

# Bay Area Satsuki Aikokai

## This Month's Meeting:

Thursday March 24, 7:30 - 9:30,  
Lake Merritt Garden Center, Oakland



New spring growth on a healthy Korin Satsuki Azalea.

### March Meeting

Gordon Deeg will be doing the presentation in March. He will talk about fertilizing our satsuki azaleas, wiring, repotting, plus dispense advice on how to improve our trees, both in the short term for our Spring Show, and the long term health and vitality of our trees. It is sure to be an energetic and inspiring discussion. Don't miss it!



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### PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Hi Everyone, Let's get ready for our show in May. Bring your trees for review and comment by experienced club members Darren Wong, Bob Gould and Gordon Deeg. This is the time to be planning to make sure your trees look their best in May.

As mentioned last month, for a change our show is not on the same weekend as our sister satsuki azalea club in Sacramento. We'd like to get a carpool together to visit the show so let us know

at the meeting or by email if you would like to join us.

Candace put together a wonderful display at the Mammoth Fundraiser (with help from Polly Gould, Darren Wong, and Chris Ross). I think we got second place! Great job!

Hope to see you all at the March meeting.  
Mike

### February Meeting ReCap

Our first meeting of the year was a review of where we are with our satsuki azaleas, a reassessment and a look forward towards repotting, styling and preparing trees for the Spring Show May 21-22. Questions and discussion covered wide ground, and everyone came away enlightened or reassured about their trees.

The Mammoth Auction and Sales event were also a topic of discussion, and there were several suggestions made for our Club Display table on Sunday, which, while it didn't win us any awards, was a handsome display thanks to a gorgeous tree lent by Darren Wong, and a Harry Hirao stone lent by Polly Gould. Candace Key provided an

attractive backdrop, and calligraphy to complete the display. The biggest benefit was reaching so many members of the public and bonsai community who might not know about our club through the flyers and Spring Show postcards which were part of the presentation.

Thanks to all who contributed and participated.



Mike among the azaleas

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### MARCH REPOTTING WORKSHOP

Once again the Club is offering a repotting workshop with Darren Wong. The date is Saturday March 26. The place is the workshop room at the Bonsai Gardens at Lake Merritt. The cost will be \$30 per person. We'll meet at 9:00 and the workshop goes until noon.

### However . . .

We do need to meet a minimum number of participants to make this a go. Please let us know at the meeting if you will be attending or call Mike or Darren to sign up.

If you are coming you need to be prepared with the following:

- pot(s)
- Kanuma or other soil sifted and ready to use
- tools
- wire and mess for wiring in
- gloves

This is a great opportunity to get your trees off on the right foot this year. Don't miss out.



Darren's skilled hands patting in the soil for a finishing touch

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### Send us your Photographs!

We'd love to use YOUR photographs in the newsletter.

Please send in photos of your trees, pots, process, disasters, anything that might be of interest or amusement. We would love to have the whole club represented in some way. Just email them to Candace and she'll make sure you get all the fame and glory you deserve.



BASA Club Display at the Mammoth Fundraiser February 28. Tree and stand by Darren Wong, suiseki by Polly Gould, poster salvaged by Bob Gould, Show Postcards by George Haas, club flyers, backdrop and green paper by Candace Key. It takes a village - or club.

**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 24 - Gordon Deeg leads a discussion about proper feeding and care of our trees as well as development advice.

April 28 - Show prep and accent plants

May 20-21 - Annual Show - No meeting this month.

June 23 - TBA

July and August - No meetings.

September 22 - Pot luck dinner and slide show of the spring exhibition.

October 27 ? - Club elections

November 19 - Mesuki!

December - No meeting



Will it be show-ready this Spring? Or will the owner manage to kill it? Suspense in the bonsai world.

**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 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 2016

President - Mike Mello - [bonsai1947@att.net](mailto:bonsai1947@att.net)  
 Vice President - vacant  
 Secretary - vacant  
 Treasurer - Darren Wong - 707.746.6260  
 Past President - Chris Ross - [cmrbonsai@yahoo.com](mailto:cmrbonsai@yahoo.com)  
 Show Chairman - Ron Reid  
 Newsletter - Candace Key - [mckassoc@yahoo.com](mailto:mckassoc@yahoo.com)  
 Directors:  
 Lucky Fung - [luckyfung88@yahoo.com](mailto:luckyfung88@yahoo.com)  
 Dennis Hawkins - [idhawk@comcast.net](mailto:idhawk@comcast.net)  
 George Haas - [gwhaas@comcast.net](mailto:gwhaas@comcast.net)

We really use a few more people on the Board. Can you help? Please contact Mike. It is the easiest Board in bonsai to be on.

## BONSAI EVENTS AROUND THE BAY AREA

### Apr. 2 – 3, 2016, Santa Cruz, California

**Santa Cruz Bonsai Kai: 28th Annual Show** at the Museum of Art & History, 705 Front Street, 10 AM – 5 PM both days with demonstrations at 2 PM. Saturday's demonstrator is Mike Pistello and Sunday's will be Katsumi Kinoshita. Raffle drawing for demonstration tree and trees especially prepared by club members are part of the raffle each day. Sales area will include quality vendor and member trees, pots, and other related bonsai items both days. Fresh items will be in the vendor area on Sunday. Admission price of \$5.00 to the Museum includes entry to bonsai show/demo and complementary coffee, tea and cookies. For more information contact Ed Lambing at [edinbonnydoon@comcast.net](mailto:edinbonnydoon@comcast.net).

### April 2 – 3, 2016, Sacramento, California

**Bonsai Sekiyu Kai:** Annual show will be held at the Sacramento Buddhist Church, 2401 Riverside Blvd. Hours are: Saturday 11 AM – 5 PM and Sunday 10 AM – 4 PM with demonstration at 1 PM both days by Yuzo Maruyama. Amenities include refreshments, light snacks, door prizes, raffles and a silent auction. Member and vendor sales of plants and bonsai-related items will also be available. For more information contact Bonsai Sekiyu Kai at [bonsaisekiyukai@gmail.com](mailto:bonsaisekiyukai@gmail.com)

### April 9 – 10, 2016, Sacramento, California

**American Bonsai Association, Sacramento:** 57th Annual Bonsai Show at the Shepard Garden and Arts Center, 3330 McKinley Blvd. Show hours are Saturday 10 AM – 5 PM and Sunday 10 AM – 4 PM, with demonstration each day at 1:30 PM by American bonsai artist, Peter Tea. Beginner's workshop Sunday, 10 AM; daily raffle includes the demonstration tree; large vendor and member sales area. For more information, contact Renee Seely (916) 929-2106, [breadcrust@comcast.net](mailto:breadcrust@comcast.net) or visit our website <http://abasbonsai.org>.

## Membership dues for 2016

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:

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BASA  
578 Woodbine Drive  
San Rafael, CA 94903