

The Kofu Kai Review

The Monthly Newsletter of the Kofu Kai Bonsai Club

Meeting Time and Place

APRIL 19, 2014 at 7:00 p.m.

Anaheim Methodist Church, 1000 South State College Blvd, Anaheim



April Demonstrator Ted Matson



Ted Matson is a Demonstrator who you do not want to miss. Ted is in demand all over the country for his vast knowledge and expertise in all things Bonsai. He has been involved in Bonsai since the late 70's and over the years has studied under and with Ben Suzuki, Shig and Roy Nagatoshi, Melba Tucker, Warren Hill and John Naka. He has seen the growth and expansion of Bonsai in Southern California first hand, and though this experience is eager to share the techniques which are important to developing trees here in SoCal. This is truly an opportunity to increase your skills by learning from another Master in the art of Bonsai. Ted will show techniques specific to developing good Shohin material (trees under 20cm), as well as general information regarding Bonsai development. Please join us in welcoming Ted to Kofu Kai.

Further information on Ted can be found at

<http://www.tedmatson.info/>

Ron Reekers

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WWW.KOFUKAI.ORG

March Meeting

Robert Pressler



The March demonstration was very informative to many of the Kofu Kai members regarding the technique of transplanting. Robert Pressler brought two trees to transplant, a procumbens and a California juniper. Robert explained that trees need to be transplanted in order to promote root growth, thereby developing greater tree health. A tree generally needs to be transplanted if when watering you see poor drainage and/or a lack of vigor is noticed in the foliage growth. This can be due to a number of reasons, but removing old soil and trimming un-necessary roots can help mitigate these problems. The process Robert uses is to first determine the pot the tree is going in, (do not remove the tree yet, thereby exposing the roots), then find and prep your pot; pot select and prep is first. In preparing the pot, place screens over the drainage holes and route tie-down wires for the tree. Details of this process can be found in Robert's blog at: <http://bonsaibpsbonsaiblog-bonsai.blogspot.com/>. The final stage to readying the pot is to cover the base with bonsai soil. Prior to removing the tree study it for its best front and angle that it will be placed in the pot. The tree is then removed from the old container and old soil is removed using a chop

stick. At this time one can trim down unnecessary roots. Place the tree in the pot in the position you have already chosen and secured it to the pot. As an example of the results of securing a tree well, Robert's nursery Kimura Bonsai Nursery (<http://www.kimurabonsainursery.com/>) is in Northridge and during the earthquake many trees fell from their stand. He found that the trees secured to the pot stay relatively intact and much more extensive damaged happened to the ones not secured to the pot. In any case, once secured, soil is applied and by using a chopstick one can locate the voids which are in filled with soil using your index finger. He suggested leaving a lip below the edge of the pot to limit run-off when watering. The final task is to add finely chopped sphagnum moss to the surface which keeps the surface moist and limits soil erosion when watering. Aftercare for Robert is fairly simple, keep the tree out of the wind, make sure it is in a place where it isn't moved around and just keep an eye on it. The trees Robert transplanted were beautiful in their new pots and the procumbens was raffled off. Congratulations to Louie Palacpac as the winner of this excellent and generous donation. A special Kofu Kai thank you goes out to Robert Pressler, another impressive demonstration and learning experience for all our members.

Ron Reekers

Robert Pressler - Louie Palacpac



KOFU BONSAI KAI - ODDS & ENDS

BY MARTY MANN

APRIL, 2014

Advisable to remove the old foliage of deciduous trees if you have not done so. While repotting it is best to remove the heavier old roots, to encourage new growth. Do so with some limitation--to much removal will shock the tree.

Root divisions form whenever a root cut takes place. These divisions provide for better nutrient absorption. Branch trimming allows new branch divisions and desired branch twiggyness. While deciduous trees, such as Japanese Maple, Trident Maple, Gingko and Liquid Amber, can now be trimmed, it's best to wait a few weeks until the new growth has matured.

Cut the new candles that may have formed on older Japanese Black Pines. Do this late April or early in May. Wait another month before you work on younger trees. By waiting, shorter and stronger needle growth will appear as the candles open. New candles generally form twice a year, in April and September. They form clusters of from 2 to 5 candles. Usually one or two will dominate. Retain only two candles--one as a leader and another to form the side branch.

Always remove the largest candles first but do not cut the existing candles until needles just begin to open and expand. This timing prevents excessively long internodes between last year's branch tip and the new needle growth. Reduce watering activities somewhat to slow down the new growth but don't allow the fine rootage to become dry.

Trim flowering and fruiting trees such as Pomegranates, Ume, Plum, Apple, Quince and Bougainvillea late in April or early in May. If pruning is done too early, the newly formed flower/fruit buds will be destroyed. It's prudent to hold off until the new spring growth has hardened and the branches have lignified. If you choose to wait until May to do any serious pruning, then control rampant growth by pinching and nipping the terminal buds on each branch. This restraint will encourage the formation of side branches and create a denser foliage mass.

This is the time to begin the fertilization program on established trees. Use a slow release fertilizer just prior to the signs of new growth. Organic fertilizers such as Cottonseed Meal (75%), with a proportion of Bone Meal(25%), give the trees the desired boost during this growing season. Bone Meal is very slow acting but is beneficial in the long run.

To insure the maximum blooming potential, new growth on flowering trees and azaleas should be watched. Keep the nitrogen content of fertilizers at a minimum in these early feedings since excessive green foliage and leaf growth will weaken the flowering effort. Use a weak application just as the flower buds begin to swell and again as they open and develop. Do not feed after the flowers are fully open. Miracle-Grow®, applied on a bi-weekly basis, is an excellent all purpose fertilizer.

Plants are now growing vigorously. It's better to feed more often with light applications than less often with a heavy hand. Keep fertilizers away from the trunk of the tree. Broadcast granular food lightly over the pot surface and close to the pot edges. Do not feed newly transplanted or repotted trees for a month or two to let them become established. A low nitrogen fertilizer such as Super Phosphate keeps fruit and berries from falling off prematurely.

HAIKU POEM:

As birds fly this day
We are aware of flurry
Through our trees, with songs

April, 20

NEW MEMBER **FRED MIYAHARA**

UP COMING EVENTS

April 24 – 27 2014, Costa Mesa, California Orange County Bonsai Society: 25th Annual Spring Garden Show, South Coast Plaza, 3333 Bear St. Display of trees in the traditional Japanese style. Bonsai and accent plant demonstration by in house Masters. The Spring Garden Show is a diverse and outstanding selection of unusual and exotic plants, garden tools, garden ornaments and art, competition gardens and children's programs. Free admission and parking! For more information, visit www.springgardenshow.com or contact David Nadzam at (714) 345-6966 or dnadzam@socal.rr.com.

April 26 – 27, San Diego Bonsai Club, Balboa Park, Casa Del Prado #101, 10am to 5pm. Bonsai Show and sale. Demonstrations daily 11am to 1pm. For additional information visit www.sandiegobonsaiclub.com

**The Fresno Bonsai Society is Conducting an Estate Sale
To Disperse the Beautiful Collection of Robert Iseman
Saturday April 26th, 2014**

Examination of Sale Items from 10AM till Noon

Live Auction Will Begin Promptly at Noon

Auction will be at 736 West Browning Avenue

Fresno, California 93704

More than 60 Bonsai Including Many Show Quality Trees

More than 100 Pots of Various Sizes and High Quality

Numerous Bonsai Tools

Copper and Aluminum Wire and Supplies

All Sales are Cash and Carry

Participants Should Arrive Early Enough to Register Before Noon

Contact Ray Thieme at 559 352-8069 for Information

Dai Ichi Kai ~ May 3-4, 10am to 4pm daily, Ken Nakaoka Community Center,
1670 W. 162 St, Gardena, Show, Demonstrations and vendor area.

Descanso Bonsai Society 45th Annual Bonsai Show. June 14-15, 2014.
9:00 a.m.-5:00p.m. last admission is 4:30 p.m.

1418 Descanso Dr. La Canada Flintridge, CA. 91011. (818) 949-4200

Special Thank You

April Refreshments:

Bob and Kim Warner
Tish Miya
Wendy Tsai
Harry Hirao
Helen Ho
David & June Nguy
Manuel Martinez

April Donations:

Dave Miles
Rishi Bissoon
Imee Palacpac
Harry Hirao
Bill & Lois Hutchinson
David & June Nguy
Takuo Nakamura
Jae Kwon

PRE-MEETING WORKSHOP

Beginners, Wondering how to get started in Bonsai and have questions?

Looking to improve your bonsai artistry and technique!

Have a tree that is "difficult" to style and you may not know what to do. Questions on preparing your tree or displaying it at the Annual Show? No matter what your objectives are, you can bring your trees to work on at the pre-meeting workshop where Club members can assist. Meet from 4:00pm -6:00pm prior to the monthly meeting.