



The Bent Twig

Dedicated to the learning, enjoying and promoting of bonsai

January Business Meeting



Dino announced that the club had approximately \$7700 in the treasury. Other items discussed included:

- Show Preparation – Bob Bugay told members that he will be presenting information on pot selection and show preparation for our trees at the February meeting.
- Ann Harris, new member chair, announced that the club will sponsor a beginner bonsai workshop at Maruyama's Nursery on Saturday, February 9th from 9:00 – 12:00.
- Dino asked for a volunteer to chair the nomination committee for the election of new officers which will occur in June at the Luau. Kitty Gerwig volunteered to prepare the slate of officers. Thanks Kitty!
- Dino announced that the annual Bus Trip is tentatively scheduled for Saturday, March

30th. More details will be presented at the February meeting.

- Kitty is on the Board of the Garden Center and mentioned that both the Board and the Friends of the Garden Center are looking for new board members. Both meet on the 1st Monday of the month (6:30 p.m. for the Friends of the Garden Center and 7:00 p.m. for the Garden Center Board).
- Dino discussed the Spring Show, April 13th and 14th and the guest artist Michael Hagedorn. Michael wrote a book on his experiences in Japan while studying under a bonsai master. Contact Dino if you would like to purchase a copy (\$15).
- Kitty announced that the Garden Center Spring Sale is scheduled for March 23rd and 24th. Plants may be brought to the Garden Center Friday, March 22nd. **If you wish to sell at this event, please contact Renee Seely for a seller's number. Non-bonsai related items may also be sold at this event.**
- Paul Holtzen, Spring Show Chair, asked everyone to review the committees for the show and select one that you would enjoy working on – you can either contact Paul or the committee chairperson to volunteer.
 - Paul also stressed that the club goal is to have every member show a tree. Doc Ward, Paul and John Cota are available to visit member homes and help with tree selection.
 - Dino discussed the show entry form that is available on the website. If

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you want to show a tree, please fill out the form and submit it and Paul will contact you. Knowing how many large, medium and small bonsai will be displayed will assist Greg McDonald with show set up.

- Show trees should be selected months in advance according to Ted Matson so that the tree and the pot can be properly prepared.
- Clarence Smith has volunteered to be the official show photographer and he will need two or three volunteers to move and photograph trees.

Scott Chadd – January Guest Artist



Scott presented a lecture on branch selection using a beautiful old Chinese elm that he imported many years ago. He also brought 10 Japanese maples for the club to style and pot up for the raffle.

Before he started the lecture, he mentioned that he no longer ties his forests into the pot with wire.

Very small movements can alter the entire look of a forest arrangement and using wire inevitably causes unwanted movement. So instead of wiring the trees to the pot, Scott uses moss (a beautiful moss he grows) that has a layer of clay on the bottom. Watering this moss and pressing it around the trees stabilizes the arrangement thus eliminating the need for wire.

Scott also warned against letting your tree dry out in freezing weather. The soil should have water in it to avoid root damage.

Scott discussed the Chinese elm used for the pruning demonstration. These trees are raised in the mountains and grow in forests – from fifteen to thirty feet tall. Whole villages are involved with developing these trees as bonsai and harvesting and shipping them. Once a tree is sufficiently developed (and reduced to a manageable height), the tree is cut at the bottom, and placed in the sand at a nearby river to strike roots. In essence these huge trees are treated like a huge cutting. Once they strike roots they are shipped all over the world.

Chinese elm and many other deciduous trees make wonderful silhouette displays at this time of year. This is the perfect time of year to prune unwanted branches and design the future of your bonsai. Minor flaws can be covered by foliage so you can really study your trees when they are in silhouette.

Scott stressed that branch complexity (ramification) is the goal and this complexity should take place close to the trunk. The closer to the trunk branches ramify, the more believable it is that they are a forest giant.

The main mistake new bonsai folks make is not making decisive cuts early. They start working out on the end of the limbs, too far away from the trunk. If you start at the end of the limb you can never build complex branching near the trunk – you'll always be working at the end of the limb. Scott also stressed that when you prune you are looking to go from thick to thin. Thicker branches should be close to the trunk and the thinner branches should be on the periphery. When there is a thin branch behind a thicker branch towards the end of the limb,

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the thick should be cut and the thinner branch will take its place.



The group then split up and members worked on maples provided by Scott.



Scott stressed that you have to cut branches to get that finer texture. The leaves on this huge elm are the size of a pencil eraser because the twiggy of the branches keeps the leaves from getting too big.



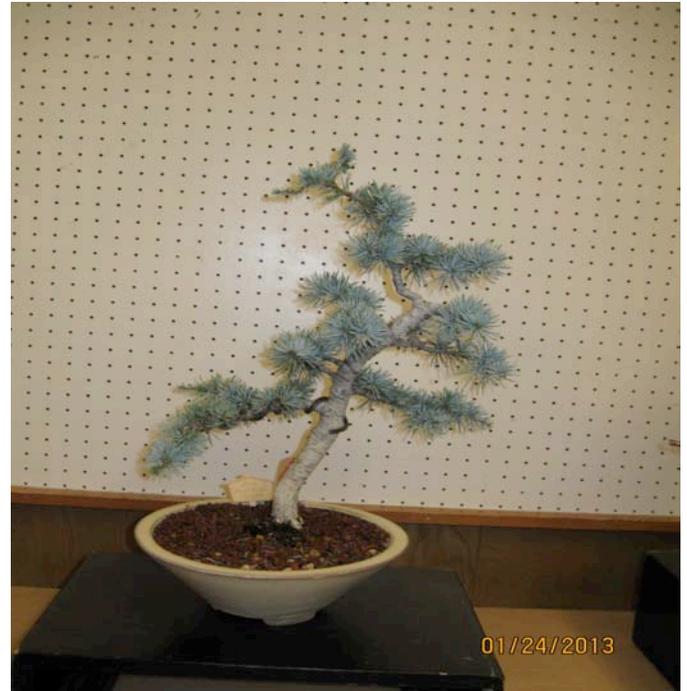
Scott also had the following advice:

- Elm has hard wood and it doesn't rot. Once, however, he put moss into some hollows on the tree and he developed an epidemic of sooty mold. Aphids bring the mold and in order to get rid of it, he had to pressure wash the tree. So be careful where you place moss.
- Dormant spray should be used at this time of year – Scott sprays three separate times - two weeks apart. He no longer uses lime sulfur or copper sprays on his trees because he has lost too many trees. So instead, he uses paraffinic oil (15 gallons of water to 1 quart of oil – not that we'd need that much). These oils are easier to use and less toxic.

Show and Tell



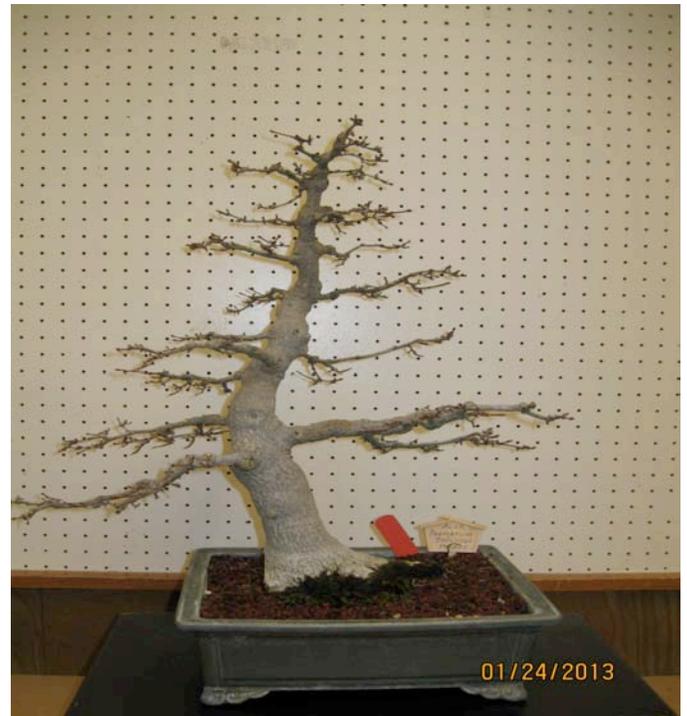
Scott is working on the special raffle prize above.



Dino's blue atlas cedar above started out ten feet tall and he's been cutting it back to reach this height.



Del Bane is the lucky winner of tree designed by Scott.



This is maple was given to Dino as a Father's Day present on his daughter's first birthday.

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John Cota prepared the amur maple groupings above.



Grass companion plant reflects the season.



The picture above shows a lovely quince cascade.





The Japanese maple above is Renee's and has beautiful ramification.



Jason's pine has a great trunk.

Club Dues - 2013

Please remember to renew your dues by the February meeting. Dues are \$40 and you may pay Renee Seely at the meeting or mail your dues and the renewal form to her at 1636 Vallarta Circle, Sacramento, 95834. The renewal form will be available on the website and will be mailed to all members.

Your annual dues will provide ABAS members with an incredible year of bonsai experiences. The schedule of guest artists this year is especially exciting and your dues help the club bring these talented artists to our monthly meetings. Payment may be made at the meetings with cash, check or credit card.

February Club Meeting

Bob Bugay will assist members with show preparation and pot selection at the February meeting.

Part I: Show Preparation: Bob will lead a discussion on preparing your bonsai for the upcoming show, and the importance of getting your tree(s) in the best possible condition before the show. This will be a discussion only and there will be no hands on at the meeting.

Part II: Pot/Container Selection: Bob will also lead a discussion on some of the principles of bonsai pot size, shape and color which will help us choose the proper containers for our trees. If you are looking for a pot to enhance your tree, please bring the tree and we will discuss pot selection.

The raffle prize for the meeting will be a Yamaki pot – a pot from one of the best pot makers in Japan.

Part III: Maruyama Nursery Workshop: Members are invited to a workshop on Saturday, March 2nd at Maruyama Nursery from 8:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. This will be a “hands on” workshop to prepare show trees and Bob and other experienced members will be available to assist with show preparation. **Please collect and bring moss to this workshop. There will be a limited amount of moss available, but we need as much as we can get.**

March Club Meeting

The March club demonstration will be presented by David Nguy. Mr. Nguy studied in Japan with Masahiko Kimura and he is a very talented bonsai artist from Southern California. David will work on a California juniper which will be raffled after the demonstration. We are very fortunate to have scheduled Mr. Nguy for our guest artist, as he doesn't usually appear in the Sacramento area.

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Annual Bus Trip – March 30th

The club's annual bus trip is open to all members and friends at a cost of \$35 per person and it will take place Saturday, March 30th. We will depart from the Garden and Art Center (please do not park in the parking lot) at 8:15 a.m. and will return to the Center at approximately 7:40 p.m. The trip will visit the following sites:

- GSBF Collection at Lake Merritt – from 10:00 a.m. until 11:15 a.m.
- Gordon Deet's Private Collection in Atherton. The collection has 400-500 bonsai including many owed by Bonsai Professional Kathy Shaner. The group will have lunch here and the stop will be from 12:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
- Grove Way Bonsai Nursery, Johnny Uchida. Mr. Uchida's nursery will have numerous styled and semi-styled bonsai, nursery plants, bonsai soils, pots, stones, tools, books, wire, etc. This stop is scheduled from 2:30 p.m. until 4:00 p.m.
- Enchanted Forest Bonsai Nursery, David Chimpky. Mr. Chimpky's nursery offers bonsai in various sizes and stages of training, collected trees, nursery stock, lace rocks, etc. This stop is scheduled from 4:15 p.m. until 6:00 p.m. when the bus will return to Sacramento.

If you want to reserve a spot on the bus, call Dino at (916) 684-8713, and please pay Renee at a club meeting or sent payment to her at 1636 Vallarta Circle, Sacramento, 95834.

Annual Spring Show With Michael Hagedorn

The following members have volunteered to chair committees at our annual show:

- Greg McDonald – Exhibit Chair
- Ann Hultgren – Vendor Chair
- John and Ramona Cota – Member Sales Chair (Bonsaithis@aol.com)
- Renee Seely – Raffle Chair (breadcrust@comcast.net)

- Clarence Smith – Show Photographer (csbonsai@macnexus.org)
- Marilyn Irvine and Myrt Rust – Kitchen
- Kathleen O'Donnell – Program Chair
- John Cota, Doc Ward, Paul Holtzen – Tree Selection

All of these committees will need folks to help so there will be many more opportunities to volunteer. Please see one of the chairpersons if you wish to work on a specific committee.

Garden Center Spring Sale

The Garden Center Spring Sale will be held March 23rd and 24th. Volunteers to help at the sale are needed. If you wish to sell garden or bonsai related items, please see Renee at the February meeting for a seller's number, or e-mail her at breadcrust@comcast.net.

Refreshment Schedule

The following members have volunteered to bring snacks to the monthly meetings. Please feel free to help out and bring something additional during any of these months. Please email Barbara (jwbek@sbcglobal.net) if you can provide snacks for the months following May.

February – Pam and Howard Gallegos

March – Marilyn Irvine

April – Kathy O'Donnell

May – Paul Holtzen

<u>Calendar of Bonsai Events:</u>
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- **February 23rd and 24th Mammoth Fundraiser at the Lakeside Garden Center, 666 Bellevue Ave, Oakland.**
- **February 26th ABAS Meeting with Bob Bugay**
- **March 2nd Show Preparation Workshop at Maruyama's Nursery, 8:30 – 12:00.**
- **March 23rd and 24th – Garden Center Spring Sale.**
- **March 26th ABAS Meeting with David Nguy.**
- **April 6th and 7th Bonsai Sekiyu Kai Annual Show at the Sacramento Betsuin Buddhist Church (2401 Riverside Blvd).**
- **April 13th and 14th ABAS Annual Show.**
- **May 4th and 5th Sacramento Bonsai Club's Annual Bonsai and Suiseki Show at the Betsuin Buddhist Church.**
- **May 18th and 19th Satsuki Aikokai of Sacramento's 40th Annual Show.**

**American Bonsai Association
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