

# Bay Area Satsuki Aikokai

## This Month's Meeting:

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



One of the beautiful displays at our 2015 Spring Show.  
Photo by Dennis Hawkins.

### PRESIDENT'S LETTER

For all the lovers of midget Rhododendrons, this is the call to come to the party! That's right, the Bay Area Satsuki club will soon have its Fall review and munch fest, where we'll review the beauties and savor the successes of the past year in a meeting where everyone is invited, friends, family and even prospective members, and nobody goes home hungry. This custom of reviewing the pictures taken at the Spring show

and sharing the good things to eat has come to seem very dear to me, and I certainly hope it will to you, too. This year, in addition to the usual visual and gustatory pleasures, there will be the auctioning of the "Club Tree", a Japanese native which has been imported, tended and brought along over the course of the year under the expert care of Darren Wong. This should be a good one, folks, and a chance to make a bid on a tree that will be a terrific addition to your garden.

## September Meeting- Annual Potluck Dinner and Auction of the 'Club Tree'

We all look forward to the annual potluck dinner where we get to show off our culinary skills, and relive the thrills and beauty of the Spring Show. Many good photos were taken, and our efforts are going into producing a dazzling slideshow so there are two good reasons not to miss the September meeting.

Another is the auction of the 'Club Tree'. This is the satsuki azalea Darren Wong imported from Japan and has been styling and demonstrating maintenance techniques on this year. It is a beauty and there is sure to be enthusiastic bidding going on, so be sure to bring your checkbook.

Please check the last page of the newsletter for food assignments for the potluck.

This is usually the most fun meeting of the year. Don't miss it!



## PRESIDENT'S LETTER CONTINUED . . .

If you've been growing azaleas for a while, you can tell at a glance that this big mama is really worth having, and this will be your only chance at it. So bring your appetite and your checkbook and join us for what promises to be a very pleasant evening.

Everyone should start thinking about replacing me at the November meeting. There are several capable candidates who need to step forward soon and agree to become the new president of BASA. This is more of a pleasure than a chore, but I've been in this seat for two years and it's time for me to go. Speak to me or any member of the board and get the ball rolling, sooner rather than later.

In the meantime, the azaleas that I've seen seem to be growing exceptionally well this year, partly, or in my case mostly, because of the valuable and instructive repottings the club sponsors every year, and partly because of the opportunities at club meetings to bring in trees for expert advice and reassurance from those who have knowledge and experience and the kindness and generosity of spirit to offer guidance and advice to those of us who need it. To them I say Thank You, and to everyone I urge you to join this special group of good people at all the meetings, every chance you get. It's associations, connections, and fellowships like this that add notes of depth and meaning to life itself. See you at the September slide show. The Prez



Koran by Darren Wong.

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### June Program - Open Board Meeting

We tried something different for our June program and held an open board meeting, inviting all who attended to share ideas for club activities and suggestions for future growth. Several people stepped forward with great input and some followed up with additional thoughts by email. Here are some of the ideas that we will be working on for next year:

Develop better attendance at our Spring Show by:

- Having our flyers/postcards ready to pass out at the winter bonsai shows to capture more bonsai enthusiasts
- Advertise in Golden Statements
- List the show on the GS Events calendar by November 20 to run through the Spring
- Advertise the show on Craig's list
- Maintain a strong Facebook presence
- Get our website up and running
- Move the demonstration to Saturday to get better attendance and more raffle sales.

Other ideas to increase membership and participation:

- Create a new flyer with current club meeting information to have at the Bonsai Gardens. This would be a good way to reach out to the general public who visit the Gardens.
- Have interested show attendees leave an email address so we can send them the newsletter
- Perhaps do a video of the show, or post our slideshow on YouTube
- Members still like the idea of doing club field trips. Consider visiting the Judds in Sacramento and Maruyama, also Darren Wong and Rick Garcia's gardens locally.

We are always open to suggestions and new approaches to our meeting format, content and activities. If you have something to offer please speak up. We would love to hear from you.



Spring color! Photo by Dennis Hawkins.

### Annual Potluck Dinner

Refreshments in September will be the BASA club potluck dinner. For your advance planning consider a hot or cold dish to feed 8 to 10 people in the category corresponding to your last name:

- Appetizer - A - F
- Side dish or salad - G - L
- Entrée - M - R
- Dessert - S - Z

The club will supply water and tea. If you would like beer, wine or other beverage please feel free to BYO.

### Calendar Upcoming Club Events:

October 24 - Show and tell - bring your trees to discuss and get advice

November 21 - Mesuki + Club Elections

December - No meeting



Could this be the infamous 'Club Tree'? No, it's much bigger! Come to the meeting and see for yourself.

Refreshments for our September meeting will be provided by . . .  
 all of us!!!  
 Yummmmm!!!



Shohin display.  
photo by Dennis Hawkins

**BASA is looking for a new president to start the term in 2016**

Now don't all speak up at once. Holding this position is an honor and a privilege, and really it is painless. Chris Ross has done a great job, but all clubs need new perspectives to be put forward to stay fresh and vital. Please consider taking on this important role.

Ask not what your bonsai club can do for you, but what you can do for your bonsai club.

(So sorry President Kennedy!

**AUTUMN SATSUKI CARE**

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

**September**

- Mist leaves in the afternoon to enhance fall color and leaf retention; do not foliar-feed
- Rotate plants twice a month
- Resume fertilizing after set of next year's flower buds (detected by squeezing terminals)
- Do not allow trees to dry out; ensure that trees are not over- or under-watered by a drip system
- Mist leaves during hot spells
- Watch for leaf rollers; if found, spray with Thuricide
- Look for wire that may be cutting into bark
- Do not wire or prune

**October**

- Rotate plants twice a month
- Leaves produced last summer begin to show fall color; note stripes and sectors of darker pigments that parallel coloration of flowers on each branch or branchlet
- Fertilize using low nitrogen fertilizer
- Watering: a necessary chore during the Bay Area's "summer"
- Adjust automatic, programmed watering system for fall to ensure that trees are not over- or under-watered
- Spray with Malathion to control chewing and sucking insects and leaf curlers
- Do not prune or wire

**Officers for 2015**

- 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)

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.

**BONSAI EVENTS AROUND THE BAY AREA**

**September 25 – 27, 2015 Portland, Oregon**

**The Artisans Cup** held at The Portland Art Museum. The Artisans Cup is the premier exhibition of American Bonsai. The event will also feature select artisans who are creating distinctive supporting elements such as ceramics, woodwork, tools, and more. For further information, visit our website at <http://www.theartisanscup.com/>.

**September 26 – 27, 2015 Penryn, California**

**Sierra Bonsai Club:** Club show in conjunction with Placer Buddhist Church's Annual Fall Food Festival. Hours are 11 AM – 4 PM Saturday and 11 AM to 4 PM Sunday. Bonsai demonstration by Scott Chadd in the afternoon, both days. For more information contact Robin Knittle at [robin\\_knittle@yahoo.com](mailto:robin_knittle@yahoo.com) or Gary Judd at [juddbonsai@att.net](mailto:juddbonsai@att.net) or 916-622-8048.

**October 17 – 18, 2015 Union City, California**

Yamato Bonsai Kai: 44th Annual Bonsai Exhibition at the Southern Alameda County Buddhist Church, 32975 Alvarado-Niles Rd. Hours are Saturday Noon to 6 PM and Sunday 10 AM to 5 PM. Demonstrations each day at 2 PM by Johnny Uchida, with Mike Baker and Tony Hayworth. Benefit raffle each day after the demo. Raffle includes the demo tree. Large Vendor and Plant Sales area. Free Admission & Parking. For additional information, call Tony Hayworth at 510-289-5731 or visit our web site at [www.yamatobonsai.org](http://www.yamatobonsai.org).

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BASA  
578 Woodbine Drive  
San Rafael, CA 94903