



# Descanso Bonsai Society

## NEWSLETTER

February 2006

### President's Message by Bill Wawrychuk



For those of you who did not attend the January banquet, the board voted Marge Blassingame, a life-time membership. This is certainly well deserved. Marge has generously given the club and the bonsai community in general her time and experience, not to mention the individual help she has given to many of us.

Congratulations Marge - job well done!!!!!!!

My repotting has started and will go well into March. I just learned a lesson, examine your trees yearly and don't assume that they can go that one extra year without checking the root growth. The year before last I changed the fertilizing schedule on my evergreens. I now fertilize all year around even during the winter. This changed my trees growth habits, which in turn changed the root growth! Needless to say, this whole episode has "learned me a good lesson" on watching root growth yearly!

This month we will have classroom B from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Bring those trees you have questions about and stay warm prior to our general meeting

It's finally here; the Bonsai-A-Thon will be held the Saturday and Sunday after our February membership meeting. If you have not signed up to help at the Bonsai-A-Thon, Jim Barrett and I will have a helper sign-up sheet at our meeting. Remember we are the host club, so let's put the club's best foot forward and please sign up to help out at this GSBF event.

Have I reminded you lately about OUR upcoming show? There are only three meetings to go before our show. With that in mind, what better place to work on your trees than at the Green Fair at Descanso Gardens!

Our club has again been asked to participate in the Green Fair at Descanso Gardens, an event we have supported for many years. The Green Fair is Friday, Saturday, & Sunday, April 7th, 8th and 9th. This is a great way for us to get the word out about our club, our show, and bonsai in general. Plus you will get to know other club members as you sit and work on your trees (that you plan to put in

this years show of course!) Please plan to sign up for a few hours. It really is a fun and relaxing time in meadow area of Descanso Gardens



**If "2005" appears next to your name, your membership is about to expire**

\$22 - Single \$27 - Couples

Payable to: Descanso Bonsai Society  
See Membership Chair Javier at the next meeting or

Send to: Javier Alvarez  
1907 Montrose St.  
Los Angeles, CA 90026

### Feb Refreshments:

**Maggie Carpenter  
Marie Kwakkestein  
Yaeko Hisayasu**

### Feb Niche:

**Kathy Benson  
Michael Jonas**

**Next Club Meeting:  
February 21, 2006**

**Dwight Goins  
Owner of Bonsai Gardens**

**Pre-meeting workshop in Room B  
6:00 pm to start of meeting**

**Next Meeting: March 21, 2006**

## January Banquet

Our annual banquet was a great success. The evening started with cocktail social where many members and special guests got acquainted. The salmon/prime rib/vegetarian dinner and desert were fantastic.

After everyone had their fill, our club president Bill Wawrychuk recognized the guests in attendance and presented several awards, including those for the DBS Board members, GSBF Newsletter award, and a lifetime membership to Marge Blasingame. The evening concluded with a great raffle as always. If you missed it, please plan on attending next year. It's a fun night out with your bonsai friends.

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### Visiting with Bill and the BS'er

(submitted by Bill Wawrychuk)

This month we're taking a trip to **Sig's Pottery & Nursery** 17825 Devonshire, Northridge, CA. I found Sig's on the internet. Not to sure where the nursery part of the name was, as all they sell are pots. I found out the bonsai pot selection shown on the internet sight is non-existence and has been for some time. Maybe I will call ahead in the future. However, if you are looking for any other kind of pot, this place will have it. They have a very large selection of fountains, statues, figurines and garden pots from all over the world. On the pots I looked at, I noticed the prices were very reasonable. A few of the pots could be used for bonsai, such as grape, bougainvillea and camellia. For your general gardening needs, this seems to be the place. I know the BS'er and I will be back.

## 2006 Bonsai-A-Thon

The 2006 Bonsai-A-Thon will held at Huntington Gardens on February 25 and 26, 2006 and DBS will be the host club. As host club, Descanso is responsible for staffing the event. If you have any questions or would like to volunteer, please contact Jim Barrett 626-445-4529 or Bill Wawrychuk 818-790-9415.

## Descanso Gardens Green Fair

The Descanso Gardens Green Fair is scheduled for Friday, April 7 through Sunday, April 9. Descanso Bonsai Society will have a table set up at the Green Fair and need volunteers to sit at the tables and answer questions.

There will be two shifts each day, from 9:00 am to noon, and from noon to 4:00 pm. This event is one of our best opportunities to promote our club and the annual show. It's also a great opportunity to get some work done on your trees while getting to know some of your fellow DBS members.

Volunteers are asked to bring two trees for their shift; one of display and one to work on (trim, wire, etc. - no re-potting). You're likely to be asked questions about what you're doing, the club, the show, etc. There will be fliers to hand out. It is a relaxing, productive, and rewarding way to spend part of a day at the garden. Please volunteer when the sign up sheets come around at the meeting. For more information, talk to Bill at the meeting or contact him at (818) 790-9415.



### The following people donated to our raffle and helped to make it a great success:

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*Kathy Benson  
Jim Pelling  
Judyllynn Pelling  
Maggie Carpenter  
Michael Jonas  
Ted Matson  
Tom and Michi  
Marge Blasingame  
Kathy Coffman  
Jody Dundas  
Eric Rogger  
Mary Morrissey  
Bruce and Yeako Hisayasu  
Marcus Juniel  
Sonja Kobler  
Jim Barrett  
Elizabeth Likes  
Jerry Banelos  
Bill Wawrychuk*

# February Tips

by Jim Barrett



February and March are probably the best two months of the year for potting and re-potting bonsai and training trees from nursery cans to bonsai pots.

Deciding which bonsai needs re-potting will depend on how long since it's last potting and whether the tree has become root bound.

If the pot does not have a major inside lip, you may want to inspect the root ball by lifting the tree out of the pot. Look for a firm root ball with roots visible all around the sides and bottom.

Another indication that the tree needs re-potting is the root lifting above the edge of the pot. This shows that a mat of roots has formed on the bottom and is pushing the tree up. Trident maple bonsai are noted for this phenomenon.

Speaking of reasons for re-potting a bonsai, one important reason is the tree has matured beyond its present container. Either it has grown larger or it deserves a more appropriate pot.

There are several things to consider when you decide to proceed:

1. Decide which tree or trees you want to pot.
2. Choose the pot - and it's a good idea to have a stand by in case the preferred one does not work out.
3. Place wire or heavy plastic screen over each drain hole. Mesh should be at least 1/8" holes. Make sure screens are held in place with wire lips to keep them in place.
4. If you are going to tie the tree in, now is the time to install the tie wires. Use a wire of sufficient size and strength to do the job.
5. Make sure the pot is clean inside and out.
6. Have your favorite mix handy.

All of these preparations should be done before the root ball is disturbed. Many bonsai are lost or set back if the roots and soil are removed before everything is ready.

Some hobbyists take just enough soil and roots off to place the tree back into its original pot. With enough room for an inch or so of new soil. Some hobbyists are more aggressive in cleaning out old soil and prune the roots more severely. Both approaches are valid. It all

depends on the condition of the tree, its root system, and the owner's goals for the tree. This all sounds pretty involved or complicated - it isn't, if you use common sense and do not get too rough with the tree.

Aesthetic considerations are:

Tree and pot harmony or appropriateness. Is the tree placed in the pot properly? Is the tree planted at the proper angle or attitude? Is the front of the bonsai facing the viewer?

After the re-potting procedure, place the tree in a shaded area to protect from wind. In about a week to 10 days, place it where you would normally.

Wait about a month before applying fertilizer. Speaking of fertilizer, you should have started fertilizing with organic fertilizer by now. Miracle Grow and fast-acting fertilizers are best applied at 1/2 strength. Time-release and slow-acting chemical fertilizers, such as osmocote and woodace, are safe if you follow printed instructions. Some people add these to their soil mix.

Spray Japanese maple and other trees susceptible to powdery mildew with your favorite fungicide. Watch for aphids on apple, quince, and plum. Watch for spider mites on juniper, black pine and azaleas.

You should be choosing your show trees now. Plan at least two displays - a bonsai and an accent piece in each display.

Re-pot wisteria after flowering.

## Officers

*President* - Bill Wawrychuk (818) 790-9415

b\_wawrychuk@yahoo.com

*1st V.P.* - Jim Barrett (626) 445-4529

*2nd V.P.* - Michael Jonas (818) 776-0813

mjonas4lita@socal.rr.com

*Recording Sec'y* - Milt Huckaby (661) 942-2351

rio@qnet.com

*Corres. Sec'y* - Mort Lowy (310) 476-5107

mortimerlowy@aol.com

*Treasurer* - Elizabeth Likes (818) 352-3064

lizlikes@aol.com

*Officer* - Marge Blasingame (626) 579-0420

*Officer* - Denny Roche (818) 366-2650

*Officer / Activity Coordinator* - Marcus Juniel

(818) 790-0525, marcus\_juniel@msn.com

*Officer / Membership Chair* - Javier Alvarez

(213) 453-7082, pookx@hotmail.com

*Officer / Newsletter Editor* - Paul Chang

(661) 297-7985, pchanggeo@yahoo.com



DBS Newsletter  
c/o Paul Chang  
PO Box 803144  
Santa Clarita, CA 91380-3144

## ***Bonsai Calendar***

### **Bonsai-A-Thon X**

February 25-26, 2006

7:30 - 4:30

Huntington Library and Botanical Gardens  
1151 Oxford Road, San Marino

### **San Diego Bonsai Club**

#### **41st Annual Spring Show 2006**

April 29 - 30, 2006

10:00 - 5:00

Casa Del Prado Room 101  
Balboa Park, San Diego

### **Dai Ichi Bonsai Kai**

#### **Annual Bonsai Show**

May 5-7, 2006

10:00 - 4:00

1670 W. 162nd St., Gardena

### **DBS Board Meeting**

Open to all club members interested in getting involved in club operations & management.

### **Meeting on February 27, 2006 @ 7:00pm**

At Elizabeth Likes' Home

9916 Rancho Caballo, Sunland 91040

### **Ben Perez**

(Cesareo Perez's son)

Please continue to mail your check made payable to:

Neighborhood Church of Pasadena  
(Please be sure to put BEN PEREZ in the memo line)

Neighborhood Church of Pasadena  
301 North Orange Grove  
Pasadena, CA 91103

Thanking you in advance for your help.  
Bill Wawrychuk