



Bonsai Club of Santa Barbara

P.O. Box 3703, Santa Barbara, CA 93130

Monthly Meeting: TUESDAY, October 14, 2008

Goleta Community Center, 5679 Hollister Avenue, Goleta
Coffee and book exchange from 7:00 P.M.
Program at 7:30 P.M.

This Month's Program – Mel Ikeda and Raft Planting

Mel Ikeda, another of the most accomplished Bonsai practitioners in California, will present a unique program on raft planting. Called Ikadabuki in Japanese, a raft is a group of trees all emerging from the same fallen trunk. It emulates a tree that has fallen in the forest, but remained alive. The branches emerge as new trunks along the length of the old trunk and the old trunk puts out roots into the soil. A variation is the Netsuranari, or sinuous root planting where the root, rather than being a fallen straight trunk, has extended some distance from the main trunk along the ground surface and has sprouted several trunks along its length. The difference is that the trunks are not necessarily in a straight line, but follow the sinuous pattern of the root.

Mel is always engaging and very practical. Don't miss this unique program.

Last Month's Program – Juniper Pinching with Jim Barrett

Jim Barrett's program on junipers went far beyond pinching. Pinching is the process of refining and perfecting the shape of a juniper after it has already achieved pretty much its final shape. Rather than cut the tips of the branches back, which leaves brown ends where the cut was made, pinching removes the scale-like growth at the joints between scales (or needles) which minimizes browning. Junipers like full sun and "don't mind fertilizer", as Jim says. Start fertilizing in February and continue through the end of March or into April. Another dose should come before July and then start regular fertilizer again through September and October. Jim uses a 20-10-5 (nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium) slow acting formula.

Overwatering is the bane of juniper cultivation (your editor knows this only too well, being one of the few people who can't seem to keep junipers alive for long). Besides saturating the roots, Jim says too much water kills the essential soil organisms that nourish the juniper, thereby weakening the root system. Wait until the top half inch or so of the soil is dry before watering again.

Jim also cataloged the junipers typically used for bonsai in California along with their key characteristics. Common varieties include Prostrata (mostly scale growth) and San Jose (tends toward juvenile [prickly] growth), both of which are spreading; Foemenia (hard to find and VERY prickly) and Robusta Green (scale growth), both of which are upright; and the prized Shinpaku (that's how Jim says to spell it), the quintessential Japanese bonsai juniper.

Finally, Jim notes that junipers are fairly easy to grow from cuttings. Cut straight across, dust with 0.3% endotheliac acid (rooting hormone) and put in a mix of 80% perlite and 20% peat in October. It should root by January. Even old wood cuttings can be rooted with a little bit of luck!

PRESIDENT	Joe Olson	964-0869	PUBLICITY	Frank Artusio	963-3964
SECRETARY	John Bleck	968-5519	LIBRARIAN	Andrew Nelson	687-2757
TREASURER	Theresa Stiem	687-3702	NEWSLETTER	Andrew Nelson	687-2757
PROGRAMS	Vacant		SHOW	Ann Erb	929-4972
CLASSES	Wally Kunimoto	967-2565	REFRESHMENTS	Sally Gilmore	415-9049

Future Programs and Workshops

Next Workshop is September 20 with **Jim Barrett**. Agenda for the rest of the year:

Date	Program	Presenter	Date	Workshop Leader
Oct 14	Raft Planting	Mel Ikeda	Oct 18	Ted Matson
Nov 11	Club Critique	Various	Nov 15	Open
Dec	Annual Holiday Potluck	TBD		No Workshop in December

Coming Events

October 17, 2008: Dia Ichi Bonsai Kai Annual Auction, Ken Nakaoka Community Center, 1670 W. 162nd Street, Gardena, CA. Doors open at 6:00 pm. Auction at 7:00. Auctioneer Joe James. Call (310)545-5954.

October 30 – November 2, 2008: Golden State Bonsai Federation Convention XXXV, Doubletree Hotel, 1150 Ninth Street, Modesto, CA. Headliners include Boon Manakitivipart, Martin Schmalenberg, Tak Shimazu, and more.

December 27 – January 2, 2009: California Aiseki Kai 19th Annual Exhibition of Viewing Stones: Friends Hall, Huntington Library, 1151 Oxford Road, San Marino, CA. Show hours 10:00 am to 4:30 pm daily except January 1st.

End of February 2009 (date not known at this time): Bonsaiathon at the Huntington, Huntington Library, 1151 Oxford Road, San Marino, CA. Come early for a pancake breakfast (nominal charge) and free admission to the Huntington Gardens. Auction, vendors, displays, and Huntington Garden tours. If you come before normal opening time, tell the guard you're a bonsai club member.



Bonsai Club of Santa Barbara
P.O. Box 3703
Santa Barbara, CA 93130