



# YAMATO BONSAI KAI

## “FRIENDSHIP THROUGH BONSAI”

Since 1968

### Newsletter - March 2014



## MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD

By Tony Hayworth (bonsaicho@comcast.net)

Hello Yamato Bonsai Club Members.

Thanks to all that came out on February 22<sup>nd</sup> to our Saturday evening workshop. 11 members made the time to come out and work on trees together. Sandwiches, sodas and snacks were provided. It was a great time out.

The annual membership drive was successful. We have 51 members in good standing. The Club's Board has completed all the GSBF applications and insurance forms for another year. We thank you for your attention to this administrative item.

At the next meeting the “Club Roster” for 2014 will be provided. Our by-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 will now comply and provide it. Comments on this topic are welcome. See me if you have questions.

At the February meeting we introduced a new segment called “Member Tree Makeover”. Only 3 members actually brought material to participate. The winner of the makeover was Darcy Starr. Sensei and Tony took the tree, and in quick order, turned it into a nice Fukinagashi (windswept) style pre-bonsai, including a repotting. Pictures of the result are captured later in the newsletter.

In January we announced a change to the format flow at our monthly meetings. If you have any comments, please feed to any board member.

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

- Need early volunteers for committee leads and committee support.
- Starting at the March Club meeting, you will be asked to participate. Please think about what area or committee might interest you. (details on next page)

## AT THE NEXT CLUB MEETING...

On Tuesday, **March 18<sup>th</sup>** “Sensei Special Demo” Sensei Uchida will continue the event started last year we call *Sensei Special Demo*.

The resulting composition will be included in the club raffle at the end of the meeting.

Don't miss this event!

Raffle at end of meeting; bring donations if you like.  
Bring a Tree for lecture & critique with Sensei, Mike & Tony.

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

## Announcements

**Refreshment** – Sign-up for 2014 (see page 5)

**Tokonoma** – Interested in displaying your tree as the Tokonoma Tree for the fall show? Express it early to sensei or show committee members (Tony or Mike).

**Pictures** – Anyone wishing to contribute to the Newsletter by taking pictures at the monthly meetings, please do so and send to Tony by the 1<sup>st</sup> of the month. Please provide appropriate captions, dates, names, etc.

**Workshops** – mark your calendar for the remaining Club Workshops this year:

- Saturday March 22nd, 6 PM to 9:30 PM
- Saturday June 21st, 6 PM to 9:30 PM

**Reminder** – Your support for coming Club functions throughout the year is necessary.

### ***EJCC Annual Bazaar***

- Saturday, June 7<sup>th</sup>, 12 PM – 8 PM
- Sunday, June 8<sup>th</sup>, 11AM – 7 PM

### ***EJCC Landscape Cleanup Days***

- Saturday May 31st, 8AM to 1PM
- Saturday December 6th, 8AM to 1PM

## Announcements Continued

**Show & Tell** – Every meeting is a *Show and Tell* opportunity. We encourage you to bring a tree to ask questions about or to tell us your story about your tree. The goal is to enhance your tree and your knowledge to support it. We also want you to get a tree ready for the Show in October!!

**Newsletter** – Anyone wishing to contribute to the monthly newsletter, by taking pictures at the monthly meetings, please do so and send to Tony by the 1<sup>st</sup> of the month. Please provide appropriate captions, dates, names, etc. – Thanks!!

**Bonsai Events** – looking for something bonsai related to do? There are plenty of things happening in and around this area. Check out the GSBF Calendar of events later in this newsletter or online at: <http://www.gsbf-bonsai.org/events/>



## SENSEI UCHIDA'S NOTES

By Johnny Uchida

Dear Member – now is time to repot your trees that need it. If you are unsure or need some help, bring to the next meeting or over to my shop for some advice. From now to the end of April is the best time to transplant most everything. Always better to ask if you don't know for sure.

Weather is good lately. We need more rain but after all, California is (or was) a desert a long time before man came along, so long period without rain are more normal than not.

Your trees should not be bone-dry when attempting to repot. Also, they should not be soaking wet either. No water for two or three days would be okay. If your tree is in nursery pot and soil, then a forth or fifty day may be in order. Understand the steps and procedure of changing soil and don't let your roots be exposed too long while doing a transplanting. It is not good for the tree to have its roots laying around exposed for no reason.

Come to the next meeting and I will be doing a special demo that I will donate to the club raffle at the end of the meeting.

Thank You. See you at the March meeting.

## WORKSHOP – Saturday, March 22nd

- @ 06:00 – 9:30 PM at EJCC
- Hands on workshops with your trees.
- Bring bonsai (or pre-bonsai). No raw nursery stock please. Limit two trees. Remember to bring any materials you need (tools, turntable, wire, pot, hole screen, soil, top dressing, etc.), to complete your operation.
- Cost: \$20 – goes to club general fund.

## Fall Show Committee Reminders

At the coming club meetings we will be seeking members to help with committee tasks this year. Here is the current list for now. Other tasks may come up as the year unfolds.

Committee List
Hall Arrangements
Vendors
Advertising
Show, Room, Table Design & Layout
Front Desk
Hospitality
Setup and Take Down
Yamato Plant Sales
Demo
“Tin Can” Raffle Procurement & Execution
Workshop
Consolation Prize
Security



## Spring Time in Japan

– Mt. Fuji with Sakura (in the foreground)



## BONSAI BASIC

By Tony Hayworth (bonsaicho@comcast.net)

How is the task of seasonal repotting coming along for you? Although it's repotting season, please keep in mind that there needs to be a reason to repot. Don't just change the bonsai soil because its Spring.

We repot and change the soil for a variety of reason. Let me cover a few.

**Root Bound** – this is what happens if your trees roots have grown substantially over the years and you have not stayed on top of changing the soil and cutting the roots. Eventually, the stress of a root bound tree will make the health of the tree poor and your tree will not respond to seasonal care and growth patterns. If further neglected, it could cause the tree to die.

**Inferior Soil or Pot Conditions** – over time the soil in a bonsai container becomes “worn-out”. (*I know someone is going to pick on me for the use of this word – read on please*). This happens mostly to pre-bonsai or nursery material where good bonsai soil (growing medium) was not used. It is also a condition where there is no more space in the pot for the roots to grow. I'm suggesting here that when a tree is in a pot where the soil and the tiny air spaces in the pot become inhibitors to the growth and health capabilities of the tree, then this is a reason to repot.

**Esthetics** – heck yes! This is a great reason to repot. You want to change the look of a mature bonsai; have recently restyled your tree and want to give it a new or better look; maybe you want to increase the pot size to let it put on some faster growth, etc. Esthetics is a popular reason to transplant a tree and change the soil while you are at it.

Some of your late January & early February repotting are well on their way to being established for the spring. Make sure all your trees have proper after care, which includes good morning sun, protection from wind (prolonged windy conditions) and any late season “frost”. I know we don't have much of that if at all in the SF Bay Area, but I just want to mention it anyway. Any late season frost on newly transplanted trees is not good. Keep your newly transplanted work under eaves or some other outdoor cover until the danger of extreme cold or frost is gone from the weather forecast.

At the same time, please remember the wind is the enemy any time you transplant. The wind can dry out a tree that does not have much root structure left. So make sure you water the foliage also, for a good three weeks or so after transplanting, along with watering the soil area. Key points are:

- Always error on the side of caution and protect your early transplant work from wind and the possibility of a direct overhead frost through the end of March.
- Make sure anything that you do in the way of transplanting gets some early sun each day and is not stuck away somewhere in full shade.

When you repot pay attention to the rules of each bonsai style, particularly where to position the trunk in the pot and where the finished apex ends up in your completed work. In my earlier days, I was concentrating so much on the roots and the soil conditions that I lost track of the rest of the balance of the piece. In many cases I ended up with the trunk of the tree right in the middle of the pot! Esthetically, this is NOT where the trunk should be positioned. (*Yes there are exceptions, but that is not the point*). Key points are:

- The tree's trunk should be placed either to the left or right of the center and slightly to the back of the pot. The apex or crown should lean slightly forward. The trunk and the tree should have a welcoming feeling as it leans toward you.
- Check that the tree is not planted too low in the pot or too high in the pot. These general rules are not for group plantings as you can imagine.

I am also thinking of finished bonsai and not pre-bonsai or items in growing pot conditions. These instructions are for your Show ready bonsai. If you feel like planting your trees in oversized pots to encourage development, etc... go for it, I do a lot of this.

Over time you will pot and re-pot a tree several times. During each of these operations it is not like the initial transplanting of a nursery stock tree into a first pre-bonsai state. Please know the difference. Ask me if this is not clear.

Fully mature pines for example, you need to show off the surface roots and slightly raise the placement of the roots in the pot each time. Seeing these surface roots as they connect to the trunk is very desirable and they should radiate from the trunk in all directions. You cannot wait until a finished bonsai state to work on this. You must start early, and at your initial transplanting from nursery stock to pre-bonsai, handle the placement of the available roots properly to achieve a great bonsai. Don't neglect this aspect; do some research into this topic.



In bonsai you are working towards a great “tachiagare”. Tachiagare is the area of the bonsai where the roots (nebari) attach themselves to the trunk and extending up to the first branch. This is tachiagare. What happens in this area, in the way of definition and development, is often the essence of the difference between a good tree and a great bonsai.

**Bonsai Tip:** as a tip this month, you need to be prepared to transplant this month and to prepare for the new spring growth period. Between now and June is the most active period for transplanting. Have enough soil material handy so if you decide to transplant something that is not already on your list, you can react quickly.

If you want to prevent your flowering and fruiting bonsai from losing too much of its growing strength, then after about 80% of the buds have bloomed, you can remove all spent flowers and buds that have not bloomed. The energy will now be directed into supporting new growth. For the fruit trees, you can leave some of the blossoms on to form the fruit for decorative and viewing pleasure later. If new growth starts to get too long, be careful not to trim back too soon. Make sure the growth is firm and strong before you go cutting back or your pruning may cause the whole area to die back.

As trees wake up and start to grow you must have your fertilizer schedule understood, supplies on hand and ready to go. I know some of you have so many trees that it might take you a week to get them all fertilized! I trust you have the time?!

Remember... keep your eye on Bonsai.

Ask me if you have questions.

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

## MEMBER TREE MAKEOVER – – WINNER DARCY STARR



## 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.

<b>January</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tony</li> <li>• Linda</li> <li>• Karth</li> </ul>	<b>May</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Alan M.</li> <li>• Denise</li> <li>• Steve</li> </ul>	<b>September</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mike/Glenda</li> <li>• Jim Shurr</li> <li>• open</li> </ul>
<b>February</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Carol</li> <li>• Gerry</li> <li>• Karth</li> </ul>	<b>June</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Karth</li> <li>• Brian</li> <li>• Howard</li> </ul>	<b>October</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jack</li> <li>• open</li> <li>• open</li> </ul>
<b>March</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Brad</li> <li>• Al S.</li> <li>• Mike/Glenda</li> </ul>	<b>July</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Linda</li> <li>• Donna</li> <li>• Vern</li> </ul>	<b>November</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• D. Hacker</li> <li>• open</li> <li>• open</li> </ul>
<b>April</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Carol</li> <li>• Diana</li> <li>• Howard</li> </ul>	<b>August</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lucky</li> <li>• Carol</li> <li>• A. Hightower</li> </ul>	<b>December</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sandy B</li> <li>• open</li> <li>• open</li> </ul>

## CELEBRATIONS THIS MONTH ...

A very "Happy Birthday" to:

3<sup>rd</sup> – Maria Sargent  
 16<sup>th</sup> – Donna Eoff

Happy Anniversary and many more years to come:

4<sup>th</sup> – Gerry & Paulette Bundy  
 14<sup>th</sup> – Dennis & MaryEllen Hawkins

## 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>

## YAMATO CLASSIFIEDS

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

**Trees for Sale** – I have many stock material, pre-bonsai and bonsai for sale. Please contact me early for best selection!!

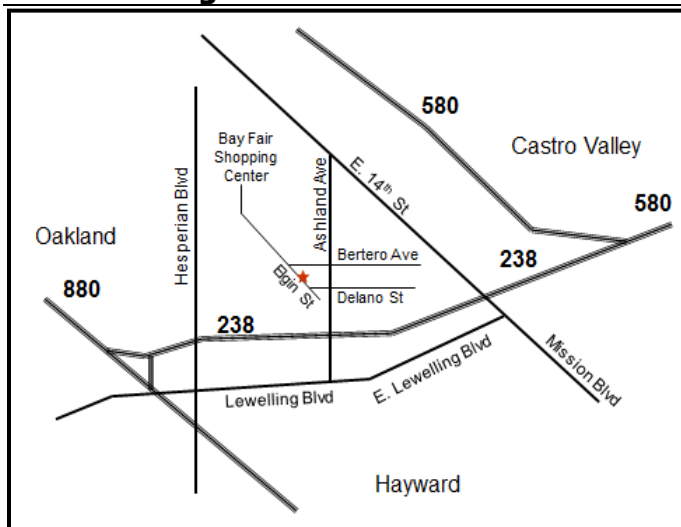
Tony Hayworth

Phone: 510-289-5731 or [bonsaicho@comcast.net](mailto:bonsaicho@comcast.net)



**Note:** I've remodeled and expanded my backyard. Come see me!!

## Club Meeting Location



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

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

## YAMATO BONSAI KAI

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

Month	Date – Event Name
JAN	21 <sup>st</sup> – Club Meeting @ 7:30 PM
FEB	18 <sup>th</sup> – Club Meeting @ 7:30 PM 22 <sup>nd</sup> – Workshop @ 5:00 PM
MAR	18 <sup>th</sup> – Club Meeting @ 7:30 PM 22 <sup>nd</sup> – Workshop @ 6:00 PM
APR	15 <sup>th</sup> – Club Meeting @ 7:30 PM
MAY	20 <sup>th</sup> – Club Meeting @ 7:30 PM 31 <sup>st</sup> – EJCC Garden Cleanup Day
JUNE	7 <sup>th</sup> & 8 <sup>th</sup> – EJCC Bazaar (Flower Booth Support) 17 <sup>th</sup> – Club Meeting @ 7:30 PM 21 <sup>st</sup> – Workshop @ 6:00 PM
JULY	15 <sup>th</sup> – Club Meeting @ 7:30 PM
AUG	19 <sup>th</sup> – Club Meeting @ 7:30 PM
SEPT	16 <sup>th</sup> – Club Meeting @ 7:30 PM
OCT	15 <sup>th</sup> – Club Meeting @ 7:30 PM 18 <sup>th</sup> & 19 <sup>th</sup> – 43 <sup>rd</sup> Annual Fall Show & Exhibition

Month	Date – Event Name
NOV	18 <sup>th</sup> – Club Meeting @ 7:30 PM
DEC	6 <sup>th</sup> – Annual Holiday Dinner @ 6:30 PM 16 <sup>th</sup> – Club Meeting @ 7:30 PM



## 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/>

## 2014 EVENTS

### March 15, 2014, Sacramento, California

**American Bonsai Association, Sacramento: Annual Bus Trip** departs The Sacramento Garden & Arts Center, 3330 McKinley Blvd., at 7:30AM and returns at 6:30PM. Five stops are planned in the Santa Rosa and Sebastopol areas: the private collection of Frank and Barbara Bardella, Lone Pine Gardens Nursery, Momiji Maple Nursery, California Carnivores, and West Country Oasis Bamboo Garden. The \$35 fee includes donuts, coffee and water enroute to the area, with a raffle, complimentary drinks (water, sodas, beer, wine) and chips on the return trip. Bring a lunch. This trip is open to the general public. For reservations make checks payable to ABAS c/o Renee Seely, 1636 Vallarta Circle Sacramento, CA 95864. For information phone: (916) 929-2106, e-mail [breadcrumb@comcast.net](mailto:breadcrumb@comcast.net) or visit our website at <http://abasonsai.org>

### March 19 – 23, 2014 San Mateo, California

**Bonsai Society of San Francisco: Annual Bonsai Exhibit** at the San Francisco Flower and Garden Show, San Mateo County Event Center, 1346 Saratoga Drive. Hours: Wednesday – Saturday 10 AM – 7 PM, Sunday 10 AM – 6 PM. There will be demonstrations and trees for sale. For more information about the club, visit our website: [www.bssf.org](http://www.bssf.org). For group and early bird ticket information to the Flower and Garden Show, visit <http://sfgardenshow.com>.

### March 22 – 23, 2014 Santa Cruz, California

**Santa Cruz Bonsai Kai: 26th Annual Show** at the Museum of Art & History, 705 Front Street. 10 AM – 5 PM with a demonstration at 2 PM by John Thompson both days. Raffle drawing for demonstration tree after demo each day. Trees especially prepared, trimmed and wired by club members will be part of the raffle each day. Sales area will include both vendor and member trees, pots and other related bonsai items. Admission price includes entry to bonsai show, the Museum of Art & History and complimentary coffee, tea and cookies. For more information contact Ed Lambing at [edinbonnydoon@sbcglobal.net](mailto:edinbonnydoon@sbcglobal.net).

### April 12 – 13, 2014 Fresno, California

**Fresno Bonsai Society: Spring Blossom Festival and Annual Bonsai Exhibit**, Shinzen Friendship Garden at Woodward Park, 7775 Friant Road. Gates open 10 AM to 4 PM. Bonsai will be displayed in a beautiful outdoor setting amidst the spring blossoms, koi ponds and wild peacocks. Local artists, including bonsai potters will display.



Very large plant sale. Japanese cultural events including koto drummers, tea ceremony and continuous bonsai demonstrations. Contact Ralph Schroeder at [ralsch@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ralsch@sbcglobal.net).

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**April 12 – 13, 2014, Sacramento, California**

**American Bonsai Association of Sacramento (ABAS): Annual Spring Show** will be held at the Shepherd Garden and Arts Center, 3330 McKinley Blvd. Hours: Saturday 10 AM – 5 PM and Sunday 10 AM – 4 PM; demonstration both days by Kathy Shaner at 1PM. For further information email Paul Holtzen at [pbholtzen@sbcglobal.net](mailto:pbholtzen@sbcglobal.net).

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**April 26 – 27, 2014, Modesto California**

**Modesto Bonsai: 33th Annual Spring Show** at Park Inn by Radisson – 1720 Sisk Road. Hours: Saturday 11 AM – 5 PM; and Sunday 11 AM – 4 PM with demonstrations both days at 2 PM by Sam Adina. Raffles, Auctions, Exhibit, and Sales of plants, pots, tools. Free Admission. For more information visit [ModestoBonsai.com](http://ModestoBonsai.com).

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**April 26 – 27, 2014, Palo Alto, California**

**Kusamura Bonsai Club: 54th Annual Show.** Location is Lucie Stern Community Center, 1305 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto, CA 94301. Show hours are Saturday, Noon-5PM and Sunday, 11AM-5PM. Demonstration each day at 1:00PM, with special guest demonstrator Saturday. Club member sales available. For more information contact Mark O'Brien at 650.327.0450, [mobrientrees@hotmail.com](mailto:mobrientrees@hotmail.com). Please see [www.kusamurabonsai.org](http://www.kusamurabonsai.org) for more details.

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**May 3 – 4, 2014, Sacramento, California**

**Sacramento Bonsai Club: 68th Annual Bonsai Show** at the Sacramento Buddhist Church, 2401 Riverside Blvd. Noon – 5 PM Saturday and 11 AM – 4 PM Sunday with demonstrations on both days at 2 PM by Sam Adina. Benefit drawings, Plant & tree sales. For more information, contact Lucy Sakaishi-Judd at [juddbonsai@att.net](mailto:juddbonsai@att.net) or visit <http://sacramentobonsaiclub.com/>.

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**May 3 – 4, 2014, San Jose, California**

**San Jose Betsuin Bonsai Club: 44th Annual Bonsai Exhibition and Demonstration** at the San Jose Buddhist Church Betsuin, 640 North Fifth Street. Noon – 5 PM Saturday and 11 AM – 4 PM Sunday with demonstrations on both days at 1 PM by “Mr. California Juniper” Harry Hirao. Styled and pre-styled trees will be offered for sale on both days. For more information, contact Ken Azuma at [kennethazuma@sbcglobal.net](mailto:kennethazuma@sbcglobal.net) or visit [www.gsbfbonsai.org/sjbonsai/](http://www.gsbfbonsai.org/sjbonsai/).

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**May 4, 2014, Watsonville, California**

**Watsonville Bonsai Club: 41st Annual Bonsai Exhibit at the Watsonville Buddhist Temple**, 423 Bridge St. Over 50 outstanding bonsai, large and small, young and old, will be on display from 10 AM to 4 PM. An afternoon demonstration by award winning Bonsai Master Katsumi Kinoshita will be held at 1:30 PM. A raffle of bonsai items, plants and the demo tree will follow. Tea & cookies will be served. Plenty of parking for vehicles of all sizes. Even for group outings. A vendor will be available to sate your plant appetite for bonsai or otherwise. For more information please call Don White, 831-724-9283 or E-mail: [whiteslib@aol.com](mailto:whiteslib@aol.com).

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**May 17 – 18, Sacramento, California.**

**Satsuki Aikokai Association of Sacramento:** Annual show of flowering satsuki azalea bonsai at Shepard Garden Center, 3330 McKinley Blvd. Hours are Saturday 10 AM – 5PM, and 10 AM –

4PM, with demonstrations at 1 PM on both days. Satsuki information booth, vendors, raffles, etc. For more information contact; Ronn Pigram (916) 428-8505 or [satsukiaikokaisac@sbcglobal.net](mailto:satsukiaikokaisac@sbcglobal.net).

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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 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**

P. O. Box 770

Union City, CA 94587-0770

**Return Service Requested**

**Attention Postmaster:**

**Dated Material – Please Expedite**