

# The Kofu Kai Review

The Monthly Newsletter of the Kofu Bonsai Kai Club

## MEETING TIME and PLACE

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

Anaheim Methodist Church, 1000 South State College Boulevard, Anaheim



## April 15 Meeting

## JOHN NIELSEN



We are pleased to have **John Nielsen** return as our demonstrator for the April meeting. **John** is a licensed arborist with more than three decades of experience in bonsai. He has studied with **Harry Hirao**, **Mel Ikeda**, and **Tak Shimazu**. **John** is always entertaining and informative. This month, John is going to share his techniques for getting free trees.

We've all seen those "bonsai kits" where you get a little pot and some dirt and a seed to grow your own magnificent black pine bonsai tree in just 25 short years, but growing from seed is not the only, or the best, way to propagate new trees, and it is certainly not the fastest. There are much better ways. **John** will talk about hardwood cuttings, softwood cuttings, root cuttings, and layering. This is a great time of year to start ground-layering or air-layering a new tree from a branch or the apex of an existing tree. **John** will show you how to do it and will explain how and why it works. If you've had trouble getting your air-layers to root, John's preferred method of air layering with a pot (instead of a plastic wrap) might increase your odds of success dramatically.

So if you're ready to start getting good material for free from the trees around you, if you like getting two or three trees for the price of one, if you want to learn how to tell the phloem from the cambium and the sapwood, or if you have a favorite tree, and you wish you could grow ten more just like it, you don't want to miss **John's** presentation on methods for the propagation of bonsai. ---Michael Walsh

## EXECUTIVE BOARD

### Officers

#### Founding President:

Harry Hirao 714-847-1832

#### President:

Carol Upston 310-346-4203  
jackdaw@earthlink.net

#### Vice President:

Open

#### Recording Secretary:

Open

#### Treasurer:

Ryan Cali

#### Past President:

Manuel Martinez  
manny22816@aol.com

#### Board of Directors:

Larry Ragle 949-497-5626

### Committees

#### Badges:

Shari Religa

#### Benefit Drawing:

Dan and Wanda  
Danesi 714-826-5024

#### Meeting Refreshments:

Kimberly Warner

#### Membership

Ryan Cali 949-735-3463

#### Newsletter Editor:

May McNey 714-738-0879

#### Pre-Meeting Workshop:

Ryan Cali 949-735-3463

#### Program Chair:

Michael Walsh

#### Publicity:

Michael Walsh

#### Show Co-Chairs:

Anthony Chiusolo 714-998-3420  
Mike Viljak 949-642-3577

#### Sunshine:

Marybel  
Balendonck 714-524-0275

#### Website:

Bob Warner

**WWW.KOFUKAI.ORG**

## March 18 Meeting

# AL NELSON

Last month, Kofu Bonsai Kai's own **Al Nelson** brought in a big team of helpers and treated us to the creation of not one, or even two, but four *saikei* pieces. **Al** shared with us some great pearls of wisdom, including his slab shaping advice (break the edges slowly, small pieces at a time), his moss recipe (clay, sphagnum moss, fines and worm castings), his *saikei* soil mix (pumice, potting soil, *Akadama*, and perlite), and his moss growing methods (newspaper across a nursery tray, with an inch of soil and a topping of worm castings below the moss, which can be either green or brown when harvested).

Some key advice from **Al**: Triangulate your trees when creating a multiple tree design. Use an odd number of trees and an odd number of stones. Keep the center of your landscape open, randomly spacing the design elements around that open center. Always use smaller trees in the back, with larger ones up front, to create forced perspective. **Al** also showed us his coveted source list for Kingsville boxwoods, tufa rock, and other supplies to make our own *saikei* displays. **Al** donated all four of the demo *saikei*, with the bigger creations going to lucky winners **Gonzalo Rodriguez** and **Wanda Danesi**. ---Michael Walsh



Al's team at work





## Lucky Winners of Al Nelson's Saikeis

Left photo: **Gonzalo Rodriguez**    Right Photo: **Wanda Danesi**

## MULTI-CLUB BONSAI EXHIBIT AT THE FULLERTON ARBORETUM APRIL 22 – MAY 14, 2017

The bonsai exhibit at the Fullerton Arboretum is coming up soon. The exhibit was very successful last year, and the clubs even made money on the event. Each club will be doing some kind of demo on the Saturday at 11:00 am. The Kofu demo is on May 6.

This exhibit is open on week-ends *only*, and we hope you will visit at least once and help talk to the public about the art of bonsai ---Carol Upston

## TREES NEEDED!

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

# KOFU BONSAI KAI - BONSAI IDEAS

BY MARTY MANN

## APRIL

New candles that have begun to form on older pines can be cut back in April but wait another month before you work on younger trees. Candles generally form twice a year, in April and August. They form in clusters of from 2 to 5. Usually one will dominate. Retain one as leader and another to form the side branch. Always remove the largest candle but don't cut the other 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 somewhat to slow down the new growth but don't allow the fine rootage to dry. Keep pine needles short and strong.

This is a serious time to seek and destroy plant pests. The prolific aphid has come to life. Chewers, suckers and borers are all back in action. White flies, mealy bugs, spider mites and scale are all out to get us. Use systemic action insecticides, such as Isotex, as well as the reliable Malathion and Seven sprays. Damage cannot always be seen unless you examine the plant carefully. Sucking causes leaves to change color and drop. Read the pesticide labels to see what is best for your problems.

As spring growth develops, special attention should be given to continued good watering habits. We may face watering restrictions and should be selective as to time and method in order not to waste its important benefits. Consider minimizing your automated systems in order to apply water more directly to each tree rather than the bench or area in which it is located. Consider watering early in the morning or late in the day in order to minimize evaporation losses. If plants have just been repotted, hold back on excessive watering since the newly developing rootage cannot dispose of moisture through new and sparse leaf growth. Transpiration is minimal. Older, more established trees need more water since they are usually root bound and are always thirsty. Don't overlook drainage. Water usually kills more trees than any other condition.

Bring most trees out into the open. While new growth requires sunlight and warmth it can become unseasonably warm causing new sprouts to grow actively. Then consider moving deciduous trees back into a partially shaded area until the new growth has hardened. Keep trees well spaced to allow free air circulation and light penetration.

Potted trees build up salts due to our more alkaline water. An additive of a soil sulfur or gypsum helps offset this condition by allowing more acidity to service the plants. Alkaline soil tends to reduce the color in the leaves of trees. If rain or your use of dionized water causes too much acidity, apply some wood ash or lime to sweeten the soil.

The love of nature is rewarded by the love of bonsai. Enjoy the fresh colors of spring and the new foliage before the heat of summer arrives.

### HAIKU POEM :

We live in a land of awe  
To see and enjoy  
What pleasures we are given

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. April -2012

# CALENDAR of EVENTS

- April 22-23 **Koen-Nai No Bonsai 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Fund Raiser for the Clark Bonsai Collection at Shinzen**, Shinzen Friendship Garden at Woodward Park, at Friant and Audubon Roads, Fresno. Hours are Saturday 9:30 AM to 5:30 PM and Sunday 9:30 AM to 4:30 PM. Demonstrations by Peter Tea and David Nguy. Huge auction and mammoth vender area. Toko-Kazari Display Competition and tours of the Regional Bonsai Exhibit in the garden. Several shohin workshops will be offered. For more information, contact Bob Hilvers at [bonsaigui@comcast.net](mailto:bonsaigui@comcast.net).
- April 22- May 14 **Multi Club Bonsai Exhibit at Fullerton Arboretum**, 1900 Associated Road, Fullerton, CA located west of the 57 Freeway off of the intersection of Associated Road and Yorba Linda Boulevard. Set-up date is Saturday, April 15. Exhibit opens on Saturday, April 22, during the Spring Fling event at the Arboretum. Kofu Bonsai Kai's week-end to host the exhibit is May 6 and 7; Kofu's demo on Saturday, May 6, at 11:00 AM. The exhibit closes on Sunday, May 14.
- April 27-30 **World Bonsai Friendship Federation 8<sup>th</sup> World Bonsai Convention** at Saitama Super Arena, Saitama City, Japan. Japan's highest class bonsai and suiseki masterpieces. Extensive sales area, various on-stage events, and demonstrations by bonsai artists from all over the world. For registration forms and information to <http://world-bonsai-saitama.jp/en/index.html#>
- April 29-30 **San Diego Bonsai Club** spring bonsai exhibit at Casa Del Prado, Room 101, Balboa Park, San Diego. Show hours are 10 AM to 5 PM both days. Demonstrations at 11 AM and 1 PM. Free admission. Bonsai pots, trees, and other related bonsai items for sale. For more information, visit [www.sandiegobonsaclub](http://www.sandiegobonsaclub).
- May 20-21 **Bonsai Club of Santa Barbara** annual bonsai exhibit at the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden, 1212 Mission Canyon Road, Santa Barbara. Hours are Saturday 11 AM to 4 PM and Sunday 10 AM to 4 PM. Demonstrations at 1 PM both days. Plant sale by the club. For more information, contact Joe Olson at 805/964-0869 or email [joeyuccaseed@verizon.net](mailto:joeyuccaseed@verizon.net) or visit [www.santabarbarbonsai.org](http://www.santabarbarbonsai.org).
- June 3 – 4 **Sansui Kai of Southern California**: Annual Bonsai Show and Sale, Japanese Garden, Tillman Water Reclamation Center, 6100 Woodley Avenue, Van Nuys. Hours are 10 AM-4 PM with demonstrations on both days. There will be bonsai trees for sale as well as bonsai related items (pots, stones etc.). For more information contact Jack Reynolds, 805-368-0110.

## SPECIAL THANK YOU TO

**All Raffle Donors  
And  
All Refreshment Donors**

**Kofu Bonsai Kai  
Appreciates Your  
Generosity**

## PRE-MEETING WORKSHOP

Want to start off 2017 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 4PM to 6 PM before the April meeting. Let expert Kofu members **Ryan Cali**, **Harley Newman**, **Paul Vasina**, and **Carol Upston** help you with your bonsai questions and objectives.