

Bay Area Satsuki Aikokai

This Month's Meeting:

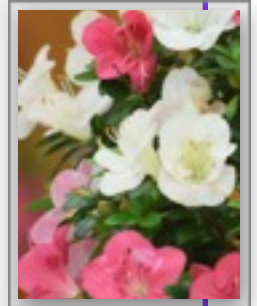
Thursday April 27, 7:30 - 9:30,
Bonsai Gardens at Lake Merritt, Oakland



Photo by Dennis Hawkins

April Meeting

All of our azaleas could use a little sprucing up this time of year. New growth is coming on - or not - and many of us aren't absolutely sure what to do with it. Trees at different stages of development and health require different approaches. BASA founding member and resident guru, Bob Gould, will lead us in a discussion of Spring maintenance and wiring, plus share tips on getting our trees in pluperfect shape for the Show next month. Bring your trees and questions. You are sure to learn lots.



PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Hello Club Members, It is time to be doing some serious work on our satsuki azaleas, so at our April meeting we will have Bob Gould talk about cutting back and wiring our trees for development. This is a hands-on meeting so bring your trees to work on and questions for Bob who is VERY knowledgeable.

In case you forgot, May is our Spring Show month. I hope you have been preparing your trees for the event, maybe using that great check list Jonas handed out at our March meeting to

make sure you don't forget anything. We also need to spread the word about the Show among members of other clubs we belong to and anywhere else you can think of. Hopefully you all got some postcards to pass out at our meeting, but let me know if you need more. It's going to be a great show and we want to make sure lots of people see it!

Hope to see you at the meeting. Mike

MARCH MEETING - BONSAI DISPLAY BY JONAS DUPUICH

Our Bay Area Satsuki Azalea club meeting at the Lake Merritt Garden Center in Oakland on March 23 was especially interesting and well-attended. The guest speaker was Jonas Dupuich, who brought along a variety of trees and display stands and an extensive knowledge of the often subtle but decisive art of display. Jonas, a founding member of BASA, began his presentation by discussing the different ways azaleas are shown: as purely flower displays, as bonsai with or without some flowers, and as bare deciduous trees so that the development of the structure is paramount. He also provided an excellent handout itemizing how to prepare our trees for exhibit with many reminders that all of us can use at show time.

The interactive presentation began with a discussion of the display stands which ranged from formal to informal, from light colored finishes to darker ones, and from tall to short to flat trays. Jonas explained the uses and placement of these and the other elements of a display, such as secondary trees, accent plants, and scrolls to create a harmonious presentation. Members of the club were called on to express opinions and preferences, and then the somewhat loose set of rules and conventions that govern the art of display were applied to the results to demonstrate how to optimize the final result.

It was of interest to note that many of the “rules” seemed to be principles that a person with an education in design, or one of great sensitivity and some experience, would probably choose to follow automatically. For example large, strong trees were shown to look their best in the formal style of presentation: larger stands of darker finish, rectangular rather than square shapes, straighter lines, simpler design and uncomplicated appearance. Of course the opposite was demonstrated to be true as well: more delicate trees looked best on stands of lighter colors, curved legs, oval or round or more square shapes.



Jonas placing an accent plant in one of the displays we considered during his presentation. photo by DH

Once a tree was properly set, Jonas added accent plants and scrolls that harmonized in color, size and tone and that accurately suggested the season and geographical area that the artist wished to depict.

The presentation by Jonas was informative and well-paced, with handouts to read and plenty of trees and stands to demonstrate, and he also used the trees and pots and ideas that members brought in the process. This high quality of presentation and thorough approach can always be expected from him, and it was a pleasure to participate. *Chris Ross*

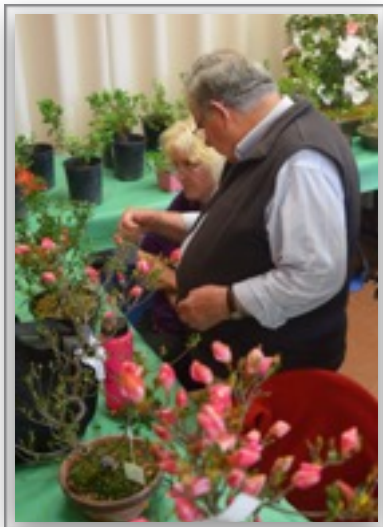
Silent Auction - New to the Show this Year

We are always looking for new ways to make our Spring Show more engaging and profitable, and this year one of our innovations is to offer a Silent Auction. This will be on Saturday only and we need a few good trees, pots, books, anything you think our members and visitors might want to bid on. If you can contribute something special the club would be very grateful.

SPRING SHOW - IT'S GOING TO BE A GREAT ONE!

We are going to need all members on deck to make the 2017 Spring Show of Satsuki Azaleas a success. We are once again shooting to increase attendance this year, make more money with our sales and raffles, and encourage expanded membership. Please plan on contributing in as many ways as you can to this annual event. Here are some of the ways you can help:

- Bring trees to show. There will be an area for trees in training so you can contribute even if you don't have a proper 'show tree'.
- Bring trees and related bonsai items to sell. The club takes a 20% commission on all member sales, and it is a great way to make room in your garden for new material.
- Plan on helping with the set up on Friday night, starting at 5:00 pm
- Plan on being at the show as much as possible on Saturday and Sunday. Ron will have a schedule at the April meeting to sign up for shifts.
- Get the word out. George Haas has been working the media again with bonsai organizations and the local community. If you have suggestions on spreading the word please contact George. We have had several months to pass out the beautiful invitations he created which hopefully will bring in a good crowd, and there are a few more left which will be at the meeting if you still want to hand some out.



We look forward to seeing you all at the Show and getting to know new members better. It is always a great weekend of beautiful bonsai.

Bob Gould helping out Maria Sargent at our Spring Show last year. photo by DH

**Calendar
Upcoming Club
Events:**

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
Thank you to our refreshment fairies last month. As always, refreshments are optional, but always much appreciated.
Bring whatever you feel like whenever you feel like it.

APRIL SATSUKI CARE

- Rotate trees at least twice this month to promote symmetry as roots and canopy are in period of rapid growth
- Withhold fertilizer from trees to be shown, but fertilize trees in training with Miracid, Gro Power, or fish emulsion at 1 tsp./gal.
- Repotted trees: delay feeding until 2-3 (some say 4-6) weeks after repotting
- Foliar-feed cascades: apex (= bottom) 3 times, mid 2 X, top 1 X
- Water regularly to keep root ball moist, not wet, and never dry
- Do not over-water repotted plants, roots regenerate best in damp, not wet,
- growing mix; repotted plants usually have reduced foliage requiring less water
- Remember! The most common cause of death for azaleas is overwatering.
- Warm weather causes insects to become active and powdery mildew to grow; maintain defensive treatments; apply Ortho's Funginex for powdery mildew
- Apply Safer soap for aphids, Orthene/Orthenex, or other systemics for thrips and other sucking insects; remove scale mechanically; when rain is expected, apply Bayleton, Benomyl, or Captan to prevent flower blight
- Trim shoots extending beyond flowers or flower buds, seal all wounds; mark branches to reflect flower colors you want in cuttings; move to a dark, coolest place if blossoming starts too early; move to a warmer, sunny place (even inside the house if weather is cool) to accelerate blooming; clean pots of soil and stains; pull any weeds or liverworts growing on surface of growing mix; trim growth not needed in training; seal all wounds after trimming
- Do not repot, trees are actively growing
- Accent plants: divide clumps of bamboos, grasses, sedges, herbaceous perennials, bulbs, etc.

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 - 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.

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

BONSAI EVENTS AROUND THE BAY AREA

April 22 - 23, 2017 Fresno, California

2nd Annual Kōen-Nai No Bonsai Fundraiser for the Clark Bonsai Collection at Shinzen. Enjoy a wonderful bonsai weekend in the beautiful setting of the Shinzen Garden at Woodward Park, at Friant and Audubon Roads. Hours are Saturday 9:30 AM – 5:30 PM and Sunday 9:30 AM – 4:30 PM. Peter Tea and David Nguy will provide demonstrations for this event. The event will include a huge bonsai auction with a wide selection of trees, complimented by a mammoth vender area. Toko-Kazari Display Competition will provide beautiful artistry together with tours of the Regional Bonsai Exhibit in the garden. Several Shohin workshops will be offered. For more information, contact Bob Hilvers at bonsaigui@comcast.net.

April 29 – 30, 2017, Chico, California

Chico Bonsai Society: Bonsai Exhibit at the C.A.R.D. Community Center, 545 Vallombrosa Ave. Show hours are Saturday 11 AM – 5 PM and Sunday 10 AM – 5 PM. Free admission and parking. Plants, tools, and Bonsai materials will be offered for sale. For more information visit www.chicobonsaisociety.com

April 30, 2017 Watsonville, California

Watsonville Bonsai Club: 44th Annual Bonsai Exhibit held at the Watsonville Buddhist Temple, 423 Bridge St. Show hours are 10 AM - 4 PM, with a demonstration by award winning Bonsai Master Katsumi Kinoshita at 1:30 PM. Over 50 outstanding bonsai, large and small, young and old, will be on display. A raffle of bonsai items, plants and the demo tree will follow. Tea & cookies will be served. Plenty of parking for vehicles of all sizes; even for group outings. A vendor will be available to sate your plant appetite for bonsai or otherwise. For more information contact Michael Anderson at (831)247-9028 or margiesmemories@aol.com

May 6 - 7, 2017 Sacramento, California

Sacramento Bonsai Club: 71st Annual Bonsai & Suiseki Show at the Buddhist Church of Sacramento, 2401 Riverside Blvd. Show hours are Noon - 5 PM on Saturday and 10 AM - 4 PM on Sunday with demonstration at 2 PM each day. Demonstration by Sam Adina, followed by the demo raffle and more prizes. Free Admission. For more information contact Lucy Sakaishi-Judd at juddbonsai@att.net or visit sacramentobonsaiclub.com