

NEWSLETTER



Baikoen Bonsai Kenkyukai

Maliea Chiem

Thursday, February 19, 2023, 7:00pm
Ayres Hall
Temporary New Location

Ayres Hall
LA Arboretum
301 North Baldwin Avenue
Arcadia, CA 91007

Please bring something for the raffle

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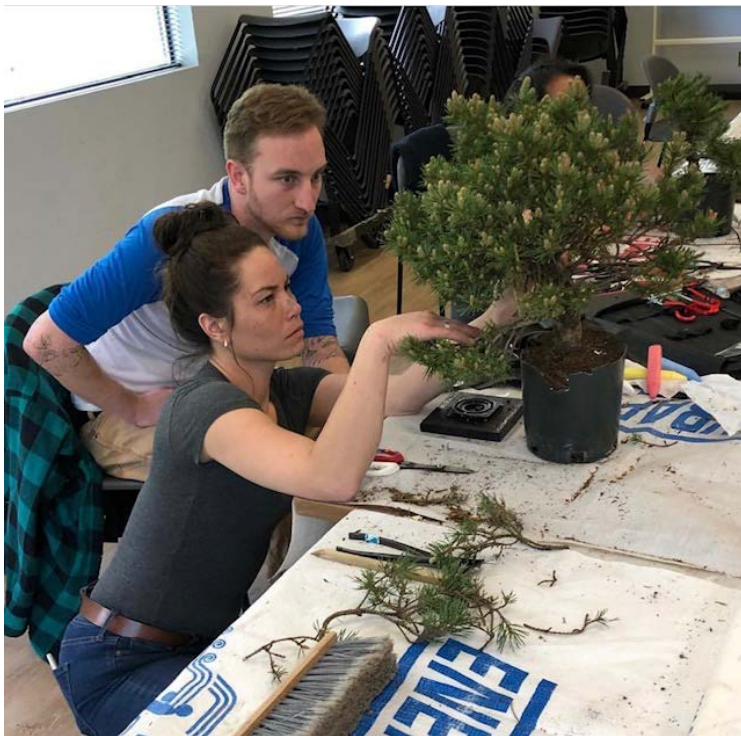
halfclueless@yahoo.com

New meeting room and entrance to the Arboretum



Returning to meeting at the Arboretum in Ayres Hall, next to the New North Entrance of the Arboretum (see above map).

February Demonstrator – Maliea Chiem



Maliea Chiem is a bonsai professional based in Portland, Maine.

I apprenticed with Mr. Colin Seymour Lewis, UK and later refined my studies under Mr. Sandro Segneri, Italy. Over the years I have worked with clubs, gardens and individuals both locally and nationally, promoting bonsai as an art form and sharing what I have learned.

I maintain a small personal collection and also enjoy poetry.

Maliea spent several years as an apprentice to Collin Lewis and just recently spent several months in Italy studying with Sandra Segneri one of Italy's finest bonsai artist. As a result she has developed a unique style all her own. Maliea with her own innate artistic vision combined with the many skills she's learned from these world class teachers has a lot to share with the bonsai community.

January Demonstrator – Michael Roberts - How to Train a Cork Elm with Michael Roberts



Here is Michael at the start of his demo, three Cork Bark Elms in 5-gallon pots, donated by Ed and Linda Clark, Round Valley Bonsai Nursery in Lindsay California. We got to choose which tree would be worked on this day, it was the center tree.



Michael started off with a slide presentation. If you want a copy of the file, please let me know and I can send it to you. First off, he introduced himself and gave a short background history. Then he started with his presentation, "General growing techniques used for growing deciduous and broad leaf evergreens."

Left is a tree, originally purchased from Kimura Nursery in 1997 in a 3 gallon can, photographed in 2003. He noted that there was no back branch, but there were pocket, bar, and vertical branches. It was 22" tall and trunk diameter is 2 ¼".



Now fast forward to 2022, after 25 years of training, here is the tree at the 58th Baikoen Winter Silhouettes Show. Problems noted above have been solved. The tree is now 31" tall and 7 ¼" diameter trunk.

This presentation answers the where, why, and how to develop a Cork Bark Elm.

One of the first things that Michael suggests is to photograph your trees. He got a digital camera and uses it to



record the progress of the tree. Some of the branches or roots are being pulled down by guy wires (left). To protect the surface of the branch or root, he uses polyvinyl drip tubing over the wire to prevent scarring.

As you can see in the photo on the left, the tree is growing in a wood box. Prior to the 1990's, most bonsai were grown in nursery grow pots or in the ground. These pots would get hot (people would wrap towels or even cover with aluminum foil), to control the temperature, and it is difficult to work on the core root ball. Current trends are in specialized plastic containers,

colanders, and field grown. On the right photo, Victor and Radford show us a small wood box made by Michael using fence material. He said they will last 6-8 years without feet, but about 10 years with feet. He places the box on the ground over ¼" gravel and the roots can grow out into the soil. If you want to slow down growth, put the box on a bench, or put feet on the box. Work on the top and the core root ball while the tree is growing in the box. Michael uses fence material because it available, cheap, and sturdy.



Soil mixes. It is important to keep the soil moist especially for broad leaf and deciduous trees, but it must drain well. The best soil mix is one that has good drainage, retains water, and has good aeration. The bottom layer of pumice and lava, about ½" in particle size for good drainage. Alternatively use hydroponic ceramic balls about ¾". These balls may be irregular in shape, but round balls, ½-5/8", are best and can be cleaned and reused. The core root ball portion soil is 1:1:1, pumice, lava and akadama. There is some organics in the top portion of the soil, and finally a thin layer of top dressing composed of shredded sphagnum moss, dried moss and Cocoa husk mixed in with fertilizer. I found Cocoa husk for sale on eBay, Hull Farm 50150 Cocoa Bean Shell Mulch, 2 cubic feet for \$37.85. Be careful that it is not coconut husk. Michael uses Osmocote 14:14:14 slow release and a variety of organic fertilizers mixed in with the top dressing. The organic material in the top-dressing aids in the dispersal of the fertilizer. Each time he prunes or works on the tree, he removes the top dressing, about ½" deep, and replaces it with a new mixture. Be careful to minimize damage to root hairs. The number of times he works on the tree depends on the age and growth of the tree, one of the reasons why it is so important to know your tree.



Pruning. Early development is to establish the primary branch structure. You need to pay attention to balance the growth of the lower branches and to maintain the overall balance of growth of the whole tree. With older trees there is still the need to balance the growth of lower branches, also to develop ramification, and to maintain the balance of growth of the whole tree.



Then the fun began when Joe and Mike started working on the tree. Mike began by trimming off some of the branches, then Joe began to cut about 2/3's of the pot off. Left, you can see the roots left in the cut off

section of the pot. If that soil is kept moist, shoots will sprout, and you may have an instant forest (see picture below). However, it was decided that the root ball must be further reduced. Luckily Joe had several blades because one



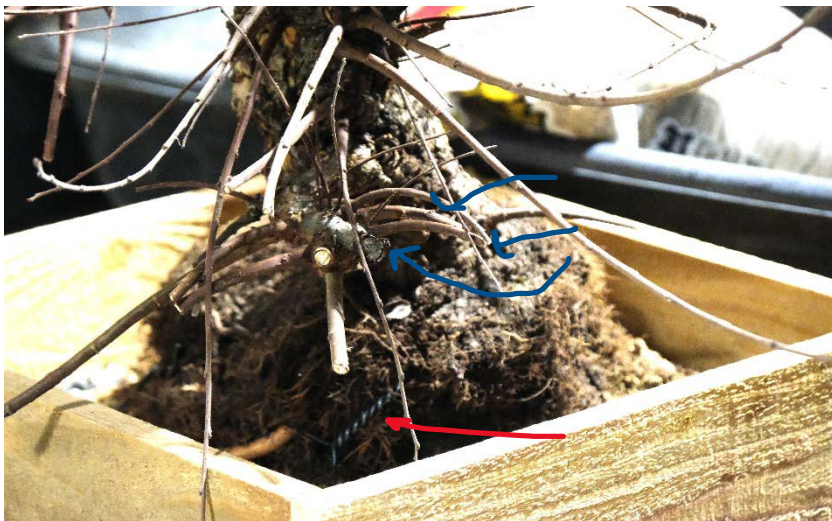
blade was worn out during the first cut and was replaced.

Here is the second cut off section. Do you think it will grow?





Big Joe removing some of the old soil from the root ball with a rake tool. After trimming any damaged roots and removing as much of the old soil as possible, the tree is set on top of a bed of large size, ½", mixture of pumice and lava rocks. You can see the anchor tie down wires in the photo below at the four corners of the box. The tree will be immobilized using these tie down wires so that when the tree starts growing, none of the root hairs will be damaged if moved and the tree will not be up rooted.



Here you can see the anchor tie down wires (red arrow) and polyvinyl drip tubing covering wires over roots (blue arrows). Soil was purchased from June & David Nguy – West America Trading Company. It was pumice, lava and Akadama 1:1:1 mixture.



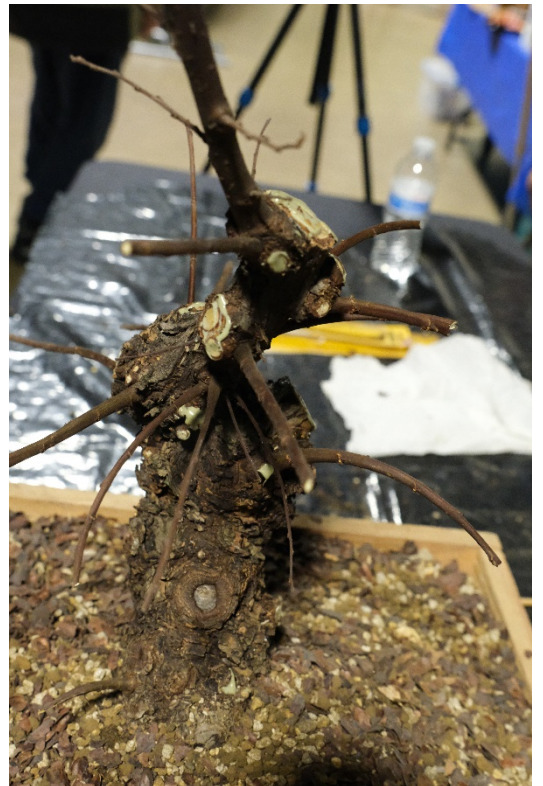
Applying cut paste to the trunk where branches were cut.



Cocoa husk

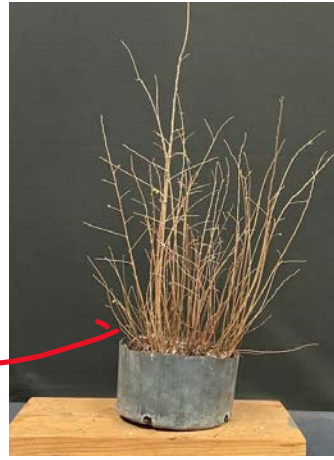


Working in the cocoa husk mixture with chop sticks.





From cut off roots
In the pot to a
forest



The winner of the raffle was Mitch Fennel.
Mitch will bring his tree back to the April
meeting to follow the next steps in the
development of a cork bark elm.

Meanwhile, here are the other two trees:



Michael and Joe worked on these trees at Mike's
home and repotted into the wood boxes.





All the trees will come back in April for the next stage of their development.

Two announcements at this meeting: It was Isabel Cazares's birthday, so she shared chocolate cake with us! It was delicious. John Kim announced that he has purchased Joshua Roth bonsai tools.

It was a fun meeting.



Membership Dues

We are collecting 2023 membership dues. Due to of higher expenses, we have made the hard decision to increase membership dues to \$30 for single membership and an additional \$5 for each family member. Please pay your dues by the end of March by mail or online using a credit card on Square or I will delete you from the mail list.

Cookie / Snack sign-up for the January meeting.

Refreshments by Victor Shelton and Big Joe. Thank you for signing up. Please remember to sign up for refreshments at the next meeting or there will be no refreshments.

Announcements

Workshops at Kashi no ki-en postponed till further notice due to water damage.

All class sizes are limited... To best serve you, please contact Kimura Bonsai Nursery to reserve your time in advance. (818) 343-4090 or email kimurabonsai64@gmail.com. Classes to be held at Kashi no ki-en (The garden of the oaks) 30535 Hasley Canyon Rd. Castaic CA 91384

February 17, 2023, Sergio Cuan-Golden Zoom Series, 6:30pm. A link will be sent to you when it is available. If you missed the last Golden Zoom event with Bjorn Bjorholm, here is the link for the video.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XezdVWlrh0E>

February 3-5, 2023, 18th Biennial Shohin Seminar, Hotel Mission De Oro, 13070 S. Highway 33, Santa Nella, CA 95322. Registration open now. For more information, <http://www.calshohin.org/>

Annual Mammoth Auction & Sale 2023, Feb 18, 2023, 12:00 PM – Feb 19, 2023, 3:00 PM. Oakland, Lakeside Park Garden Center, 666 Bellevue Ave, Oakland, CA 94610.

February 25 & 26, 2023, Bonsai-A-Thon, 10am to 4pm. The Huntington Library, Art Museum, and Botanical Gardens, Brody Botanical Center, 1151 Oxford Rd, San Marino, CA 91108. Admission only by pre-registration. Daily benefit drawings and live and silent auctions, vendors selling top quality tools, pots and trees, large sales area, bonsai styling demonstrations by noted bonsai masters, styled trees auctioned each day, exhibit of bonsai from the Huntington, tour of the expanded Chinese Garden and Penjing Court, tour of the new Japanese Heritage House, backstage tour of the bonsai nursery.

April 28 & 29, 2023, San Diego Bonsai Club, Casa del Prado, Room 101, Balboa Park, San Diego, Saturday April 28, 10am-5pm, Sunday 10am-4pm. Bonsai technique demonstrations each day at 11:00 am & 1:00 pm. Bonsai of various sizes and species as well as other bonsai-related items will be for sale by club members at attractive prices.

May 13 & 14, 2023. Santa Barbara Bonsai Club. Trinity Lutheran Church, 909 N. La Cumbre Road, Fellowship Hall, 11am to 4:00pm, on the 13th on May 14 Noon to 4:00. Vendor and members selling plants and pots. Silent auction on both days at 2:00pm, demo on both days at 1:00.

October 20-22, 2023, GSBF Rendezvous, Santa Nella, California, 10am-4pm.

November 4, 2023, California Bonsai Society show, The Huntington Library and Gardens

Baikoen meetings will continue to be recorded live and zoomed by Tom. Here is the link to join the meeting. You need to install Zoom software for this link (copy and paste) to work.

<https://worldvision.zoom.us/j/6843230936>
Zoom meeting

Tom's videos: If you have missed any of the weekly videos that Tom has produced, here is the link to view all of them. https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=baikoen+bonsai+club

Baikoen Demo Schedule – 2023

February 16, 2023	Milea Chiem, CBS Artist
March 16, 2023	Marcus Juniel
April 20, 2023	Michael Roberts*
May 18, 2023	CBS Artist
June 22, 2023	Ted Matson
July 20, 2023	Mike Lane, CBS Artist
August 17, 2023	No Meeting
September 21, 2023	Michael Roberts*

October 19, 2023
November 16, 2023
December 2023

Tom Vuong
Hugo Zamora Luna, CBS Artist
Happy Holidays

***More about Michael Roberts workshop series in this newsletter**