



# YAMATO BONSAI KAI

“FRIENDSHIP THROUGH BONSAI”

Since 1968

Newsletter – May 2011



## MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD

By Tony Hayworth– President

It's a busy time for bonsai enthusiast right now. We have just accomplished a lot of re-potting, decided upon your fertilizer schedules and needs and are watering and watching your trees grow. I'm not sure if the weather is fully cooperating this year thus far, but it's not been too bad this year.

I would like to ask for a nice turnout at this month's club meeting. We need to fill all our open committee positions for the Fall Show and discuss support for club activities in support of us using the Eden Japanese Community Center for our monthly club meetings. (see details later in this newsletter).

Annual Fall Show – mark your calendars for the weekend of October 15 -16 this year.

Support for Isao Omachi – To date the club has collected \$1,700 in support of Omachi-san. My personal thanks to all club members and to the special members that dug deep and make a greater personal donation. I have moved the money to Japan and with the help of my daughter we are getting it directly put into a special account setup in Japan for Omachi-san. Last Saturday night I talked to Suzuki-san and he was thrilled to hear about our support for Omachi-san and is helping us with this item. I learned that Omachi-san is staying with Suzuki-san, in Nagano prefecture, for the time being. I will get more details soon and report to you again.

## UPCOMING YAMATO EVENTS

EJCC Landscape Cleanup

Date and Time: Saturday May 21st 8:00am-1:00pm

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

We need all club members to come out and lend a hand to do general clean up of the yard and landscape at the center. This task is necessary in order for us to use the facility each month for our club meetings. Please support the “all-hands” work session by bringing yourself and your hand clippers and other garden tools on this date. If you have any questions contact Tony Hayworth.

### 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)



## SENSEI UCHIDA'S NOTES

By Johnny Uchida – Club Sensei

Dear Member. Such beautiful weather right now. I think the bonsai are very happy if we keep up with the watering. Watering the bonsai is very important at this time of the year. We say this many times, but learning how to water is very important to growing nice bonsai and having healthy trees.

During the growing season fertilizer is important too, but watering is even more important. Learn when and how to water your trees is a task you must learn and master. You can do it.

Maple tree (momiji) bonsai is a special tree and now is the time to make sure you take care of their watering needs and don't let them get burned up or dried out. We want to enjoy them in the Fall and especially the fall color at our show in October. Any nice trees you have with color we would like to invite to the fall show.

The month of May is the best time of the year for air layering. Almost any tree can be air layered, especially following trees like wisteria, crab apple, etc. Spring growth has started to harden and therefore is also a good time to begin wiring any bonsai that needs shaping. Many of you know by I want to repeat it for the beginners, that at this time of the year when you wire don't put on too tight and don't put on too loose. I think a lot of people don't like to wire but as I say, the more the wire, the better the bonsai! There is a lot of growth on bonsai at this time of the year, so be mindful of trimming and don't let them get out of shape, especially deciduous trees.

See you at the next meeting.

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### AT THE NEXT CLUB MEETING...

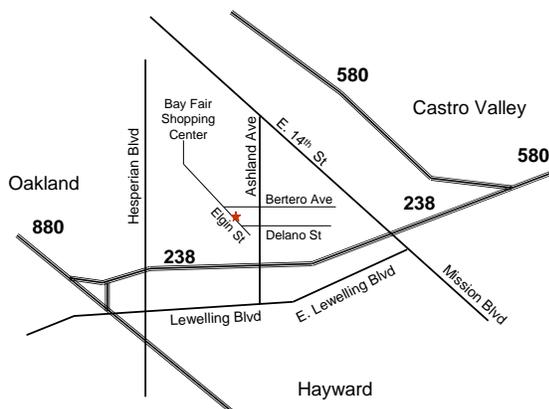
On Tuesday, May 17th, Sensei Uchida will demonstrate bonsai care and technique. Don't miss this club meeting event.

*Note: New Location and time*

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

Note: Club Meetings start at 7:30 PM.

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### 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.

# Bonsai Basic

By Tony Hayworth

For a while now, I have been trying to write up a comprehensive guide or instruction set for Black Pines. We are now at the point in the growing season to consider what I call "working with candles and shoots". Here are my notes and learnings for your consideration.

## Working with Candles and Shoots

There are a couple of activities to consider in this area. Most often it is called Candle Pinching but sometimes candle pruning, or even de-candling. Normally it requires two steps in the annual cycle. The first we will call pinching or breaking off candles, to head off strong or overgrowing candles. The second step is the actual pinching or pruning (removal) step in June.

Candle pinching is the process of either shortening candles or completely removing them with the intent of controlling the trees energy flow. This results in shorter needles on a developed black pine. There are a few tasks and rules... and special timings in order to accomplish this activity correctly.

### Step One

From early to mid April, the buds will have elongated into candles, and despite all your careful planning and de-budding, the candles will be of different lengths. In younger trees the growth will be excessive and unpredictable, but in mature trees with fine branch structures the impact on your trees design will not be so extreme.

Monitor the growth of these candles and carefully look for signs of the candle unfolding (its leaf pairs) and for any candle that has grown over 1 inch in length. Your task is to pinch back these candles, BEFORE they unfold its new leaf pairs, and to bring back the length to approximately one inch in length, any candle that is over grown. Here are the guidelines and rules:

Through April and early May, head back any runaway candles that are over 1 inch in length.

Simply pinch the candle back to half of its length and or to approx 1 inch in length.

If your need length for any reason, you simply

cut (or not) the candle to conform to what length you require (e.g. if your are restyling and adding a future new branch).

Pinching candles in this way will force buds to the side and also in some cases back budding.

### Step Two

From the last week of May and until mid-June, remove all candles that are longer than 1-inch back to the base; remove ALL terminal buds (candles). Option: in very mature trees and in situations when the design is advanced, removal back to ½ inch may be desirable.

New buds will appear at the base of the candle. If the candle was pinched back before the needle pairs unfold, the new buds will come in at the base of where the prior candle was attached. Always pinch or cutoff candles flat, never on an angle. Never pinch back to a base if there are no needles left at the base behind the cut. This is really important. If you do this, the branch will completely die.

About Timing – Okay... some of us need rules, so try this: de-candle strong growth late and weak candle growth early. We are trying to achieve secondary shoots that will be small and tight. If you de-candle too early the next wave of growth has a longer growing window and gets too long. The longer you wait, the shorter your set of candles will be. If your tree is young and throwing out long candles, they must be headed back early in the season (April) to manage the energy. Remove them at the base in June. Prune early for long / prune late for short.

For optimum results, perform this task by Strength Zone, starting at the lowest or weakest zone and in 5-7 day intervals move up to the middle zone and another 5-7 days later, end with the top zone

At this point, you enjoy your tree... watching it grow and unfold... for the rest of the summer.

Enjoy !!



## 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](http://www.gsbf-bonsai.org)).

Some nearby scheduled events are:

### 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](mailto:Satsukiaikokaisac@sbcglobal.net) or contact Ronn Pigram, 916-428-8505

### June 4-5

#### San Mateo, California

Sei Boku Bonsai Kai: 28th Annual Show at the San Mateo Garden Center, 605 Parkside Way, next to Beresford Park. Hours are 10AM-4PM, with demonstrations from 1-3PM both days. Saturday demonstration will be by Steve Jang, and Sunday by John Thompson (JT). Door prizes, vendor sales, and member plant sales will be featured. There will also be 'Dr. Bonsai' to answer questions regarding bonsai care. Admission is free. For more information contact [khaley57@gmail.com](mailto:khaley57@gmail.com)

### Jun 10-11

#### Oakland, California

Bay Area Satsuki Aikokai: Annual Satsuki Azalea Show at the Lakeside Garden Center, 666 Bellevue Avenue. Hours are Saturday, 10AM-5PM, and Sunday, 10AM-4PM. Demonstrations at 1:30PM, featuring Rick Garcia on Saturday, and Johnny Uchida on Sunday. Sales area and benefit drawings. Free admission to the show. For more information contact Ron Reid, 925-831-2500.

## 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 or [bon-saicho@comcast.net](mailto:bon-saicho@comcast.net)

Black Pine Workshop – I am planning a Black Pine workshop at my home in early June. Space will be limited, so contact me early if you are interested. Target date is Saturday 4 June.

Contact Tony Hayworth

Phone: 510-471-9238 or [bon-saicho@comcast.net](mailto:bon-saicho@comcast.net)

Notice: *if you want to advertise something in this space, please compose your text and contact the Newsletter Editor.*

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## THIS MONTH ...

A very Happy Birthday to:

### May

10th – Sensei Johnny Uchida

15th – Tamy Rhine

24th – Moshen Navvab

31st – Lito Micheli

No anniversaries for May

## 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 |

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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 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](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.*

**YAMATO BONSAI KAI**

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