



# Bonsai Clippings

Mother Lode Bonsai Club Monthly Newsletter

April 2016

## - April Meeting -



The Mother Lode Bonsai Club held its' April 2nd meeting in the beautiful spring sunshine at Sonora High School's Wildcat Ranch with a combined demo by Frank Garcia, and an informative hands-on workshop, only then to be followed with a short drive to near-by Solomon's Garden Nursery to take advantage of some wonderful bonsai bargains. Frank pointed



out that you need not spend a fortune to have fun with the art of bonsai, just A really nice one gallon plant at \$5.99, and a bargain bonsai pot at \$10, then presto, a work of art you'll be able to enjoy for many years to come.



## MLBC's April Meeting Spills Over Into Near-by Solomon's Garden Nursery.



Now here's a lesson in how to spend more money than you had intended, or at least what your budget had intended. However tempting the urge may be to say "NO", the bargains were everywhere, and in all sizes from many little trees in 4 inch pots to mature trees in 400 gallon containers, and even if you had managed to stay with-in your assigned budget and purchased nothing, the experience was certainly worth while and a very rewarding educational visit.





## - Olives Trees -



At our April meeting there was further discussion regarding the possibility of collecting some of the old olive trees located in an abandoned orchard near Copperopolis that Club President Bob Dean had spoken of in the past. Bob indicated that he has now secured the access permits requested that are subject to certain mandatory guidelines and conditions. This abandoned olive tree orchard has approximately 200 live trees with gnarled trunks 6 to 8 inches in diameter that could possibly be made into future bonsai. Hopefully by next month we will have a chance to collect some of these interesting trees, which are then to be held at Sonora High School's Wildcat Ranch in Sonora. The high school students will then learn how to care for and prune them. If anyone is interested in this project contact Bob Dean for further information.

## - May Meeting -

Our May 7th meeting will again be held at the Oak Shadows Mobil Home Park club house in San Andreas and will feature a presentation by David Anderson on urban collecting.

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## - February 2017 -

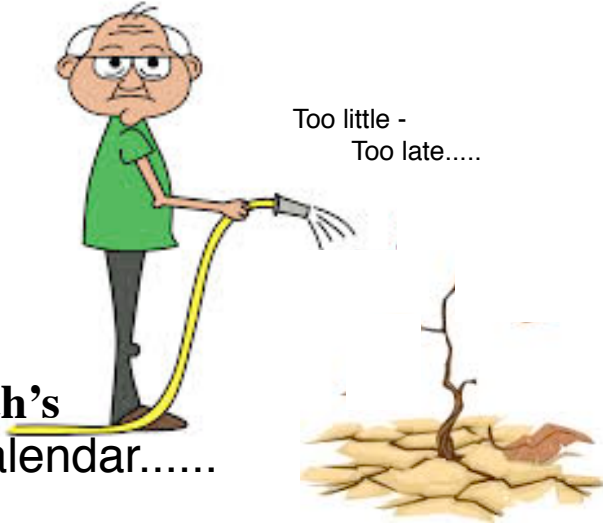
MLBC has been invited to participate in next year's Bonsai Club Display at the Golden State Bonsai Federation's Mammoth Bonsai Sale and Auction event in Oakland. One entire room will feature 'one tree' displays from bonsai clubs around the Golden State, ours will be one of them. This will be a great opportunity to introduce the MLBC to the the bonsai clubs of America. Ideas for this small one-tree display are welcome. Contact Bob Dean or Joan Scroggs for more information

## - An Official Club Event -

On Sunday, May 22, the MLBC will host a small open-air bonsai display and demo event in conjunction with the Tuolumne County Master Gardeners Annual Horticultural Tour, where-in numerous local horticultural groups will be present with informational displays. Currently there are 3500 paid ticket holders for this event tour which includes several outlying private gardens with-in Tuolumne County. Master Gardeners primary display area location is 251 Baretta Street, Sonora, CA. Our display will be located there-in and will be open from 10:30 am to 4 pm. If you are interested in helping with this event or displaying some of your trees, please contact Club Director and event coordinator Sonny Cozzo for more information. Also, the California Native Plant Society will have a display table at this same event. Bob Dean is in charge of this booth and it is hoped that he may be able to set-up near our display.

## - Our First Show -

The Mother Lode Bonsai Club is to host its' very first official bonsai and satsuki show on Saturday, September 24th in conjunction with the Master Gardeners of Calaveras County. It is hoped that ALL club members will take an interest in making this, our very first a show, an event to be proud of. To make this show a success will take the work and coordination, no matter how small, of our entire club membership. Please, let us make every bonsai club in America envious of what we can do as the new club that we are. The show will be open on Saturday, the 24th of September only, and run from 10 am to 2 pm. NOW is the time to start preparing your favorite tree or trees for this event. Again it is hoped that ALL members will display at least one tree and participate in this Club event. Show location is 891 Mountain Ranch Road, San Andreas CA. Contact Club Director and show coordinator Sonny Cozzo for more information .



## This Month's Bonsai Calendar.....

**1 - Watering** - Now is the time to take the time to look over your garden on a daily basis and adjust your watering to a **summertime** schedule. Remember, we are still in a serious drought and close attention to a proper watering schedule is most certainly necessary to keep your plants alive.

**2 - Fertilizing** - Start now with spring fertilizing with your favorite all purpose 10.10.10. - For azaleas, rhododendrons and acid loving plants use your favorite low nitrogen or 0.10.10. fertilizer.

**3 - Repotting** - Serious repotting or root pruning is **NOT ADVISED** at this time of year through early **November**.

**4 - Pruning/Defoliating** - As with most all trees in our area, drastic pruning is best accomplished in January, however you may lightly prune excessive small growth as necessary most anytime. Now is the time to defoliate most deciduous acer trees.

**5 - Styling** - Better accomplished in the cold winter months however most any time will work. Remove any old wire that has completed its' job or may be starting to cut into tender bark and limbs.

**6 - Insect disease and critter control** - Remove dead plant material. Maintain defensive treatments for fungus. Watch for and treat insect

**6 - Propagating** - Now is the time for rooting some of your favorite cuttings for new spring growth.

**7 - Sun** - Rotate all trees at least once a month. -



## - Feeding Your Bonsai -



Feeding regularly during the growth season is crucial for your bonsai to survive. Normal trees are able to extend their root system looking for nutrients; bonsai however are planted in rather small pots and need to be fertilized on a regular basis in order to replenish their soil's nutritional content.

### **Basic parts of fertilizer.**

The three basic elements of any fertilizer are Nitrogen (N), Phosphorous (P) and Potassium (K), with each element serving different purposes. Nitrogen increases growth of leaves and stems, Phosphorus encourages healthy root growth and Potassium encourages growth of fruits and flowers. Different ratios of NPK are used for different trees at different times of the year,

which is very important to take into account when fertilizing your bonsai. From early spring into mid autumn fertilize at least three times. Indoor trees can be fertilized year around. Do not fertilize freshly repotted trees for about a month; also do not fertilize sick trees.

### Which fertilizer to choose?

It is very important to choose the right fertilizer for your **bonsai plants**. During early spring use a fertilizer with a relatively high in Nitrogen content (something like NPK 12:6:6) to boost the tree's growth. During the summer use a more balanced fertilizer (like NPK 10:10:10) while during the autumn use a fertilizer to harden off the tree for the coming winter (like NPK 3:10:10). The mentioned NPK values are ratios, meaning 5:5:5 is in fact no different from 10:10:10 etc. A few exceptions are worth pointing out: to encourage blooming bonsai to flower, use a fertilizer with a high Potassium (K) content (like NPK 6:6:12) and for older trees you might want to use fertilizer with a slightly lower Nitrogen (N) content or reduce the quantity of fertilizer applied.

As some fertilizers are sold specifically as "*Bonsai fertilizer*", it is still fertilizer like any other so most any fertilizer with the correct NPK value is perfectly fine for your bonsai tree application. Depending on

the retention of water within your soil mix, you may choose to use either liquid or solid fertilizer, and lastly, it is very important to follow the application guidelines as stated on the product's packaging.

### How to feed your trees.

Feed your bonsai using the quantities and frequency as stated on the fertilizer's packaging. You can choose to reduce the recommended quantity slightly for trees that are no longer in training to only balance their growth and health instead of stimulating it. Many growers prefer to use their own personal form of fertilizer and method of use SO, if fish heads and epon salts is your way and it works for you, then go for it, but don't forget to feed your plants at least three times per year during the growing season.



Thank you Nikie Hobba for your questions regarding fertilizer for bonsai..... JKS

## - MLBC Bonsai Chat -

- Questions, Answers, Comments, Items of Interest -

**This space below is yours....**



*What's going on in your bonsai garden?*

All members of the MLBC are invited to participate in this very informal Q & A "*Bonsai Chat*".

Send your correspondence to -  
Joan Scroggs at:  
[JScroggsKTVU@aol.com](mailto:JScroggsKTVU@aol.com)

Deadline for publication is the third Monday of the month.

### Editor's Note:

If you wish to have the MLBC newsletter sent directly to you via e-mail, please inform our club secretary Kendra North so she can add your name and address to our "*Bonsai Clippings*" mailing list, and if for some reason you are unable to open this pdf document, please advise Kendra so a hard copy can be mailed to you.

# Mother Lode Bonsai Club Schedule for 2016

**Regular Meetings:** First Saturday of every month at 10 a.m. (Except July & Sept when the meeting will be held on the **second** Saturday of the month).

**Place:** Oak Shadows Mobil Home Park Clubhouse, 1330 Calaveritas Rd, San Andreas, CA

**Visitors welcome** - For more information call: Bob Dean at 209 754 5887.

<u>Meeting</u>	<u>Program</u>
May 7	Urban Collecting - <b>David Anderson</b>
May 22	<b>Small public bonsai exhibit and demo</b>
June 4	Air Layering - <b>Vince Owyong</b>
July 9	Jin and Shari
August 6	Accent Plants
September 10	Suiseki - <b>Jerry Braswell</b>
September 24	<b>MLBC's 1st Annual Show</b>
October 1	Shohin
November 5	Azalea & Camellia Pruning - <b>David Anderson</b>
December 3	<b>Christmas Party Potluck</b>

## Meeting Refreshments Calendar



Person #1	Backup
May - Susie Anderson	Juliene Hiatt
Jun - Linda Wise	Shirley Ulm
July - David Anderson	Open
Aug - Claude Chandler	RayMona Cunha
Sept - Open	Open
Oct - Doug Lau	Barbara Olivier
Nov - Open	Open
Dec -	<b>Christmas Party Potluck</b>

## Free Newsletter Ads -

Each household membership may place a five line ad related to bonsai in four newsletters each year free of charge. Send a copy of your ads to Joan Scroggs, your newsletter editor, before the third Monday of the month to appear in the next publication. -

## INTERMEDIATE AND ADVANCED HANDS ON BONSAI INSTRUCTION FOR THE SERIOUS BONSAI STUDENT

All day, once a month, one-on-one bonsai classes.  
\$50.00 per student per day. Class size limited to five students. Call Joan Scroggs at: 209 532 4880. -

## MLBC Dues for 2016

Annual club membership dues are \$25 for a single membership or \$30 for couples. Checks may be made out to the Mother Lode Bonsai Club and mailed directly to the MLBC Treasurer, Paul Van Natta, Mother Lode Bonsai Club, 10843 Knoll Dr, Valley Springs CA, 95252, or simply hand your check to Paul at our next regular Saturday meeting.

**Visit the new MLBC website at:**

[www.MotherLodeBonsai.org](http://www.MotherLodeBonsai.org)

Webmaster Annie Dunaway-Costain has invited all Club members to send her their suggestions, questions and comments for publication on our new website. Also requested are photos of your best bonsai and those bonsai you may have in various stages of developmental growth and styling. Here's where to send your correspondence and photos:

**Annie Dunaway-Costain**

[barefootinabug@rocketmail.com](mailto:barefootinabug@rocketmail.com),

## Events By Others.....



### **GSBF's Bonsai and Suiseki Garden Lakeside Park, Oakland CA.**

Open: Wed., Thurs., Fri. 11:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m., Sat. 10:00 a.m.– 4:00 p.m., Sun. 12:00 noon– 4:00 p.m. Enter at gate across from Boat House.

### **April 30 – May 1, 2016, Palo Alto, CA**

**Kusamura Bonsai Club:** 56th Annual Show, Lucie Stern Community Center, 1305 Middlefield Road. Show hours are Saturday, Noon – 5 PM, and Sunday 11 AM – 5 PM with demonstrations at 1:30 PM each day. Free admission. Bonsai pots and trees for sale, as well as other bonsai-related items. For more information Copyright © 2016 visit [www.kusamurabonsai.org](http://www.kusamurabonsai.org).

### **May 7 - 8, 2016, Sacramento, CA**

**Sacramento Bonsai Club:** 70th Annual Bonsai & Suiseki Show at the Buddhist Church of Sacramento, 2401 Riverside Blvd. Show hours are Noon – 5 PM on Saturday and 10 AM – 4 PM on Sunday with demonstration at 2 PM each day. Demonstration by the well-known bonsai artist Sam Adina, followed by the demo raffle and more prizes. Free Admission. For more information contact: Gary Judd (916) 622-8048.

### **May 7, 2016, Napa, CA**

**Napa Valley Bonsai:** Club 38th Annual Show at Napa Senior Center, 1500 Jefferson St. Show hours are 11 AM to 4 PM, with demonstration by Jonas Dupwuch at 1 PM. Display, Silent auction, Sales, and Vendors areas.

### **May 21-22, 2016, Santa Barbara, CA**

**Bonsai Club of Santa Barbara:** Annual Bonsai Exhibition at the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden, 1212 Mission Canyon Road. Hours are Saturday 11 AM – 4 PM and Sunday 10 AM – 4 PM. Demonstrations at 1 PM both days. Plant sale by the Club. Native plants suitable for bonsai in the Botanic Garden's nursery. Books and other gifts in the Garden Shop. For more information, contact Tom Post (805) 964-2717,

### **May 21 – 22, 2016, Oakland, CA**

**Bay Area Satsuki Aikokai (BASA):** 21st Annual Satsuki Azalea Bonsai Show at the Lakeside Garden Center, Lake Merritt, 666 Bellevue Avenue. Show hours are 10 AM – 5 PM Saturday and 11 AM – 4 PM Sunday with demonstration by Bonsai Master Artist Johnny Uchilda Saturday between 1 and 3 PM. Demonstration tree will be raffled. Sales area with beginner material and imported plants from Japan. Benefit drawing. Free admission. Public parking available. For more information, contact George Haas at [gwhaas@comcast.net](mailto:gwhaas@comcast.net).

### **May 14 – 15, Gardena, CA**

**Dai Ichi Bonsai Kai:** Annual Exhibit “Serenity through Bonsai” at the Ken Nakaoka Community Center, 1670 W. 162nd St. Novice to master bonsai exhibited. Hours are 10 AM – 4 PM both days with a demonstration at 1 PM ((Saturday) a round-robin and (Sunday) a Saikei demonstration by Mr. Frank Goya will be held). The demonstration items will be in the benefit drawing, which follows each demonstration. On Saturday a beginner's hands-on workshop at 10:30 AM will be held. For more details about our club and show visit our website <http://daiichibonsaikai.wordpress.com> or contact Doyle Saito at (310) 539-9265.

### **May 21 – 22, 2016, Van Nuys, CA**

**Sansui Kai of Southern California:** Annual Bonsai Show at the Japanese Garden at Tillman Water Reclamation Center, 6100 Woodley Ave. Show hours are 10 AM to 4 PM both days, with demonstration each day. Sale table of Bonsai trees and pots. For more information contact: (818) 756-8166 (Garden) or (760) 379-8292.

### **May 28 – June 6, 2016, Kanuma City, Japan**

45th Kanuma Satsuki Festival is being held at Kanuma City Kaboku Center, 2086-1 Moro, Kanuma, Tochigi, Japan. Show hours are 9 AM – 5 PM. Enjoy beautiful Satsuki Bonsai as well as other tree bonsais. New Satsuki varieties shown. Bonsai Pots available. Bonsai trimming demonstrations. Young Satsuki trees are also available. For more information visit: <http://kaboku.jimdo.com/> or e-mail: [t-sanjo@kaboku.or.jp](mailto:t-sanjo@kaboku.or.jp).

### **June 4 and 5, 2016, San Mateo, CA**

**Sei Boku Bonsai Kai:** 33rd Annual Show at the San Mateo Garden Center. 605 Parkside Way (next to Beresford Park). Show hours are 10 AM to 4 PM both days, with demonstration by Dennis Makishima from Noon – 3 PM on Saturday (tree will be raffled off at the conclusion of demo). Sunday Dennis will lead an open view

workshop from Noon – 3 PM. Large club member plant sale, vendors, door prizes and our always popular raffles. Admission is free. Dr. Bonsai will be available to offer styling and care tips. For more information contact Marsha Mekisich at [ateclectic.gardener@yahoo.com](mailto:ateclectic.gardener@yahoo.com).

**June 12, 2016, Seaside, CA**

**Monterey Bonsai Club:** 53rd Annual Exhibition at the Monterey Peninsula Buddhist Temple, 1150 Noche Buena Street. Show hours are from 11 AM – 4 PM with a demonstration at 1:30 PM by Katsumi Kinoshita. There will be a benefit drawing for bonsai trees. Silent auction area will include bonsai trees, pots and pre-bonsai material. For more information contact Rich Guillen at [richguillen@sbcglobal.net](mailto:richguillen@sbcglobal.net) or Dianne Woods at [vinca27@comcast.net](mailto:vinca27@comcast.net).

**June 18 – 19, 2016, Livermore, CA**

**Valley Bonsai Society:** 8th annual show at Alden Lane Nursery, 981 Alden Lane. Show hours are 10 AM – 4 PM on both days with demonstration by an expert bonsai artist at 1 PM. The finished trees will be raffled off at the end of the demonstration. Member's sales table. Admission is free. For additional information contact Charles Harder at [bonsainut@comcast.net](mailto:bonsainut@comcast.net)

**August 6 – 7, 2016 San Francisco, CA**

**San Francisco Suiseki Kai:** 35th Annual Suiseki Exhibit at the Union Bank Community Room, Japan Center, 1675 Post Street. Show hours are 10 AM – 5 PM Saturday and 11 AM – 5 PM Sunday. Show coincides with the 43rd annual [Nihonmachi Street Fair](#), so come early and enjoy your day in San Francisco's historic Japan Town. Suiseki and stone sales. For more information about our club, contact [sfsuisekikai@gmail.com](mailto:sfsuisekikai@gmail.com) or visit <http://sfsuisekikai.wordpress.com>.

**August 20 – 21, 2016 Santa Rosa, CA**

**Redwood Empire Bonsai Society (REBS):** 33rd Annual show at the Santa Rosa Veterans Memorial Building, 1351 Maple Avenue. Show hours are 10 AM to 5 PM on Saturday and 10 AM to 4 PM on Sunday with demonstration by Bonsai Master Artist Kathy Shaner from 1 to 3 PM both days. Demo trees will be raffled. See the largest bonsai exhibition. Large bonsai vendor and member sales. Exciting silent auctions or "buy it now". Free refreshments by the Bonsai café. Free admission and parking. For more information visit our website [www.rebsbonsai.org](http://www.rebsbonsai.org) or contact Bob Shimon at (707) 884-4126 or [shimon@mcn.org](mailto:shimon@mcn.org)

**September 24 – 25, 2016, Penryn, CA**

**Sierra Bonsai Club:** Annual Show at the Placer Buddhist Church, 3192 Boyington Road, in conjunction with the 52nd Annual Food Bazaar. Show hours are 11 AM – 5 PM Saturday and 11 AM – 4 PM Sunday. Bonsai demonstration will be held in the temple both days, along with other cultural events throughout the day. It is a yearly celebration for the whole family to enjoy. For more information, contact Lucy Sakaishi-Judd (916) 300-8103

**October 8 – 9, 2016 Oakland, CA**

**East Bay Bonsai Society:** Annual show held at the Lakeside Garden Center at 666 Bellevue Ave. Show hours are 10 AM to 5 PM Saturday and 11 AM to 4 PM Sunday with demonstration and raffle from 1 to 3:30 PM on Sunday. Free admission and show will feature over 50 trees of various varieties and ages. For more information contact us at [atebbs@eastbaybonsai.org](mailto:atebbs@eastbaybonsai.org)

**October 27-30, 2016 Sacramento, CA**

**Golden State Bonsai Federation Convention 39 "A Bonsai Convergence: Gather At The Rivers" Convention.** Headliners: Ryan Neil and Bjorn Bjornholm. More Workshops and Seminars from: Kathy Shaner, David Nguy, Peter Tea, and others. Where: The Double Tree By Hilton 2001 Point West Way, Sacramento, CA 95815. Hotel phone: 916-924-4900 (ask for the "GSBF Group Rate") For more information, contact: Scott Chadd, GSBF President at: 530-622-9681 or [scottchadd@lotusbonsai.com](mailto:scottchadd@lotusbonsai.com). On-line registration opens on July 1, 2016 Click here: <http://www.gsbfcconvention.org>



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