

Bay Area Satsuki Aikokai

This Month's Meeting:

Thursday March 23, 7:30 - 9:30,
Lake Merritt Garden Center, Oakland



Are you ready for our Spring Show? It's not too early to get your trees ready. photo by Dennis Hawkins

March Meeting

Jonas Dupuich of Bonsai Tonight will be our guest presenter for a program on bonsai display at our March meeting. He will present slides and lead a discussion on best presentation practices in his informative and engaging style. We will also be raffling a pot Jonas has imported from Japan, so be sure not to miss this special program.



PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Hello BASA Members, I hope everyone has been enjoying the recent summer weather. Our azaleas sure love it!

I was very happy to see Darren Wong's demonstration on graphing at our meeting last month. We have never had a presentation of this kind at the club before and it seemed like everyone picked up some new knowledge and great tips from Darren.

At this month's meeting Jonas Dupuich of Bonsai Tonight will present a program on bonsai display. Jonas has traveled widely in Japan and visited bonsai shows there and in Europe. Those of you who read his excellent blog online know that Jonas has a refined eye towards bonsai and the display of trees and will be sharing insights with us as well as tips for the presentation of satsuki azaleas.

Jonas is a vendor of tools, pots, slabs, books and lots of other essentials from Japan. We will have a pot from Jonas to **RAFFLE** at the end of the meeting, so be sure to bring your wallets. And, if you need to purchase anything from Jonas check out his website and order online for him to bring your items to the meeting.

See you at the meeting, Mike



FEBRUARY GRAPHING DEMONSTRATION BY DARREN WONG

At our February meeting Darren Wong gave the members a demonstration on “approach grafting” of Satsuki azalea bonsai. Approach grafting is the use of two live branches and fusing them together. Darren used a couple of Satsuki azalea bonsai that members brought to the meeting for the purpose of showing the technique. Some preparation was taken in the first case, that was to lightly wire a long branch in the direction of the second branch or trunk. In this case, Darren could easily bend the longer and thinner branch across the trunk. This long, thin branch was the first-year growth and very flexible making it easy to approach graft or attach the longer branch to the trunk, the trunk being thicker than the longer branch. With approach grafting both branches or branch-trunk combination is being fed by the continued flow of water. Approach grafting provides a good and reliable method for a successful union.

The best time for approach grafting is when the bonsai is in the growing season, like February and March.

The cambium plays an important role in approach grafting like other methods of grafting. This is the union that must meet in order to obtain a successful graft.

After first determining where on the trunk needed to be attached, Darren placed the long, thin branch across the trunk. He used a sharp grafting knife to make a ¼ inch long “v” shaped cut in the trunk, with the “v” cut length-wise in the direction you want the new branch to grow. The depth of the cut was approximately ½ the thickness of the long, thin branch -not very deep. Darren pointed out the cambium as green, lying just under the outer bark. This information tells you the branch or trunk is live and capable of taking the approach graft. He used a woodworker’s carving knife to round out the “v” cut for a more natural fitting.



Approach graft pinned in place

Darren then placed the long, thin branch into the cut area to ensure a good fit. He used his grafting knife and fingernail to lightly scrape the bark away on the long, thin branch to expose the green cambium layer. This was done on both sides of the long, thin branch so that the cambium of both branch and trunk touched one another which will help the grafting take faster.

Once a good fit was ensured Darren used a small nail with rubber washer (imported from Japan) and hammered it in place to hold down the long, thin branch and placing pressure on the union. Another small nail was used to ensure an adequate amount of pressure was placed on the union of branch and trunk. The nails are positioned one above and one below the branch, hammered into the trunk (see photo).

Darren then applied cut paste, rolling the cut paste in his palms to measure about ¼ inch or more in length, and applied the cut paste to all exposed areas of the union. This step is important to seal in moisture and assist in healing the wound.

Darren cautioned about watering and handling the bonsai afterwards so as not to disturb the approach graft. The approach graft will be successful when you observe the long, thin branch grow in size. Darren usually leaves the approach graft alone for two years to ensure it takes and is healthy. At that time, you cut at the base where the grafted branch first enters the trunk leaving the new branch.

article and photos by George Haas - more on our website

GRO Fundraising Drive

Volunteers joined together through our hard work and generous donations to create a one-of-a-kind living art museum of legacy and master bonsai that is supported totally by volunteers and donations. Now we need help once again to revitalize the Bonsai Garden at Lake Merritt that is showing signs of its age and popularity. Please donate what you can to help us through the next phase of our journey together. The Bonsai Garden has begun its GRO (Garden Revitalization Opportunity (GRO) project with funds from our reserves and a grant from the Golden State Bonsai Federation as well as contributions from individuals and clubs through out the area. We also received a grant from the Walter & Elise Haas Fund that will help take us to our \$100,000 goal, but we need your help to reach our goal. Please contribute [here](#) online and come by to visit the Bonsai Garden at Lake Merritt to see how your contribution will help keep this museum open free to the public.



To contribute to the GRO fundraising effort go to: <https://www.youcaring.com/gsbfbonsaigardenatlakemerritt-742808>

Has anyone not paid their dues?
If you haven't, please so do immediately.
This is your last newsletter until you re-up.
Please don't let your membership expire.

**Calendar
Upcoming
Club Events:**

March 23 - Jonas Dupuich from Bonsai Tonight on bonsai display

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

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

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
Could we get some volunteers to bring refreshments for the March meeting?
Please let Candace know if you can help out.
Thank you!!

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

MARCH SATSUKI CARE

- Rotate trees at least twice this month to promote symmetry as roots and canopy begin period of rapid growth
- Fertilize every two weeks; apply Miracid, Gro Power, or fish emulsion at 1 tsp./gal.; Miracid helps make growing mix more acid
- Repotted trees: delay feeding until 2-3 (some say 4-6) weeks after repotting
- Place fertilizer balls/cakes in pot corners and at 8- to 12-inch intervals around perimeter of growing mix; place also where rootage is wanted, but not in contact with trunk or visible roots; saturate to dissolve nutrients; scratch surface of growing mix
- Foliar-feed cascades: apex (= bottom) 3 times, mid 2 X, top 1X
- Place deep-potted cascades in saucers (1/2 depth of pot) containing MiracleGro for a few days at beginning of month
- Repot trees on a three-year cycle; do not repot trees to be subjected to motobadome
- Continue with reduced watering
- Do not over-water repotted plants, roots regenerate best in damp, not wet, growing mix; repotted plants usually have reduced foliage requiring less water
- Water trees during prolonged dry spells between rains
- Adjust automatic, programmed watering system for spring
- Prop up one end of pots to facilitate drainage during prolonged storms
- Apply Subdue if you suspect soil fungi or root rot
- Use Lysol to clean tools suspected of being infected; bleach (10% in water) and Pine Sol are effective but corrode steel
- Control aphids attacking buds and leaves with Safer Soap
- Apply Orthene/OrtheneX to control thrips and other sucking insects

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

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

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 - see more on the GSBF website

April 1 - 2, 2017 San Jose, California

San Jose Betsuin Bonsai Club: 46th Annual Bonsai Exhibition and Demonstration at the San Jose Buddhist Church Betsuin, 640 North Fifth Street. Show hours: Saturday Noon - 5 PM, and Sunday 11 AM - 4 PM, styling demonstrations at 1 PM on both days by Peter Tea. West America Trading Company (David and June Nguy) will provide a full range of bonsai supplies, including pots, wire, tools, soil etc. Bonsai Fusion (Kanehiro HamaJima) will be offering small rose trees and his small specialty pots. Art of the Daiz (Jerry Braswell) will provide Rocks/W/ Daiz along with high quality Bonsai Stands. Soh-Uu-en Satsuki Bonsai (Darren Wong) will be featuring Azalea trees fresh from Japan. Club trees and pots also for sale. For more information, contact Ken Azuma at kennethazuma@sbcglobal.net or Jim Urhausen at jim.urhausen@gmail.com

April 1 - 2, 2017 Sacramento, California

Bonsai Sekiyu Kai: 40th Annual Bonsai show and demonstration at Buddhist Church of Sacramento, 2401 Riverside Blvd. Hours are 10 AM - 4 PM with demonstration at 2 PM by Yuzo Maruyama, followed by a benefit raffle both days. There is a bonsai vendor area and a food vendor. Admission and parking are free. For information, email BonsaiSekiyuKai@gmail.com

April 8 - 9, 2017 Sacramento, California

American Bonsai Association, Sacramento: Annual Spring Show at the Shepard Garden and Arts Center in McKinley Park, 3330 McKinley Blvd, Show hours are Saturday, 10 AM - 5 PM, and Sunday, 10 AM - 4 PM with demonstrations by headliner Jonas Dupuich at 1:30 PM both days. Beginner workshop Sunday morning from 10 AM - Noon. Large member and vendor sales area, plenty of free parking, and free admission. Benefit drawing Saturday and Sunday includes bonsai, bonsai related items, and that days demonstration tree. For additional information contact Renee Seely: (916) 929-2106 & email breadcrust@comcast.net or visit our website <http://abasonline.org>.

Membership dues for 2016

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