

The Bonsai GAKUSEI

March, 2007

Newsletter of the Modesto Bonsai Club

Program

Date: Saturday, March 17, 2007

Location:

Blue Oak Nursery
784 Albers Road.

Program Schedule:

- 9:00a Executive Board Meeting. All are welcome to attend.
- 10:00a Club Meeting Sam Adina will demonstrate on Black Pine and Shimpaku Juniper.
- 11:00a Bob Hilvers from GSBF
- 12:00p Lunch Break: Club will provide food and drinks. Work on donation or foster trees for 2007 show.
- 1:00p John Uchida – Cal. Juniper & Cedar

REMINDER:

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

Message from your President...

On February 17th club members were greeted with beautiful spring weather in the most pleasant surroundings at Blue Oak Nursery.

I am reminding everyone that the club's spring show is March 31 and April 1. Hopefully each member is readying a tree for display and two trees for donations. If you have a well-developed Bonsai that you would like to donate for the club's auction please bring it to the March meeting for evaluation by Sam. Also bring your foster trees and display trees to the March meeting for a final check-up.

If you wish to sell some of your Bonsai at the show please bring them to the March 30 set-up at Downey High School between 3 and 6pm. Please have a list of your trees for the plant sales workers to track them. The club asks 20% of the sale price to go toward club activities. The show requires everyone's participation so please sign up for help on some committee(s). Sign-up lists will be available at the March 17th meeting.

This year a new Executive Board will be elected. All positions are open. A nominating committee is headed by Andy Poulo. Please advise Andy of your interest in a particular office. Serving on the Board is a good way to help your club and learn the workings of the club.

Linda Soliven brought three folks from the Bonsai Collection North at Lake Merritt, Oakland. A video presentation depicted the hard work of constructing the Bonsai Garden and its evolution. Many of the well-known Bonsai artists of the Bay area were shown in various stages of that labor of love. A photo board was displayed on a table with items for sale: shirts, cards, etc. Opportunities to maintain the garden are available. Working at the garden has many benefits: you would be enjoying the mentoring by highly trained Bonsai artists, working with masterpieces of Bonsai art, and earning points towards private instruction.

Sam Adina worked with the members on their trees readying them for the show. Judging by the quality of the trees we will have a great show.



Our demonstration by Sam was instructive for repotting Maples and grafting Shimpaku Junipers. Maples can be repotted in our current weather pattern as they are beginning to bud out and awaken to spring. Cut the stabilizing wires holding the tree in its tray. Clean soil from the rootball with a chopstick, trying not to damage the fine feeder roots. Trim back the heavy taproot and other heavy downward growing roots to allow planting in a shallower tray. Empty and clean the pot. Place a shallow layer of coarse soil across the bottom of the tray. Wire the rootball in place, having misted the rootball and bottom layer of soil. Stabilize the rootball by tightening the fixation wires and then trim the twisted ends, bending them down into the soil. Add soil (Brad's Mix: 50% Pumice, 25% Akadama, 25% Lava rock). Wiggle a chopstick throughout the soil to

help pack down and eliminate air pockets that could create subterranean pools of trapped water which would rot the roots.

If you are considering transplanting to the ground the tree should be healthy before placing it in the earth. Remember to place plastic or a stone beneath the roots to encourage spreading of the roots shallowly. The same principles apply to ground planting as to pot planting: keep the roots radiating out shallowly, style and wire with the same techniques. Keep the tree short by cutting back the apex but allow the lower branches to grow out thereby increasing the caliber of the trunk and heaviness of the branches.

I hope this season brings you renewed energy so you can keep up with these miraculous trees we call our friends.

Your President, Richard

Club Information

We all welcome returning club member James Jones and his son Shane Jones who joined us in February.

Once again we will be holding the club board meetings at 9am starting in March.

The club has many foster trees that need to be taken home and potted and styled. Be sure to let Richard know if you can take one or two home. They should be brought back to the meetings for attention so they will be in top shape for the show.

If you can donate a really fine quality bonsai for our new auction to be held during our Spring Show please bring it to the March meeting so we can get an idea of how successful this will be. We have 16 already and we are shooting for 20 -30. Keep in mind that your donation is tax deductible!

Remember that Blue Oak is open for evening workshops from 6-9 pm on the first Thursday of each month.

April 5th, May 3rd, June 7th

Our Instructor

Sam Adina 209-234-3956

Board of Directors

President

Richard McKinstry 209-577-4174

Vice President

Pam Grassmidt 209-529-1434

Treasurer

Janet Wakefield 209-341-4075

Secretary

Audrey Poulo

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

Greeter

Lois Jumper

Guest Demonstrator Coordinator

Jerry Jumper 209-667-6701

Hostess

Hana Hodge

Librarian

Steven Fistolera

Newsletter Editor

Mary Miller

mary.k.miller@sbcglobal.net

Web Master

Andrew Poulo

modestobonsaiclub.com

学生

gakusei -(gok-say) - noun -A student or scholar

2007 Meetings

April 21 – John Thompson

May 19 – Roberta Walters

June 16 – Mike Page

July 21 – Sam Adina

August 18 – Seiji Shiba

September 15 – Pat Flynn

October 20 – Rubin Guzman

November 17 – Sam Adina

December – **Holiday Party**

Calendar of Events

Mar.21-25 **San Francisco, CA**
Bonsai Society of San Francisco: Exhibit at the SF Flower and Garden Show, Cow Palace. Wed.-Sat. 9am-8pm; Sun. 9am-6pm. Tickets \$20

Mar.24-25 **Fresno, CA**
Fresno Bonsai Society: Annual Show in the Shinzen Gardens at Woodward Park, East Audubon Dr. at Friant Rd. 10am-4pm with demos at 1 both days. Admission to the park is \$2.

Mar.25 **Santa Cruz, CA**
Santa Cruz Bonsai Kai: 18th Annual Show at the Elks Lodge, 150 Jewell St. 10:30am-4:30pm with 1:30 demo by Katsumi Kinoshita. \$3 suggested donation at the door.

Mar.31-April 1 **Modesto, CA**
Modesto Bonsai Club Annual Spring Show at Downey High School on Coffee Rd. Sat. 10am-4pm; Sun. Noon-4. Free admission, demonstrators, vendors, auctions!

Member Tip of the Month

Bonsai to me are an endless source of pleasure. Raising them, working on them throughout the year(s), and displaying them can bring a bonsai enthusiast much enjoyment. They can enhance and add subtle touches to any garden (large or small).

There are good bonsai and there are not-so-good bonsai, as we all know. The aim of each individual should be to make better and better bonsai. The proper trees, tools, pots, soils, and knowledge make all the difference in the world. To obtain all of these I recommend a club membership as an excellent avenue.

For the last two years, as a member of this club, my bonsai have become better bonsai, due to the various teachings and knowledge of others. Before joining this club I'd done bonsai on my own for around 20 years off and on. Two years ago I went to a Modesto Bonsai Club Show and thought, "Wow my bonsai don't look this good, why not?" I joined our club that year and see now that I made a good choice.

I read years ago, "No tree is too unusual for the bonsai enthusiast." I have a miniature Ivy which usually grows close to the ground (but mine is trained upright) and a Heavenly Bamboo (that I've had for 17 years now and is about 12 inches tall). I've seen pictures in Bonsai books of a Creeping Fig which is a vine and an Oregano spice plant which are both really quite interesting and beautiful.

Try something different from the main stream tree; you too might create something interesting and beautiful. I believe one can be somewhat endless in his own choices.

-Eddie Whitton

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 area.

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

MODESTO BONSAI CLUB 2007 SPRING BONSAI SHOW



Free Admission / Free Door Prizes

Downey High School Cafeteria

1000 Coffee Rd. , Modesto

Sat. March 31 10am-4pm

&

Sun. April 1 12n-4pm

Bonsai Demonstrations

by Sam Adina
2pm both days

Bonsai Basics Class
11am on Saturday—\$20

Grand Prize Raffle

After Sun. Demo
Donation \$1
You need not be present
to win!

Live and Silent Auctions

Of beautiful finished Bonsai
donated by MBC Members



Plant Sales

We will have club and vendor sales
tables. Plants, pots, wire, tools,
soil and lots of helpful suggestions.

We Welcome You To Our Annual Event !