

Bay Area Satsuki Aikokai

This Month's Meeting:
 Thursday October 26, 7:30 - 9:30,
 Lake Merritt Garden Center, Oakland



Spring show. MCK photo

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Hello Everyone, I hope you and your families have been safe from the fires. We know of at least one member who has lost their home and we hope there aren't more. Our hearts and prayers go out to Ray Moore and his family.

It is **election time** again and at our October meeting we need to discuss and elect new officers and board members. I am at the end of my two year term and need someone to step up and take my place. We also need a vice president and secretary, and our newsletter editor would like to pass along her job as well. With BASA being such a small club we need to have all members participate in the organization of the club in some way for it to continue to prosper. We all have different
continued...

October Meeting

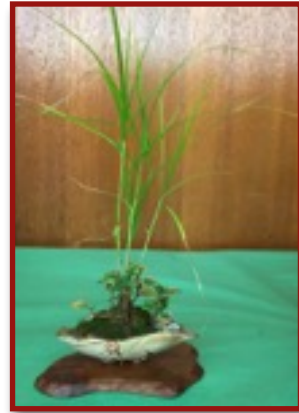
For our October meeting we will once again pursue the time-honored tradition of mesuki for our azaleas. Proper care in the Fall is absolutely essential to ensure good growth and lots of flowers in the Spring. Bring your trees and stories to share on what worked and what didn't for your trees this year.

October is also the month we hold club elections. President Mike Mello is finishing up his two year term and we need someone to step up and fill his shoes. Other officers and board members need to cycle out as well, so please give some serious thought as to how you can contribute to the health of our fine club.



PRESIDENT'S LETTER CONTINUED . . .

interests and abilities and surely everyone can find a way to contribute in large ways or small. BASA is the easiest club to be president of: there are minimal board meetings to organize, and once the programs for the year and show date are set there is just a little “minding” of monthly meetings and a short president’s letter that fill out the responsibilities. Please step up and bring your ideas for improving the club to the meeting, and volunteer to keep our club a friendly place to learn about and enjoy satsuki azaleas. Thank you, Mike

**RECAP: SEPTEMBER MEETING PROGRAM**

Our September meeting provided a great “welcome back from Summer” program on pest and disease control for our satsuki azaleas, and suggestions for timely and appropriate feeding. Bob Gould, who so humbly insists he is not an expert, led our discussion and imparted tons of expert information. He brought several products to illustrate his preferred brands and there was a lively back and forth with questions and suggestions from members. Darren Wong, who studies with Mr. Suisho Nakayama in Japan and imports trees as well, offered his experience in repotting and treating trees that have been brought to this country bare-rooted. His methods were similar to Bob’s and we all learned from the exchange of information between our two club experts (yes you are, Bob!).

The meeting was so chock full of tidbits and tricks for keeping our trees healthy that it was difficult to keep up with the rapid-fire comments. We did make a list of them though and it is quite lengthy. They can be found in a longer article with photos on our [website](#). Please check it out.

VERY SAD NEWS

It has been gut-wrenching for all of us hearing about the fires in Sonoma, Napa and beyond. Many of us have friends and family that have been directly affected, and even if we don’t know fire victims personally, we strongly empathize what what they are going through.

We were deeply saddened to learn that one of our club members lost his beautiful home in Santa Rosa as well as his gorgeous satsuki azaleas. Ray Moore and his wife have been club members and active in the bonsai community for years and it is heart-breaking to learn of their loss. Miraculously Ray’s sense of humor survived the fire and he sent us photos of his “desert satsuki” thinking it might be something we want to look into. We hope to hear more from Ray when he has suggestions for things he and his wife might need as they rebuild. Our hearts are with you Ray.





Saiko by Bob Gould. MCK photo

Mesuki (late November–March)

Mesuki (derived from *me* = bud and *suki* = thinning) is the Japanese technique of removing excess shoots, buds, and leaves during late fall and winter. As the name implies, one of its objectives is to reduce the number of flowers, so blooms will not overlap next spring. However, this term is extended in use to include removal of leaves that otherwise will naturally fall during winter and refinement of the tree during its dormant period by removal of unwanted shoots.

This technique should be applied November through March to each of your trees. Do not begin *mesuki* until leaves show pronounced fall coloration. If possible, fall pruning and wiring should be completed before the arrival of cold weather, usually about the second week in December. However, *mesuki* can be completed at any time in late winter or early spring before buds break.

- Remove all older leaves by stripping (pulling toward the branch tip) on vigorous trees or by cutting the leaf petiole (stalk) with scissors on weak trees; purpose is to open tree to light and expose the dormant bud in the axil of each petiole; exposed axial buds may elongate into short shoots next spring, thereby increasing ramification; your end result should show exposed branching with tufts of a few leaves at terminals of all branches.
- Leave only one terminal bud (vegetative or floral) at end of each branch or branchlet; remove excess buds that:
 - Point in undesired directions; favor flower buds pointing upward, remove those pointing downward
 - Are larger or smaller than average flower buds (try to leave buds of the same size)
 - Are too close together (within an inch or two, depending on flower size)
 - Would interfere with another flower during blooming
- On trees having well-formed pads, wire and bend twigs to place separated flower buds in a horizontal row, or more than one row if the pad has vertical dimension

Calendar

Upcoming Club Events:

- November 16- Potluck holiday dinner - Slideshow of our Spring Exhibition - Raffle of a Johnny Uchida demo tree
- December - No meeting

2018 Dues

Our Treasurer advises that we are now collecting dues for the coming year. Individual dues are \$25, and for a family it is \$35. A form and address for Darren Wong are at the end of the newsletter.

- Along each primary branch shorten too long secondary branches so their terminal buds provide an outline that approximates the shape of an azalea leaf; minimize fan-shaped secondary branching
- Remove those very short (less than one inch) summer shoots (and shoots in axils of branches); they will not become strong branchlets. If small weak branches are left on tree, then you will end up with a small weak tree.
- Remove all down-hanging summer shoots; if you need one of those shoots for a thread graft, then wire it into position for the graft you will make early next April
- Remove strong uprising summer shoots arising from top of branch (unless you need it for a thread graft next April)

Reprinted with the kind permission of Bob Callabam.



Oooops!

A photo in the September newsletter was mis-identified as a One-No-Na-Me belonging to Ray Moore. The formal upright is actually a Hikaru Genji owned by Gordon Deeg. It was developed by Bob Callaham from a cutting about 25 years ago and purchased by Gordon at the BGLM auction cir. 2010. It is pictured in Bob Callaham's Satsuki book, page 5. Gordon reports that it is somewhat overgrown now as he is trying to increase the trunk size. So sorry for the error Gordon!

Refreshments

Anyone inspired to bring refreshments for our meeting is encouraged to do so. Treats are always well appreciated.

FALL SATSUKI CARE

October

- Rotate plants twice a month
- Leaves produced last summer begin to show fall color; note stripes and sectors of darker pigments that parallel coloration of flowers on each branch or branchlet
- Fertilize using low nitrogen fertilizer
- Watering: a necessary chore during the Bay Area's "summer"
- Adjust automatic, programmed watering system for fall to ensure that trees are not over- or under-watered
- Spray with Malathion to control chewing and sucking insects and leaf curlers
- Do not prune or wire

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
- 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

(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 - 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

October 21 -22, 2017 Union City, California

Yamato Bonsai Kai: 46th Annual Bonsai Exhibition and Demonstration, featuring Sensei Johnny Uchida will be held at the Southern Alameda County Buddhist Church, 32975 Alvarado-Niles Rd. Hours are noon - 6 PM Saturday, and 10 AM – 5 PM Sunday. Demonstration will begin each day at 1:30 PM, with the demo tree raffled as the Grand Prize. The exhibition will feature over 80 trees from veteran and new club members. Benefit raffle immediately after each demo will have dozens of bonsai items and trees each day. Free admission and parking. Large Vendor area and Plant Sales events will be onsite. Visit us at www.yamatobonsai.org for directions and further information.

October 25 - 29, 2017 Riverside, California

Golden State Bonsai Federation (GSBF): 2017 Convention 40 "Bonsai New Horizon" at the Riverside Convention Center, 3637 Fifth Street near Main. Headliners: Kunio Kobayashi, David Nguy, Boon Manakitivipart. Guest Artists: Ted Matson, Tak Shimazu, and more. Demonstrations, seminars, critiques, work-shops, benefit drawings, vendors, etc. For more information, please visit gsbfconvention.org.

BASA

578 Woodbine Drive

San Rafael, CA 94903

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

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: