



Descanso Bonsai Society

NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2013



No President's Message this month, but here are some excerpts from an interview given by Italian bonsai artist Marco Invernizzi, pictured demonstrating at our DBS meeting in November, 2008.

I love to work on trees that have been around for many years. I don't like to impose myself on the tree but just help the tree to make a little step forwards to a better future.

What I noticed in the last few years is that finally in the west we have a new generation of bonsai enthusiast that can be rightfully called collectors. In order to raise any form of art you need the best artists and the best patrons. Right now the best bonsai collections in the west is the Kennett Collection which is located south of Philadelphia.

My Japanese training brings me to say that a pot is a frame to a bonsai. Therefore I like the potters that do what they have been asked to do by bonsai artists. Every time I commissioned a pot by giving precise instructions I got the best results. I think that too often Western potters do too much on their pots...but thank goodness there are lots of people out there willing to buy the pots they make so god bless them all!

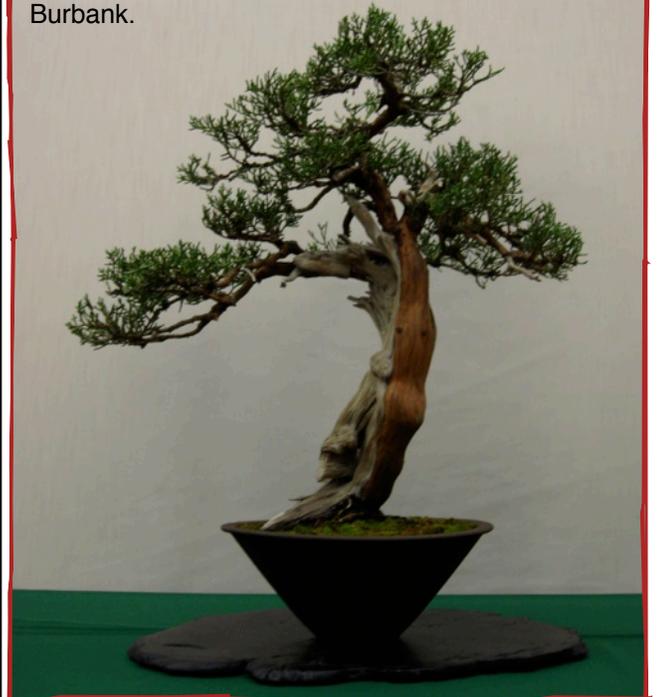
Less is more! A collection made of 15 trees in pots is already way too much of a headache. Keep them healthy and don't waste money on ceramic pots till your tree is almost finished. Plastic bonsai shaped pots are great! Don't waste your money in gold nuggets fertilizer but buy good cooper wire.

Be patient! If you are not patient, get out of bonsai NOW! Don't try to reinvent the wheel: Raffia has been used for years so your plastic tape just sucks! Don't trust a bonsai expert that kills trees or who sells you a tree they don't personally have in their collection. Would you trust a restaurant owner that didn't eat at his own place!?!?!?

Guys keep in mind that doing bonsai is NOT a rescue mission. You don't have to prove how good you are in trying to turn a piece of crap into a masterpiece, it doesn't matter how cheap that crap is.

I advise you to keep 1 or 2 challenging trees in your collection but that's 2 too many already! 😊

This Sierra Juniper from Bonsai Garden Lake Merritt was shown at the 2011 GSBF Convention. This year's Convention starts Oct. 30 and is in Burbank.



October Demonstrator

Cesareo Perez

Will be styling a pomegranate.

October Niche

Kathy Benson, Michael Jonas

October Refreshments

Wendy Tsai, Peter Macasieb, Kathy Benson, Jim Barrett

Next Club Meeting
Tuesday, October 15, 2013

7 p.m.

Van de Camp Hall, Descanso
Gardens

1418 Descanso Drive, La Canada Flintridge

October Tips

By Jim Barrett

October is a very good month to clean up Japanese black pine and junipers.

If you have black pine bonsai, finish pruning the unwanted new growth leaving one, two, or three new candles on the tips of each branch or twig that was pruned earlier this summer. How many candles you leave is determined by your design goals for the tree. Whether the new growth is on the outer limits of the tree or in the interior.

Old needles (discolored) should be removed. New or fresh needles should remain until December or January. Leaving these new healthy needles on through the fall should keep the tree at its best. Cutting long needles shorter will allow sunlight to penetrate into the interior of the trees, and help to build stronger growth on the weak and stunted interior candles and twigs.

Junipers may be cleaned of all dead or discolored foliage. Prune the “hanger downers” and the “pointer uppers” unless you plan to wire them into a more horizontal position.

October is also a good time to remove old wire and rewire for detail.

You should be able to prune quince, apple, and ume for shape now and place them into their show pots, if this is a practice you follow.

Fertilize azaleas and most flowering and fruiting bonsai with a low nitrogen, high phosphorous fertilizer. A 0-10-10 should work well.

Remember to start choosing those show trees for next spring. Keep your eyes open for quality pots you may wish to use for these trees.

Repotting and potting (from nursery container to bonsai pot) can be safely done at this time for black pine and most junipers. Repotting flowering and fruiting bonsai from bonsai pot to bonsai pot can be done, provided the root ball is not drastically disturbed and the tree is reasonably healthy.

Pay attention to watering schedules this month and next. Keeping plants too wet may promote root rot, especially if the tree is not actively growing. Watch for fungus, spider mites, and scale.

Many thanks to the many folks who donated to our September auction!

Ellen Keneshea, Marie Kwakkestein, E.K. waller, Sarah B. Gyer, Gloria Downie, Grace Sy, Al Rivera, Keith Martin, Rick Naber, Cliff Montgomery, Elizabeth Likes, Kathy Benson, Jim Barrett, Ted Matson, Jim Pelling, Michael Jonas

HELENA SELTZER

We are sorry to announce the passing of long time club member Helena Seltzer. Helena died last month. She was 92 years old. Helena loved to travel and she died on an airplane on the way home from Europe after taking a river cruise. Three physicians were on the airplane and attended to her , but were unable to revive her. Helena was a pleasure to be with and worked our annual show. Her pleasant personality will be missed.

From Descanso Bonsai Society, Gloria Clark and Elizabeth Likes attended the Memorial Service at the Oakmount Country Club on September 27. The memorial was a wonderful tribute to a mother and a friend of so many. Helena’s three three daughters and one son all spoke, reliving special moments with their mother.



Above, Helena at the DBS 2013 Banquet.

Right, The Catlin Elm Helena showed at the DBS 2013 Exhibit in June.



DBS SEPTEMBER AUCTION AND POTLUCK



A great time was had by all at our annual Potluck and Auction. About 30 people attended, and got some great bargains on trees, books, pots, stands and other bonsai items. Above, left, auctioneer Ted Matson points to winner. Above, right, bartender Jim Barrett strikes a pose. Top center, Sarah Gyer wins for best hat!

DESCANSO BONSAI SOCIETY OFFICERS

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DBS WEBSITE

www.descanso-bonsai.com

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



DBS Board Meeting

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

Next meeting February 11, 2014

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 Fred at the next
meeting or send to:

Fred Seeley
27124 Crystal Springs Road
Canyon Country, CA 91387

October 5 – 6, 2013, Thousand Oaks, California

Conejo Valley Bonsai Society: 10th Annual Bonsai Exhibition at the Resource Center, Gardens of the World, 2001 Thousand Oak Blvd. Hours 9 AM – 4 PM both days. Demonstrations in the Bandstand at 11 AM Saturday and 2 PM Sunday. Free Admission. No sales of bonsai related items. For information, call Marj Branson at 805-373-1330 or visit club web site www.cvbs-bonsai.org.

**October 30 – November 3, 2013 Burbank, California
Golden State Bonsai Federation (GSBF) Convention XXXVI**

“Bonsai Artist Studio: Outside the Box” will be held at Marriott Hotel Los Angeles Burbank Airport. Headliners David DeGroot, Suthin Sukosolvisit and Peter Warren. Wonderful offsite field trips on Wednesday, October 30. Convention to be held Friday, October 31 through Sunday, November 3, 2013. Be sure to watch for pre-convention tours and activities. Visit our convention website <http://www.gsbfbonsai.org/convention/>.