



YAMATO BONSAI KAI

“FRIENDSHIP THROUGH BONSAI”

Since 1968

Newsletter - September 2012



MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD

By Tony Hayworth

The newsletter this month will focus on the Annual Fall Show & Exhibition coming October 20th & 21st. But first let's cover a few club business topics. Monthly tree care and other bonsai tips will follow later in the *Bonsai Basic* section of the Newsletter.

Club Meetings

This year we have varied our monthly club meeting format after input from the membership. The Board would like to hear your feedback and hear any additional input you would like to share. What worked for you and what did not; what you would like more of, etc. Please be realistic and be prepared to help with any ideas offered.

A gentle reminder – let's focus on the speakers and the activities up front during the monthly club meetings. Keep side bar conversation to a minimum.

Club Communications

I need to apologize for the distribution gaps to new members over this year. I failed to feed them properly to Noah. Let's leave it at that please.

Further, if you have an issue with communications or something is not working for you, please write it down and hand it to me or email it to me. It very hard to handle multiple verbal communications during the meetings. Thanks.

The Board reviewed the newsletter topic at the last Board meeting and decided to make some changes. The work fell on the shoulder of a single individual and that was not fair. It was decided to change that. Let me just state that all facets of the NL must be a team effort or it will not succeed. I'm looking for help and contributors, so be prepared as I will be contacting many of you.

Focus

It is time to turn our attention and energy back to the trees please – after all it is about the Trees.

AT THE NEXT CLUB MEETING...

On Tuesday, September 18th we will discuss tree preparation for the show and any last minute questions from Members. We will do a review of the various committee duties & assignments as well as show set up and take down responsibilities.

Bring your trees for pre-show review with Sensei.

No raffle

Don't miss this club meeting.

Note: All Club Meetings start at 7:30 PM.



SENSEI UCHIDA'S NOTES

By Johnny Uchida

Dear Member – Weather is so nice we are fortunate; can't ask for any better than this. Not too hot not too cool.

I think a fall show is better than spring show. Because we get more color and we have more colorful fruit trees. They are nice. Any members with trees with colorful leaf and with fruit and you think your style is good enough for the show, just bring it over to me I would like to review it. Some examples are persimmon, miniature orange; crabapple, winter berry and any other fruit trees are good.

This is our one and only show each year. I am hoping more people show passion for the Show and get together and support it. Then when visitors come see the show, they will say the show is very nice and wonderful show one of the very nice show and will come back and see the show next year too. I hope everybody has responsibility for the show then show will be very successful.

Thank you.



YAMATO FALL SHOW – UPDATE

By Mike Butler & Tony Hayworth

How is your favorite tree progressing for the show? Make sure you are doing everything to ensure it's a healthy tree for the event and in the best shape possible.

There is roughly one month till the show. You need to have selected your tree(s) for the show and have it reviewed by Sensei before the Saturday setup event. You can do this by visiting the nursery or bringing it to the September Club meeting. If you have any other or special circumstances, see Mike or Tony for guidance.

All members are encouraged to have a tree. The show is for members, new and old experienced! LOL

KEY DATE REMINDER

Set up for the show starts on Saturday 20 October at 07:00 AM. We would like to ask for a nice turnout for the setup event. Please make it as your time permits.

A few final reminders for you about the show:

Setup – We start from 07:00 AM. We must get the tables set to the layout specs with backdrops in place and the tables dressed and topped by 10 AM.

Tree Setup & Placement – we will start this action around 9:30 to 10AM. All trees need be at the Hall by 10AM at the latest (*unless prior arrangement have been made with Tony Hayworth or Sensei Uchida*). If you have a significant or large tree(s) and your situation is such that you cannot get it to the hall by yourself or in your own vehicle, then you need to contact Richard Paulos (510-351-1081) or Tony Hayworth (510-289-5731) **BEFORE Thursday 18 October** and we will make arrangements for a team to pick up your tree(s).

Hospitality (Kitchen & Serving Room) – Sandy Barron and Diana Wong are the co-leaders of this time honored committee this year. A few years ago we changed our format. On Saturday evening we have open dinner for a donation to all that come. On Sunday is our famous pot luck for our family and guests. Sunday is not an open event for the general public.

Please make sure you prepare and bring a donation dish, for Sunday. A variety is needed.

See Sandy or Diana if you are not sure what to bring and they can fill you in on need areas or ideas. Financial donations are acceptable if your time constraints don't allow you to prepare something each day. Thank you, Thank you!

Front Desk – Lucky Crist will run this area. PLEASE see Lunky and volunteer some of your time each day to help run the front entry tables.

Yamato Plant Sales – Remember to mark all your plants and bring anything you want to sell during the event.

Silent Auction – If you would like to donate any nice items to help the club raise funds, this is an excellent time to do so. See Tony Hayworth ASAP if you can help (510-289-5731).

Pre-sale of Tickets – this event is our only fundraiser. Please see Karen Paulos to get your share of tickets for your pre-sale responsibility. If questions, let Karen, Mike or Tony know.

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS & CONTACTS

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

Committee	Leader
Show Chairperson	Mike Butler & Tony Hayworth
Vendors	Jack Ellis
Advertising	Karen Paulos
Tickets (admission, raffle & consolation prize)	Karen Paulos
Hospitality (kitchen & serving room)	Sandy Barron & Diana Wong
Demo (Saturday & Sunday)	Johnny Uchida (with Mike & Tony)
Setup and Take Down (Saturday / Sunday)	Tony H & Gerry Bundy
Tokonoma & Construction	Mike Butler
Yamato Plant Sales	Dennis Hawkins
Silent Auction	Tony H ; open
Transportation (storage / Tree – pickup & return)	Richard Paulos;
Front Desk (greeting; tickets; literature handouts)	Lucky Crist
Room & Table Layout	Michael Baker
Raffle Sales (just before and during demo)	Open (by committee)
Security	Open (by committee)
Door Prize (organize consolation prizes for after demo each day)	Mike Butler

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

Member Contribution



The Artistic Essence of Bonsai....

By Vern Smith

To understand Bonsai, you have to see a lot of Bonsai...shows, books, magazines, the internet. As Mike Baker often says, you need to train the eye – it is your most important tool. But what exactly are we looking for when we observe Bonsai? The following is a discussion of some things to be looking for, from the obvious to the theoretical.

Form

A tree's form, the structural appearance and shape that first catches our eye, is the most tangible component of the viewing experience. It is the aspect that is most explainable, on a theoretical and practical level. The general styles are well known – informal and formal upright, cascade, windswept, slanting – and are suggestive of what we observe in nature. What the neophyte may think of as a “miniaturized” tree, we learn, as we develop our technical skills, is actually an illusion, created through pruning, shaping and placement of trunks and branches. The form evokes a sense of the familiar, at once both obvious and visually comforting, so to speak.

Balance

Upon further study of the tree, we realize the form we see, and the illusion that is made, is a common artistic trick of scale and forced perspective. It is no small trick for the artist, through strategic pruning, wiring, movement of the branches, and control of the size and density of the foliage, to create a “form” that is in balance and scale, easily recognized as a mature tree. If the balance created makes the appearance work equally well from a distance as well as close up, then the artist truly has done his or her job.

Wabi Sabi

Wabi Sabi derives from a Buddhist concept, relating to the transient nature of all things - the acceptance of impermanence. Leonard Koren, in his book *Wabi-Sabi for Artists, Designers, Poets and Philosophers*, defines Wabi Sabi as an artistic and philosophical aesthetic where beauty is "imperfect, impermanent, and incomplete". Bonsai, by its very nature, fits the concept of something that is imperfect, impermanent and incomplete. As such, when we see and create Bonsai through the concept of Wabi Sabi, we understand its

transient nature, its ongoing change that is never complete, and, perhaps most importantly, the seeming imperfection or “flaws” in a tree. Personally, I see the “imperfection”, whether inherent or created, as perfection itself. As Bonsai artists, we are both the creative agent and the cognitive recipient. To me, that is the key to Wabi Sabi as it relates to Bonsai (and, for that matter, life) in general – the imperfection is the counter-balance point upon which the entire tree pivots upon as a work of art. A jin, a seemingly asymmetric imbalance of the placement of a branch, a knotty burl – they all work as a critical focal point that frames and defines Wabi Sabi in the context of that particular and unique Bonsai itself.

The Void

If we were locked in a pitch black room with nothing but a Bonsai on a table, the silhouette of the Bonsai would be unseeable, indefinable and unknowable. However, if we turn on a bright light that projects the silhouette of the tree, we can now see and define the form. But, is it the trunk and branches that define the tree, or is it the space in between? Is the tree defined by the dark form of the silhouette, or by the void that is the light? In other words, is the beauty, the actual essence of the tree, expressed by what is there, or by what is not there? In either case, one thing is infinitely clear – less is much more in respect to Bonsai.

The Intangible

Like art, what a particular Bonsai tree says to you is very dependent on what you bring to the experience. Whether it is your first or thirtieth Bonsai show, you will bring your life experiences with you, along with your preconceptions, and your subjective point of view. No matter what they are, they will all be correct, because this is your experience. In the end, what is more important is what you take away. We all “like what we like”, and no one has the right to tell you that your taste is not correct. However, if we can lift the veil of our preconceptions for just a few moments as we view a work of art – a Bonsai – then the art itself, unfiltered and unfettered, can be expressed, and we can see the essence of the *objet d' art*.

Bonsai is unique in that the art is always evolving, that both the canvas and the paint are fluid. The tree we see before us in the moment is not the tree it was or the tree it will be. We learn - by truly seeing - the essence of the Bonsai, in that very moment. And we recognize that we will never see that very same tree again.

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BONSAI BASIC

By Tony Hayworth

GETTING READY FOR THE FALL SHOW

SHOW TREES – Let’s all be ready with a tree this year. Beginners also, we want everyone to participate. There are a few things you need to do to put a tree into the show so let’s concentrate on the following four areas as we prepare for the event: *proper shape; a clean pot; nice topsoil or dressing; a display dai (or stand)*

- **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 leaves; and my favorite “NO ant’s!
- **Pot Care** – take care of cleaning up your pot now. Most of us do not do any cleanup 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? 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”. Both Sensei Uchida and I are not fond of a complete covering of moss on the top of the bonsai, especially if it looks like a patch work quilt.

- **Bonsai Stands** – this is a tough subject via a newsletter. We discussed this at last month’s club meeting. If you are not sure, check with Sensei or a senior club member. All bonsai in the show will need an appropriate bonsai stand (or in Japanese, a “dai”).

DONATION TREE

We ask members each year to donate a small tree or bonsai items for use as a consolation prize. If you can support us in this way, please bring your donation to Tony Hayworth or Mike Butler before 5PM on Saturday. Make sure you identify the donation tree when you bring it in so that it gets placed accordingly.

Thanks for your Support!!

Email bonsaicho@comcast.net
 Phone 510-289-5731 evenings

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### CHECK LIST... THINGS TO DO!

- Volunteer for a committee
- Signup for a food dish – for Sunday Lunch!!
- Review your tree with Sensei – sometime before show
- Prepare/clean your pots and redo your top-soil
- Have a dai (a stand) for each tree you bring
- Saturday Setup – Come as early as you can – pitch in
- All trees to Setup Event by 10 AM on Saturday
- Prepare and bring a food dish for Sunday by 11AM (or make cash contribution to Hospitality Chairperson before hand)
- Attend each day (as much as you can) and wear your Yamato colors (hapi coat, prior event shirts, Pins, etc)
- Bring your camera / have fun
- Sunday breakdown – begins AFTER 4:00PM. Be prepared to pickup your trees and other belongings.
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# YAMATO BONSAI KAI

## – 2012 CALENDAR OF EVENTS –

The remaining activities planned for this year:



## GSBF CALENDAR OF EVENTS

(For a complete list, please refer to Golden Statements calendar of events or visit the web site at [www.gsbfbonsai.org](http://www.gsbfbonsai.org)). Some nearby scheduled events are:

### September

18<sup>th</sup> – **Club Meeting** @ 07:30PM

### October

16<sup>th</sup> – **Club Meeting** @ 07:30PM

20<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> **Annual Bonsai Show & Exhibition**

### November

17<sup>th</sup> – **Board Meeting** @ 09:00AM

20<sup>th</sup> – **Club Meeting** @ 07:30PM

### December

1<sup>st</sup> – **EJCC Landscape Cleanup** (8AM – 1PM)

8<sup>th</sup> – **Holiday Party** @ 06:00 PM (location TBD)

18<sup>th</sup> – **Club Meeting**

### October 6, 2012 Salinas, California

Salinas Bonsai Club: Annual Bonsai Show at the Presbyterian Church, 536 Lincoln Ave. Hours are 10 AM to 4 PM with demonstration by Katsumi Kinoshita at 1:30 PM. There will be door prizes and demo tree raffle. For contact information: [twistedtreeguy@yahoo.com](mailto:twistedtreeguy@yahoo.com).

### October 6, 2012 San Jose, California

Midori Bonsai Club: 51st Annual Show at Northside Community Center, 488 North 6th Street. Hours 10 AM – 5 PM. Display of fine bonsai, bonsai plant sale & bonsai vendors. Headliners: Kathy Shaner and John Thompson, dueling Bonsai Demonstration starts at 1 PM, trees will be raffled. Beginners workshop 10 AM - 1 PM create your own bonsai for a small fee. Local parking is available. For more information see [www.midoribonsai.org](http://www.midoribonsai.org).

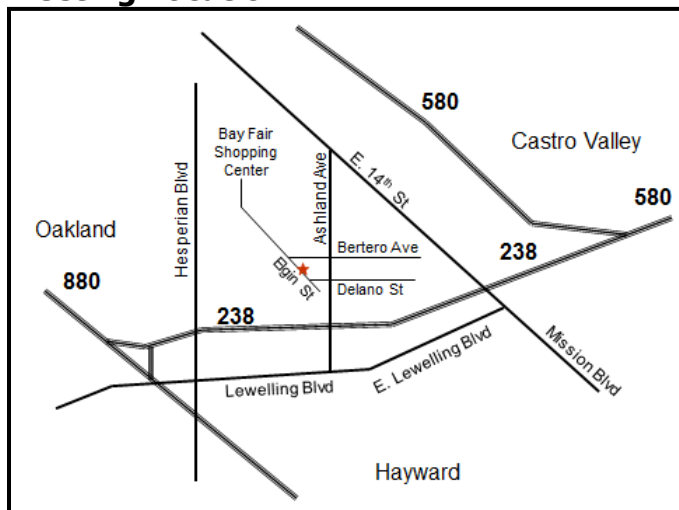
### October 13 - 14, 2012 Oakland, California

East Bay Bonsai Society: Annual Exhibition and Demonstration. Show opens 10 AM both days. On Saturday at 1 PM, a member's workshop with John Thompson will be held to which silent observers are welcome. On Sunday at 1 PM, a demonstration by John Thompson will occur, which is open to the public without charge. The demonstration tree will be raffled. Vendors and bonsai related sales will be available on the premises. All day parking is \$5.00 on Bellevue Ave. For information, contact John Nackley at 510- 693-2420 or [jnackley@eastbaybonsai.org](mailto:jnackley@eastbaybonsai.org). For more information and directions see website: [www.eastbaybonsai.org](http://www.eastbaybonsai.org).

### October 25 - 28, 2012 Sacramento, California

GSBF 2012 Convention XXXV *California Dreaming* at the Doubletree Hotel, 2001 Point West Way. Reservations for hotel 916-929-8855. Headliners include Kevin Willson from Spain, David Nguy and Ryan Neil. Demonstrations, seminars, critiques, workshops, excursions, benefit drawings, vendors, and much more. First ever totally California Native Tree bonsai exhibit and first ever judged bonsai competition for cash awards. More information available at [www.gsbfbconvention.org](http://www.gsbfbconvention.org).

## Meeting Location



Yamato Bonsai Kai monthly meetings are held at the Edén Japanese Community Center.

**Location Address:** 710 Elgin Street San Lorenzo. CA.



## 2012 GSBF CONVENTION

Don't forget the GSBF 2012 Convention this year in Sacramento. It is just a hop, skip and a jump for us here in Northern California. Please think seriously about attending this event as there is always so much going on and oh so very much to learn. See you there.

## YAMATO BONSAI KAI – 2012 BOARD

|                                  |              |
|----------------------------------|--------------|
| <b>President</b> – Tony Hayworth | 510-289-5731 |
| <b>Vice Pres.</b> – Karen Paulos | 510-410-5782 |
| <b>Secretary</b> – Dennis Hacker | 510-559-1755 |
| <b>Treasurer</b> – Dave Barron   | 510-456-6799 |
| <b>Director</b> – Dennis Hawkins | 510-657-8229 |
| <b>Director</b> – Brad Sheldon   | 510-888-1139 |
| <b>Director</b> – Dennis Hacker  | 510-559-1755 |
| <b>Advisor</b> – Jack Ellis      | 925-455-5429 |

## REFRESHMENTS

The club will have coffee at each meeting.  
We also have a sign up list for treats each month.  
See Sandy Barron for sharing or making a contribution  
to the success of our break time at the meeting!!

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CELEBRATIONS THIS MONTH ...

A very "Happy Birthday" to:

17th – Karen Paulos
27th – Mike Butler
27th – Ralph Gauna

Happy Anniversary and many more years to come:

13th – Al & Marlene Hightower

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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,  
Tony Hayworth, at [bonsaicho@comcast.net](mailto:bonsaicho@comcast.net)

*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.*

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YAMATO CLASSIFIEDS

Notice: if you want to advertise something in this space,
please contact the Newsletter Committee or Board Member.

YAMATO BONSAI KAI

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Union City, CA 94587-0770

Return Service Requested

Attention Postmaster:

Dated Material – Please Expedite