



YAMATO BONSAI KAI

“FRIENDSHIP THROUGH BONSAI”

Since 1968

Newsletter - February 2010



MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD

By Tony Hayworth – President

First of all, thank you for your confidence by electing me as your President of the Yamato Bonsai Kai (club). I will do my best to promote a comfortable climate and agenda where the enjoyment of Bonsai as a hobby can flourish. Whether your aim is advancing your skill, or simply just to enjoy the view and camaraderie of club meeting time, its all good.

As you read this newsletter message I will be in Japan attending the 84th “Kokufu Bonsai ten”. It is sometimes troublesome to translate Japanese writing into English, but my version is “the Greatest Bonsai Exhibition of Japan”. It is the largest and most celebrated of all bonsai shows worldwide which is put on by the Nippon Bonsai Association. The exhibition itself is displayed at the Metropolitan Art Museum in Ueno Park in Tokyo and has been running nearly uninterrupted since 1934.

To get a tree in the exhibition you must be a professional bonsai artist and submit the tree to a pre-judging event. Only the top trees are selected, from several categories, by a panel of senior members of the Nippon Bonsai Association. It costs a couple hundred dollars to submit a tree to be pre-judged and if selected it requires another six-hundred dollar fee to actually be shown.

Each year during a pre-judging event the “Kokufu Prize” (top tree) is selected. Gaining this honor can make a young professional and seriously jump start a career to bonsai fame. There is no monetary prize associated with the honor, just certificates and praise from the bonsai community. For those of you that may remember our friend Shinji Suzuki, he won the Kokufu prize for the 2006 competition (in Oct 2005).

I want everyone to understand that the spirit of the Yamato Bonsai Kai and the history of the Yamato club are about friendship through bonsai. Please do not get hung up on styling competitions and other verbal distractions that sometimes bounce around in the bonsai community. Let’s not go there. Instead let us each participate in Bonsai for fun and for personal reward that each of you set for yourself. Don’t let others set your level of happiness and reward with your bonsai hobby. Let us make 2010 and beyond fun and informative (to your own selected degree and needs) and be active in our club meetings and events. I will be counting on your participation and support. Ideas and comments always welcome. I want to see you on Tuesday night 16 Feb... so I can tell you all personally about my travel and experience in Japan.

Business Reminder – 2010 dues are now due. Please get this housekeeping detail out of the way as soon as you can.

Finally... keep your eye on Bonsai.



AT THE NEXT CLUB MEETING...

On Tuesday, **February 16th**, the focus will be re-potting deciduous trees. 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 - 2010

To be announced...

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DRIVE BEGINS

At the end of this newsletter is the member renewal form. Dues are \$45 for a single membership and \$55 for a family membership regardless of the number of family members as long as they are living in the same household.

THIS JUST IN

Sensei Johnny Uchida was honored as a Bunka Hall of Fame inductee at the Hokka Nichi Bei Kai New Year event on January 29 (also known as the Japanese American Association of Northern California or JAANC).

An introduction was given by Jack Ellis and a picture of Sensei was accepted for display along with other honorees.



SENSEI UCHIDA'S NOTES

Sensei Uchida is currently in Japan visiting family, so check back next month! - editor

SHOHIN SOCIETY SEMINAR

The 2010 California Shohin Society Seminar took place February 5-7 in Santa Nella, CA. A number of Yamato club members visited to see the show and support Sensei Uchida who did a workshop on styling Kifu-sized Black Pines.





Bonsai Basic

By Tony Hayworth

Bonsai Tip: As winter turns into spring in the beautiful Bay Area, remember to keep your bonsai work and display area clean from any winter debris. Do not let old and dead yard leaf and other such material collect on and under your bonsai. These conditions promote pests and other undesirable conditions.

To get a good start on the coming months work, why don't you take a few moments to inspect your tools and give them a good cleaning? Don't forget to keep them sharp and lightly oil the joints afterwards. Disinfect the blades with rubbing alcohol while you are at it. Richard and Lucky... I said "rubbing alcohol"!!!

One more thing – Moss. Here is my view of moss. Moss is pretty, but only the right kind of moss. Moss has a limited role in the beauty of a mature bonsai, do not let it take over the bonsai. If during the winter your bonsai have developed a thick carpet of moss, do not let it remain as we move into spring. Get over it. Simply peel it off with your fingers or use the end of a chop-stick. Careful here... the motion of the peel should be with the grain of the roots, and that should be from the base of the trunk moving outward in all directions. Do not clean in a direction that scars or damages the roots. Removing thick moss actually promotes the thinner and more acceptable types of moss for a bonsai. Trust me, after the first rain of the late spring, your moss will be back, thinner, and better than ever.



GSBF CALENDAR OF EVENTS

(For a more complete list, please refer to Golden State-ments calendar of events or visit the web site at www.gsbfbonsai.org).

Some nearby scheduled events are:

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. Guest demonstrator to be announced. For more information contact Jerry Carpenter at (H) 408-557-0166; (C) 408-823-9525 or jcsf1090@comcast.net

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 both days. Free admission. For more information, call Ken Azuma, 408-730-4506.

April 3-4

Sacramento, California

Bonsai Sekiyu Kai: 33rd Annual Bonsai Show at the Sacramento Betsuin Buddhist Church, 2401 Riverside Boulevard. Show hours are Saturday, 12Noon-5PM, and Sunday, 10AM-3:30PM. Demonstration both days at 2PM by Bonsai Master John Uchida. Refreshments, door prizes, raffles,

and sale of plants and bonsai tools. For additional information contact Ron Krause at 916-481-4792.

April 24-25

Modesto, California

Modesto Bonsai Club: 29th Annual Spring Show and Sale at the Modesto Centre Plaza, 11th & K Streets. Hours are Saturday, 10AM-5PM and Sunday, 11AM-4PM. Demonstrations, raffles, auctions and sales both days. Free Admission. For more information, call Peter Camarena at 209-324-9181 or visit us at www.ModestoBonsaiClub.com.

YAMATO CLASSIFIEDS

Notice: *if you want to advertise something in this space, please*



compose your text and contact the Newsletter Editor.

THIS MONTH ...

A very Happy Birthday to:

February

4th - Katherine Baggett

4th - Tony Hayworth

16th Mark Rhine

17th - Thee Kole

18th - Gayle Ellis

20th Dan Woodward

28th - Lu Bedard

Happy Anniversary and many more years to come:

18th - Mr. & Mrs. Dennis Miu

YAMATO BONSAI KAI - 2010 BOARD

President - Tony Hayworth	510-471-9238
Vice President - Karen Paulos	510-351-1081
Secretary - Emiko Rosenberg	510-537-0326
Treasurer - Dave Barron	510-657-6895
Director 2009/10 - Sandy Barron	510-657-6895
Director 2009/10 - Allen Hightower	510-792-2677
Director 2010/11 - Carl Osterhom	925-274-1574
Director 2010/11 - Brad Sheldon	510-888-1139

2010 Yamato Bonsai Kai

— MEMBERSHIP REQUEST FORM —

Request Type:	<input type="checkbox"/> Renewal <input type="checkbox"/> New
Membership Type:	<input type="checkbox"/> Single <input type="checkbox"/> Family
First Name(s):	
Last Name:	
* Address:	
* Phone:	
* Email Contact:	
** Birthday mm/dd:	
** Anniversary mm/dd:	(enter spouse name if single membership)

Instructions

Enter appropriate information in the provided form. Return this request form in person to the next club meeting or return by mail to:

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

To continue your membership and to receive the newsletter uninterrupted, please respond with your membership request form by 28 February.

Make checks payable to "Yamato Bonsai Kai".

Notes

Single = \$45

Family = \$55 (same household)

Email = requested for Newsletter distribution

*** = Address, Phone & Email Contact** are only required on New Requests or if you have changed your details in the last year

**** = Birthday & Anniversary = Optional.** Used only for newsletter congratulatory announcement

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## 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.*