



DESCANSO BONSAI SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER JANUARY 2020



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Cesáreo Pérez

Happy New Year! December has come and gone; Happy Holidays to all, whether you celebrated Hanukkah, Christmas, Kwanzaa, the Winter Solstice, or even just making it through another year! I wish you joy, peace, good health, friendship, good food, great companionship and every other good thing! It seems impossible that another year has flown by so fast! Winter (or our version of it) has arrived, with rain, Santa Ana winds, early sunsets and temperatures dipping sometimes to the upper 30's at night! The frost-tender trees make their move to the covered patio.

Of course, this being our winter break, we had no meeting last month. I hope you enjoyed the time with family, friends, loved ones. This month, on January 26, we have our annual Luncheon Banquet, which also includes installation of the Board. It takes place at the beautiful Angeles National Golf Club in Sunland. The flyer is included in this newsletter. Let Elizabeth know as soon as possible, so she can get a count for the restaurant; see the attached flyer. I hope to see you there!

We missed seeing our Sensei, Jim Barrett at the November meeting, so we did not have the opportunity to wish him a Happy 90th Birthday!!! Wow! His energy to keep going in Bonsai really continues to amaze me. He is such a treasure. This is another reason to come the Luncheon next month, so you can join in wishing him many more! Coming events also include Baiko-en's Winter Silhouettes show at the L.A. County Arboretum, the GSBF Bonsai-a-Thon at the Huntington, the Shohin Society's biannual Seminar in Santa Nella and lots of events further afield in Central and Northern California. Lots to do, and lots of people in the Bonsai community to catch up with. How great to have such a wonderful hobby/art that so many fantastic folks participate in! I really feel grateful for the many friendships it has brought me, and the sources of knowledge that improve my trees over time. Of course, that reminds me that this is prime time for potting, trimming, cleaning, wiring, etc. etc. So with another wish to you of "Happy New Year, I'll be off . . .

To the trees!

Cesáreo

JANUARY CLUB ACTIVITY:

Instead of a regular meeting this month, we have our Annual Luncheon, taking place on Sunday, January 26, at 1:30 PM at the lovely Angeles National Golf Club, 9401 Foothill Blvd, Sunland, CA. We will swear in our Board members for a new term, and will also honor our Sensei Jim Barrett's 90th birthday! This is an occasion not to be missed. The menu will feature the Golf Club's Luncheon Buffet, featuring Maria's Barbacue shor ribs and chicken. The cost (subsidized by Descanso Bonsai Society) is \$32 per person. Contact Elizabeth Likes to make your reservation (by Monday, January 20, please) by phone at 818-352-3064 or via email at lizlikes@aol.com. Come join the fun!



NOVEMBER NICHE:

The essence of fall: a golden grove of ginkgos; so beautiful! (Sorry, we lost the notes with the name of the exhibitor! Credit coming in the next newsletter.)

Reminder:

Sign up for Niche displays and for refreshments. Let's all do our part to make our meetings fun and delicious! See Debbie, our refreshment chair, at the next meeting or email her at ddawn@hotmail.com.

NEXT CLUB MEETING:

Sunday, January 26, 2020 at 1:30 PM
Annual Luncheon and Board Installation
Angeles National Golf Club, 9401 Foothill Blvd.
Sunland, CA



DEC-JAN TIPS by Jim Barrett

December and January are busy times, and because of holiday preparations, we tend to forget about bonsai. After all they are sleeping away the winter, right? Now is a great time to clean them up, prune, and wire. Japanese and trident maples and Chinese elms (not Catlin elms, which are evergreen) can have all leaves removed, including those that are still green. Prune all of the twiggy growth having more than two nodes and those twigs whose nodes are too far apart. Leave one or two nodes on each tertiary branch. Do this systematically from the lowest branches to the topmost branches. When this is done, remove heavy thick top branches, paying attention to those with particularly large diameters. This occurs when fast growing branches grow unnoticed and hidden by the foliage canopy. Strive for a multitude of fine secondary and tertiary branches in the top one third or one quarter of the tree. Don't be worried if the tree has more than one primary branch leading to the apex. As long as one terminal remains slightly higher than the rest, the tree will be natural looking and aesthetically pleasing. When you are through pruning the obvious problem branches, consider wiring those branches that are not positioned as you would like them to be. Now is a very good time to pay attention to form and inner branch structure of trees in parks and on the streets. Notice the natural transition from trunk to primary to secondary to tertiary branches - especially in the upper portion of the trees. This time of the year is a good time to bend and manipulate maple, elm, liquidambar, and zelkova branches. Branches are generally more flexible at this time and because the tree is bare, much easier to wire. One exception will be the Japanese elm (Nire). Their heavier branches tend to be rather brittle. Again, start your wiring with the lowest branches, proceed to the top, but only wire those branches that need to be repositioned. Strive for a delicate graceful appearance with Japanese maples and a more rugged ramification on trident maples. Chinese elms whose habit is to lose leaves in the winter should be pruned to produce the finest network of twigs possible. All of these species have a habit of producing heavy, thick branches in the uppermost portions of the tree. If they grow unnoticed during the year, it will be obvious when the leaves are gone which branches need surgery. Make the cuts on a slant, making sure they are concave. Seal all raw scars over 1/4 of an inch in diameter. Now that the upper portion of the tree is taken care of, clean the trunk and main branches with a stiff toothbrush or a brass wire brush shaped like a large toothbrush. If the bark has a crusty rugged look and it is a desirable feature of the tree, do not brush it. Pull all moss off of the very base of the trunk and main roots and brush these also. After covering the soil with a cloth or plastic, spray the tree with a good dormant spray such as lime sulphur, volck oil or copper oil. Set the bonsai in a sunny location where it will be admired for its winter look and enjoy it.

NOVEMBER DEMONSTRATION:

For the month of November, our presenter was Mel Ikeda. Mel is a very distinguished bonsai artist with leadership roles in the California Bonsai Society and the Nanpu-Kai bonsai club. During his seminar, Mel worked on a tree which was incorporated directly into a rock which was adhered to a wooden platform with clay. This seminars display reminded me of penjing (a form of Chinese landscape design) as it's almost as if a small environment was created. In order to create something similar to Mel's presentation, remember to pre wire your trees and place the branches close together in order to create the illusion of a lush miniature forest. Once the branches are close together, you can use a zip-tie in order to easily apply more pressure if need be. All in all, the tree was very well received during the presentation and I look forward to working on it to create something truly unique and one of a kind. -Alec Zakarian



(left) Preparing the rock with muck



(right) Arranging the tree on the base

Descanso Bonsai Officers

President Cesáreo Pérez (626) 375-9424

cesareop2001@gmail.com

1st VP & Past Pres Michael Jonas (818) 776-0813

mjonas48@hotmail.com

Treasurer Elizabeth Likes (818) 352-3064 lizlikes@aol.com

Membership Ryan Wells rwells627@gmail.com

Officer Kathy Benson (626) 798-0485 kbenson99@charter.net

Officer James Pai (626) 614-8079 pajames@gmail.com

Officer Jim Barrett (626) 445-4529

Program Chair Jim Pelling (626) 226-6818 jimpell8@gmail.com

Raffle Chair Josh Miller (818) 681-5308 joshemiller@mac.com

Refreshment Chair Debbie Rinehart ddawn@hotmail.com

DBS Newsletter

c/o Cesáreo Pérez, 2001 Craig Avenue, Altadena, CA 91001

DBS WEBSITE www.descanso-bonsai.com

November Demonstration

(right) Mel with the nearly completed planting, an alpine scene.



(left) Mel Ikeda with a very happy Alec Zakarian; seems Christmas came early this year!



Stones at the Aiseki-kai show at the Huntington in December, collected by John Naka, Steve Young and Larry Ragle.



NOVEMBER NICHE:

Cesareo Perez's Trident Maple, out to show that fall color can happen even in Southern California, displayed with a Chinese Ground Orchid, also in autumn state.

Do you have ideas for an article or a program?
Contact the editor with your idea; maybe we can use it!

COMING EVENTS

January 18 - 19, 2020 Oakland, California:

Bay Area Bonsai Associates: 39th Annual Bonsai Exhibition, Lakeside Park Garden Center, 666 Bellevue Avenue. Sat 5 - 9 PM and Sun 10 AM - 4 PM. Light dinner at 5:30 PM Saturday with bonsai demonstration by Peter Tea 6:30 PM to 9:00 PM. For more information, please contact Janice Dilbeck at janicedilbeck@comcast.net.

January 26, Sunland, California:

Descanso Bonsai Society Annual Luncheon and Installation Banquet. Angeles National Golf Club, Foothill Blvd, Sunland at 1:00 PM. Call Elizabeth Likes at (818) 352-3064 for more information, or see the attached flyer.

January 31 - February 2, 2020 Santa Nella, California:

California Shohin Society Seminar 2020: Hotel de Oro Conference Center, Santa Nella, California. Reservations for the Hotel de Oro should be made soon; mention the Shohin Seminar when you are making your reservations. For questions, concerns, or to obtain more registration forms, email Randi at calshohin@yahoo.com.

February 15 and 16, 2020 Oakland, California:

Annual Bonsai Garden at Lake Merritt Mammoth Auction & Sale, 666 Bellevue Ave., Lakeside Park Garden Center in Oakland. Saturday auction preview at Noon, auction starting at 1:00 p.m; Sunday sale 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., vendors, plant sale, and much more. For further information, contact George Haas, at gwhaas@comcast.net or visit web site bonsailakemerritt.com.

February 22 and 23, 2020 San Marino, California:

Golden State Bonsai Federation Collection at the Huntington: Bonsai-A-Thon XXIV will be held at Botanical Center Building The Huntington Library, Art Museum and Botanical Gardens 1151 Oxford Road. GSBF Early Bird Passes - Bonsai Club Members 7:30 AM - 5:00 PM General Public 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM. Event includes extensive bazaar area, bonsai exhibit, bonsai workshops for children and adults (pre-registration required), demonstrations, daily raffle and auction, guided tours, and pancake breakfast for BAT participants at 7:30 AM daily. .

March 28 - 29, 2020 San Jose, California:

San Jose Betsuin Bonsai Club: 49th Annual Spring Exhibit at the San Jose Buddhist Church Betsuin, 640 North Fifth Street. Hours 11:00 AM - 5:00 PM Sat and Noon - 4:00 PM Sun. Demonstration at 1:00 PM, both days; for further information, call Bob Shatsky (408) 353-3239 or Susan Yea (408) 464-7340.

*Do you know of upcoming events in the Bonsai world? Email information to the newsletter editor, to be shared with our members and others in the bonsai community.
Thanks!*



DBS Newsletter
c/o Cesáreo Pérez
2001 Craig Avenue
Altadena, CA 91001

DBS WEBSITE www.descanso-bonsai.com

Annual Luncheon
Sunday January 26!
Sign up now!



NOVEMBER NICHE:

Vahe Zakarian showed his Cascade-style Juniper, all dramatic curves, as if leaning off the cliffs of his mountain stone. A nice display!

If any member would like to exhibit a tree at one of our meetings, contact Kathy Benson at 1benson99@charter.net. Thanks.

Join the Descanso Bonsai Society

\$25 - Single

\$30 - Couples

Payable to: Descanso Bonsai Society

See our Membership Chair, Ryan Wells, at the next meeting or email: rwells627@gmail.com

DBS Board Meeting

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

*Next meeting: Sunday January 9, 2020
at Elizabeth Likes' home; call for directions
(818) 352-3064*



Stones at the Aiseki-kai show at the Huntington in December. What a treat!



photos: Jim Pelling