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THE BONSAI GAKUSEI

*Newsletter of the Modesto Bonsai Club
DECEMBER 2006*



A Message from your President...

The club had no speaker at the November meeting so the members worked on their trees with Sam and mentors assisting with styling.

The calendar for 2007 has been completed and will eventually be printed as a tri-fold flier showing the topics and speakers for each month. The schedule will be posted on the website and included in our newsletter.

Our year-end holiday dinner will be held at the Dynasty restaurant located at the shopping center near Marie Callendar's restaurant, Briggsmore and Coffee, Modesto. Dinner will begin at 5pm on Saturday, December 9th. The cost will be \$15.00 per person. We will enjoy a white elephant gift exchange and each other's company.

Our January meeting will be visited by Bob Hilvers from Golden State Bonsai Federation. He will discuss the possible club involvement required to host the 2008 GSBF state convention in Modesto. We have not committed to host, we are just studying the proposal and how it might benefit our club.

In February, we will be treated to a narrated video presentation of Linda Soliven's trip to Japan last February.

The Spring Show will be March 31st and April 1st at Downey High School on Coffee Road. Start

planning which of your trees you will be exhibiting and developing some trees for club sales.

The next Bonsai Beginners class will be held on Fridays 6-9pm starting April 13, 2007. This 5 week class fee will be \$100.00. Notices will be sent to the local nurseries, the newspaper, and the garden club.

Steve Fistolera has volunteered to become our club librarian. We are grateful and he is currently working on a list of members with outstanding library materials.

This has been a wonderful year. Brad Coleman has hosted our club for years with no charge. He has provided a beautiful setting surrounded by inspiring and instructive trees. He pays his employees to clean up and set up the classroom for each club meeting. He cools us in the summer and warms us in the winter. He has donated hundreds of dollars worth of trees for the club members to learn from and develop into plants to sell at our spring shows. He gives the members great discounts and takes no taxes at his nursery shop. Brad has touted our club during his meetings at other clubs and organizations. We thank you Brad for the many generous things you have done for the Modesto Bonsai Club.

Winter is upon us and it is time to reflect on what we have learned from our teachers, our trees, our friends, and life in general.

Happy Holidays! May your days be filled with good health and joy!

President, Richard

CONVENTION REPORT

The 2006 GSBF General Meeting was called to order by Dolly Fassio. The roll call was performed by Sue Demers. Roberta Walters accepted the general meeting minutes for 2005. Dolly Fassio presented the two new board members, Bob Hilvers and Joe Cosio.

Ballots were passed out to each club representative by the election committee to vote for 2007 officers, Scott Chadd, Randall Lee, Brad Coleman, Monte Weiss, and John Petrescu. Votes were collected, tallied, and results given. All nominees passed and elected.

Abe Far discussed that there is additional Liability Insurance available for executive committee club members for a very nominal fee and highly recommended that all clubs purchase this for their executive committees. This insurance protects club executives from harmful liability suits that could be levied against them should any one be injured while attending a club function.

A representative from the Huntington collection (South) sorry, I didn't get his name, talked about the expansion going on at the collection facility specifically for the Shoin collection being acquired. As more and more trees are being donated it has created a need to expand the facility to properly show and display the trees. Completion is scheduled for mid to late next year.

Dolly Fassio adjourned.

Lois and I attended the demonstration of styling a Black Pine by Kathy Shaner. Kathy's tips were many and covered many aspects of Bonsai. Kathy encourages students of Bonsai to work with many instructors and teachers to learn different styles and different approaches to defining a plant. Kathy says to take your time and carefully study and learn how a tree moves and what direction it is going. By doing this your design of the tree will benefit from the trees natural movement and more closely follow nature's course.

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Doris Gaberel 209-524-2730

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

Lois and I also attended Linsey Shiba's demonstration where he redesigned a very old Oriental Liquid Amber. This tree was a very large collected tree and had developed a large burl at the base of the tree. Linsey originally cut large holes in the burl, buried it, waited for it to take root and then cut the tree eventually getting two large specimen trees.

One tree developed nicely over the next several years, the other one developed well also but due to neglect of not repotting a large center branch died and rotted out a large section of the primary trunk. Linsey was going to through the tree out when he remembered something John Naka had told him years ago. "If it is a large specimen, put the tree out of the way, let it grow and one day you might look at that tree and think of some way to redesign it."

Linsey did that and several years late he saw the development of some of the secondary branches and decided to move one of those branches into the primary position by cutting out the decayed section, placing a turn buckle in the recess made by the cleaning out the decay, bending the branch with heavy wire and securing it with the turn buckle. When this had been accomplished, he poured fast drying cement into the recess, covering the turn buckle, and allowing the cambium layer to ultimately cover the cement. Amazing!!!

Linsey says don't get so caught up in Bonsai that you forget about your family. Linsey's wife told him "A happy wife makes for a happy life." There is life after Bonsai.

Lois and I saw several club members at the convention and over all saw a good turnout at the demonstrations. The exhibit trees were beautiful and the vendor's booths offered Tools, Pots, Plants, Potting mix and all manor of items related to Bonsai.

– Jerry Jumper, GSBF Convention Delegate



BLUE OAK NURSERY NEWS

Brad Coleman has sold the Garden Gate but he has a huge selection of plants and potting materials at Blue Oak. In November many of the members were able to purchase some of the pre-bonsai stock that is located about halfway up the entrance lane (near the red barn). There are growing pots and everything from small plants up to extra large landscaping trees available for AT LEAST 50% off other nursery prices. Check out this area in Jan. and get some great deals!

CLUB INFORMATION

There will be no first Thursday night workshops in Dec. or Jan. Too cold!

In January you will receive your annual membership form. Please fill it out and pay your dues promptly.

MEMBER TIP OF THE MONTH

Book Review

I became interested in Bonsai gardening when I attended my first Bonsai show in April 1999. I joined the club that same day and have been a devoted fan ever since. I began accumulating books and magazines, and I have reviewed the extensive library that the Bonsai Club has collected. A few of my favorite books are:

The Bonsai Workshop by Herb Gustafson
This book has many good chapters on pruning, potting, training, plant material, care & maintenance, and the best part is he not only shows great photos and diagrams, and instructions, but he also explains WHY you do these techniques to

benefit the survival of the plant, and obtain the design goals you are striving for.

Pocket Bonsai by David Prescott

This small paperback book has great colored photos, covers subject matter from the science of leaf structure to a separate section on hardy species for Bonsai material, and each variety of plant has a full page of information including summer placement, winter placement, feeding, watering, wiring (or not), pruning (when & how), and repotting. This book is also small enough to pack on a trip for reading material!

The Bonsai Yearbook, by Paul Goff

This book is especially helpful for me because it is broken down by Seasons; Spring, Summer, Fall & Winter, and each month has a section of suggestions and blank pages for your personal notes (including trials & errors!). This book helps me keep track of all the good information I learn from Sam and our various guest speakers. There are many good books on Bonsai and I always get inspired by them, even if I only have time to review a few pages. I hope you enjoy reading this! See you in January.

- Janet Wakefield

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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