

Bay Area Satsuki Aikokai

No Meetings in July and August



Murasakishikibu by Johnny Uchida at the 2016 Spring Satsuki Azalea show.

Satsuki Summer Care

Since we won't be meeting in July or August we'll leave you with these tips for keeping your satsuki happy this summer.

Plenty of water, but not too much.

Plenty of sun, but not during the hottest part of the day.

Give them some humidity if you can manage it and a bit of food.

Mostly just enjoy watching them grow stronger, fuller and more beautiful. The 2017 Spring Show is just around the corner.

See page 3 for more details.



GUEST CONTRIBUTOR - LUCKY FUNG

We don't usually have a newsletter in July, but there was an exceptionally good program at the June meeting. BASA board member Luck Fung stepped up to give us a report on the proceedings and Bob Gould's excellent program on post-bloom care. See page 2 for details, and thank you so much Lucky!

All photos in this issue by Chris Ross

June 2016 Meeting Notes

President Mike Mello opened our June 2016 meeting. Mike thanked the members for the best Satsuki show ever in May 2016. The collection and variety of trees/styles and flowers were amazing and spectacular! Every tree was in full bloom. The club's Satsuki bonsai demo by Johnny Uchida was very popular and a huge success. Thank you Johnny!

The Sales area of the show saw lots of activity with an assortment of starter Satsuki's for resale as well as the gorgeous & hard to find Satsuki's for the serious collector brought in by Darren Wong and Rick Garcia. The club will hold a video show and pot luck in the fall to celebrate the May 2016 Satsuki show.

The new BASA brochure was introduced. George Haas headed a team that pulled together a beautiful presentation which should serve the club well in future recruiting efforts. If you would like to have any of these brochures for bonsai or club events please check with Mike or Candace.

Mike then turned the meeting over to Bob Gould who gave a 1 hour presentation & instruction on Satsuki post bloom care. Bob covered how to eliminate the seed pods, reduce the number of new Satsuki shoots to two and leave shoots which are similar in size. Bob then talked about reducing the new leaves down to 1 or 2 on the new shoot. One member (me) asked "which 2 leaves do you leave"the 2 leaves at the tip of the shoot? Bob smiled and said he hadn't had that question asked. He explained you leave the 2 leaves at the base of the new shoot. For me, this was an aha moment.

Bob then went around to each member who brought in their Satsuki to provide one on one hands on tree care instruction. Bob, thanks for sharing your knowledge and many years of experience!

The meeting adjourned until our next meeting in September 2016.

Lucky Fung

Save the Date
Thursday September 22
BASA Club Potluck Dinner
and Slide Show of our
Spring 2016 Satsuki
Exhibition



Darren Wong stayed busy during the show wiring trees and offering instruction to novices. Thanks so much Darren!

HARRY HIRAO SCHOLARSHIP

The 2016 Harry Hirao Annual Scholarship applications are now being processed, and any member can apply. Look up the program at <http://hcvuq.cfnbw.servertrust.com/default.asp> under Education. The field is wide open and the serious bonsai enthusiast should not hesitate to apply now.

The winner could easily be you!
Don't delay looking into this wonderful opportunity.

SUMMER 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 or Othene/Orthenex 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