



YAMATO BONSAI KAI

“FRIENDSHIP THROUGH BONSAI”

Since 1968

Newsletter - August 2010



MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD

By Tony Hayworth— President

Hello Yamato Bonsai Kai members. I want to thank everyone who came out on July 10th to the Southern Alameda County Buddhist Church (SACBC) to watch my demo during the annual summer festival at the church. This is the same location we will hold our Annual Fall Exhibition on October 16th & 17th. Please continue to work on a tree or two for display at the exhibition. Sensei has asked me to remind you that the show is for all club members, so do not be shy. Your tree should conform to a classical bonsai shape and be in good condition (that means healthy!). Yamato Club is about all levels of trees so show your spirit and come on out to support the show.

If you have any ideas for club activities, please bring your ideas forward to me or a board member. It takes some action and effort to get something done so please if you have ideas, be prepared to help advance them. Thank you.

For those of you with internet connections and know how to use and browse “You Tube”, I have stumbled across a series of video clips from an Australian gentleman named Lindsay Farr. If you enter the search: “lindsay farr's world of bonsai” you will sever several “episodes” of about 10 minutes in duration. I find them fascinating and informative. Give it a go mate, and let me know what you think!

Don't forget about the next Golden State Bonsai Federation Convention (Oct 28-31 in Santa Clara – see GSBF website for details). It's right around the corner.

Remember to take some time and keep you eye on bonsai.

AT THE NEXT CLUB MEETING...

On Tuesday, **August 17th**, Sensei Uchida will discuss cascade style bonsai. Don't miss this club meeting event.

PLACE: Castro Valley Women's Club,
18330 Redwood Road, Castro Valley, CA

Note: All Club Meetings start at 7:00 PM.

CLUB DEMONSTRATION SCHEDULE—2010

September 16 – October show preparation, bring show tree for critique

October 19 – October show discussion

November 16– Demonstration on collected trees, how to carve trunks and branches

December 21 – Pruning and shaping deciduous trees



SENSEI UCHIDA'S NOTES

By Johnny Uchida – Club Sensei

There are many different kinds of cascades. Formal cascades, “gaito kengai” (mountaintop style) cascades, “dai kengai” (extreme-almost vertical) cascade, gnarled trunk cascade a damaged portion of an upright tree is forced to cascade, but seeking the sun forms upright again. When you make cascade style bonsai it is not necessary to make a kengai, you cannot bend that far you could make semi-cascade-“han

kengai". If you can find a yamadori (collected tree) cascade or han kengai they are very beautiful trees. One easy to make material for cascade is Juniper Procumbens nana. I will bring some of these to make a cascade for our club meeting.

Hey, our bonsai show will be in 2 months, are you ready? If you want to bring the show tree I am more than happy to critique for you. We really like to have fall color because this is a fall show. I like to see your maple bonsai or some other kind of bonsai with good fall colors. So we are going to have 2 months to prepare the show trees I think we are going to have a very nice fall show. I will see you at the meeting.

THIS JUST IN

Last month I printed some photos from Tony Hayworth's workshop at his home. I forgot to attribute those photos which were provided by Vern Smith.
- Editor

YAMATO FALL SHOW UPDATE

By Michael Butler-Show Chairman

It's getting closer. The 39th Annual Yamato Bonsai Show is only 2 months away.

We now have all the committee chairperson positions filled and it looks like everything is coming together.

The layout for the Show and Hall arrangement is close to being done by Mike Baker, who in the past has always done a great job.

The tickets and flyers are all printed. The tickets were passed out to those in attendance at the last club meeting. If you have not received tickets for sale or need more please contact Karen Paulos. Remember, this is the only fundraiser that we as a club conducts each year. So please sell or purchase as many tickets as you can. Besides the demo trees this year are fantastic. Sensei has out done himself on the material. Our flier along with an invitation letter to participate in our Sunday, October 17th workshop has been mailed to all the local Bonsai clubs.

Emiko and Sandy will again co-chair the Hospitality this year. They will need more help this year as we do not have Friday to setup.

Plant Sales will be chaired again by Dennis Hawkins who will have tags and inventory control sheets available at the next meeting in August. It is up to each member that has plants for sale to tag each tree and to complete the inventory control sheet. The club gets 20% of each item sold. You may also make your item a donation to the club if you so wish. Items in the plant sale do not have to be trees though they must be Bonsai related.

Thee Kole will be running the silent auction and is requesting contact from members as soon as possible if they will donate trees or Bonsai related items (tools, books, magazines, pots etc). This year it was decided by the board to have all silent auction be a 100% donation to Yamato Bonsai Kai. If needed Dave Barron will have donation forms available at the show.

Transportation will again be run by Richard Paulos. If you have trees that are too big for your vehicle or trees that you cannot handle by yourself please contact Richard at least two weeks prior to the show. We need this lead time to schedule a route for Richard. All member trees will be picked up Saturday morning.

Lucky Crist will chair the Front Desk this year. We are hoping for a lot of members to pitch in for 2 hour blocks manning the desk so everyone gets time to see the show, the demo, visit and shop.

We hope everyone will donate some small (or big) item for the raffle after each demo. We are hoping for about 20 to 25 items each day. Please let Jack Ellis know if you are planning on donating items.

I will be doing the signups for the Workshop this year. Since we do not have Friday for setup we can only do the workshop on Sunday from 8AM to 11 AM. We can accommodate 10-12 people, so if you are planning on taking the workshop contact me as soon as you can. The cost is the same as last year \$75.

Now the hard part. SETUP and TEARDOWN. Setup will start at 6 AM on Saturday and I hope we will be finished around noon. We need as many people as possible. As the old adage goes 'Many hands makes light work'. Lunch will be provided by the club for those hard workers.

I am not too concerned about teardown as in the past everyone there at the end of the show has pitched in and helped.

Signup sheet will be available at the next club meeting for the different committees.

I want to thank all of my Chairpersons ahead of time because I know they are working very hard to make each and every show we do better than the last.

If anyone has questions or suggestions please contact me.

BONSAI BASIC

By Tony Hayworth

Since it is the middle of summer, one should be concentrating on shaping your bonsai. It is not a time to think about potting or repotting. Shaping can take two forms: by wiring and by pruning. The overall style of your tree and its progression in the ***bonsai development life cycle*** dictate how much of either way of shaping is required. I know what you are thinking right now... (what did he just say?), right? Let me break it down for you.

What is “Bonsai Development Life Cycle?” By this, I mean, what stage of training and development is your bonsai tree in? Is it still in a nursery pot; a pre-bonsai in stage one condition; a pre-bonsai in a stage two condition; an established bonsai of young age; an established bonsai of old age; or an established bonsai under re-shaping conditions. This is what I call the circle of life for a bonsai tree or its “development life cycle”. ***Key point:*** you never stop shaping (and pruning) your bonsai. Even though there is more work involved when you are at stage 1, 2 and 3 (and sometimes 6), it is necessary for you do this work to progress your tree, from a nursery pot to an established bonsai. This is what I call the art of shaping.

Shaping is a combination of skill, knowledge and a vision (or a plan). I said there were two forms when we think of shaping; let’s discuss wiring first, then pruning.

Wiring

You can make a plan to wire a branch, you can acquire the knowledge to know how to do it, but if you have no skill at it, your results will be poor. My lesson to you is about practicing. One does not improve

at wiring from simply just knowing how or having a vision about it, because these two areas are the easiest to develop. If you never master wiring you cannot progress a tree through the bonsai development life-cycle.

To develop yourself in the wiring area, I have two projects for you.

One – start by wiring trees in your yard. Not the whole tree, rather find some secondary branches of some inconspicuous tree and have at it. It’s practice. You may even want to try it on parts of a yard tree that you have pruned away.

Two – start with young and inexpensive nursery stock. I suggest juniper, as it is forgiving. Later move to other varieties to develop dexterity and skills with all types of conditions.

When wiring, there are a few things to consider: the appropriate thickness of the wire for the task at hand, the appropriate gap or angle while applying the wire, establishing a good anchor or the effort will not be effective. All these items are discussed thoroughly in professional bonsai reference books. I offer them here as reminders. Please come see me or any other senior member of the club for guidance and further explanation. And remember, the more the wire, the better the Bonsai, especially at its initial shaping.

Pruning

The other shaping topic for discussion is Pruning. Here is where knowledge of the major styles of bonsai comes into play along with a good eye. Sorry to keep reminding you, but you develop our eye for bonsai by looking at books or traveling to shows and nurseries.

Each species of tree have a few rules and seasonal care tips. Pine trees for example, are pruned (in the Bay Area) twice a year. This is done the last week of May (or early June) and again in late October. The shape is maintained by removing the “candles” in the 1st trimming of the year and any strong or long growth again in the 2nd trimming. Do not be afraid to prune your black pine. If you are afraid or not sure, I will be able to assist you. Unattended growth on a black pine will result in a “leggy condition” and your tree will quickly revert from a bonsai to an ordinary

tree in a pot.

Maples are another example of where pruning is essential at certain times of the year. With a maple bonsai, you must control the growth space between the leaf node pairs. This is done by pruning the very new growth at the tips, thus forcing new and smaller growth at earlier points on the branch. This technique is explained in many bonsai publications and is not hard to follow. Any questions on this please see me at our monthly meeting, or give me a call or email.

While you are watering your bonsai, look at your trees for the ones that are beginning to become “out of shape.” Make some time to pull these trees aside and attend to them sooner versus later. It is much easier to pinch and cut for shape than to do a rewiring job. Please keep this in mind.

Okay, given the above information you now have a couple of months to pay attention to your trees before the October show. Do your best! If your tree(s) are not ready this year to be in the fall show, that is okay, work on them for next years show. It takes careful attention and development for trees to move from the beginning stages into a bonsai that is fit for a show. Many years of care is involved to accomplish this.

There are other ways to participate in the fall show if you don't have a tree that is ready. While our goal is to have participation of at least one tree from every club member, in some cases this may not happen if your tree is not ready. Please come see me, or any of the senior club members, if you are not sure or have questions.

NEWBY NEWS

By Dennis Hacker

Leaf Curl Diseases

What is leaf curl?

Ever wonder why 'dormant spraying' is recommended? I did until this year. I am having a terrible time with leaf curl on my trees. At this time, seven of my Korean Hornbeams and all of my Japanese Maples are infected. They are slowly dying and I was at

my wits end to figure out what is going on. I believe all of us have had situations where leaves begin to curl and turn brown due to wind (wind burn on maples). The difference is that those trees have all the leaves on the windward side turning brown all along the leaves. With leaf curl, it is different. Plants sheltered from the wind curl and usually it is the newest leaves which curl.

Problems with Leaf Curl

Leaf curl has caused much damage over the years. It makes the amount of leaves and fruit produced by trees significantly lower. It has caused many trees to die. The disease also costs the United States 2.5 to 3 million dollars annually in lost fruit and trees. However, it is believed that this disease is preventable from such serious effects. If the correct spray (usually lime sulfur) are used, a 98% yield of healthy fruit is obtained. If trees are not sprayed with specific chemicals early enough, and if the tree is treated after the host tissue is infected, treatment is ineffective.

Symptoms

Leaf Curl has characteristics that are very differentiating and easily noticeable. Diseased leaves can usually be picked out early after leaving the bud due to their reddish color and arched shape. As the leaves develop, they appear distorted and fold their tips backwards. Diseased leaves are usually thicker and softer than the normal, unharmed leaves. The colors of the leaves are also unique. Instead of the normal green spring leaves, the colors turn yellow, followed by purple, until finally a whitish bloom covers each leaf. Twigs may show signs of sickness, such as being black in color and swollen. Fruit can be affected, showing a reddish color. Infected leaves fall early. The tree may produce a second crop of leaves that is never diseased, because the fungus cannot survive at the higher temperatures in late spring and early summer. In the Bay area the temperature this year is quite cool, relatively speaking, and I've had a lot of curl until now. The fungus prefers the high humidity in the early spring because it permits spores to germinate. If the tree is infected for consecutive years death may occur. The problem with leaf curl is that if you purchase a tree with curl, you don't know if it is normal or a disease.

Causes of Leaf Curl

When a virus is the cause of leaf curl in a plant, usually an insect will carry the virus to the plant. This is such the case in sweet potato leaf curl, carried by the sweet potato whitefly. The whitefly also has been found to transport the leaf curl virus to tomatoes. This has been seen since 1997 in Florida, and has since spread to other southern states. The virus was recently seen in South Carolina, and with the abundance of whiteflies in the state, has the potential to spread out of the southeastern United States. The *Geminiviridae* virus has also been seen to spread by the transport of nursery soils. The virus appears to stay in soil, and when a new crop is planted, affects the new host.

When a whitefly (and some other carriers of viruses) eats leaves on an infected plant, the virus enters its saliva and is spread when the fly eats at a healthy tree. This explains the rapid amount of trees infected in a given area.

A fungal disease that causes leaf curl (*Taphrina deformans*) is one of the most common disease problems found in backyard orchards. It appears in spring as reddish areas on developing leaves. These areas become thickened and puckered, causing leaves to curl and distort. When severe, leaf curl can substantially reduce fruit production and can cause tree death.

Disease fungi overwinter as spores (conidia) underneath bark, around buds, and in other protected areas. Early in the growing season, during cool, wet spring weather, the spores infect new leaves as they emerge from the buds. Later, the fungus produces great numbers of new spores which are splashed or blown from tree to tree. Leaf curl is most active at temperatures between 50 and 70 degrees F. Because the disease can occur at relatively low temperatures, cool weather is thought to extend the infection period because the new leaves are growing slowly. Wet weather is necessary for infection.

Other common diseases caused by fungus include the Dutch Elm Disease, Chestnut Blight, Leaf Spot, and Ergot.

Control of the Disease

Although other methods are under investigation, spraying the leaves with fungicides are the most common and efficient control of the disease. It is impor-

tant for spraying to occur well before budding. Different areas in climates depict the type of fungicide used and how often, since experiments have shown that the fungi are temperature dependent. Some fungicides commonly used include, among other things, copper based mixtures and lime sulfurs. Spray the entire tree after 90% of the leaves have dropped in the fall, and again in the early spring, just before the buds open. Keep the ground beneath the trees clean, especially during the winter months. Prune and destroy infected plant parts as they appear. If leaf curl is severe, cut back more than normal, watering regularly (avoiding wetting the leaves if possible), and applying extra nitrogen fertilizer.

If a plant appears to have symptoms of leaf curl, precautions can be taken to maximize the crops for that spring. The trees are often treated with nitrogen and excess water to minimize stress on the tree. So the tree can focus on producing good fruit, thinning the tree out might also help. It would be advantageous to take away the infected leaves and fruit after they fall to the ground so that next years tree might not get infected. Fungicide might also be used during the dormant season.

So, why do we dormant spray? To keep down disease.....Do it annually.

References

1. ^ Peach leaf curl, *Taphrina deformans* at West Virginia University
2. ^ Gray, William D.. *The Relation of Fungi to Human Affairs*. New York: Henry Holt and Company, Inc., 1959. Print.
3. ^ Chester, Kenneth Starr. *Nature and Prevention of Plant Diseases*. 2nd. Philadelphia: The Blakiston Company, 1947. Print.
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6. ^ Gray, William D.. *The Relation of Fungi to Human Affairs*. New York: Henry Holt and Company, Inc., 1959. Print.
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10. ^ Simmons, Alan, and Kai-shu Ling, and Harrison Howard, and David Jackson. "Whitefly Transmission of the Sweet Potato Leaf Curl Virus." New Approaches for Insect Pest Management in Vegetable Crops Web.14 Apr 2009. <http://www.ars.usda.gov/research/publications/publications.htm?SEQ_NO_115=224077>.

11. ^ Ling, Kai-shu, and Alvin Simmons. "First Report of Tomato Leaf Curl Virus in South Carolina." Biologically Based Management of Vegetable Crop Diseases Web.14 Apr 2009. <http://www.ars.usda.gov/research/publications/publications.htm?seq_no_115=183689>.

12. ^ Gray, William D.. The Relation of Fungi to Human Affairs. New York: Henry Holt and Company, Inc., 1959. Print.

13. ^ Smith, S.E.. What is Peach Leaf Curl?. 2009. WiseGEEK. 14 Apr 2009 <<http://www.wisegeek.com/what-is-peach-leaf-curl.htm>>.

14. ^ Gray, William D.. The Relation of Fungi to Human Affairs. New York: Henry Holt and Company, Inc., 1959. Print.

15. ^ "Peach--Leaf Curl." An Online Guide to Plant Disease Control. 01 Jan 2008. Oregon State University. 14 Apr 2009 <<http://plant-disease.ippc.orst.edu/disease.cfm?RecordID=794>>.

16. ^ DeQuattro, Jim, and Dennis Senft, and Marcia Wood. "The Whitefly Plan: A five-year Update." 06 Feb 2007. United States Department of Agriculture: Agricultural Research Service. 14 Apr 2009 <<http://www.ars.usda.gov/is/AR/archive/feb97/fly0297.htm>>.

Watch out for leaf curl problems. Routine dormant spraying will control the condition.

Last month, I discussed borers. I stated that I was using Bayer® 2-in-1 granules. Well, I don't think it is working as I am still getting needle browning. I continue to look for another treatment and will let you know.

Next month: Scale insects



GSBF CALENDAR OF EVENTS

(For a more complete list, please refer to Golden State-ments calendar of events or visit the web site at www.gsbfbonsai.org).

Some nearby scheduled events are:

Aug 28-29

Santa Rosa, California

Redwood Empire Bonsai Society (REBS): 27th Annual Show at the Santa Rosa Veterans Building, 1351 Maple Avenue. (Opposite the Sonoma County Fairgrounds.) Hours are Saturday, 10AM-5PM and Sunday, 10AM-4PM. Over 200 trees on exhibit, large vendor area, members' sales area, raffles and a silent auction. Demonstration both days at 1:30PM by Kathy Shaner. Free admission and parking. Contact Bob Shimon at 707-884-4126 or shimon@mcn.org for further information.

October 28-31

Santa Clara, California

Golden State Bonsai Federation Convention XXXIII: "New Face of Bonsai." The "New Faces" will shape the Art of Bonsai for years to come with the guidance and vision of these new teachers, and the GSBF 2010 will be able to receive the new visions of bonsai and participate in the future of Bonsai. The July/Aug issue of Golden State-ments will contain convention registration information. For more information visit <http://www.gsbfbconvention.com>



YAMATO CLASSIFIEDS

Notice: *if you want to advertise something in this space, please compose your text and contact the Newsletter Editor.*

Pre-Bonsai and Bonsai - For Sale – Tony Hayworth has many bonsai and pre-bonsai material for sale... including some large landscape sized bonsai styled trees. These would make great focal points for any landscape or yard re-do projects that you may be planning. 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: 510-289-5731 or bonsaicho@comcast.net

THIS MONTH ...

A very Happy Birthday to:

August

2nd – Mike Baker
2nd – Allen Hightower
7th – MaryEllen Hawkins
8th – Ru Wing Chen

Happy Anniversary and many more
5th – Kathleen & Patrick Corbiere
6th – Diana & Walter Kitajima
8th – Jan & Al Shurtleff

YAMATO BONSAI KAI – 2010 BOARD

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CONTACT US

If you need to mail anything to the club in general, please send to:

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If there is anything you would like to contribute or comment on regarding the newsletter, contact the editor, Noah Hanna, at noah@invalidargument.com

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

YAMATO BONSAI KAI

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