The Bonsai Basics Committee is chaired by Pam Gallegos. The basics area will be staffed by rotating mentors in the raffle table between the membership meeting and the instructor's demonstration. Please let Pam know what topics you are interested in having presented.

The fall field trip to the Placerville bonsai nurseries will be Saturday, October 14. We will have seating on the bus for 45 and lots of room for material under the bus in the luggage compartment. Please let us know at the August meeting how many will be going. The fee for the all-day trip will be \$25.00 each. Please pay your trip fee at the August meeting so we can reserve the bus. The club will provide drinks and you will be responsible for bringing your lunch which we will eat at one of the nurseries.

We will have our First Annual Bonsai Exchange /Sale at the August meeting. Trees and supplies will be traded among the members. A sale table will be set up for items you wish to sell. A donation table will be provided for materials you wish to give the club for a raffle.

Sam Adina assisted members with their Bonsai and later gave styling demonstrations to the club.

Sam discussed Japanese Black Pines styling. He said July is about the latest date in the year for forcing new growth by cutting back buds. To shorten the needles pull the needles to a limit of about 6 at the branch tips. The new growth will come out alongside the remaining needles in one or two months. The new growth will stay short as the season will be cooling. In November pull off the old, longer needles. The new, short, compact growth will be ready for the April show.

Copper wire is preferred by Sam for styling Black Pines as it oxidizes and blends well with the bark. This is better in appearance for show trees. Wiring progresses from the lower branches to the top and pruning is from the tree top to the bottom. Wire can be removed in 6 months to a year depending on the rate of growth. Remember to anchor your wires well to avoid damage to the branches. Don't cross wires.

Cork Bark Oaks were styled by Sam after the Pines. July is the latest time of the year to remove branches. New shoots should break out soon after cutting. Defoliation will create new growth like Maples. Cutting back to 3 leaves can be done from April through June. Grafting can be done in February or March.

Your President, Richard

2006 MEETING SCHEDULE

August19: Sam Adina- Juniper

September16: Johnny Uchida-Topic TBA

October21: Ruben Guzman – Juniper

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

December: Holiday Social

Ten Commandments of Bonsai

By Bill Will

1. **Thou shalt** devise thine own potting mix. Thou mayest seek advice and help from others but must formulate thine own mix according to thine own microenvironment and watering and fertilizing regiment.
2. **Thou shalt** determine the ph of thine own water and adjust it to slightly acidic.
3. **Thou shalt** immediately, or as soon as possible, remove any new plant from its original potting mix and place it in thine own.
4. **Thou shalt** abhor, despise, detest and hate all such vermin as squirrels and mayest not go to the local feed store and buy the 50 lb. bags of corn to feed them because “they are so cute”.
5. **Thou shalt** take care of thy bonsai as though they were thine own children - for indeed, they art. Thou shalt water them, feed them, groom them, love them and keep them from all harm.
6. **Thou shalt** do thine own repotting and trimming. Thou mayest seek advice and assistance but must do the actual work thine own self.
7. **Thou shalt** not bow down and worship “The Rules” of bonsai and shalt recognize that they are naught but “guidelines” - albeit excellent guidelines. Thou shouldst learn them and abide by them - when applicable and possible.
8. **Thou shalt** seek diligently for potential bonsai, they; being available whence and where found.
9. **Thou shalt** not covet thy neighbor’s bonsai, nor his pots, nor his tools - lest ye be willing to pay him at least 10 times its maximum true value.
10. **Thou shalt** do everything in thy power to promote the Art of Bonsai.

Submitted by Linda Soliven

Reprinted from Texas Bonsai, Summer, 1991

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Sam Adina

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President

Richard McKinstry

Vice President

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Janet Wakefield

Secretary

Faye Nunes

Members-at-Large

Bill Hawley

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Spencer Tope

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Doris Gaberel

Other Support

Club Wire Supply

Spencer Tope

Hostess

Hanna McKinstry

Librarian

Betty Bennett

Newsletter Editor

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Web Master

Andrew Poulo

modestobonsaiclub.com

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

CLUB INFORMATION

Welcome to our new member...

Clyde Windham

Thanks go out to Dan Platt for signing up for the refreshment table this month.

Starting this month there will club trees available for beginners or any club members to work on. If you are starting out in bonsai or just didn't bring a tree to the meeting, no problem, you can still participate in the workshops and get that all important hands on experience. Ask Brad or Richard to point out the club trees at our next meeting and pick out one to work on.

Each month Brad will feature a \$5 table at Blue Oak with great plants that need a good home. Be sure to check out these bargains!

Be sure to visit Blue Oak Nursery on the first Thursday of each month as well. Sam and Brad will be there along with other members working on their trees. Come out between 6 and 9 pm.

September 7

October 5

MEMBER TIP OF THE MONTH

August Plant Care

- __ Locate your plants to receive less afternoon sun
- __ Water at least 1 or 2 times a day depending on pot
- __ Give your plants shade when it's too hot out
- __ Have someone watch your plants if you go away longer than 1 or 2 days
- When it's too hot out growth slows down, so...
- __ No drastic pruning in August
- __ No fertilizing
- __ Wire only small branches
- __ No transplanting

- Sam Adina

UPCOMING SHOWS AND EVENTS

August 19-20 San Francisco, CA San Francisco Suiseki Kai 25th Annual Exhibit at the Sakura Room of the Radisson Miyako Hotel, 1625 Post St., in Japan Town. 10-5 both days.

August 26-27 Santa Rosa, CA Redwood Empire Bonsai Society 23rd Annual Show at the Veterans Memorial Building, 1351 Maple Ave. 10-5 on Sat. and 10-4 on Sun.

September 2-3 Honolulu, HI Hawaii Bonsai Association Annual Show in Kapiolani Park in Waikiki. 9-5 on Sat. and 9-4 on Sun.

September 16-17 San Mateo, CA San Mateo Bonsai Club 43rd Annual Fall Exhibit at the Central Park Rec. Center, 50 East 5th Ave. 12-5 on Sat. and 10-4 on Sun.

September 23 San Jose, CA Midori Bonsai Club 45th Annual Show at St. Edwards Episcopal Church, 15040 Union Ave. (at Hwy 85) 10-5pm

November 2-5 Sacramento, CA Golden State Bonsai Federation Convention XXIX at Double Tree Hotel, 2001 Point West Way. Register Early (by 8/31)

For much more subscribe to Golden Statements at <http://www.gsbf-bonsai.org>



An uninspiring seedling and a piece of rock that had been kicking around the garden ... just waiting for a few idle moments and a flash of inspiration! The tree is growing in a channel carved in the back of the rock with an industrial angle-grinder. I suppose the tree alone would qualify as a shohin, but the rock prevents this.

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.

Mailing Address: Modesto Bonsai Club
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