

The Bonsai GAKUSEI

April, 2007

Newsletter of the Modesto Bonsai Club

Program

Date: Saturday, April 21, 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 the trimming and shaping of deciduous bonsai and seasonal activities.
- 12:00p Lunch Break: Club will provide food and drinks.
- 1:00p John Thompson: Oak, Quince & Blk. Pine

REMINDER:

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

Message from your President...

Decisions, decisions...

We face many decisions at this time. Now is the season when our trees spring to life. Their winter rest has ended and we must change our care of them. Now is the time for repotting and training the explosion of growth.

Your club's executive board that arranges the activities you desire is finishing their terms of office and must be replaced in the May election. For this club to continue to be recognized by GSBF and have the fund-raising annual show the executive board must be operational. Serving your club by becoming a board officer helps you learn about your organization and assists the group to grow and prosper. There are several offices that need candidates. Let the nominating committee know your choice of office.

Our Spring Show was a grand success, thanks to the planning of our show chairperson, Pam Grassmidt, participation of the membership in setting up, arranging,

performing as docents and instructors, greeting, creating and selling plants, tickets, providing hospitality, and disassembling. Sam Adina worked non-stop as Bonsai Basics instructor, tree doctor, and demonstrator after he and Doris artistically arranged the Bonsai display.

Modesto Bonsai Club is most grateful to Brad Coleman for his extremely generous donations of beautiful Bonsai for the auctions, his assistance with the trees, pots, and soil for the Bonsai Basics Class, and the many donations for our raffles and door prize drawings. Thank you, Brad, for all your generosity which immeasurably added to the profitability of the show.

Deja vu was experienced by some club members at the March demo. Our original club instructor, over thirty years ago, Johnny Uchida, was our guest sensei. Uchida-san selected a procumbens juniper that had a Shimpaku graft. The graft had been done by Mas Ishi in southern California.



Mr. Uchida related many of his experiences while styling the juniper. One instance recalled was when he was being mentored by John Naka. Naka-san's comment to Uchida-san was not to worry about what to do with so many branches, "just cut them off".

While creating Jin on branches, Johnny stated: "they should not end up looking like pencils but like a little dog chewed on them". He demonstrated jinning techniques of circumferentially compressing the bark then peeling it off,

crushing the truncated branch, cutting into it at angles, and flaring the tip to appear natural.

Johnny narrated his assessment of the tree, delineating which branches to keep or remove, the style suggested by the bends of the trunk, and the ultimate height. He added that when he is working and gets nervous he starts speaking Japanese.



In styling branches a strong upward-pointing branch can be bent down by cutting part way into the underside of the branch (no more than 1/4 way through) wiring the branch down and sealing the cut with paste.

Wire from the lower large branches to the smaller upper ones. Anchor wires so they pass across the back of the tree, out of sight. Bend the wires out the branch as your hand moves around the branch. It is better to use a slightly larger wire rather than two wires. Depending on the growth rate, the wires can be removed between eight months to one year. After six months you may prune foliage pads for thickness and flat bottoms.

Junipers can be potted almost any time. The tree can be removed from the nursery container and the rootball decreased by one-half to three-fourths using a sharp hatchet then a root cutter. Comb out most of the soil with a chopstick or hook. Wire into a pot and pack bonsai soil with a chopstick. Water the tree until the water drains clear. Soak the transplant in a solution of B1 or Superthrive for twenty to thirty minutes. Set the new bonsai out of direct

sunlight for about two weeks to survive transplant shock. Mist foliage daily with water but do not water the soil.

Another technique for branch bending is to wrap the branch with a piece of screen or heavy fabric then wire the branch to the rim of the container doubling the wire over the wrap. Twist the wires together to pull down the branch. This wire can stay for six to twelve months depending on branch size.

November 2008 will be Northern California's turn to host the GSBF convention. Bob Hilvers, Second Vice President of GSBF, attended the March meeting and presented information describing the event and duties of the hosting club. He said GSBF has the program all mapped out in detail and if the club is willing to volunteer to do some of the work at the convention GSBF would arrange some help from other nearby clubs. We must vote on this exciting honor to host this international event at the April meeting.

Your President, Richard.

Upcoming Guest Speakers

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**

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

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Hana Hodge

Librarian

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Newsletter Editor

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Web Master

Andrew Poulo
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学生

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

Club Information

Welcome New Members!

Robert Leslie
And returning member
Geraldine Valaas

Pam Grassmidt would like to say a big **THANK YOU** to all those who worked so hard on the show this year.

Lost & Found

If you are missing any tools that were taken to the Bonsai Basics Class at the show, please contact Richard.

Evening Workshop

Everyone has been enjoying the opportunity to meet out at Blue Oak Nursery on the 1st Thursday of each month as well as our regular 3rd Saturday meeting. The days are getting longer and the weather has been great for the Thurs. evening workshops. Sam and Brad are there from 6-9pm and you will benefit from lots of one on one advice on training your bonsai. Brad has decided to leave a bucket for donations out to help compensate Sam for his time, travel and expenses. Thank you for showing our instructor appreciation!

Guest Speaker

Due to the very mixed reactions of our members on weather or not we should host the 2008 GSBF Convention we will be having a visit from Mary Rowland from GSBF April 21st. She will be here to help answer any questions or concerns the members have. We must prepare to vote on this or possibly consider hosting in 2010.

Club Elections

We have some nominations for the Club Officers that we will be voting on in May. Please consider if you are willing to run and let the nominating committee know at our April meeting. Ballots will be sent out with the May newsletter and can be mailed in or brought to the May meeting to be counted.



Linda and Tony calling the auction

Calendar of Events

April 14-15 Sacramento, CA
Sac. Bonsai Sekiyu Kai: 30th Annual Show at the Betsuin Buddhist Church, 2401 Riverside Blvd. 12-5pm Sat. and 10-3:30pm Sun. Demos both days at 2 by John Uchida

April 14-15 Sacramento, CA
American Bonsai Association of Sac.: Annual Show and Sale at McKinley Park Garden & Arts Center, 3330 McKinley Blvd. 10-5pm both days. Demos 1:30 both days.

April 22 Hanford, CA
The Clark Center for Japanese Art & Culture: 7th Annual Spring Festival, 15770 Tenth Ave. 10-5pm. Demo by Kenji Miyata. Workshops, Exhibits, Auctions and Sales.

For much more subscribe at www.gsbf-bonsai.org



Audrey and Eddie with club trees

Member Tip of the Month

Feed Your Bonsai

Most people don't fertilize nearly enough. You want your bonsai to grow vigorously.

During the growing season, especially the spring, feed generously. Plenty of slow release pellets along with weekly applications of a mild liquid or fish-seaweed.

Balanced growth is achieved by using balanced fertilizers. Ones with NPK's like 7-9-5, or 10-10-10, or 4-6-4.

In the spring, it's okay to use a little more nitrogen, like 10-5-5. But taper off as the season wears on. By late summer apply very little nitrogen. Some folks switch to a 0-10-10.

Be sure that you always dilute adequately. Too much can burn the roots.

Minerals are important for long term health. Use fertilizers that have a full range of minerals. Seaweed or fish emulsion are good choices.

Remember; feed generously and intelligently during the growing season. Your bonsai will look and feel much better.
(from Bonsai Today #107)

-submitted by Mary Miller

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
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