

NEWSLETTER



Baikoen Bonsai Kenkyukai

Meetings at the Arboretum suspended until
further notice

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

Thursday May 20, 2021

Opens at 7:00pm, Meeting starts 7:30pm

Round Robin meeting

Bring your Bonsai questions and problems

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April Meeting – Round Robin

This was an interesting meeting that covered a wide range of topics, from moss to Johan's maple graft. It was the next best thing to having an in-person meeting. The May meeting will again be a Round Robin so bring your plants to show off or to ask suggestion or question on what to do or if you have any bonsai related questions. There are no dumb questions.



Jim Barrett fell and broke two vertebrae in his neck (that is why he has a collar around his neck) and now is recovering from pneumonia after choking and aspirating some food. He was in the ICU for 2 weeks but has since been moved to a rehab facility in Arcadia. He gave everyone a scare but is doing much better now. Please join us in wishing him a speedy and smooth recovery. He is 92!!! And is still looking forward to working on his bonsai. I visited with his wife Helen and met his youngest daughter Sharon (pictured with her father left). He also broke his wrist before this all happened. If you would like to send him a card or pictures of your bonsai, here is his address:

480 Oxford Drive, Arcadia, CA 91007.

Tom led a dig for jade trees. These were exceptionally gigantic. Thanks to Jee for getting permission to dig and to Tom and Alex for providing trunks to anyone that wanted any. I distributed them during the raffle distribution. Pictured on the right is what one can do to shape a jade tree into a bonsai. I still have some stems if someone would like any, please let me know.



While we were waiting for more people to join the meeting, Mary and Joe exchanged comments about how much Pasadena has changed in the last few years. They talked about all the housing that is being built and the differences in climates in their present homes. Mary moved near Laguna and Joe to Upland, both quite different weather wise for their trees.

Then we discussed moss. The California Bonsai Society is doing a photo shoot for their virtual bonsai show and Joe went looking for moss for his tree. Fortunately, Tom had some growing in his yard so he is set, but what about when he cannot find any? Thanks to John Egert for suggesting [mossacres.com](https://mossacres.com/products/moss-milkshake) as a source for moss. They have shipped to California when I checked the web site. I tried email, text and phone call to try to verify, but no response. Carol Upston did sell moss for a while but no long does, I checked with her. I do not know when CBS will have their virtual show but will let you know when I find out.

KN

From Kapp, Nicholas to
Everyone

<https://mossacres.com/products/moss-milkshake>

Lindsay did suggest a method to grow moss. It needs to grow on 50% organic material (cactus mix, leaf mold, peat moss, or oak leaf mold (Michael Roberts said San Gabriel Nursery has the best)). The way to start is to get some moss, dry it and crumble over the surface. Also, can use worm casting mixed with buttermilk and spread out. Keep moist and out of the sun and allow to grow.

John shared with us what he thought would be a great quick way to clear and clean his large elm forest. He used a can of spray air to blow off the junk that collected in the pot. Big mistake. The air coming out of a can is liquid nitrogen and everything he sprayed froze. Some plants survived but not all.



Mitch asks what do you use to clean your tools? Lots of people had suggestions. Lindsay said Vaseline, Goo Be Gone, Roy Nagatoshi uses Lysol, lemon oil, alcohol wipes or isopropyl alcohol, WD40, and even beer (so, you can clean, drink, clean and drink). Don't use WD40 because the petroleum in it will coat the blade and wherever you cut will be brown. Tak Shimasu collects pine sap, dilutes it in alcohol and uses the mixture to coat dead wood.

When to decandle pines asked Hubert? End of June to first of July said Mike Roberts. Fertilize well in February to June, then stop for 6 weeks. Once dormancy is ended the plant needs fertilizer to have



enough energy to support the first flush.

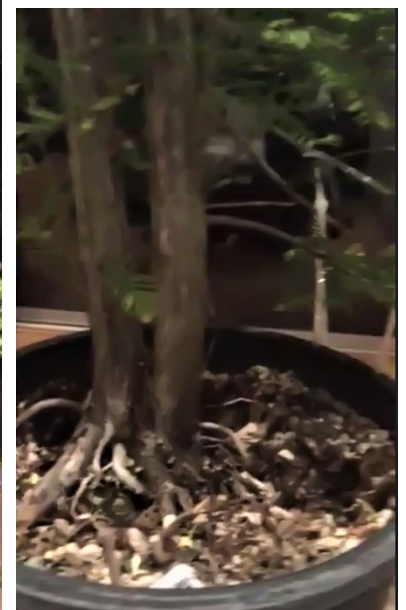
Hubert has a black pine, 10-15 years old with a flaky bark. He wanted to know when to pluck needles. It is the same time as

decandling and in December. Two different tree that are different ages may not act the same, but as they get older, their growth rate will become similar the same. then you can treat them



Nick had a question about his Prostrata. The root ball is compact, and he is worried that water cannot penetrate.

Lindsay suggests that he drill some holes in the root ball and repot now, replacing half the soil and put it in a bigger pot. Ted Matson replaces one wedge of the soil at a time.



Manuel showed us his double trunk bald cypress. It's hard to tell from the picture if one tree is taller than the other, but the trunk size is similar between the two. John said the dominant tree is straight (also has branches higher than the secondary tree) and the secondary tree should be angled out. This can be done by placing a wedge near the base of the trees so that both trees do not grow parallel with each other. Place a block of wood and wire in place to keep it secure. Bald cypress grows in or near water, but it can handle drought, just need to keep the surface moist.



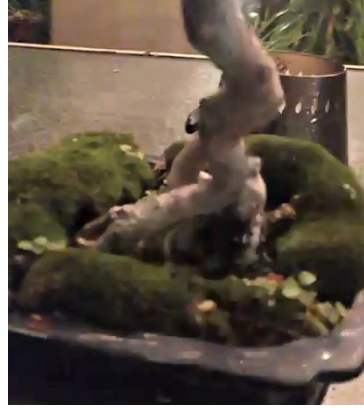
Johan was next. He showed us his maple and black pine. The pine is from San Gabriel nursery and cost \$30 and the trunk was cut this year. You can see that the tree is extremely healthy and sending out lots of shoots and candles. Lindsay suggests cutting some of the larger ones and keep the smaller ones so that he can maintain the pyramid shape taper. Next Johan showed us his maple. The picture (below) shows the type of sealant that Johan used. You can see how well the wound has callused over where he cut off a branch. Also you can see the black sealer he used on the pine just under the apex. For the maple, cut all branches pointing up or down. He also needs to reduce some of the leaves or branches to allow light penetration into interior otherwise any back buds will die. This is also the plant that he did a thread graft



following Lindsay's video. Great job Johan.

Ron Espiritu asked what to do about spider mites on his Shimpaku, how aggressive should he fertilize. Lindsay suggests spraying with an oil summer spray. Mite-X does not work well.

Greg showed us his ginkgo forest (see next page). He wanted to know when to trim a ginkgo for the show in January (maybe he will show next year?). Trim toward the back of the forest, and he needs to be careful to not let the internodes get too long said Lindsay.



Shirley wanted to know what the best thing to use to cover the ground when she moves her bonsai trees. Choices are pavers or pea gravel (needs to be 3-4 inches deep), or flag stones 10x10x2". If using pea gravel, use a small size so that it is easier to walk on,

suggested John. Cheapest way is to calculate the amount needed and buy a load of pea gravel and spread over the ground.

Thanks to everyone who participated. It is a great way to see different trees and learn about their care. It was great informative fun!

Announcements

California Bonsai Society is proud to announce The Ben Oki Bonsai Scholarship Fund

The California Bonsai Society (CBS) has set up a scholarship fund to honor Ben Oki - a man who devoted most of his life to enjoying and sharing bonsai. Ben was happiest when he was sharing his knowledge or working on a tree. To honor that sharing spirit Ben had we will be making two \$1000.00 grants available to anyone in the bonsai community to be used to attend classes, workshops, study with a pro or other bonsai related educational activity. The winners will also need to do something to give back to the bonsai community- such as a club demo or on-line video showing what you learned, or some other method of giving back to the community. To apply, the applicant should send an email to

CaliforniaBonsaiSociety123@earthlink.net

In that email they should explain what they intend to do with the money to improve their bonsai skills and what they intend to and will commit to doing to give back to the bonsai community. Be creative.

Applicants who receive scholarships agree that in return for these funds within 15 days of completing class etc. they will provide CBS photos and a short write up of what they did with the funds to improve their bonsai skills that will be published on our website and in our newsletter. They will also have to come up with and complete a way of giving back to the community and commit to doing this.

The application period will be from May 1st through May 30th annually with the scholarships awarded on June 15th. Applications will be accepted from anyone in the bonsai community that can deposit a check from a US bank. Awarding of the scholarships will be by decision of a committee of California Bonsai Society Board members after going through all applicants. All committee decisions are final.

Everyone in the bonsai community is encouraged to apply for this chance to expand your own bonsai knowledge and to help contribute to the bonsai community.

Anyone interested in contributing to the scholarship fund as a way to honor Ben and to help promote bonsai is more than welcome to contact Robert Pressler -President of The California Bonsai Society at the above email. We are a privately funded 501c3 corporation so any contributions may be tax deductible.

The California Bonsai Society (www.californiabonsaisociety.com) will have a virtual show, perhaps in May. When the date is announced, I will let you know.

Santa Anita Bonsai Society sabonsai.org will have a show either over the Memorial Day weekend, 5/28-5/31 or June 25.

May 8 is World Bonsai Day.

2021 Important Dates

May 20, 2021

June 17, 2021

July 15, 2021

August 19, 2021

September 16, 2021

October 21, 2021

November 18, 2021

December 2021

Shirley Quan

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