



THE BONSAI GAKUSEI

THE MODESTO BONSAI CLUB NEWSLETTER

April 2009

Program

Date: April 18, 2009

Location:

Blue Oak Nursery
784 Albers Rd.

Program Schedule:

9:00a Executive Board Meeting: All
are welcome to attend.

10:00a Club Meeting

Work on your trees with Sam

Adina. Bring your pines and junipers

REMINDER:

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

Message from our president

President's Message April

Our 28th Annual Spring show was just concluded on April 4th and 5th. Although I wasn't able to be there, I understand that it was a good show. I know that there are improvements which can be made and I have heard that several of you have some great ideas and suggestions which we can incorporate for our show next year.

gakusei (gok-say)–Noun– A student or scholar

I have tentatively reserved the Centre Plaza for the weekend of April 23, 24 and 25. This was the only weekend available as the Centre is booked up to 18 months in advance.

Speaking of spring shows, the Clark Center for Japanese Art and Culture, will be holding theirs the weekend of May 16 & 17. This year Saturday has been modified to include the first national competition on the art of displaying Bonsai. On Sunday morning Hideko Metaxas will be presenting a lecture/demo on tokonoma display. For more information, go to <http://www.cciac.org/events/kazari2009.html>.

See you all at our club meeting on Saturday, April 18.

March Meeting: John Thompson

March 21, 2009

We were privileged to have John Thompson at our meeting who helped each person style a tree. He will be back in June to help us again with the same tree.



Jessica Dinis with her oak she won at convention which happened to come from J.T.



Looking at an already styled old oak tree ready for repotting.



A nice Japanese maple



Potting a little shohin oak tree



And wow did he do some branch cutting that day!

Directions to Meeting Site:

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
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Our Instructor

Samson Adina 209-234-3956

Board of Directors

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Andrew Poulo 209-772-2440

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Jerry Jumper 209-667-6701

Other Support

Club Wire Supply

Michael Bennett

Guest Demonstrator Coordinator

Peter Camarena

Librarian

Salvador Ledesma

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SPOC

Elza Blocher

Notes from Sam...April

Thinning: After pinching fully styled deciduous trees (refined trees only), the exterior will become full of leaves. Here are some tips for thinning this new growth.

Japanese Maple - After pinching, leave a pair of new leaves at each bud tip. If the tree is still very full, remove one leaf from each pair. Do not remove leaves from weak or interior branches. (Thinning the leaves is done after the leaves have hardened off).

Trident Maple- Remove all large leaves and trim elongated shoots. Leave the interior leaves and small leaves alone.

Beech- Check the tree carefully from top to bottom, leaving only three leaves per new bud in strong areas, usually at the tree's apex and exterior.

Thin our pines to balance the growth between strong and weak areas:

White Pine- In the tree's strong zone, break strong shoots leaving about 1/4 of the new needles per candle. In zones of medium strength, leave 1/2 to 3/4 of the new needles. Do not pinch weak areas or small buds. Start by breaking the strongest buds first.

Watering: Make sure that your trees receive enough water in spring and summer. As the weather warms, water trees more frequently with less water, but never wait for your trees to completely dry out before watering. As a general rule, water when the top 30 percent of the soil is dry. Water needs vary by variety, soil mix, pot depth, and location in the yard — check each tree by using your finger or chopsticks and digging into the soil at the corner of the pot.

Akadama is a good moisture indicator. It turns darker brown when wet. Then water accordingly. Fruiting and flowering trees require extra water. It is recommended to cover the soil's surface with white sphagnum moss to preserve moisture.

Spray for insects as a preventative. It may be too late when you see them. Try to avoid these surprises by spraying insecticide every 4-6 weeks during the growing season.

April is a good time to work on scale junipers: wire and pinch long shoots as necessary. For the trees in training, water and fertilize early. The goal is to get thick trunk or branches. Do not worry too much about long internodes and big leaves. Technique will change after the tree is refined. That is when you deal with long internodes.

Fertilizing: Organic fertilizer cakes made from rape seed or cotton seed meal (store-purchased or home-made) work well. Time-release fertilizers can be used to supplement organic fertilizers. Wait at least four weeks after repotting bonsai before fertilizing them. For mature deciduous trees, wait until new leaves harden before fertilizing lightly. If you fertilize too early, or too much, both leaves and internodes grow large.

For the tree in training, your goal is to make thick trunk. Fertilize your tree early. Big leaves and long needles help the trunk to grow large.

Feed Japanese black pines heavily in spring to help the trees bud after decandling. For a twelve inch long pot, start with four to six fertilizer cakes and add a few more every few weeks. When the surface starts to get full, remove old cakes and replace them with new ones. By the end of May, the surface of the pot should be covered with fertilizer.

Begin feeding white pines lightly when the new needles open, usually in May. Apply a light to moderate amount of fertilizer through fall, starting with 4 cakes for a large tree and adding 4 more a month later.

Wiring:

Deciduous trees in training : We can start wiring them toward the later part of the month. Let the new young branches grow freely. Wire and bend the branches at the base. We need only about 4 inches from the base of the branch. then let the tree grow.

Conifer: When conifers are active the bark and the hardwood split easily. Avoid heavy bending this month. if you have to do it, use raffia to protect the bark from separating from hard wood.

Turning trees: We should turn our trees 180 degrees once a month. Or 90 degree every other week.

This will keep our tree in good balance. Every branch will get the same amount of sunlight.

- - - Workshop Information - - -

Pruning all kind of bonsai.

It is also a good time to wire and style junipers.

We should not wire pine at this time. New candles can be easily damaged.

April 28th Annual Spring Show

Was it a Boom or a Bust? Well, it wasn't exactly a Booming success with less than half the normal attendance, less than half the normal income, and less than one third the normal profits. We can certainly blame the economy in part for the poor attendance and the lack of spending at the show which directly impacts the profits, or lack there of, at the show. We can also blame the fact that our club membership is half of what it used to be. In reality the club members were and are the biggest spenders that come to the show.

That being said, it wasn't a bust either. The remaining members put in a lot of blood, sweat and tears to pull this show together. We showcased and displayed a lot of beautiful trees that anyone would be proud to own.

Sam Adina and Mark de St Jeor put on three great demonstrations to the attendees delight. Our Club sales staff worked hard to sell the members donated trees as did Brad Coleman and his staff at Blue Oak Nursery.

The crew at the beginner's class table did a great job working with the class members to provide for them a very nice beginning Bonsai tree. Pam Grassmidt spear headed this effort.

Mike and Lorraine Reynolds provided a very affordable lunch and snack table for guests and show staff.

Andy Poulo setup and manned the Raffle Ticket kiosk, while his wife Audrey worked the club sales tables along side Lois Jumper.

Betty and Frank Bennett ramrodded the setup and tear down of the display tables, along with Salvador Ledesma and others as well as working where ever they were needed.

Janet Wakefield, Sue Cloward, Pam and Howard Gallego greeted all attendees at the reception table. Ann Camarena floated between jobs and stations to give members breaks from there work stations.

The auctions and raffles were handled by yours truly.

I hope I haven't slighted anyone that was there to help. If I have I will drink my next glass of wine to your health. Thanks to all the members that donated trees for the club sales tables and provided trees for the exhibition.

The Show was neither a Boom nor a Bust. It was a success in the fact that a group of dedicated, hard working members rolled up their sleeves and in spite of a bad economy, put on a damn good show. Thanks to all.

Jerry Jumper



Mark de St Jeor and Lois Jumper at the sales table



The happy grand prize winner of Sam Adina's gorgeous demonstration shimpaku juniper



Another beautiful demo tree by Sam that was sold at auction



Janet Wakefield in her beautiful kimono she won



And a good time was had by all!

Club Information

The Bennett's have CD's of the Spring show that they are asking \$5 for and will have them at the meeting on April 18th. So if you couldn't attend at least you can have pictures.

Frank Lowe got rear-ended last month turning into Blue Oak Nursery. Hope all is well Frank. Everyone be careful turning there!

Calendar of Events

April 18-19 **Palo Alto, CA**
Kusamura Bonsai Club: 49th Annual Bonsai Show and Sale at the Mitchell Park Community Center, 3800 Middlefield Road. Show hours are Saturday, 12Noon-5PM and Sunday, 10AM-5PM. Featured guest (TBA). Bonsai plant sale, and a show of both established and educational work in progress trees.

April 26 **Watsonville, CA**
Watsonville Bonsai Club: 35th Annual Bonsai Show at the Watsonville Buddhist Temple, 423 Bridge Street. Show hours are 10AM-4PM. Demonstration at 2PM by Katsumi Kinoshita of Monterey. Plenty of parking for group attendance. Raffle and plant sales. For more information call Don White 831-724-9283, or Iwao Yamashita 831-724-5332.

May 2-3 **Sacramento, CA**
Sacramento Bonsai Club: 63rd Annual Bonsai and Suiseki Show at the Sacramento Buddhist Church, 2401 Riverside Blvd. Show hours are Saturday, 12noon-5PM and Sunday, 10AM-4PM. Demonstration by Boon Manakitivipart at 2PM, both days. Raffle will follow. Free admission. Plants and bonsai related items for sale. For further information contact Gary Judd 916-630-1340.

May 16-17 **Sacramento, CA**
Satsuki Aikokai of Sacramento: Annual Show at the Shepard Garden and Arts Center, 3330 McKinley Blvd. Show hours are Saturday, 10AM-5PM and Sunday, 10AM-4PM. Demonstration at 1:30PM both days, followed by benefit drawings. Member and vendor sales. Free admission. Ann Hultgren, 916-961-3889 or email mahult@earthlink.net

May 30-31 **Sacramento, CA**
American Bonsai Association: 50th Anniversary Show, Sale & Celebration, 10AM-4:30PM, at the Shepard Garden & Arts Center, 3330 McKinley Blvd. Hands-on workshops for all levels from novice to advanced enthusiasts; large member and vendor sales areas; raffles and door prizes. Demonstration daily at 1:30PM by renowned bonsai professionals. Contact Timm Johnson, 916-362-8147; BonsaiTimm@aol.com

May 30-31 **Oakland, CA**
Bay Area Satsuki Aikokai: 15th Annual Satsuki Bonsai Show at the Lakeside Park Garden Center, 666 Bellevue Ave. Hours are Saturday, 10AM-5PM and Sunday, 10AM-4PM. Demonstrations at 1:30PM using mature trees by Rick Garcia on Saturday and by Johnny Uchida on Sunday. Large selection of trees on sale. For more information contact Bob Gould (925) 935-1914.

Nov. 5-8 **Riverside, CA**
Golden State Bonsai Federation: Convention XXXII 'A Southwest Bonsai Journey'. Click on <http://www.gsbfbonsai.org/GSBFconvention/Convention09.htm> for a sneak peek. For much more subscribe at www.gsbf-bonsai.org.