

Bay Area Satsuki Aikokai

This Month's Meeting:

Thursday April 28, 7:30 - 9:30,
Bonsai Gardens at Lake Merritt, Oakland



Gordon Deeg's Kozan from the 2014 Spring Show. Bet it looks even better now!

April Meeting

Our April meeting will be focused on getting our trees into pluperfect shape for the Spring Show in May. Bring your trees to get tips on last minute refinements, and suggestions from our very knowledgeable members on the best stands, companion plants and stones to show with your trees. If you have too many trees to transport them all please bring a photo of your trees so Show Chairman Ron Reid can see what we will have for the show. It is sure to be an interesting program, so don't miss it.



PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Hello Everyone, I hope you all had a great Easter.

Our repotting class, led by Darren Wong, gave us good tips on making our trees better. Thank you Darren for your help.

I hope you all enjoyed Gordon Deeg's talk on tree improvement. Gordon brought up many interesting points and there were questions and ideas from everyone. Thanks so much for your time and expertise Gordon.

Everyone should be getting their trees ready for the Spring Show. It is just around the corner and

Ron Reid is concerned we might not have enough trees for the show. Despite his fears it is always beautiful, but we need everyone to participate, even if you just have trees in training to show. Bring your show trees to the April meeting where you will get plenty of advice on how to get them ready for the show in May and suggestions on ways to present them to their best advantage. It will be a fun meeting and we always learn from each other.

I hope to see you there. Mike

REPOTTING WITH AZALEA EXPERT DARREN WONG

Once again we had an enthusiastic group of members present at what has become our annual repotting workshop at the end of March. Darren Wong guided us through the often treacherous territory of root combing and 'settling in' of the kanuma soil. It was clear from the quality of trees present that these regular dates to address basic, essential care of our satsuki azaleas is paying off with healthier, more beautiful trees. Nice work everyone!! We also pick up a new member in Suzanne Muller who was visiting from EBBS. Welcome Suzanne. We look forward to having you in the club.

President Mike Mello contemplates his first move at our repotting workshop



MARCH MEETING - A LIVELY PRESENTATION BY GORDON DEEG

It was a huge vote of confidence that members braved a terrible Bay Area traffic night to attend our March meeting to see and hear Gordon Deeg talk about azaleas. Gordon has learned lots in his decades in bonsai and has a real fondness for satsuki azaleas, and didn't hold back in sharing his knowledge, wisdom and tips for growing healthy, beautiful trees. By the time this reviewer got to the meeting it was a free wheeling conversation with Gordon fielding questions from the crowd on a variety of topics, and the crowd firing back their experience at times. Here are just a few of the tips gleaned from the discussion:

- Gordon showed off a 'Ward Crimson' azalea absolutely covered with red-violet flowers. Another member showed up with a sport of this azalea called 'Ruby Glow'. New varieties to covet for our collections.
- It was noted that Maruyama Nursery in Sacramento has developed some vigorous and beautiful new varieties of satsuki azaleas. Worth checking out.
- Gordon mentioned that with azaleas we have the freedom to design them any way we want. Because they are shrubs, not trees, there isn't a preconceived idea of what an azalea bonsai should be. Some are developed with a classic bonsai style in mind, and others are grown for a blow-out display of flowers - no tree structure showing at all.

•For show Gordon suggests the following:

- take off one bud wherever the tree has multiples so that each flower has plenty of space to show off
- take off inside buds - they won't be seen and only take energy from the tree
- take off early blooming flowers so that at show time the flowers are mostly one size
- take off flowers that are outside the tree's neat profile

•Gordon's post-bloom care is the same as for most of us

- leave only 2 shoots and a few leaves at the terminal ends.



Gordon Deeg brings lots of satsuki azalea eye candy to talk about at his presentation in March.

- There was a spirited discussion about fertilizer with several members sharing their favorites, but a 10-10-10 time release application seemed to be the consensus when the smoke cleared.

MARCH MEETING - RECAP CONTINUED . . .

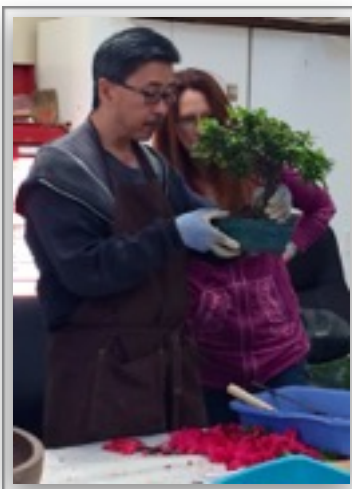
- Mycorrhiza for the roots on satsuki azaleas during repotting was discussed. Several members do use a dusting on the roots for their trees, purchased readily from the Horticultural Alliance, horticulturalalliance.com
- Gordon’s tips for removing moss from the trees trunks included using a soft wire brush, or tweezing off moistened tufts of moss.
- Root fungus is a problem with azaleas, and an application of Hydrogen Peroxide watered into the soil was suggested as a replacement for Subdue, which is no longer available.

SPRING SHOW - IT’S GOING TO BE A GREAT ONE!

We are going to need all members on deck to make the 2016 Spring Show of Satsuki Azaleas a success. In fact we are shooting high this year to increase attendance, make more money with our sales and raffles, and encourage expanded membership. Please plan on contributing in as many ways as you can to this annual event. Here are some of the ways you can help:

- Bring trees to show. There will be an area for trees in training so you can contribute even if you don’t have a proper ‘show tree’.
- Bring trees and related bonsai items to sell. The club takes a 20% commission on all member sales, and it is a great way to make room in your garden for new material.
- Plan on helping with the set up on Friday night, starting at 5:00 pm
- Plan on being at the show as much as possible on Saturday and Sunday. We will need lots of helpers on Saturday in particular since Johnny Uchida will be doing his demo that day. Ron will have a schedule at the April meeting to sign up for shifts.
- Get the word out. George Haas has been working the media again with bonsai organizations and the local community. If you have suggestions on spreading the word please contact George. We have had several months to pass out the beautiful invitations he created which hopefully will bring in a good crowd, and there are a few more left which will be at the meeting if you still want to hand some out.

We look forward to seeing you all at the Show and getting to know new members better. It is always a great weekend of beautiful bonsai.



Darren helps new member Suzanne Muller with tree positioning at the repotting workshop

Calendar
Upcoming Club
Events:

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
Happy Holidays!

Refreshments

Thank you to Mike, Linda & Ron, Laura & Darren, and Candace & Chris for bringing nourishment for the meeting. As always, refreshments are optional, but always much appreciated.

Bring whatever you feel like whenever you feel like it.

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 2016

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

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

BONSAI EVENTS AROUND THE BAY AREA

April 16 – 17, 2016, Fresno, California

Kōen-nai no Bonsai (*Bonsai in the Park*) a fundraiser to benefit the GSBF Clark Bonsai Collection at the Shinzen Friendship Garden in Woodward Park. Hours are Saturday 9:30 AM – 5:30 PM and Sunday 9:30 AM – 4:30 PM with demonstrations by Kenji Miyata, Nippon Bonsai Association certified Bonsai Masters (Saturday), and David Nguy (Sunday) with auction of the tree following each demonstration. Huge bonsai auction on both the 16th and 17th of over 60 trees including the Ray Theime's Bonsai Collection along with Bonsai and pre-Bonsai from local and state wide artists. Sale of plants and Bonsai materials each day. Toko-Kazaru Bonsai Display Competition held during event with prize money awarded. For more information visit clarkbonsaicollection.com or contact Bob Hilvers at bonsaigui@comcast.net or (559) 909-1051.

April 24, 2016, Watsonville, California

Watsonville Bonsai Club: 43rd Annual Bonsai Exhibit held at the Watsonville Buddhist Temple, 423 Bridge St., Watsonville, California. Over 50 outstanding bonsai, large and small, young and old, will be on display from 10 AM – 4 PM, with a demonstration by award winning Bonsai Master Katsumi Kinoshita at 1:30 PM. A raffle of bonsai items, plants and the demo tree will follow. Tea & cookies will be served. Plenty of parking for vehicles of all sizes; even for group outings. A vendor will be available to sate your plant appetite for bonsai or otherwise. For more information contact Don White at (831) 724-9283 or whiteslib@aol.com

April 30 – May 1, 2016, Palo Alto, California

Kusamura Bonsai Club: 56th Annual Show, Lucie Stern Community Center, 1305 Middlefield Road. Show hours are Saturday, Noon – 5 PM, and Sunday 11 AM – 5 PM with demonstrations at 1:30 PM each day. Free admission. Bonsai pots and trees for sale, as well as other bonsai-related items. For more information visit www.kusamurabonsai.org.

May 7, 2016, Napa, California

Napa Valley Bonsai: Club 38th Annual Show at Napa Senior Center, 1500 Jefferson St. Show hours are 11 AM to 4 PM, with demonstration by Jonas Dupwuch at 1 PM. Display, Silent auction, Sales, and Vendors areas.

May 7 & 8, 2016, Sacramento, California

Sacramento Bonsai Club: 70th Annual Bonsai & Suiseki Show at the Buddhist Church of Sacramento, 2401 Riverside Blvd. Show hours are Noon – 5 PM on Saturday and 10 AM – 4 PM on Sunday with demonstration at 2 PM each day. Demonstration by the well-known bonsai artist Sam Adina, followed by the demo raffle and more prizes. Free Admission. For more information contact: Gary Judd (916) 622-8048.