



THE BONSAI GAKUSEI

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

THE MODESTO BONSAI CLUB NEWSLETTER

MAY 2009

Program

Date: May 16, 2009

Location:

Blue Oak Nursery
784 Albers Rd.

Program Schedule:

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

10:00a Club Meeting

Peter Camarena & Richard McKinstry will
be demonstrating on Saikei/Penjing

REMINDER:

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

Message from our president

President's Message May

Mother Nature is doing it again. After a brief hot spell in April, we move into May seeing some very cool and possibly even some more wet weather. Be sure to monitor your trees closely so that they are not too wet or dry. It is too easy to assume that they are fine based on our weather and temperature lately.

Our May meeting, we have designated as “**Support our Sensei**”. We are going to be holding both a raffle and an auction to generate funds to help Sam pay for his continuing education with Boon. We ask that you bring a tree, pot or anything else you decide you would like to donate which we can put into our raffle or auction. For those of you who may not have planned on coming to the meeting, please reconsider. Not only could this be a great opportunity to get a new tree for your collection but you will be helping in a very worthy cause.

Now, moving on to our monthly presentation, Richard McKinstry and I are going to be demonstrating how to design and make living landscapes. Depending on which country they originate from, they are referred to by different names. They are called Saikei in Japan, Penjing in China, Hón Non Bô in Vietnam and a number of other names in various parts of the world. In addition, while the general styles may be similar, it is the details which make them very different. We will have some examples of our own creations to show you and a number of books on hand which you may browse through. I personally find it to be the most interesting aspect in the bonsai field.

On another topic, the Modesto Bonsai Club will once again be in the community spotlight. On Saturday, May 9th, Sam Adina will be putting on a demonstration at Scenic Nursery in Modesto. This will start at 10:00 AM. In addition, Sam will also be coordinating a demonstration and basic workshop on Saturday, May 23rd, again at Scenic Nursery. We can use volunteers to assist at both events to pass out brochures and talk about the club. Please let me know if you are available.

Hope to see ALL of you at our next meeting on Saturday, May 16th.

Peter Camarena



Saikei/Penjing

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

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Board of Directors

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Notes from Sam...May

Spring Wiring-Deciduous Trees: The middle part of May is a good time to wire deciduous, fruiting and flowering trees. Although heavy bending must be done with caution as the cambium can easily be separated in spring, slight cracks or light breaks in a branch heal quickly because the sap is active.

Because deciduous, flowering and fruiting trees grow fast this time of year, aluminum wire works best for most branches while copper wire wrapped in paper works for heavier branches. Quick growth means that the wire will stay on for a short amount of time. Aluminum wire is easier to unwind than copper wire and it will not stain the bark or branches of these trees.(this technique is also applied to tropical trees in general)

Different styles of deciduous trees require varying degrees of movement. Attractive curves in the trunk and/or branches raise the value of these trees, including the subtle movement of zelkova branches that rise from a straight trunk. The majority of deciduous and fruiting trees from nurseries usually have straight trunks and branches and poor nebari that is not suitable for high quality bonsai. One of the best ways to produce quality deciduous trees is to start from small seedlings or cuttings and train the trees when they are young. After making curves in the trunk of a young tree, plant it in the ground to thicken the trunk and train the branches once the trunk reaches an acceptable size. The other method is to air layer them.

Most flowering and fruiting trees can be wired and trimmed at the same time. The new growth left on the trees will be mature enough to carry flowers and fruit the following season.

Spring Conifer Care: Junipers respond best to copper wire. Be careful when you wire junipers with thin bark, such as needle juniper and California juniper, and avoid heavy twisting. Although junipers with thick bark can handle bends better than those with thin bark, too much bending in spring can damage the cambium enough to kill a branch.

Before pinching a juniper, make sure you know the proper care for the variety you are working on. For scale junipers, including shimpaku, California and sierra junipers, pinch off new growth shoots only after they elongate at least one inch past the branch's outline. A lack of long shoots may indicate that the tree is not particularly strong, or that it is too early for pinching. If the majority of a scale juniper's growth is juvenile, this often indicates that the tree is under stress or has been pinched too much. Leave these trees alone until mature, scale foliage returns. Again, you only pinch finished trees.

Needle junipers are scarce in the United States. These varieties are pinched with sharp scissors, leaving about $1/8 - 1/4$ of an inch of new growth. The new growth will be slightly lighter in color than the old growth. This time-consuming process can be completed 2-3 times a year, depending on how fast the tree grows. In summer and fall, stronger growth can be controlled by pulling out the center of new shoots. Needle junipers are also repotted at around the end of May.

San Jose and procumbens junipers may have both scale and needle growth. In Japan, mature trees are first pinched as needle junipers, and pinched through the rest of the growing season as scale junipers.

Cryptomeria is pinched like needle junipers, only this variety is touchier. If scissors are not sharp, cut branches may die back to the previous intersection. If growth becomes too dense, small branches will die. Cryptomeria branch pads are shaped like needle juniper pads.

Keep Japanese black pines well watered and fertilized in preparation for decandling. These trees must be in great shape to respond well to decandling. If some candles on the tree are longer, especially on top of the tree, we can break or cut them and leave about the same or less number of needles as the rest of the tree.

Japanese white pines need less fertilizer than black pines, and can be over-watered as easily as under-watered. Too much water can cause root rot and long needle growth. Too little water will stunt growth and weaken the tree.

May is a good time to repot tropical trees. They can be partially defoliated before repotting.

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 - - -

This month we can work on styling and cutting back deciduous trees. We can also style and wire junipers.

Japanese black pine can be worked on next month

April Meeting

Sam helped each member with their trees and then did a demonstration. After that we had an auction on the trees. The money went towards Sam's education fund



A beautiful healthy maple grove in need of trimming



Sam helping Elza



Sam doing demonstration

Club Information

1. Again, we will be raising money for our Sensei, Sam Adina, for his education fund at this month's meeting by having a raffle and auction. So everyone let's get behind Sam and please bring trees, pots, etc. to auction off!
2. Don't forget, Sam will be doing a demonstration at Scenic Nursery on May 9th at 10A. He also will be doing a workshop at Scenic Nursery on May 23rd at 10A. It costs \$25 for a one gallon olive tree, soil and bonsai pot with instructions on how to style a bonsai tree.
3. We have a new member to our club. Let's welcome Mark Hamby.

Calendar of Events

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 23 & June 6 Danville, CA
Ruben's Annual Plant Sale. Satsuki azaleas, San Jose & Shimpaku junipers, Black Pines, Trident & Japanese Maples, Shohin starters & finished Liquid Ambers, Seiju Elms, & Princess Persimmons. (All of above available in trained form in bonsai pots or as stock, plants in various size containers). Also pots, stands, & stones. 305 El Pintado Heights Dr. (between Victorian & Hillmont) Danville, Ca. 925-837-7804. Both days 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM.

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.

June 7 Seaside, CA
Monterey Bonsai Club 44th Annual Exhibition at the Monterey Buddhist Temple in Seaside at 1150 Noche Buena. Show hours are 11AM-4PM. Demonstration at 1:30PM by Katsumi Kinoshita. Sales area will include bonsai, pots and plants. For more information, email joembyrd@pacbell.net.

June 13-14 Oakland, CA
California Suiseki Society 14th annual Suiseki Exhibition, Lakeside Garden Center, 666 Bellevue Ave. Hours: 10AM-5PM. Suiseki for sale. Free admission and free parking. Contact Felix Rivera, (510)527-6255 for more info or e-mail: felixsuiseki@gmail.com.

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.