

NEWSLETTER



Baikoen Bonsai Kenkyukai

Liliana Marcela Tello Ortiz

CBS Artist

Thursday, July 18, 2024
7:00pm, Bamboo Room

LA Arboretum
301 North Baldwin Avenue
Arcadia, CA 91007

Please bring something for the raffle

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Liliana Marcela Tello Ortiz – July Demonstrator



My name is Liliana Marcela Tello Ortiz, I was born in Bogotá, Colombia on August 3rd. I trained as a professional in Medicine and Surgery and began working in my profession in 1999. I have had my interest in bonsai since I was a child but I was not able to practice due to my professional studies, but I always had the opportunity to be in contact with nature, in my free time, which was few, I took walks in remote places to be able to get out of the city. In the year 2000 I migrated to Costa Rica, where I also began to work as a doctor. Being a tropical country, with very small cities and with the opportunity to live at home with gardens within the city, I began to look for how to learn how to make bonsai. That's where my story

begins. Initially looking for tools and supplies for this, I met a group of people who held meetings once a month where they taught some topic about bonsai and worked on their trees. That was where I met the group from the Italian school of Salvatore Liporace, who had been there from 2006 to 2009, and with them I began to develop my practice, which was on weekends since everyone had their own jobs. Thanks to this work, I was able to start getting material to work with and learn about the species and the recovery of trees in nature. I increasingly felt the need to move forward and dedicate more time. So what started as a hobby became something I wanted to do every minute.

June Demonstrator – Mitch Matsey



Mitch brought his collection of different species Ficus to show us differences and similarities. Here is setup before he began his demonstration.



But first Mike Kelly introduced Mitch because Big Joe was on a cruise to Greece. Above, Mitch had his tool all nicely lined up on his left and his many species of ficus on the left (above)





tree, *Ficus macrocarpa* (this is the old name not new current

terminology), that Mitch brought in for his demo. Tom Lau had the tree for several years before

Mitch got it. It was growing in a shallow pot (above right), then Mitch repotted it into the deeper pot above so that it could grow and be healthier. The red coloration that you see on the roots or nebari is caused by sunburn from the weather. Mitch sprayed the trunk with water to better visualize the damaged bark. To protect the bark, he wrapped window screening around the trunk when it was in his garden (see left picture). Another reason for spraying water on the tree was to dilute any sap from cuts made. The sap can irritate your skin and the water will dilute the irritating chemical.



As you can see in the series of pictures

above, there is a big knot in the trunk where some of the stems emerge, all the stems are different thickness and lengths, and some are not needed. At the same time, the stems are very straight and long. He decided to put a curve in some of the stems by cutting a wedge, or he created a false internode by bending. The first one was a practice cut about 6 inches above the soil line, and he cut about a third into the stem (see



above picture). The second cut to make the wedge was just above.



However, when he tried to bend the stem, it broke and cracked but since it was a practice branch, it was ok. He went on to cut off the big thick branch and then cut into some of the wood to help heal the cut.





A team effort to wire and bend the branch. The wire is positioned over the wedge cut while simultaneously bending to close the wedge gap. You can tell by the smiles on Mitch and Tom's faces that they succeeded.

Mitch went on to cut out wedges and wired two additional branches. This time the branch didn't break.



Checking to see if the angles and wire are where they should be and the position of the branches.

The final branch arrangement (with movement) on the left and the original tree (long straight branches) on the right. Really nice changes and a more interesting tree, as a result of the bending and cuts.



Close up of the wiring over the wedge cuts (circled), left.

Here is the soil mixture he uses for his ficus.
60% scoria (red or black lava rocks)
20% pumice, the amount can also be increased.
20% akadama

Now is the time to make cuttings, air layer, and repot, but you must complete it by Labor Day.

Mitch purchases his ficus plants from Florida. One of the most well-known bonsai vendors is Wigerts <https://www.wigertsbonsai.com/>

Notes:

Increasing the size of the trunk the fastest way is by fusing the trunks of more than one tree with another, as you can see in the photo left.

The trees are wired together and allowed to grow. The tree on the left is in the early stages of development, may fuse by the end of the year, and the tree on the right is a mature tree (5 trees fused together). Use wire is a cage to hold trees in position. You will need to change the wire about 3 times during the summer. Rewire when there is no more room for the tree to grow (otherwise you will get wire scars).

Let the tree grow to fit the appropriate size and pot. Do not be concerned with ramification at this stage. Once the trunk size is what you want, then you can work on reducing leaf size because ramification can reduce leaf size.

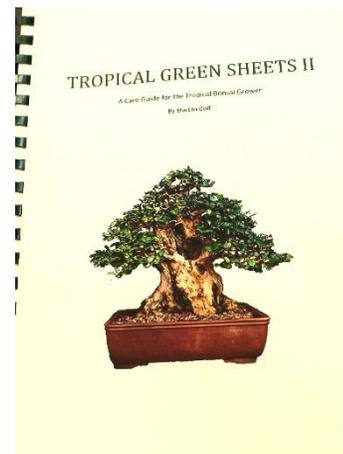
Ficus grows in full sunlight, about four hours of sunlight.

Watering: Never let ficus dry, keep moist, especially in the summer, in winter you may water every other day.

Never strip the bark.



Use 180 day slow release fertilizer pellets like from Apex or Nutricote. Mitch uses BioAdvanced All-In-One Rose and Flower Care pellets for fertilizer and pest control.



Determine the phase of development. Regrow branches before ramification. Reducing leaf size when branches are set and as thick as wanted. Keep the plant trimmed so light can go in. If the interior of the tree is dark, there is no back budding.

When cleaning out a tree, remove any straight sections to let light into the interior.

Remove leaves that point up or down. Leaf buds at the middle or ends of the leaves. Reduce down to 2-3 leaves.

Do all at once or stagger if some branches are weaker.

Tropical Green Sheets I & II from Florida, is the bible of tropical plant. Everything about species, watering, sun and propagation. Available from Amazon.

Mitch gave an overall summary of the plants that he brought, giving us different characteristics of the different species. Here are pictures of the plants. Sorry I didn't get the names of each tree.





The surprised winner of the raffle was Angela Clubb

Announcements

Cookie / Snack sign-up for the June meeting.

Refreshments will be provided by Michael Roberts, Ken Bross, and Tom Lau. Thank you for signing up.

Ben Oki Scholarship Fund winners have been announced. CBS has just announced this year's winners...

Matthew Gelacio of the San Diego club and Nah Le of the CBS and Dai Ichi clubs. Matthew will be using his funds towards an apprenticeship in Japan while Nah will use her funds towards continuing her bonsai education through workshops with the intention of promoting bonsai thru free workshops to young children and women of all ages.

Larry Ragel Foundation Scholarship. Applications open for bonsai club members in Southern California, with less than ten years of experience in bonsai, living in Los Angeles or San Diego areas. Two \$250 scholarships will be awarded to Los Angeles residents and two \$250 to San Diego area residents on September 28/29, 2024, at the San Diego Show. Please send email to larryragelfoundation@yahoo.com with your name, address, phone number, email address, name of bonsai club that you are a member of, and number of years of bonsai experience.

July 13, 2024, Christmas in July, Tom and Caroline's house. Please see flyer for details.

July 22, 2024, Golden Zoom with Caroline "Caz" Scott, from 6:30 to 9:00p. She will discuss structural pine development and aesthetics. She will focus on pruning, candle pinching and needle removal in conifers. A link will be sent out close to the date.

August 3, 2024, Larry Ragle Plant and Pot Sale, 9am to 4pm.

There will be a plant and pot sale from the estate of Larry Ragle at the home of Fred Miyahara, on Saturday, August 3rd from 9 A.M. to 4 P.M. Fred will assign time slots to manage the flow of shoppers and can be reached at (619) 316-8189. This sale will benefit the Larry Ragle Scholarship Fund which the SDBC oversees and is administered by Fred. Every September the winner will be announced at our Fall Show. Anyone with less than 10 years of bonsai experience may enter the Larry Ragle Scholarship Award Contest and apply the \$250 award to any bonsai class, material, or bonsai related experience they choose. Fred will be accepting applications by phone or in person at the August and September SDBC Club meetings. Only your name and phone number are needed to enter.

August 17 & 18, 2024, John Y. Naka Memorial Bonsai Exhibition at Nisei Week, 10am to 5pm, George J. Doizaki Gallery. Applications now being accepted. Deadline to apply is July 25, 2024. Please submit applications to Ted Matson.

October 26-27, 2024, An Exhibition of Extraordinary Bonsai, Pacific Bonsai Expo, 9:00 AM – Oct 27, 2024, 4:00 PM, Oakland, 10 10th St, Oakland, CA 94607
The Pacific Bonsai Expo is a juried exhibit featuring beautiful bonsai and top vendors from across the US. Saturday, October 26 9:00 am - 5:00 pm and Sunday, October 27 9:00 - 4:00 pm. For more information, visit <https://pacificbonsaiexpo.org/>

January 18 & 19, 2025, 61st Baikoen Winter Silhouette Exhibition, Los Angeles County Arboretum, Ayres Hall, 10am to 5pm.

March 1 & 2, 2024, GSBF Bonsai Garden at Lake Merritt Mammoth Auction & Sale, Join us on Saturday for our live auction and vendor sales. On Sunday morning, consignment sales will occur along with our vendor sales. Saturday's events begin at 11:00 am and Sunday's events begin at 9:00 am. For more information call 707-762-9154

New ZOOM Link. Baikoen meetings will continue to be recorded live and zoomed by Tom. Here is a new link. We will be streaming our meetings live to everyone. However, it is not interactive, as we encourage people to either watch the recording on YouTube or join us in person.

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/8328571089?pwd=1Fqg0SeV9vFT5RaF5vf3pyeVUAIYoE.1>

Tom's videos: If you have missed any of the 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 – 2024

July 18, 2024

Liliana Marcela Tello Ortiz, CBS Artist

August, 2024	No Meeting
September 19, 2024	Robert Hoogeveen
October 17, 2024	Debra Mauzy-Melitz – Kusamomo
November 21, 2024	Elle Nieto-Brodnick, CBS Artist
December 2024	No Meeting, Happy Holidays
January 18 & 19, 2025	61 st Baikoen Winter Silhouette Exhibition LA Arboretum Ayres Hall

