



THE BONSAI GAKUSEI

THE MODESTO BONSAI CLUB NEWSLETTER

February 2009

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

Program

Date: February 21, 2009

Location:

Blue Oak Nursery
784 Albers Rd.

Program Schedule:

- 10:00a Executive Board Meeting: All are welcome to attend.
- 11:00a Club Meeting
- 11:30a Work on your trees with assistance of Sam Adina

REMINDER:

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

Message from our president

President's Message February

Although we typically move the January and February meetings an hour later to accommodate for the cold weather, Mother Nature played a trick on us in January and gave us spring like conditions. She is also fooling our trees. They don't know whether to start budding or not. Oh well.

For 2009, we have a little bit of a different program in when it comes to speakers. In order to help you develop your trees; we have asked John Thompson to come three times this year. He will be here on March 21, June 20 and September 19.

In the first session, he will help you evaluate your tree and what opportunities it presents for design. He will get you started on the path you decide.

In the second session, you will see what type of progress has been made and if modifications need to be done.

In his third session, you will continue to work on your tree and decide when or if to replot before the next growing season.

The work sessions will start after our general meeting at 10:00 AM and last until about 1:00 PM You can bring an oak, pine or juniper but will need to bring the same one back for each session.

On a different topic, we have an opportunity to showcase our trees and our club. We have been asked for a display and a demonstration to be held on February 28 in the Gallo Arts center in Conjunction with the Festival of Harps. More information on that at our meeting and on our web site.

Remember that our Annual Spring show is just around the corner on April 4th and 5th, again at the Modesto Centre Plaza. It will be here before you know it so start getting those trees ready!

-Peter Camarena-

January Meeting:

January 17, 2009

Sam Adina demonstrated potting/repotting techniques on a styled Japanese Maple and a nursery potted Elm.

Beginning with a beautiful field-grown Japanese Maple having a trunk diameter of about 3-4 inches and a height of about 16 inches he removed it from its 12 inch round pot. Using an hook and a rake he combed out much of the soil. He used root pruners and shortened the larger(1 1/2 inch) roots.



The finer root hairs gather the nutrients so the larger roots can be eliminated from their stabilizing function now performed by the anchor wires. With scissors he trimmed the fine roots back to establish a root ball reduced by half. The perimeter of the root mass he trimmed to fit into a smaller rectangular blue-glazed pot.

A different technique, learned from Boone, was shown with the screen anchoring wires. Sam formed a Z with the wire 1/2 inch wider than the drain hole. Instead of the loops in the wire for stability, Sam crimped each 1/4 inch overlay flat. This configuration is reportedly stronger and holds the screen flatter than the "butterfly" loops.

Covering the screened drainage holes Sam sprinkles 1/8 to 1/4 inch sized Pumice, mounding it slightly at the root mass location. The next layer is his soil mix for deciduous trees: 2 parts Akadama, 1 part red and black lava, 1 part decomposed granite, and approximately 1/8 part charcoal (for water purification). Sam's mix for conifers is: equal

parts Akadama, red and black lava, decomposed granite and pumice, plus the same amount of charcoal.

The anchor wires previously placed are snugly tied down over the rootball and more soil poured around the root mass. The soil is compacted with fingers, a wiggled chopstick and fist-bumping the sides of the pot. A top dressing of smaller screened soil is layered on and lightly tamped down with a trowel. Finishing, Sam covers the topdressing with feathery New Zealand sphagnum moss. The moss will hold moisture in the soil and encourage root hairs to grow upward rather than down thus keeping the rootball shallow. The Bonsai is watered thoroughly until clear water runs from the drainage holes. Protection from the weather is needed for about 2 weeks.

The potting of the Elm was similar. The nursery pot was removed and the root mass reduced with a saw. The combing with the rake and hook was carried out and the new, smaller pot was screened over the drain holes with pumice layered over the bottom. The deciduous mix described previously was packed around the secured, combed, and reduced rootball. The top dressing was applied and tamped down. Again the New Zealand moss was arranged over all and the composition well-soaked. The branches were shortened where necessary in anticipation of rapid Spring growth.

-Richard McKinstry-



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
Modesto, CA 95355

Our Instructor

Samson Adina 209-234-3956

Board of Directors

President

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Mark de St. Jeor 209-667-4248

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Brad Coleman 209-523-5857

Andrew Poulo 209-772-2440

Immediate Past President

Jerry Jumper 209-667-6701

Other Support

Club Wire Supply

Michael Bennett

Guest Demonstrator Coordinator

Peter Camarena

Hostess

OPEN (We still need a volunteer)

Librarian

Zackery West

Newsletter Editor/Membership Chair

Lorraine Reynolds lore@pacbell.net

S.P.O.C.

Elza Blocher 209-537-2473

Web Master

Mike Reynolds

modestobonsaiclub.com

Notes from Sam...

This month's meeting topic will be about repotting

Repotting: The best time to repot deciduous trees is after the buds start to swell but before the leaves open. (But do not wait too long. It is not safe after the buds open) Among deciduous trees, flowering apricots and Japanese maples are repotted first. Japanese beech is the last to be done because its buds open later than other deciduous trees. (do not wait until you see the buds swell. it may be too late) It should be done by middle part to the end of February. Trident maples can be repotted as long as new leaves still have a reddish color.

You can bare root deciduous trees and cut the tap roots off completely. You need to have a strong healthy tree to go to this process. Otherwise do not cut too much roots off.

Do not bare root conifer. It is dangerous. You should make a plan to remove all the original soil after 2-3 repottings. If you repot collected trees, you need to learn how to secure them in the pot. You need to be creative in order to secure the tree into the pot, since they do not have developed root ball to anchor with wire.

In the warmer zone, it is safe to repot earlier. We can repot as early as December. Early is better than too late

Azaleas, other broadleaf evergreens, and pines are repotted in February and March. If spring comes early in your area, repot early—many trees start growing as soon as the weather begins to warm up. Shimpaku and sonare (J. procumbens) are repotted in January-March, tosho (needle juniper) around the end of May to beginning of June.

After repotting, the trees should be left outside in the sun.

If you live in a colder climate, you have to put the tree in the cold frame, and you may need to slowly introduce it into the sun. Place trees under shade cloth until they get used to the light before exposing it into the full sun. Sudden change in temperature and light can burn leaves and needle.

If it is still cool (day time temperature is below 55), you can spray lime sulphur as dormant spray.

Do not spray spruce and azalea and the tree that you have just wired or the tree that has just been repotted. with lime sulfur. It can burn them.

Tropical trees should not be sprayed with lime sulphur.

- - - Workshop Information - - -

We will focus on repotting this month. It is also a good time to wire and style conifers. Deciduous and broad leaf can be cut back and thin after repotting.

Club Information

Membership Dues: You can still find the 2009 Membership form in this issue. Please fill it out and turn it in with your dues as soon as possible to continue enjoying talented instructors, access to our library, newsletters, field trips, the opportunity to exhibit your bonsai, 10% discount + no sales tax at Blue Oak Nursery, parties, friends and... geesh, what a bargain!

Hostess: We still need a volunteer to step up!

Calendar of Events

February 28-March 1 San Marino, CA
GSBF Collection at the Huntington Bonsai-A-Thon XIII, fundraiser will be held at the Huntington Library and Botanical Gardens, 1151 Oxford Road. Hours are 7:30AM -4:30PM each day. Many vendors of trees, pots, tools and books will be on hand. On going demonstrations each day and the finished trees and other items will be auctioned each afternoon. Breakfast, lunch, raffles and novice workshops will be offered. Jim Folsom will lead tours each morning at 10:00AM that will include the grand opening of the new Bonsai Courts. For more information contact Elissa Hoxie: (310) 373-2840 or (310 977-7966). Email ehoxie@mac.com **See modestobonsaiclub.com for more information**

February 28-March 1 Oakland, CA
GSBF Bonsai Garden at Lake Merritt: 18th Annual Mammoth Fundraiser at the Lakeside Garden Center, 666 Bellevue Avenue. Saturday (Feb 28) Auction 1PM-4PM with preview 12Noon-1PM. Sunday (Mar 1) Mammoth Fundraiser 10AM-5PM. Demonstration and critiques by Kathy Shaner, Curator. Vendors, benefit drawings, raffles and large consignment sale of bonsai and bonsai related items.

March 29 Scotts Valley, CA
Santa Cruz Bonsai Kai: 20th annual Bonsai Show at the Scotts Valley Community Center, 360 King's Village Road, Hours are 10:30AM-4:30PM. Demonstration at 1:30PM by Katsumi Kinoshita. Plant sales, door prizes, raffle of the demonstration tree and much more.

April 4-5 Modesto, CA
Modesto Bonsai Club: Annual Spring Show at the Modesto Centre Plaza. Mark your calendars.

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.gsbfbonsai.org.

MODESTO BONSAI CLUB
2009 MEMBERSHIP FORM

Check one: Individual \$35 Family \$50 (one mailing address)

Is this a: Renewal Member since: _____

Changes to address/phone number? Yes No

or: New Member: How did you hear about our Club?

Show Website Nursery Friend

Other _____

Name(s): _____

Mailing
Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-Mail: _____

Send newsletter by e-mail? Yes No

Please indicate any programs/areas of interest you would like covered this year; i.e., field trips, guest lecturers, workshops, specific plant species or style.

Would you be willing to serve as an officer of the Club? Yes No

Check the area(s) where you can assist at the April 4-5, 2009 Spring Show:

Setup (4pm Friday) Club Sales Raffle Drawings Takedown (4 pm Sunday) Reception Lunchroom

Make check payable to: Modesto Bonsai Club

Bring to the next meeting or mail to: Janet Wakefield, Treasurer, MBC
P.O. Box 578518, Modesto 95357-8518