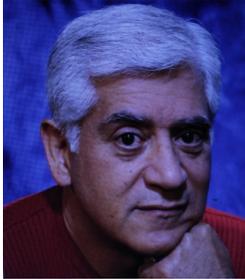


DESCANSO BONSAI SOCIETY NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2017



President's Message

By Cesareo Perez

This is a season of beginnings. We have a new national president, and I am beginning my term as president of Descanso Bonsai Society. It is a great responsibility, and I will try to lead the club with enthusiasm and to help all our members keep learning and advancing in the art of bonsai. Our annual luncheon last month, at which the Board, including yours truly, was sworn in, was a terrific afternoon. The Angeles National Golf Club outdid themselves with the meal, and it was great to meet with other club members at a relaxed occasion. It was also great to see longtime members Denny Roche and Marie Kwakkastein, both looking well. I'm very excited about the upcoming demonstrators, including June Nguy, Mauro Stemberger, Kathy Shaner and Mel Ikeda. Kathy will do a critique program in April, so get your tree ready now! The Board want to hear from you – What do you want to see at our demos? Do we need more workshop-format presentations? Is there someone we have never yet presented that you really wish were on our list? Let Ellen Keneshea, our program chair, or any Board member know, and we'll see what we can do.

Descanso is moving ahead with actions to help our meetings function more smoothly. We will be purchasing a shed from Patina Restaurant Group to store our materials. It will be away from the giant air conditioning unit in our current location, and will even have a built-in light! It will provide secure, accessible storage; a great improvement.

As we move ahead and look to improve our club and our bonsai, we need to all consider how we each can contribute to our growth and success. It's time to step up and help fill some of the vacant position on the Board and the committees that make our meetings and our show possible. Let's talk about what you can do this year, so Descanso Bonsai Society will flourish and continue to share our love of bonsai with a wider public.

By the way, here are two events you will not want to miss: the Hisayasu estate sale, part 2, Saturday, February 18, from 10 AM to 2 PM, at 2450 Casa Grande St., Pasadena. Amazing bargains are still available. Also, the GSBF Bonsai-a-thon at the Huntington, February 25-26, two days of bonsai education demos raffles and fun, and it's all free! See you there.

To the Trees!



Kathy Benson Trident Maple at banquet

Next Meeting

Tuesday, February 21 2017

7:30 P.M

Van de Kamp Hall

Descanso Gardens

February Refreshments

Marisa Macasieb, Michael Jonas

Ellen Keneshea, Joe Galgoul

Niche: Cesareo Perez; Kathy Benson

February Demonstrator

June Nguy

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. 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. Have soil mix ready.

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 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 ½ 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.



Ray Blasingame Black Pine and Cesareo Perez California Juniper at the banquet



Come one come all to our February 18 Pot Sale!

Bruce and Yaeko Hisayasu (above) were Descanso members for years. Bruce dealt in fine pots, and we are having the second estate sale featuring many of those pots. There is a great variety, from training to show pots. The perfect time to get pots for your spring repotting! Proceeds will go towards Yaeko's hospice care.

Location: 2450 Casa Grande Ave Pasadena. Saturday February 18 10:00 – 2:00

Bonsai-A-Thon February 25 and 26, 2017, at Huntington botanical center

Demonstrations 9:30 – 2:00 both days. Drawing and auction each afternoon. Large sales area...

Saturday: Cesareo Perez; Frank Goya; Fred Miyahara; Kathy Benson; Tom Vuong

Sunday: Al Nelson; Bob Hilvers; Bob Pressler; Dinh Nguyen; Mel Ikeda; Roy Nagatoshi

DBS Newsletter

c/o Jim Pelling

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