

The Kofu Kai Review

The Monthly Newsletter of the Kofu Bonsai Kai Club

Meeting Time and Place

Saturday, February 21, 2015 at 7:00 pm

Anaheim Methodist Church, 1000 South State College Blvd, Anaheim, CA



This could be your last newsletter!!



It's that time of the year, **DUES ARE DUE**. Your newsletter will discontinue if you have not renewed. Contact Ryan Cali at the meeting, or when making Annual Dues payments by mail please use these directions:

Make Checks out to: **KOFU BONSAI KAI**, \$20 per individual, or \$25 for couples or two persons at one address. Include your Name, Address, Telephone Number, and **e-mail address is mandatory if you wish to receive a newsletter.**

MAIL Checks To:

Ryan Cali, 52 Dianthus, Rancho Santa Margarita, CA 92688

If you joined during the months of Oct., Nov., or Dec. 2014 you are paid for 2015

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WWW.KOFUKAI.ORG

February Demonstrator

David Nguy



David Nguy is a well know Master in the art of Bonsai creation and will be our February demonstrator. David is first to acknowledge that his abilities come from his honored teachers Harry Hirao, Ben Oki, Ernie Kuo and Masahiko Kimura (which he studied as an apprentice in Japan). With that said, those enthusiasts who have been lucky enough to be at or have taken classes from David know the wealth of knowledge that he has is tempered by a patient and kind spirit that wants only to see those he is mentoring grow. David will be sharing with the Kofu Kai members his extensive experience on heavy branch bending of California Junipers. Please join us in welcoming this gracious teacher.

Ron Reekers

JANUARY DEMONSTRATION



Manny Martinez Talks About Soils and Feeding of Bonsai

Although the crowd was small at our last meeting, members who attended the January Kofu meeting enjoyed a valuable talk by past president Manny Martinez on the complex subject of soils for bonsai. As all long-time bonsai artists know, and new bonsai people quickly learn, everyone has a favorite soil and it can be confusing sorting out the many conflicting opinions. Manny really did a good job of breaking down the controversy into understandable terms. He talked about all of the so-called “non-organic” components we can use in bonsai soil mixes including pumice, scoria, baked diatomaceous earth found as floor sweep at Napa Auto Parts, decomposed granite, various grades of akadama and hyuga and similar Japanese soil components. He discussed their various properties and pros and cons. With this kind of information it's easier to make an informed decision, weighing factors like price, durability, water retaining ability, availability, and so on.

Manny also talked about another complicated and often contentious subject, fertilizers for bonsai. He discussed many options like agro-tabs, time release fertilizers, Japanese products, and others. I personally confessed to using Miracle Gro in a hose-end sprayer, and others had similar good experiences with so-called chemical fertilizers. Manny explained the sometimes mistaken idea that certain things are “organic” and others aren't, and that one type is better than another. All kinds of fertilizers have benefits and drawbacks. Liquid fertilizers like Miracle Gro are immediately available to plants while blood meal and other solid types require bacterial breakdown to become available to plants and that can only happen above a certain temperature. Also, Manny reminded everyone that products derived from petroleum are most definitely organic since petroleum is the long decayed remains of ancient life. He also discussed the surprising benefits of adding a little bit of earthworm casings to your trees. I have found it to be true that the casings promote healthy growth and repel some pests. I can't explain it, but I've seen the results and they've been verified by university research. Many of the products Manny mentioned can be found at Orange County Farm Supply.

It was an informative and enjoyable evening and it's unfortunate that our meeting conflicted this year with the Baikoen Silhouettes show and party on Saturday night. We try to avoid having that happen and this year the Arboretum in Arcadia switched the dates for the Baikoen event so it just happened that way. I hope you all got out there to enjoy the show or if you missed it that you'll see it next year.

Carol Upston

Spring Festival on Sunday April 5 at the Bowers Museum in Santa Ana

This is their 'First Sunday' event which allows the public free admission to most exhibits and includes various Japanese cultural performances like music and dance. This year the first Sunday in April is also Easter Sunday. The Bowers provides us with a few tables in the shaded colonnade off the main courtyard and we bring tablecloths and each person brings a display tree and accent plant and can bring a tree to work on as well. We need between 4 and 6 people to volunteer for this one-day event. It's always a fun experience being part of the festival and talking to people about what we do. If you're interested email me, Carol Upston at carolupston@me.com

Presidents Message

I'd like to thank a number of people on behalf of Kofu Kai. First and foremost, Bill and Lois Hutchinson. Bill and Lois have been part of the basic structure of the Southern California bonsai community for a very long time and they are now retiring and moving back east. It has been a pleasure knowing them. They've set a very high bar for service to our community and many organizations will miss them sorely. I hope you all have or will soon express your gratitude and good wishes to Bill and Lois as they open a new chapter of their life. We will miss you very much.

I'd also like to thank the brave individuals who have come forward in answer to our request for people to assist at Kofu. Jason Chan has volunteered to take over from Ron Reekers as our new program chair. Jason is an upcoming bonsai artist who studies with David Nguy and I am looking forward to seeing his ideas for our future programs. Anyone with ideas or suggestions can contact Jason or me. We want to know what you're interested in seeing in the future. Our thanks to outgoing program chairman Ron Reekers for an outstanding job. Thanks Ron!

Also, two members, Bill Vincent and Bill Ward have volunteered to form a committee to look for new collecting opportunities for the club and also to look into putting together member workshops which will include plant material. They will be working with Jason Chan on that idea. Thank you so much for coming forward.

We announced at the Christmas party that Ryan Cali is our new treasurer, taking over from An Truong. He will also continue to be in charge of the pre-meeting class. Thank you Ryan and An for your service to the club.

May McNey, thank you so very much for taking over the newsletter, now Manny is free to spend even more time slaving away as show chairman.

Now get out there and work on those trees!

Carol Upston

Upcoming Opportunities

Representing the club in public and talking with people about bonsai is both enjoyable and helpful to your own growth as a bonsai artist. We have two opportunities coming in April for members to help in an informal way to promote our club and the art of bonsai

The upcoming event is the **Green Scene at the Fullerton Arboretum**. We will have an informational table or booth, and will display at least 2 trees, informally, each day and can work on trees or have a little informal demo too. Set up is on Friday April 17 and the event spans Saturday April 18 and Sunday April 19. We need 2 or three people each day to man the tables. More than two or three would be fine too. I hear it's a busy event. Saturday the 18th is also our meeting night but I don't see any conflict there. Let me know if you'd like to join us. I'd especially like to see some new people helping at these two events. Email me if you'd like to help. carolupston@me.com

Carol Upston

February

KOFU BONSAI KAI - BONSAI IDEAS

BY MARTY MANN

It's still too early to concern yourself about feeding the trees. It is a good time to prepare fertilizer supplies. Chemical and organic liquid fertilizers require no advance planning. They can be freshly mixed when you are ready to apply. If you are a user of the recommended dry mixes such as Cottonseed Meal (75%) with Bone Meal (25%), now is the time to make a supply. Keep the finished product in a dry place. If it gets wet it will begin to ferment and will drive you out of your home! Acid based fertilizers are best for azaleas and camellias as well as conifers and junipers. The idea, when feeding in early spring is *slow release*. Don't rush your trees into a spurt of new growth too soon.

During this 'idle' time, occupy yourself with a program of pot cleanup. All those pots, that have been sitting around waiting for your repotting activities to begin, have probably accumulated layers of soil and salt deposits. Scrub them with a strong soapy solution and bleach. Apply a lime-off cleaner or a strong vinegar solution to the white spots, or just some elbow grease and cleanser. Try using one of the new Japanese erasers to work on the stubborn spots. Rinse the pots well. Allow them to dry in the full sun to prevent infestation carryover.

Don't overlook the last step in your pre-spring dress-up program. Look at all of the finished trees. Are the pots clean? Is the surface of each planting clear of winter trash and properly surfaced with fresh soil or dressed with D.G.? Are there signs of moss growth? Are the edges of the pots trimmed to allow a channel along the rim for drainage?

The tendency at this time of year, during the last months of dormancy, is to ignore normal bonsai care. Don't stop your regular routines. Watch for insect or fungus activities that silently harm the trees. Aphids, in particular, become active when the weather turns slightly warm. Look for these destructive wingless creatures that damage plants by sucking the juice out of new growth, causing twisting and curling effects. There are four kinds of aphids--the bright-green, the yellowish- melon, the reddish- brown and the almost black variety. The aphid nymphs are usually yellow-green and the adults are dark green. Control is relatively easy with most of the common brands of insecticides. Follow label directions to get the best results.

HAIKU POEM

As the sun does shine
The birds, the bees arrive
The bright day begins

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
November -2010

UP COMING EVENTS

Bonsai-A-Thon, February 28 to March 1st. 10am to 4:30pm daily,
Huntington Gardens and Library, 1151 Oxford Road, San Marino,
CA. More info below.

California Bonsai Society, March 28 and 29, 10am to 4pm daily.
Bonsai display and demonstrations. Huntington Library and
Gardens, 1151 Oxford Road, San Marino, CA.

PRE-MEETING WORKSHOP

Beginners, looking to get started! Looking to improve your bonsai artistry and technique! Preparing your trees for exhibition! Wondering how to get started in Bonsai and have questions? 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 experts like Ryan Cali, Paul Vasina and Harley Newman can assist. Meet from 4:00pm -6:00pm prior to the monthly meeting.

Donations, Thank You

Food, Bob & Kim Warner

Raffle, Manuel Martinez, Bob White, Kaz Hosozawa.

Bonsai-A-Thon

SATURDAY AND SUNDAY SCHEDULE

8:00 AM – 9:30 AM	Early bird registration and Pancake Breakfast *
8:00 AM – 4:30 PM	Bazaar and Bonsai Exhibits
9:00 AM – 12:00 PM	ONLY ON SUNDAY: Bring-Your-Own-Tree consulting clinic – Expert solutions for any bonsai challenge.
1:00 PM – 3:00 PM	Open to the public: \$10 for 10 minutes.
10:00 AM – 11:30 AM	Jim Folsom tours
10:00 AM – 3:00 PM	Initial styling and advanced refinement demonstrations (see details below)
11:30 AM – 1:30 PM	Hotdogs and Hamburgers Lunch *
3:30 PM – 4:30 PM	Raffle and live auction

* Registered Bonsai-A-Thon attendees may purchase breakfast and lunch in the Head House west of the Conservatory building)

Demonstrations

Saturday...

- Mel Ikeda
- Bob Hilvers
- Peter Macasieb
- Cesareo Perez
- Kathy Benson

Sunday...

- Frank Goya
- Marcus Juniel
- David Nguy
- Al Nelson

NOTE: Bonsai styled by these experts will be available in the auctions and raffles. This is your chance to own a great tree with a pedigree!

HOW TO GET IN

Attending the Bonsai-A-Thon is free, but does require registration at the Botanic Center. You can speed the process by filling in the badge "ticket" to the right and showing it to the Bonsai-A-Thon registrar or the Huntington security guard.

You may have to follow construction signs around the old route, but we are assured you **will** find your way in.



**Feb 28 – Mar 1
2015**

Bonsai-A-Thon Participant