



Descanso Bonsai Society

NEWSLETTER January 2013

President's Message



by Jim Barrett

Helen and I want to wish you all a happy and prosperous New Year as we look forward to the Year of the Snake. What happened to 2012?

This will be my last President's message, so I want to thank all of our members for the support you

have given the Board of Directors and the officers of the Descanso Bonsai Society.

The new Board and the officers will be installed at our traditional January banquet. I am confident that they will carry on with the business of running the society in a great way.

According to our by-laws, DBS is an educational non-profit organization dedicated to improving our members' bonsai skills and knowledge. But I think it's more than that. The fellowship, the support for each other and the enthusiasm generated for the art of bonsai are important goals we also promote as a society.

I hope to see a super turnout at our January banquet. It's a fun way for the Board to say thank you to all of you for the support and help you give. It's our outstanding members who make the Descanso Bonsai Society such a great club!



2011 Winter Sillhouettes Show
Above, Gary Lai, Chinese Elm
Left, Marybel Balendonck, Trident Maple



NO DBS MEETING IN JANUARY

Next Club Meeting
Tuesday, February 19, 2013
7 p.m.
Van de Camp Hall, Descanso
Gardens
1418 Descanso Drive, La Canada Flintridge

January Tips

Most hardy evergreen bonsai such as Japanese black pine and junipers may be repotted at this time. Wait until next month to pot for the first time. (Nursery can to bonsai pot.)

Now is the time to clean and groom most bonsai. Black pine needles that are discolored because of age or disease may be removed. Leave more needles on weak and low branch terminals, fewer on middle branches, and fewer yet on upper growth. How many you leave depends on the age and health of the tree. All terminal buds should be fat, healthy and beginning to grow this month.

Slow release fertilizers such as one of the Osmocote formulas, bone meal, blood meal, cottonseed meal or any of the rapeseed pellets may be applied now. It takes awhile for the organic fertilizers to break down and become available to the plant. Wait another month or so before you use liquid chemical fertilizers.

Blooming bonsai, such as ume, apple, plum and wisteria can be moved to show pots at this time, providing they are already in bonsai pots.

Prune all deciduous trees, removing heavy overgrown branches and twigs – especially in the upper areas of the tree. Upper story branches tend to grow unnoticed during the year and now is a good time to trim or remove them. If you are into making cuttings, these older branches that are removed may take root. I use a rooting medium of 80% perlite (sponge rock) and 20% peat moss. Drench the rooting medium with a good fungicide such as benomyl.

Deciduous tree branches are fairly flexible now and can be wired. If you are using copper wire, make sure it has been annealed. Think about paper wrapping heavier wires before applying them to Japanese maple and other tender bark trees.

When you are finished cleaning and pruning your trees, spray them with a good dormant oil spray such as Ortho's volck oil. You may want to combine it with Ortho's lime sulphur dormant spray. One is for bugs; the other is basically a fungicide. Follow directions on the labels and cover your soil and pot with plastic or a towel. Lime sulphur will stain the pot if not washed off.

Don't forget to choose your show trees for this year's show.

Detail wiring is a tedious and boring chore, but is a must if you want your trees ready to exhibit in June. You'll be glad you did it.

We are coming into prime potting and re-potting time. From now until April, try to get all of your trees that need it repotted. If you need pots ask around, supply seems good for both used and new ones.

If you haven't done so, get your soil mix prepared and stored. I use a trash can with a tight lid.



Winter Sillhouettes 2010
Marge Blasingame, Oriental Liquidambar

OFFICERS

<i>President</i>	Jim Barrett	(626) 445-4529
<i>Past Pres.</i>	Bill Wawrychuk	(818) 790-9415 b_wawrychuk@yahoo.com
<i>1st VP Activity Coord.</i>	Michael Jonas	(818) 776-0813 Mjonas48@hotmail.com
<i>2nd VP</i>	Marge Blasingame	(626) 579-0420 Blasmrjr@aol.com
<i>Record. Sec'y</i>	Marie Kwakkestein	(818) 353-0885 Mekwakkest@gmail.com
<i>Treasurer</i>	Elizabeth Likes	(818) 352-3064 Lizlikes@aol.com
<i>Officer</i>	Kathy Benson	(626) 798-0485 lbenson99@charter.net
<i>Officer</i>	Denny Roche	(818) 366-2650 dvroche@verizon.net
<i>Librarian Officer</i>	James Pai	(626) 614-8079 paijames@ymail.com
<i>Membership</i>	Fred Seeley	(661) 250-0125 fred@fredseeley.com
<i>Newsletter Editor</i>	Ellen Keneshea	(818) 363-5752 ekeneshea@socal.rr.com

DBS WEBSITE

www.descanso-bonsai.com

Make Your Reservations For
Descanso Bonsai Society's

2013 Banquet

Sunday, January 27, 2013

1:30 p.m. Raffle begins at 3 p.m.

The Angeles National Golf Club

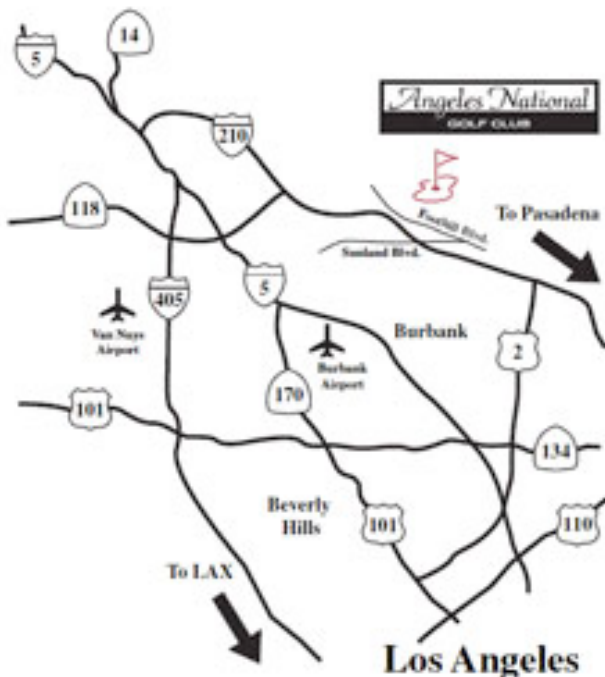
9401 Foothill Blvd.

Sunland, CA 91040

www.angelesnational.com 818.951.8771

The golf club and restaurant are located two minutes off the Interstate 210 between the Sunland Boulevard and Wheatland Avenue exits.

Click [here](#) for directions from MapQuest



From Downtown Los Angeles

110 Freeway North to the I-5 Sacramento to the 2 Freeway North to the 210 Freeway West, exit at Sunland Blvd. Go straight through the traffic light onto Fenwick. Turn left on Foothill Blvd.

From West Los Angeles

10 Freeway East to the 405 Freeway North to the 118 Freeway East to the 210 Freeway East, exit at Wheatland Ave. Turn left and proceed to Foothill Blvd. Turn right.

From the San Gabriel Valley

210 Freeway West, exit at Sunland Blvd. Go straight through the traffic light onto Fenwick. Turn left on Foothill Blvd.

**\$30.00 per person to Elizabeth Likes or at the door
Please choose Mahi Mahi with Mango Salsa, Sirloin Steak,
or Vegetarian**

We must have your reply by January 25, 2013

Mail checks and reply to:

Elizabeth Likes

9916 Rancho Caballo Dr., Sunland CA 91040

Phone 818.352.3064

Email: LizLikes@aol.com

DBS NEWSLETTER
% Jim Pelling
944 Pine Grove Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90042-1354



January 19 to 20, 2013 San Marino, California
Winter Silhouette Show at the Los Angeles Arboretum.
10AM to 4:30PM both days.

February 23 & 24, 2013: San Marino, California
Bonsai-A-Thon XVII at The Huntington Library and Botanical Gardens,
1151 Oxford Road.

This is the annual fundraiser for the GSBF Collection at The Huntington.
Admission to the event and to the Huntington Gardens is free with Bonsai-A-Thon "Early Bird" Registration. Hours are 7:30 AM – 4:30 PM both days.
Pancake breakfast, tour hosted by Jim Folsom (Director of the Garden), demonstrations, lunch, bonsai exhibits, large sales area, raffle, and auction.
For more information, contact Marge Blasingame, 626-579-0420 or margeblasingame@att.net.

DBS Board Meeting

Open to all club members interested in getting involved in club operations & management.

Next meeting December 10, 2012

At Elizabeth Likes's home, 7 p.m.,
9916 Rancho Caballo, Sunland 91040

Join the

Descanso Bonsai Society
\$25 - Single \$30 - Couples

Payable to:

Descanso Bonsai Society
See Membership Chair Fred at the
next meeting or send to:
Fred Seeley
27124 Crystal Springs Road
Canyon Country, CA 91387