

The Kofu Kai Review

The Monthly Newsletter of the Kofu Bonsai Kai Club

MEETING TIME and PLACE

Meeting Date: July 15, 2017, at 7:00 pm

Anaheim Methodist Church, 1000 South State College Boulevard, Anaheim



July 15, 2017 Meeting TRAVIS GOLDSTEIN



This month, California Bonsai Studio's (<https://www.californiabonsai.com>) **Travis Goldstein** visits Kofu Bonsai Kai from Thousand Oaks. **Travis** has been interested in bonsai since he was very young. He has visited many of the major bonsai nurseries and met many of the Japanese masters, including **Kunio Kobayashi** (Shunka-En), **Masashi Kimura** (Omiya Bonsai Village), and **Tomohiro Masumi** (Koju-En). He has studied under **Mas Ishii** of Chikugo-en. In 2008, he founded California Bonsai Studio, which is located at 4015 North Moorpark Road, Thousand Oaks. The nursery is open to the public on Monday, Tuesday, Friday, and Saturday from 10am to 5pm, and it is worth a visit. In addition to nursery stock, pre-bonsai and developed bonsai trees, the Studio sells bonsai tools, pots, and supplies, and offers group and private lessons for bonsaiists of all skill levels.

It's been almost three years since we've seen **Travis** giving a demo at Kofu Bonsai Kai (last time, he shared some extreme bending techniques for styling junipers), and we're eagerly awaiting what **Travis** has in store for us this month.

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PETER MACASIEB – QUICK GRAFTING

For the June Kofu Bonsai Kai meeting, we were happy to welcome back **Peter Macasieb**. **Peter** is always experimenting and wanted to show his results and variations on the quick grafting technique on black pines that we learned recently from **Tom Vuong**. **Peter** began grafting during the first part of March using the Vuong method of cutting rapidly growing candles and very quickly making a cut and inserting them into the host tree's branches. Doing it very quickly is important because the sap is already flowing at that time of year, and if you hesitate, too much sap will leak into the cuts and cause the graft to fail. Do work quickly you need to have everything ready to go and to have practiced on discarded branches so that you have no hesitation and can work safely. Grafting knives are sharp and slippery.

After trimming the scion candle and making the receiving cut, **Peter** continues using two cable ties above and below the cut to secure the scion tightly. The cable ties should face opposite directions. He seals the whole area, then places a small 3" x 6" grafting bag containing a small bit of wet sphagnum over the grafted cutting and secures it to cover and protect the area. **Peter** prefers the small bags for

candle grafting, because it insures that moisture will be kept close to the graft. Grafting Bags can be bought on eBay.

As always with grafting, the actual timing will depend on the weather which influences the growth of candles.

The largest tree that **Peter** brought was an impressive Canary Island Pine that he bought as pre-bonsai stock. It was a good reminder of the value of being able to change foliage by grafting. Canary Island Pines have very long needles, not great for bonsai but have good bark and are available in the nursery trade and can be grafted with black pine.

Peter talked about the timing of candle pruning and it's influence on needle size. He feeds his pines well in advance of candle pruning. He candle cuts standard size bonsai in the 2nd week of June and waits till July to decandle shohin trees. He does not resume feeding until fall in order to keep needle size small.

Thank you very much, **Peter**, for your generous raffle donations and for sharing your experiments with us. ---Carol Upston

IT'S AUCTION TIME AGAIN

It's June and time to take a serious look around your yard for auction donations. We had wonderful donations last year and because the number of bidders was somewhat low due to a conflicting event, many people walked away with unbelievable bargains on both finished trees and very good pre-bonsai material.

You may have trees in your yard that you've outgrown, that you no longer are interested in working on. We all have that extra stuff. Sometimes it's a plant we won at a raffle or a strange pot that doesn't fit with anything.

Maybe you've been propagating plants and have some extras, or too many maple seedlings sprouted this year. Please consider passing those along to others through the Kofu auction.

We never know everything that will be coming into the auction, but there is always a good range of pots, plants, and other items. My advice is: ***"Don't Miss This Opportunity!!"***

To Donors

If you are planning to donate to the auction, please

send me a photo of anything interesting so that I can post it and increase interest and hopefully, attendance.

This is an important fundraising event for Kofu Bonsai Kai and helps us pay for our meeting place, insurance, demonstrators, and events. Please be generous and support your club. **Michael Walsh**, our program chair, has booked some very interesting demos for us for the rest of this year and well into 2018. Your support makes it possible to reach out to outstanding talent and bring them here to our club.

To Potential Bidders

To all of you newer members, this auction is **THE** best place, year after year, to find quality material at a good price. Come early and carefully look at the auction items. I think you'll find plenty of things that would be very good to work on and train.

Purchases at the auction are tax deductible, and we accept cash, checks and cards.

---Carol Upston

TREES NEEDED

KOFU BONSAI KAI's ANNUAL SHOW AT THE BOWERS MUSEUM, AUGUST 29 TO SEPTEMBER 3. IF YOU WANT TO DISPLAY A TREE CONTACT **MANNY MARTINEZ, ANTHONY CHIUSOLO OR MICHAEL VIJAK**!

KOFU BONSAI KAI - BONSAI IDEAS

BY MARTY MANN

JULY

Summertime reduces the need to do any serious 'training' of bonsai. It's a period of watchful attention to the results of earlier care. July is the month to plan for the summer season changes of activities related to care and feeding of bonsai. Start a program that will provide fall colors by reducing the nitrogen content of your fertilizer. Continued use of the standard cottonseed/bone meal (70/30%) will provide most of the nutrients required for summer growth and good health. Introduce a change in food by using half strength liquid Hi-Bloom (2-2-10) that provides an excellent source of phosphorus. Continue to feed all conifers and other evergreen material to promote good summer health. Regular feedings of milder solutions are in order.

Regular feeding during the hot summer months can also be supplemented by early morning refreshing foliar feeding of Miracle-Gro or a diluted solution of fish emulsion. Avoid daytime heat. Allow wet foliage to dry during the day to prevent night forming fungus infection. A brisk spraying of your trees before feeding will remove dust layers and discourage red spider, mites, ants and other insects. Be sure to spray both the top and the bottom of the foliage.

Watering is an important summer chore. Warm summer breezes encourage high levels of moisture expiration through healthy leaf surfaces. For balanced plant health a change in watering schedules consistently renews this moisture. Avoid wetting the leaves during the warm days- for two good reasons: Daytime water that adheres to leaves can literally cook them and cause severe leaf burn. If overhead watering is unavoidable, do so early in the morning to give time for surface evaporation.

Excessive moisture in the crotch of leaf clusters or on their undersides creates environments that are ideal for the formation of fungus and the related health threatening damages.

Be reminded that summer vacationing puts an additional burden on your 'bonsai sitters'. A suggestion would be to let them water your trees for a few days before you leave to be sure that they are following your instructions. Trees requiring special care should be grouped together to simplify attention. Don't trust your automatic watering system without the back up of someone who can check from time to time to see if all is well. Try forming a mutual watering pact with fellow bonsaiists. You do for them when you can and they will do for you. It's a great working arrangement and considerably safer than trusting your 'babies' to strangers.

Repotting ficus, pomegranates or other warm weather tropicals is encouraged at this time. Avoid most other transplanting activity during warm weather. Watch for wire cutting conditions. As bonsai matures in the summer growing period it does so primarily on its woody surfaces.

Chewing insects are hard at work eating their way thru leaves and stems. Spray with Sevin. Mites are also active during warm weather months. Discourage them with a good miticides or one of the new combination fungicides/insecticide products now on the market.. A small amount of Volck Oil with these products creates better adhesion.

Approach your summer activity with an eye to enjoyment of the form and color of the trees. Fall will come soon enough if you keep up with summertime care.

HAIKU POEM:
Full days with hot sun
Bonsai-ing with great pleasure
Why complain - love it

By Marty Mann

This article has been extracted from the recently published book called ' Bonsai Ideas'.© By Marty Mann. Material is not to be copied without publisher or author's permission July -2012

CALENDAR of EVENTS

- August 26-27 **Nanpu Kai** annual show during Nisei Week at Japanese American Cultural Center, 224 South San Pedro Street (Little Tokyo). Hours 11 AM to 5 PM both days.
- August 26-27 **Kofu Bonsai Kai** annual bonsai exhibit at Bowers Museum, 2002 North Main Street, Santa Ana. Hours 10 AM to 4 PM daily.
- September 23-24 **San Diego Bonsai Club** fall bonsai exhibition at Casa Del Prado, Room 101, Balboa Park. Show hours 10 AM to 5 PM both days; demonstrations 11 AM and 1 PM. For more information, visit www.sandiegobonsaiclub.com.
- October 7-8 **Conejo Valley Bonsai Society** 14th annual bonsai exhibition at the Resource Center, Gardens Of the World, 2001 Thousand Oaks Boulevard, Thousand Oaks. Hours 9 AM to 4 PM both Days. Demonstration in the Bandstand at 2 PM. For more information, visit www.cvbs-bonsai.org or call Marj Branson at 805/373-1330.
- October 25-29 **Golden State Bonsai Federation** 2017 Convention 40 "Bonsai New Horizon" at the Riverside Convention Center, 3637 Fifth Street near Main, Riverside. Headliners: Kunio Kobayashi, David Nguy, Boon Manakitivipart. Guest Artists: Ted Matson, Tak Shimazu, and more. For more information, visit gsbfbconvention.org.
- November 27 **California Bonsai Society** Members Thanksgiving Sale at Yamaguchi Nursery, 1905 Sawtelle Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA 90025. Hours 9 AM to 12 PM.

SPECIAL THANK YOU TO RAFFLE DONORS

Mike Neisner
Carol Upston
Justine Keller

REFRESHMENT DONORS

Justine Keller
Peter Macasieb
Wendy Tsai
Barbara and David Melitz

PRE-MEETING WORKSHOP

Want to start improving your bonsai artistry and technique? Beginners: Wondering how to get started in bonsai and have many questions? Have questions on how to prepare and display your tree at the Annual Show?

No matter what your objectives are, come to the pre-meeting workshop from 4 PM to 6 PM before the July meeting. Let expert Kofu members **Ryan Cali**, **Harley Newman**, **Paul Vasina**, or **Carol Upston** help you with your bonsai questions and objectives.