



The Bent Twig

Dedicated to the learning, enjoying and promoting of bonsai

May 28th Meeting

Renee reported that the club is in very good financial condition with \$10,520 in the bank.

President Dino Pappademos asked Kitty Gerwig to present the slate of officers for next year. Candidates included the following:

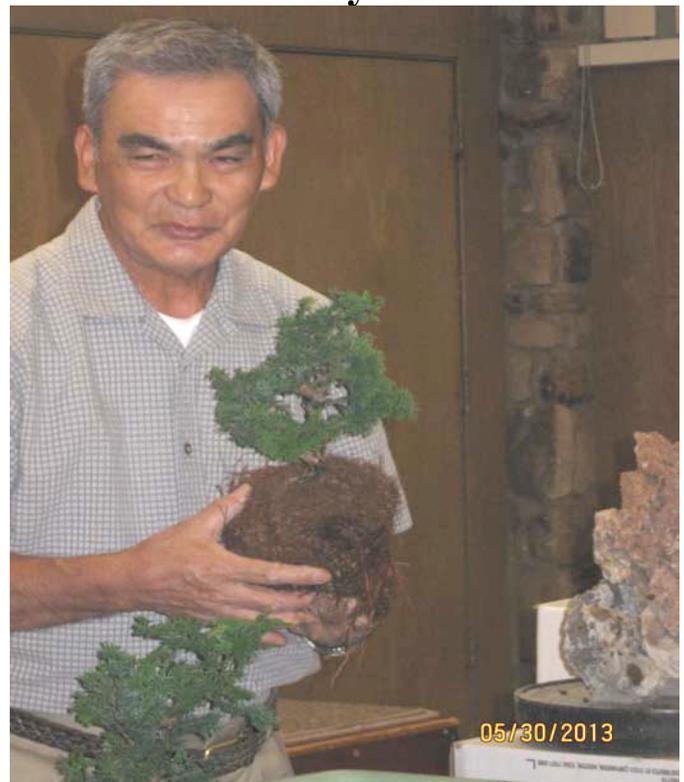
President – Dino Pappademos
Vice President – Doc Ward
Treasurer – Renee Seely
Recording Secretary – Barbara Kelley
Corresponding Secretary – Kathleen O'Donnell
Members at Large (four of the five below will be elected):
Timm Johnson
John Cota
Del Bane
Paul Holtzen
Steve Egan

John Cota then reported on the Luau. He asked everyone that would be attending to sign up to bring a dish. If you were not at the meeting and plan on attending, please email John and Ramona at Bonsaithis@aol.com and let them know what dish (side dishes are most welcome, or desserts) you will bring.

The Luau will take the place of our next meeting on June 25th. Please come at 5:30 p.m. if you would

like to help decorate. Dinner will begin sometime between 6:30 and 7:00 p.m. Remember to bring your plates and silverware and the club will provide the main dish and drinks.

Demonstration – Yuzo Maruyama



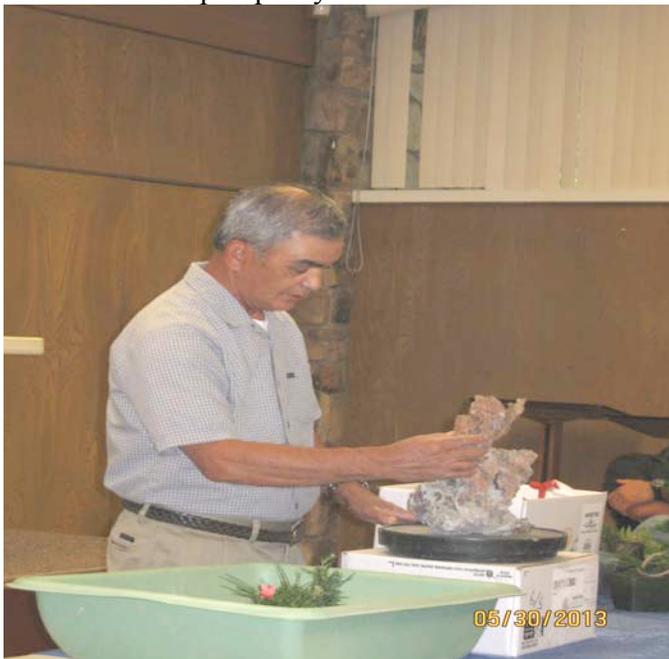
Yuzo Maruyama from Maruyama Nursery was our guest speaker for May. He told us that bonsai is a journey of many steps and we should start at the beginning by learning the basics.

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Bonsai doesn't have to be expensive. Yuzo showed us a three year old black pine that would make a wonderful beginning plant because it was very pliable and could be wired into a contorted shape which he called a "crazy bend". He reminded us that we should enjoy the process and the entire journey and not just look for the completed tree.

We learned that bonsai began in Japan in the 11th century and it was started by the royal families. It was too dangerous to go outside the castles, so they began making miniature landscapes to bring nature within the castle walls.

Tonight's project was a rock planting. While Westerners appreciate a smooth, polished looking stone, the Japanese prefer something older with a patina that reflects age. Yuzo also told us that each planting should have a message. For example, evergreens reflect the message of forever (forever peace, forever love), and cotoneaster with its red berries reflects prosperity.



Yuzo also spoke about replanting. While we have been told that we can only repot in the spring or a couple of months in the fall, Yuzo said that repotting can actually be done all year as long as we use some seasonal techniques. For example, if you repot in the summer you must do it quickly so that the roots do not dry out. The key is to prepare the new pot and have all your repotting supplies at hand

so that you repot the plant in the shortest amount of time. After care is also important in summer repotting. The new plant should be placed in the shade for several weeks and protected from any wind that would dry it out.

Yuzo then prepared a beautiful rock planting using hinoki cypress and several accent plants (small azalea and fern). He used muck to hold the plants in place and said that eventually the roots from the plant would grow down into the soil at the bottom of the pot.



Yuzo stressed that we have to enjoy the entire process and not just the finished product. He gave the example of purchasing roses. In the West people buy roses that are already in full bloom, but in Japan those roses would be sold for very little because their life is almost over. In Japan roses that are still tight buds are prized because you can enjoy the flowers for a much longer period of time. People want a finished bonsai immediately but the Japanese culture stresses enjoying the entire process.

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Yuzo advised us to remember to use the basic triangle shape in rock plantings and to remember to keep everything in proportion so that it looks realistic. In addition try to show depth in your design so that the planting doesn't look one dimensional – it should be three dimensional.



Maruyama Nursery will be presenting rock planting classes and beginner bonsai classes and Dino urged everyone to take a beginner class to learn the basics of keeping your trees healthy.



Our lucky winner was a new club member!

President's Message

Dino told members that he wants to change the direction the club is taking slightly. He wants to emphasize the enjoyment of bonsai and make members enthusiastic enough to attend every club meeting.

In the past, the club has brought in many outside artists for our monthly meetings. We will still have some outside artists (Kathy Shaner is coming next year), but we will start having more experienced members do presentations more often. With club members donating their time, the club will be able to buy three or four or five nice trees instead of the one demonstration tree that is currently done. These trees will be worth \$50 to \$100 and they will all be raffled off giving three to five members the ability to win trees instead of one winner only. He hopes that this will give members the ability to win

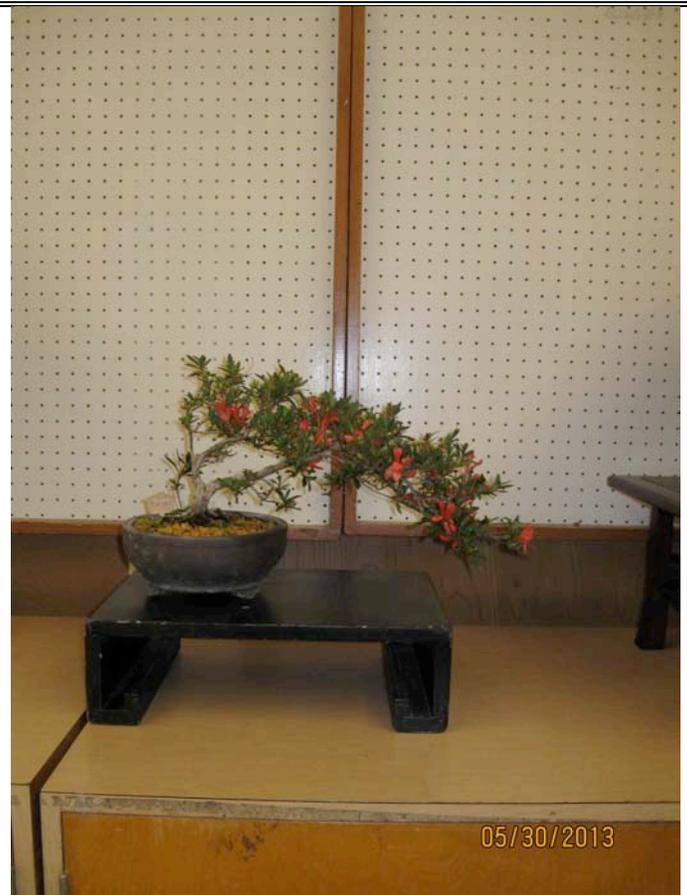


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good quality trees which will improve the quality of everyone's collection.

Show and Tell - Azaleas





ABAS Calendar of Club Events:

- **June 15th – ABAS Home Tour**
- **June 25th – Luau**
- **July 23rd – Monthly Meeting with John Cota doing a presentation on bonsai history**
- **August 24th and 25th – Redwood Empire Bonsai Show in Santa Rosa at the Veteran's Hall**
- **August 27th – Monthly Meeting with Hideko Metaxas discussing the principles of displaying bonsai**
- **September 24th – ABAS Annual Auction**

**American Bonsai Association
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