



Descanso Bonsai Society

NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2014

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Michael Jonas



It's April, no fooling! The year advances steadily and winter with its cold weather and danger of frost is long past. We have not been blessed with enough deep saturating rainy days, but trees are growing so fast that if you look at some of your trees and then return to them an hour later you may notice the extension of some of the branch tips or the eruption of new leaves.

The warm weather has allowed me to continue grafting my junipers, pines and olives. What a great feeling I have when I realize that by the addition of a branch here or there, a change of foliage or a complete restructuring I can create a completely new look for mediocre material. I enjoy the challenge of change as I learn from everyone else's efforts and experiences, while I try some of my own.

It is with some pleasure that I announce our newly revamped website www.descanso-bonsai.com which has just been moved to a new hosting service - no easy task. The new look is a combination of traditional information pages, such as our history, officers, directions to meetings, etc. and a blog-style home page that can easily added to at any time for up to the minute communication with the club and the public.

I still have much to do with populating the site, adding images, creating a Facebook page and linking it to our website. If you have any suggestions, comments or notice any omissions or errors, please feel free to contact me via the site.

I wish to include everyone in the club in this endeavor as it is our club website. If you have images or articles that you wish to forward to me for possible use on the site please feel free to submit them.

If you have not already paid your dues please take a moment to mail your check to Fred Seeley, 27124 Crystal Springs Rd., 91387. Look at the website under the "About DBS" tab for more detailed membership information.

Finally, have you selected your trees for our June show? Now is a good time to start giving them more attention so that they can be shown at their best.

I realized that whenever I looked at bonsai, in a book or in an exhibition, I would immediately think about what I thought was wrong with it. What were they thinking? I'd never do it that way. Look at how bad that looks. Well I realized that was the wrong approach. This is an art form and there is some subjectivity as to its creation and to how it is perceived. I decided that the first thing that I would train myself to do was find what I liked about each tree and if others were present, express it to them. It has made all the difference to me.



Bonsai-a-Thon 2014
Ray Blasingame, Liquidambar Orientalis

Next Club Meeting
Tuesday, April 15, 2014

7 :30p.m.

Van de Camp Hall, Descanso Gardens

1418 Descanso Drive, La Canada Flintridge

April Demonstrator
Frank Goya

doing saikei! He is one of the "Iron Men of Bonsai" well known for his beautiful saikei.. It is a great treat to have him with us!!

April Niche

Jim Barrett, Ellen Keneshea

April Refreshments

Elizabeth Likes, Kathy Benson,
Josh Miller, Joe Galgoul

April Tips

By Jim Barrett

Since our meetings are sometimes well past the middle of the month, we will attempt to include information that is important for the next month as well.

This time of year can be a very busy one for those of us with deciduous trees.

Deciduous trees need constant attention to keep upper growth in balance with the middle growth and the lower areas. Cut long shoots in the tops of maples, elms and especially zelkova, to one or two nodes or leaves. Rub off unwanted sprouts before they develop into shoots.

Prune for shape and remove large leaves that block sunlight to the interior of the tree. From now on our task should be to encourage ramification, shape and health.

Fertilize your trees with slow acting fertilizers or time-release plant food. It is better to feed a little more often than a lot once in awhile.

Resist candle pruning your black pine bonsai until June or later. Black pine, in growing containers that need more development can be candle pruned in May.

Repotting—bonsai pot to bonsai pot—can still be done safely, especially pomegranate, most ficus, elms, wisteria, junipers and azaleas. Olives can be potted, or if you wish, they can be worked on now.

Watch for powdery mildew on maples, quince, crabapples and crepe myrtle.

Watch for aphids and spider mites. They will be very active this year. If your trees are infested with black ants chances are you have aphids or scale.

Keep after the trees you want to show in June. A little work often will save a lot of work later on and the tree will look super.

Be on the lookout for quality display stands, slabs, etc



Images from the 2014 Bonsai-a-Thon. Top to bottom, Michael Sykes, Bruce and Yaeko Hisayasu, Mel Ikeda.



*Many thanks to
All those who donated to our March raffle*

David and June Nguy, Emma Janza,
E.K. Waller, Jerry Bañuelos,
Bill Wawrychuk, Albert Rivera,
Javier Vallin

DBS March Meeting

This March the club was enthusiastic to see our beloved 97-year-young Harry Hirao as he and David Nguy worked on a chuhin-sized California juniper for the demonstration. The tree had a rather stout trunk for its height and many branches with which to create the canopy of a gracefully-styled bonsai.

Some of the branches required guy wires because of their thickness, but all were brought down into harmony with each other. The tips of the branches were styled to rise slightly indicating the exuberance of new life in the older tree. Some branch tips were jinned indicating the ravages of a hostile environment in which this tree lived. The final result was very satisfying.

The tree was not repotted at this time, but left in its growing container to settle into its new branch placement and for its vigor to return after this styling. Next year the tree can be safely transferred into its first bonsai pot. Robert King was the very fortunate member who got to take home Harry's demo tree.

At the suggestion of Cesareo Perez, the club sang Happy Birthday to Harry and presented him with a cake with two candles, one was a nine and the other one was a seven. Harry blew out the candles proving that he is still up to the more important requirements of life. I'm sure that you will join me in wishing Harry many more wonderful years in our company.



Article
Michael Jonas
Photos
Albert Rivera

Harry Hirao and
David Nguy at
the DBS March
meeting

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DBS WEBSITE www.descanso-bonsai.com

DBS NEWSLETTER
% Jim Pelling
944 Pine Grove Avenue
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DBS Board Meeting

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

[Next meeting](#)

[April 28, 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

April 24-27 2014

Costa Mesa, California Orange County Bonsai Society 25th Annual Spring Garden Show

South Coast Plaza, 3333 Bear St., Costa Mesa, California Display of trees in the traditional Japanese style. Bonsai and accent plant demonstration by in house Masters. The Spring Garden Show is a diverse and outstanding selection of unusual and exotic plants, garden tools, garden ornaments and art, competition gardens and children's programs. Free admission and parking! For more information, visit www.springgardenshow.com or contact David Nadzam at (714) 345-6966 or dnadzam@socal.rr.com.

April 26-27, 2014

San Diego Bonsai Club Spring Bonsai Show and Sale

10 AM to 5 PM each day
Bonsai technique demonstration each day at 11 AM and 1 PM
Casa Del Prado, Room 101
Balboa Park, San Diego, CA
For more information visit www.sandiegobonsaiclub.com