



YAMATO BONSAI KAI

“FRIENDSHIP THROUGH BONSAI”

Since 1968

Newsletter – May 2012



MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD

By Tony Hayworth– President

I can't think of a busier time of the year than this month for bonsai. Actually, I think I say something like this every month ☺ I am glad the weather has finally settled down and is somewhat normal (at least in my area).

Don't forget to check the calendar and get out and do bonsai things each month. We need to support as many activities as we can around us. If we do not, then they might not be there in the future.

On April 21 & 22, several Yamato members, along with members from other bonsai clubs in the Bay Area, were invited to attend the 2012 Northern California Cherry Blossom Festival in San Francisco. A nice bonsai display was put on by these clubs in the Issei Memorial Hall of the JCCCNC building on Sutter Street. Over 1,000 persons came thru the event during the weekend. I took several pictures; unfortunately I can't find them on my camera any longer. I certainly hope this is not the start of “senior moments” for me!!

As a reminder, we have two very important events coming up that we need full club member support. The Eden Japanese Community Center annual bazaar is coming on June 9th & 10th and the clean-up of the EJCC landscape is this month on May 19th. At our next club meeting, Tuesday May 17th,

from 7:30 PM, we will do something a little different with our format. I'm calling it “Bonsai Essentials”. Mike, Sensei and I will cover some essential tips and techniques on bonsai topics. I am going to stop short of calling it basics because I have more planned than that. Anyway, the challenge at the end of last year and the beginning of this year by various members and hallway discussions was to change up the format of the month meeting. This is an attempt to do that. While bonsai education is a mandate of our club charter I don't want anyone to feel like there will be a test at the end of the night. Let's always remember to have fun along the way. Let's have a good turnout and see how we do with our *Bonsai Essential* topics.

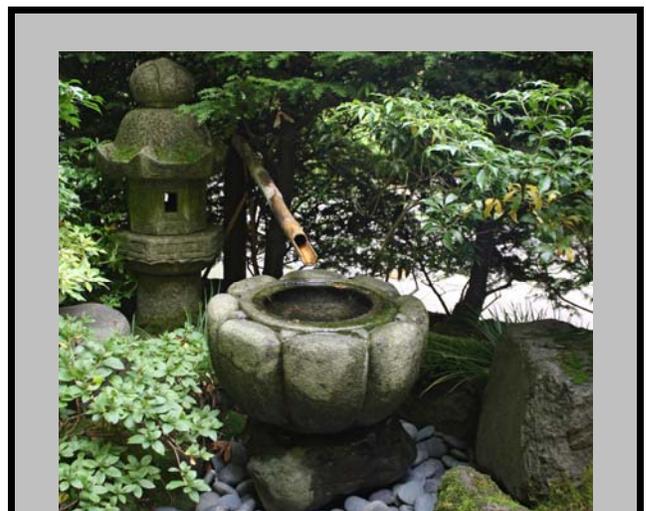


Photo from the Portland Japanese Garden-
Portland, OR

Again, I am looking for able bodies as committee and be sub-committee leads for our annual fall show. Here is the list of assignments and everything is pretty much wide open. Please step up and help. I really don't want to draft anyone, but I will if we need to.

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### COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS & CONTACTS

| Committee                                           | Leader              | Co-Leader |
|-----------------------------------------------------|---------------------|-----------|
| <b>Show Chairper-</b>                               | Mike Butler         | Tony      |
| <b>Location Ar-</b>                                 | Open                |           |
| <b>Vendors</b>                                      | Jack Ellis          |           |
| <b>Advertising</b>                                  | open                |           |
| <b>Tickets</b><br>(admission & con-                 | open                |           |
| <b>Hospitality</b><br>(kitchen & serving            | Sandy, Emiko, Diana |           |
| <b>Demo</b><br>(Saturday & Sun-                     | Johnny, Mike, Tony  |           |
| <b>Setup and Take Down</b><br>(Saturday / Sun-      | open                |           |
| <b>Yamato Plant</b>                                 | Brian & Vince       |           |
| <b>Silent Auction</b>                               | open                |           |
| <b>Transportation</b><br>(storage / Tree –          | Richard Paulos      |           |
| <b>Front Desk</b><br>(greeting; tickets; literature | Lucky               |           |
| <b>Room &amp; Table</b>                             | Michael Baker       | Tony      |
| <b>Raffle Sales</b><br>(just before and             |                     |           |

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

Please ask any committee leader what you can do to help. We need volunteers to get the job done.

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

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Eden Japanese Community Center Annual Bazaar

On June 9th, from 3 to 8pm and June 10th from 11 to 7pm. Yamato will support this event with volunteers each day. I need someone from our Club to step up and be our club representative and help organize our clubs participation in the event. Our role is to man the flower boot each day and help setup the booth the morning of the 9th. Who can raise their hand for me and take on the role of organizing our participation this year? Please contact Tony Hayworth ASAP for further details if you can help.

Cleanup of the Center

On Saturday 19 May, we will do community service and clean up the landscape at the community center (where we hold our monthly club meetings). This is important because we use the center at no charge and as an agreement we support them by doing two cleanups each year. We will start

promptly at 08:00 am and should be done by noon-ish. Earlier if there is proper turnout. Bring your work gloves, clippers and your favorite yard tools... and a good disposition!!

AT THE NEXT CLUB MEETING...

On Tuesday, May 15th, Mike, Sensei and Tony will cover Bonsai Essentials- some essential tips and techniques on bonsai topics

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

This is a good time of the year with very hot weather to begin fertilizing bonsai and check for infestation and disease. So this time the year give lot of fertilizing and your trees will get green very nice looking. But fertilizers are not "bonsai growers". Especially in a shady area, if you give them much fertilizing you can get long stems and long needles on pines which is not good. I'm sure you know which ones take more sun or not you have to know. So carefully watch the weather water carefully, this is another very easy way to make big mistakes.

This month is a very good time for air layering. If you want triple trunk it is better to take from the tree planted in the ground. That bonsai pot growing tree is not good.

Aftercare is also very important, you don't want the trees getting too wet or too dry. So bonsai care in the summer time is harder than bonsai care in the winter time.

BONSAI BASIC

By Tony Hayworth

The month of May means that the beautiful sakura (flowering cherry) are all finished. I hope you liked the sakura picture in last month's newsletter. Indulge me for just one more sakura picture:



As the sakura are all finished, that simply means it is time for the tsutsuji (azaleas) to show their colors. Specifically in late May and early June is the time for Satsuki azaleas. Satsuki azaleas originated in Japan and are more dwarf-like than other hybrid groups.

Satsuki are one of the world's most spectacular flowering plants and the Japanese have been propagating them for use as container grown show plants for several hundred years. Satsuki are famous for the exotic sporting behavior in the flowers colors, individual plants can bear flowers with several markings combinations and colors.



The name Satsuki means fifth moon. It refers to the flowering period of these azaleas, which is in the fifth month of the lunar calendar (late May to early June in our western calendar).

The azalea is a member of the genus Rhododendron. It is an evergreen which in the wild grows as a small shrub (up to six feet). There are hundreds of azalea cultivars. The azalea used to be considered a separate genus from the rhododendron, but has nowadays been reclassified.

The most interesting feature of the Satsuki azalea is that it produces flowers in multiple colors on the same plant. The flowers can be white, pink or red, and can grow singly or in pairs.

In Japan, the satsuki are used all over the place as a landscaping plant in addition to being coveted in bonsai. I recall from my days living in Japan that the walkways and roadways use satsuki azaleas to accent and brighten up the very precious '*space*' that central Tokyo allows. The varieties and mix of colors make it a cheerful walk to the local train station or around the neighborhood.

Remember that the Bay Area Satsuki Azalea Bonsai Show is at the Lakeside Garden Cen-

ter at Lake Merritt on June 2nd and 3rd. Johnny Uchida will be doing the azalea demo on Sunday the 3rd. It is a great show. Here is a picture of Johnny from the 2006 show.



Johnny Uchida – at 2006 Satsuki show

Two-Needle Pine Cleanup

During the last week of May and before the middle of June you should complete your cleanup on two-needle pines. If you do not know what to do, you need to seek help from Sensei or myself.

Bonsai Tip #1: For this month, "Trimming and Pruning". Pay attention during the month of May to your older and mature deciduous trees. Once the new shoots on these trees stop growing, it is then the right time to cut them back into proper shape. Use your sharp and clean scissors and cut back to two or three leaf pairs. Make sure to balance the density evenly but perhaps having the top half of the tree thinner than the bottom.

Pinching is great for junipers. Continue checking your wire for gouging if you have any remaining wire on the tree from last year.

Email bonsaicho@sbcglobal.net

Phone 510-289-5731 evenings



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:

May 5 & 6, 2012

Sacramento, California

66th Annual Sacramento Bonsai Club

Show: Sacramento Buddhist Church, 2401 Riverside Blvd., May 5 (12-5pm) & 6 (10-4pm). Demonstrations both days, 2 pm, by Boon Manatikivipart, followed by benefit drawings. Free admission, plant and tree sales.

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 at-

tending 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 bonsaicho@comcast.net.

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## THIS MONTH ...

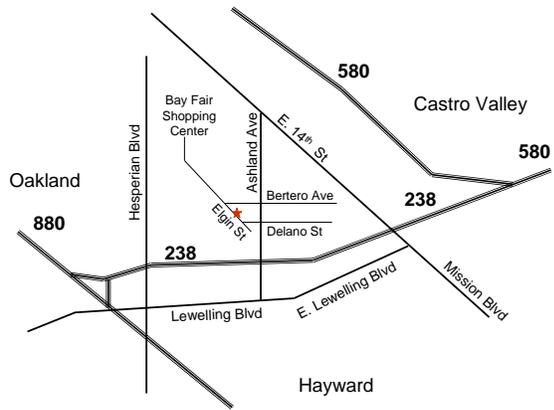
A very Happy Birthday to:

- 5th – Doris Johnson
  - 10<sup>th</sup> – Johnny Uchida
  - 15<sup>th</sup> – Tamy Rhine
  - 24 – Moshen Navvab
  - 31<sup>st</sup> – Lito Micheli
- ~~~~~

## About the Yamato Bonsai Club

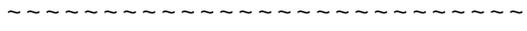
The Yamato Bonsai Club has a long and distinguished history in the Bay Area. In 1968, the club was founded with six members including its first Sensei, Mr. Jimmy Inadomi from the Castro Valley area. Its second sensei was Mr. Juzaburo Furuzawa. Since 1976, the Yamato Bonsai Club has been under the guidance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



## **YAMATO BONSAI KAI**

P. O. Box 770

Union City, CA 94587-0770

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