



YAMATO BONSAI KAI

“FRIENDSHIP THROUGH BONSAI”

Since 1968

Newsletter – October 2011



MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD

By Tony Hayworth– President

The 40th Annual Yamato Bonsai Kai Fall Show and Exhibition is upon us. Now is our time. As I reflect on my association with Yamato over the years I have a great sense of pride at this event and at this time of the year. It's our ever changing and colorful members that come to my mind, past shows from years gone by, the growth and maturity of bonsai in general in our club and the Bay Area, and all the friends I have made along the way. But most of all, our sensei Johnny Uchida comes to mind.

For over 40 years this man of humility has led us and many others into and long the way of bonsai. As a beginner hobbyist or someone with a few miles on their shoes, Johnny has always been there for us. I know for me, he is always my Sensei.

At this year's show, please come out and bring your friends and family to enjoy this event and watch Johnny do the demo's on Saturday night and Sunday afternoon.

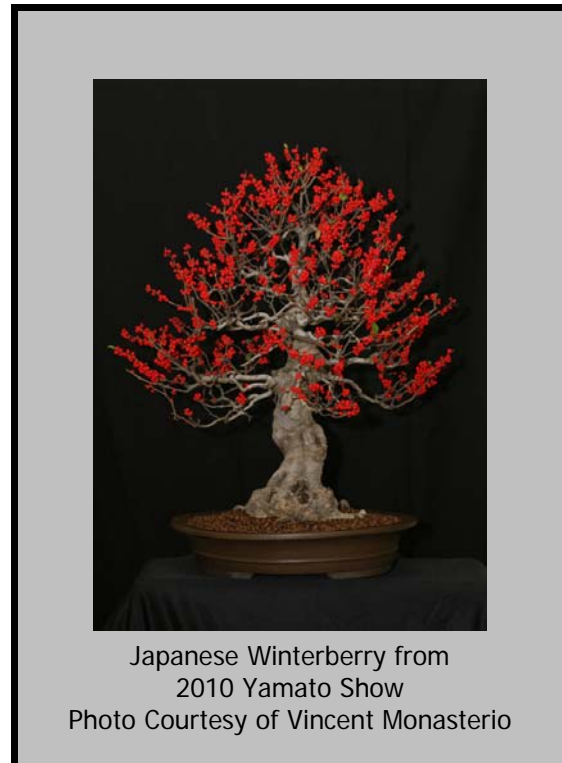
See you at the Show this weekend (see key details and timeline later in the NL).

Show Check List... things to do!

- Volunteer for a committee
- Prepare/clean your pots and redo your top-dressing with moss or proper top-soil
- Have a dai (a stand) for each tree you bring
- Come to Saturday Setup, as early as you can – pitch in
- All trees to Setup Event by 9:30 AM on Saturday 15 Oct (or call Tony to make

pre-arrangements)

- Prepare and bring a food dish for Sunday by 11AM (or make a cash contribution to Hospitality Chairperson or the Club Treasurer before hand). Contact Sandy or Emiko if you are not sure what to bring
- Attend each day (as much as you can) and wear your Yamato colors (hapi coat, new Yamato Bonsai Kai polo shirt, Pins, etc)
- Bring your camera / have fun
- Sunday breakdown – begins AFTER 4:00PM. Be prepared to pickup your trees and other belongings and help with the breakdown.



Japanese Winterberry from
2010 Yamato Show
Photo Courtesy of Vincent Monasterio

AT THE NEXT CLUB MEETING...

On Tuesday, October 18th, Sensei Uchida will discuss the Yamato show & demonstrate California Juniper & Black Pine work.

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.

Club Coming Events

Holiday Party – mark your calendar for our annual Holiday Party on Saturday 3 December, from 7:00PM.

EJCC Landscape Cleanup 2011 #2

Date and Time: Saturday November 19th 8:00am-1:00pm

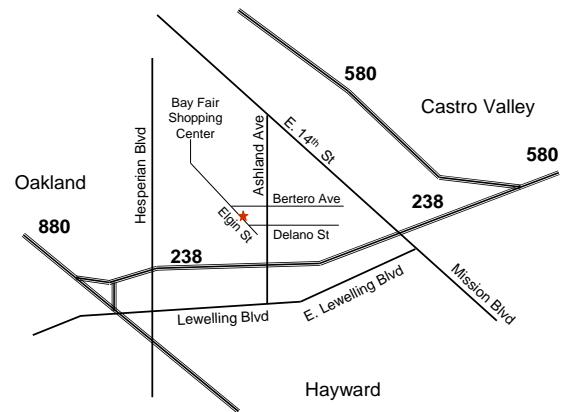
Location: Eden Japanese Community Center - 710 Elgin Street San Lorenzo

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.

About the Yamato Bonsai Club

The Yamato Bonsai Club has a long and distinguished history in the Bay Area. In 1968, the club was founded with six members including its first Sensei, Mr. Jimmy Inadomi from the Castro Valley area. Its second sensei was Mr. Juzaburo Furuzawa. Since 1976, the Yamato Bonsai Club has been under the guidance of Sensei John Uchida of Hayward.

Note: If you have moved or have update contact details, please notify Yamato Bonsai Kai, so that we may update our records. Thank you.



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.

SHOW TIME IS HERE

By Mike Baker

Greetings to all Yamato members....

It's time for us all to show off our wares at Yamato's 40th exhibition and what an exciting time it is!!

Mike Butler, Tony Hayworth, Dave and Sandy Barron, Emiko Rosenberg, Karen and Richard Paulos, Dennis Hacker, Dennis Hawkins, Lucky Crist and Jack Ellis have all done a yeoman's job of preparing for YOUR party.... Make sure you give each of them an "atta boy" when you see them next... they have all put in several hours of their own time to make our show the special event that it is!!!

We are celebrating Johnny's 40th exhibition and should also be celebrating his enormous contribution to the art of Bonsai itself in the

Bay Area....

Virtually everyone that is involved in Bonsai in Northern Californian has passed through Yamato at one time or another and owes Johnny a huge thank you for his resolute dedication to the art. I personally would not be a Bonsai person had it not been for Johnny.

All that being said, it's time to party!! We've all got to look inside and find our reasons for being thankful and reasons to celebrate.

Make sure you've spent time to clean your pots carefully, rid your show trees of critters, polish up your dai and don't forget to wear your Yamato wardrobe and badge at the show.... You are our ambassadors to the Bonsai novice and we're counting on you to recruit new members....

We need all of you to help for the set-up as well as the take down for the show as always... whatever you can do..... we need you!!

Remember to support our vendors, tell a friend and have a great time!!!

Looking forward to seeing you all!!!

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**YAMATO FALL SHOW UPDATE**

By Mike Butler – Show Chairman

The 40th Annual Yamato Bonsai Show is less than a week away.

I have been in contact with Sensei and have been requested to advise everyone that we are running out of time to bring in your show trees for approval. Please bring them to Grove Way Nursery.

We still need members to assist in either or both the Hospitality area and the Plant Sale

area. I will be asking you at the show to assist.

Again to those who may have forgotten. We are starting setup on Saturday the 15th at 6 AM, so if you can please be there. Also as a reminder ticket sales is your clubs only fund raiser for the year. So, please sell or buy the 10 tickets that you were given--more if you would like.

We can always use donations for the Silent Auction and for door prizes after the demonstrations.

We will also have plenty of room at the Yamato plant sale booth. If you have not gotten the form and tags for your sale trees they will be available at the show.

I hate to have to say this but the Workshop scheduled for Sunday morning is cancelled. We only had 4 members show interest this year. I hope we will have better turnout next year.

Hope to see you all at the show.



## **SENSEI UCHIDA'S NOTES**

By Johnny Uchida – Club Sensei

*(Editor's note: Also see Tony's tips later in this newsletter)*

These final preparations are very important.

1. Select from your trees the ones with the best colors and the greenest (if they are ever-green).
2. Finish the surface with dressing soil or specially chosen green moss (or a combination of both).
3. If it is a pine take off yellow or brown needles. If it is a maple or other deciduous take

- off any brown or dried leaves
4. Be sure to take off any remaining visible fertilizer and weeds that may be in the pot.
  5. If you have any ants in the pots, move the tree 3 days before the show and I think the ants will move away.
  6. Match up the dai (stand). If you don't have any call me at the nursery ahead of time so we can find a matching dai.
  7. Water the night before you bring trees, not the day of the show so water is not dripping on the display.

See you at the next meeting.

## FINAL DETAILS FOR THE FALL SHOW

By Tony Hayworth-Club President

**Shape** – keep working on the fine detail that makes your bonsai stand out. Concentrate between now and the show and take care of all the details of shaping to show off the best attributes of your selected tree. Make sure it is clean, has clean lines, no dead leafs; and my favorite “NO ants!

**Pot Care** – take care of cleaning up your pot now. Most of us do not do any clean up throughout the year and depending upon where you live you most likely have some kind of water deposit build up or water scale on the outside of the pot. It is a show display requirement to have a cleaned up pot. How do you do this? Hot soapy water will cut most of the hard water scale on the outside of the pot. Use a soft scrubbing device if you must. Avoid getting the soap on the roots. After the pot is completely clean (don't forget the bottom too!) you will need to apply special oil to the finish. Please do not use baby oil, or petroleum-based oils ... or god forbid something like Armor-All. There are a lot of sensitive feelings and issues on this subject and there are those who have vested a lot of money and time into the care of their pots... so don't think

that they want Crisco rubbed on them. I use almond oil. Walnut oil is good too. It is light and has a woody smell if any and I know it does not smell like fried chicken. (Sorry for the lecture).

**Top Dressing** – take a look at the top soil display. Is it washed out? Full of weeds? Let's take care of it. If you have access to good moss and know how to piece it together and properly put it in place, then do so. Make it look natural and as if it has been in place for a while. If not, dress the top with a thin layer of a small product like sifted lava rock or even the very fine mix of Akadama and lava (red or black). The key is natural looking and clean. You don't want folks to walk by and say, “nice topsoil”, so keep it real. There are those that like all moss; I prefer a mix of moss and soil. It looks more natural to me.

### Fall Show Committee Review

**Hospitality** – It's our 40th annual show and I want to take a moment and review a few important details. We will again host Dinner (lasagna) for all guests on Saturday night. On Sunday we will do our regular pot luck and request all members to bring a dish. See committee chairpersons Sandy or Emiko and get your name on the list for items. Need some deserts and fill in on Saturday and everything on Sunday.

We know that some of you do not have time to prepare such items. If this is your case, we ask you to provide a cash donation to help fill-in the menu. The hospitality co-chairs will use the donations to complete the menu balanced against the Sign-Up sheet. It is therefore important that you get your name on the signup sheet and indicate your participation choice. We have our sister club from Sacramento and other long time guests from Bonsai clubs in the Bay Area. Let's show our Yamato Hospitality and pitch in here to make the kitchen a success

this year. Sign up sheets will be available starting at the August club meeting. We ask that all club members contribute to this committee and hospitality event each day. The room on Sunday is for club members and our invited guests

Plant Sales – Dennis Hawkins has taken this committee leadership. Club members are invited to bring in trees and other bonsai related items for sale. Member/owner get 80 percent of the sale, the club general fund receives 20 percent. This is a perfect time to move any products on to others if you are over stocked and need to free up some shelf space. Please call me or Dennis with your availability to assist here. Dennis needs additional hands for this committee, so please step forward and assist with your time. We will review plant sales ticket instructions at the next club meeting.

Saturday Setup – Tony Hayworth and Michael Butler will lead this function, with Michael Baker focused on the Show area layout and demo area. The sequence of events is important so that we do not waste time. We will open the Event from 1pm this year, so no time to waste. A small team will have the show materials delivered on Friday night. Early Saturday we will begin the set-up as follows.

1. Show area table setup
  2. Tokonoma setup
  3. Vendor area table setup
  4. Backdrop setup
  5. Backdrop positioning
- Table Dressing (multiple teams)

After the tables are setup and as the backdrops get going, we can begin to multi-task. In general, from 6am'ish we will gain entry and begin the layouts. By 7:30'ish to 8:00 we should be completing the backdrops and beginning the table dressing. Target time to begin tree setup should be

9:30'ish. All member trees must be present by 10AM. If not, please see Tony Hayworth for your special needs or consideration. The kitchen crew members can use your own judgment on your arrival time.

Workshops – we will not have workshops this year.

Silent Auction – Tony Hayworth will organize and run a silent auction AND donation raffle tree event. It goes like this. Between now and the show, Tony will organize getting trees for donation to this event. Some may be finished bonsai, some pre-bonsai and some nice specimen stock. Some of the trees will be setup on a "sign-up" sheet with a minimum bid. Whoever enters their name last with a decent bid amount before the cutoff, will be declared the new owner and will need to pay up. Other trees we will sell 1-dollar raffle tickets through out the day. It too will have a cutoff and we will simply draw the winner from the coffee can in front of the tree (or donation item). I need to ask all club members to start saving their large coffee cans for this purpose. We'll need about 10 cans. If you have a tree or two that you want to donate it for this purpose, please see Tony Hayworth.

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BONSAI BASIC

By Tony Hayworth-Club President

Let's have fun at the fall show. Go around and look at the exhibition trees and pick out the various bonsai styles and discuss them with club members. Try to imagine what the owner is doing or where they might be going with their designs. Remember bonsai is a living art and what you see this year might be in a different composition next year or in the years ahead. Remember to be kind in your discussion. I get turned off when I hear snooty discussion at bonsai events

(never at ours!). Bonsai can be personal and we must respect what any artist brings to the table.

This next information is a reprint from prior years. Please enjoy it. There are some update pictures (more to come next time) and some text improved.

BONSAI STYLES

The 5 typical (and classical) shapes for *individual tree* formations of bonsai are:



Chokkan – Formal Upright

The chokkan bonsai has a strong single, upright trunk that tapers toward the top. Branches are symmetrically balanced, uniform and well spaced.



Moyogi – Curved Informal Upright

Moyogi bonsai have a single trunk like the chokkan, but the trunk is curved. The trunk generally tapers toward the top like the formal upright.



Shakan – Slanting

A single trunk upright, but cultivated with the trunk growing at an angle other than 90 degrees to the ground. Branches are again balanced and well spaced. Somewhat like a windswept style except Shakan has branches growing in all directions. Usually has strong root growing in the direction of the slant.



Kengai – Cascade (or hanging style)

The trunk and branches hang down over the edge of the pot. Most often has one branch as a crown place over the pot. If the main branch hangs drastically downward it is sometimes referred to as *Dai-Kengai* (or extreme cascade). Cascades are usually planted in deep pots to give balance to its form.

(no PIC yet)

Han-Kengai – Semi-Cascade

Like the Kengai, the main branch cascades over the side of the pot, but moves outward and horizontally like a branch hanging over a cliff.

Trees with *several trunks*, and those known as *group plantings*, are as follows:

(no PIC yet)

Sankan – Triple Trunk

This style has three trunks growing out of one root. The trunks are all of different thickness.

(no PIC yet)

Kabudachi – Clump

Style of bonsai where several trunks (more than three) grow out from one root source.

(no PIC yet)

Netsuranari – Raft Style from Root, or Sinuous

Sinuous bonsai have multiple trees growing from a single sinuous root lying horizontally on the ground. 5-needle pines are commonly used for this style.

(no PIC yet)

Ikada – Raft Style

Similar in effect to netsuranari, but typically with one straight horizontal root joining the trees. Burying a larger tree horizontally and then training each branch as a separate tree usually accomplish this.

Styles that are produced by *either single trees or in groups of trees* (or

trunks) are:



Sokan – Twin Trunk

This style has two trunks growing out of one root. One trunk is always thicker than the other.

(no PIC yet)

Sankan – Triple Trunk

This style has three trunks growing out of one root. The trunks are all of different thickness.

(no PIC yet)

Kabudachi – Clump

Style of bonsai where several trunks (more than three) grow out from one root source.

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Styles that are produced by either single trees or in groups of trees (or trunks) are:



Fukinagashi – Windswept

Similar to the slanting style, but all of the branches are swept in one direction as though it were growing in a place with a strong constant prevailing wind.

(no PIC yet)



Hokidachi – Broom

On an upright trunk the branches are fan-shaped upward and outward.

(no PIC yet)

Bunjingi – Literati

Upright or informally upright trunk, bare of branches, except at the top. Characterized by a simple elegance.

(no PIC yet)

Neagari – Exposed Root

Roots growing up out of the ground, suspending the trunk in the air characterize this rare style of bonsai.

(no PIC yet)

Shidare – Weeping

Yoseue – Group Planting

A group planting of distinct separate trees, representing a grove, or forest.



Ishitsuki – Rock-Grown, or clinging to a rock style

There are two basic types of rock grown bonsai: 1) rock growing **ON**, where the roots are grasping the rock and growing around the rock down into the soil where the rock is protruding, or 2) rock growing **IN**, where the roots are growing into soil that is attached to the rock by means of a slight hollow or some sort of depression or pocket in the rock.



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:

October 1

San Jose, California

Midori Bonsai Club: 50th Annual Bonsai Show in conjunction with the Spirit of Japantown Festival at the Wesley United Methodist, Fellowship Hall, 566 N. 5th Street. Hours are 10AM-5PM. Bonsai demonstration at 1PM by Kathy Shaner with a raffle at the end of the demonstration. Admission free.

October 8-9

Oakland, California

East Bay Bonsai Society: *50th Annual Show* at the Lakeside Garden Club, 666 Bellevue Avenue. Hours are Saturday, 10AM-5PM and Sunday, 11AM-4PM. There is an entrance fee to the park, but show entry is free and donations are welcome. Silent observers are welcome to the club's workshop on Saturday from 1PM-4PM. A demonstration by Kathy Shaner will from 1-4 PM, Sunday, followed by a raffle of bonsai and related items. A large selection of club member consignments will be for sale throughout the show. Contact Janice Dilbeck, [925-458-3845](tel:925-458-3845), or John Nackley, 510-693-2423 for more information.

October 22-23

Sacramento, California

Capitol City Bonsai Association: 12th Anniversary Show to support the GSBF Bonsai Garden at Lake Merritt and the Sacramento bonsai clubs. Location is the Shepard Garden and Arts Center, 3330 McKinley Blvd. in McKinley Park. Show hours are Saturday, 10AM-5PM and Sunday, 10AM-4PM. Demonstration both days at 1:30PM by sponsor clubs with special bonsai raffle drawings to follow. Vendor and club member sales areas. Contact Gary Judd, juddbonsai@att.net or 916-622-8048 for more information.

October 27, 28, 29, 30

Riverside, California

GOLDEN STATE BONSAI FEDERATION CONVENTION

XXXIV, *Bonsai Full Circle* at the Marriott Hotel & Convention Center, 3400 Market Street. Headliners are: Kathy Shaner, Ryan Neil, Roy Nagatoshi and Pedro Morales. Demonstrations, seminars, critiques, workshops, benefit drawings, vendors and more. More information forthcoming.



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 redo 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

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## THIS MONTH ...

A very Happy Birthday to:

- 2nd – Emiko Rosenberg
- 13th – Frank Reyes
- 15th – Jack Ellis

Happy Anniversary to  
15th Karen & Rick Paulos

## 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**

P. O. Box 770

Union City, CA 94587-0770

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