



Descanso Bonsai Society

NEWSLETTER

December 2010



President's Message

by Jim Barrett

I hope everyone had a super Thanksgiving.

There are some exciting events coming up and I urge you all to try and take advantage of them.

There will be the usual wonderful Suiseki exhibit at the Huntington

Library December 26 through January 2. There will be some bonsai to compliment the viewing stones, as well as slide shows and lectures. And it's all free. See the last page of this newsletter for more information.

Next month the Baikoen Bonsai Kenkyukai will host its popular Winter Silhouettes show. Their Saturday reception is not to be missed!

Also next month, on January 23rd, is our Installation of officers luncheon. This year we're at a new location, the Angeles National Golf Club. This annual even kicks off what should be a great year for us. It starts at 11 a.m., and costs \$30 per person. The club picks up the rest of the cost. Meals are salmon or steak. Contact Elizabeth Likes (818 352-3064 or Lizlikes@aol.com) to reserve your spot! We all always have a great time, giving out and accepting awards, enjoying the small bonsai exhibit, and if we're lucky, winning lots of fabulous bonsai related items in the raffle.

By the way, don't forget to donate to the raffle! The club provides some of the prizes, but we do depend on our generous members for the rest!

Helen and I will see you there!

No Meeting in December or January
Happy Holidays, one and all!

Looking for a stand for your best bonsai, like the ones raffled at our November meeting? Try:

Old Peking Art Company
225 East Main Street
Alhambra, CA 91801

626 284-3099 or 626 284-6897

Tuesday - Sunday 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. Closed Monday



Marge Blasingame Procumbens Nana
November Niche

Many Thanks to
Marge and Ray Blasingame, Cheryl Manning,
Nathan Simmons, Clark Wiseman, Elizabeth Likes
and Ellen Keneshea
For donating to our November raffle!

Next Club Meeting
February 15, 2011

Club meetings are held on the third Tuesday of each month at
Van de Camp Hall, Descanso Gardens
1418 Descanso Drive, La Canada Flintridge
Meetings begin at 7 p.m.

December Tips

December and January are busy times and because of holiday preparations, we tend to forget about bonsai. After all they are sleeping away the winter, right? Now is a great time to clean them up, prune, and wire. Japanese maples, Trident, and Chinese elms (not Catlin elm which are evergreen) can have all leaves removed, including those that are still green. Prune all of the twiggy growth having more than two nodes and those twigs whose nodes are too far apart. Leave one or two nodes on each small (tertiary) branch. Do this systematically from the lowest branches to the topmost branches. When this is done, remove heavy thick top branches, paying attention to those with particularly large diameters. This occurs when fast growing branches grow unnoticed and hidden by the foliage canopy. Strive for a multitude of fine secondary and tertiary branches in the top one third or one quarter of the tree. Don't be worried if the tree has more than one primary branch leading to the apex. As long as one terminal remains slightly higher than the rest, the tree will be natural and aesthetically pleasing.

Now is a very good time to pay attention to form and inner branch structure of trees in parks and on the streets. Notice the natural transition from trunk to primary to secondary to tertiary branches - especially in the upper portion of the trees. When you are through pruning the obvious problem branches, consider wiring those branches that are not positioned as you would like them to be.

This time of the year is a good time to bend and manipulate maples, elms, liquidambar, and zelkova branches. Branches are generally more flexible at this time and because the tree is bare, much easier to wire. One exception will be the Japanese elm (Nire). Their heavier branches tend to be rather brittle. Again, start your wiring with the lowest branches, proceed to the top, but only wire those branches that need to be repositioned. Strive for a delicate graceful appearance with Japanese maples and a more rugged ramification on trident maples. Chinese elms whose habit is to lose leaves in the winter should be pruned to produce the finest network of twigs possible.

All of these species have a habit of producing heavy, thick branches in the uppermost portions of the tree. If they grow unnoticed during the year, it will be obvious when the leaves are gone which branches need surgery. Make the cuts on a slant, making sure they are concave. Seal all raw scars over 1/4 of an inch in diameter.

Now that the upper portion of the tree is taken care of, clean the trunk and main branches with a stiff toothbrush or you might try a brass wire brush shaped like a large toothbrush. If the bark has a crusty rugged look and it is a desirable feature of the tree, do not brush it. Pull all moss off of the very base of the trunk and main roots and brush these also. After covering the soil with a cloth or plastic, spray the tree with a good dormant spray such as lime sulphur, volck oil or copper oil.

Set the bonsai in a sunny location where it will be admired for its winter look and enjoy it.

OFFICERS

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DBS WEBSITE

www.descanso-bonsai.com



Cheryl Manning gives bonsai advice to Michael Jonas at our November meeting.

November DBS Meeting

Last Meeting of the year! Cheryl Manning gave a sparkling slide show on pines! Below are some photos of pines in training.



Cheryl Manning



Bonsai Master and Cheryl's teacher, Yasuo Mitsuya. Note the long sacrifice branch on the tree.

DON'T FORGET OUR SALES TABLE

Where members can bring any bonsai related item to sell by silent auction. Another chance to cull through your bonsai stuff and sell anything that's too good to donate but too much to keep.

Yes, the club gets 20% of the proceeds.

These ten people were elected to be on the DBS Board for 2011:

Jim Barrett, Kathy Benson, Marge Blasingame, Michael Jonas, Ellen Keneshea, Marie Kwakkestein, Elizabeth Likes, James Pai, Denny Roche, and Bill Wawrychuk.

Installation will be at the January Banquet.



DBS NEWSLETTER
% Jim Pelling
944 Pine Grove Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90042-1354



California Aiseki Kai
21st Anniversary Exhibition
[Viewing Stones Show](#)

Huntington Library and Gardens
Friends Hall
111 Oxford Road, San Marino
Dec. 26–Jan. 2 (closed Jan. 1)
10:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m. Free

Shaped by nature, the elements, and time, Suiseki have been prized by collectors for centuries. Discover why, as the California Aiseki Kai presents its 21st annual show featuring nearly 150 outstanding examples. Long a popular art form in Asia, viewing stones invite contemplation of their subtle, fanciful forms. Each viewer brings something different to the art, moved by personal associations to draw enlightenment from the stones.

DBS Board Meeting

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

Next meeting January 31, 2011

At Elizabeth Likes' s home, 7 p.m.,
9916 Rancho Caballo, Sunland 91040

Join the Descanso Bonsai Society

\$25 - Single \$30 - Couples

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

Bill Wawrychuk
4315 Beulah Drive
Flintridge, CA 91011-3322