



The Bent Twig

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of Sacramento*

Dedicated to learning, enjoying and promoting bonsai.

April 2011

Monthly Meeting: April 26th



Featuring TED MATSON: Shohin Redwood

Don't miss our Tuesday meeting!

Ted Matson will style a beautiful shohin size yamadori redwood collected by Bob and Zack Shimon of Mendocino Bonsai. The demo tree will be raffled at the end of the evening. Ted is well known for his expertise with shohin trees and is always an entertaining and informative speaker.

Ted brings a long history in bonsai and a wealth of knowledge he is eager to share. The recent past president of the Golden State Bonsai Federation has been active in bonsai since 1979. After learning the basics of bonsai from in San Francisco, Ted moved to Southern California in 1980 and furthered his education with numerous bonsai masters there. Studying with the best teachers in the area such as Ben Susuki, Shig and Roy Nagatoshi, Melba Tucker, Warren Hill and John Naka, Ted was an eager and talented student and it wasn't long before he was mentoring new students of his own. Ted travels throughout California and the US lecturing, leading study groups and giving demonstrations and is much sought after for his talent, depth of knowledge and accessible approach to bonsai. He writes frequently for the Golden Statements publication and is a featured demonstrator at conventions and bonsai shows throughout the country.

Refreshments: Ann Hultgren & Myrt Rust

2011 ABAS Spring Show

Our club's 52nd annual show was held the weekend of April 9th and 10th, and we were lucky to have good weather after predicted rainy weather. Bob Shimon, once again, delighted full-house audiences with his demonstrations...both Saturday and Sunday. Thanks to all who helped throughout the weekend, and special thanks to Show Chairman, Greg McDonald!



Bill's wisteria was a star of the show!



Bob Shimon demos to a full house both days



The "bunny" suiseki was a big hit with show visitors



Bob's redwood demo was won by Gigi, daughter of club members Bruce and Amanda

Wow! Crabapple!





Bob Shimon's wonderful redwood



Can you say ramification?



Show chairman Greg is smiling at a successful show.

The Spring Garden Center Sale was a success for the club!



The annual sale to support the Shepard Garden Center was held the weekend of March 26th and 27th. On Saturday the rain came down but we still sold over one hundred items. On Sunday the sun shone and by the end of the day there was not much left on the table. The club covered the cost of the tables and made \$289.

A big thank you to everyone who contributed items, bought items, and especially to our hardworking sales people who braved the cold and the rain. Special thanks to Ann Harris for organizing this event for the ABAS.

March demo – Peter Adams vs. Pygmy Cypress



Peter Adams was our featured artist at the March ABAS Meeting. Peter started with a drawing, shown at left, of the Mendocino Cypress. This shows the tree planted on a custom-made fiberglass rock. The rock's construction allows for a minimum of original soil, if any, need be removed...a critical factor in succeeding with this species.

At our March meeting Bonsai superstar Peter Adams presented a fascinating demonstration on a Mendocino Cypress collected by the Shimon's. Peter began by unveiling his drawing of the future concept for the tree, planted on a fiberglass faux rock slab. Peter described in detail the technique for making the slab.



The pygmy cypress before

Peter spoke about working with pygmy cypress. He has had prior experience with this tree and emphasizes the importance of taking things slowly. The trees are found growing in very poor alkaline clay soil which naturally dwarfs the tree. He advised to change very slowly to bonsai soil, no more that $\frac{1}{4}$ of the soil per year.

Peter removed unnecessary branches and wired the tree with aluminum wire which he prefers because it is gentler and more elastic. The structure of a rugged windswept tree began to take shape. The tree suggests an ancient cypress standing on a rocky coastal cliff.



Lucky Ann Harris takes home another masterpiece.

The tree and the wonderful drawing were raffled and won by Ann Harris. If Ann keeps up this winning streak she'll soon have one of the finest bonsai collections around!

? ASK THE EXPERTS ?

The following question was submitted in the "Ask The Experts" box at the January meeting and was submitted to several of our most experienced members.

"When is the best time to repot Satsuki Azaleas"

Answers are as follows:

1. It is OK to start repotting in February. I usually wait until March because that is the time you can do almost anything to a Satsuki, heavy pruning, etc. When I first started in azaleas we always did repotting after the bloom period but Mr. Gondo had us do it earlier. So, I think you can repot from early in the year through June. If your azalea is not in kanuma and you are switching to kanuma you have to make certain all the old soil is totally gone. The root ball need to be washed with a strong spray. If already in kanuma, you just need to trim the root ball an inch or two, making a concavity on the underside and replace it in new soil.
2. In the early 1990s, Sensei Suisho Nakayama and Sensei Tatemori Gondo, both noted satsuki bonsai masters from Japan, arrived in Sacramento and introduced the new technology on the care of satsuki. They conducted a three-year intensive and extensive course on satsuki at the defunct El Dorado Bonsai Nursery, Placerville, which resulted in graduates being certified as instructors on satsuki azaleas. They taught that the proper time for repotting satsuki is late January-March.
3. I have always repotted Satsuki's just like the rest of my bonsai. I wait until the deciduous trees have lost their leaves (November-December) and they are going dormant. I take out old soil and about 30% of the root mass being sure I clean out the area immediately below the trunk. The flower buds are already formed and I am careful not to disturb them. I have had good luck repotting Satsuki's from December until March and they seem to do fine with no shortage of flowers or vigor. Satsuki's are some of our most vigorous bonsai.



Workshop with Peter Adams

A workshop with Peter Adams was held at Greg McDonalds home on Friday, March 18th. (Note: this is just two days before the first day of Spring!) Peter brought along custom made pots ordered from Walsall Studio Ceramics in England specifically for the workshop trees.



(Clockwise from top left) Snow in April? Bob, Greg, Peter, Marybeth, Paul and Pat enjoying the bracing atmosphere, Greg's Japanese Black Pine in it's new red + black oxide finish rectangular pot, and Paul's Israeli Oak in it's new moss grey deep rectangular pot.



UPCOMING A.B.A.S. EVENTS

Tuesday, April 26th

ABAS Monthly Meeting

Ted Matson will style a collected Shohin Redwood. Don't miss seeing Ted work his magic on this amazing little tree....and maybe win it during the raffle.

Refreshments: Ann Hultgren & Myrt Rust

Saturday, May 7th & Sunday, May 8th

SBC Annual Show

Sacramento Bonsai Club Annual Show at the Sacramento Betsuin Buddhist Church, 2401 Riverside Blvd. Saturday 12 Noon – 5pm and Sunday 10am - 5pm. Demonstrations by Boon Manakitivipart at 2pm both days.

Saturday, May 14th **Collecting with S.F. Suiseki Kai**
Tanseki at the Eel River. Contact Carolyn Van Hoecke for details.

Saturday, May 21st & Sunday, May 22nd **Satsuki Aikokai Show**
Shepard Garden Center. Saturday 10am – 5pm and Sunday 10am- 4pm.

Tuesday, May 24th **ABAS Monthly Meeting**
Bob Shimon will style one of his beautiful collected redwoods. This magnificent tree will be raffled following the demonstration.
Refreshments: Bob Michael & Ann Harris.

Presidents Message By: Paul Holtzen



Congratulations! to 2011 ABAS Spring Show chairman Greg McDonald and all the club members who worked so hard to make our 2011 show another huge success! I hesitate to mention names because I will leave someone out, but some people always can be counted on and deserve our thanks:

- Ann, along with Carolyn, Pam and Bill made the vendor and sales area great.
- Renee , with the help of Timm, organized a fun and exciting raffle.
- Elaine spent the whole show working the raffle ticket sales.
- Barbara and Jill did a super job with the tree labels.
- As always, Marilyn, Kathy and Myrt made sure we got fed in style.
- Kurt, Howard and Kitty spent hours manning the entry table.
- Dolores, Ann and Lucy made sure we had a great variety of accent plants.
- Clarence and Walt organized the suiseki display.
- Special thanks to everyone who helped set the show up, and especially those who stayed and helped take it down on Sunday.

I also want to thank everyone who worked the floor during the show, both protecting our trees and educating and entertaining our visitors. Several times I saw a group of people gathered around Roger as he regaled them with stories of the bonsai.

Our Spring Show is the club's main fund raising event and our last few shows have been so successful that we have gone from being out of money a few years ago to now

having the nice problem of trying to decide how to spend more money to improve the club and remain non profit. One thing the board has decided on is to invest in all new backdrops to give our show a more professional appearance. If you have suggestions of things you would like to see the club do, please tell me, another officer or board member.

Paul



Spring comes to the Bonsai Garden at Lake Merritt, home to some of the finest Bonsai in northern California and California's only public bonsai collection.

Thanks to Ann Harris, Renee Seely, Peter & Kate Adams Roger Steel and Paul Holtzen for their contributions to this newsletter. We welcome your contributions ...please feel free to submit articles of interest to other ABAS members. Send articles to Karen Holtzen: kholtzen@sbcglobal.net.

