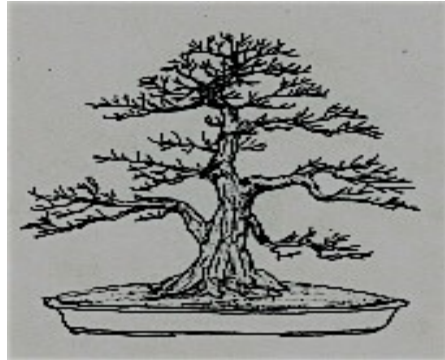


NEWSLETTER



Baikoen Bonsai Kenkyukai

Our next meeting will be on

February 25, 2016, 7:00 p.m.

Ann Erb

Demonstrator

LA Arboretum (Oak Room)
301 Baldwin Ave, Arcadia CA.

Please bring something for the raffle.

Officers

Ken Teh

President

(626) 822-0077

Lindsay Shiba

Vice President,

Show chairman

(909) 473-0099

Ken Teh

Interim Treasurer

Mary Morrissey

Board Member

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Joe Galgoul

Program Chair

(626) 429-0325

Greg Kathol

Benefit Drawing and

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gregkathol@gmail.com

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Refreshment Chair

(626) 579-0420

Shirley Quan

Secretary/Newsletter

shirley_quan@sbcglobal.net

Tom Lau

Webmaster

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January Workshop and New Member Orientation

This meeting was very busy. Mary Morrissey held a new member orientation with handouts A Guide to Workshop “dos and don’ts” and Introduction to Bonsai Terms, Tools and Tips distributed. Mary conducted this orientation for new members who have joined throughout the past year. She reviewed a lot of material and drew on her own library to



show resource materials for techniques and information, what kind of tools are needed, different styles of bonsai, pots, an amazing amount of material in a small amount of time.

We welcome new members Carin Anderson, Ken Bishop, Gustavo Duran, John Egert, Jeri Ellis Family, Dwight Goins, Alexander Hall and Kristijo, Rick Moreno, Douglas Luis Tejera and Rose, and Lee Mariscal.

In the other room, Lindsay Shiba was busy with a workshop for Baikoen members with their trees. Below Johan Garcia working on his potential Sohín, Left Joe Gutierrez and You-Suen Farn watching what Lindsay does with Farn’s tree.





Tom Lau presenting a surprise birthday cake to Lindsay, Master teacher and master of all things bonsai. The cake was very pretty and delicious! Great idea Tom.

We lost two members this past year: Harry Hirao and Martha Bailey.

Below is a copy from the web site <http://crataegus.com>, on soil, that I thought you may enjoy.



Further Thoughts on Turface

by crataegus

A couple years back I wrote a post which became one of most viewed posts I've ever written. It was about Turface and similar soil ingredients like Oil-Dri and Profile, and my skepticism about their qualities as a bonsai soil ingredient, following 30 years of experience with many different soil types. The post was meant to call into question the belief that Turface is the best soil ingredient. I don't believe it is, having witnessed its performance for years, but that doesn't mean you can't grow a tree in it, or that it may be one of the few options in your area due to availability issues.

In rough strokes, there have been three main evolutions in our soil usage in North America. Earliest was the potting soil/sharp sand period, decades ago. Then came the Turface era, which was definitely an improvement on the earlier mixes. Then came the volcanic mixes preferred by the Japanese, the pumice, lava, and akadama soils, one of which, akadama, needs to be imported.

While the debate hinges on what works better, it is compounded by issues of availability and price. On the east coast akadama is very expensive, needing to travel farther from its source in Japan. Pumice is rarely available in the east, and is only spottily available in the middle states.

Certainly if you hate the very idea of importing soil components, like akadama---an understandable position, I don't like it either---try pumice if you can find it. It's from our mountains here in the western US, and locally is dirt cheap, 17 cents a gallon in some places, and works well as a base soil ingredient to which other things may be added (such as akadama and lava if you have a bonsai, or composted bark/steer if you have young stock.) Naturally, trucking pumice east is going to be expensive.

If you prefer to use Turface, *definitely sift out the small stuff*. You may find that *deciduous trees are happier in it than pines*, as it tends to hold a lot of moisture and the particles are not very large. Also, you *may need to water very frequently* in order to prevent the hydrophobic qualities of the fired clay product that happens on its surface on dry, windy days.

I think we're looking for a *base ingredient* that can be used all over North America (apologies to those readers in other continents/islands, although there may be a similar discussion worth having in your area.) I think pumice is

a much better base ingredient than Turface, with much more dependable horticultural properties. If that is impossible to find in your area, I have no argument.

Some have had success using Turface. You will be able to find people who have had good luck with it, their trees are strong and healthy with good root systems. And then there are a lot of people who can't seem to replicate those successes.

At the end of the day, it's really amazing how many different types of soils one can use to grow plants in. I've seen people use something close to concrete, a clayey thing that was terrifying to behold, and have a margin of success with it. In some places in China they use essentially pond muck. *We can learn to use almost anything.* But I really don't think that's the question, or at least, it's not a question I'm interested in. I'm curious what is the best thing I can recommend to the broadest range of people wanting to grow bonsai, the broadest set of abilities and goals, and in answering that, I repeatedly come back to the volcanic soils the Japanese have used for a long time, and continue to use.

If volcanic soils are unavailable, keep experimenting, keep exploring, but don't settle for Turface (and Oil-dri.) It's not impossible to grow a tree in it, that's not the point, it's just not ideal.

(Finally, a disclaimer: *It won't matter much what soil we use if we're using questionable horticultural practices like barerooting old trees each time we repot.* Please don't do this. Without leaving a solid mass of soil on the roots we won't manage to create the dense, stable, dependable root systems that we should see in our pots each time we take them out. This disclaimer could go on for pages on multiple subjects. But soil choice is a primary decision.)

Further reading...or pre-reading, actually, as this was the first post on Turface:

<http://crataegus.com/2013/11/24/life-without-turface/>

Cookie / Snack sign-up for the January meeting.

Johan Garcia, Ken Bishop, Lindsay Shiba and Gustavo Duran Thank you for signing up!

Membership Dues Reminder for 2016

Membership dues are \$20 for a single and \$25 for a couple. The current member roster will be distributed at this meeting. If you have not paid your dues by mid-February, your name is not on the roster and you will not receive the newsletter.

Events

January 1 – April 24, 2016 Oakland, California

California Suiseki Society and San Francisco Suiseki Kai are featured with the work of sculptor Jedediah Caesar at *Unearthed: Found + Made*, a new exhibition at the Oakland Museum of California, 1000 Oak Street. The Suiseki, all found in California, share a process with Caesar who imitates geological processes in making his sculptures, sometimes encasing found objects from the urban environment in clear or colored resin. For further information, go to <http://museumca.org/exhibit/unearthed-found-made>

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Bonsai-A-Thon XX, February 27-28, 2016

Location: Huntington Library, 8:00am to 4:30pm

Bonsai-A-Thon XX at The Huntington Library and Botanical Gardens, 1151 Oxford Road; annual fundraiser for the GSBF Collection at The Huntington. Admission to the event is free with Bonsai-A-Thon "early bird" registration between 8 AM – 9 AM. Event hours are 8 AM – 4:30 PM 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 at (818)790-9415 or b_wawrychuk@yahoo.com.

February 27 – 28, 2016, Oakland, California

GSBF Bonsai Garden at Lake Merritt: The annual Mammoth Fund Raiser will be held at 666 Bellevue Ave. (Garden Center Building). Saturday: Auction preview at noon with Auction starting at 1 PM. Sunday: Vendor Sales start at 9 AM, Plant Sales start at 10 AM, and Demonstrations at 1 PM. The Bonsai Garden at Lake Merritt will celebrate the many bonsai clubs who have created and support the Garden by inviting Bonsai Clubs from all over Northern California to showcase their best bonsai display and promote their club activities. Attendees will be eligible to vote for their favorite display. Bonsai Garden will be open 10 AM to 4 PM on Saturday and Noon to 4 PM on Sunday. For more information or to sell trees, email bonsailakemerritt@gmail.com and visit www.gsbflakemerritt.org.

March 12 – 13, 2016, Oakland, California

Bay Area Bonsai Associates (BABA): 35th Annual Bonsai Exhibition at the Lakeside Garden Center at Lake Merritt, 666 Bellevue Avenue. Show hours are Saturday 5:00 – 9:00 PM with light dinner, and Sunday 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM. Demonstration by Mr. David De Groot, award winning bonsai artist and author, who has been involved in bonsai since 1972. Mr. De Groot served for 25 years as curator of the Pacific Rim Bonsai Collection/Pacific Bonsai Museum in Federal Way, Washington. Demonstration starts at 6:30 PM, Saturday, followed by a raffle of the demonstration tree. Continuous plant sale including bonsai pots, tools, soil, wire, and more, both days. Admission is free. Public parking available. For more information, please contact Bob Gould at 925-935-1914.

March 16 – 20, 2016, San Mateo, California

Bonsai Society of San Francisco: Annual Bonsai Exhibit at the San Francisco Flower and Garden Show, San Mateo County Event Center, 1346 Saratoga Drive. Show hours are Wednesday – Saturday 10 AM – 7 PM and Sunday 10 AM – 6 PM. There will be trees for sale and demonstrations. For more information about the club, visit www.bssf.org, and for the Flower and Garden Show, including ticket information, visit <http://sfgardenshow.com>.

Apr. 2 – 3, 2016, Santa Cruz, California

Santa Cruz Bonsai Kai: 28th Annual Show at the Museum of Art & History, 705 Front Street, 10 AM – 5 PM both days with demonstrations at 2 PM. Saturday's demonstrator is Mike Pistello and Sunday's will be Katsumi Kinoshita. Raffle drawing for demonstration tree and trees especially prepared by club members are part of the raffle each day. Sales area will include quality vendor and member trees, pots, and other related bonsai items both days. Fresh items will be in the vendor area on Sunday. Admission price of \$5.00 to the Museum includes entry to bonsai show/demo and complementary coffee, tea and cookies. For more information, contact Ed Lambing at edinbonnydoon@comcast.net.

April 2 – 3, 2016, Sacramento, California

Bonsai Sekiyu Kai: Annual show will be held at the Sacramento Buddhist Church, 2401 Riverside Blvd. Hours are: Saturday 11 AM – 5 PM and Sunday 10 AM – 4 PM with demonstration at 1 PM both days by Yuzo Maruyama. Amenities include refreshments, light snacks, door prizes, raffles and a silent auction. Member and vendor sales of plants and bonsai-related items will also be available. For more information, contact Bonsai Sekiyu Kai at bonsaisekiyukai@gmail.com

April 9 – 10, 2016, Sacramento, California

American Bonsai Association, Sacramento: 57th Annual Bonsai Show at the Shepard Garden and Arts Center, 3330 McKinley Blvd. Show hours are Saturday 10 AM – 5 PM and Sunday 10 AM – 4 PM, with demonstration each day at 1:30 PM by American bonsai artist, Peter Tea. Beginner's workshop Sunday, 10 AM; daily raffle includes the demonstration tree; large vendor and member sales area. For more information, contact Renee Seely (916) 929-2106, breadcrust@comcast.net or visit our website <http://abasbonsai.org>.

April 9 & 10, 2016, Phoenix, AZ

The Phoenix Bonsai Society will be holding its 53rd Anniversary Bonsai Show on April 9 & 10, 2016, from 9:00 AM to 6:00 PM both Saturday and Sunday. The event is free to the public. The show will be opened Saturday morning by a traditional Buddhist Blessing, opening the Valley Garden Center doors to over 50 examples of bonsai trees, as well as viewing stones known as Suiseki, and companion plants known as Kusamono. This year's show will also feature a Bonsai Pot Competition sponsored by the Phoenix Clay Society, a 40+ year old ceramics club based in Phoenix. Phoenix Bonsai Society (PBS,

1962) events, unless otherwise stated, are held at the Valley Garden Center, 1809 N. 15th Ave., one block north of West McDowell Rd. Visitors are always welcome at no charge or obligation. The Phoenix Bonsai Society is entering its 53rd year and is one of the oldest bonsai societies outside of Japan. For more information, please visit our web site at www.phoenixbonsai.com and on [Facebook](#).

2016 Program/Demonstrator List

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|-----------------------|--------------------------------------|
| January 16 & 17, 2016 | Winter Silhouette Show |
| January 28, 2016 | Mary Morrissay, election of officers |
| February 25, 2016 | Ann Erb, Demo |
| March 24, 2016 | Michael Sykes, Demo |
| April 28, 2016 | Tom Vuong, Demo |
| May 26, 2016 | TBA |
| June 23, 2016 | TBA |
| July 28, 2016 | TBA |
| August, 2016 | no meeting |
| September 22, 2016 | TBA |
| October 27, 2016 | TBA |
| November 17, 2016 | TBA |
| December | no meeting |

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Los Angeles, CA 90032