



Descanso Bonsai Society

NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2016



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Michael Jonas

What a great turnout we had at the Annual Luncheon and what an excellent meal. I had the steak and it was hands down one of the best meals I have had the pleasure to have at any club or convention gathering. The

event was accompanied by a main course of stormy weather in the morning followed by the sun breaking out later in the afternoon. Even so, it was still cold when we left the golf course due to the wind and ground moisture, but of course it's nothing like what the east coast is dealing with.

By the time you read this, many of you will have driven up to the Bi-Annual California Bonsai Society Shohin Seminar in Santa Nella and I hope that you Guys and Gals had a great weekend with glorious weather. The rest of us had to hang around and work on our trees, while watching the Superbowl and the commercials.

February 16th brings us a demo from Fred Miyahara on grafting, I believe, and it's the perfect time to do it. Let's all give it a try this year. Just imagine the bragging rights you'll have when you're successful.

Bonsai-A-Thon happens February 27th and 28th and it sounds like this one is going to be excellent. Come in before 9:30 for free admission to the Gardens. There will be items from the estates of Harry Hirao and Jerry Madison, some in the auctions and others available for sale each day in a special sales area, benefitting the Collection. Old bonsai, stock, pots and many of Harry's collected rocks will be available.

We're looking for a new raffle chair and a club treasurer. Both our outgoing folks, Nathan Simmons and Elizabeth Likes, have done excellent jobs for the club. If you are interested, please let a board member know.

The days are getting longer again and soon daylight savings will occur and with it an explosion of growth and activity. Take some time and start working on those trees now, avoid the rush.

CH-CH-CH CHANGES!

This is my last newsletter. After nine years I'm handing the reins to Jim Pelling. It has been fun, and I thank all of you who gave me positive feedback; it kept me going!

Also, Keith Martin is taking over as Membership Chair from Fred Seeley, who did a great job the past few years! Keith's info is in the membership box on the last page of this newsletter.



Ted Matson, Zelkova Serrata Grove, DBS 2015 Show

*Our first club Meeting of the Year is
Tuesday, February 16, 2016*

7:30 p.m.

Van de Camp Hall, Descanso Gardens

1418 Descanso Drive, La Canada Flintridge

February Demonstrator

Fred Miyahara will do a demo on grafting.

February Niche

Ray Blasingame, Kathy Benson

February Refreshments

Marissa Macasieb, Michael Jonas,
Cesareo Perez, Keith Martin

February Tips by JIM BARRETT

February and March are probably the best two months of the year for potting and re-potting bonsai and training tree from nursery cans to bonsai pots.

Deciding which bonsai needs re-potting will depend on how long since its last potting and whether the tree has become root bound.

If the pot does not have a major inside lip, you may want to inspect the root ball by lifting the tree out of the pot. Look for a firm root ball with roots visible all around the sides and bottom.

Another indication that the tree needs re-potting is the soil lifting above the edge of the pot. This shows that a mat of roots has formed on the bottom and is pushing the tree up. Trident maple bonsai are noted for this phenomenon.

One important reason for re-potting is the tree has matured beyond its present container. Either it has grown larger or it deserves a more appropriate pot.

There are several things to consider when you decide to proceed.:

1. Decide which tree or trees you want to pot.
2. Have an extra pot ready in case the preferred one does not work out.
3. Place the wire or heavy plastic screen over each drain hole. Mesh should be at least 1/8" holes. Make sure screens are held in place with wire clips to keep them in place.
4. If you are going to tie the tree in, now is the time to install the tie wires. Use a wire of sufficient size and strength to do the job.
5. Make sure the pot is clean inside and out.
6. Have your favorite mix handy.

All of these preparations should be done before the root ball is disturbed. Many bonsai are lost or setback if the roots and soil are removed before everything is ready.

Some hobbyists take just enough soil and roots off to place the tree back in its original pot leaving room for an inch or so of new soil. Others are more aggressive in cleaning out old soil and prune the roots more severely Both approaches are valid. It all depends on the condition of the tree, its root system, and the owner's goals for the tree. This all sounds pretty involved or complicated—it isn't, if you use common sense and do not get too rough with the tree.

Aesthetic considerations are:

Tree and pot harmony or appropriateness. Is the tree placed in the pot properly? Is the tree planted at the proper angle or attitude? Is the front of the tree facing the viewer?

After re-potting, place the tree in a shaded area to protect it from the wind. In a week to ten days place it where you would normally.

Wait about a month before fertilizing.

Speaking of fertilizers, you should have started fertilizing with organic fertilizer by now. Miracle Grow and fast acting fertilizers are best applied at 1/2 strength. Time release and slow acting chemical fertilizers, such as Ozmocote and woodace, are safe if you follow printed instructions. Some people add these to their soil mix.

Spray Japanese maples and other trees susceptible to powdery mildew with your favorite fungicide. Watch for aphids on apple, quince, and plum. Watch for spider mites on juniper, black pine, and azaleas.

You should be choosing your show trees now. Plan for a bonsai and an accent plant in each display.

Re-pot wisteria after flowering.

If you haven't done so, get your soil mix prepared and stored. I use a trash can with a tight lid for storage.



Feb. 27 – 28, 2016 Bonsai-A-Thon XX

at The Huntington Library and Botanical Gardens, 1151 Oxford Road, San Marino This is the annual fundraiser for the GSBF Collection at The Huntington. Admission to the event is free with Bonsai-A-Thon "early bird" registration between 8:00am-9:00am. Event hours are 8:00am-4:30pm both days. Pancake breakfast, a tour hosted by Jim Folsom (Director of the Garden), demonstrations, lunch, bonsai exhibits, large sales area, raffle and auction. Sunday only: a behind-the-scenes tour of The Huntington Bonsai Nursery with Ted Matson. For more information, contact Bill Wawrychuk, (818)790-9415, b_wawrychuk@yahoo.com.

DBS 2016 ANNUAL LUNCHEON



PHOTOS BY
RYAN WELLS



DBS NEWSLETTER

% Jim Pelling

944 Pine Grove Avenue

Los Angeles, CA 90042-1354



February 20th and 21st, 2016

Huntington Gardens

1151 Oxford Road San Marino, CA 91108

Southern Breeze Tree and Stone Society will be displaying Trees and Suiseki in the new Chinese Garden at the Huntington Library during the Huntington's Lunar New Year celebration.

Feb. 5-8 and 10-13 2016

90th Kokufu-ten exhibition

Tokyo Metropolitan Art Museum (8-36 Ueno-Koen Taito-ku, Tokyo 110-0007)

Greatest bonsai exhibition in Japan

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DBS WEBSITE

www.descanso-bonsai.com

Descanso Bonsai Society
\$25 - Single \$30 - Couples
Payable to:

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See Membership Chair
Keith Martin at the next meeting
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