

Bay Area Satsuki Aikokai

This month's meeting:
 Thursday June 25, 7:30-9:30 pm
 Lake Merritt Garden Center, Oakland



A beautiful line up for the Spring show. photo by Dennis Hawkins

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

The San Francisco bay area's society for the appreciation of diminutive Rhododendrons has done some good stuff this year, and it looks like we're poised to do some more. The upcoming meeting on Thursday, June 25th will begin with an "open board meeting" where we can all get the long view about what's coming up and anyone can put ideas, plans, dreams and suggestions for the future workings of the club on the table for consideration. If you want to have your say or like to keep track of what's going on, you should plan to be there.

There are other reasons to be at meetings, of course. This time we'll be reviewing after-bloom care, with a chance to get good information about all sorts of other things as well. The good thing about a meeting like this one is that if you've been having a specific problem or questions about a specific tree, you can bring the questions and the tree both to the club meetings and expect to get good, informed opinions about what to do next. An invaluable advantage.

June Meeting . . .
 post-bloom care
 and open board meeting

June is the month we tackle the all important task of post bloom care. Come learn what to do with your satsuki to set them up for good growth throughout the summer and lots of flowers next Spring. This is a working meeting so bring your trees and do some work!

We will also have an open board meeting, giving everyone in the club the opportunity to suggest programs and direction for the coming year. We hope all members will attend and join the conversation, sharing ideas and experience.

Strength in numbers!

PRESIDENT'S LETTER CONTINUED . . .

Another good thing about club meetings is the simple pleasure of friendship among good people who share a common interest, and we at BASA have a good, warm group to associate with. I was so impressed at the run-up to this year's very beautiful show how everyone just showed up, cheerful and energetic, and proceeded to get everything done quickly, efficiently, and professionally for a very fine presentation to the general public. The things we've come to rely on were all in place: Ron Reid did a wonderful job of overseeing the placement and arrangement of the show trees, with help from Bob Gould, Johnny Uchida, Darren Wong and Gordon Deeg. Jeanette Arnold and Polly Gould were great, supplying and arranging accent plants. Their accent plants are truly beautiful, by the way, and are a perennial favorite among the picture-taking public. Linda Reid headed up the kitchen crew that kept us all going, and in that very same kitchen we all gathered around a special cake to help mark the eightieth birthday of Johnny Uchida. Mike Mello and Dennis Hawkins ably handled the sales area (I think of them as our Yearly Sales Force) and Darren and Laura Wong seemed to be everywhere, doing mini-demos, working on

trees, giving opinion and advice. It was good to have Jerry Braswell there with his lovely stones and the handsome handcrafted stands he designs and builds for bonsai. We can all be proud to be a part of a job well done, and thankful to be a part of what turns out to be a talented and high-functioning group. Associations like this, and group efforts like this, are what keep us connected to each other, and connectedness is a mental and physical health benefit that tends to slowly slip out of some people's lives to their detriment as time goes by. Not us, though. We have each other.

The Prez



(Another argument for that strength in Numbers theme) Birthday boy Johnny Uchida cuts his 80th birthday cake in the set up Friday night.



Johnny Uchida and the winner of the demo tree he styled. Congratulations Beverly!

Johnny Wows Them Again!

Setting new records for speed and refinement Johnny Uchida once again provided a spellbinding demonstration on styling a satsuki azalea at the Show on Sunday. Fresh off his 80th birthday celebration, Johnny didn't miss a beat and kept the crowd enthralled with his quick and precise moves, and charming humor. The tree was popular with the audience and brought in a tidy sum in raffle ticket sales. The lucky winner was thrilled with her new prize and we wish her great success as it continues to grow and develop into a beautiful tree. Maybe she'll even join the club. (Hint. Hint.)

Thank you Johnny, and Rick Garcia for 'interpreting' services.



Another gorgeous satsuki from our 2015 Show.

All photos in this newsletter courtesy Dennis Hawkins.

Calendar Upcoming Club Events:

June 25 - Post bloom care and open board meeting.

July and August - No meetings.

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

October 22 - TBA

November 19 - Mesuki! Election of officers as well. (3rd weekend)

December - No meeting
Happy Holidays!

SALE TREES

The sales area of our Spring Show was once again a great success. Many thanks to Mike Mello and Dennis Hawkins who headed up the sales effort and to Darren and Laura Wong, Bob Gould and many others who donated so generously from their collections.

Summer Hiatus and care tips

This is our last meeting until September. Take extra care with your trees this summer to make sure they don't dry out, and try to protect them from daily extremes in temperature. Be sure to come to the June meeting to pick up more tips on keeping your trees healthy this summer.

Officers for 2015

- 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 - 925-831-2500
- reid46@sbcglobal.net
- Newsletter - Candace Key mckassoc@yahoo.com
- Directors:
- Lucky Fung - luckyfung88@yahoo.com
- Dennis Hawkins - idhawk@comcast.net
- Mike Mello - bonsai1947@att.net

Would you like to be a BASA club officer? It is fun, easy and you will have excellent company. Please let us know if you can help.

Refreshments for this month's meeting . . .

Could we have a couple of volunteers to bring refreshments for our June meeting? It doesn't have to be anything grand, just easy and tasty. Please let Candace know if you can bring something. Otherwise we'll all be too weak to concentrate on the evening's program.

JUNE SATSUKI CARE

- Rotate trees at least twice this month to promote symmetry as canopy continues its period of rapid growth
 - Fertilize to thank plant for blooming
 - Foliar-feed cascades: apex (= bottom) 3 times, mid 2 X, top 1 X
 - Assure trees and growing mix are not drying out
 - Adjust automatic, programmed watering system for warm weather
 - Water when mulch on growing mix has dried or top of growing mix is dry to your touch; avoid
- overwatering that fosters rotting of roots
 - Control rapidly multiplying insects as soon as possible
 - If ants are in a tree, look for aphids, scale, or mealy-bugs; tip pot on its side to observe lower sides of leaves and branches where insects or their black fecal pellets are to be found; if found, apply Malathion or Sevin
 - Apply Safer Soap to control sucking insects and leaf rollers; if unlikely rain is expected, apply Bayleton or Captan to prevent flower blight on late-blooming cultivars
 - Sacrifice/escape branches: strip lower leaves and secondary
- branching to prevent shading of tree
 - Remove all flowers, seed pods, and unopened buds when 80% of flower buds have opened; reduce vegetative growth to no more than two shoots at each tip and two leaves on each shoot; remove unwanted smaller branches; seal all wounds
 - Root softwood cuttings

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

BONSAI EVENTS AROUND THE BAY AREA

July 1-5, 2015 San Rafael, California

Marin Bonsai Show at the Marin County Fair: Beautiful bonsai daily in the Fine Arts Building at the Frank Lloyd Wright designed Marin Civic Center. Open daily from 10:00 am to 9:00 pm. Fair entrance fee also includes concerts and activities throughout the day. More information at marinfair.org

July 8th, Oakland CA

East Bay Bonsai Society's 2015 Auction at the Garden Center at Lake Merritt Park, 666 Bellevue Avenue on Wednesday, July 8th at 7:30pm (preview at 7:00 pm) featuring trees, pots, and bonsai items. For more information, visit www.eastbaybonsai.org.

June 20 – 21, 2015 Livermore, California

Valley Bonsai Society: 7th annual show at Alden Lane Nursery, 981 Alden Lane. Show hours are 10 AM to 4 PM both days with demonstration by an expert bonsai artist at 1 PM. Finished trees will be raffled off at the end of the demonstration and members sales table. Admission is free. For additional information contact Charles Harder at bonsainut@comcast.net

August 1 – 2, 2015 San Francisco, California

San Francisco Suiseki Kai: 34th Annual Suiseki Exhibit at the Union Bank Community Room, Japan Center, 1675 Post Street. Hours are 10 AM – 5 PM both days. Show coincides with the 42nd annual Nihonmachi Street Fair, so come early and enjoy your day in San Francisco's historic Japan Town! Suiseki and stone sales. For more information about our club, contact sfsuisekikai@gmail.com or visit <http://sfsuisekikai.wordpress.com>.

August 22 – 23, 2015 Santa Rosa, California

Redwood Empire Bonsai Society (REBS): 32th Annual show at the Santa Rosa Veterans building, 1351 Maple Ave. 10 AM – 5 PM Saturday and 10 AM – 4 PM Sunday with demonstrations both days at 1 PM by club sensei Kathy Shaner. Large exhibit of members' trees, vendors' sales room, members' sales room, raffle and silent auction. Free admission, parking and treats. Contact Bob Shimon @ 707-884-4126 or shimon@mcn.org

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