



YAMATO BONSAI KAI

“FRIENDSHIP THROUGH BONSAI”

Since 1968

Newsletter - November 2009



MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD

By Lu Bedard – President

We made it through another show. New venue with new layout and new challenges – but Al Hightower said it much better than I could have – Al said in 25 years of shows that he has participated in, “This was the best ever!” If you attended the October meeting, you know what I am talking about when I say we had congratulations all around. The trees were beautiful and in great shape for the show.

My personal thanks to our Sensei, Johnny Uchida for getting us the hall at the Buddhist Church in Union City and putting on two great demos with Mike Baker and Tony Hayworth. Mike Butler was a great show chairman, Sandy Barron and Emiko Rosenberg put on great food for us and our guests - I believe they put on the best feed of any club anywhere. Richard Paulos, one of the unsung heroes driving that large Hertz truck from Thursday to Monday. I could go on forever listing people and the great job that they did but suffice to say that all those that participated in all the aspects of the show deserve a pat on the back and personal thanks from me and the rest of the Yamato Board.

I could tell you how we did financially, but I leave that to Dagmar to tell you elsewhere in the newsletter. Don't miss the information on the Holiday dinner; December 5 at Paradiso/Willow Park, I hope to see you there.

FALL SHOW UPDATE

By Noah Hanna

October's show is done and there are lots of people to thank for a job well done. I personally saw lots of

club members and their friends and family doing their part to make this a great show and there are way too many to thank individually. I have included some pictures in this month's newsletter so hopefully you will see pictures that will remind you about the good times that went along with the hard work. Check out the Fall Show Wrap-Up for more.

Speaking of pictures I want to mention the team that helped me arrange the photo shoot that happened on Friday since we have not yet done so in print. Mark Rhine was nice enough to put me in contact with his sister-in-law Terri Bihl who did a tremendous amount of volunteer work on our photo shoot. Thanks also to Mark and to Drew for all their work on the photo shoot as well as anyone I might have missed while I was running around on Friday.

It was a new experiment for us to try and stage photos



Tokonoma display from Yamato's 2009 Exhibition

on the day of a show setup and so it was a learning experience. But I am hopeful that we will get some good looking results and just as important we will be able to document the fine bonsai that were on display. More news on the pictures will be coming shortly.

AT THE NEXT CLUB MEETING...

On Tuesday, **November 17th**, Sensei Uchida will work on collected trees (Yamadori). Don't miss this club meeting event.

PLACE: **Castro Valley Women's Club,**
18330 Redwood Road, Castro Valley, CA

Note: All Club Meetings start at 7:00 PM.

CLUB DEMONSTRATION SCHEDULE - 2009

December 15 – Repotting flowering trees, pruning and shaping deciduous trees.

2010 schedule to be announced...



SENSEI UCHIDA'S NOTES

By Johnny Uchida – Club Sensei

You know we are getting cooler weather, some of the maples are getting their fall color and it's beautiful. This year in our show some of the color was beautiful too. I just want to say thank you to every member, everyone worked so hard to put the show together and it was very successful. The Friday night before the show I was a little worried because we had been doing our show in the same place for 30 years. Now we have a new location but now we have more people to come and enjoy the show. Saturday night I was sleeping much better.

Some of my bonsai are so heavy to move around, I want to say thank you very much. We have many members and I want more people to bring to the show. I think the show gets better all the time, and the workshop was better than this year than ever. Hopefully more people will join the workshop next year, I think it is a good way to learn. Some of the members who took the workshop are very happy. Also bring

more trees to the meeting, I like to see you are working the "bonsai". I will see you at the meeting.

FALL SHOW WRAP-UP

By Show Committee

Show Chairman-Mike Butler:

Hello Yamato Bonsai Kai Members. The Show is over and from what I have heard and seen everyone thought it was a great success. Believe me I do also!

I have received several accolades about how good a job I did. It was not my work that made this show so good. It was the members that worked so hard for months before getting vendors, printing tickets and distributing them, spending hours designing the show layout, cooking, purchasing food, providing security, getting the trees for the demo-traveling to L.A. for them, renting the truck and picking up and returning so many trees, setting up and tearing down and cleaning the church, moving all the trees, working the plant sales and tickets, running the workshops and silent auction.

As you can see I did very little to make this show a success it is only because of having great members such as yourselves that this worked.

I hope to see you all at the next meeting and/or the Board meeting coming up. Soon it will be time to start planning the 2001 Yamato Bonsai Kai Show. If you have ideas or suggestion please let it be known.

Thanks so much again for all your help!!

Michael Baker:

The show is over and man what a show it was!! We were totally on our game and it showed in spades!! Bravo to all of us!!

I wanted to thank each and every one of you for all of your hard work over the weekend especially those of you who are new to Yamato. Members of the Monday night Bonsai artist class who were basically manipulated into helping with the hollow threat of having to clean erasers after class, my hats off to you....Lucky, Ray, Vern, Constance, Adrian, Drew, and anyone else that I may have foolishly forgotten, my heartfelt thanks.

To Mike Butler, Les Ferren and Noah Hanna my

faithful “senseis in training”, you continue to grow as artists and have become critical part of the Yamato infrastructure....we all appreciate your contributions and look forward to many more years together!!

And lastly to my mentors Tony Hayworth and Sensei Uchida....I value our friendship and our relationship second to none. As I spend more time refining my skills I know I can count on both of you to be objective eyes that will honestly monitor my progress....

Arigato gozaimasu to all of you and get ready for more....next year will be here in a flash....

Don't forget to water!!!

Dagmar Bedard:

A quick note from your Treasurer.

The final numbers from our show are not all in yet, however, I project a profit of almost \$250.00 from our Annual Show. Although we didn't make as big a profit as in previous years, we did cover all our costs plus a little more. Considering the new show location and a tough economy, we did a really great job and put on a superb show. Congratulations everyone!

If you gave the club a donation during 2009 and would like a written acknowledgement of your donation, please see me at the November or December meeting or give me a call. (Note: For those of you who have already received a form, please remember to return the pink copy to me either at a meeting or mail to Yamato Bonsai Kai, P.O. Box 2616 , Castro Valley , CA 94546)

Respectfully submitted,
Dagmar Bedard, Treasurer

Noah Hanna:

Thank you to everyone for bringing in plants for plant sales, some of which were so nice I had to “promote” them to the silent auction. We had fewer unsold trees at the end of the show than I remember seeing in previous years which tells me that show patrons like buying from the club so let's keep it up for next year and look for material you might like to sell next time.

Big thanks to the fellow co-chair for plant sales Dennis Miu who was there from start to finish as well as

our helpers who gave us some breathing room to get snacks and take a quick peek at the show. Thanks also to Mike Mello who is a friend and past member of the club who has been helping out with plant sales for as long as I can remember. I can't forget Dennis Hawkins who has done plants sales for Yamato so many times but was not available the actual weekend, he basically gave us everything we needed to stay organized during the show and showed us the ropes.

As I said in the beginning of this newsletter, there really are too many people to thank individually but I think we are all lucky to have a great group that made up this year's show committee. Sensei Uchida, Michael Baker and Tony Hayworth put on a great show representing Yamato Bonsai Kai and demonstrating the skills and artistry that inspire us and I think the larger bonsai community as well. I think Mike Butler did an especially impressive job in his first year as show chairman. It's hard to imagine a show like this working without all of you.

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**Fall Show Pictures**

By Noah Hanna

Friday Setup



Friday Setup (cont.)



Saturday



Sunday



## Sunday (cont.)



pot, it may not have fast-draining soil or other problems may be below the surface. So don't assume things are safe below the soil line until you have a chance to repot it and see for yourself.

As your deciduous trees go dormant and lose their leaves, this is a good time to check the silhouettes, do some maintenance pruning (minor corrective pruning), and maybe apply some wire to adjust branch placement. If you like to wire deciduous trees now be careful of any buds that have developed and be aware that as soon as spring hits you will need to check your wiring carefully so that the vigorous spring growth doesn't lead to wire scars.

As the leaves start to fall don't forget to clean them away before they collect on your growing bench and nearby since pests like to gather there.



## **GSBF CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

(For a more complete list, please refer to Golden State's calendar of events or visit the web site at [www.gsbfbonsai.org](http://www.gsbfbonsai.org)).

Some nearby scheduled events are:

**Nov 13-14**

**Ross, California**

**Marin Bonsai Club:** Fall show. Marin Art and Garden Center, 30 Sir Frances Drake Blvd. Hours are Friday, 6PM-10PM (with demo at 7 p.m. on Friday) and Saturday, 10AM-5PM. Demonstration and raffle at 1PM on Saturday. (By Marco Invernizzi on Friday and by Jay McDonald on Saturday.)

Bring your tree for a critique or help with styling. Cost is \$40 for ½ hour, \$75 for 1 hour. To reserve time or for more information call Craig Thompson, 415-472-6685

**January 16-17**

**Pleasanton, California**

**Bay Island Bonsai:** Annual Bonsai Exhibit. 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)

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## **Bonsai Basic**

By Noah Hanna

The weather forecast is calling for showers this month. Make sure you check your trees even when there is rain, a few brief rain showers might not water your tree thoroughly especially if they are under cover or their foliage is blocking the pot. So make sure you check your trees frequently. You know, in Japan it's not uncommon to see workers watering bonsai with a watering can in one hand and an umbrella in the other.

On the other hand do not overwater, as the weather changes and trees become dormant less water is needed. Overwatering or long periods of rain combined with poor draining soil can lead to root rot which is a killer so don't be afraid to move a tree under shelter especially if you are unsure of the soil. Even if the tree you buy is in a bonsai

## YAMATO CLASSIFIEDS

### Pre-Bonsai and Bonsai - For Sale

Tony Hayworth has many bonsai and pre-bonsai material for sale including some large landscape sized bonsai styled trees. These would make great focal points for any landscape or yard re-do projects that you may be planning. I am overstocked and want to move this material to a good home. Is that you?

I have a few pots for cheap also.

Contact Tony Hayworth early for best selection.

Phone: 510-471-9238 (home) 510-289-5731 (mobile) or [bonsaicho@sbcglobal.net](mailto:bonsaicho@sbcglobal.net)



## THIS MONTH ...

A very Happy Birthday to:

### November

5<sup>th</sup> – Mike Pistello  
14<sup>th</sup> – Dennis Hacker  
15 - Les Ferren  
23 – Noah Hanna  
26 – Sandy Barron

Happy Anniversary and many more years to come:

6 – Emiko & Steve Rosenberg  
21 – Lu & Dagmar Bedard  
27 – Michael & Glenda Butler

## YAMATO BONSAI KAI – 2009 BOARD

|                                    |              |
|------------------------------------|--------------|
| President – Lu Bedard              | 510-537-0669 |
| Vice President – Karen Paulos      | 510-351-1081 |
| Secretary – vacant                 |              |
| Treasurer – Dagmar Bedard          | 510-537-0669 |
| Director 2009/10 – Sandy Barron    | 510-657-6895 |
| Director 2008/09 – Dennis Hawkins  | 510-657-8229 |
| Director 2009/10 – Allen Hightower | 510-792-2677 |
| Director 2008/09 – Mike Pistello   | 925-818-6116 |
| Director 2009/10 – Emiko Rosenberg | 510-537-0326 |

## CONTACT US

If you need to mail anything to the club in general, please send to:

**YAMATO BONSAI KAI**  
**P. O. Box 2616**  
**Castro Valley, CA 94546-2616**

If there is anything you would like to contribute or comment on regarding the newsletter, contact the editor, Noah Hanna, at [noah@invalidargument.com](mailto:noah@invalidargument.com)

*If you have moved, or changed your email address, please notify Yamato Bonsai Kai, so that we may update our contact and mailing list information. Thank you.*