



Descanso Bonsai Society

NEWSLETTER September 2012

President's Message

by Jim Barrett



It's that time again. I can't believe that this month's special event—our potluck and fund raising auction, is here again. This also includes a 6 p.m. tram tour of the Gardens and new construction on the upper part of the grounds. This is always an interesting and educational ride.

It is customary for our members to bring a food dish and an item for the auction table. The club provides the main course and liquid refreshment.

I would like to see all of our members support this fun event. And don't forget to invite your friends.

As we mentioned last newsletter, the election of officers and board members will take place in November. The slate will be published in the October newsletter. As of now it looks like we have a good line-up of members willing to serve. If you have questions or wish to be added to the ballot, please call me at (626) 445-4529.

Don't forget the Golden State Bonsai Federation Convention the last weekend in October, a fun and educational event and a great way to meet other bonsai enthusiasts.



August Niche

Michael Jonas, Grafted Shimpaku Juniper
on a stand made by Emil Depiero

Golden State Bonsai Federation Convention XXXV

October 25th-28th, Sacramento, CA
at the [DoubleTree Hotel](#)

Honoring HARRY HIRAO, "Mr. California Juniper"
"Raising the Bar" GSBF 1st Judged Exhibit and
The first all California Native Tree Exhibit

HEADLINERS

Ryan Neil, David Nguy, Kevin Willson

The Convention offers [nineteen workshops](#) led by
[expert bonsai professionals](#) on the best material
available.

For further information go to: www.gsbfcconvention.org

Next Club Meeting Potluck and Auction September 18, 2012

Van de Camp Hall, Descanso Gardens
1418 Descanso Drive, La Canada Flintridge

September 18th
Potluck and Auction
Tram Ride 6 p.m.
Dinner 7 p.m.,
Auction 8 p.m.

**PLEASE BRING BONSAI RELATED ITEMS
FOR THE CLUB TO AUCTION OFF.
and
PLEASE BRING AN APPETIZER. SALAD,
SIDE DISH, BREAD OR DESSERT**

September Tips

Although fall is approaching, hot, dry days are still a good possibility.

Watering properly should be top priority. If a plant begins to show stress because of lack of water, you may want to place the tree in full shade for 2 or 3 weeks. Return it to partial sun when new growth looks strong and healthy.

September and October are clean-up and pruning months. Fall pruning of quince or crabapples can wait until leaves fall or you can prune for shape now, removing all long summer growth.

Black pines should also be pruned, leaving 1, 2 or 3 of the new candles that have grown from the terminals left when they were pruned in June or July. What candles you choose to keep will be determined by your design goal for each tree. If you have an instructor, have him or her explain the procedure. Remove old needles, especially those hanging down.

Junipers may be trimmed to maintain their shape. Within reason, they may be trimmed rather drastically this month so that the new growth fills in to take the old growth's place---a good practice once or twice a year to keep the bonsai shape we strive for.

Pruning hard will also give you an opportunity to wire the secondary and tertiary branches, a tedious but important task.

However, try not to prune shimpaku too hard. They do not respond well to drastic foliage removal.

The next two months are important ones. What you do to your trees now will reflect favorably or unfavorably on your design next spring.

Watch for heavy top growth on elms, zelkova and trident maples. Remove thick vertical and horizontal branches now so they have time to start healing before the trees go into dormancy.

Remember to watch for signs of disease and pests.

Start choosing your spring exhibition trees, making sure to pick one or two more than you will show. This ensures that you will have what you need when the time comes. Besides, it will make you work harder to improve your best trees.



August Niche
Jim Barrett's Foemina Juniper

OFFICERS

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DBS WEBSITE

www.descanso-bonsai.com

MANY THANKS

Cesareo Perez, Emma Janza, Helena Seltzer, Jerry Bañuelos, Hank Gugel, Fred Seeley and especially to **Marcus Juniel**, who brought an entire table full of bonsai items
For donating to our August Raffle!

DBS August Meeting



The very talented Peter Macasieb was our August demonstrator. He trimmed, thinned and wired a Procumbens Nana Juniper he has been working on for four years. He has been styling the tree as a cascade, so the tree already has a good shape and the beginning of pads.

Peter recommends tipping a cascade growing pot on its side so that the cascade is up and facing the sun rather than down during training. This keeps the tree from becoming weak. Also, the tree should be rotated often so that the sun hits all over, keeping the growth even and giving all the inner branches enough light to keep them green.

In training a Procumbens, he uses a very porous soil of cactus mix, pumice and black lava rock. He feeds the tree often, at least twice a month with half strength Miracle Grow.

He pinches back the foliage for shape rather than shearing it and doesn't wire the small branches on Procumbens because the wire gets lost in the thick foliage.

Also because of the thick foliage, the trees are prone to getting spider mites, so Peter sprays prophylactically with Bayer 3 in 1. He warns that you have to spray the tree at least three weeks in a row to be sure the mites are gone.

When the tree is put into its bonsai pot, Peter uses a mix of akadama, black lava rock, pumice and a little d.g. and charcoal.

These days, cascades are usually put into short, squat pots, rather than tall ones. This means that you'll need a tall stand for display.

Peter Macasieb, above left, works on the demo tree. Above right, DBS members watch and learn. Above, Peter with Jerry Bañuelos, the lucky winner of both trees Peter donated, the Procumbens cascade and a shohin California Juniper Peter dug. Many thanks to Peter for these photos.

UPCOMING EVENTS

September 29-30 San Diego, California San Diego Bonsai Club Annual Fall Show and Sale

at Balboa Park, Casa del Prado, Room 101. Hours are 10AM-5PM. Free parking and free admission. Bonsai Demonstrations daily at 11AM and 1PM. Bonsai trees, pots, and supplies for sale. For more information visit our website at www.sandiegobonsaiclub.com.

September 26 - 30 Bowers Museum

2002 N. Main Street, Santa Ana, CA 92706

Kofu Bonsai Kai Bonsai and Viewing Stones Display

Display in the John M. Lee Court and Thompson Foyer. This special event will also consist of lectures [The Art of Bonsai](#) on Thursday, Sept. 27 and [Saikei: The Miniature Landscape](#) on Saturday. Wednesday and Friday workshops for novice bonsaiers. To register for a workshop, please contact Manny Martinez, by Sept. 19 at 949.770.9633 or at manny22816@aol.com

Display is Free to members and with paid admission; \$8 individual ticket; Lecture and workshop pricing available at bowers.org/calendar listed under each specific event.

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



**Descanso Bonsai Society
Annual Potluck and Auction**

September 18th

**Descanso Gardens , 1418 Descanso Drive,
La Cañada Flintridge, CA**

Please bring bonsai and pre-bonsai and/or
bonsai tools, pots and accessories for the club
to auction.

Please bring either an appetizer, side dish, salad, bread,
or dessert to share at the potluck.

The club will provide drinks and the main dish!

Friends and family are welcome!

Be ready to bid on choice vintage bonsai pots,
bonsai and much more!!!

Tram ride around Descanso Gardens 6 p.m.
Potluck dinner 7 p.m. Auction 8 p.m

DBS Board Meeting

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

Next meeting TBD

If you are interested in attending, call or
email Elizabeth Likes for time and place
818 352-3064 Lizlikes@aol.com

Join the
Descanso Bonsai Society
\$25 - Single \$30 - Couples

Payable to:
Descanso Bonsai Society
See Membership Chair Fred at the next
meeting or send to:
Fred Seeley
27124 Crystal Springs Road
Canyon Country, CA 91387