

Bay Area Satsuki Aikokai

This Month's Meeting:

Thursday November 19 7:30 - 9:30,
Lake Merritt Garden Center, Oakland



Shohin display at our 2015 Show. Trees by Gordon Deeg, mostly.

PRESIDENTIAL NOTICE

It was a long campaign and hard-fought contest, but Mike Mello bested all contenders and was voted president of BASA for the coming two year term at our October meeting. Outgoing president Chris Ross reluctantly handed over the reins and the gavel as he made an impassioned farewell speech. He leaves the helm with a heavy heart, but knows the club will be in excellent hands with the capable and affable Mr. Mello.

We also voted George Haas to be Board member at large during the meeting, and while George wasn't present to personally accept the honor - having traveled to Portland, OR to attend the Artisan Cup bonsai show - we toasted him in absentia and welcomed him to the inner circle.

November Meeting, one week early!

We have scheduled a critique of our satsuki for the November meeting, and discussion of best practices for keeping our azaleas happy and healthy through what we hope will be a very wet winter.

We'll also be talking about programs and activities for 2016. Please come with ideas to share, or help to offer as we chart a course for growth of the club and expansion of our knowledge about our beautiful trees.

We will have mock-ups for the flyer announcing our Spring Show. Take a look and cast your vote!



Introducing our newly elected BASA Board Members

Long time BASA club member Mike Mello was voted our next president at the October meeting, and it was about time! Mike has been active in our club for years, as well as keeping up with his other clubs, which include Sei Boku in San Mateo. Mike is active with the Shohin Convention and manages the Sales area of the Mammoth Bazar at the Bonsai Gardens at Lake Merritt where he is also a docent. He can often be found with his sidekick Dennis Hawkins - or is Mike the sidekick? - organizing plant sales, raffle items and overall being a strong contributor to whatever is going on. Now, with BASA, he has the chance to take the reins and share his insights and ideas with the advantage of the bully pulpit. We look forward to hearing about what Mike, and his reformulated board have in mind for the club in the coming year. No doubt there will be many of the club activities we have all come to know and love, but fresh ideas are brewing, new programs and community outreach among them. Stay tuned for the Mike Mello presidency!



Newly elected BASA President Mike Mello relaxes among the satsuki.

Please give club Treasurer Darren Wong an early Christmas gift and get your \$25 renewal (\$35 for families) in at our next meeting. OR send in the handy form at the end of the newsletter. Thank you!

Member George Haas was elected to the BASA Board at our meeting. For most of you George needs no introduction, but for those few of you who may have been wondering who that tall, quiet guy with the camera, hanging around bonsai events is, here is a quick reference. George is an active member of several bonsai clubs in the Bay Area, most notably REBS in Santa Rosa, Marin Bonsai Club and BABA. He became a BASA club member in 2014 when he won one of the beautiful satsuki azaleas from Suisho Nakayama's demonstration at the BABA show. George figured it was such an amazing tree, and Nakayama-san would surely know if he didn't take care of it properly, so he promptly joined BASA to learn how to keep his tree thriving. Most of you know that George was the editor of Golden Statements for many years and is largely responsible for the new, high-end look and content of the quarterly magazine. He continued to guide improvements in both the digital and printed content for GSBF, but is now turning his focus towards helping the local clubs become stronger and more effective in their outreach. Beneath George's calm exterior lurks a keen intellect, a native curiosity and a drive for innovation and excellence. We are incredibly fortunate to have George on the Board where he will be helping with our efforts to increase visibility for BASA and our membership. Thank you George, and welcome!



Who wouldn't love to have this friendly guy on their Board?



Yes, There will be a repotting workshop next year!

Mark your calendars now for what has become our annual repotting workshop, on Saturday March 26. We will start around 9:00 and go until noonish. There will be a fee for using the workshop space at the Bonsai Gardens, and to compensate our resident guru and guide, Darren Wong.

More on those details later, but please let us know if you expect to attend so we can make plans.

What a great way to get your trees off to a promising start in 2016 with expert repotting!

WINTER SATSUKI CARE

November

- Review exposure of trees as shadows lengthen northward; move trees into full sun
- Leaves produced during spring and early summer begin to show fall color
- Rotate all trees at least once a month
- First week, give last fertilizer of year
- Adjust automatic watering systems for winter
- Use Diazinon or Malathion for aphids, Sevin for ants, Ortho's Funginex for powdery mildew
- Do not apply lime-sulfur spray
- Mark for later removal or reduction any branches showing undesired dark pigments; remove any wire cutting into bark and all wire if branches have settled into desired positions
- Late in month begin *mesuki* to reduce summer's growth, thin buds, and wire and bend trunks and branches; let plants dry out to facilitate bending
- Accent plants: divide and repot clumps of bamboos, grasses, sedges, herbaceous perennials, etc.; dry bulbs of bulbous plants preparatory to replanting in February

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Calendar Upcoming Club Events:

November 21 - Discussion of winter care and critique of trees in preparation for the Spring Show
Share your ideas and hopes for activities for 2016
Preview of Spring Show flyer for 2016

December - No meeting
Happy Holidays

Our Annual Spring Show is already on the books. Mark your calendars and start getting your trees ready for the May 21st and 22nd dates.

It is almost the end of the year, but don't despair. We'll be back next year with lots of great satsuki workshops and programs, including repotting in March. Renew your membership now so you don't miss anything.

December

- Review exposure of trees to sun at its lowest angle; move all trees into full sun
- Leaves produced during summer should show fall color
- Rotate all trees at least once a month
- Do not fertilize
- Adjust automatic watering system for winter
- Assure that plants receive sufficient water during dry spells; rains may not penetrate through profile of growing mix
- Check old wiring—wire may be biting in
- Continue to use either Diazinon or Malathion for aphids, Sevin for ants, and Ortho's Funginex for powdery mildew
- *Mesuki*. Continue thinning of summer's growth and reduction of floral buds; wire and bend smaller branches; wait until March to prune larger branches
- Accent plants: divide clumps of bamboos, grasses, sedges, herbaceous perennials, bulbs, etc.

As usual, we have no formal sign up for refreshments for the November meeting. If you feel inspired, bring something.

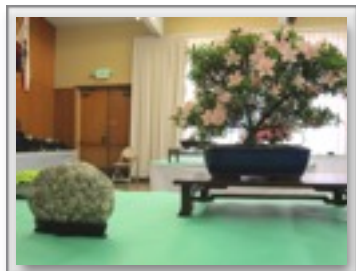
If you don't I'm sure we won't hold it against you.

BONSAI EVENTS AROUND THE BAY AREA**December 5, 2015, Fresno, California**

Fresno Bonsai Society: Eighth Annual Bonsai Yard Sale, from 8 AM till 3P M, at 736 West Browning Avenue. The sale will offer pre-bonsai, finished trees, new and used pots, accent plants, books, stands, and stones. All are welcome to buy, trade, or sell. This event gets bigger every year and we welcome sellers of all items related to bonsai. Join us for great bargains and old friends. For more information, contact Peter Schaffert at peteschaffert@gmail.com.

Dec. 26, 2015 – January 3, 2016, San Marino, Ca.

California Aiseki Kai: 26th Anniversary Exhibition of Viewing Stones Show at the Botanical Center of the Huntington Library and Botanical Gardens, 1151 Oxford Road. Hours are 10:30 AM – 4:30 PM each day (Closed New Year's Day). Free parking. For more information see our website: www.aisekikai.com and/or contact sashaichris@gmail.com

**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

Bay Area Satsuki Aikokai

Membership Application

The club meets the 4th Thursday of each month*
at the Garden Center at Lake Merritt 7:30-9:30
for programs and workshops

* Excepting May, July, August and December

Make your check in the amount of \$25/year for an individual or \$35 for a household to BASA.

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:

BASA

578 Woodbine Drive

San Rafael, CA 94903