**Inland Empire Bonsai Society**

**Club Meeting Notes, April 21, 2024**

**Members present:**  Bob, Caleb, Cass, David, Ed B, Jeffrey, Jerry, John B, John K, Josh, Karen, Kurt, Marty, Matthew, Mira, Mitch, Roger

**Prospective member present:** Mike

**Items of Discussion:**

1. Introduction of members and guests present.  Marty reviewed the club activities and the benefits of club membership.
2. Club still has a supply of akadama available.  Talk to Roger if interested.
3. Marty is organizing a booth at the Spokane Garden Expo coming up May 11-12.  Club volunteers are needed, please let Marty know.  Set up will be on Friday afternoon/evening 5/10.
4. The Spokane Inter-State Fair has also invited us to participate later this year (September 6-15).  This is a 9 day event.  Details to follow.
5. Next Spring we will have a club work event digging up some ground grown material at Mira’s property.
6. Reviewed branch wiring technique
   1. Clean up of dead branches and usually taking 3’s down to 2’s.
   2. Apply your heaviest wire on trunk and primaries first and then work your way out the branches with smaller wire.
   3. Try to avoid crossing wire if at all possible.
   4. Ideally you will only have 2 wires on a branch, and avoid more than 3.
   5. Apply wire at about 55-60 degree angle turns.  Same angles, same spacing with each turn with no gaps.
   6. Wire should go in opposite directions when pairing branches.
   7. Can also anchor a wire with a pre-formed hook on one end.
   8. Remove the wire when it is starting to get tight before it cuts in.
7. Members’ trees presentation & discussion:
   1. Junipers (Karen) - wispy foliage, discussed how to trim.  Likely a running juniper that you want to allow run for the formation of back-budding to cut back to later.  Not time to wire right now for junipers since the bark can slip during active growth and kill the branch.  Fertilize now.
   2. Tea Crabapple (Roger) - has had since 2004, field grown.  Will need post-flush harden pruning.
   3. Japanese Larch forest (Kurt) - seedlings obtained from Marty last year.
   4. Crabapple (Kurt) - had for about 15 years.  Has kept small.  Discussed repotting deciduous every 3 years.
   5. Hinoki Cypress (Mike) - his 3rd tree.  Lives outside on a balcony.  Here for beginning advice.  Talked about appropriate pots.
   6. Lace leaf Yatsabusa Japanese maple (John) - air-layered a couple of years ago, in a wood training pot.  Yatsabusa often have such short internodes that you end up with foliage clumps.  Discussed partial defoliation.
   7. Cotoneaster (Jeffrey) - nursery stock 3 years ago, getting ready to style, brought in for thoughts on a front of the tree.  Pot is too big in the long run.
   8. Field Maple (Josh) - growing in a pond basket to thicken up.  Discussed leaving growth on to help thicken the trunk, and wait on wiring as that slows growth.  Hedge maples backbud profusely.  They also need root pruned every couple of years.
   9. Arakawa Japanese maple (Marty) - rough barked maple, discussed pinching and partial defoliation strategy.  Got an early start in the greenhouse.
   10. Japanese maple (Marty) - grown from a seedling 10 years ago, first potted in 2009, last repot 2023.  Advantage for creating great nebari when growing from seedlings.

**Next Club Meeting:  May 19, Manito Room, Manito Park.  Planned Topic:  To be determined**