

FEBRUARY 2010



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

Meeting Date:
February 19, 2010

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

KUSAMURA BONSAI CLUB

President

Jerry Carpenter
408.823.9525

Vice president

Stephanie North

Recording Secretary

Dave Curbow

Cors. Secretary/ Newsletter

Bang Vo

Librarians

Ricardo Archilla, Rita Curbow

Benefit Drawing

Dave Curbow

Hospitality

Bang Vo

Treasury

Helen Reist
650.324.1445

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Lonnie McCormick

Michael Greenstein

Mo Suresh

Jane Iki

Janet Refvem

John Planting

Special Show Workshop

Since our show is only a month away this will be conducted as a workshop. Each member should bring at least one of the trees that they are going to show to the meeting. That means everyone brings a tree that they are preparing to show. This tree may need some work and our purpose at this meeting is to make improvements on the tree to prepare it for show.

Jerry Carpenter will be introducing the club to an evaluation sheet that will help you remember what needs to be improved on the tree. Sheets like this are often used at shows to provide feedback to club members on their trees and may even be used to assist in a critique of the tree. We will have extras so that you may use them at home.

Please come early to help set up the workspace. Remember to bring tree, trash bags to cover the tables and a work box if you have it. Senior members of the club will be available to help give suggestions and may be able to fill out the evaluation sheet to help you improve your tree in the future.

Special Show Announcements

Legacy Trees Spotlight



The Bonsai Corner

Refreshment

Feb: Barbara Murray and
Stephanie North

Mar: NONE – SHOW

April: Mark O'Brien and
John Planting

Hospitality

Feb: Helen Reist

Mar: NONE – SHOW

April: Lonnie McCormick

This year we will be spotlighting the trees that have been handed down through the club, purchased from prior members, styled by Tosh Saburomaru, or considered the oldest tree in your collection. These will be trees with a pedigree. Legacy means: age if known, styled by the following artist, purchased from someone special, from a special nursery, etc.

If you have a 5-line story about the tree it can be included on the card; this could be a comment made by a master or some special comment about the tree. Charlene will prepare the tree identification cards for the trees in the

SHOW ANNOUNCEMENT

Kusamura Bonsai Club's 50th Anniversary show is **MARCH 20,21!** That is next month. We need to get our trees ready now. Remember the show is early this year and this FEB. meeting is the last meeting before the show. Members with stands and scrolls are encouraged to bring them to the meeting. After that you may have to make an appointment with these members to choose stands and supplies.

Kusamura Bonsai Show Volunteers

I am now soliciting volunteers to help with the show. I am preparing a list of roles and responsibilities that need to be filled as well as a task plan for future shows. Please see me, Stephanie North, or Jerry Carpenter if you would like a particular role.

This year the show will return to Mitchell Park, located at 3800 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto, CA 94303. The show date will be March 20-21 with a setup event on March 19.

show. Please email Charlene a list of the common name, botanical name, and year you started training the tree before March 12th.

A special "Legacy Tree" card will be displayed with your tree and Charlene is going to prepare these cards for you. If you will have a "Legacy Tree" in the show, please prepare a brief paragraph including who originally owned the tree, its history and, if you want, a brief story about the tree. (Please keep your write-up to about 150 characters.) Your write-up can be emailed to charlenerae@mac.com or mailed to Charlene Fischer, 965 Colorado Ave., Palo Alto, CA 94303. Please provide this information by March 12th.

History Table

This year we will have a special display of Kusamura's history. The table will have a few of the founders' trees as well as important pictures, awards, and documents of the club. If you have any special contribution to that display, please contact either Stephanie North or Jerry Carpenter.

Bonsai Companion

Bonsai are exhibited with a small companion plant or viewing stone. The companion is usually chosen to convey the season, to emphasize the bonsai's place of origin, or simply to enhance the aesthetic beauty of the bonsai display.

Moss

In Japan moss is usually added for the show and removed as soon as the plant is brought back home. Moss can evoke the impression of a forest. Look for the velvety moss that grows on soil or stone.

Containers and Tree Placement

Both choosing a bonsai pot and placing a bonsai are an integral part of the final design. Last month John Planting conducted an illustrated discussion of what plant goes with which pot, dimensional considerations, color, and shape. Deciduous trees with flower and fruit look good in glazed, colorful pots. Mame bonsai look good in small-decorated colorful pots. Most conifers look best in brown or dark-colored unglazed pots.

This month we will discuss some basic rules of tree placement in the pot. Rule one: do not place a bonsai in the center of its pot unless you are planting in a round, square, or hexagonal container. Place the tree in back or atop of an imaginary midline, use the 2/3 rule of ensuring the tree is not placed dead center. Rule two: a right-leaning tree would sit left or center of its pot and vice-versa. Rule three: do not place the tree too far front, back, or to the side because this upsets the stability of the composition. Traditionally, the number one branch should always point toward the right corner of its pot and the trunk should slightly lean forward to greet the viewer.

When placing a tree, you should take into account the nebari (surface root), the trunk, the main branch and the ramification. The nebari gives a feeling

Board Approves 50th Anniversary Logo

The board has approved the use of the 50th Anniversary logo for use this year. We are having pins made that will be given to each club member. Each will get one pin for free. Multiple pins will be for sale at \$5.00. These will be collector's pins and will be coveted at conventions and special events. Members can buy no more than 10 pins. Pins will be made available to special guests of the show as well.

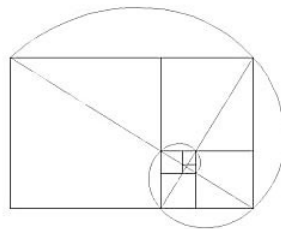
We are also researching to creation of an apron with the anniversary logo on them. Pricing and production are being considered now. This would be for purchase for all members.

Board Approves Sponsorship of Two BGLM Trees

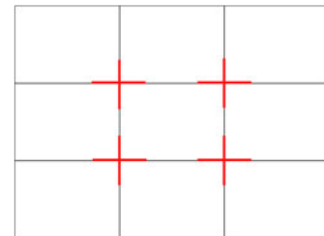
The board has approved the sponsorship of two trees located at the Bonsai Garden at Lake Merritt. We will sponsor these trees for one year at this time. We are sponsoring the logo tree or what is known as the Refvem Raft #178 and we are also sponsoring the Mugho Pine #213 known as the Tosh Mugo (donated to the BGLM by the Saburomaro family and styled by Tosh Saburomaro in 1955). Both trees will hopefully appear at the 50th Anniversary show along with the Tosh Oak #132. A matching grant is being given to the BGLM for the Refvem raft as well.

of stability, of power, if it is wide, visible and reaching out on all sides. The movement of the trunk will express the energy and ramification creates depth. In bonsai; the shape and position of the roots, the trunk, the placement of branches, the configuration of foliage pads, the crown, and the container will determine the visual balance of the overall pose of the bonsai setting. A well-planted bonsai is exhibiting its power, tranquility and appears majestic and elegant.

One basic principle known as "the golden section" which is found in the design and beauty of nature states that two equal parts of a whole must be in the relationship to each other to create a satisfactory image to the eye. This causes the design to feel right to the eye and creates a feeling of satisfaction and harmony within an image.



Golden section diagram



Rule of third

The Golden Section gives rise to the "rule of third". This rule is found within art and Asian art. It involves creating a "place of emphasis". The place of emphasis is found by dividing a design area into three parts vertically and then horizontally; where the dividing line meet are aesthetically pleasing places to put the focus of the design.

This creates a sense of balance, as balance is the equal feeling of weight in perception. Balance in an art form may not really have actual or physical balance, but rather an illusion of balance, which is referred to as optical balance or visual balance.

Static balance: this is where careful application of symmetry leads to a stable and restful shape (like the formal upright Chokkan style).

Dynamic balance: arisen from an asymmetric shape or one that implies instability and movement (like the cascade Kenqai style).

Events

February 27-28, 2010

Oakland, California

GSBF Bonsai Garden at Lake Merritt: Mammoth Fundraiser, 2010 at the Lakeside Garden Center, 666 Bellevue Avenue. Saturday (Feb 27): Auction of fabulous bonsai 1PM-4PM with preview at 12 Noon. Sunday (Feb 28): Mammoth Fundraiser and Bazaar, 9AM-4PM. Demonstration at 1:30PM by Collection Curator, Kathy Shaner. Silent auction, vendors, benefit drawings, raffles and a large consignment sale of bonsai and bonsai related items. For general information: <http://www.gsbf-bonsai.org/lake-merritt/> or Linda Soliven, 925-776-2342.

March 13-14

Oakland, California

Bay Area Bonsai Associates: 29th Annual Show, Lakeside Park Garden Center, 666 Bellevue Avenue. Hours are Saturday, 4:30PM-10PM, and Sunday, 10AM-4PM. Demonstration and critique illustrating design concepts by Dave DeGroot starts at 6PM, Saturday, followed by a raffle. The plant and pot sale, including related bonsai items (bonsai books, tools, etc.) is continuous both days. Admission is Free. For more information contact Jeff@saber.net or 707-984-8012

**March 20–21,
Palo Alto, California**

Kusamura Bonsai Club will hold its 50th Anniversary Show at Mitchell Park, 3800 Middlefield Road. Admission is free. There will be demonstrations, raffles, and club member tree sales both days. The theme of the show is "Our Oldest Tree" and will celebrate a founding sensei, Tosh Saburomaru, and a unique display of legacy trees from our members. Tim Kong will be our guest demonstrator on Saturday at 1:30pm. For more information, contact Jerry Carpenter at (H) 408-557-0166; (C) 408-823-9525 or jcsf1090@comcast.net

**March 20–21
Scotts Valley, California**

Santa Cruz Bonsai Kai presents its 21st annual show at the Scotts Valley Community Center, 360 Kings Village Road from 10:30AM–4:30 PM. Demonstration at 2PM on both days by Katsumi Kinoshita. Plant sales, door prizes, demonstration tree raffle and much more. For more information call 831-469-0688.

**March 27–28
San Jose, California**

San Jose Betsuin Bonsai Club: 40th Annual Bonsai Exhibit at the San Jose Betsuin Buddhist Church, 640 North 5th Street. Hours are Saturday, 12–4PM, and Sunday, 11AM–4PM. Demonstration at 1PM both days by Harry Hirao, aka "Mr. California Juniper" from Huntington Beach. Plant and vendor sales.