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THE BONSAI GAKUSEI

*Newsletter of the Modesto Bonsai Club
October 2006*

PROGRAM

Date: Saturday, Oct. 21, 2006

Location: Blue Oak Nursery, 784 Albers Road.

Program Schedule:

- 9:00a Executive Board Meeting
- 10:00a Club Business Meeting / Sam Adina's Demo- Cascades- Japanese black pine, shimpaku and cotoneaster.
- 11:00a Lunch Break: Bring a brown bag lunch. Club provides some drinks and snacks.
- 12:00p Ruben Guzman's Demonstration
- 1:30p Workshop

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

A Message from your President...

Our September 16th club meeting enjoyed great weather and most pleasant surroundings.

Unfortunately, neither John Uchida nor George Fujita were able to attend the meeting.

Sam Adina was kind enough to instruct the members in styling Shimpaku and Sierra Junipers.

Sam described collecting Sierra Junipers from an area near Silver Lake. He will be going collecting again soon and if you would like to join him please call him for details.

Routinely Sam selects his tree based on his own criteria. He removes about three-fourths of the rootage, covers the roots with wet blue towels then places the root ball in a plastic bag. All that is left is to lug the treasure back to the car. At home, the tree is placed in a large plastic nursery pot instead of a clay pot as it is lighter, does not require cleaning, and it has less risk of breaking. Surround the unwrapped roots with 100% decomposed granite.



Sierra Junipers determine their own style by their growth patterns. Begin styling by removing last year's old needles (juvenile needles are prickly, adult needles are softer) so they don't compete with new needles for nutrients. The needles can be cut back later after new growth begins. Leave 1/2 inch of each cut branch to allow for budding out (same as for Black Pines). Sierra Junipers are too difficult to propagate from cuttings.

These Junipers can be repotted in three months if you see movement in their growth. You can wait 2-3 years to repot if you are not interested in selling it in a hurry like Muryama. Always remember that Bonsai is a living art form, and style and shape may change frequently in 2-3 years.

Shimpaku Junipers can be styled in many ways. They have many branches to increase your choices for establishing a basic style. (Hollywood Junipers have fewer choices as they are usually straight-trucked) Repotting your new Shimpaku can wait so the

transplanting does not shock and slow the growth. Clean the tree from the apex downward to the roots. Young roots are too small to style. You should fertilize now to give it the strength to overcome the stress of trimming.

The Shimpaku cuttings can be stripped from 1/2 to 1/3 down to the cut end. The cutting then is placed in clean sand and buried to include part of the lower branches. Repot in 1 year.

Copper wire is preferred over aluminum because of strength and coloration similar to the tree bark.

The membership meeting included information on the October 14th field trip to the Lotus and El Dorado Bonsai nurseries. A beginning /intermediate bonsai class for 5 Thursdays will start October 12th. The club voted for the annual year-end Holiday dinner to be on December 9th at the Dynasty restaurant near Marie Callendar's restaurant on Coffee Road, Modesto. We need a volunteer to serve as club librarian. Those interested please inform your board members.

The club has many plants that are available for your education and your club's income. These can be selected in our club areas at Blue Oak. Please let Janet Wakefield know of your choices for tracking. Pots for these plants will be provided by the club.

Please wear your name tags to each meeting as we have many new members to meet and greet. Also your name tag is required for your discount at the Blue Oak store. New name tags, t-shirts, club pins, aprons, and tote-bags with our club logo are available at the meetings through our club treasurer, Janet Wakefield.

President Richard McKinstry



Hop on the bus!

Saturday Oct. 14 - Join the Modesto Bonsai Club for our trip up north to two great bonsai nurseries-Lotus and El Dorado! Bring a picnic lunch and meet by 7am in the old Krispy Kreme parking lot. There is still time to invite your family and friends. Just show up. The cost is \$25 per person. We will be back in Modesto by 5pm.

Instructor

Sam Adina 209-234-3956

Board of Directors

President

Richard McKinstry

Vice President

Pam Grassmidt

Treasurer

Janet Wakefield

Secretary

Audrey Poulo

Members-at-Large

Bill Hawley
Mary Miller
Spencer Tope

Past President/ Membership Chair

Doris Gaberel

Other Support

Club Wire Supply

Spencer Tope

Greeter

Lois Jumper

Hostess

Hanna Hodge

Librarian

OPEN

Newsletter Editor

Mary Miller
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Web Master

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

2006 MEETING SCHEDULE

October 21: Ruben Guzman – Juniper

November 18: Pick trees for 2007 Show, work on styling.

December 9: Holiday Social at Dynasty Restaurant. Cost to be announced.



Pam Grassmidt and Richard McKinstry

If you are new to 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. There are club trees available to anyone who wants to style them.

CLUB INFORMATION

Welcome to our new club member...
Sharolyn Klawin

Congratulations to our club hostess Hanna and her new husband Jan Hodge married Oct. 1. BEST WISHES!

We need a volunteer for a new club librarian. Anyone willing to take on this important task is asked to please let Richard

know. We all thank Betty for her organizing and cataloging efforts with our great selection of books and periodicals.

Thanks to both Audrey Poulo and Lois Jumper for volunteering for club positions. Audrey is our new secretary and Lois will be our new greeter.

Brad continues to have a great group of plants for only \$5 near the shelter entrance.

Michael Bennett is available for all of your photography needs. He suggests that we document our plants for insurance purposes or just for future comparison. He is willing to go to your home and can be contacted by calling 669-1728.

Our club has donated \$100 to Stanislaus Community Assistance Project in memory of our friend Faye Nunes.

If you have any photos or information you would like to see on our web site contact Andy at modestobonsaiclub.com

Price List for items at club meetings.

Name Tags \$8

Aprons \$15

T-Shirts \$12

2 or 3X Shirts \$15

Tote Bags \$15

Beginner/Intermediate Classes

By Sam Adina

Five week class starts Thurs. Oct. 12, 6-8 pm

1st class - Informal Upright

(includes tree and potting materials)

Oct. 19 - Formal Upright

Oct. 26 - Slanting or Windswept

Nov. 2 - Root Over Rock

Nov. 9 - any style

Fee is \$100. Location: Blue Oak Nursery

Questions: Call Doris at 524-2730

MEMBER TIP OF THE MONTH

Fall is generally the climax of the luxurious growth of summer and the last spurt of activity before settling down for winter dormancy. Your bonsai will no longer be growing very much so the need for extensive pruning may be minimal. Since recent growth may have added girth to the branches and trunks, it would be prudent to check out all wired branches to see if they are set, and if they are, the wires can be removed.

Assuming you have properly reduced the nitrogen feeding during the past few months, you may be showing the beginning of fall colors on deciduous trees. Continue to fertilize with little or no nitrogen, select plant foods that are high in potash and phosphorus. All winter growth generally goes into the lignifications, (to make into wood) of the woody branches and trunks.

There is still time to give your bonsai a last good feeding during the fall months. Continue using a fertilizer with little or no nitrogen and high in potash and phosphorus. Most fruiting and flowering bonsai will benefit from this type of feeding. Specifically, Azaleas, Crabapples, Umes (Japanese apricots), and Pomegranates will improve after these late feedings. The changing colors on deciduous trees tell you that the growing season is over.

Cut back on your watering schedule but do not allow the trees to dry out. As the length of the day's sunshine is shortened, the trees require less water. Water should be soft. If your water is hard or lime scaled, it can harm some plants. Letting hard water stand a few days in a barrel, a five gallon can or bucket, allows the heavy material in water to settle to the bottom. Add a couple of drops of insecticide to the water to prevent mosquito development. Draw water from the top of the container and occasionally wash out the residue in the container.

Use this soft water to spray your plants. Using hard water directly from the faucet can harm some lime hating plants, especially Azaleas, and cause lime spots on leaves of others. It's especially important to spray the junipers and needle bonsai. This emulates a drenching rain and prevents the leaves and needles from drying up.

-submitted by Jerry Jumper

UPCOMING SHOWS AND EVENTS

October 14-15 **Oakland, CA**
East Bay Bonsai Society 45th Annual Show at Lakeside Garden Center, 666 Bellevue (off Grand near I-580)
Sat. 10-5, Sun. 11-4:30. Free admission.

October 21-22 **Hayward, CA**
Yamato Bonsai Kai 35th Annual Exhibition at Centennial Hall, 22292 Foothill Blvd. Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-4 Admission is \$5 includes raffle ticket for demo tree.

November 2-5 **Sacramento, CA**
Golden State Bonsai Federation Convention XXIX at Double Tree Hotel, 2001 Point West Way.

November 10-11 **Ross, CA**
Marin Bonsai Club Fall Show at Marin Art and Garden Center, 30 Sir Francis Drake Blvd. Fri. night 6-9:30 pm dinner and raffle, Sat. 10-5.

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

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.

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