

Bay Area Satsuki Aikokai

This Month's Meeting:

Thursday November 16, 6:30 - 9:30,
Lake Merritt Garden Center, Oakland



What a gorgeous display! Photo DH

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Hi Everyone, It is finally that time of year again for our potluck dinner and the slideshow of our Spring exhibition. It is sure to be a great time with good food, beautiful photos and a special raffle this year of a tree Johnny Uchida styled and repotted at our June meeting. I really hope everyone can come.

We are starting the meeting early, both on the day, which is a week early so as not to interfere with Thanksgiving, and the time, 6:30 to give us plenty of time to chat, eat and be entertained. Don't be late or you might miss out of some good food. (the potluck food assignments are on page 3) continued . . .

November Meeting, one week early!

The November meeting date for our slideshow and potluck dinner worked out well last year so we are doing it again. We'll start early to give ourselves plenty of time for the festivities which include a slideshow of our May Exhibit and the raffle of a demo tree Johnny Uchida did in at our June meeting.

We'll also be talking about programs and activities for 2018 and we would like suggestions from members about how to organized the club for the future. It should be a grand time and we look forward to seeing you all.



The BASA Board members who attended the October meeting agreed to continue with their positions another year, but we also saw the need to involve more members in the leadership of the club. We will have some ideas to share next week, and welcome any ideas you have too. We would love to see some new members join the Board, so please give some thought to how you can contribute. Its really fun and easy. Hope to see you all at the potluck!
Mike



Mike among the Satsuki.

p.s. This is also the time to do important winter maintenance on our azaleas: remove large leaves, replace old or missing kanuma, add fertilizer and cover in fresh yamagoki moss.

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!

We can't fit all the good stuff we want to share in the newsletter, so be sure to check out our website satsukiazaleabonsai.org for the latest information on club activities, and lots more!

October Meeting Review

It was a small group that met for our October meeting. Maybe it was the threat of elections and being voted in as president that scared some members, but probably it was competition from the statewide bonsai convention in Riverside. In the future, whether the convention will be in Northern or Southern California, we will try to schedule our October meeting for the 3rd Thursday so everyone can fit both events into their calendars.

None-the-less, it was a productive meeting. With several club Board members in attendance we discussed how we might move the club forward in coming years, distributing responsibilities more equitably among club members so that no one becomes overburdened with responsibilities. We'll have some suggestions to share at our November meeting and welcome ideas and comments from all members.

We also did some plotting for winter care of our satsuki azaleas and looked ahead to repotting season next Spring. Darren Wong had several tips to share:

- The big news is that he has found a source for granular Subdue® and has placed an order so he can try it out. You get a lot, it costs a lot, and we generally don't need that much, so he will be sharing his contacts and results so members can team up to buy this very useful soil amendment.
- We talked about this issue of root rot on our azaleas and Darren explained how it can be there year after year without being fully evident until the final insult takes the tree down. This is why he uses Subdue® in a proactive way with regular treatments throughout the year.
- Because of the warm Fall, many of our azaleas haven't begun to show Fall color. This will be changing soon through, and when the tree has turned about 1/3 of its leaves, it is then safe to remove the rest so the maximum light gets through to the branches and new buds. continued . . .

- For repotting Darren let us in on some deep thinking about when and why to repot:
 - Narrow leaved satsuki can be repotted early in the season, like late February. They come from the mountains in Japan and are more accustomed to the cold.
 - Wait for warmer weather in the Spring, mid-late March for broadleaf azaleas. These are from the lower elevations, not used to the cold and need the warmer weather to recover from repotting without stress.
 - If you are planning to show a tree at our Spring Show and want to make sure the flowers don't bloom too soon, then wait until the tree starts to push new leaves in the Spring to repot. This will slow it down and give you more control over the blooms, but don't wait too late.
 - Darren also talked a bit about pots, with the promise of a more detailed presentation for our meeting in February. He brought up the concept of a "cold" pot, one with a very dense clay composition that feels cool to the touch. This is not the best pot for azaleas, and he suggested terra-cotta is better for growing trees because it will keep the roots warmer. Of course for show get those babies into the nicest, most appropriate pot you can find. Plop and drop if necessary, then get it back in the growing pot once the show is over.
- One last very useful tip was noted in regard to wiring; wire a day after watering the tree because azalea branches are even *more* brittle when they are wet - and who needs more of a challenge wiring!?
- See how much you missed? Always a good time at the BASA meetings.



Welcoming committee at our Spring show. Photo DH

Potluck Food Assignments

Our potluck dinner and slideshow of the May Exhibit is on for November! We will be meeting a week early, November 16, and an hour early, 6:30, to give us plenty of time for the festivities. Food assignments by last name are below, and as usual we encourage everyone to bring their favorite dish. ***This year the club will be providing a baked ham*** to fortify the entrée range, so those of you who are on the entrée list please plan accordingly.

Please bring a hot or cold dish to feed 10 to 12 people in the category corresponding to your last name:

Dessert - A - F

Appetizer - G - L

Salad or side dish - M - R

Entrée - 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:

November 16 - Potluck dinner and slide show of May Satsuki Exhibition

December - No meeting
Happy Holidays

Our 2018 Spring Show is already on the books. Mark your calendars and start getting your trees ready for the **May 19th and 20th** 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. Renew your membership now so you don't miss anything.

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

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

- 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
- 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.

BONSAI EVENTS AROUND CALIFORNIA

December 2, 2017 Clovis, California

Fresno Bonsai Society: Tenth Annual Bonsai Yard Sale at the Clovis Botanical Garden, 945 North Clovis Ave. Fun starts at 8 AM and ends at 2 PM. Everything bonsai for sale: pre-bonsai, finished trees, pots new and used, books, soil, stands, accent plants, suiseki and more. Everyone is welcome to buy, sell or trade bonsai related items. Small-town bargain prices. Coffee, donuts, free admission, lots of parking; join old friends for this annual ritual and come early for the best selection. For more information, contact David Soho at sohofive@yahoo.com.

December 26-30, 2016 San Marino, CA

27th Anniversary Exhibition of Viewing Stones Show at the Botanical Center of The Huntington Library & Botanical Gardens, 1151 Oxford Road, San Marino, CA

Hours are 10:30-4:30 each day. Free parking. For more information see our website aisekikai.com and or contact sashaichris@gmail.com



Ant's eye view.
Photo DH

Officers for 2017

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 - ldhawk@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: October and November meetings on the 3rd Thursday.

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