

Bay Area Satsuki Aikokai

This Month's Meeting:
Thursday February 23, 7:00 - 9:30,
Lake Merritt Garden Center, Oakland



Club Treasurer and satsuki azalea expert Darren Wong will lead our discussion at the February meeting.

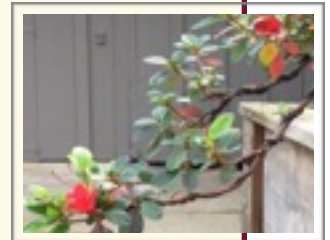
February Meeting- Grafting and Repotting

Darren Wong will present a program on grafting satsuki azaleas. This is a rare opportunity to learn about this technique for improving our trees.

We will also be taking stock of our trees for the year. Repotting season is upon us and time to decide which trees need repotting and what pots they can go into. (see page 2 for guidance on repotting priorities)

This is also the month for the Ward's Ruby Challenge competition. Bring your designed Ward's Ruby

azalea for judging and discussion. If you can't make the meeting, but have a tree to enter give it to a friend to bring. More info on page 2.



Happy Valentine's Day

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Welcome back BASA members. Happy Year of the Rooster! I hope you had a nice holiday season and are ready to work on your trees this year. We will start our year out with a grafting demonstration by Darren Wong. This is a great technique to improve the shape of our trees and to my knowledge we haven't ever had a demonstration like this at the club. It is terrific

to have an expert like Darren willing to share his knowledge and expertise.

We also plan to have a repotting workshop in March, but haven't worked out the date for that yet. We'll get back to you as soon as we can with details.

continued . . .

PRESIDENT'S LETTER CONTINUED

The big excitement for our February meeting is voting on the best tree for the Ward's Ruby Challenge. Hopefully you have styled your trees and will be able to show them off at the meeting. (show pots not necessary) The prize for the

winner is free membership to the club in 2018 and you get to keep your tree! Hope to see everyone at the meeting with their trees, curiosity and enthusiasm. Mike



President Mike

SPECIAL REPOTTING WORKSHOP - DATE TO BE ANNOUNCED

Darren Wong will once again lead us through the detailed and delicate process of repotting our satsuki azaleas in March. A date has not been set, and we will alert you as soon as we have more information. Meanwhile you can be repotting your azaleas this winter. See Darren's repotting tips and come to the meeting on February 23 with questions for discussion.

Repotting Tips

As a guide to what to repot, Darren suggests we start with narrow leaf varieties and then move on to broader leaf azaleas. Shohin are typically repotted every 2 years and Chuhin every 3. Definitely any tree that does not drain well, or is in garden soil should be repotted right away. Join us to learn more.

The Ward's Ruby Challenge is On!!

Remember the Ward's Ruby Challenge? As a refresher, this is the way it works: the trees many of you have fostered since the Spring should now be styled to your taste and whims. It is time for the moment of truth, voting for the best one. The winner gets to keep his/her tree and wins free club membership for 2018. The rest of the trees will be sold at the show this year or can be purchased at the meeting.

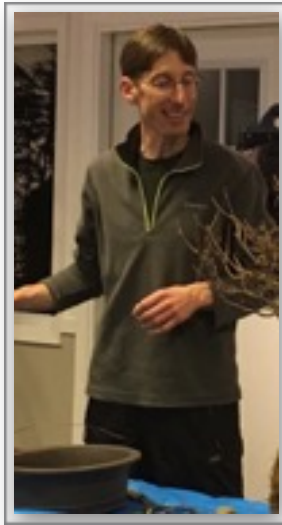


These happy guys got a jump on their Ward's Ruby styling last Spring at the show. How's yours looking?

Show us your Ward's Ruby!!!

MARCH MEETING - SPECIAL

We will welcome bonsai professional Jonas Dupuich of the blog and website Bonsai Tonight to our March 23 meeting. Jonas has traveled widely in Japan and Europe attending international bonsai shows and will share some of what he has learned and observed. Mark this date on your calendar now so you don't miss his presentation.



Flyers for our Spring Show are Ready!

Thanks to the efforts of George Haas and our hard working BASA Board of Directors we will have flyers for our Spring Show in time for the the Mammoth Fundraiser at the end of the week. These will also be available at our February meeting for BASA members to pass out to other clubs they belong to, and we appreciate everyone's effort to get the word out about our Show. The Mammoth events and the BABA show in March are our best opportunities to encourage attendance and we need everyone's help to make the show a success.

DUES are way past DUE!

If you haven't paid your 2017 dues please bring a check to the February meeting or use the handy form at the end of the newsletter to mail to Treasurer Darren Wong.

Calendar

Upcoming Club Events:

February 23 - Grafting, repotting review - discussion of soil, pots, and Ward's Ruby Challenge voting!!

March 23 - Jonas Dupuich from Bonsai Tonight on bonsai display

March ?? - Repotting workshop at the Bonsai Gardens at Lake Merritt- details to follow

April 27 - Bob Gould on cutting back and wiring for development

May 20-21 - Annual Show - No meeting this month.

June 22 - Post bloom care

July and August - No meetings.

September 28 - Pest control and discussion on fertilizers

October 19 - Mesuki! and club elections

November 16 - Potluck dinner and slideshow of the Spring Exhibition

Refreshments at our February Meeting will be provided by anyone who wants to bring them

Thank you!!

(Please sign up at the meeting to bring refreshments for meetings during the year.)

FEBRUARY SATSUKI CARE

- Rotate all trees at least once a month
- Fertilize with 1 tsp. Miracid/gal every two weeks
- Continue reduced watering
- Water during prolonged dry spells between storms
- Prop up one end of pots to help drainage during storms
- Watch for insects and fungi. Aphids can become active during warm periods.
- Do not use lime-sulfur on azaleas
- *Mesuki*. OK to wire and bend; remove excess buds, if not yet done; OK to make large pruning cuts; seal all wounds
- Trees looking unhealthy, repot immediately and keep in a sheltered place, protect from frost
- Accent plants: divide clumps of bamboos, grasses, sedges, herbaceous perennials, bulbs, etc.
- Air- or ground-layer before buds swell; plan to sever by June or next repotting season.
- Make thread grafts immediately preceding vegetative growth

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



Officers for 2017

- President - Mike Mello - bonsai1947@att.net
- Vice President - vacant
- Secretary - vacant
- Treasurer - Darren Wong - 707.746.6260
- Past President - Chris Ross - cmrtnt@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

We really use a few more people on the Board. Can you help? Please contact Mike. It is the easiest Board in bonsai to be on.

BONSAI EVENTS AROUND THE BAY AREA

February 18 - 19, 2017 Oakland, California

GSBF Bonsai Garden at Lake Merritt: The annual Mammoth Auction and Sale Fund Raiser will be held at 666 Bellevue Ave. (Garden Center Building). Saturday: Auction preview at noon with Auction starting at 1 PM. Sunday: Vendor Sales start at 9 AM, Plant Sales start at 10 AM, and demonstrations at 1 PM. The date for this year's event is a week earlier than in the past to let attendees and vendors participate in both the Mammoth and the Bonsai-a-Thon. You are encouraged to submit your bonsai for consideration to be included in the Mammoth Auction as soon as possible. Items will be considered on a first-come-first-considered basis. The Bonsai Garden will be open 10 AM to 4 PM on Saturday and Noon to 4 PM on Sunday, so you can check out the many changes that have been made this year. For more information or to sell trees, email bonsailakemerritt@gmail.com and visit www.gsbflakemerritt.org.

March 4, 2017 Oakland, California

GSBF Bonsai Garden at Lake Merritt: Ryan Neil will conduct a re-styling of the BGLM's Rocky Mountain Juniper to be held at the Lake Merritt Sailboat Boathouse from 1 to 4 PM. Ryan's demonstration will be a fund-raising event in support of the Bonsai Garden Revitalization Opportunity (GRO) project. BGLM is raising \$100,000 to replace worn out display and seating benches, upgrade water systems and install new pathways and windows.

Tickets are \$35 each (tax deductible) and will be available on a first-come-first-serve basis. Tickets may be reserved by emailing bonsailakemerritt@gmail.com with the name of purchaser, number of tickets requested, phone number, mailing address, and email address. Once you are confirmed that there is space for you, you will be asked to mail a check or credit card number, expiration date and Zip code to GSBF BGLM, PO Box 16176, Oakland, CA 94610. Once purchased, the tickets are non-refundable

Membership dues for 2017

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

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