



The Bent Twig

Dedicated to the learning, enjoying and promoting of bonsai

February Business Meeting



Vice President Kathy O'Donnell brought the meeting to order and thanked Bob Bugay for generously donating his time to do a presentation on show preparation and pot selection. Other items discussed included:

- Timm Johnson reminded members that the bus trip is scheduled for March 30th and will depart the Garden and Arts Center at 8:15 a.m.
- The Board discussed starting a mentoring program and asked members interested in either providing or receiving mentoring to sign up with Timm Johnson.
- Renee reported that the club treasury now holds \$7,372.
- Shepherd Garden and Art's Spring Sale on March 23 and 24th. Volunteers are needed

to staff the sale and you may obtain a seller's number from Renee.

- Kathy O'Donnell congratulated member Kathy Owyong on her promotion to Assistant Editor of the Golden Statements magazine!



- Copies of Michael Hagedorn's book are still available for \$15.

Show Tree Tags

Jill Willett will prepare name tags for your show trees. Please e-mail Jill at jwbek@sbcglobal.net and provide her with the following information by April 4th:

- Common Tree Name
- Scientific Tree Name
- In Training Date
- Initials of Owner

February Guest Speaker
Bob Bugay

American Bonsai Association Sacramento

Member Bob Bugay has studied with some of the most prestigious bonsai teachers and is a past member of the Midori Bonsai Club. Bob shared a great deal of information with us and provided handouts on both Show Preparation and Pot Selection.



I will not cover everything discussed because Bob's handouts are very comprehensive. The following are highlights from the presentation on show preparation:

- Moss is an important component of your display. Light green or silver sun moss is ideal for a top dressing. Bob places moss over the entire top of the pot, but mentioned that some folks do islands and some people just use a top dressing of lava.
 - Moss may be used to accentuate roots or conceal poor roots.
 - ¼ to ½ inch of soil should be scraped off before applying the moss.
 - Some members expressed difficulty in keeping moss alive and Bob shared that he places regular shade cloth over the moss and takes it off when watering.
- Insects are a problem and we should all make sure that we are not displaying anything more than a bonsai. Bob uses ant traps to eliminate these pests and someone else suggested bay leaves. If possible, you can also take the pot and submerge it in a larger pot of water.
- Clean pots are an essential part of show preparation and Bob uses a rust eraser to clean both pots and tools.
- Bob shared that he uses a spray, Anti-Stress 2000 Cloud Cover, on his display trees to give the foliage a little shine. This spray is also useful for removing calcium build-up on leaves prior to the show and will help heal branches which suffered tiny cracks resulting from wiring.
- If you prune your tree right before the show you may have lots of white ends showing and this will distract from the display. Bob suggested using a sharpie to darken the pruned tip.
- Wiring on show trees should be kept to a minimum. No wire would be the best, but some wire is acceptable.
- If you have a problem with moss in unwanted places – either on live or dead wood, vinegar and water (50% each) can be applied. The moss will die and turn brown and in a day or two, you may brush the moss off the tree and apply lime sulphur on the dead wood.

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- Tree lifeline (junipers) – Bob suggested wiping down the tree's lifeline with a small amount of walnut oil two or three days before the show. This will provide more contrast between the live and dead wood.



The following information provides some highlights from Bob's presentation on Pot Selection:



- Bob started the presentation by saying that most of the rules and guidelines for pot selection are from Japan; however, Japan has a completely different climate so they may not work for us.

- Always consider the health of the tree when making your pot selection. The rules are really guidelines and we can deviate when needed.
- Deciduous trees can be problematic because it's difficult to find a pot that will complement the different colors of the tree as the seasons change.
- Oval unglazed will work with almost any tree whether deciduous or conifer.
- Off-white glazed pots are good for deciduous and fruiting trees.
- Green and yellow pots are problematic – especially green because they may not work with the color of the foliage.
- Forests are usually placed in big shallow pots. Maples are also good in shallow pots.
- Blue/dark pots are good with trees that have pink or white flowers (azalea, crabapple, etc.).
- Rectangular pots are usually good for more masculine trees, with larger trunks and trees that are designed in a formal or informal upright style.
- Round pots are good if you're still trying to figure out where the front of your tree and there are several possibilities.
- Cascade style trees should extend below the bottom of the pot whereas semi-cascade styles should not extend below the bottom of the pot. Bob mentioned that the apex of a cascade style tree is at the bottom.
- Repotting – now is the time to transplant a tree into a small pot for the show. After the show, the tree can be put back in a deeper pot to ensure it stays healthy.
- Pots with pictures detract from the presentation of a tree. The pot should frame the tree and not call attention to the pot.
- Accent plants improve the presentation of your tree; however, if the accent plant is the first thing you look at, then you have the wrong accent plant for the display.
- Dark unglazed pots may actually get hot enough to kill roots in our summers. Bob

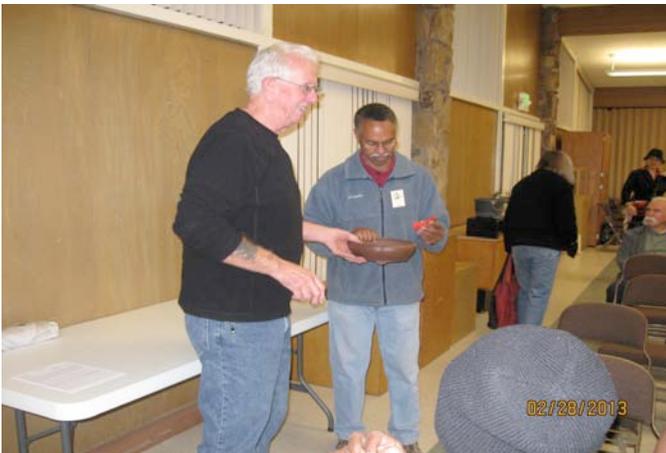
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shared that on his California junipers (which love sun) he uses bubble wrap insulation to keep the pot cooler. Junipers like full sun on the foliage, but their roots like to be cool.



- Mica pots should only be used in the “In Training Section” of the show.

The lucky winner of the Yamaki pot raffle was Timm Johnson!



Bill Burns won a Kingsvale boxwood from the original Kingsvale Nursery.



Show Preparation Workshop – With Bob Bugay



Show and Tell





Club Dues - 2013

Please remember to renew your dues by the March 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.

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.

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 send Renee payment at 1636 Vallarta Circle, Sacramento, 95834.

Annual Spring Show With Michael Hagedorn - April 12th and 13th

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

Show set up will be on Friday, April 12th at the Garden and Arts Center from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. – and we need everyone's help setting up and taking down the show.

At the March Meeting, sign-up sheets will be available for the above committees and all jobs that need to be done to make the show a success. Please make sure to sign up at the March meeting.

Please plan on showing a tree in either the "Tree in Training" or in the Show Tree section. Contact Paul or John Cota if you need help in selecting a tree.

Annual Show – Tree Sales

If you want to sell trees or bonsai-related items at our Spring Show, please contact John and Ramona Cota (nhcatlady@aol.com) for a seller's number and seller's inventory sheet. The inventory sheet is also available on the ABAS web site.

Home Tour – June 15th

The club tour will take place on Saturday, June 15th this year. Members will meet at 8:30 a.m. and carpool from the Garden and Arts Center. Member homes to be visited will be Renee Seeley, Ed Slomovic and Gary and Lucy Judd – and we'll have refreshments at the end of the tour.

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.

March – Marilyn Irvine
April – Kathy O'Donnell
May – Paul Holtzen

Calendar of Bonsai Events:

- **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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