



## KUSAMURA BONSAI CLUB

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

3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of the Month  
7 pm Techniques  
Workshop  
8 pm General Meeting

### November 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

#### **Hospitality**

Bang Vo

#### **Treasury**

Helen Reist

#### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Lonnie McCormick

Michael Greenstein

Mo Suresh

Jane Iki

Janet Refvem

John Planting

### The Bonsai Corner

#### **Refreshment**

The follow members are requested to bring refreshments to the appropriate meeting date:

**Nov:** Callie Jerman and

Lonnie McCormick

**Dec:** None

**Jan:** Mo Mohan and

Bonnie Morton

#### **Hospitality**

**Nov:** Micheal Greenstein

**Dec:** Charlene Fischer

**Jan:** Dave Curbow

### **Potting Parties Announced**

These potting parties are lots of fun and help to create good-looking plants for sale at the show in March. This year with the show in March we will have the potting parties concluded in January so we need your help to make this a very productive event.

Planting parties are held at John and Sandy Planting's home located at 898 Coleman Ave in Menlo Park. The club provides pots and soils and other items needed for the potting. Just bring some tools and have some fun.

Dates: November 22, December 13, and January 10; From 10 AM – 4 PM

We will work on donated plants that are repotted in the fall. This includes trees you may take care of from the previous shows, Sumigawa nursery donated trees from the bus trip, and other club trees.

A special note about the Potting Party on December 13: This will also be the day of the urban dig at Stephanie's North's home nearby. We will have two parties. One party will be digging and we will send over the plants to the main potting party for final potting and styling. We will need some able bodied folks to commit to digging while the rest work on potting. Coordination of this event will be by Stephanie and another member at the Planting's.

### **November 20 Meeting**

#### **Techniques Workshop 7:00 to 8:00**

Soil preparation for the potting season by John Planting

#### **Main Event 8:00 to 9:45**

Winter silhouette: Jerry Carpenter and Sandy Planting will be holding a demo/workshop on winter silhouette and winter care. As our trees begin their months of rest, we have the opportunity to enjoy their structure and make refinements. This is also the time to do clean up so that the trees remain healthy during the cool wet months.

Bring in your trees that have lost most or all of their leaves to show at our mini-winter-silhouette show as well as a tree that we can talk about how to refine during the winter months.

### **Show and Tell**

The Mini Winter Silhouette Show

## E-Newsletter!

Short for Electronic Newsletter; this is one way for club members to receive the club news. E-newsletters can be developed for a 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.

Email Jerry Carpenter or Bang Vo if you would like to receive E-Newsletter.

Jcsf1090@comcast.net  
bangvo@comcast.net

## Club Calendar

### December, 2009

Holiday Party

### January, 2010

Pots/Potting by John and Jerry

### February, 2010

Show Tree  
Workshop/Tune-up with Critique Sheets – Team

### March, 2010

Refvem Utah Juniper  
Deadwood Demo – Jerry and assistant

## NOTICE

Due to health issues of our president, Jerry Carpenter, will need help from members to coordinate the potting parties of November and December. He will also need a coordinator to work with Stephanie on the Urban Dig. Please contact Jerry at: [jcsf1090@comcast.net](mailto:jcsf1090@comcast.net) or by phone at 408.823.9525 if you can help with those responsibilities.

## NOTICE: Urban Dig Prep

This will be on November 14<sup>th</sup> at Stephanie North's house located at 121 Santa Rita, Palo Alto, CA 94301, located off Alma Street. She can be reached at 650. 321.3974. The following individuals have volunteered to help with that event. Mark O'Brien, Richado Archilla, and Jerry Carpenter. One other person would be greatly appreciated. Please bring some garden cutting tools to help clearly define trees.

## Holiday Party in December

December 18<sup>th</sup> will be our holiday party. This year our organizers are Janet Refvem and Jan Iki. Please be sure to ask them if they need help setting up. The holiday is the time of sharing our culinary treasures and gifts. We will continue our tradition of gift exchange with a value of about \$25. Bring a dish that will serve four people.

### Developing a 2010 Show Committee

The show committee for this 50<sup>th</sup> Annual Kusamura Bonsai show is now being formed. The show chairmanship this year can be lead by a team of people. Last year, Jerry Carpenter (lead), Rita Curbow, Stephanie North, and Charlene Fisher had that task and all went very well. We are currently seeking a Lead and at least two other team members. Interested members should contact Jerry, Stephanie, Charlene or Rita to express their interest in creating this extraordinary event.

The show date for this year is March 20 and 21 with a setup on Friday, March 19<sup>th</sup> at Mitchell Park in Palo Alto. Our theme will be "Our Oldest Tree" along with a showing of our founder trees from Tosh and others.

## Logo Possibilities

At the November meeting we will have several designs for the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary logo on display. Members will be asked to mark their favorite design. Designs offered are a refinement of the current logo and the use of Tom Refvem juniper located at the Bonsai Garden at Lake Merritt as logo trees. In the coming year, the board will be asked to sponsor the Refvem tree for a year. It would most fitting to make that part of our story.

## From a Year of Bonsai TIPS

by Jim Ransohoff

**Pines.** Remember that you can pull the needles from black pine, but should cut the needles off white pine. Do not remove the candles at this time, and it is not advisable to repot until spring.

**Azaleas.** If you haven't done so already, bring azaleas into full sun so that they will set buds for next spring's flowering. I don't know why but some year's azaleas bloom early. Perhaps it is because of a cool summer followed by a very warm spell in fall. If I find out, I will let you know!

**Clean up.** As noted last month, it's time to clean up your benches and around your pots, as the leaves and debris that accumulate are a wonderful hiding place for bugs and diseases that you don't need. Spread snail, slug, and cutworm bait to eliminate these pests.



## Tasks in the Month of November

excerpts from John Thompson's Tree Tips (Midori Newsletter for November 2000)

Now is a good time to start your own material. Collect seeds. Gather maple seeds or oaks or whatever you fancy. Starting from scratch is a lot of fun and gives you an insight into how trees develop from seed to root to shoot and beyond.

It's time to slow down nitrogen feeding on our trees. We don't want to stimulate new tender succulent growth on the trees just in time for a good frost to kill it back. Yet you do need a little nitrogen to interact with the other macro and micronutrients. I continue with weak solutions of something like Dyna Grow's 3-9-6 Foliage Pro on deciduous trees and standard 7-9-5 Liquid Grow on evergreens. Remember that we are in an area where growth does not altogether stop during the winter months.

It's best to cut back your trees this month, or else wait until February. Do not do it in December and January when the temperature fluctuates so much from night-to-day that it causes excessive bleeding of sap.

It's an excellent time to style and wire your trees. The growth that has been coming on since summer should be hardening, and will no longer snap like a bean if you bend it. But try this: Exercise the branch before you bend it. By this I mean pre-bend it, using the fleshy part of your fingers and palm supporting and twisting the branch in the direction that you wish ultimately to bend it before actually putting the wire on. Trust your fingers to tell you if you have gone far enough. They are actually more reliable than your eyes. You can get much more acute bends this way. If the branch still resists, you may need to use raffia to support it. Either way, this is an ideal time to fashion those branches before they harden off totally over winter.

Deciduous trees should be wired when most of the foliage has fallen off but before they become brittle later into the winter dormancy period.

Clean off dead leaves and remove weeds. Don't let moss get a foothold on your trunks, but clear a shady moist area on the ground and encourage mosses to grow there for next year's show trees

Wire and style your evergreens. Be sure to clean out the foliage in the crotch areas and allow the sunlight into the interior to stimulate new buds and expose buds.

Clean out the old needles on your pines to let the sunlight in. At this point, we want to encourage as much sun as we can. Days are getting really short and cooler. Remember to make your first application of dormant spray at Thanksgiving.

Water your trees when they need it. This means that you should wait until the upper crust of soil has dried and is lighter in color before watering. Then water thoroughly. Don't keep the plants too wet, and remember that as they slow down their growth, they use less water.

### "Nature is the art of God" – Dante

(Excerpt from BONSAI – The Art of Living Sculpture)  
Sculpture creates beauty by the use of line, form, color, and composition in three dimensions. The fundamental goal is to produce a piece of three dimensional art that is composed of solid masses that are static and dynamic in balance, which transform a familiar object into a work of art that expands our understanding of the object.

## Calendar

### **November 13–14**

#### **Ross, California**

Marin Bonsai Club: Fall show at the Marin Art and Garden Center, Livermore Room, 50 Sir Frances Drake Blvd. Hours are Friday, 6PM–10PM, dinner, demonstration and raffle (TBA) and Saturday, 10AM–4PM. For more information, call Craig Thompson, 415-472-6685.

### **January 16–17**

#### **Bay Island Bonsai Annual Bonsai Exhibit, Pleasanton, California.**

New location. Bigger facility. Hall of Commerce,  
Alameda County Fairgrounds, 4501 Pleasanton Avenue, Pleasanton, 94566.

Admission: \$ 5.00.

Free Parking. Same great auction on Saturday, with preview at noon and auction at 1 PM.  
Guided tours of the exhibit both Saturday and Sunday. Bonsai sale and vendors both days.  
Hours: 10AM–4PM Saturday and Sunday. For more information: (510) 865-1008 or  
[www.bayislandbonsai.com](http://www.bayislandbonsai.com)

### **February 27–28, 2010**

#### **Mammoth Fundraiser at Oakland, California**

GSBF Bonsai Garden at Lake Merritt

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: [www.bonsailakemerritt@gmail.com](mailto:www.bonsailakemerritt@gmail.com) or Linda Soliven, 925-776-2342.