



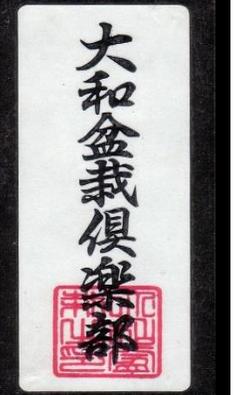
YAMATO BONSAI KAI

"FRIENDSHIP THROUGH BONSAI"

Since 1968

Web Site: <http://www.yamatobonsai.org>

Newsletter – February 2017



Message from the Board

By Tony Hayworth

Let's get caught up:

Monthly Club meetings will remain on the 3rd Tuesday of each month. Meetings begin at 7:30; setup from 7:15. I would like to ask that we not arrive too early as the Taiko group has the room reserved (till 7:15) before our meeting.

EJCC Cleanup on December 3rd, 2016 was attend okay, but as we move forward, we need more participation. A big thank you to those that came out and supported the event:

- Mike Butler
- Mike Baker
- Dennis Hacker
- Dennis Hawkins
- John Forsman
- April Hinaga
- Steve Ross
- Brian Lin
- Dawn Mezo
- Tony Hayworth

Annual Holiday Get Together was well attend on Saturday night January 7th, 2017. 28 persons came out for a fun evening beginning with a social hour, hors d'oeuvres, potluck dinner and a gift exchange. Great fun and great food was had by all.



2017 Elections and Board Installation will be at the next meeting. Let's have a great turnout to support the Club and the Board in the coming year.

Social Media Presence – the Board was presented the idea of setting up a presence on social media. John Forsman has volunteered to set up and moderate an Instagram account for Yamato. Way to go John! Since I know little and nothing about social media, let's check it out and give our feedback to John and the board.

On Instagram, search "*yamatobonsaikai*", and have at it. I now must have my son set me up an Instagram account and teach me about what to do with it! ☺ Thank you John.

Financial News - The Club is in good shape thanks to generous donations and the decision to move away from the monthly storage footprint and into the one-time storage trailer arrangement. We save ~ \$1,300 per year on the trailer setup versus the traditional storage unit.

Income from Annual Dues remain about constant. We are running behind on 2017 membership renewals thus far into the year.

For the last 3 years, we made small improvements on the Income from our Fall Show. Up \$335 from 2015 to 2016 and \$586 from 2016 to 2017.

There is no need to increase annual dues at this time.

We continue to look for ideas and ways to keep costs down for the annual show and also to increase revenue from the show. If you have any ideas, please bring them forward to the Board.

In Memory – Jack Ellis

Longtime member and club advisor Jack Ellis has passed away on January 24, 2017. Our condolences go out to his wife Gayle and the rest of their family. Jack will be missed. Jack was an active member of the Yamato Bonsai Club and could always be counted on to give a helping hand or pick up all kinds of tasks in support of the Club. Jack was also Club Presidents in 2007 - 2009.

Thank you, Jack, for so many things. May you rest in peace.



(Photo: February 2003 – Bonsai Village, Omiya Japan)



Topics and Events for 2017

Yamato Annual Show & Exhibition

Mark your Calendars now – the Yamato Bonsai Kai 46th Annual Fall Show will be held on the third weekend of October (21st & 22nd, 2017). Committees are forming now; please raise your hands.

Logo Refresh for Newsletter Mast & Online Presence

There is a proposal before the Board to think about a “refresh” of the club logo. Instead of a photo of a tree, the idea would be to have the logo be redone as a drawing, or icon or some sort of artwork. Several years ago, when the “logo tree” was lost, the idea to replace it as artwork began. If you have any thoughts, please contact Tony Hayworth or any board member.



Current Logo



Original Logo

Workshop – lets repot.

Get your hands dirty at a workshop. We will hold the first workshop of this year on Saturday, March 4th. I will arrive at 4PM to open the door and setup. Let me know by email if you will attend, so I can manage the head count for Food. We need at least 10 to 12 persons. Cost is \$20 per person.

Come out and bring that difficult tree that needs some transplanting advice!

Annual EJCC Landscape Cleanup Dates and Bazaar Support

We currently use the Eden Japanese Community Center for our club meetings, workshops and other social functions. We do this in return for supporting the EJCC annual Bazaar a by doing two landscape cleanups each year. Save the following dates to support the ability for us to have a club meeting location.

- Cleanup #1: xx
- Bazaar weekend:
- Cleanup #2: xx

Housekeeping

2017 Membership Drive

The 2017 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 show, your membership is good for all of 2017.

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 Feb to "opt out". The following is the planned format:

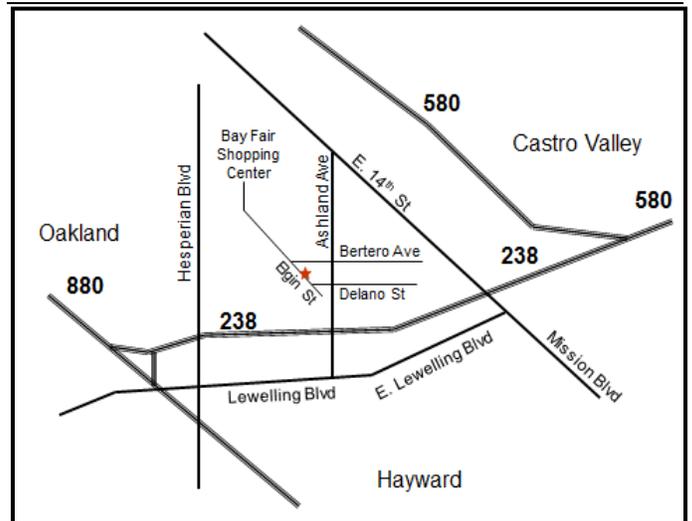
AT THE NEXT CLUB MEETING...

On Tuesday, **February 21st** we will answer your questions, discuss and demonstrate bonsai (and pre-bonsai) transplanting techniques and topics.

- Bring your trees for Q&A
- Bring your trees for Show & Tell
- Bring donation items for end of meeting Raffle

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

Yamato Club Meeting Location



Yamato Bonsai Kai monthly meetings are held at the Eden Japanese Community Center, on the 3rd Tuesday of each month, from 7:30PM.

Location Address: 710 Elgin Street San Lorenzo. CA.





BONSAI BASIC

By Tony Hayworth

One of the most important tasks ahead of us each year at this time is transplanting. In our Northern California, Bay Area climate, February and until the end of March (and in some cases, the 1st week or so of April) is our primetime for transplant and its care of our bonsai trees.

I want to emphasize that the operation of changing the soil (transplanting) an established bonsai is much different than the operation we do, and that you mostly see at our club meetings, on new bonsai or pre-bonsai material. And certainly, different on first time material from a nursery. Hopefully you know this and if not, please speak up.

Some simple rules things to try to remember (I hate rules!):

1. It is best to transplant a tree when it is healthy and not stressed. Don't wait too long between transplantations on a mature bonsai.

There will be a lot of 'experts' that say this tree needs transplanted every **x** years or **y** years. Okay. But seriously, there are a handful of other critical factors that really go into the equation.

- a. Back **x** or **y** years ago, did you use an oversized pot, thick loam solid or good draining bonsai soil or...
- b. Is the tree a mature bonsai or undergoing only its 2nd or 3rd transplanting?
- c. Did the tree actually grow and grow well during the years and has it actually grown so many roots that it is not draining well and is pushing out of the pot?

You get the idea. You must holistically understand what is happening to your tree and treat it accordingly.

2. Do you use an oversized pot for the health of the tree, giving it some room to grow or is the target size of the pot one that it make good sense for the style and shape of the tree, etc., a so called Show Pot.
3. Make sure your soil mixture is course and allows for good drainage. There are lots and lots of recipes for bonsai soil. The key factor is that it drains well and the amendments are such that they don't break down during watering and clog up the drain holes in the bottom of the pot.
4. You must secure the tree to the pot when transplanting, it should not move when you are done with packing the soil in between the roots. If the tree wobbles or is loose, the new roots will not take hold and it will be some time before your tree resumes its growth if at all.

What Overall Procedure Should I Follow?

This is what I recommend. I wrote this for new or first time potting, but it still works for now.

Select the Bonsai Pot

This is actually more difficult than you think. Not everyone can have dozens of bonsai pots of all shapes, sizes and colors... therefore careful planning is very important.

While the completion of transforming a tree that has never been a bonsai into a masterpiece starts out with this very process, one should understand it is only the beginning. Therefore, your pot selection may very well go through stages of growth, as does the growth of the bonsai.

Most important is drainage. Do not use a pot without drain holes in it. Make sure the holes are ample in size and that you cover them with a proper sized screen so that you do not lose all your soil.

There are many books and Club resource as to what the proper shape, color and size are for your bonsai. The overall and future size of the bonsai also plays a role. Sometimes you place the bonsai into an oversized pot to stimulate its growth. When this is done, we call it a "growing pot". For the

most part, do not select a pot that is too large. Your bonsai will not look its best. And if it is way too large, it will not warm up and heat the soil properly and your roots will not grow.

The reference area of this document has some good books that cover this subject much better than I can in this document. I especially like the book by Paul Lesniewicz (page 181). Sensei and senior club member can always be consulted for advice and guidance until you get the hang of it.

Removal of Old Soil and Roots

At this time, begin the detailed examination of what exists under the old soil around the roots and the roots themselves. Its best if the tree has not been watered for three or four days before you begin this operation. Keep in mind that dryer soil falls apart from the roots easier than wet soil.

Carefully remove the tree from its nursery stock container if you have not already done so earlier. Try to remove the old soil without unnecessarily damaging or tearing off the existing roots. Use a “combing action” with an old chopstick by holding the tree in one hand, chopstick in the other, and start at the bottom and outside areas of the root-ball. Work your way around and upward as you go along carefully combing out the roots and knocking off the old soil.

In most cases, you will need to remove a substantial amount of soil to get the tree into a bonsai pot. Some effort and experience will help in this regard. Over time you will know what is appropriate.

Be advised that the removal of soil and cutting of roots is an operation that is done in seasonal stages in relation to each type of tree. Its best to refer to other professional material if you are not sure, but with a little time, you should have no trouble in understanding this cycle. Page 117 – 120 of *Bonsai Techniques I* (by John Naka) has a nice chart for transplanting and soil changing. I will offer the following few tips and guidelines as a reference.

- *Peak Times for Transplanting* – you can begin repotting here in our Bay Area climate as early as February. Be careful of the danger of frost. February through April is one of the busiest

times for transplanting, also late September thru mid November.

- *New Shoots and Buds* – watch your bonsai coming out of winter, and as late January and early February arrive, get your bonsai repotted before the first shoot appear. This is especially true for apple, elm, junipers, maple, oak, plums and quince.
- *Conifers* – Pines should wait till mid to late February as a rule, and can be transplanted through end of April in many cases. Age and maturity of the pine will be a determining factor. Pines again can be transplanted in October, but not usually in the same year.

When determining how much of the roots to cutoff (or leave on as the case may be), you have a few simple factors to consider.

1. How much foliage and branches did I just cutoff?
2. How large (or small) is my new pot?
3. Are the remaining roots vigorous and strong?
4. Do I want to slow down the future growth?

Understand that your tree is about to be a bonsai for the very first time. Likely you are cutting off 50 to 70 percent of the roots. You want to ensure that any roots remaining can support the trunk and remaining branch structures, so use common sense. Don't over cut the root structure, but cut enough to slow down the growth and maintain what foliage you have on top.

Concentrate on removing the rootage just under the base of the trunk. The taproot must go. By removing the taproot, you promote smaller and more fibrous feeder roots. Promote root growth out to the sides of the pot.

Roots growing under the base of the trunk are trimmed back and removed severely each time you transplant and change the soil on your bonsai. Encourage the young, thin and fibrous brownish roots. Cut the older thicker black and harder roots as time goes by.

Have handy a spray bottle of water. Keep your roots moist during the operation. You can also use a solution of Vitamin B1 in your water if you like. This helps reduce the shock to transplanting to the tree and helps encourage new growth.

Positioning Bonsai in Pot

You must first prepare the selected pot for receiving the tree. Drainage holes should be covered with screen to avoid soil loss and anchor wire must be made available to tie your bonsai into its new home. Pulling each end of a single strand of wire through each drain hole does this. On the bowl side, bend each wire to a side for later use after the tree is positioned. *Note: in case this does not make sense, be assured that this will demonstrated this each month at the Bonsai Club meeting.*

Each style has a particular way of being positioned in the pot. Again, professional references like Paul Lesniewicz's book on page 181, gives you a real good idea of how to proceed in this area. Also, at each club meeting, Sensei will discuss these factors during his demonstrations. For now I can say it's an 'Art' as well as a 'Science'! ☺

After deciding the position of the tree in the pot, set the tree aside to complete final preparation.

Soil must be added to the bottom of the pot. For the first layer (bottom layer), try to use a course version of your soil as to promote good drainage. Better yet, use course lava rock or agricultural pumice as the first layer. Sift the material to remove the dust and fine particles. You want the size to be slightly smaller than a pea.

The next layer is you bonsai soil. Keep a small mound shape at the point where your trunk will rest. Retrieve the tree and position it over the mound. Let the roots flow over this mound and to the sides. You want to make sure the roots do not directly touch the bottom or sides of the bonsai pot.

Secure Bonsai to Pot

Resume the operation with the tree now that the pot is prepared. Position the trunk as before, keeping a keen eye out and make sure as you add

the remaining soil that you don't allow it to shift out of balance or alignment. Hold the tree with one hand and add a little soil. At this point it is time to secure the tree with the wire. Pull the wire together and twist it until snug. You will need to use your pliers to finish the job.

It is important that the base of the trunk is not riding in the pot to high or too low. This will look out of balance and awkward. You will get the hang of it with some practice.

The crown (top) of the bonsai should be leaning slightly forward, never (almost never) backward. Always check this detail during this step.

Fill Roots with Soil

Add the remaining bonsai soil to the pot at the root area. Use a single chopstick to work the soil into and around the roots. Work to eliminate as many air pockets as possible. You also want to work the soil in between any roots that may have become compressed to each other during the previous step used to secure the tree to the pot. Take your time and go around and around, starting close to the trunk and working outward as you go around. Always tap the side of the pot, from time to time, while working the new soil. This also helps to settle the new soil into the roots.

Attention to Final Details

Level off the soil – do not over fill the pot. If you add a top layer of soil dressing, make sure it stops about 1/4 to 1/8 inch from the inside top rim of the pot.

You may want to crumble some dried moss around the trunk, its optional. Just make sure it is good moss and not bad moss. There is a difference and you will come to know it.

Mist your bonsai with water. Try to give it a thorough watering as soon as possible. You should water it until the water runs clean from the drain holes.

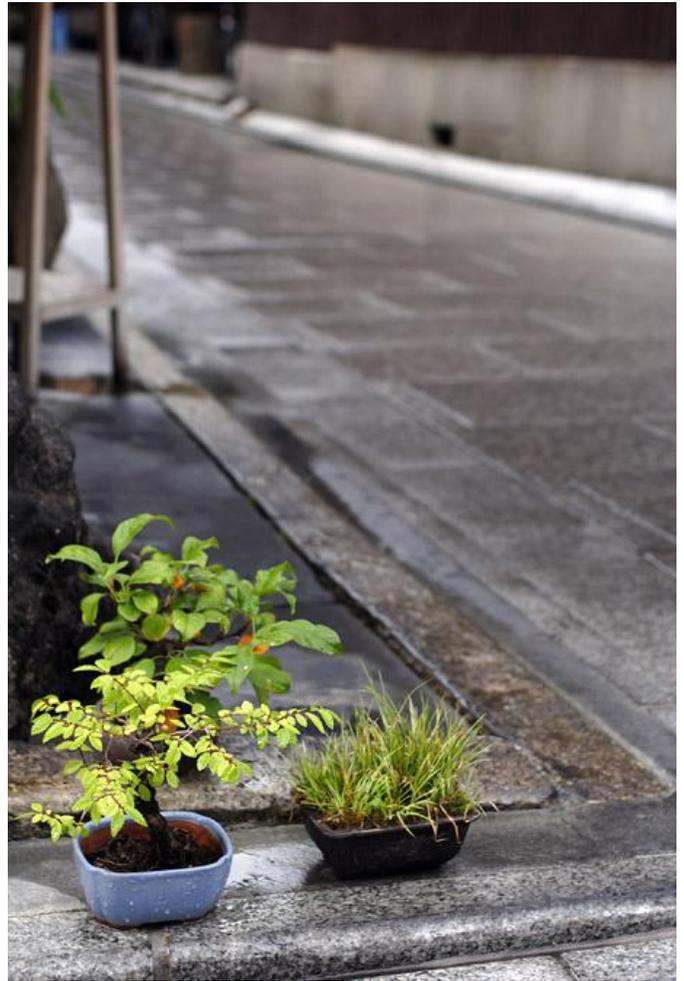
Make any adjustments to secondary branches that may have become bent or out of alignment during the operation that secured the tree to the pot.

The tree should be put in place and not moved for a minimum of 3 to 4 weeks. You do not want to disturb the bonsai during the start of the new root

Bonsai Basic – continued.

growing process. It should also be a semi-sheltered place that gets a little morning sun. Water often, perhaps even daily and mist the foliage while you are at it.

Bonsai Tip: don't take any wooden nickels.



Remember... keep your eye on Bonsai.

Ask me if you have questions

- Tony

<p>Email bonsaicho@comcast.net Phone 510-289-5731 evenings</p>



2017 GSBF CONVENTION



October 25 - 30, 2017

Marriott Riverside at the Convention Center

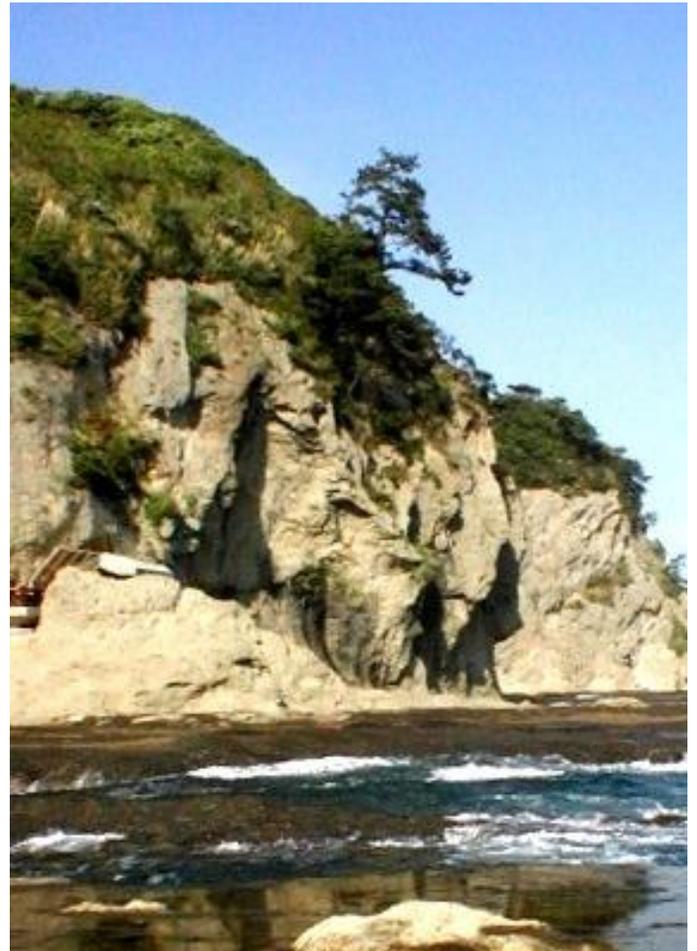
3400 Market Street

Riverside, California 92501

<http://www.gsbfconvention.org/>

GUEST ARTISTS

Bill Castellon, Tom Elias, Frank Goya, Jim Gremel,
Gasy Ishii, Peter Macasieb, Ted Matson, Frank
Mihalic, Fred Miyahara, Pauline Muth, Mike Pistello,
Bob Pressler, Steve Price, Kathy Shaner, Tak
Shimazu, Bob Shimon, Cary Sullivan, Michael Sykes,
Jonny Uchida, Bill Valavanis, Steve Valentine



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/>



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.

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## 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>                                                | <b>May</b><br>• open<br>• open<br>• open    | <b>September</b><br>• open<br>• open<br>• open |
| <b>February</b><br>• Tony Hayworth<br>• <b>open</b><br>• open | <b>June</b><br>• open<br>• open<br>• open   | <b>October</b><br>• open<br>• open<br>• open   |
| <b>March</b><br>• open<br>• open<br>• open                    | <b>July</b><br>• open<br>• open<br>• open   | <b>November</b><br>• open<br>• open<br>• open  |
| <b>April</b><br>• open<br>• open<br>• open                    | <b>August</b><br>• open<br>• open<br>• open | <b>December</b><br>• open<br>• open<br>• open  |

## YAMATO CLASSIFIEDS

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

## 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.*

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YAMATO BONSAI KAI – 2017 BOARD

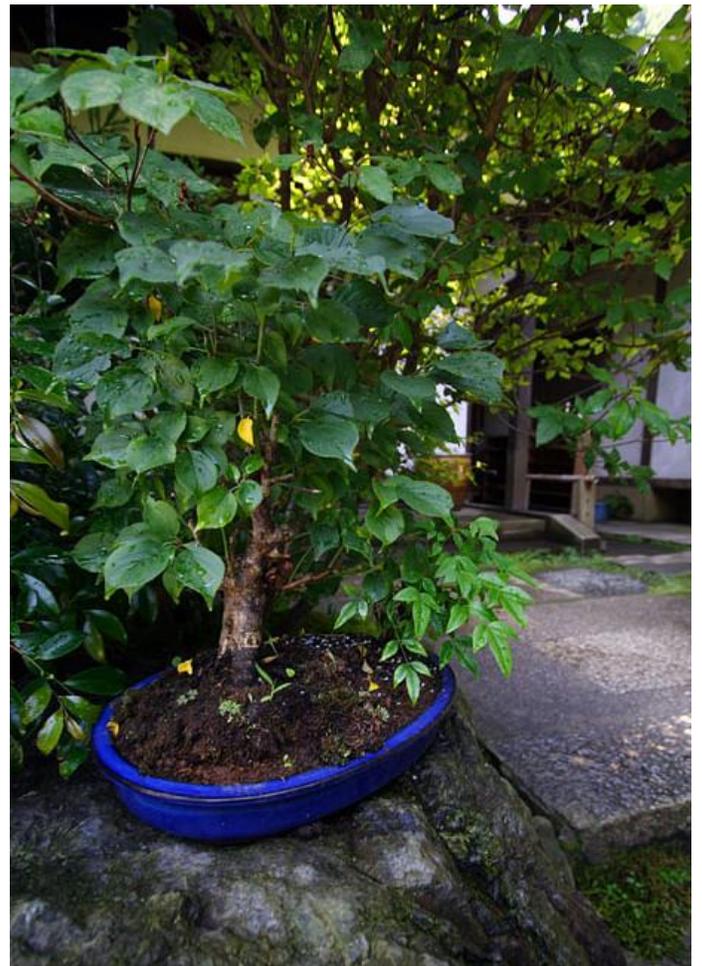
President	Tony Hayworth	510-289-5731
Vice President	Mike Butler	510-917-3592
Secretary	Gerry Bundy	To be confirmed
Treasurer	Dave Barron	510-456-6799
Director	2016/17	Casey Campbell
Director	2017/18	John Forsman
		925-827-9681
		To be confirmed

****WANTED ****

We are looking for contributors to the Newsletter.

If you would like to say something or contribute with pictures and captions (etc.), please contact Tony Hayworth

All contributions are due in writing (electronic transmission) by the first work day of the month.



YAMATO BONSAI KAI

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