

JULY 2010



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

Meeting Date:
July 16, 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

Michael Greenstein

Recording Secretary

Dave Curbow

Treasurer

Helen Reist
650.324.1445**Cors.**

Secretary/ Newsletter

Bang Vo

Librarians

Ricardo Archilla, Rita Curbow

Benefit Drawing

Mo Suresh

Hospitality

Bang Vo

Past President
Charlene Fischer

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Jane Iki
Janet Refvem
John Planting
Stephanie North
Jim Thompson
Mark O'Brien

The Bonsai Corner

Refreshment

July: Dennis Abler and Richardo Archila
August: Pot Luck after the Garden Tour of August 8th. Members are encouraged to bring a dish to share at the meal located at the Planting's residence.

Hospitality

July: Jerry Carpenter
August: None

Workshop: 7-9:30—Tree Improvement Workshop

This is not your usual tree improvement workshop! It's a "What Would You Do With This Tree?" program. Most of us have a tree that we've been working on but we're not quite sure what the next step might be. Or you have a tree that you have no idea how to style. This month's program is two-fold: first, to get you help with a problem tree; second, to open a question and answer session that involves not only the club's experts, but also gets those with less knowledge or training thinking about what they'd do with each tree. See the article in the center of the newsletter for more info.

Show and Tell: Various species of interest.

Club News

Board Announcement— The transition board meeting will be held at the home of Lonnie McCormick, at 22460 St. Andrews Ave, Cupertino, Ca 95014, on July 12. Board members from the previous year and currently elected members should attend this meeting to share our knowledge and to create a smooth transition into the next year. Thanks to Lonnie for offering his home for this meeting.

Summer Garden Tour and Nursery Visit

Club Garden Tour – Sunday, August 8 – Our garden tour will be at the home of Dave and Rita Curbow (615 Cheshire Way, Sunnyvale, CA 94087), Jim Thompson (41 King Street, Redwood City, CA 94062), and John and Sandy Planting (898 Coleman Road, Menlo Park, CA 94025). The tour will begin at the Curbow residence at 1PM, proceed to 2:15PM at, and end at the Planting residence by 3:30 or 4PM. Car-pooling is encouraged where possible. Perishable foods should be kept on ice in coolers or if you like can be dropped off at the Curbow residence where they'll be refrigerated and brought to the Planting residence. This is a potluck event and you are encouraged to bring a dish that can be served to the group. We need a coordinator to help with things like drinks, and getting kitchen supplies from the shed for this event. Food will be served in the dining room and the back porch.

At the Planting's there will be an opportunity to purchase trees from Nancy Eaton's wonderful collection—recently donated to Kusamura. All sales will benefit Kusamura. Helen will be taking cash and check only for purchases. The collection contains some wonderful examples of many species, excellent nebari, and trees that need some canopy work.

August 28, 2010 - Redwood Empire Bonsai Show and Sumagawa's Nursery Visit – Car pool drivers are needed, please contact Jerry Carpenter if you are willing to drive and have some room for others. We will

Kathy Shaner Shohin Seminar/Workshop, July 18, 2010

Bay Area Shohin Society will host a Kathy Shaner Shohin Seminar/Workshop at the on Sunday, July 18, from 10am to 5pm at San Mateo Garden Center, Redwood Room, 605 Parkside Way (between 26th and 28th Ave. off Alameda de las Pulgas.

Kathy will discuss how to refine your Shohin bonsai, what you should be looking for in developing Shohin bonsai, and what works with raw stock and what does not. Raw stock of a suitable size can be discussed, but only Shohin trees will be worked on, so bring at least 3 Shohin trees. Also bring a table covering, turntable, tools, wire, and don't forget to bring your lunch.

"The More The Merrier"—Kathy knows that not all those interested in Shohin are members of BASS, so the Seminar/Workshop will be open to members of other clubs. You are encouraged to make a reservation, by calling Phyllis Swanson at 650-327-3019 (day) or 650-375-8375 (eve before 9pm). Cost is \$25 for BASS members and \$45 for non-members; mail check to Phyllis Swanson, 1178 Chestnut Street, Menlo Park, CA 94025

leave from the Planting residence about 8AM to get to the nursery of Sumigawa's and then on to the show.

Tree Improvement Workshop

This is the first of this kind of workshop open to all Kusamura members. You are invited to bring in one of your trees in your collection, either in-progress or designed, for a group discussion and evaluation. It takes courage to bring your tree and ask the panel to critiquing and suggesting ways to improve it. The goal is the pursuit of a rational basis for improving and hopefully gaining more knowledge about the species you are caring for.

The format for this program is "Ask Doctor Bonsai." Dave Curbow and Stephanie North will be working with Maples; Lonnie McCormick and Michael Greenstein will be working with junipers and John Planting will be working with other species. The panel will begin by asking the tree's owners to explain why he/she brought the tree and what they need or want help with. The panel will examine the tree and suggest ways to improve it.

General Tree Design Guidelines

There are a number of guidelines intended to help understand or learn what makes a good or bad design. Guidelines aren't written in stone, but are best practices. By understanding, and mastering these you'll know when it's appropriate to "break the rules" and create a unique bonsai.

The following are some guidelines:

- The trees' outline should be roughly triangular when seen from the front.
- There should be a greater mass of foliage behind the tree than in front so as to create a sense of depth. This should be roughly triangular when viewed from the top.
- Trees should be 3-dimensional and not appear flat when view from the side.
- Generally tree trunks should not lean backwards or forwards although the top (apex) should lean forward. This has been described as "bowing toward the viewer."
- The trunk must taper from its thinnest point at the apex to its widest point at its base. A gradual taper is preferable to an abrupt one.
- Half to two-thirds of the trunk should be visible from the front to reveal the structure of the trunk.
- Trunks that slope in any direction should begin to slope at ground level. It looks odd to have an upright trunk that suddenly starts to slope to one side.
- Informal forms should have turns or bends that diminish in size and length as the eye travels from trunk base to apex.
- Branches usually don't grow at the very bottom of the tree. They normally start about one-third to one-half of the way up the trunk..
- The first branch should point towards the left or the right when the tree is viewed from the front. The second branch should be on the opposite side of the tree, and remaining branches should alternate sides.
- No branch should lie directly above another.
- No branch should cross another, or the trunk – when seen from the front of the tree.
- All branches should exhibit taper from trunk to tip.
- All branches should be shaped similarly to each other and should reflect the movement (or lack of) in the trunk.

Club workday at the Collection North Garden

The board is planning a workday at the garden in the Fall. We will announce the date soon. Stay tuned.

GSBF Convention

XXXIII - Mark Your Calendar to attend the XXXIII Annual GSBF Convention: October 28-31, 2010 in the heart of Silicon Valley at Santa Clara, CA. Headliners include: Ryan Neil, Peter Warren, and Michael Hagedorn.

Convention Highlights:

- Demonstrations & Workshops by the headliners.
- Outstanding bazaar area with sales of great bonsai materials.
- A continuing seminar with Kathy Shaner.
- Auction and Benefit drawing of excellent bonsai materials

Workshops:

Workshops will be available throughout the convention, led by experts in their craft, with the best material possible.

- Harry Hirao
- Kats Kinoshita
- Kathy Shaner
- John Thompson
- Peter Tea
- Boon Manakitivipart
- Ted Matson
- Gordon Deeg
- Jim Gremel
- Valerie Monroe

- Branches pointing directly forward, towards the viewer, should only appear in the upper third of the tree.
- No two branches should appear from the same place on the trunk.
- Group plantings or trees with multiple trunk forms should have an overall triangular outline; this triangular shape should not be symmetrical.
- Generally, an odd number of trees are preferable in a group, although two is also acceptable. For example, 1, 2, 3, 5, 7, 9. Four trees are considered unlucky in Japan and are avoided
- The tallest tree should be planted highest in the pot.
- Roots/nebari should run flat along the surface of the compost and not be raised out of the soil (except for trees grown in a true exposed-root style).
- Root spread should reflect the form of the tree and appear to anchor the tree firmly into the soil; for trees with upright forms the roots should radiate evenly from around the base of the trunk, for slanting forms or cascades the roots should appear stronger on the opposite side of the trunk to the direction of lean.
- Space in the pot should be left to imply a natural expanse of open ground.
- Multi-trunked trees should have all their stems rising from ground level and not from part way up the trunk.

This is also an opportunity to learn and share about feeding, good horticulture techniques, soils, and watering. After all, if this skill is not understood completely, there will be no beautiful bonsai in your collection.

July work schedule:

Watering: don't let your plant dry out, but not drown them either.

Treatment for accidentally dried out deciduous trees:

Move to a shady area. Mist-spray wilted leaves and water the pot generously.

If the tree doesn't recover within 24 hours, tilt the pot and drain all excess water out. Mist-spray the leaves daily. In a week or so, all the wilted leaves will fall off, and within the next couple of weeks the new buds will form.

Return the pot to its normal location and return to routine maintenance.

CAUTION: While in recovery, do not water the pot. This will cause root-rot. Do not fertilize.

Air-layered deciduous trees

The deciduous trees that were air-layered in May should be showing white roots, visible through the plastic covering. Rotate the pot so that the roots will develop evenly all around the trunk perimeter.

Assuming sphagnum moss was used in the initial air-layering, when five to six roots change color to brown, replace the plastic cover with a six- to seven-inch plastic pot.

Slit one side of the pot all the way down to the bottom. Widen the drainage hole so that it is big enough to fit around the tree trunk easily.

Remove the plastic from the root ball and slip the plastic pot on around it. Secure it tightly to the tree with tape. Fill the plastic pot with a soil mixture of one-half sand and one-half peat. Water the pot once every two or three days.

Events

July 1-5 San Rafael, California Marin Bonsai Club: Bonsai Exhibit at the Marin County Fair, Veteran's Memorial Auditorium, 10 Avenue of the Flags. Hours are 11AM-10PM daily. The **Marin Bonsai Club Show** has become a "classic" fair event! Check out <http://www.marinfair.org/2010> and select Fair Classics under 'Events & Attractions' to see the article. Admission to Fair is \$14 for adults; \$12 for seniors and children 5 to 12. Please invite your friends and sign up as a docent for a few hours (preferably more) with Jeanette Arnold - arnoldje@comcast.net. We have free entry and parking tickets for those members who help a lot with the show! For more information contact Craig Thompson, 415-472-6685.

Aug 28-29 Santa Rosa, California Redwood Empire Bonsai Society (REBS): 27th Annual Show at the Santa Rosa Veterans Building, 1351 Maple Avenue. (Opposite the Sonoma County Fairgrounds.) Hours are Saturday, 10AM-5PM and Sunday, 10AM-4PM. Over 200 trees on exhibit, large vendor area, members' sales area, raffles and a silent auction. Demonstration both days at 1:30PM by Kathy Shaner. Free admission and parking. Contact Bob Shimon at 707-884-4126 or shimon@mcn.org for further information.

October 28-31 Santa Clara, California Golden State Bonsai Federation Convention XXXIII: "New Face of Bonsai." The "New Faces" will shape the Art of Bonsai for years to come with the guidance and vision of these new teachers, and the GSBF 2010 will be the able to receive the new visions of bonsai and participate in the future of Bonsai. The July/Aug issue of Golden Statements will contain convention registration information. For more information visit <http://www.gsbfcconvention.com>