

# Bay Area Satsuki Aikokai

## This Month's Meeting:

Thursday April 23, 7:30 - 9:30,  
Bonsai Gardens at Lake Merritt, Oakland



Ant's view of 2014 Spring Show

### April Meeting

Polly Gould will lead a discussion on the display of satsuki azaleas, in advance of our Spring Show in May. Satsuki display is often different from typical bonsai display because the show is more about the flowers than the structure of the tree. Through her extensive travels in Japan and decades of study, Polly has developed a vast reservoir of knowledge, insights, and opinions she will be sharing. Jeanette Arnold will also be on hand to talk about accent plants and how they can be used to best effect displayed with our azaleas. Come learn from these talented and knowledgeable artists.




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### PRESIDENT'S LETTER

It's Showtime, folks! Yes, that's right, it's that time of year again to clear out a couple of days in your schedule and get ready to put on a show. Everyone who has trees that can be shown this year should be priming and grooming them, everyone who has trees that they're not sure of should be bringing them to a meeting for advice on what to do next, and everyone else should be

deciding to help out at setup, takedown, and all the stuff in between, from hospitality to docenting to security. There's lots to do and for good planning we need lots of input from as many as possible about who will be available and when. So come to the club meeting on April 23rd, the last meeting before the show, which is just three weeks later on May 15-16.

## PRESIDENT'S LETTER CONTINUED

The show this year should be more visible than in the past, largely because George Haas has been a one man band getting us online and into local papers and into bonsai publications, and he and Candace Key have teamed up to edit each other on wordings, approaches, and on the flyers for community distribution which are very good-looking this year. These flyers will be available at the April 23rd meeting to be taken by all to widely distribute.

This online presence that we have gained may mean a bigger attendance this year, and we have

to plan for that. We're going to need the entire club to come together to support this effort.

The Prez



The Prez moves a tree at show set-up last, year, but Johnny Uchida isn't sure that's such a good idea.

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 MARCH MEETING - DARREN WONG AND JOHN DOIG STYLE A SHOHIN SATSUKI

Dennis Hawkins kindly submitted the following report on our March meeting demonstration:

At our last meeting we had the opportunity to watch John Doig wire one of our club trees, a fine satsuki shohin imported from Japan, while Darren discussed the design for the tree. Darren explained that one should wire the entire tree, starting from the bottom and work towards the top of the tree.

The question was asked about the appropriate size of wire to use for a given branch. Darren suggested that if you aren't sure, just press the wire against the tree branch you intend to bend. If the wire bends backwards, away from the branch, this indicates the need to use a larger wire size. When the wire can move that branch just a little forward, that means the wire will bend and hold the branch's new shape.

Another point was made about the best way to get back budding on a leggy branch. Cutting the tip of the bud/green growth in half, just enough so that there is still some green growth on the tip of the branch, will encourage the branch to produce new buds. By the end of April hopefully there will be many new buds on the branch that's been cut.

John "The Wire Guy" spent over an hour wiring the entire tree, as directed by Darren, at which point Darren turned and bent the tree branches into a pleasing shape for the tree. A few wired branches were cut in hopes the tree's back budding would replace the weaker branches that had been cut.

Everyone enjoyed the demonstration and appreciated the efforts of talented bonsai artists Darren Wong and John Doig. Thanks guys!



Darren Wong and Lucky Fung study one of Lucky's trees at the Spring Show

SPRING SHOW PREP: Get/Keep those trees show ready!

It is time to start priming your trees for show in May. There are likely lots of dead leaves clinging to branches, broken branches, garden debris and other junk lurking in the canopy of your trees and on the soil after the ravages of even a mild winter. All of that has to go before the show. We all know what a long process this is, but realize it is well worth the effort once we see how glorious the trees look on display.

With the warm Winter and Spring we may once again be challenged to have our best trees at the prime of their blooming cycle. Do what you can to slow the blooming down by giving trees more shade and a cooler spot on the benches. We are going to need your trees, so even if your tree isn't flush with blooms chances are it still looks great and we need/want/must have it for the show.

Also, don't forget companion plants. Now is the best time to pull them together so they look natural and mature for the show. Be sure to come to the April meeting to learn more about how to choose the best companion plant for your satsuki.

*Appropriately sized suiseki is great too. Keep rubbing those stones!*

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### Spring Show - Media Report

After saying for years we should do more outreach in the bonsai and local communities to advertise our Spring Show, someone has finally done something! Member George Haas stepped up with lots of good ideas, connections, curiosity and determination and has been getting the word out all over the Bay Area. You can check the ongoing articles on the GSBF website to see a short article posted about the history of our club and show, as well as a listing in the Events section. We are also mentioned on the GSBF Facebook page and getting lots of hits. All Bay Area bonsai clubs have received notices to print in their newsletters. George discovered a Visit Oakland website which now has a listing for our show, and he is the computer whiz who put together our beautiful postcard announcement for the show. He is also on top of the local papers and will have notices posted closer to our show date. AMAZING! We can't thank you enough George!

So now it is up to the rest of us to do our part to pass out postcards, talk up the show and continue the great momentum begun by George. We have the cards at the Bonsai Garden at Lake Merritt, and let us know if you have suggestions of other places we could place them. The cards will be available at the April meeting to pick up.

### Calendar Upcoming Club Events:

April 23 - Bonsai/satsuki show display with Polly Gould

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

June 25 - Post bloom care and hopefully a styling demo.

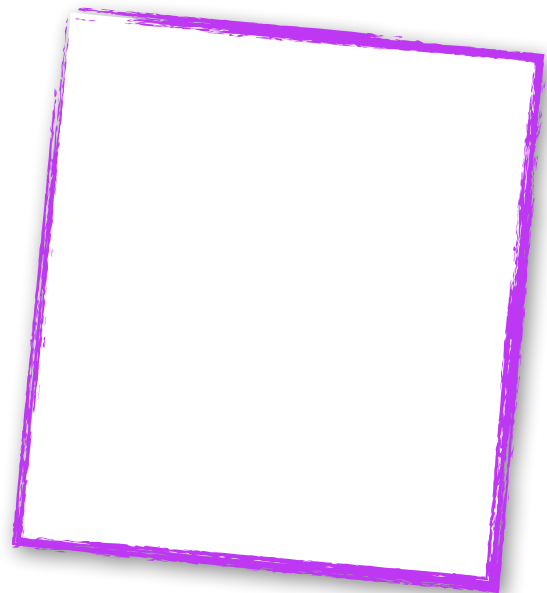
July and August - No meetings.

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

October 24 - Elections!!!

November 21 - Mesuki

December - No meeting  
Happy Holidays!



## APRIL SATSUKI CARE

- Rotate trees at least twice this month to promote symmetry as roots and canopy are in period of rapid growth
- Withhold fertilizer from trees to be shown, but fertilize trees in training with Miracid, Gro Power, or fish emulsion at 1 tsp./gal.
- Repotted trees: delay feeding until 2-3 (some say 4-6) weeks after repotting
- Foliar-feed cascades: apex (= bottom) 3 times, mid 2 X, top 1 X
- Water regularly to keep root ball moist, not wet, and never dry
- Do not over-water repotted plants, roots regenerate best in damp, not wet,
- growing mix; repotted plants usually have reduced foliage requiring less water
- Remember! The most common cause of death for azaleas is overwatering.
- Warm weather causes insects to become active and powdery mildew to grow; maintain defensive treatments; apply Ortho's Funginex for powdery mildew
- Apply Safer soap for aphids, Orthene/Orthenex, or other systemics for thrips and other sucking insects; remove scale mechanically; when rain is expected, apply Bayleton, Benomyl, or Captan to prevent flower blight
- Trim shoots extending beyond flowers or flower buds, seal all wounds; mark branches to reflect flower colors you want in cuttings; move to a dark, coolest place if blossoming starts too early; move to a warmer, sunny place (even inside the house if weather is cool) to accelerate blooming; clean pots of soil and stains; pull any weeds or liverworts growing on surface of growing mix; trim growth not needed in training; seal all wounds after trimming
- Do not repot, trees are actively growing
- Accent plants: divide clumps of bamboos, grasses, sedges, herbaceous perennials, bulbs, etc.

## Officers for 2014

President - Chris Ross - [cmrbonsai@yahoo.com](mailto: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](mailto:mckassoc@yahoo.com)  
 Directors:  
 Lucky Fung - [luckyfung88@yahoo.com](mailto:luckyfung88@yahoo.com)  
 Dennis Hawkins - [idhawk@comcast.net](mailto:idhawk@comcast.net)  
 Mike Mello - [bonsai1947@att.net](mailto: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.

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

## BONSAI EVENTS AROUND THE BAY AREA

**April 18, 2015 Napa, California**

**Napa Valley Bonsai Club:** Annual Show at the Napa Senior Center, 1500 Jefferson St., Hours are 11 AM – 4 PM with demonstrations at 2 PM with Jonas Dupuich. Vendors, Silent Auction and raffle of demo tree. Huge outdoor sales area with trees, pots, and bonsai related items. For more information please visit [www.nvbonsai.org](http://www.nvbonsai.org).

**April 18 – 19, 2015 Modesto, California**

**Modesto Bonsai Club:** 34th Annual Spring Show and Exhibit, Park Inn by Radisson, 1720 Sisk Rd. Show hours are Saturday 11 AM – 5 PM and Sunday 11 AM – 4 PM with demonstration by Sam Adina at 2 PM both days. Free admission. Exhibit, Raffle, Beginners Workshops and more!! Sales of plants, pots and other bonsai items both days (with auction immediately following demo). For more information contact Peter Camarena at (209) 529-1759.

**April 25 – 26, 2015 Sacramento, California**

**Bonsai Sekiyu Kai:** Annual show will be held at the Sacramento Buddhist Church, 2401 Riverside Blvd. Hours are: Saturday Noon – 5 PM and Sunday 10 AM – 4 PM. Demonstration 2 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 Doug Hamby at (916) 273-2328 or [doughamby@gmail.com](mailto:doughamby@gmail.com).

**May 2 – 3, 2015 Palo Alto, California**

**Kusamura Bonsai Club:** 55th Annual Show at the Lucie Stern Community Center, 1305 Middlefield Road. Show hours are Noon – 5 PM on Saturday and 11 AM – 5 PM on Sunday with a demonstration at 1 PM each day; special guest demonstrator Saturday. Club member sales available. For more information contact Mark O'Brien at (650) 327-0450 or [mobrientrees@hotmail.com](mailto:mobrientrees@hotmail.com). The club's website: [www.kusamurabonsai.org](http://www.kusamurabonsai.org) also has more details.

**May 2 – 3, 2015 Sacramento, California**

**Sacramento Bonsai Club:** 69th Annual Bonsai & Suiseki Show at Buddhist Church of Sacramento, 2401 Riverside Blvd. Hours are Noon – 5 PM Saturday and 10 AM – 4 PM Sunday with demonstrations on both days at 2 PM by Sam Adina. Benefit drawings, plant and tree sales. For more information visit [www.sacramentobonsaiclub.com](http://www.sacramentobonsaiclub.com) or contact Gary Judd at [juddbonsai@att.net](mailto:juddbonsai@att.net) or 916-622-8048.