

Bay Area Satsuki Aikokai

This Month's Meeting:

Thursday March 26, 7:30 - 9:30,
 Lake Merritt Garden Center, Oakland



This painting, entitled simply Azaleas, is the work of Chinese artist Chao Shao-an (1905-1998). It is done in ink and color on paper and is currently on view at the Asian Art Museum in San Francisco.

March Meeting

This month we will have a special presentation by not one, but 2 experts. Darren Wong will bring one of his beautiful imported azaleas and John Doig, The Wire Guy, will be on hand to help Darren wire the tree as he talks about how it will be developed into a beautiful bonsai. This will be a 'club' tree, meaning that we will revisit it throughout the year, going through post-bloom care in June and mesuki in the fall. At our last meeting of the year all members will have the chance to bid on the tree at a club auction and take home this treasure. Please join us for this fun and educational program.



PRESIDENT'S LETTER

The Bay Area satsuki club soon will present its annual amazing display of trees for the public, a wonderful and beautiful demonstration of love, devotion to duty, hard work, and artistry by the members of this strong and enthusiastic group of dedicated azalea lovers who assist each other so well each year, and it seems to me in retrospect that each year's show is a bit better in some respect than the preceding one. We seem to be getting

better and better at this, and it is with a sense of pride and a bit of wonder that I attend each year to be amazed and surprised by what our membership is capable of. The repotting meeting at the GSBF garden workshop this year was, as usual, fun, practical, helpful, and encouraging to those of us who have smaller trees but large aspirations. Human beings work best in groups, with exchanges of ideas and the lending of helping

differing viewpoints making the work lighter and the outcome somehow better. These are the reasons that the club prospers, this blending of voices, opinions and mutual efforts that eventually produce beauties and harmonies from unexpected places, and that seems to me to be the main theme that makes the club itself an important thing to give our time and effort to. The whole ends up being greater than the parts, and then we get to show it off to everyone else. The next meeting will be one of particular interest for styling and wiring trees to enhance their potential. Wiring will be taught and demonstrated by Darren Wong and John Doig, and it is an opportunity every member should attend and take advantage of. This might be an especially

good meeting to bring a friend to, either to interest them in the art of bonsai or to further some bonsai artist from some other bonsai club who has no real experience of azaleas. Sometimes these folks are just waiting for an invitation to an event like this to pique their interest and get them started as a member of our group. All of us should try to make sure to attend, and find someone to bring along for a pleasant and informative evening. Bring along a tree to ask questions about, and don't forget that the show is only two months away and it's time to start getting the trees ready for their public showing, their moment of glory. The Prez

FEBRUARY REPOTTING WORKSHOP

In what has become a club tradition, a small but determined band of satsuki enthusiasts gathered on the first Saturday in February in the Bonsai Gardens workshop space for the annual repotting of our satsuki azaleas. The location and timing proved perfect for digging into the messy task of changing the old soil for fresh new material and getting trees into pots more suitable for their growing size and stature. Darren Wong made the rounds dispensing sound advice, caught a few mistakes in the making before they happened and offered his learned opinion on the development the trees members brought in. Laura Wong pitched in as well with excellent advice and a willing hand. Several of us were repotting Ruben trees for the first time and there was much discussion as to the best soil mix for these trees, since they don't take well to sudden immersion in Kanuma. Most of us decided on the Clay King mix Darren imports from Japan. We all did our best and said a little prayer for their success in this new soil. The company was excellent, the fruits of our labors rewarding, and a good, productive time was had by all. Thank you Darren and Laura for your time and wisdom, and to the Gardens for providing such an ideal workspace.



It always takes a few extra hands to repot Ruth's trees.

Cherry Blossom Festival

Japantown, San Francisco - April 18-19

Bonsai and suiseki display by the following clubs:

Bonsai Society of San Francisco • Marin Bonsai Club • Yamato Bonsai Kai
California Suiseki Society

A beautiful show and a fun time checking out the arts and crafts in Japantown
Take Bart or the bus and enjoy a festive day

Urgent: Media Coordinator for our May Show Needed!

There is a lot we could be doing as a club to increase awareness of, and attendance at our Spring show that we haven't been doing simply because we don't have help with this important task. It really is easy: just writing up a description of what we have planned and sending it out to other bonsai clubs for their newsletters, and submitting a listing to local papers to reach the general public, an untapped resource for us. We always lament that we don't reach a broader audience, so please, let's make this the year we put a plan in place and connect with a new audience just waiting to discover satsuki azaleas.

Please contact Candace or Chris if you can take this on! We really need your help.

Workshop opportunities abound!!

We are so fortunate to have among our membership two well trained and talented experts in satsuki bonsai. The bonus is they import beautiful trees from Japan that they will sell if you ask nicely, and they offer instruction on how to care for and style them. Darren Wong and Rick Garcia both study with Suisho Nakayama in Japan several times a year and the wealth of knowledge and experience they return with is priceless. This spring a couple of our members took the opportunity to study with Rick and here is Ron Reid's first hand account:

“Ray Moore and I took Rick Garcia's workshop in January. We spent the whole day working on material Rick had hand picked in Japan almost five years ago.(Shinzan and Matsuri- no - tsuki). These were Shohin size and in robust health. It was amazing to see the in difference from raw material to a wired plant. We learned a lot even though we had both been working with satsuki for years. I would highly recommend anyone take a class and work with Rick to expand your knowledge and your collection with some amazing trees.”!

Has anyone not paid their dues?

If you haven't, please so do immediately. This is your last newsletter until you re-up. Please don't let your membership expire.

**Calendar
Upcoming Club
Events:**

March 26 - Styling and wiring demonstration by Darren Wong and John Doig.

April 23 - Show prep and accent plants

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

June 25 - TBA

July and August - No meetings.

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

October 22 - Club elections

November 19 - Mesuki!

REFRESHMENTS

Could we get some volunteers to bring refreshments for the March meeting?

Please let Candace know if you can help out.

Thank you!!

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

MARCH SATSUKI CARE

- Rotate trees at least twice this month to promote symmetry as roots and canopy begin period of rapid growth
- Fertilize every two weeks; apply Miracid, Gro Power, or fish emulsion at 1 tsp./gal.; Miracid helps make growing mix more acid
- Repotted trees: delay feeding until 2–3 (some say 4–6) weeks after repotting
- Place fertilizer balls/cakes (see Appendix) in pot corners and at 8- to 12-inch intervals around perimeter of growing mix; place also where rootage is wanted, but not in contact with trunk or visible roots; saturate to dissolve nutrients; scratch surface of growing mix
- Foliar-feed cascades: apex (= bottom) 3 times, mid 2 X, top 1X
- Place deep-potted cascades in saucers (1/2 depth of pot) containing MiracleGro for a few days at beginning of month
- Repot trees on a three-year cycle; do not repot trees to be subjected to motobadome
- Continue with reduced watering
- Do not over-water repotted plants, roots regenerate best in damp, not wet, growing mix; repotted plants usually have reduced foliage requiring less water
- Water trees during prolonged dry spells between rains
- Adjust automatic, programmed watering system for spring
- Prop up one end of pots to facilitate drainage during prolonged storms
- Apply Subdue if you suspect soil fungi or root rot
- Use Lysol to clean tools suspected of being infected; bleach (10% in water) and Pine Sol are effective but corrode steel
- Control aphids attacking buds and leaves with Safer Soap
- Apply Orthene/OrtheneX to control thrips and other sucking insects

(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

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>.

Mar 28 – 29, 2015 Santa Cruz, California Santa Cruz Bonsai Kai: 27th Annual Show at the Museum of Art & History, 705 Front Street, 10 AM – 5 PM with demonstration at 2 PM (demonstrator TBA at a later date) both days. Raffle drawing for demonstration tree and trees especially prepared by club members are part of the raffle each day. Sales area include vendor and member trees, pots, and other related bonsai items. Admission price to museum includes entry to bonsai show/demo and complementary coffee, tea and cookies. For more information contact Marc Shaw at marcshaw@sbcglobal.net.

Mar 28 – 29, 2015 San Jose, California San Jose Betsuin Bonsai Club: 45th Annual Bonsai Exhibition at San Jose Buddhist Church Betsuin, 640 North Fifth Street. Hours are Noon – 5 PM Saturday and 11 AM – 4 PM Sunday with demonstrations at 1 PM on both days by club members headed by Dr. Seiji Shiba. A benefit drawing will be held at each demo conclusion. Styled and pre-styled trees will be offered for sale. For more information, visit www.gsbf-bonsai.org/sjbonsai/ or email Ken Azuma at kennethazuma@sbcglobal.net.

April 11,12 - Sacramento, California American Bonsai Association, Sacramento's 56th Annual Spring Show will be held at the Shepard Garden and Arts Center in McKinley Park, 3330 McKinley Blvd, Sacramento, CA. Open Saturday: 10:00 AM – 5:00 PM, and Sunday: 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM. Headliner **Dan Robinson**, known as *'The Picasso of Bonsai'*, will demonstrate his skill for adding a dose of antiquity to a tree's soul. Demonstrations will be held on both Saturday and Sunday beginning at 1:30 PM. The club is offering a member-led, hands-on beginner workshop Sunday morning. Those interested may sign up Saturday, or Sunday before 10:00. The show will feature a large member and vendor sales area with a daily silent auction of quality bonsai and accessories. Benefit drawings will be held each day after the demonstration to include the demonstration tree and other trees and bonsai-related items. For more information visit <http://www.abasbonsai.org/>

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

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San Rafael, CA 94903