



YAMATO BONSAI KAI

“FRIENDSHIP THROUGH BONSAI”

Since 1968

Newsletter – April 2011



MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD

By Tony Hayworth– President

Crisis in Japan – it’s been just over a month since the since the earthquake, tsunami and nuclear issues began. I’ve struggled to put in words my emotions and feelings on this crisis given all the family and friends involved for me. Many of you know I was all set to visit this year again from 27 March. It did not happen; it will be months and months before any kind of normalcy resumes and years and years before the cleanup of the nuclear effects are completed. I want to thank all of you for your calls and prayers for my daughter and family there in Tokyo. She is fine; they are fine, but everyone is still on edge with all the after shocks that continue almost daily along with the unsettling news of the nuclear issues.

As a bonsai family, the crisis has affected someone the Yamato Bonsai Kai knows well and sponsored to our 2005 annual Fall Exhibition and Show. I am talking about Mr. Isao Omachi.

Omachi-san’s home was in Sendai and is now completely gone. They lost everything but he and his wife and daughters are safe. In discussion with Sensei and other board members, we have decided to make a Club donation directly to him. I am working out the best details on getting our dollars turned into Yen and into his hands. I will have more details to share with you at the 19 April Club meeting.

Not everyone in the Club now knows Omachi-san. I have gone through my picture archive and have the following items to share.



Omachi-san at Ueno Green Club, Tokyo – Feb 2010

(continued...)



Cherry Blossoms-Golden Gate Park
Mar. 31, 2011



Omachi-san at Yamato Bonsai Fall Show in Hayward, CA - Oct 2005



Omachi-san with Shinji Suzuki at Yamato Bonsai Fall Show - Oct 2005

AT THE NEXT CLUB MEETING...

On Tuesday, **April 19th**, Sensei Uchida will cover Black Pine repotting and demonstrating rock planting (ishizuke). Don't miss this club meeting event.

PLACE: [Eden Japanese Community Center](#),
710 Elgin Street, San Lorenzo, CA

Note: Club Meetings start at 7:30 PM.

UPCOMING YAMATO EVENTS

Swap Meet-Buy, Sell, Trade

Date and Time: Tues April 19th 7:30 (during Yamato club meeting)

Location: Eden Japanese Community Center-
710 Elgin Street San Lorenzo

Eden Bazaar

Date and Time: Saturday 3:00pm-8pm and Sunday 11:00am-7:00pm

Location: Eden Japanese Community Center-
710 Elgin Street San Lorenzo

From Kathy Baggett:

We are responsible for overseeing the Plant booth of the event. Plants are being donated and prices are already marked. The location of the plant area will be at the front entrance to the Bazaar.

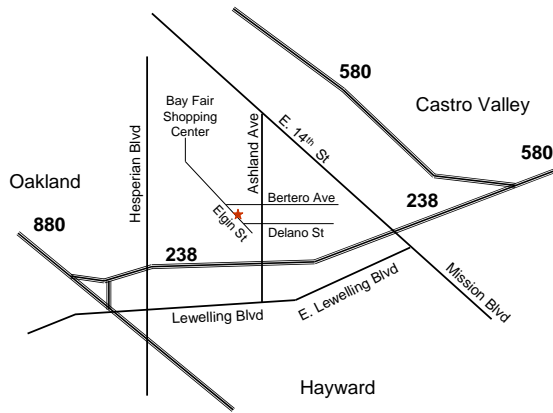
I will have two sign-up sheets at our next club meeting regarding this event. We will schedule two club members every two hours shift during the day. The schedule would look like this:

June 11, 2011 - Saturday

- Shift 1: Patrick and Kathy will take this shift - 2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.
- Shift 2: 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.
- Shift 3: 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

June 12, 2011 - Sunday

- Shift 1: Patrick and Kathy will this first shift - 10:00 a.m. to Noon
- 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.
- 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
- 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.
- 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. - Close the booth and clean up - (May not take 2 hrs - usually the close and clean up could be less time because we may not have any plants left)



Meeting Location Reminder

Our monthly club meetings are now held at the

Eden Japanese Community Center. The location address is 710 Elgin Street San Lorenzo.



SENSEI UCHIDA'S NOTES

By Johnny Uchida – Club Sensei

How are you? Maple leaves remind me of such beautiful spring weather. I'm sure you also enjoy them. The other day we went to San Jose bonsai show it was a very educational day for bonsai. They have a beginner's section, with a sign saying "beginner's progress display". That was a very good idea for the show. I think we could do our show too.

There were eight members from our club there. The demo was California junipers, four people worked on it for 2 hours. They didn't finish this was a big, big tree and it still had 20 branches. Go see shows like this, if we go to many shows I think we learn something every time. So I suggest going to more shows more often.

Sometimes we have hotter days, and then watering is very important. Especially when you are

repotting, you water more often. Take off black pine candles by May and June then water continuously towards the summer. See you at the meeting.

Newby News

By Dennis Hacker

At the February Yamato Bonsai Kai meeting, Tony Hayworth told the club that the number one rule of Bonsai is "as soon as you can, get the roots as flat as you can." Good advice. I have a second rule: This time of the year, remove any leaves/early branches so that the tree doesn't have to expend energy on something you would probably remove anyway. If you are unsure if you want growth in this location, leave the branch bud. If you're sure you won't want the branch, such as a new branch coming out of the 'Y' of two branches or the trunk and a branch, then remove it now. When I grew up in the Midwest, in April or May, the advice was to kill flies because one killed in the early spring would prevent thousands from being around in the middle of summer. Of course there was a lot of manure around on the farms and that was a true fly magnet.

On a different note: Ever wanted to take a course from John Naka or Kimura-san? Well, you can! I don't know how many people are aware of the fact that Yamato Bonsai Kai has a video library! I am in the process of converting the library from VHS to DVD format. The process will take a while, but I will get it done. IF anyone has an old video camera which shoots the cassette style of videos, I need that as we have about 20 in that format. Please contact me at: anmleyez@comcast.net and let me know.

Thanks for reading.

Bonsai Basic

By Tony Hayworth

One of my favorite bonsai is Black Pine (kuro-

matsu). Here are some general care thoughts on the topic of Kuro-Matsu.

Kuro-matsu (Japanese Black Pine) need controlled watering and controlled fertilizing. They require a specific cycle for shaping and trimming to be great bonsai. If proper care is not administered to a black pine, it will not mature into a fine specimen. This document will inform you of my approach and proper care tips and timings for your consideration and actions.

Some basic rules to live by with black pine.

Avoid (too much) Overhead Watering – Just what does this mean and what is too much? It is important to wash the needles on a black pine... but not everyday! Once a week is probably too much. Try it only 3 times a month. Overhead watering promotes long needles, which you do not want. Also, if done in the evening, you are sure to suffer from some sort of pest or fungus problems.

Full Sun / Good Air Circulation – Black Pines should not be crowded on a bench or in their growing area. They need good air circulation and sunshine to reach deep inside the branch structures. You must learn how to turn your trees on your bench to change the sun exposure several times throughout the year. Proper shaping and needle cleanup in the fall also allows the sun to penetrate and promotes good air circulation.

Small Pot – Do not under pot (from a size perspective) a black pine bonsai. It is better to error your selection with a larger pot size for black pines.

Protect Roots – In summer, do not allow extreme heat to blast the roots of your black pine. There is a difference between allowing your tree to dry out between watering and roots that have been cooked by the heat of a hot summers day. Learn it – know it. If the outside temperature is above 95° Fahrenheit, and the sun is directly on the pot of your tree, its roots could be cooking!

Good Drainage – Your black pine must have good drainage. Once the roots have grown so

much that the drainage becomes poor, it is time to repot. Like wise, if your soil is thick or poor you need to get on with repotting. Use a course soil mixture for conifers.

Repotting – As a guideline, every 3 to 7 years is a good window for transplanting your black pine. Two to four years on younger trees – four to seven years on mature pines. You can find written sources that talk of 10 years between repotting in some cases. I would label them rare.

Transplanting can begin in early spring just as the new candles (buds) are starting to swell. From the 3rd week of February, here in Union City, and can continue safely through the last of March. Anything past the 15th of April is getting much too late in the season is my view. Never let an early-repotted black pine catch a late season freeze after it has been transplanted. Pay attention to good drainage and good soil properties. Remember pine roots are a particular lot... so be informed.

Food – Feed your black pines with an acid based fertilizer in addition to your multi-purpose fertilizers. It is a must to keep them green and healthy. Feed younger trees more than mature trees. Black pines should be feed monthly from March through October.

Feed Your Trees – The best success during an operation is on a healthier patient. Make sure you feed your tree two weeks before you work on them and the tree is healthy before you do any de-candling and trimming operations.

Pests – Watch for mealy bug, red spider mites and aphids. They will suck the life right out of a black pine before you can blink an eye. Look underneath the branches and at the backside. Be especially careful if you are not turning your trees and they do not get good sun and circulation! Healthy trees are less susceptible to pest attacks.

Micorrhizal –To take up nourishment, black pines need to have a special type of fungus in the soil around their roots. This fungus appears as a white, stringy material at the bottom and sides of the roots in pots. When repotting, make sure some of this helpful fungi is mixed back into the bottom of the new pot and with the new soil.

Control of Energy – It is with proper pruning and pinching techniques applied at precise times of

the year that you control the trees energy flow. This is critical and is to be applied at the beginning of the growing season and must be executed on schedule throughout the remainder of the growing season.

Wiring – The very best time to wire is after the fall cleanup. November and December are ideal times for the Bay Area. Although black pine is quite flexible, depending upon the operation at hand, special care with raffia may be necessary. Guard against the affect of the coming years spring and summer growth times or you may end up with unwanted wire marks on you specimen. The looser the wrap the longer the control can stay in place. The tighter the wrap the more precision and control you maintain. It is a practice of balance and needs in this regard.

Week or Unhealthy – If you find your black pine in a deteriorating and week or unhealthy state, do not drastically give it a trim or shaping. Seek professional help.

Yellow Needles – Know the difference between third and or fourth year needles that turn yellow or brown and other needle that turn yellow. The reasons could be fatal to your black pine.

Better Varieties – Know what you are investing in. You want varieties that have short needle length as a trait. Look for trees that begin producing side needle growth without any bare space at the base of the candle. Mikawa come to mind.



GSBF CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

Some nearby scheduled events are:

April 2 San Francisco, California

Bonsai Society of San Francisco Bonsai: *Special Sales Event* in the Recreation Room of the San Francisco County Fair Building, Ninth Avenue and Lincoln Way in Golden Gate Park. Bonsai and related items will be on sale by club members. Hours are 9AM-3PM. This

sale is an addedum to the club's show of March 23-27 at the San Francisco Flower & Garden Show. Free admission; some parking available behind the building. For more information visit our website: www.bssf.org

April 2-3 Sacramento, California

Bonsai Sekiyu Kai of Sacramento: *34th Annual Bonsai Show* at the Sacramento Betsuin Buddhist Church, 2401 Riverside Blvd. Hours are: Saturday, 12-Noon-5:00PM, and Sunday, 10AM-3:30PM. Demonstrations at 2PM, both days by Bonsai Master John Uchida. Amenities include refreshments, light snacks, door prizes, raffles, and a Silent Auction. Plant and bonsai tool sales will also available. For more information contact Ron Krause at 916-481-4792 or rkrause@surewest.net

April 8-10 San Jose, California

San Jose Betsuin Bonsai Club: 41st Anniversary Exhibition at the San Jose Buddhist Church Betsuin, 640 N. 5th Street. Hours are Saturday, Noon-5PM, and Sunday, 11AM-4:PM. A demonstration featuring Harry Hirao, 'Mr. California Juniper' will be at 1PM, both days. The demonstration trees will be raffled at the conclusion of each demonstration. Plants and bonsai material will be available for sale. Free admission. For more information, contact Ken Azuma, 408-730-4506 or kennethazuma@sbcglobal.net

April 9-10 Sacramento, California

American Bonsai Association: *52nd Annual Show and Sale* at the Shepard Garden and Arts Center, 3330 McKinley Blvd. Hours are Saturday, 10AM-5:00PM, and Sunday, 10AM-4:00PM. Demonstration at 2PM both days by Bonsai Master Bob Shimon. Beginner workshops available, and intermediate and advanced workshops taught by Bob Shimon. Large member and vendor sales areas; raffles and door prizes. Free admission and ample parking. For more information contact Greg McDonald at Greedandlee@comcast.net or by phone 530-642-2521.

May 1 Napa, California

Napa Valley Bonsai Club: 33 Annual Bonsai Show at the Napa Senior Center, 1500 Jefferson Street. Hours are 10AM-4PM, with a demonstration at 1PM by John McDonald. Large sales area, silent auction, raffles and

several vendors. Free admission. For more details visit www.napabonsai.org

May 7-8

Sacramento, California

Sacramento Bonsai Club: 64th Annual Bonsai and Suiseki Show at the Sacramento Buddhist Church, 2401 Riverside Boulevard. Show hours are Saturday, 12-Noon-5PM, and Sunday, 10AM-5PM. 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 21-22

Sacramento, California

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



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:

April

- 1st – Dave Barron
- 17th – Lyle Crater
- 26th Warren Rhine

YAMATO BONSAI KAI - 2011 BOARD		
President	Tony Hayworth	510-289-5731
Vice-President	Karen Paulos	510-410-5782
Secretary	(open)	
Treasure	Dave Barron	510-657-6895
Director 2010/11	Carl Osterholm	925-274-1574
Director 2010/11	Brad Sheldon	510-888-1139
Director 2011/12	Dennis Hacker	510-559-1755
Director 2011/12	Dennis Hawkins	510-657-8229
Advisor	Jack Ellis	925-455-5429

CONTACT US

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

YAMATO BONSAI KAI
P. O. Box 770
Union City, CA 94587-0770

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 you.

YAMATO BONSAI KAI

P. O. Box 770

Union City, CA 94587-0770

Return Service Requested

Attention Postmaster:

Dated Material – Please Expedite