



YAMATO BONSAI KAI

“FRIENDSHIP THROUGH BONSAI”

Since 1968

Newsletter - May 2010



MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD

By Tony Hayworth – President

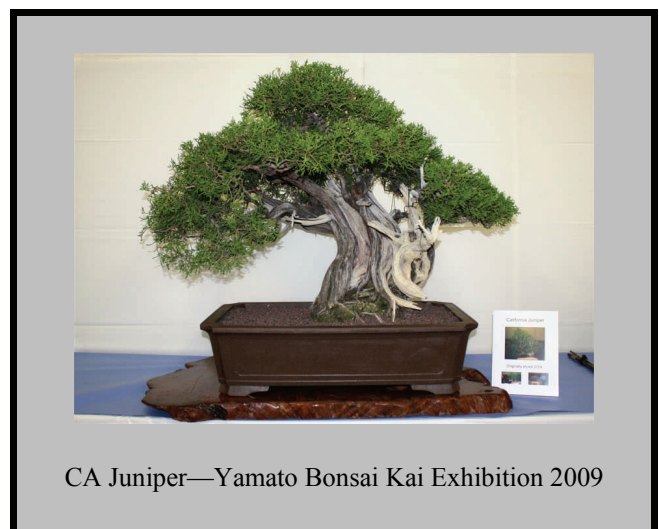
Hello Yamato Bonsai Kai members. On Saturday May 1st, I conducted my first “Open Yard” event at my house (reference invite in last months NL). The event was an open invitation to club members and local friends to come visit my yard and trees and to discuss several techniques of bonsai on several of my ongoing projects. The event got under way at 10 AM with several participates while others came a bit later per their schedules. In total 18 persons participated. We viewed the trees and bonsai in my backyard and I gave comment on history, age and styles, etc... as much as I could remember anyway. I was happy the dog did not bite anyone! After the tour, the wind had started to kick up so we move to the garage, which faces the south, and all was fine. I had targeted several trees for work and began with a Blue Atlas Cedar in a chokkan style. I’ve had this particular tree for 12 years and it had its first potting and styling in 2001. It had a soil change in 2004 and 2007. This was this 4th re-potting, a little late in the season, but with proper after care it should convalesce well. One technique demonstrated was how to pluck and remove prior season needles. This is not seen much and is quite tedious. It’s a great technique to allow all the energy to go into the new growth and also opens up the foliage for sun and air.

The second item was a small black pine that was repotted in late February this year. The work and technique demonstrated on this project was to de-candle and style it. The third item was a large size black pine. The work demonstrate on this was a repotting. This was a very mature tree and was last repotted in the fall of 2005. I had recently completed a cleanup and de-candling of the lower 2/3 of the tree. The top third will be de-candled after about 10 more days. Why is this done this way? Well the short answer in “strength zones”. Generally we say there

are three zones to a black pine. Imagine dividing your tree (roughly) into thirds. The top 1/3 is the strongest growth zone. The middle 1/3 is characterized as the medium growth zone. The lower 1/3 has the least strength and is known as the weakest growth zone. On mature and refined black pines, to ensure the candle grown is balanced during the growing cycle, the de-candling process is divided up by zones over a 7 to 10 day period, starting at the lower or weakest zone and ending up at the stronger zone. In this way... the new growth at the lower levels gets a head start and has a chance to be balanced with the top of the tree as it comes on during the remainder of the growing cycle. If you are lost, let me know as this could be its own workshop or seminar. Hey, now that’s an idea.

General Notice – if anyone has a topic for the Board Meeting please let me know or pass it along to any Board member.

Remember to take some time and keep you eye on bonsai.



CA Juniper—Yamato Bonsai Kai Exhibition 2009

AT THE NEXT CLUB MEETING...

On Tuesday, **May 18th**, the focus will be air layering and how to decandle Japanese black pines. 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.



SENSEI UCHIDA'S NOTES

This month is warm and hot weather you may have to watch when watering very seriously. Especially trees you just repotted or collected. This month's demonstration is air layering. When you do air layering take your time and do it carefully, you have to do air layers when trees are very active.

It takes sometimes about 6 months or maybe many years but soon you will have another tree you can plant in a pot. Use very good bonsai soil, leave in a partly shady spot. Treat them very tenderly and after you cut off the layer wait to style it until later. Air layer is 2 out of one. Try air layering a tall tree or a big tree. I will see you at the meeting.

Help Wanted

I am always on the lookout for content for the newsletter. Do you have materials you want to share? Even if you don't consider yourself an "expert", maybe you have some pictures from a local bonsai event or a case study of your favorite bonsai tree over the years? I could always use more help in making the newsletter useful (and entertaining) for club members.

Bonsai Basic

By Noah Hanna

This month I have a few tips for seasonal care. The "April showers" did their job, now it's time for you to take over. As Mike Baker said water is life. With the temperatures rising, your watering duties will be constant, and failing to check your trees everyday or even multiples times per day will have drastic consequences.

If you have not already done so start to think about your fertilizing routine. Don't overdo it, some of your trees may have not recovered from repotting, and you don't want to overfertilize and make "leggy" growth (too much spacing between the foliage), or stress your trees. Soon enough they will be going full speed ahead and they will be ready for more fertilizer. Talk to an experienced member if you're not sure.

Keep track of your deciduous trees, don't let them outgrow your design goals. If you have wire on from last season still make sure to check it carefully so it doesn't scar. There is lots to do everyday-pinching your junipers and don't forget to tend to the candles on your black pines. It's a lot of work but the results are worth it!



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:

May 1-2

Sacramento, California

Sacramento Bonsai Club: 63rd Annual Bonsai and Suiseki Show at the Sacramento Buddhist Church, 2401 Riverside Boulevard. Show hours are Saturday, 12Noon-5PM, and Sunday, 10AM-4PM. Demonstration by Boon Manakitivipart at 2PM, both days. Raffle will follow. Plants and bonsai related items for sale. Free admission. For further information contact Gary Judd, 916-630-1340.

May 15-16

Sacramento, California

Satsuki Aikokai of Sacramento: 40th Annual Show at the Shepard Garden and Arts Center, 3330 McKinley Blvd. Show hours are Saturday, 10AM-5PM and Sunday, 10AM-4PM. Demonstration at 1:30PM both days, followed by benefit drawings. Member and vendor sales. Free admission. For more information contact Satsukiako-kaisac@sbcglobal.net or Ron Pigram, 916-428-8505.

May 22-23

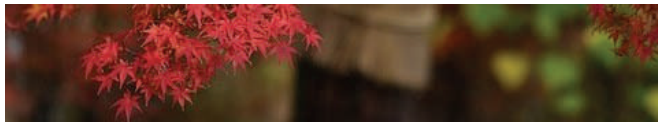
Sacramento, California

American Bonsai Association: 51st Annual Show and Sale. Hours are 10AM-4:30PM, at the Shepard Garden & Arts Center, 3330 McKinley Boulevard. Hands-on workshops for all levels from novice to advanced enthusiasts; large member and vendor sales areas; raffles and door prizes. Demonstration daily at 1:30PM by Ryan Neil, who recently returned from an apprenticeship in Japan with Bonsai Master Masahiko Kimura. Free admission. For further information contact Greg McDonald, 530-642-2521, or gregandleeanne@comcast.net

May 22-23

Oakland, California

Bay Area Satsuki Aikokai: 16th Annual Satsuki Bonsai Show at the Lakeside Park Garden Center at Lake Merritt, 666 Bellevue Avenue. Hours are Saturday, 10AM-5PM and Sunday, 10AM-4PM. Fabulous blossoms and bonsai display. Demonstration both days at 1:30PM using mature bonsai material. Rick Garcia will be featured on Saturday and Bonsai Master Johnny Uchida on Sunday. Large selection of bonsai trees and other bonsai-related materials available for purchase. For further information, please contact Ron Reid, 925-831-2500.



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:

May

15th – Tammi Rhine

24 – Moshen Navvab

31st – Lito Micheli

Happy Anniversary and many more years to come:
29th – Joyce & Brad Sheldon

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

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

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

YAMATO BONSAI KAI

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Return Service Requested

Attention Postmaster:

Dated Material – Please Expedite