

The Bonsai GAKUSEI

July, 2007

Newsletter of the Modesto Bonsai Club

Program

Date: Saturday, July 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
10:15a Styling advice w/ Sam
OR
Basics class w/ Mentors
11:00a Sam Adina – Decandeling Bl. Pine & Styling Juniper
1:00p Prize drawings
1:15p Work on your trees

REMINDER:

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

Message from your President...

Once upon a time in the country of Japan there lived two frogs, one of whom made his home in a ditch near the town of Osaka. This frog's ditch was near a great bonsai masters home where local artists gathered and formed a club. The Osaka frog would sit on a lily pad during the club's meetings and carefully listen. Over time he learned a great deal about bonsai and the art of running a club.

The other frog dwelt in a clear little stream which ran outside the city of Kyoto. The Kyoto frog's stream was in the country, and flowed under beautiful trees, which he loved. He knew nothing of bonsai or of the running of a club; but he was an adventurous frog, and always anxious to see and try new things.

At such a great distance apart, they had never even heard of each other; but, funnily enough, the idea came into both their heads at once that they should like to see a little of the world. The frog who lived at Kyoto wanted to visit Osaka, and the frog who lived at Osaka wished to go to Kyoto, where the great Mikado had his palace.

So one fine morning in the spring they both set out along the road that led from Kyoto to Osaka, one from one end and one from the other. The journey was more tiring than they expected, for they did not know much about traveling, and halfway between the two towns there arose a mountain which had to be climbed. It took them a long time and a great many hops to reach the top, but there they were at last, and what a surprise it was to each of them to see another frog before him!

They looked at each other for a moment without speaking, and then fell into conversation, explaining the cause of their meeting so far from their homes. The Osaka frog told of living near the great bonsai master's home and of the meetings of the bonsai club. The Kyoto frog told of the peacefulness of his country stream and the beauty of Kyoto.

It was delightful to find that they both had the same wish - to learn new things and try a different style of life - and as there was no sort of hurry they stretched themselves out in a cool, damp place, and agreed that they would have a good rest before deciding what to do.

Upon waking, they were both excited about continuing their journey, but now with an added twist. It was agreed that the Osaka frog would take up residence in the quiet little Kyoto stream and contemplate the beauty of the trees overhead, while the Kyoto frog would proceed to Osaka, take up residence near the Bonsai Masters home and try to learn a little of what his new friend already knew.

In much the same manner there is a passing of the guard, or if you prefer a mountaintop changing of

responsibilities at our club. Starting with the June meeting a newly elected board with Jerry Jumper as President, Andy Poulo as Vice President, Janet Wakefield as Treasurer and Audrey Poulo as Secretary will assume responsibility. Like the Kyoto frog, we of the new board are novices and can only marvel at the depth of experience, and length of service, of the departing board.

And so as our first official act, and on behalf of the entire club membership, we would like to say thank you to the departing board and to those other members of long standing, without whose dedicated service, the club might not even exist. So once again our thanks to Richard McKinstry, Pam Grassmidt, Bill Hawley, Spencer Tope and Doris Gaberel. Enjoy the Kyoto stream, but we will come visiting often to ask for advice.

Andrew Poulo, Vice President

Upcoming Guest Speakers

August 18 – Seiji Shiba

September 15 – Pat Flynn

October 20 – Ruben Guzman

November 17 – Sam Adina

December – **Holiday Party**

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

Our Instructor

Sam Adina 209-234-3956

Board of Directors

President

Jerry Jumper 209-667-6701

Vice President

Andrew Poulo 209-772-2440

Treasurer

Janet Wakefield 209-341-4075

Secretary

Audrey Poulo

Members-at-Large

Michael Bennett 209-669-1728

Peter Camarena 209-658-7383

Brad Coleman 209-523-5857

Past President/ Membership Chair

Doris Gaberel 209-524-2730

Other Support

Club Wire Supply

Michael Bennett

Greeter

Lois Jumper

Guest Demonstrator Coordinator

Brad Coleman

becbo@mac.com

Hostess

Marilyn Myers

Librarian

Steven Fistolera

Newsletter Editor

Mary Miller

mary.k.miller@sbcglobal.net

Web Master

Mike Reynolds

modestobonsaiclub.com

学生

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

Member Tip of the Month

Below is a picture from nature, perhaps the best of all teachers of what our bonsai should look like. Mother Nature knows well how to fashion beauty and *story* as I fondly remember the words of our past Sensei, George Fujita, "Your tree should tell a story of what has happened to it over the years with the snows and wind, the rain and lightening, the struggle to survive."



Photo taken by Tony Hayworth, Yamato Bonsai Club

Since I have adopted the study of and developing bonsai as an art form, my viewing of trees and nature for that matter has been eternally altered. I cannot go anywhere without intently looking at a tree from afar in it's landscape, up close, its bark, its branch formations, its branchlet and leaf structures.

However, we can not always be in nature to get our vision of what we would like our developing tree to imitate, but we can see excellent specimens of what others who engage in our passion of developing bonsai are doing.

And so, I urge you to make an effort, monthly if you can, to visit the shows of the various clubs in Northern California. There you can see the development stages of their member's trees. You can strengthen your own visualization skills by comparing those trees that look authentic to you. You can explore why some trees look more realistic and some do not.

You also can judge your own skill development in regards to the work of others. The reason for being in a club situation is not only to enjoy ourselves and share with like-minded enthusiasts as we are learning, but our intent ought to be that we improve the quality of what we are doing in bonsai.

I would hope that the reason for the annual show is not only to raise money, but to also raise our standards of bonsai development. Each year, in our exhibit, we should see an improvement in the quality of the trees from the year before. Being self critical and giving attention to the art in this way stretches us. Mother Nature knows it "like the back of her hand".

- *Linda Sofiven*

Club Information

Welcome To Our New Members

Larry & Carolyn Ridlon

Annual Club Field Trip – Sat. Aug. 25

This year we will head to Santa Rosa for the Redwood Empire Bonsai Club Show and Sale. The bus ride is \$30 per person and is due at the July 21 meeting. Bring a sack lunch. The club will provide drinks. We will be leaving the FoodMaxx parking lot (Briggsmore & Prescott) at 7am so plan to arrive 10 min. early! We will stop in Stockton to pick up club members who reside there. Sign up ASAP. It will be great fun!

Blue Oak Nursery

The first Thursday of the month workshops had to be canceled until further notice.

2nd Annual Club Sale – Sat. Aug. 18

Bring your unwanted books, pots, plants, etc. for possible sale, trade or raffle donation!

Report of the meeting with GSBF and the Doubletree Hotel

7/02/07 by Andy Poulo

Audrey and I met with Ted Matson and Bob Hilvers of the GSBF, and Kelsy McCall and Joanna Butler of Doubletree. The meeting started with a tour of the Hotel's meeting spaces, public spaces and rooms. The meeting facilities of the hotel coupled with the adjoining convention center seemed ideal for the convention's needs. Rooms were very attractive; there is ample parking and a convenient area for loading and unloading.

Bob Hilvers had already been in contact several times with the sales manager, Kelsy McCall, and contracts had been prepared for signing. As a result of our discussions a few minor changes were requested and agreed to. I have since received a revised contract with those changes incorporated and I expect this contract will be signed by GSBF before our next meeting.

I'm not sure what Audrey and I were expecting, but we were both a little blown away by the scope of the convention. We are committing to fill 400 rooms at \$100 per room, and generate \$27,000 in food and beverage revenue in order for the meeting spaces to be provided at no charge. Not meeting contractual targets becomes very expensive.

After a very nice lunch provided by the hotel, Kelly and Joanna left us and we began a meeting where Ted and Bob laid out our Club's duties and responsibilities. Before going into detail, I think the tasks we are expected to perform are broader, more intensive and more complex than I had expected. I think we will get some help from GSBF, but except for the hotel contract negotiation, we will be expected to take the lead and carry the load. For the people involved from our club, this will not be something that can be done on a once a month meeting basis. I expect the whole team will need to meet at least on a weekly basis for overall scheduling, progress reporting and coordination. In fact, there are so many facets and details of the tasks involved, that project scheduling software would not be out of line.

One of the more scary revelations is that we must have much of the overall planning complete by October 31st of this year because we will be expected to make a presentation at the Anaheim Convention. This presentation will essentially be a sales pitch highlighting our convention, and just putting it together will be a major task.

So what exactly are we expected to do? I will only try to hit the highlights, but as with most of these things, the devil will be in the details. To start, we need to come up with an overall concept for our convention. This includes a slogan, logo, web site design, and advertisements for national publications like Bonsai Today along with other forms of publicity. We will be responsible for determining who we would like as headliners and workshop leaders. We will get some help in actually lining up these people. I got the impression that they would like to stay away from Japan next year, but they also feel we have tapped out the California Headliners like Kathy Shaner.

We will be responsible for setting up a registration system complete with wireless credit card registration and will receive some help with this. We also need a treasurer, and GSBF will fund us with \$5,000 to start. GSBF makes most of its money from benefit drawings during the convention. We, however, will be responsible for setting up the benefit drawings, and will take the lead in getting people to donate material to these auctions, as well as inventorying and transporting this material to the hotel.

We will be responsible for all workshops. This includes, as mentioned, determining the type of workshop and instructor, acquiring material as needed, storing the material, determining the setup required for workshop, working with hotel staff to get things set up and overseeing registration and scheduling.

The entire grand ballroom of the hotel will be devoted to vendors. They didn't mention how many vendors usually attend, but they did request 100 tables for vendors. We will be responsible for coordinating with vendors, making sure each vendor has what is required, communicating with hotel staff and overseeing vendor relations. This by itself is a large task, the equivalent of putting on a small trade show.

The local club is also responsible for organizing field trips for the attendees. Possibilities that were mentioned included Gallo Winery, Suiseki hunting in Murphys, Yosemite and Big Trees. Again, we would be responsible for organization, publicity, registration, and transportation for each of these trips.

The last big area that would require our attention is the Bonsai Exhibition. The consensus was we should have a mixture of the best trees in California along with trees from our local club. Bob was pushing for a judged competition, while Ted seemed to think that would be politically sensitive. In any case, we are responsible for putting it on, including actually deciding on the trees, coordinating transportation, security and publicity.

Ted and Bob strongly recommended the following positions for chairpeople.

Head Chairperson and Co-Chair
Registration Chair
Treasurer
Workshop & Headliner Chair
Publicity Chair
Benefit Drawing Chair
Vendor Chair
Exhibit Chair
Field Trip Chair
Webmaster

I strongly recommend that the group of people appointed to these positions, immediately plan a trip as a group to the hotel. I think this is required to get a sense of the scale of what we are doing. Then I think a group meeting needs to be planned with Bob and/or Ted, followed by some very intensive planning sessions.

New Webmaster

Take some time and see the great job Mike Reynolds is doing with our club website! If there is anything you would like to see on there please contact pete.camarena@sbcglobal.net with the info. Thanks to Andy for setting up the wonderful site in the first place.



Janet pinching candles on a Black Pine

From the Editor

I'm really feeling the need to do a little cheerleading. Don't worry it won't happen too often.

I just want every single one of you reading this to understand that you are greatly needed so that we show GSBF the best convention that they have ever seen. I know if everyone contributes their time and energy we will show what an amazing team the central valley made.

Don't wait to be asked – volunteer! Ask where you can fill in on various committees. Every job is important! Say yes as much as you can. If you happen to be one of the brave heading a committee say yes to all who come to you offering help. No egos and no feeling slighted. Be incapable of getting offended. Remember this is almost always due to simple misunderstandings.

We have such a great club full of good people and I know together we can be successful in 2008.

Your Friend, Mary