



THE BONSAI GAKUSEI

THE MODESTO BONSAI CLUB NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2009

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

Program

Date: January 17, 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

I don't know about you, but I can't believe how hectic 2008 was. With all of those things happening all around us, it's nice to be able take a little time and find some tranquility in your trees. Besides that, even though it is winter, your trees still need attention.

For those of you who attended the Christmas dinner, I'm sure that you will agree with me that we had a wonderful time. Mike's Roadhouse again put on a delicious dinner and the service was just excellent! It was fun to get together with most of us – hopefully everyone can make

it next year I am putting together a list of speakers for our 2009 year. If anyone has any suggestions, now is the time to contact me.

-Peter Camarena





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

Peter Camarena 209-529-1759

Vice President

Mark de St. Jeor 209-667-4248

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Members-at-Large

Michael Bennett 209-669-1728

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

- - - Winter Tree Care - - -

It is time to spray lime sulfur as a dormant spray. Follow the instruction on the label.

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.

Even when it rains, check your trees. Sometimes the thick canopy can repel water. Soil may still be dry. We can start to repot our trees at the end of this month. Repot deciduous trees first.

Wiring: Winter is a good time to catch up on wiring. Practice your wiring technique regularly. Good wiring is effective and beautiful to look at. Try to use the minimum amount of wire to do the maximum amount of work. If a branch springs back after bending it, the wire is too small for the job. Remove this wire and apply a new piece of wire larger than the one you used before. If this does not work, redo it again. Remember, two pieces of small wire do not do the same work of one larger wire. When bending wired branches, ensure that the wire supports the back side of the bend. Bending at unsupported locations widens the gap between the wire and the branch and increases the chance of broken branches. If you do not correct your mistakes, your work will not progress. Learn to enjoy wiring and have a good time doing it.

Even spirals and even spacing between branch and wire make the job neat and beautiful. 45 degrees is the typical angle for applying wire, but this angle can be elongated to 30 degrees. In this range the wire has the most holding power and is most pleasing to look at. It has been said the best space between the wire and the branch is just enough to allow a piece of rice paper to slide through. Loose wiring does not offer good holding power and it does not look good. Tight wiring will cause wire marks on branches in a short time. The skill required to make proper determinations will come with experience.

Do not cross wires. Crossing wires causes more pressure when you bend the branch and it makes the branch look bigger than it really is. It is also difficult to dewire, so correct any

mistakes right away. It will become a bad habit if you keep saying to yourself, "It's okay for now," or, "I'll correct it next time."

Be sure to protect bonsai that has recently been wired or repotted. Keep these trees above 40° F and away from excessive cold and wind. The best time to wire deciduous trees is in mid to late spring / early summer and the other time is late fall before the leaves fall off. Winter wiring can cause serious bleeding.

Even when it rains, check your tree. Sometimes the thick canopy can repel water. Soil may still be dry. We can start to repot our trees at the end of this month. Repot deciduous trees first.

For January and February , we will focus on repotting our trees.

- - - Workshop Information - - -

We will focus on repotting this month. It is also a good time to wire and style conifers.

Soil Mix :

1 part lava rock
1 part pumice
1 part Akadama

½ cup of horticultural charcoal (per 5 gallon mix)

½ cup of decompose granite (per 5 gallon mix)

For deciduous, use small size mix (1/16"-1/4 ") and add 1 extra part of Akadama.

All ingredients must be bone dry, screened and sized. The dust is discarded.

The use of pumice for bottom layer drainage (5/16) is recommended.

For conifers from the desert and high mountains use medium size mix (3/8" – 5/16").

For lower elevation conifer and water loving conifer, use small size mix (1/16" – 1 / 4 ")

Note : Proper repotting technique needs to be applied, otherwise this mix is not recommended.

For best results, organic fertilizer is recommended at the correct times and season.

A thin layer of coarsely screened New Zealand sphagnum moss should be placed on top of the new soil. The moss will keep the soil in

place during watering. The thickness of the moss layer should vary according to climate and watering habits.

Club Information

January Dues: You can find the 2009 Membership form in this issue. Please fill it out and turn it in with your dues 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!

Calendar of Events

Jan. 17-18 Hayward, CA
Bay Island Bonsai: 10th Annual Exhibit of Fine Bonsai at Centennial Hall, 22292 Foothill Blvd. 10am – 4pm both days. Admission is \$5 and covers both days. Auctions, demo & vendors.

January 31-February 1 Oakland, CA
Bay Area Bonsai Associates: 25th Annual Bonsai Exhibition at the Lakeside Park Garden Center, 666 Bellevue Avenue. Hours are Saturday, 4:30 PM-8:00PM and Sunday, 10:00 AM-4:00PM. Demonstration by Boon Manakitivipart Saturday at 5:30PM, followed by a raffle of the demonstration tree as well as numerous other bonsai items. Sales area is open all hours (except during the demonstration) and will include bonsai, pre-bonsai, pots, books and magazines, tools and wire. Admission is Free.

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.

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