

NEWSLETTER



Baikoen Bonsai Kenkyukai

Jason Saito

Thursday, March 17, 2022, 7:00pm
Bamboo Room

Arboretum of Los Angeles County
301 North Baldwin Avenue
Arcadia, CA 91007

Please bring something for the raffle

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March Demonstrator – Jason Saito, March 17, 2022

Jason will try something a little different than what we usually experience at a demo. He will be showing us how to make a saikei. Jason will guide making two saikei (living landscapes) bonsai arrangements with junipers and a Boxwood, and accessory plants, sand, rocks, gravel, muck and moss in a pot. There will be two arrangements, one for each side of the room. Selected attendees will be able to contribute to the design and creation of the plantings. This will not be a static demo. It will be fun to compare the final two arrangements, then they will be raffled off.

One planting will contain Junipers and the other planting will utilize a large Kingsville Boxwood, as well as stones, muck, and assorted accent plants. Here are examples of his saikei.



We welcome new members Hugo Lopez, Nancy Brandman, and Bryan Nicholson.

February Demonstrator – Julian Tsai CBS Artist, February 17, 2022



Julian Tsai gave a very insightful demo with the Fern Leaf Hinoki Cypress at our February meeting. Despite his relatively young age, he showed his expertise and depth of knowledge when answering a wide range of questions from the audience. A record number of people (41) attended this meeting! And the meeting was also recorded live so there were viewers, via Zoom, from Hawaii and Eureka in the audience. This meeting was also the featured video on March 5, 2022, thank you Tom Lau and Jonathan Jee.



But first there was a new member orientation meeting at 6pm, before the regular meeting began lead by Lindsay Shiba. Lindsay covered a wide range of topics, as you can see from the chalk board figures and ended with a demo on wiring a plant. If you missed the orientation, there were two handouts that are posted on the web site, Bonsai Resources and Introduction to Bonsai Terms, Tools, and Tips.

The Fern Leaf Hinoki Cypress that Julian worked on is not often seen as a bonsai here in the US, it is more common in Japan. Lots of questions about what is the best place to grow, does it require sun or shade, how hardy is it, does it tolerate cold or heat? Julian was the perfect person to answer these questions. He now lives in Oceanside, but previously lived in Arcadia and had the same tree growing in both places as well in Northridge for a while. Oceanside is more humid but can have "June gloom" weather. Julian established that the tree would grow with more vigor with increased humidity but stops or slow growing when it is overcast. But it also grew well in Arcadia when the humidity was increased, and the tree was protected from the summer sun. He suggests using shade cloth about 30% or up to 75% in the valley depending on the UV index and temperature. Also, this tree may benefit from a cold dormancy period.

Here Julian is starting to analyze the tree, find the "front" and clean up the tree on top of our new Baiko-en Bonsai Kenkyukai tablecloth.

He began with basic thinning, cut back on new growth to establish the framework of the tree. He didn't cut the long central trunk

because maintaining it will help increase the trunk size. The main objective now is to establish the shape and increase the branch ramification.





One of the first things that Julian mentioned about this tree is that it does not back bud (dormant bud in the shady areas do not grow). You need to be careful with how the tree is pruned. In addition, this is a miniature hinoki and it grows more slowly. The top right picture shows the middle of the tree. You can compare this picture with the very first picture of the tree to see how much was thinned out and trimmed.

Next, he started to wire. Wire, in this case, aluminum, is used to control the position of the branch to retain the overall shape of the tree. Wiring is an essential tool to increase refinement of the tree. The clip & grow



method is also important combined with wiring to increase refinement. Some plants may be shaped only using the clip & grow method whereas others require wiring such as this hinoki. Julian said that the wire may remain on the branch if the wire does not bind into the bark. On old established trees some wire may stay on for years, in this hinoki, it may be 2-3 years. Wiring here is used to open up the pad, increase elongation, setup framework into a fan-like shape and increase ramification. Compare the top right picture with the picture above left.



Although this is a young tree, early in its development, Julian chose the front, as shown below. The back of the tree is above right. But at the same time, he said either side can be the front. The tree is growing toward the left, so the right side is shorter to add directionality. The top of the tree can be cut off to make an apex, or it can stay



to increase the height of the tree to become a sacrifice branch.

Julian suggests that the tree be allowed to grow and perhaps some back buds will emerge at the crotches and fill in the transition at the top. Allow to grow out and age and perhaps jin to add character to the tree later.



And the winner of the raffle was **Dustin Shang**





Cookie / Snack sign-up for the March meeting.

Refreshments by Radford Hunt, Nate Andersen, Vic Shelton, and Joe Galgoul. Thank you for signing up.

Announcements

San Diego Bonsai Club Bus Trip, April 23, 2022. \$25/person plus \$3

tip/person for the driver. Be at the parking lot by 9:45am, at the LA Arboretum overflow parking lot, leave at 10am. Arrive at 12:30pm at Balboa Park. Dinner at 5:30pm, provided by San Diego Bonsai club. Bring desserts to club dinner. Raffle/auction after dinner. Return to bus at 8:30 for trip back. Return to Arboretum at 11:00pm. Reserve bus seat by paying \$10 or more deposit. A maximum of 30 people/bus. Contact Lindsay if you want to go by April 16, 2022. You may pay with Square.

March 12, 2022, Thank You Luncheon for people that worked at the Winter Silhouette

Show in January, Paco's Mexican Restaurant, please let Shirley know if you are planning to go.

March 19 & 20, 2022. California Bonsai Society Exhibit at The Huntington Library, Art Museum and Botanical Gardens, 10am to 5pm, Brody Botanical Center.

- Open 10 a.m.–5 p.m. every day but Tuesdays (closed).
Capacity limited daily. WEEKEND RESERVATIONS REQUIRED. NO WALK-INS.
Reservations strongly recommended for weekdays.
- Save on admission and avoid overflow parking when you take the Route H shuttle on weekends from the Sierra Madre Villa Station.

April 2 & 3, 2022. GSBF Bonsai-A-Thon, The Huntington Library, Art Museum and Botanical Gardens, 10am to 5pm. Tour the expanded Chinese Garden, walk through the Bonsai Nursery, Enjoy Vendors, Demonstrations, Auctions, Raffles, Huge Sale Area, Exhibits, and Friends. Suiseki, the Japanese Art of Stone Appreciation talk by Suiseki Master Tom Elias, Foemina Grove creation by Huntington Bonsai Curator Ted Matson. Neither breakfast or lunch will be served. Free for all bonsai club members (wear name badge), but pre-registration is needed. More details later but remember there is still a possibility of cancelation. Check out <http://www.gsbfhuntington.com/> for a preview of trees that will be auctioned off.

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Reservations strongly recommended for weekdays.
- Portal for reservations has not been released yet. Will forward the information when it is available.

April 23 & 24, 2022. San Diego Club Spring Show. 10:00 am to 5:00 pm, Casa del Prado, Room 101, Balboa Park, San Diego. Beautiful Bonsai will be on display. Bonsai of various sizes and species as well as other bonsai-related items will be for sale by club members at attractive prices. Bonsai Technique Demonstrations each day 11:00 am & 1:00 pm. For more information, www.sandiegobonsaiclub.com

May 28 – 30, 2022, Santa Anita Bonsai Society, LA Arboretum, Ayres Hall, 9am-5pm.
For more information, please check web site, www.sabonsai.org

November 12-13, 2022. Pacific Bonsai Expo, The Bridge Yard, Oakland, California, The Pacific Bonsai Expo is a juried exhibition featuring 70 outstanding bonsai displays and a selection of the community's top vendors. Jurors Bjorn Bjorholm, Ryan Neil, and William N. Valavanis will select the trees. Tree submission period from February 1 to April 30, 2022. For more information, www.pacificbonsaiexpo.com.

A Message from the California Shohin Society. Sorry to say that the Shohin Seminar 2022 has been postponed until February 3–5, 2023.

The meetings will continue to be recorded live and zoomed by Tom. Here is the link to join the meeting

<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/channel/UC7fXUS6h9DwoBFhagik-wA>

2022 Important Dates

March 17, 2022	Jason Saïto
April 21, 2022	Jason Chan
May 19, 2022	Yannick Kiggen, CBS Artist
June 16, 2022	Peter Macasieb
July 21, 2022	Jose Rodriguez, CBS Artist
August 18, 2022	No Meeting
September 15, 2022	Jack Reynolds
October 20, 2022	Lindsay Shiba
November 17, 2022	Caroline Scott, CBS Artist
December 2022	Happy Holidays