

Bay Area Satsuki Aikokai

This Month's Meeting:
Thursday February 26, 7:00 - 9:30,
Lake Merritt Garden Center, Oakland



Freshly repotted satsuki from our repotting workshop in 2013. Aren't they gorgeous?!

February Meeting- Repotting

February's meeting provides an excellent opportunity to review your plans for repotting your azaleas this season. Darren Wong will lead a discussion on soil choices, pot size and shape and review development plans for members' trees. Bring the tree(s) you plan to repot this season and get advice and suggestions from knowledgeable club members.

As a guide to what to repot first, Darren suggests we start with narrow leaf varieties and then in early March move on to broader leaf azaleas. Shohin are typically repotted every 2 years and Chuhin every 3. Definitely any tree that does not drain well, or is in garden soil should be repotted right away. Join us to learn more.



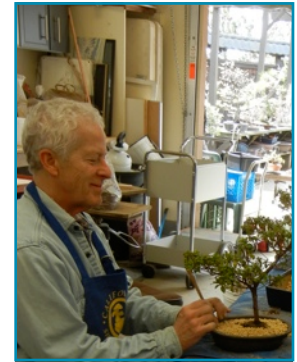
PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Another great year lies before us in the world of rhododendrons and their many cousins, especially the delicate, varied and ever-changing azaleas. Sometimes I think the reason I like azaleas so much is a bit like the reason I like cats. They're temperamental, they're finicky, they want things to be just so or they won't perform. They like to be in their own favorite certain spot, they dislike having their feet wet, they tolerate grooming but only at certain times, and you must be gentle. All of this is faintly endearing to me in an odd way, as if the selfish oddness of it commands some bemused attention or even a kind of respect. It's all very aggravating but I find myself strangely willing to put out the effort to accommodate them. This BASA club helps me both to rationalize and to

PRESIDENT'S LETTER CONTINUED

improve my behavior in this regard. The year ahead should be a pleasant one for those of us lucky enough, or sometimes just determined enough, to attend the BASA meetings and participate in the events. At the end of February we will have a regular meeting and then in quick succession our yearly repotting evening at the bonsai gardens at Lake Merritt, where we get some oversight from the experts to make sure we can give the trees their best shot at a long and healthy life, a process that is not as easy with azaleas as with some other plants. This is the kind of advantage that having a club to belong to can provide, and for that I am grateful, as I expect we all are. Trial and error with azaleas can be discouraging at best. The extra benefit, of course, is an evening with like-minded friends,

doing a job that is sometimes tedious and frustrating when done alone, so an extra pair of eyes and hands can sometimes prevent or correct errors that could cause real trouble. There will be plenty more meetings and things to do during the year, of course, but this is certainly a good chance at a good new start to what just may turn out to be a terrific year.



The Prez

SPECIAL REPOTTING WORKSHOP - AT THE BONSAI GARDEN AT LAKE MERRITT

Darren Wong will lead members (who have 2015 membership paid in full) through the repotting of ONE of their trees. Members bring their own tools, pots and soil, and if they don't have soil Kanuma can be purchased from Darren. Workshop fee: just \$20 for BASA members

Don't have satsuki azaleas of your own? No worries, we have club trees that need repotting for you to practice on. These are trees we will be selling at the Spring Show. We don't want anyone to miss out on the fun!

Suggestions for having a productive workshop:

Come to the meeting on February 26 to discuss the best soil and pot for your trees!

- Have soil pre-sifted
- Have pots pre-wired
- Bring a selection of pots for consideration if you aren't sure



Carefully settling the soil around the roots is a critical step in successful repotting of satsuki

PLEASE RSVP TO DARREN OR CANDACE
IF YOU WILL ATTEND THE REPOTTING WORKSHOP

It's Mammoth time again . . .

Most of us look forward to the Mammoth event fund raisers for the Bonsai Gardens at Lake Merritt coming up February 21-22, but this year it is extra special. You can see the Saturday auction trees on line at the Golden Sate Bonsai website, gsbf-bonsai-org, as well a a description of all the events and vendors and special exhibits.

Sunday is filled with activities for shopping and learning and word has it that there are some of those great terracotta azalea growing pots in the sales area this year.

Member Rick Garcia will be there as a vendor with his beautiful imported trees and supplies.

This is a don't miss it event, so don't miss it!

Wouldn't it be great to have a Bay Area Satsuki Aikokai website?

We have a generous offer from a talented club member to help us put one together, but there is a catch.

Once it is up and running we need to be able to maintain it and provide content to the site ourselves. This would involve maintaining a list of our programs, posting photos of our shows and meetings, adding articles from the newsletter, etc.

Does this sound like something you are good at, or would like to take on for the club? Perhaps this opportunity represents a new skill you would like to add to your resumé. We'll help you learn.

Please contact a board member if you can help or want to know more about what is involved. A website would be a fabulous way to let others in the Bay Area and beyond know about our club, share our love of satsuki, and recruit new members.

Let's not let this kind offer pass us by. Many hands make light work and this will be fun!

DUES are way DUE!

If you haven't paid your 2015 dues please bring a check to the February meeting or use the handy form at the end of the newsletter to mail to Treasurer Darren Wong.

Dues must be current to participate in the special repotting workshop on February 28

BRING A GUEST

Members are always welcome to bring guests to our meetings. This is a great way to introduce them to our community of satsuki lovers.

Calendar Upcoming Club Events:

February 26 - Repotting review - discussion of soil, pots, and development goals for the year

February 28 - Repotting workshop at the Bonsai Gardens at Lake Merritt - 10 am-2 pm, \$20 charge for BASA members

March 26 - Styling and wiring demonstration by Darren Wong-introducing the club workshop tree

April 23 - Show prep

May 16-17 - Annual Show - No meeting this month.

June 26 - Post bloom care

July and August - No meetings.

September 24 - Pot luck dinner and slide show of the spring exhibition.

October 24 - TBA

November 21 - Mesuki! NEW! Raffle of club workshop tree

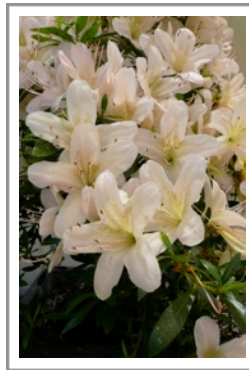
Refreshments at our February Meeting will be provided by Candace Key and Chris Ross
Thank you!!

(Please sign up at the meeting to bring refreshments for meetings during the year.)

FEBRUARY SATSUKI CARE

- Rotate all trees at least once a month
- Fertilize with 1 tsp. Miracid/gal every two weeks
- Continue reduced watering
- Water during prolonged dry spells between storms
- Prop up one end of pots to help drainage during storms
- Watch for insects and fungi. Aphids can become active during warm periods.
- Do not use lime-sulfur on azaleas
- *Mesuki*. OK to wire and bend; remove excess buds, if not yet done; OK to make large pruning cuts; seal all wounds
- Trees looking unhealthy, repot immediately and keep in a sheltered place, protect from frost
- Accent plants: divide clumps of bamboos, grasses, sedges, herbaceous perennials, bulbs, etc.
- Air- or ground-layer before buds swell; plan to sever by June or next repotting season.
- Make thread grafts immediately preceding vegetative growth

(condensed from EBBS's revised *San Francisco Bay Area Bonsai Calendar*)



Officers for 2014

President - Chris Ross - cmrbonsai@yahoo.com
 Vice President - vacant
 Secretary - vacant
 Treasurer - Darren Wong - 707.746.6260
 Past President - Rick Garcia - 925.743.9450
 Show Chairman - Ron Reid
 Newsletter - Candace Key mckassoc@yahoo.com
 Directors:
 Lucky Fung - luckyfung88@yahoo.com
 Dennis Hawkins - idhawk@comcast.net
 Mike Mello - bonsai1947@att.net

We really need a club secretary to take care of a few administrative tasks. Can you help? Please talk with Chris or Candace.

BONSAI EVENTS AROUND THE BAY AREA

February 21 – 22, 2015 Oakland, CA

GSBF Bonsai Garden at Lake Merritt: The annual Mammoth Fund Raiser will be held at 666 Bellevue Ave. (Garden Center Building). Saturday: Auction preview at noon with Auction starting at 1 PM. Sunday: Vendor Sales start at 9 AM, Plant Sales start at 10 AM, and Demonstrations at 1 PM. Also on Sunday help us celebrate our 15th Anniversary! The Bonsai Garden at Lake Merritt will celebrate the many bonsai clubs who have created and supported the Garden by inviting Bonsai Clubs from all over Northern California to showcase their best trees. Bonsai Garden will be open 10 AM to 4 PM on Saturday and Noon to 4 PM on Sunday. For more information or to sell trees, email bonsailakemerritt@gmail.com and visit www.gsbflakemerritt.org

February 25th, 2014, Mar 14 – 15, 2015 Oakland, California

Bay Area Bonsai Associates: 34th Annual Bonsai Exhibition at the Lakeside Garden Center, 666 Bellevue Avenue. Show hours are Saturday 5 – 9 PM and Sunday 10 AM – 4 PM. Demonstrations by Matt Reel at 6:30 PM Saturday, followed by a raffle of the demonstration tree. Continuous plant sale including bonsai related items (pots, tools, soils, wires, books, etc.) both days. Matt Reel has studied bonsai in Japan for 8 years under Shinji Suzuki. Admission is free. Parking fee to the Lakeside Garden Center is required during the park hours. For more information, please contact Bob Gould at (925) 935-1914.

Mar 18 – 22, 2015 San Mateo, California

Bonsai Society of San Francisco: Annual Bonsai Exhibit at the San Francisco Flower and Garden Show, San Mateo County Event Center, 1346 Saratoga Drive. Show hours Wednesday – Saturday 10 AM – 7 PM, and Sunday 10 AM – 6 PM. There will be demonstrations and trees for sale. For more information about the club, visit www.bssf.org. For group and early-bird ticket information to the Flower and Garden Show, visit <http://sfgardenshow.com>.

Membership dues for 2015

Make your check in the amount of \$25/year for an individual or \$35 for a household.

Mail with this form to:

Darren Wong, Treasurer, 2254 Tennessee Street, Vallejo, CA 94591

Please note: The roster to be mailed with the April newsletter will include names and telephone numbers, but NOT addresses. Your address will be in a separate roster given ONLY to officers and the publisher of the newsletter:

Name (s): _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Phone number:

Any suggestions you have for programs and activities for the club would be much appreciated:

BASA
578 Woodbine Drive
San Rafael, CA 94903