



KUSAMURA BONSAI CLUB

St Mark's Episcopal Church
600 Colorado Ave.
Palo Alto, CA

3rd Friday of the Month
7 pm Techniques
Workshop
8 pm General Meeting

October 2009

President

Jerry Carpenter

Vice president

Stephanie North

Recording Secretary

Dave Curbow

Cors. Secretary/ Newsletter

Bang Vo

Librarians

Ricardo Archilla, Rita Curbow

Benefit Drawing

Dave Curbow

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Janet Refvem

John Planting

Juniper Yamadori-style with Jim Gremel

At our October meeting we will have Jim Gremel as our guest to demonstrate the Yamadori-style. Jim has been the leader in the area of styling the common juniper in a way that is indistinguishable from a tree collected in the wild.

There will be trays of shimpaku junipers available for purchase for a small fee or bring in your own that you previously created. All members can have the opportunity to try their hand at starting a yamadori-style tree. Members are encouraged to bring in their previously created yamadori trees so that Jim can talk about the next step and future refinement.

Jim will also be bringing an array of pots, tools, and supplies for us to purchase. He offers many items at club discounts so it is a time to stock up.

Yamadori-style

Yamadori means "taken from the mountain". Yamadori are trees collected from the wild, which have been shaped by nature and have been collected to be developed into bonsai. These prized trees are often hundreds of years old when collected from nature. Collected yamadori are often small and twisted as they survived through many harsh, extreme seasons and conditions.

Yamadori-style is similar to the "Twisted Trunk" style. It has a twisted trunk and crooked branches. This is to emulate the tree surviving in their natural environments of strong winds, rain and snow. Often, the tree has a part of its trunk or branch that withers and turns ashen white like a piece of bone (jin or shari).

A whip of young flexible 2-5 year old seedlings are wired with copper or aluminum wire. By twisting and pushing the whip downward introduces a number of radical bends. To create a natural appearance you should keep the movement in the same direction. For example, if the trunk is coiled clockwise, all branches should also be coiled in the same direction and slightly downward to simulate the heavy snow and wind.

There are really no directions to guide us how to place the trunk and branch movement together. You may want to create a compact form or a long and elegant tree similar to literati or windswept, the choice is yours!



The Bonsai Corner

Refreshment

Refreshments for October meeting will be provided by Jane Iki and Callie Jerman. If you cannot attend please call a member to substitute.

Bonsai in the Park

It is proven to be a good venue to meet and spread the word about our club and about the art of bonsai. The September park demo went really well. Jerry, Charlene and Bang worked on trees; some are for the potting party. We talked to a lot of people. Charlene is great with people and is promoting the club at every chance. If the weather allows, the next "Bonsai in the Park" will be at Mitchell Park on October 24.

Potting Party

Mark your calendar for this year's first potting party date: November 22. The potting party will be from 10 am to 4 pm. This event will be held at the Planting's - 898 Coleman Ave in Palo Alto. The plants will be for sale at the show in March. Bring trees being held from previous show sales to be improved. Remember that each club member is obligate to donate at least three trees to the sale.

SHOW DATE HELD

Mark your calendars for the 50th Anniversary Kusamura Bonsai Show to be held at Mitchell Park on: March 19, 20 with setup night March 18th. We are entering the process of securing a demonstrator and may move the date to April 10-11. We need a show chair and many other sub chair volunteers.

Kusamura Goes to Work at Filoli by Jerry Carpenter

On Wednesday, September 23 several members of Kusamura began working on bonsai at Filoli estate and gardens. Filoli is a local treasure off I280 at Canada Rd in Woodside. There are various gardens around the bay that accept volunteers. Our first and foremost Bonsai Garden at Lake Merritt in Oakland is our first responsibility; however, Kusamura also has a long standing tradition at Filoli as well. In years past the club participated in displays at the Spring Festival at Filoli alongside Sei Boku Bonsai Kai of San Mateo. Jim Thompson has been a member of Filoli for some time and had been working on some trees over the years. Earlier this summer, Rita Curbow, who is also a Filoli member and volunteer began working on the bonsai as well.

So the tradition continues. Thanks to Rita for her approaching the landscape staff and the property manager to ask if we could become active there working exclusively on these trees. They agreed and will start buying soil and wire for our efforts. She provided the head gardener the soil recipe and provided contacts for the purchase of copper wire. So the foundation was set.

Our first gathering as a bonsai volunteer group went very well. Janet Refvem, a current Filoli member, joined me as a new volunteer for orientation at the garden. On our first day of work, five of us gathered in the garden potting house. Rita, Jim, Janet, myself and Filoli garden volunteer Liza Miller set out to select trees and begin. Liza Miller became interested in bonsai through Rita and is learning from us. She goes at it with a smile and asks lots of great questions and we are there to guide. It will be good to get some of the Filoli grounds staff interest so they can help continue the art and share their appreciation of the plants with visitors and fellow staff. Until now the trees have languished over the years. On our first day as a group, Rita and Liza worked on a couple of Mugho Pines, Janet made great progress on a Shimpaku, I worked on a Black Pine Seike, and Jim saved a Shimpaku Seike from a broken pot that was terribly overgrown.

Rita is also working to help catalogue the trees. Filoli received them from several estate donations over the years and until now they have not been catalogued in any particular database because no one ever really paid that much attention to them. She has discovered 26 conifers, 24 deciduous and 21 camellias for a total of 71 plants so far. There are quite a few Seike in the collection. Touring around the house I have come upon some trees that have migrated to regular garden potted plants so I suspect the count will rise.

I look forward to working on them more. So many are in incredible disrepair and need extensive cutting back, repotting this fall/winter, and feeding. I have heard of others who want to join us. To do that fill out the Filoli website volunteer form and indicate you want to work on the bonsai with Rita so you can join us. The fee to become a member is \$50 and you cannot start working until you have had your volunteer orientation. This is a great service we can do for the community; we may make some new friends, attract some new members, and get involved in some very public events, and benefit Kusamura.

November Meeting – Winter Profile Show and Workshop

Deciduous bonsai trees shed their leaves in winter as they enter dormancy period. The beauty of fine branch ramification and overall structure can be appreciated, evaluated and corrected as necessary. Winter can be cold and wet; yet there are still many things that you can do to prepare your trees for next year when your bonsai will become even better and more rewarding.

December Holiday

It is time to celebrate another wonderful year of bonsai. This is the time for us to share good stories during a warm gathering. Traditionally, the event is a potluck, gift exchange (value about \$25), and door prizes. More information will come in the next newsletter.

E-Newsletter COMING!

Short for Electronic Newsletter; this is one way for club members to receive the club news. E-newsletters can be developed for fraction of the cost and delivered to members instantly. This is not totally replacing the traditional print newsletter; it is enhancing the communications channel and at the same time is reducing the printing and mailing cost. If you have an email address chances are you can receive an E-newsletter format. At the November meeting we will have a short survey on this topic and a form to provide you address.

Think Urban Dig!

Coming in December Kusamura is going to do an urban dig to benefit the potting party contributions. This DIG will be at the home of Stephanie North in Palo Alto. She is giving trees that have escaped the potting process to the Kusamura sales table. We are talking some fun and some challenging trees to dig. There are various redwoods of sizes ranging from hardened seedlings to large trunks, Cotoneaster (3 varieties) growing from many different locations, dwarf myrtle, pyracantha, Chinese pistachio, cork bark elm young in years, several coast live oaks, cedar in a group or clump, privet, crabapple, dwarf fuchsia, standard western fig, forsythia, and even a variegated juniper. In all, we estimate 25/30 trees. There are some great treasures to be had there and, thanks to Stephanie, we will go and dig, basic pot contain, and then work more on them at the January potting party. Some may go as pre-bonsai material and some may be presentable as juvenile bonsai.

We are asking for a few volunteers to assist Jerry and Stephanie cutting back material between Oct/Nov period to prepare the dig in December. If you are interested, please contact Jerry Carpenter at: 408.823.9525 or via email jcsf1090@comcast.net

Mitsuya's Demo Photo Essay



Kusamura Bonsai Club Events

October 16—Yamadori Demo/Workshop

with Jim Gremel

October 19—Board Meeting at Carpenter's place at 7PM. Stay-tuned, schedule may change due to construction at the apartment.

October 24 — Demo in the Park – Mitchell Park

November 5 – Bonsai Convention at Riverside, CA

A Southwest Bosai Journey

November 20 – Winter Silhouette Demo/Workshop

November 22 – Potting Party at the Planting's

December 18 – Holiday Party