



YAMATO BONSAI KAI

“FRIENDSHIP THROUGH BONSAI”

Since 1968

Newsletter – June 2012



MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD

By Tony Hayworth– President

Editor's note: no message from the board this month

CLUB WORKSHOP

There is a club workshop scheduled for June 23rd at the EJCC from 5-10PM. Please contact Tony Hayworth for more details

photos from our 2011 show done by Vincent Monasterio.

We were able to get some extra print copies, if you would like to purchase a copy to keep for yourself please contact Sensei or visit Grove Way nursery. Electronic copies are published on the GSBF website at <http://www.gsbf-bonsai.org/gsbfmag.html>. Thanks again to Vince for setting up such a great photo shoot.

THIS JUST IN...



Those of you that subscribe to Golden Statements may have already received the July/August issue.

You may recognize the current issue's cover photo (last issue's cover is shown above) as Sensei's Japanese Black Pine that was displayed by the entrance to our fall 2011 show. If you look further, the color center-fold section features show trees and other

AT THE NEXT CLUB MEETING...

On Tuesday, June 19th, Mike, Sensei and Tony will cover satsuki (Japanese) azaleas including growing habits, pruning, and shaping

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.



SENSEI UCHIDA'S NOTES

By Johnny Uchida – Club Sensei

It's very hot right now, how is everybody doing? Maybe sometimes it is too hot. But

we are fortunate to have this kind of hot weather, we shouldn't complain. About 2 weeks ago (June 2,3) BASA (Bay Area Satsuki Aikokai) club had a satsuki azalea show at the Lakeside Garden center in Oakland, and it was one of the nicest shows we have ever done. There was more color and many different kinds, it was so beautiful. A lot of people ask how you make such a pretty azalea I said Japanese azalea "does". Maybe the azalea club will gain more members?

Our Yamato meeting this month is about satsuki azaleas. If you have satsuki azalea, bring it to the meeting. We are going to discuss many things about how to grow satsuki azalea.

Also, you know our fall show is coming up in only 4 months. 4 months is plenty of time to prepare, you want to take extra care with the bonsai you plan to display. The more special care you take, the better the show. I will see you at the next meeting.

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### COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS & CONTACTS

Contact Mike Butler or Tony Hayworth for any of the open committees or other assignments. We need volunteers to get the job done.

| Committee                                                                  | Leader      | Co-Leader |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|-----------|
| <b>Security</b>                                                            | open        |           |
| <b>Construction Projects</b>                                               | Mike Butler |           |
| <b>Door Prize</b><br>(organize consolation prizes for after demo each day) | open        |           |

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|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|-----------|
| <b>Security</b>                                                            | open                |           |
| <b>Construction Projects</b>                                               | Mike Butler         |           |
| <b>Door Prize</b><br>(organize consolation prizes for after demo each day) | open                |           |
| <b>Show Chairperson</b>                                                    | Mike Butler         | Tony      |
| <b>Location Arrangements</b>                                               | Open                |           |
| <b>Vendors</b>                                                             | Jack Ellis          |           |
| <b>Advertising</b>                                                         | open                |           |
| <b>Tickets</b><br>(admission & consolation prizes)                         | open                |           |
| <b>Hospitality</b><br>(kitchen & serving room)                             | Sandy, Emiko, Diana |           |
| <b>Demo</b><br>(Saturday & Sunday)                                         | Johnny, Mike, Tony  |           |
| <b>Setup and Take Down</b><br>(Saturday / Sunday)                          | open                |           |
| <b>Yamato Plant Sales</b>                                                  | Brian & Vince       |           |
| <b>Silent Auction</b>                                                      | open                |           |
| <b>Transportation</b><br>(storage / Tree – pickup & return)                | Richard Paulos      |           |
| <b>Front Desk</b><br>(greeting; tickets; literature handouts)              | Lucky               |           |
| <b>Room &amp; Table Layout</b>                                             | Michael Baker       | Tony      |
| <b>Raffle Sales</b><br>(just before and during demo)                       |                     |           |

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BONSAI BASIC

By Noah Hanna

June 20 marks the first day of summer this

year. Among other things, this means in most parts of the bay area you can expect to start seeing temperatures in the 80's, 90's, and above. Last weekend many of us saw temperatures over 100 degrees around the bay area.

Your junipers and black pines certainly won't mind the heat as long as you don't let them dry out too much. However, you may want to put more delicate trees such as Japanese maples and other broadleaves in a shady spot or put up shade cloth. Most bonsai tasks such as repotting are on hold at the moment, application of fertilizer will most likely continue for strong trees that are actively growing, but the heat will cause a certain amount of stress so be careful.

You can expect to need to water daily or sometimes more than once a day during the summertime. This does not replace the need to check the soil, if it is still saturated you do not want to continuously saturate the soil. Remember, learning to water is one of the most important things you can do as a student in bonsai. Watering too frequently can be as harmful as not frequently enough.

How much water you give, (as in how much water goes into the soil), can be important as well. Some soils, especially those with potting soil or peat moss, can become very difficult to rewet once they are dry. One of the ways you can see this is take a tree that came from a nursery that has a large amount of potting soil in a growing pot. On a hot day you can push your index finger way down into the soil and see that it is dry and powdery. If you were to put that nursery tree next to a bonsai tree in an inorganic bonsai soil with a large amount of akadama, pumice, lava, etc., water both pots for about

20-30 seconds, let it all drain out and then poke a finger in the soil you may be surprised at how different it feels between the two.

The tree with bonsai soil will be more uniformly moist and the extra water will drain more quickly. After 20-30 seconds the nursery soil will often be moist at the top level, but when you go down an inch or 2 the water has not fully penetrated and you will see that the tip of your finger will still hit dry powdery soil. Similar problems can happen when bonsai soil breaks down over time. So how do you deal with these differences in soils?

To really be sure the soil is saturated, you want to water until the soil is no longer taking up water you are giving it. This may be a few seconds, or you may need to water once, move on to other trees, and then water a second or third time when the water has had time to absorb water before it drains from the bottom of the pot. You know you have thoroughly watered when the water you apply at the top is almost immediately draining down and through the pot's drain holes.

I have heard some confusing advice on this over the years, so I want to clarify that "overwatering" your bonsai in simplest terms means you are not letting the tree dry out enough between waterings. This does not mean you want to apply less water when you actually do your watering. As a practice, any time I see that the soil has dried sufficiently, I fully saturate the soil as described above, whether it is a juniper, maple, or whatever. You want to let the soil dry out

somewhat between waterings, how dry will depend on the species. But you want to water thoroughly so all the roots get the water they need, and if I am watering once a week in the fall, or twice a day in summer, I check the pot and if it's drying out I give it a "good drink". Do some research and figure out how much water your tree needs, some species are particularly sensitive to overwatering or underwatering (or both). So check all of your trees every day or more often if needed, but don't water them until the soil has dried out a bit to let the roots "breathe".

Also, some trees really enjoy a misting of the foliage. You don't want to do this mid-day when it is extremely hot, but I will mist the foliage for junipers and redwoods all year round in the early morning and late afternoon as often as I can make time to do it. They seem to really like it and I have not had any problems doing this with most evergreens every day even if the soil in the pot doesn't need require watering. What do you think?



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:

**June 2-3, 2012
Oakland, California**

Bay Area Satsuki Aikokai: Annual Satsuki Azalea Show at the Lakeside Garden Center, 666 Bellevue Avenue. Hours are 10 AM - 4 PM both Saturday and Sunday. Demonstration at 1 PM on

both days, 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.



PINE WORKSHOP/SEMINAR

I will be holding a special workshop and Seminar on Black Pine cleanup on Saturday June 2nd at my home in Union City. Small donation is accepted. Contact me if you are interested in attending as a participant or observer. Phone Tony at 510-289-5731.

YAMATO CLASSIFIEDS

Pre-Bonsai and Bonsai - For Sale – I have many bonsai and pre-bonsai material for sale... including some large landscape sized bonsai styled trees. 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:

- 19 – Linda Crater
- 25 – Patrick Baggett

Happy anniversary to:

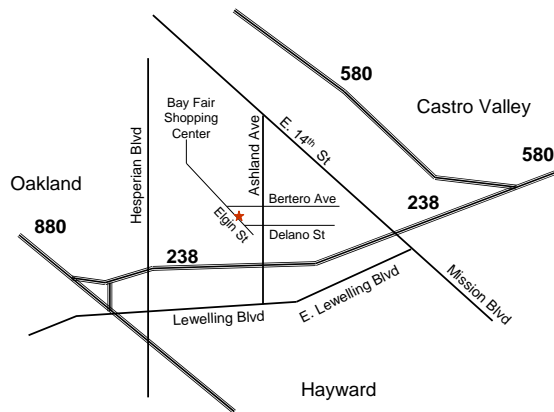
- 4th –Sandy & Dave Barron
  - 18th – Robert & Jeanne Fujimoto
  - 27 – Kathy & Patrick Baggett
- ~~~~~

## About the Yamato Bonsai Club

The Yamato Bonsai Club has a long and dis-

tinguished 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.

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YAMATO BONSAI KAI

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Union City, CA 94587-0770

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