



# The Bent Twig

*Dedicated to the learning, enjoying and promoting of bonsai*

## November Meeting

John Thompson will be the club's guest artist at the November 27<sup>th</sup> meeting. JT is recognized for his expertise with collected oaks as well as juniper and boxwood, and he will be styling a Utah juniper at this meeting. Don't miss this opportunity to see a bonsai artist in action and to win a quality tree!

## Christmas Party

Ramona and John Cota will chair the Christmas party and it will be held on December 20<sup>th</sup> at the Garden and Arts Center.

Details for the party will be in the December newsletter. Members will be asked to provide side dishes (mashed potatoes, vegetables, salads, deserts, condiments, etc.), and don't forget to bring serving spoons and your plates and utensils.

## ABAS Spring Show

The spring show is scheduled for April 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> and it is time to begin preparing trees that you plan to show. This is the one time a year that other clubs and the public have the opportunity to view club trees and we want to encourage every member to show a tree.

The show will have two categories of trees – those that are in development and show trees. The “in development” trees are always interesting because it gives us a chance to see how bonsai are created as well as let us imagine how we would finish a tree.

If you plan to show a tree, please fill out the show entry form that is on the website. You may also access the website and print the form if you prefer. Hard copy forms should be mailed to Barbara Kelley at 3975 63<sup>rd</sup> Street, Sacramento, 95820.

The website may be accessed at <http://abasbonsai.org/>. Once you access the site, go to Events and Activities, scroll to the ABAS Annual Spring Show and click on “click here to use the on-line form” or “click here to print a copy”.

The show entry process is new this year and we hope that it will encourage members to show trees by providing help with choosing and preparing trees for show as well as a discussion of stands and companion plants.

Also new this year is the opportunity to have a bonsai artist, Michael Hagedorn, provide a written critique of your show or “in development” tree to give you suggestions on improving your bonsai.

## **December Tree Care**

The following are a few general care tips for the winter months:

- Water cautiously because water requirements are decreasing as growth slows – but don't let plants dry out. Do not rely totally on rain to water your trees.
- Take moss away from the trunk because it will eat into the bark in the winter.
- Remove old wire that is cutting into branches.
- Trim back twigs to refine structure on deciduous trees.
- Clean up pots, remove weeds and generally get ready for the spring.
- Prepare soil ingredients and mix soils for the spring potting season.