



The Bent Twig

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Dedicated to learning, enjoying and promoting bonsai.

June 2012

Presidents Message by: Paul Holtzen



Sometimes we tend to get the bonsai summertime blues this time of year but there is a lot to do with our trees. Now is a great time to start air – layers and take cuttings for propagation. Black pine candle cutting time is here. Hot weather is a good time to apply lime – sulfur to deadwood. June is an especially good time to defoliate our broad leaf trees, and that is the topic of our June meeting. Greg McDonald and I will lead a hands – on workshop on defoliation, this should be a fun meeting with everyone working on trees. We will also raffle off a very nice cork oak after Greg and I work on it. For the meeting to be successful everyone possible should bring a tree that is ready for defoliation as well as your bonsai tools. Aluminum wire will be provided by the club. Trees that can be defoliated include deciduous and live oaks, maples, hornbeams, liquidambar, privets, olives, boxwood, and more. A tree is healthy enough to be defoliated if it has been well fed and allowed to grow vigorously this spring. Weak trees, trees that were repotted this spring, and any trees that have had recent major work done on them should not be defoliated. Defoliation is usually not recommended for fruiting and flowering trees.

Why do we defoliate? Defoliation fools the tree into thinking it is springtime all over again, enabling us to get two years of development in one year. This increases branch ramification usually resulting in leaf size reduction and shorter internodes. Because we are tricking the tree's metabolism we can also safely repot the tree after the leaves are removed. It is also a good opportunity to wire and trim branches as needed. The trees should get filtered sun for a couple of weeks after the procedure and moved into more direct sun after the new buds pop.

This meeting is also our annual election of officers so it is important to attend and make your vote count!

See you Tuesday and *don't forget to bring a tree!*

The following is a reprint from the club newsletter in 1965 written by Mrs. Ben Sisson and preserved by Dan Buckley.

THE HISTORY OF THE AMERICAN BONSAI ASSOCIATION

In the spring of 1956, Richard Geisreiter gave the first class in the “Art of Creating Bonsai” at the Sacramento YMCA. Fifteen finished the class and were the charter members of The American Bonsai Association. The organizational meeting was held at Mr. Geisreiter’s home on June 4, 1958.

Richard Geisreiter grew up in a family of florists, amid greenhouses and growing grounds. He began the study of bonsai over fifteen years ago. As there were no books available in English at the time, he started in a Japanese language school. He also met the local Japanese interested in Bonsai, although he never took lessons from them. He collaborated with Tatsue Ishimoto on the latter’s book “The Art of Growing Miniature Trees, Plants and Landscapes” and many of the illustrations in the book were of trees trained, created or imported by Dick. Mr. Geisreiter has also been a judge of Bonsai at the State Fair for years.

The founding group exhibited at the State Fair in September 1958 and won sixth place. One of the members arranged a trip to Wentworth Springs to gather trees. By this time a Constitution and By-Laws had been drawn up and the group was opened to new members.

Mr. Marvin Blanchard became the first President, and served for two years to July 1, 1960. At first, meetings were to be four to five times a year, but the interest of new members soon demanded monthly meetings and classes.

The club sponsored classes, given by Mr. Geisreiter, in the winter of 1959-60 and again in 1960-61. The classes were open to the public.

Our second President was Daniel Buckley (July 1960-61) who taught so many the Art of Bonsai. He is still serving in this function now and many of his pupils have joined after finishing the Club’s sponsored course under his tutelage. The following April, Mr. Ben Sisson arranged the Club’s first Bonsai Tour to the Bay Area. This has now become a popular annual event.

Mr. Sisson was President from July 1961 to December 1962. At that time, the terms for officers were changed to coincide with the dues period. It was also at that time that the Club had its first paid program. These programs helped to increase both the attendance and the membership.

Mr. Henry Fong became President in January 1962. In June, Ikebana International, The Sacramento Bonsai Society, and the American Bonsai Association jointly sponsored a lecture – demonstration and a series of classes by Mr. Yuji Yoshimura assisted by Tosh Suburomaru. These were well received and brought more members into the Club. In the fall, there was another collecting trip to Wentworth Springs. At the State Fair that year, Mr. Ben Sisson arranged for an Educational Exhibit of Bonsai created from Western Native Trees. The Exhibit won the Gold Medal Award for the outstanding Educational Exhibit. The American Bonsai Association’s members staffed the exhibit and passed out over eighteen – hundred leaflets on “What is a Bonsai” along with a list of textbooks to interested persons from all over the United States.

The President in 1963 was Mr. Ken Buchanan. For many years the Garden and Art Center in Sacramento has been presenting an annual Bonsai and Flower Arranging Show. Until 1959 it was put on by the Sacramento Bonsai Society and Ikebana International, and that year our Association joined in, exhibiting our newly created favorites. As there were no backgrounds for the center tables, Mr. Buchanan, Mr. Buckley, and a few others created backgrounds and presented them to the Garden Center – a gift from the Club. They were first used at the show in 1963, and for the first time the show was now all Bonsai. The Club also put on another Educational

Exhibit at the State Fair, showing different styles of trees – and it was put on with only three day's notice! That year the Club took Third Place. During the year we made a gathering trip to the Mt. Shasta area as guests of the Cascade Bonsai Club of Redding, Mr. Walter Plumb, President.

During 1962 and 1963 Mr. Dan Buckley was Program Chairman. During this time most of the programs were given by members of the Club, with Mr. Buckley filling in many times. One of the outstanding programs during this period was one on soils by Dr, George Stewart.

Mrs. Beulah Addison served most ably as our Secretary for the three years (1961 through 1963) during a period of active growth of the Association, until 1964 the work load of the Secretary was such that there is now a Recording Secretary who handles the meetings, and a Corresponding Secretary taking care of mailings and letters.

During 1964, Mr. Donald Croxton was President and in this year the Association's Constitution and By-Laws were amended to make them up to date. Our Vice-President and Program Chair, Mr. Gene Crowell, put on many excellent programs, including two demonstrations of group and tray plantings by Dan Buckley, and a lecture-demonstration on "Art in Bonsai" as well as Presentations by Mr. Tosh Suburomaru and Mr. Harvey Suzuki, both of whom are well known in Bonsai circles of the Bay Area. Mr. Yoshimura visited California during this year and the Bonsai Critique sessions held in the Buddhist Church in Sacramento were a memorable occasion for the limited number of our members and those of the Sacramento Bonsai Society that could be admitted on a first call basis.

One of our yearly projects is a booth at the Garden and Arts Center White Elephant Sale, held in the Art Building at the State Fair Grounds in October. Plants are donated by members and local nurseries, then pruned, planted and wired at Club meetings. The plants are then sold at the sale. During the two days of the sale we also gave demonstrations of pruning, etc. All proceeds go to the Garden Center for special landscaping, kitchen equipment, or the library.

Last year (1965) Mr. Gene Crowell was President, while Mrs. Crowell instigated out "Pot Luck Dinner" at the end of the year and was responsible for the tasty refreshments served after each program.

Penny Davies was Chairman of the Bonsai Show held in early April at the Garden Center. Exhibits varied greatly in age, size, and style of trees. The show drew enthusiastic comments from many visitors and the afternoon demonstrations were well attended.

Our annual Bus Tour in May, with the surprise treat at our hosts in Vallejo, Pratt's Nursery, the delightful visits to other nurseries, and the Bonsai Exhibit in Palo Alto, notable for its masterpieces and door prizes, showed the finesse of arrangements for which the Leonard Spragues are known.

The "Garden Tours". Giving the opportunity to observe individual member's trees and their ideas on staging or placement were initiated with great success. Viewing privileges of some exquisite oriental bonsai collections and gardens were graciously extended by a number of members of the Sacramento Bonsai Society during the first tour.

The Club's exhibit at the State Fair in September won Fourth place this year while the Educational Exhibit, set up by our Association and the Sacramento Bonsai Society by arrangement of Mr. Sisson was awarded a bronze plaque of appreciation.

A most rewarding collecting trip took place in September in the mountains off Cisco Grove in an area under the jurisdiction of the Auburn Lumber Company through the good offices of John Tiernan and Bob and Val Erickson.



(Above), As a rule, benches are provided by the show committee. Exhibitions use backgrounds of paper or cloth panels. Large bonsai are set directly on benches, smaller trees elevated on stands. From an American Bonsai Society show. (Below), Most clubs hold at least one exhibition a year, such as this show sponsored by the American Bonsai Society.



Our Club's show in the 1960s. We've come a long way!

Thanks to **Don Brown** for organizing a fantastic Home Tour on June 9th! Seven collections were available for viewing, with a great assortment of bonsai!

A special thanks to the following bonsai enthusiasts for opening their homes:

- Bob Bugay
- Bill Burns
- Timm Johnson
- Barbara Kelley & Jill Willett
- Will Mooring
- Clarence Smith
- Doc Ward



Some of Bob Bugay's impressive shohin and the view of Folsom Lake/





Bob's impressive lava flow suiseki.



One of Clarence Smith's beautiful trees.



Another in Clarence's collection.



One of Will Mooring's trees.



Will Mooring's olive.



Timm Johnson's relaxing fish pond.



Timm's cascading Atlas Cedar.



Just love this tree!

American Bonsai Association, Sacramento - 2012 Election Ballot

You?

You for President, VP, Treasurer, Correspondence Secretary, Recording Secretary or Member-At-Large?
 Tell Ann Harris 916-455-8385 if you're interested in running. It's not too late to enter the race. Only ABAS members that are present at the June meeting may vote, so please be sure to attend.



Note: Past President Paul Holtzen will automatically remain on the board.



Here's the slate of candidates so far:

At the June meeting, Vote for one (1) candidate each for President, VP, Treasurer, Correspondence, Recording Secretary: Check the box or write-in a candidate with their permission



Dino Pappademos
(A former ABAS President)
for President

Write-in President:



Kathleen O'Donnell
(former ABAS board member)
for Vice President

Write-in Vice President:



Renee Seely
(former ABAS board member)
for Treasurer

Write-in Treasurer:



Barbara Kelley
(former ABAS board member)
Correspondence

Write-in Correspondence Sec.



Del Bane
(member since 2010)
for Recording Secretary

Write-in Recording Secretary:

Member-At-Large: (listed in alphabetical order)
At the June meeting, Vote for three (3) from the following, or with their permission write in your candidates name below.



Bill Burns
(incumbent)
for Member-At-Large



John Cota
(A former ABAS President)
for Member-At-Large



Tim Johnson
(A former ABAS President)
for Member-At-Large



Doc Ward
(incumbent)
for Member-At-Large

Write-in Candidates (with their permission) for Member-At-Large:

July 24th - Annual Luau

July is time to get together for good food and good company. The Luau is a potluck with the main course and drinks provided by the club and members sharing a side dish and/or dessert. As the date approaches, details will be provided.

August 28th - General Meeting

Club member, Timm Johnson, presents a program on olive defoliation. Members, bring your olives!

September 25 - General Meeting

Ted Matson presents the program. Ted is one of the most highly respected teachers and demonstrators in the bonsai community. Demonstration material is to be determined but will most likely be shohin. Details to follow.

October 23 - General Meeting

There will be no program this meeting. Club members will be working on the GSBF Convention 2012 which opens on Wednesday, October 24th.

November 27 - General Meeting

A program for this meeting is pending. Details to follow.

December - Christmas Party

Details to follow.



One more of Timm's trees.