

# Kusamura Bonsai Club - Bonsai Basics - Program Details

12/5/2011

## **What**

It is a mission of the Kusamura Bonsai Club to provide education to its membership. One of the ways we can do that is to provide a Bonsai Basics class. This year will be our test run of a program that is geared toward bonsai enthusiasts new to this art. This program will leave the student with a basic understanding on how to care and feed a tree.

Our goal will be to choose one tree, a species of your choice, with guidance from an instructor in several sessions throughout the year. The experience is designed to help the student learn the life cycle of a tree throughout the calendar year and along the way learn design, style, feeding, watering, repotting, and winter care for a tree.

## **Who**

If you are willing to become a member of the club, are new to the art of bonsai, and commit to two classes four times a year then you are welcome to sign up. We will start with two winter (repotting and styling) sessions on two Saturdays in January. We will have two Saturday classes in May, two Saturday classes in July, and two classes in Sept/Oct. These sessions will bring the student full circle with their trees.

**Where** The January classes will be held at the home of Dave & Rita Curbow on the following days:  
**January 7, 2012 and January 14, 2012**

## **When**

Class will be a full day starting at 10AM in the morning until 4PM in the afternoon. Students are asked to bring a lunch. We will have a half hour break for lunch.

## **How**

In our January class, each student who signs up will be asked to bring two trees with them. On signing up, you will need to indicate the kinds of trees you are interested in or that you have. For the beginner, we suggest a nursery grown Juniper or bonsai material acquired from the raffle tables (with some age) or from an external source. It would be preferable to speak with the educator before class to see if the trees you are bringing in will be suitable for bonsai. An excellent source of material is club sales from around the Bay Area, bonsai nurseries such as Lone Pine in Santa Rosa, Maruyama's in Sacramento or from a nursery such as Yamagami's in Cupertino.

## **Cost**

These classes will utilize some club supplies of pots and wire. Each student will be asked to augment tools before the class by purchasing a few items from an online vendor such as Dallasbonsai.com, Shibui Bonsai, Inc. or Deer Meadow Bonsai. Some tools may be loaned temporarily but we will discuss tools that every student should have. Each student will provide their own plant material and receive advice on material to purchase. Soil components will be provided allow each student to learn how to mix their own soil. An instructor fee of \$10 is requested to cover expenses.

## **Instructor(s)**

Jerry Carpenter will be the instructor this year. His bonsai experience began on the East Coast many years ago where he primarily worked with tropical species. Upon moving to California in 2000, he

began the journey of mastering a more formal style on out-door growing trees under the tutelage of John and Sandy Planting. In more recent years he has been working with Kathy Shaner, various enthusiasts from around California and visiting artists such as Master Mitsuya from Japan and Marco Invernizzi from Italy. It is his feeling that one should be exposed to as many teachers as possible from visiting Japanese Masters to the newest educators in America to observe their style and to see what works best with the material we have locally.

From time-to-time throughout the year visiting instructors may be invited in to help with a particular species or a technique.

Name			
Phone		Email	
Tree Option 1			
Tree Option 2			
Agreement	You will attend all 8 classes to the best of your ability. You will commit to bring two trees to our beginning class. You will commit to purchase some basic tools, You will commit to the small class fee. You will commit to loving the art of bonsai and having a great time!		