CBS Newsletter

October 2020

Care for Bonsai Tools

Sal Cordero will Present

Care of Bonsai Tools: Sharpening, Adjusting and Rust Removal

October 11th 10 AM: Live Zoom Demonstration

Sal was first awestruck and developed a love of bonsai in 1965 after seeing an exhibit at the LA County Fair. In 1978 he joined the Chico Bonsai Society, where his interest and learning continued under the positive influence of Roberta Walters and Kassie Walker[sp]. Sal is happy to share his 50+ years of knowledge, learning and experience with fellow society members.

Most all society members have experienced symptoms of PTSSD [Post-traumatic Sticker Shock Disorder] when purchasing bonsai tools. A very good reason for keeping your tools in tip top shape. Sal will be demonstrating how to perform routine tool maintenance of bonsai tools which will extend their life and effectiveness.

The Zoom invitation with details will be emailed next weekend. If you would like to practice, we have scheduled a dress rehearsal meeting on Saturday the 10th. See page 6 for details.

Maple Trees for Hot Places

Acer Bonsai Species that are Comfortable in Hot Dry Weather

Second of a Three-Part Installment

Chico and the surrounding area fall in a Hardness Zone of 9a-9b which is the upper limit for many Japanese maple species. Year-long warm temperatures can cause a lack in the dormancy

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pattern. Strong sunlight, dry winds, shallow bonsai pots can make growing difficult. Placing bonsai trees around north and east sides of the house or shading your trees from direct sunlight minimizes effects of hot dry weather and reduces scorching of root and leaf surfaces. Additionally, some species of Japanese maple are better suited to higher heat environments. This second of three-part article will review some species of Japanese maple that tolerate hot and dry conditions and warrant consideration as bonsai subjects.

Palmate Classification - The leaves are 5 or occasionally 7 lobed, divided to no more than two thirds of the leaf.

Acer Palmatum 'Kamagata'
Although this tree is very delicate looking, it is actually very durable and hardy. It is both heat and cold tolerant and is tolerant of morning full sun. As the leaves unfold in the spring the edges are tinted with red to rusty red. The early summer foliage becomes a bright light green. The fall colors are outstanding with brilliant shades of yellow and orange with an occasional touch of red. The leaves keep their color into late fall. The shoots are thin and delicate looking but are actually quite sturdy. J.D. Vertrees, a renowned expert of Japanese maples in the United States chose to name two trees during his lifetime, one of them being 'Kamagata'. 'Kamagata' is a unique in its characteristics from other Japanese maples.

Spring Color	Summer Color	Fall Color
• Red-Edges • Green	• Green	• Yellow • Orange-Red

Acer Palmatum 'Mikawa Yatsubusa'
'Mikawa Yatsubusa' is arguably one of the top three maples in the world today when it comes to bonsai. This dwarf tree has outstanding structure, color and dense foliage. The leaves overlap one another like shingles on a roof. When the leaves first unfold in the spring, they are a light yellow-green color. The thin-textured leaves become a medium green as they mature. The medium green leaf color turns golden-orange in the fall. The outer portion of the leaves have bright red tips. The leaves are slightly longer than those of other dwarf forms. The growth structure is multi-branched, forming a compact little plant.

Spring Color	Summer Color	Fall Color
• Yellow-Green • Green	• Green	• Orange • Red-Tips

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Acer Palmatum ‘Sharp’s Pygmy’
Sharp’s Pygmy is one of the smallest palmatum trees. It has very dense, compact foliage. It needs minimal pruning or training to give it a bonsai-like appearance. The tiny leaves are an attractive bright clear green before turning a beautiful orange to scarlet color in the fall. This cultivar was first noticed by Jimmy Sharp in the early 1980's. Shortly thereafter, Mr. Sharp began propagating this new cultivar at his nursery in Oregon. 'Sharp's Pygmy' is an ideal small focal plant for a patio container or bonsai. It is a truly remarkable dwarf.

Spring Color	Summer Color	Fall Color
• Green	• Green	• Orange • Scarlet

Acer Palmatum ‘Shishi Yatsubusa’
Shishi Yatsubusa is a unique and very rare dwarf shrub with dense star-like foliage. It is a strong but stubby growing shrub which develops an angular limb structure as its ages. The leaves lie very close together. The color holds well throughout the entire season and does not seem prone to sunburn. When available, it is popular with Bonsai hobbyists and is of fairly easy to grow. Shishi Yatsubusa is a slow grower making the scion wood needed to graft very limited. The name means "a small lion" or "lion cub."

Spring Color	Summer Color	Fall Color
• Green	• Green	• Orange

Acer Palmatum ‘Shishigashira’
This slow growing maple has glossy leaves that are curled and/or kinked up. One of its outstanding features is its compact arrangement of leaves. The leaves are a deep green that lasts into the fall. The leaves are of a heavy substance that is firm to the touch. After most other maples begin to lose their color, 'Shishigashira' bursts into its glamorous color. 'Shishigashira' is rumored to be one of the best bonsai trees in the world. It has been in cultivation and published in Japanese literature books since the 1880's. The name 'Shishigashira' means "Lion's Head" or "Lion's Mane."
Sishigashira holds color well in heat.

Spring Color	Summer Color	Fall Color
• Green	• Green	• Gold • Rose • Crimson

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Acer Palmatum 'Sango Kaku'
This Japanese maple is best known for its coral red bark that turns gray with the season. 'Sango Kaku's' bright coral colored bark is one of many outstanding features of this maple. Its Japanese name means "Coral Tower". At times the bark color becomes almost fluorescent. This highly sought-after cultivar is always in high demand because of its striking and unique coloration. Some Japanese maple experts feel that this cultivar is not as impressive in the fall as it is throughout all the other seasons. This upright-growing tree gradually spreads at the top as it ages. 'Sango Kaku' grows rapidly for the first few years then takes on a branching out and thickening habit of growth. Recommended by the United States Arboretum. Awards: Award of Merit and Award of Garden Merit from the Royal Horticultural Society.

Spring Color	Summer Color	Fall Color	
• Light-green • Yellow • Red	• Green • Yellow	• Yellow-gold	

References: page 6

Winter Care Guide: Japanese Maple Trees

Adaped from *Golden Statements* article by Gary Sach

The chart below is a reprint from a past c1995 Golden Statements article by Gary Sach. Remember that opinions/bonsai experience are like noses. Everyone has a different one. Time and further experience can enlighten beliefs that once etched in stone, are now the opposite. Specifically, applying the fertilizer suggestions for this area of the central valley.

	Oct	Nov	Dec
		1-2-3-4 week	1-2-3-4 week
Wiring		1-2-3-4 week	1-2-3-4 week
Shaping & Pruning: Minor	1-2-3-4 week	1-2-3-4 week	1-2-3-4 week
Fertilizer: Pulse [e.g., 15-15-15]		1 week	
Fertilizer: Light [e.g., 7-9-5]	1-2-3-4 week		
Fertilizer: No nitrogen [e.g., 0-10-10]		2-3-4 week	1-2-3-4 week
Propagation: cuttings		2-3-4 week	1-2-3-4 week
Propagation: grafting		3-4 week	1-2-3-4 week
Propagation: seeds [require stratification]		1-2-3-4 week	1-2-3-4 week

Chico Bonsai News

Brian Larsen scheduled for November Presentation

Have you ever wondered how bonsai enthusiasts collect plant material in the wild? Brian will be giving a lecture titled 'Collecting Native Trees for Bonsai. He will show trees from his collection, tools and methods of collecting, obtaining permits as well as recovery and development of plant material into bonsai.

Questions About Your Trees?

Contact Pat, Ruben and Leo for those hard questions about your bonsai collection

- Patrick Gilmore gilappl@gmail.com
- Ruben Rodarte rubenrodarte123@gmail.com
- Leo Martinez LeoRMartin@gmail.com

Classified

Bonsai Plants for Sale.
Evergreen and Deciduous.
Contact Rubin Rodarte for appointment.
Call 530-321-1139

6" Bonsai Pots for Sale.
Different shapes available.
Contact John McDonald for appointment.
Call 530-321-1139

Do you have bonsai items you would like to sell or trade? Send image, and information to John – jemcdonald@protonmail.com. Free of charge to Society members.

Submit:

- Image [preferred]
- Description and identification of object being offered for sale
- Your name, phone or mobile number and or email.
- Price

The smallest size category for Bonsai is called the Keshitsubo or poppy-seed class.

For Those Unfamiliar with Zoom

For those who would like to check out Zoom before the meeting on 11 October 2020 at 10:00 am, the society has scheduled a Dress Rehearsal so you all can verify your web connection and play around with the controls.
We will be setting up everything at Sal's on Saturday. This invitation will get you connected.
Baja Bonsai bajabonsai@gmail.com is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.
Be prompt, as we will only be up for about 20 minutes. This is how you connect:

Topic: Chico Bonsai Society - Dress Rehearsal
Time: Oct 10, 2020 05:30 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87671334594

Meeting ID: **876 7133 4594**

Continued from 'Maple Trees for Hot Climates' page 4

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Images

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Chico Bonsai Society (CBS) is a non-profit organization to promote the appreciation, knowledge, and cultivation of Bonsai through education, publicity, display and any other means which would advance the Art of Bonsai.

Membership: Chico Bonsai Society is a social hub based on the common interest of the Art of Bonsai. Membership is open to the general public, come join us. Guests and visitors are always welcome.
Annual Individual Memberships dues are $30.00 per year plus $5.00 for each additional member of the household. To join the CBS, mail your name(s), address, telephone and e-mail address plus a check made payable to the CBS for the correct amount to: **Leo Martinez, 1236 Whitewood Way., Chico, CA 95973**.

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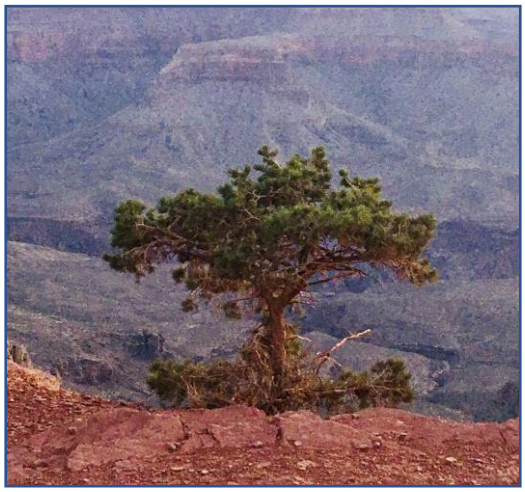
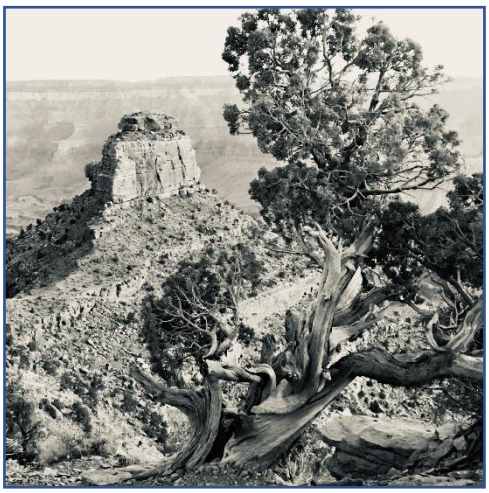
The **Golden State Bonsai Federation (GSBF)** is an educational organization which provides services and activities promoting the wonderful art of bonsai. GSBF is made up of member clubs in California and affiliate clubs in the adjoining states.

- **Publication**: *Golden Statements Magazine* [free digital version], the official publication of GSBF, is printed four times each year with current bonsai articles and calendars of local club shows and events.
- **Education**: The Federation awards grants to assist the clubs with programs and provides several categories of bonsai scholarships which are available to worthy individuals. There is also an internship program in which qualified students are given assistance to study with a bonsai master in Japan or elsewhere.
- **The Chico Bonsai Society is a current member.**

The **American Bonsai Society (ABS)** is an international non-profit corporation founded in 1967 to promote knowledge of, and interest in, bonsai – and to serve as a national focal point for bonsai fanciers. The ABS publish the *ABS Bonsai Journa*l, hold member conventions, and provide educational and support services to the bonsai community. Individual Membership dues are $45.00. Join the ABS online at: https://www.joinit.org/o/american-bonsai-society/4n47EfHaY6Fs6oMoy.

"The bonsai is not you working on the tree; you have to have the tree work on you" – John Naka

Parting Shots

Natures Bonsai: Grand Canyon August 2009