



Descanso Bonsai Society

NEWSLETTER

September 2006

President's Message by Bill Wawrychuk



I have to say three BIG thank you's this month:

First is Denny Roche, our auctioneer for the past two years. Denny is not only funny, we can laugh with (and at) him, but he keeps things moving.

While being our auctioneer, Denny has to put up with the smart aleck comments from Michael Jonas and me as he tries to keep the auction moving; not an easy task! Along with all this, he is our annual bartender (we're all surprised I'm sure!) and just an all around great guy. He has helped me with many of my trees and I am very appreciative of him and his support of the club.

Second is Don Graff. It has been awhile since we have had the tram ride. This year Don came through for us, going above and beyond! We all appreciate it, THANKS DON! Many of you may not know that Don and his family lived IN Descanso Gardens for years. If you ever get a chance to talk to Don and his wife, they have some great stories about living in the gardens.

Third, I have to THANK YOU ALL for your attending our potluck/auction and making it a huge success. It's your participation in our events, your generosity in donations, and bidding on the auction items, which allow our club to go on.

As everyone knows by now Pete Semerenko donated \$10,000.00 to our club out of his estate. After much discussion, the DBS board has decided to use Pete's bequest as a continuing endowment.

Pete's full donation has been placed in a separate interest bearing account. The interest income will be used each year to have a special demonstrator, demonstration tree, or subsidized club field trip. The event will be known as the Pete Semerenko Memorial Demonstration/Field trip. This will be a lasting legacy to Pete's memory and his love of bonsai. Your board hopes to have our first event in 2007.

In closing we are looking for a new refreshment chair. After a number of years, Milt Huckaby needs to step down. The position calls for set up and clean up of the refreshments at our monthly meetings, purchasing of supplies (reimbursed by the club), and giving club members the "opportunity" to sign up for a monthly treat. We need someone NOW, so if you can make the commitment, or even two of you could split the duties, now is the time to see me. If no one takes over . . . well, no goodies at break time!

BONSAI WORD OF THE MONTH

SHARI/JIN

Refers to dead bleached branches and trunks; most seen on conifers particularly in pines and junipers where the point of interest may target this feature; generally *Shari* refers to deadwood on the trunk and *Jin* refers to deadwood on the branch.

Sept Refreshments:

Maria Kwakkestein

Kathy Benson

Joe Fintz

Yaeko Hisayasu

Sept Niche:

Milt Huckaby

Maggie Carpenter

**Next Club Meeting:
September 19, 2006
Uyen Truong**

Next Meeting: October 16, 2006

Club meetings are held on
the third Tuesday of each month
at Van de Kamp Hall, Descanso Gardens
1418 Descanso Drive, La Canada Flintridge

August Potluck and Auction

As always, our major fundraiser of the year was a big success. This could not happen without the generous donation of auction items. Acknowledgement also goes to everyone who brought food items to share and to the bidders for their contribution.

Thank You

**Baikoen Bus Trip to
Wholesale Nursery:
Saturday, October 21,
2006**



Baikoen Bonsai Kenyukai's October Bus Trip to Somers Wholesale Nursery will be on Saturday, October 21, 2006. The cost of the bus is \$30 (not including meals). The bus will pick us up in the north end of the LA Arboretum parking lot, on Baldwin Avenue in Arcadia at 9 a.m. and we expect to be back about 9 p.m. We will stop for lunch on the way up and dinner on the way back. This is a large nursery, not open to the public, with many varieties of trees and shrubs and an amazing amount of maples!! Lindsay has arranged for us to get everything at wholesale prices. If you didn't go last time, you should join us for a great time and great buys. All the plants will be shipped by Somers Nursery to Lindsay's Mt. Fuji Nursery in Upland, and you can pick them up there.

Mail your check for \$30 payable to Baikoen Bonsai Kenyukai to
Martha Bailey
202 B West Cypress Avenue, Monrovia, Ca 91016
(626) 358-2640.
Please include your phone number and/or cell phone.
Thanks!!!

PROGRAM NOTE

The guest demonstrator for September, **Uyen Truong**, is also a great artist. He will be available to design and sketch your trees prior to the meeting. Come early and bring a tree. Uyen will provide you with a sketch of what your tree may look like as a show-quality bonsai. Don't miss this great opportunity!

Visiting with Bill and the BS'er

Vacation is always fun and this year we got to stop in San Francisco for a day. So let's go visiting in Japan Town. Some things to remember when visiting this part of town: 1. All stores close promptly at 5:00 p.m. 2. If you plan to visit on Saturday, try to find a parking spot the previous Thursday. 3. Bring LOT'S of the new silver dollars as parking is VERY EXPENSIVE. 4. Schedule your visit when they are not having a street festival (see #2). I had two stores I wanted to visit, **Soko Hardware at 1698 Post Street, San Francisco, CA 94115** and a small bonsai store down the way on Post Street, but I lost the name and address. Both stores were closed when I dropped by at 5:01 on Friday night and again on Saturday morning. Please refer to #4. However, that did not stop the BS'er and me from have sushi at **Isobune Sushi, 1737 Post Street, San Francisco**. Highly recommended!

Okay, enough of Japan Town, now on to China Town. Thinking we missed all festivals, we arrived to find the dragon dancers coming at us. Don't worry about the firecrackers, because after the dragon, the big drum, gong, and cymbals' go by, the firecrackers are not that loud. First I found the **Peking Bazaar, 826-832 Grant Ave., San Francisco, Ca., or www.pekingbazaar.com**. Upstairs has all the usual, but down stairs has all the stands, lots of stands. Most could be used for shohin and accent plants. As I was holding a pine stand in a sea of stands, I suddenly had an epiphany. No not SAVED, I just suddenly realized, as I stood there wondering how I could use these stands, that Ted Matson and Marg Blasingame would have no problem finding a use for them. They would know the proper color accent plant and what type of pot would look the best. At this point, I realized I know enough now to know I don't know what I'm doing when it comes to bonsai!

As I walked down the street in deep thought about my epiphany, I stumbled into **Tai Nam Yang Co. 438 Gant Ave., San Francisco, Ca**. This store has some really, really nice stands with prices to match. The rosewood and ebony stands are beautiful and well worth considering. Cascade, accent, and shohin are the only size stands they had, with some large enough for medium size trees. No food recommendations in China Town, as the BS'er and I had to go to our next stop.



September Tips

by Jim Barrett



Fall is approaching and as the temperature and weather become more moderate, several bonsai procedures might be considered.

If you have not already done so, remove unwanted new growth and candles from Japanese Black Pine. Leave one, two, or three new candles on each branch and twig terminal. How many you leave depends on your design goals for each tree. Next month will be clean up and detailing time.

Quince and crab apple bonsai can be moved to their winter show-pots later this month and next. This practice is common in Japan and might be something to consider for some of your trees that are growing most of the year in ordinary bonsai containers.

Juniper bonsai, especially Foemina juniper, can be pruned drastically and wired for detail now and next month. This procedure can be done now to get the tree ready to show next spring. Try not to prune California and Shimpaku junipers drastically because this may produce juvenile growth which can take a year or more to revert to adult corded growth.

Wisteria, ume, crab apple, and quince should have set their buds by now. Do not prune or shape until next month or November after leaves drop. Fertilize these trees with a low nitrogen fertilizer, high in phosphorous and potash now and again next month.

Try to control heavy top growth on zelkova, elms, and maples. Allowing heavy growth in the upper story of your trees to go unchecked can cause loss of taper and unsightly knobs and scars.

Critters such as spider mites, aphids, and chewing insects are still active.

We have not seen as much powdery mildew this season. However, if the weather becomes more humid, it may make an appearance.

Remember to start choosing your show trees for next year.

Join the Descanso Bonsai Society



\$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

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



Sunshine Column

Please keep the following people
in your thoughts

Nelson and Luisa Davis
Dr. Harold Rosenfeld
Norm Fischer
Marty Mann
Ben Perez (Cesareo's son)



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

Bonsai Calendar

San Diego Bonsai Club

Sept. 30 - Oct. 1, 2006
10:00 - 5:00
Balboa Park, San Diego

Conejo Valley Bonsai Society

4th Annual Bonsai Exhibit
October 14-15, 2006
9:00 - 4:00: Demos 11:00 and 2:00
Resource Center in the Gardens of the World
2001 Thousand Oaks Blvd.
Thousand Oaks, CA
Free admission.
No sales of bonsai and related items
For more information - call Nat Stein, President
(805) 374-9668

Golden State Bonsai Federation

Convention XXIX "Bonsai by the River"
Nov. 2-5, 2006
Double Tree Hotel, Sacramento
See www.gsbfbonsai.org for more info.



DBS Board Meeting

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

Meeting on September 25, 2006 @ 7:00pm

At Elizabeth Likes' Home
9916 Rancho Caballo, Sunland 91040

Descanso Garden Calendar

Autumn Plant Sale

Lakehouse Nursery
Oct. 13-14, 2006
9:00 - 4:00

African Violet Show and Sale

Van de Kemp Hall
October 13-15, 2006
Free with garden admission

L.A. Rose Society Show and Sale

Van de Kemp Hall
October 21-11, 2006
Free with garden admission