



THE BENT TWIG

A monthly newsletter of the American Bonsai Association of Sacramento
June 2017

Tuesday June 27th Member 4-fecta Get ready for a great reformatted June Meeting featuring John, Doc, Renee and Timm styling various trees and our own past President Dino being the moderator. All styled trees will be raffled at the end of the meeting. Please bring a small plate of finger food to share and we'll make this a walk around, learning social kind of thing. The club will provide drinks and limited hors d'oeuvres. We'll also conduct our Annual Election of Officers during the meeting.

The Pre-Meeting Workshop at 6:00 will be a very short talk on Pine Candle Progression and Bud formation by Doc. Following that will be a social time with finger food and drinks until 7:00 when the 4-Fecta and elections commence. See you there!





At our last meeting Tuesday May 23rd Annual Auction We had another successful auction of Club Members material. We moved it to May from September to show all items in spring foliage and better tie in to our Annual Show in April. There were some good buys and something for everyone. Thank you to all who helped out especially John & Dino, our Auctioneers. And thank you to all bidders and Sellers!! This is a major fundraiser to support our club activities. Here are few pictures of the event.



OUR BOARD – 2016-17

President – Renee Seely

Vice President – Kathleen O’Donnell

Treasurer – Patti Fletcher

Recording Secretary – John Cota

Corresponding Secretary – Mark Mendenhall

Members at large – Barbara Kelly, Doc Ward, Timm Johnson

Past President - Dino Pappademos

ABAS Home Tour Saturday June 10th What a great event! And what a fantastic array of trees and settings. It’s great when ‘plant people’ can get together and share our passion. New members Troy and Kimberly Brewer attended this year and wrote a ‘New Members Perspective’ on what they saw. For those of us that have been at this a while, I think it’s important to remember what it was like to get started and how we might mentor someone along the way. I’ve included the perspective here, enjoy.

A New Member’s Perspective...

The weather was sunny but brisk as we started out the door for our first ABAS Garden Home Tour. It would turn out to be a beautiful day in many ways. As first-time attendees, we didn’t have many preconceived notions and, in fact, our main goal was simply to get ideas about how we might design our own backyard to accommodate our rapidly growing collection.

The first home on the tour took us to Dino Pappademos’ house. He graciously welcomed us to his backyard where we followed a well laid out pathway along his back fence so we could get a close-up look at his wonderful bonsai collection. He has his trees neatly laid out on benches and pedestals of different heights and they are complimented by his beautiful collection of iron crosses scattered amongst the woodwork. Dino explained to us that the arrangement of the yard was laid out so that he could sit in his chair on the lawn and view his collection while peacefully enjoying his morning coffee (or evening glass of wine but don’t tell him I told you so). Dino’s yard probably most closely resembles what we have in mind for ours so this was wonderful for us to see.



Our next stop was not far from Dino's at the home of Phong Nguyen and wow, what a sight to see. We were stunned from the moment we stepped onto the property and it's clear that Phong's dedication to bonsai is a true labor of love. He has massive pots of juniper that he has personally collected and nurtured and his creativity and ingenuity is beyond belief. He has special moisture-controlled areas set up for freshly collected trees and homemade contraptions attached to his bonsai that orthopedic surgeons would envy. His benches of bonsai wind around and around and up some steps to his back fence and just when you think you've seen it all you find yourself overlooking a koi pond with the largest koi I've ever seen. I don't know what you feed those fish, Phong, but you might want to keep all arms and legs away from that pond.

After this we took a jaunt over to midtown to the beautiful Fab 40's neighborhood to visit the home of Don and Barbara Casselman. We entered through their back gate into a gorgeous yard and the first thing that struck us was how much shade there was and how well the trees were doing in this shade. Don't get me wrong, there is a nice sunny patch of grass right in the middle with plenty of room for those sun-loving trees and, boy, are they happy too. Don and Barbara obviously take very good care of their trees and provide them with lots of love. They have a nice trellis with wisteria vines and you can only imagine how beautiful this must be when they are in bloom. I think these two were born with a green thumb and the only complaint I heard was how Don wants Barbara to trim back her beautiful hydrangeas to make more room for his bonsai. It's definitely a green thumb vs. green thumb household. Stay tuned to see who wins!



The final stop on the tour took us to Tina Yates' home. All we have to say about this is that you should make your weekend reservation early because this place could be a sell-out! Every step of the way gets better and better from the moment you enter the property. This is clearly the home of an artist and it's displayed well down to the last detail. The balance and cohesiveness is spot on. We entered through the front yard and admired the beautiful plants and bonsai as we made our way around the side of the house to the back yard. We enjoyed all of it along the way but the moment you step foot into the back yard you realize that you are in paradise. The feature of the property is the multilevel pool and waterfall but it's everything together that makes this such an impressive sight. There are multiple private sanctuaries scattered throughout where you can relax and enjoy conversation or just admire your surroundings. There are bonsai scattered throughout the yard that sit on stands made by Tina's husband, John, from a Birch tree taken out of their front yard. This was a great home for us to end on because the atmosphere is peaceful and even though it's large enough to allow a large group of people to spread out it still feels intimate. We all relaxed and talked about what we had seen that day while we enjoyed the bountiful feast that was provided.



Every one of the homes on the tour were unique in their own way. We saw a wide variety of bonsai and gardens and it is really helping us shape our ideas for what we want to do with our own yard. We saw trees sitting on everything from custom built wooden benches to repurposed interior shelves to boards sitting on milk crates or concrete block as well as workbenches of every size and shape. In other words, it blew away what expectations we had for the day. But it was so much more. We also found a sense of community. There is something about being welcomed into someone's home that helps form a bond and gives you a chance to know them better. So, thank you, Dino, Phong, Don and Barbara, and Tina, and everyone else that we had the pleasure to spend time with that day...thank you for welcoming us to be a part of your community.

Thank you Troy and Kimberly, Articles for the newsletter are always welcome.

Club News and Announcements:

Power Of One The ABAS Power of One Drawing offers a paid full enrollment to the GSBF Convention when it is held in Northern California. To qualify for the drawing members must perform some activity that benefits the club and requires donated time to accomplish. A 'Report' back to the club the following year is part of the deal. Last year Sylvia Anderson won the drawing and brought back to the club a very interesting and enlightening slideshow of her experiences. This year the convention is in Riverside so Member's service time this year will carry into the drawing for next year's convention.

ABAS on Facebook Join us on our very own ABAS Facebook Group Page. Join in the conversation, view and post photos & videos, ask questions and get answers. The more participants the better the resource can be. If you are not a member go to Facebook and search 'American Bonsai Association, Sacramento' and ask to be approved as a member.

Capital City Bonsai Show The Capital City Bonsai Show is a collaborative show put on by all four Sacramento Area Bonsai Clubs to raise funds to support the GSBF Gardens primarily at Lake Merritt in Oakland. We have this show when the GSBF Convention is not in our area. This year the show is on October 21 & 22 at the Garden Center. John Cota has volunteered to be our club's representative on the Planning Committee. John is actively looking for a 2nd volunteer from our club that would like to participate in the show planning process. Please consider helping out if you are interested. It's a great opportunity to meet bonsai friends from other clubs.

Programs and Topics **Upcoming events:** Please refer to our website for more details <http://abasbonsai.org/index.html>

Tuesday June 27, Member Four-fecta Demo & hors d'oeuvres, Election of Officers.

Tuesday July 25, Jerry Braswell Suiseki viewing stones

Tuesday August 22, Oaks with Steve Cozens

Sat & Sun August 26&27, Redwood Empire Bonsai Society, Annual Show, Santa Rosa

Tuesday September 26, Creating Saikei with John Cota

Sat & Sun October 7 & 8, Garden Center Sale

Sat & Sun October 21 & 22, Capital City Bonsai Show at the Garden Center

Tuesday October 24, Doc Ward, Root Over Rock

Thur-Sun October 26-29, GSBF Convention, Riverside, CA

Tuesday November 28, Ron Anderson, Black Pine or Juniper Demo

Thursday December 21, ABAS Holiday Party.