



YAMATO BONSAI KAI

“FRIENDSHIP THROUGH BONSAI”

Since 1968

Newsletter - January 2014



MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD

By **Tony Hayworth** (bonsaicho@comcast.net)

Hello Yamato Bonsai Club Members. Happy New Year!

On behalf of the Board, I want to welcome all new and returning members and would like to wish everyone good health and happiness in 2014.

Holiday Party – on December 14th, we had 32 members come out for our annual holiday party. By all accounts, a good time by everyone. The food was great and the company even better. See pictures later in this newsletter.

Eden Center Cleanup – on November 23rd, a handful of Yamato members came out to do our general landscape cleanup at the Eden Japanese Community Center (where we hold our monthly meetings). For 2014, I will again publish these events as early as possible. We perform this work in exchange for free rent to use the community center for our meetings and workshops. Let's have a better turnout this year please.

January Meeting – Our first meeting of the year will be held on Tuesday, January 21st, at 7:30 PM. Please arrive 15 minutes ahead of time to help with setup and say hello to other club members. The program will start at 07:30.

Refreshments – The monthly list for providing refreshments at the Club meeting is now wide open for 2014. Please sign up for at least one slot.

AT THE NEXT CLUB MEETING...

On Tuesday, **January 21st** we will continue our discussions and presentations regarding winter care and deciduous tree care.

Winter silhouette – bring your deciduous trees for a winter time look at its structure, etc.

Raffle at end of meeting; bring donations if you like.

Bring your Trees for lecture and critique with Sensei, Mike & Tony.

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

Election Results

The results of board elections for 2014 are as follows.

- *President:* Tony Hayworth
- *Vice-President:* Michael Butler
- *Secretary:* Dennis Hacker
- *Treasurer:* Dave Barron

The 2013 Board (president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer) ran unopposed for 2014. Therefore by virtue of being sole candidates, without opposition, they were re-elected. After careful consideration, the number of Board Directorships was reduced from 4 to 2. Lucky Crist remains for his 2014 term. Alan Montgomery ran unopposed for a 2014/15 term. Jack Ellis remains as our honorary Club Advisor.

Installation of officers will be held at the January Meeting.

2014 Club Programs

Mark your Calendars now – our 43rd Annual Fall Show will be held on the third weekend of October (18th & 19th October, 2014).

Workshops – our plan is to hold some weekend and or evening workshops at the Eden Center. I am trying to secure the dates on the EJCC calendar. Full details will be available for the February Newsletter.

2014 Membership Drive

The 2014 membership drive is now open. Our goal is to get all membership renewals completed by the end of February, at the latest. In this way, we can complete rosters, insurance forms, update distribution lists and complete the necessary Club housekeeping on this item.

Yamato membership annual dues are \$45 per household. At the back of this newsletter is a Form to collect any changes to your details for the roster, if you have any. Please complete and return the form if mailing your annual dues. If you joined Yamato at or after the

October 2013 show, your membership is good for all of 2014.

After reviewing the form, if you have questions, just let me or any board member know.

Roster

Club bi-laws call for a roster to be published to the membership each year. For privacy, no addresses will be shared, only name and phone number. Many club members have asked for this in the past, therefore we plan to fulfill this requirement this this year. If you do NOT want your phone number to be included, please notify me by email by 28 February to “opt out”. The following is the planned format:

2014 Roster - Yamato Bonsai Kai			
LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	PHONE #	member since
Smith	Wilson	* opt out	1998
Yamamoto	Hideki	510-123-1234	1988
Hayworth	Tony	510-289-5731	1984

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## SENSEI UCHIDA’S NOTES

By Johnny Uchida

Dear Member – Akemashite Omedetou-gozaimasu. (Happy New Year).

The above is the traditional Japanese New Year greeting. It is used on family, colleagues, friends and acquaintances during the first time you see them in the New Year... and only in the first 10 days or 2 weeks of the year. It would be quite awkward to greet your Japanese friends this way at the end of January or later in the year.

At the next meeting, lets continue our discussion about winter care. Its time for dormant spray of some of our trees. I will go over all of these details at the January meeting.

I also want you to bring a tree or two that shows off its branch structure. We call this ramification. Now is the perfect time to see your trees structure when it has no leaves on it.

Thank You. See you at the meeting.

## Holiday Party Pics







## BONSAI BASIC

By Tony Hayworth

Let's talk about winter care in this addition of bonsai basic.

December gave us some early cold days, a handful where the overnight low was below freezing. When this happens, how do you care for your bonsai?

Don't panic! Pines, Junipers, cedars (conifers) like the cold & dormancy challenges. Deciduous trees are also, for the most part, sound asleep. You have one key responsibility to guard against when the weather person says it's going to be below freezing for the night or for the coming days. Trees are safe for a few days of below freezing IF your they are hydrated. If your trees are bone dry or nearly dry during the winter and it get below freezing, your tree is at risk.

I must give special notification for trees like bougainvillea (and other tropical trees), they must be guarded and not get any direct frost/freezing. On the other hand, your pines are fine.

### Winter and Dormancy

I know you've heard this from me a few times, but Bonsai trees are not houseplants, they are in fact trees that should be grown outdoors in all seasons/conditions. When our trees experience winter temperature or conditions, they are in fact living naturally. If a bonsai tree does not experience dormancy in winter, they will only live a few years and then (most likely) die. Most types of bonsai, and nearly all temperate climate woody plants, require some cold. Things slow down; it is called dormancy for a reason.

During the autumn, as the length of daylight become shorter and overnight temperatures drop, trees react by hardening up their immature growth. Stem tissues begin increasing their levels of sugars and carbohydrates which by the time the first frosts arrive they act as antifreeze to ensure the plant itself will not freeze. Deciduous species bonsai lose their leaves to reduce moisture loss and all growth stops for winter months. Conifer species have thin, waxy needles that reduce transpiration to a minimum and this allows them to stay somewhat evergreen.

*Note: Tropical and subtropical bonsai trees are exceptions that need extra protection, but I personally do not have any of these types of trees in my collection so I don't have much to say on them.*

### DORMANCY

Eventually as winter arrives, our trees have prepared their natural defensive system against the cold of winter. In the spring as temperatures rise, new buds on the trees will start to extend and push their first growth in spring, thus completing an entire years' growth cycle.

If you are new to bonsai you may feel that winter is too harsh for your special tree and you may try to bring your tree indoors to *protect* it. When you allow the continuation of heat and light through the winter you in effect prevent dormancy in your trees. The resulting continual growth throughout the year goes against the trees natural internal clock which is calling for a dormant period. The clock can be tricked to an extent and the tree will continue to grow inside. It may even grow continuously for as long as two years after which, whatever the season or conditions, deciduous species will drop all leaves and evergreens will stop all growth. This out of season dormancy usually results in very sickly trees and even death.

In our SF Bay Area, where we have mild winter temperatures, providing a natural winter dormancy period can be a challenge for some species of our trees. I will try to describe what my research has produced.

How long should Dormancy be for our trees? The answer here gets complicated, by natural tree species and the many sub-climate zones right here in our Bay Area.

- All temperate woody plants require a dormant period where temperatures drop to less than 50°F continually for a period of between 11 days and 42 days (depending on individual species).
- The only exceptions to this need for dormancy are tropical and subtropical species. These are outdoor trees only during the warm summer months in many temperate areas of the world. To keep them outside during the winter would be fatal. Tropical and subtropical trees have very modest dormancy requirements and in their native habitats are capable of continuous growth all year round at 68°F or above. For this reason tropical and subtropical trees are resilient to indoor growing conditions during the autumn, winter and spring.

It is documented that nearly all temperate woody species are reliably hardy down to 15°F. Below this temperature all that is required is some protection for the root system which is not as frost hardy as the top growth. To become

reliably hardy to these temperatures, trees must fully harden up in the autumn by being grown outside.

Trees are able to survive short periods of sub-zero temperatures by virtue of being dormant.

## Normal Winter Care

For us in the Bay Area, we don't need the types of winter shelters that folks in the east and mid-west need. Our trees are safe outdoors. I will qualify this statement later in this article.

As discussed, our trees require a period of dormancy to remain healthy. When the growing season ends, our trees get ready for winter by hardening their stems and storing sugars which naturally act as antifreeze. When our temps continually drop below 50 degrees Fahrenheit, a tree becomes dormant and is not damaged by a little cold weather. Even if there is a lot of water in a pot and it freezes, it is only the water that is frozen, not the roots. Watch out for excessive wind during the winter, it will dehydrate a tree and it is this type of condition (not the cold itself) that can be damaging. The effects of over watering are just as devastating as dehydration. Avoid problems by knowing how to read your trees all year long!

The need of light in winter is different than that of the other three seasons of the year. Dormancy allows for almost no light on deciduous trees. Conifers will prefer some light. Careful, I'm not saying hide your trees from light. I'm simply saying in dormancy the needs for direct light is reduced, and even more for deciduous than conifers.

## Below 32 Degrees

If the weather forecast is warning of a coming frost or freezing condition, you need to protect your sensitive trees (and bougainvillea trees for sure). Other frost sensitive trees should NOT be left out directly overnight during these periods.

## Below 23 Degrees

Trees such as the trident maple (*Acer buergerianum*) and Chinese elm (*Ulmus parvifolia*), will benefit from shelter even at 23 degrees Fahrenheit. Don't let the temperature in this temporary shelter get near or above 50 degrees Fahrenheit.

## Below 15 Degrees

This would be an extreme situation here in the Bay Area. If we were to receive such warnings you must be prepared to act on protecting your trees. Your trees should be brought into a shelter or garage where the temperature remains above 23 degrees but below 50 degrees Fahrenheit. If your trees are warmed above 50 degrees, they will come out of dormancy and this will create an unhealthy situation and may have long term impacts (depending on the tree variety).

## Watering

Just like summer, damage can also happen to trees in winter if they become bone dry or dry out. While winter water consumption is very low in our trees, they still need to be kept damp. Bottom line; *never allow your bonsai tree soil medium to dry out*. Know that if the center of the root ball is bone dry, they when you water, only the outside edges are getting wet. This will present issue for you towards maintaining the trees overall health.

## IN SUMMARY

- Allow your trees to enter dormancy and harden to the cold.
- Store your trees somewhere that will remain above at least 24°F all winter. Optimally, temperatures will remain between 32°F and 49°F, though temperatures just below freezing down to around 24°F will cause no damage.
- Keep your trees out of direct sunshine and strong winds when/if the soil is frozen.
- Do not allow the bonsai soil medium to dry out, nor allow it to stay overly-wet, it should always remain evenly damp.
- Preferably, in areas where night frosts are rare and seldom drop below 23°F, it is better that your bonsai are left outside in a position where they are protected against damage from excess rainfall and wind. To be cautious, if temperatures threaten to drop below 23°F during the forthcoming day or night, temporarily use winter protection measures.

Remember... keep your eye on Bonsai.

Ask me if you have questions - Tony

|                                                                        |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Email <a href="mailto:bonsaicho@comcast.net">bonsaicho@comcast.net</a> |
| Phone 510-289-5731 evenings                                            |

## CELEBRATIONS THIS MONTH ...

A very “**Happy Birthday**” to:

- 14<sup>th</sup> – Allan Shurtleff
- 21<sup>st</sup> – Brian Conway
- 21<sup>st</sup> – Richard Paulos

**Happy Anniversary** and many more years to come:

- 21<sup>st</sup> – Linda & Lucky Crist

## 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 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.*

## YAMATO BONSAI KAI – 2014 BOARD

|                         |                        |                     |
|-------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|
| <b>President</b>        | <b>Tony Hayworth</b>   | <b>510-289-5731</b> |
| <b>Vice President</b>   | <b>Mike Butler</b>     | <b>510-917-3592</b> |
| <b>Secretary</b>        | <b>Dennis Hacker</b>   | <b>510-685-7273</b> |
| <b>Treasurer</b>        | <b>Dave Barron</b>     | <b>510-456-6799</b> |
| <b>Director</b> 2013/14 | <b>Lucky Crist</b>     | <b>510-276-4043</b> |
| <b>Director</b> 2014/15 | <b>Alan Montgomery</b> | <b>510-278-8339</b> |
| <b>Advisor</b>          | <b>Jack Ellis</b>      | <b>925-455-5429</b> |



## 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.

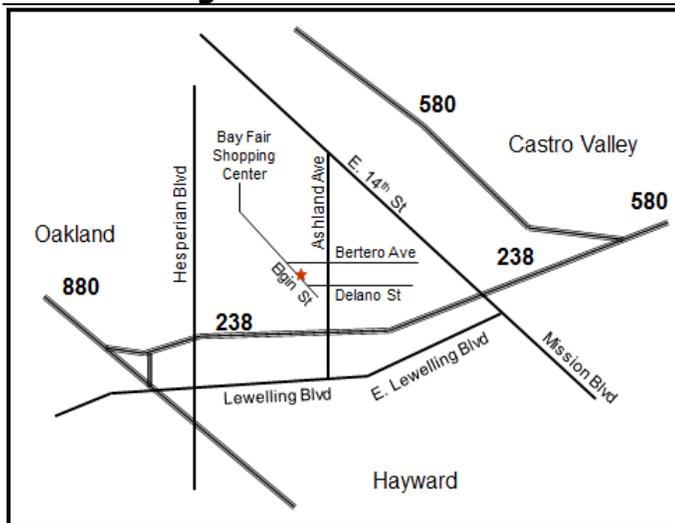
The Yamato Bonsai Club meets each month at the Eden Japanese Community Center, in San Lorenzo, on the third Tuesday at 07:30 PM.

## REFRESHMENTS

The club will have coffee at each meeting. We ask for member volunteers to supply the treats. Below is the list for this year with open positions. Please contact Sandy Barron or Tony Hayworth to add your name to the list. A minimum 3 volunteers each month to bring goodies and snacks of some kind is requested. Thank you.

|                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                               |                                                                                                                  |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p><b>January</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tony Hayworth</li> <li>• open</li> <li>• open</li> </ul> | <p><b>May</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• open</li> <li>• open</li> <li>• open</li> </ul>    | <p><b>September</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• open</li> <li>• open</li> <li>• open</li> </ul> |
| <p><b>February</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• open</li> <li>• open</li> <li>• open</li> </ul>         | <p><b>June</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• open</li> <li>• open</li> <li>• open</li> </ul>   | <p><b>October</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• open</li> <li>• open</li> <li>• open</li> </ul>   |
| <p><b>March</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• open</li> <li>• open</li> <li>• open</li> </ul>            | <p><b>July</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• open</li> <li>• open</li> <li>• open</li> </ul>   | <p><b>November</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• open</li> <li>• open</li> <li>• open</li> </ul>  |
| <p><b>April</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• open</li> <li>• open</li> <li>• open</li> </ul>            | <p><b>August</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• open</li> <li>• open</li> <li>• open</li> </ul> | <p><b>December</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• open</li> <li>• open</li> <li>• open</li> </ul>  |

## Club Meeting Location



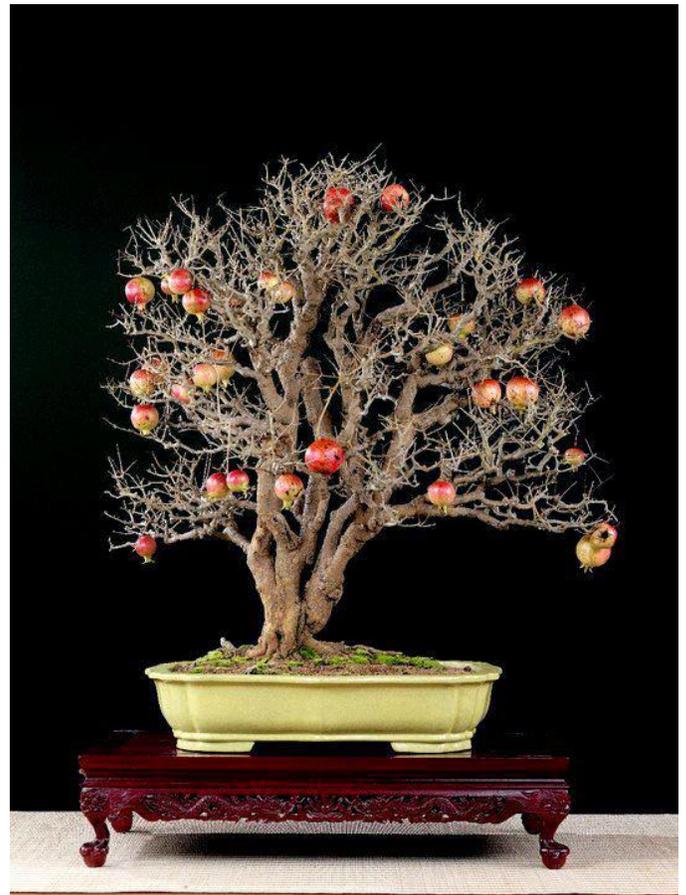
Yamato Bonsai Kai monthly meetings are held at the Eden Japanese Community Center.

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

## YAMATO BONSAI KAI

– **2014 CALENDAR OF EVENTS** –  
activities planned for this year

| This area under construction |                                          |
|------------------------------|------------------------------------------|
| Month                        | Date – Event Name                        |
| <b>JAN</b>                   | 21 <sup>st</sup> – Club Meeting @ 7:30PM |
| <b>FEB</b>                   | 18 <sup>th</sup> – Club Meeting @ 7:30PM |
| <b>MAR</b>                   | 18 <sup>th</sup> – Club Meeting @ 7:30PM |



## GSBF CALENDAR OF EVENTS

For a complete list, please refer to the Golden State Bonsai Federation **Calendar of Events** at:

<http://www.gsbf-bonsai.org/events/>

# YAMATO BONSAI KAI

## — MEMBERSHIP REQUEST FORM —

|                              |                                                                                                                                |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Date of Request:</b>      | ( mm / dd / yr )                                                                                                               |
| <b>Membership Year:</b>      | 20____                                                                                                                         |
| <b>Request Type:</b>         | <input type="checkbox"/> Renewal <input type="checkbox"/> New                                                                  |
| <b>Email ID:</b>             | ( required to receive the club newsletter )                                                                                    |
| <b>First Name(s):</b>        |                                                                                                                                |
| <b>Last Name:</b>            |                                                                                                                                |
| <b>* Address:</b>            |                                                                                                                                |
| <b>* Phone:</b>              |                                                                                                                                |
| <b>** Birthday mm/dd:</b>    | (optional - only for newsletter congratulatory message )                                                                       |
| <b>** Anniversary mm/dd:</b> | (optional - only for newsletter congratulatory message )<br>Note: enter spouse name if not entered above in membership request |

## Membership Request

### Instructions

Enter appropriate information in the provided form. Return this request form and payment in person to the club Treasurer at the next club meeting or return by mail to:

**YAMATO BONSAI KAI**  
P. O. Box 770  
Union City, CA 94587-0770

To continue your membership and to receive the newsletter uninterrupted, please respond with this membership request form by 28 February. Make checks payable to "Yamato Bonsai Kai".

### Notes

**Annual Membership: \$45** (same household)

**Email** = Required for Newsletter distribution

**\* Address, Phone** = is only required on New Requests or if you have changed your details in the last year

**\*\* = Birthday & Anniversary** = Optional. Used only for newsletter congratulatory announcement

**YAMATO BONSAI KAI**

P. O. Box 770

Union City, CA 94587-0770

**Return Service Requested**

**Attention Postmaster:**

**Dated Material – Please Expedite**