



OMAKE: an occasional newsletter of the Bonsai Society-Kalamazoo (BS-K)

Volume 26, Number 1

JANUARY 2007

A New Year

Another year has passed and it is now 2007. Time is really flying. BS-K has some exciting things planned for the upcoming year. Make sure you read all of Omake to see what is scheduled.



Our first meeting will be a favorite of mine. Al Jacobs is going to present his ever popular presentation, "Chinese Origin of Japanese Bonsai".

Afterwards the club will have a Fertilizer Cake Workshop. Bring your favorite formula to share and materials if you wish.

The meeting will be held Sunday, January 14, at 1:00 PM, Kalamazoo Valley Community College, Texas Township Campus, 6767 W. "O" Ave. just south of I-94. Go in the main entrance under the towers, take a left at the first hallway. Room 2120 will be up at the top of the stairs or wheel chair ramp on your left.

The BS-K usually, but not always, meets the second Sunday of each month (except August & December) from 1-4 pm at Kalamazoo Valley Community College (please call Newt @ 269-808-5056 or 269-731-3850 for meeting location as it changes during the summer)

2007 Members

Ben Oki
Jack Sustic
Ron Martin
Ben & Betty Chien
Chris McDermott
Eric Newton
Jean McIlvenny

BS-K is now collecting 2007 dues. For more information see the back page of this publication.

From the Editor,

A special thank you to Eric Newton for writing so much of Omake and making my job as editor so easy this month..

Jean

2007 Coming Attractions

January 14, 1:00 PM, Al Jacobs will present "Chinese Origin of Japanese Bonsai", followed by Fertilizer Cake Workshop

February 11, 1:00 PM, Rosemary Styling Workshop, BYO

February 24, Part 1, Girl Scout Beginners' Bonsai.

March 3, Part 2, Girl Scout Beginners' Bonsai.

March 11, 1:00 PM, Ficus Workshop-Root over Rock

March 31, 9:00 AM, Lawton Nursery Crawl (if we get approval)

April 15, 1:00 PM, (Pending) Pine Workshop, Prepare Bonsai for All-State Bonsai Show.

May 11-13, 2007, All day, Michigan All State Bonsai Show, Fredrick Meijer Gardens, Grand Rapids, MI

May 19-20, All day, Chicago Botanic Gardens, Glencoe, IL Spring Japanese Exhibition and Bonsai Show

May 26-28, 2007 Rendezvous, Brussels' Bonsai, Olive Branch, MS

June 2, All day, Newton's Ranch, Ben Oki

July 8, 1:00 PM, Azalea Workshop

Aug 12, 10:00 AM, Gee Farms Nursery Crawl

August 17-19, Annual Fall show & Exhibition, Chicago Botanic Gardens, Glencoe, IL

September 6-9, 2007 Shohin Bonsai Symposium, Rochester NY

September 9, Ron Martin Workshop, pending.

Oct. 14, 1:00 PM, Pine Workshop

Nov 11, 1:00 PM, Club Dinner, Elections

December 9, 1:00 PM, Executive Meeting

Getting Ready for February Rosemary Workshop

If you have not yet obtained material for the February meeting, you can find Rosemary grown in Christmas tree shapes for the holidays at Meijers, Lowes etc. By now any left will be at a much discounted price. You may also be able to find some at local greenhouses (usually healthier but costlier).

Look for healthy plants with little or no wilting (no sense paying for a dead or dying tree no matter how discounted). Most Christmas trees that you find will have 2 trunks. They have been planted together for many years, so separating may not be possible although you also may find smaller one trunk trees.

Try to find two that have distinct size differences (trunk diameter) in order to make a father-son or mother-daughter (2 tree) composition. Also look for a pleasant angle between the two trunks. I also like to poke around in the surface soil, just like looking for nursery material, to look for good nebari from your chosen front on both trees because this can be difficult to change. It takes a lot of pushing aside foliage and old soil etc. to see what you need to see.

Once home take the plastic wrapping off the pot, pull the tree out of the pot, and remove the surface soil to reveal the nebari, and only work the surface soil. You may have to remove some small fine roots to get to the good nebari. Put back in the pot and cut pot down to soil level.

They like as much light as they can get so a bright south or east window will work as does fluorescent lights (I grow them under lights in the basement). Let the soil dry out almost completely before watering, this may take several days in this type of soil.

Newt

Fertilizer

Organic is better than chemical fertilizer because chemical fertilizer will often result in poor soil condition, and is very dangerous if not applied correctly. Cottonseed meal, blood-meal, bone-meal, fish-meal or animal and fowl manure is recommended.

Paste Fertilizer;

Mix 2 parts of cottonseed-meal and 1 part blood-meal with water to a texture about as soft as an ear lobe. Not too dry or too soggy. Form into a small ball about the size of a ping pong ball (1 heaping table-spoon). Flatten each one to 1/2 inch thick and place on the surface of each bonsai. Or, take the paste and make a roll about one inch in diameter 6 or 7 inches long and cut into one inch slices. Another method is to make a square cake about 15 X 15 X 1 on a board. Cut into 1 1/2 inch squares. Keep these biscuits dry in a container (airtight). Sprinkle some insecticide over it. These stored fertilizers must be used within a month or two.

To use, place one piece in a corner of each bonsai pot, or behind the trunk close to the edge of the pot. Do not place at the base of the trunk. If placed in an area where there are no roots, it will eventually encourage more roots.

from Bonsai Techniques I, John Yoshio Naka

Irish Moss



Irish moss you vile weed...
I was warned but paid no heed.
Used the stuff, thought it was sweet,
It just spreads, the roots run deep.
Although I should be wiring and pruning
I spend my time digging and removing.
Pull the weeds, along with roots,
Don't get them all, you'll have new shoots.
If you see a flower, it's too late,
The spores have spread, you know your fate.
So take my word...
Now you've heard
If you see a sprout,
Pull it out.

Newt

Plant Care Tips for January

During the bleak winter months, the extreme cold temperatures can take its toll on all of your trees. The main task is to protect them from the very cold weather. Check the soil in the pots to make sure it has not dried out. If so, water the soil so it is just damp. Don't wait until spring to do all of your maintenance! Winter is an excellent time for heavy pruning, new design and carving; and needle plucking on pines (2-3 yr old needles). Don't forget to take off old wire and add new wire. This is a good time to plan your repotting schedule for spring. Draw up a list of trees that need repotting and order your soil requirements and any pots you may need. Finally, watch out for mice girdling your trees. Use mothballs or a hungry cat to prevent problems!

From Great Swamp Bonsai Society

<http://www.arboretumfriends.org/gsbonsai/care.htm>

New Year's Greetings from Eric Newton



Happy holiday's bonsai people! Hope everything is going well. It has been a busy exciting time on the Newton Ranch. I can't believe that we have been here for over a year already. The horses are doing well and it has been a pleasure to watch Sarah really come into herself. She is defiantly a horse person and does much better now that her babies are home with us. We have made many improvements over the course of the year including building 3 stalls in the barn, erecting 2 pastures, trimmed the windows and doors, painted the whole house (inside) and carved many trails through the woods. We have also had some challenges to over come; the fence has been struck by lightning twice, the house got struck once which took out our A/C unit (I think I need to put up a lightning rod), the propane heating was more than we anticipated (signed up for the budget program), truck exhaust and window went out and found that we have some grade problems with the barn and the house. All in all though we love our new place and could not be happier any were else!



Even with all the stuff going on around the property I still found time for my trees and the art of bonsai. I was interviewed by the Battle Creek Enquirer (due to a letter I wrote them) who did a very good write up and got my smiling face in print, as well as our e-mail and contact info. This generated 2 demonstrations for local garden clubs. Al and I presented to the Chula Vista gardening club in Allegan as well as the Calhoun County Master Gardeners. Both presentations went very well, drummed up interest and landed us a donation from both organizations to BSK. In addition I and several other volunteers set up trees for display and ran a booth at Wedel's Spring Garden expo that generated interest in a beginner's workshop that was held later that spring at Wedel's. I made a new wooden "Z" for the clubs sign and Sarah painted the letters for us due to the fact that the wood was different. I set up a bonsai display at DMMI (my work) to drum up new members and interest for the All State Bonsai Show. Provided many trees for display at the All State Show as well as donating my time for a demonstration and attending the planning meeting for next year. I used one of my vacation days to drive Ben Oki to the airport and hosted the event at my place. In July I helped Robert Bishop do a penjing demo for the Ann Arbor club. In September I did a phoenix graph demo for the Grand Rapids club. Contacted Jack Sustic and set up a workshop. Helped Al to build a relationship with the Girl Scouts of America through meetings and e-mails. This has led to future beginner's workshops as well as a FREE meeting location with STORAGE. In addition to all that I found the time to collect 2 huge junipers, 2 huge mugo pines, 7 or 8 Chinese junipers, 2 blue star junipers, a Japanese maple, around 10 barberries, 2 honeysuckles and an eastern red cedar. Not to mention normal cub meetings, re-potting and re-styling of existing trees.



I may have a hard time beating this years accomplishments but I can assure you that I will do my very best and continue to support this wonderful organization. We have gotten many new members over the last year, I would like to welcome you all and encourage you to voice your thoughts, ideas and/or complaints. I am bad with names so please bear with me, I will get it eventually, do not take it personal. Thank you all for the confidence you have placed in me, all the help, knowledge and all the encouragement!!! Have a wonderful holiday and may the New Year meet you with a smile.

OMAKE
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Omake is available by email. To receive a copy by regular mail instead of email mail, contact the editor.
Bonsai Society-Kalamazoo can be found on web

BONSAI SOCIETY-KALAMAZOO MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Please fill out and mail or bring to a meeting.

Member since: _____

Membership Type: *select one* _____ Student \$10 _____ Individual \$15 _____ Family \$20

Name _____ **Address** _____

City _____ **State** _____

Zip _____

Home Phone _____ **Mobile Phone** _____ **E-Mail** _____

_____ *Do not publish my address to general membership* _____ *Call ONLY if absolutely necessary*

Payment Amount Enclosed \$ _____

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