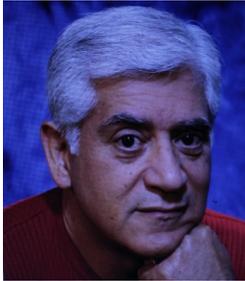


DESCANSO BONSAI SOCIETY NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2017



President's Message

By Cesareo Perez

Dashing through the snow? Well, not quite. I'm listening to Christmas music on the radio as I sit to write, and the music reminds me that it really is getting to be the darkest, coldest time of year, even in sunny Southern California. It was 45 degrees out this morning when I left for my day job! My maples, liquidambars, ginkgos, quince and plums are all bare, showing how their branching structure is developing, promising the beauty of flowers and fresh foliage in spring. It makes me grateful for the joy of the art of bonsai, which brings such beauty to my life, and has introduced me to so many delightful people!

It takes lots of dedicated people to run any organization, including a bonsai club. Thank you to all of you who generously give your time to make Descanso Bonsai Society such a great club to be part of, especially our Board of Trustees. I look forward to working with all of you in the coming year, and hope that others will be inspired by your example to participate more fully in the work of the club. There are lots of opportunities to expand our involvement with Descanso, so don't hesitate to step up and find what you can do to support the activities of our group.

One of our funnest (most fun? Heh-heh!) activities is coming up: our annual Banquet luncheon, in January. It will take place on Sunday, January 28, 2018 at the Angelus National Golf Club in Sunland. If you haven't participated in this event, you have missed a really lovely afternoon, and a chance to socialize with club members in a gorgeous setting, plus a killer raffle. Sign up early to make this an especially great turnout. I look forward to seeing many of you there! Our regular meetings will resume in February, and I know Ellen has lined up another interesting demo for us.

Whatever holidays you are celebrating, I wish you happiness and peace. May you have good companionship through this time of year, and, if you are alone, I hope our spirits connect through the gentle art of bonsai. Let's all make it a means to spread love and peace throughout our world. As for me, I am most likely to be heading out back. . .

To the trees!

Cesáreo

Next Meeting

ANNUAL BANQUET, January 28

December Tips by Jim Barrett

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 and trident maples and Chinese elms (not Catlin elms, 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 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 looking and aesthetically pleasing.

When you are through pruning the obvious problem branches, consider wiring those branches that are not positioned as you would like them to be.

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.

This time of the year is a good time to bend and manipulate maple, elm, 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.

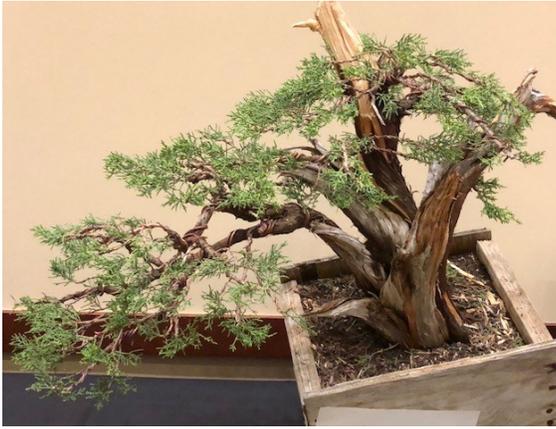
Again, start your wiring with the lowest branches, proceed to the top, but only wire those branches that need to be repositioned. Strive for a delicate graceful appearance with Japanese maples and a more rugged ramification on trident maples. Chinese elms whose habit is to lose leaves in the winter should 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 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.



GSBF Riverside Conventio Summmary

Many great workshops, by members Ted Matson and Peter Macaseib. Also "bng your own tree" by David Nguy, who also led a California Juniper workshop.

Many vendors showed a great variety of bonsai and pre bonsai material at reasonable prices.

Member Nathan Simmons had over six tables with a great variety of fine pots for sale. You can contact Nathan by appointment to view his pots at www.customclassic@sbcglobal.net.

The meals had good food, and great raffles with many good items.

Headliner demo trees included thos above by Kunio Kobayashi (right) and David Nguy (left)) Each of these great examples of the bonsai art sold for over \$2000 in the auctions!

Upcoming Events:

Baikoen "Winter Silhouettes" Jan 13-14, 2018. L.A. County Arboretum. Sales area, 10:00-4:330 each day. Demo each day at 1:00 pm, Big Recepcion with great food at 6:30 pm Jan 13.

February 2-4 California Shoin Society Seminar, Santa w, CA. See website for info, www.calshohin.org.

February 24-25 Bonsai-A-Thon at the Huntington. 8 am to 5 pm. Get paper badge for free admission. Or tell Guard you are going to Floral center for the event. Breakfast and lunch, Round Robin demos of at least 5 people each day in main exhibit area downstairs. Great drawing, tickets good both days. Large Auction includes demo trees, and those from the Huntington collection. Highlight of the year!

DBS Newsletter

c/o Jim Pelling

944 Pine Grove Ave-

Los Angeles, CA 90042

Descanso Bonsai Officers

President	Cesareo Perez	(626) 375-9424	cesareop2001@gmail.com
Past Pres	Michael Jonas	(818) 776-0813	mjonas48@hotmail.com
1st VP	Vacant		
Raffle	Josh Miller	(818) 681-5308	joshemiller@mac.com
Treasurer	Elizabeth Likes	(818) 352-3064	lizlikes@aol.com
Membership/webmasters	Ryan Wells	Rwells627@gmail.com	

and Jonathan Jee Jonathan.jee@gmail.com.

Officer	Jim Barrett	(626) 445-4529..	
Officer	Kathy Benson	(626)798-0485	1benson99@charter.net
Officer	Marge Blasingame	(626)579-04 20	blasmrjr@aol.com
Officer	James Pai	626) 614-8079	paijames@ymail.com
Officer	Ellen Keneshea	(818) 363-5752	Ekaneshea@socalrr.com
Newsletter	Jim Pelling	(323) 255-9870	jimpell8@gmail.com
Refreshments	Debbie Rinehart	(661) 941- 7572	

DBS WEBSITE www.descanso-bonsai.com