**Inland Empire Bonsai Society**

**Club Meeting Notes, April 20th, 2025**

**Attendees were**: Marty, Roger, Jerry, Karen, Mitch, Ed R, Helene, John K, Tom, Rita, David W, and John B

We discussed bringing in a visiting artist this fall or next spring depending upon the level of interest from the members. We typically hold 4 hour workshops with 6 participants for a fee of $75-125 per person with the club picking up some of the cost. The actual fee will depend upon the artist’s fee, their travel and accommodation costs, and how many participants we have. These are a bring your own tree(s) workshops and you should really have a fairly substantial or complex tree to make the most out of the opportunity to work with a professional. Please let Marty know if you are interested and if you are work on acquiring a suitable tree or two.

We could also arrange for a visiting artist to do a demonstration if we can find a suitable piece of material and venue. It would be really cool if it was open to the public (with a small admission charge) and held someplace like the MAC where I did an Intro to Bonsai this winter.

The annual show and sale will be on Sunday June 15th at the Manito Park Meeting room from 10 am to 4 pm. Setup will start at 8 am and we should be done by 5 pm. Start thinking about what tree(s) you want to show. The primary requirements are that they should look like a bonsai and be in a nice ceramic or mica pot. We would like to really encourage our newer members to show a tree even if it is not as far along it bonsai journey as some of the more established trees in the club. It is good to gain experience showing your tree and it is always good to show the public that bonsai is a process and that trees develop over time. We will discuss tree and display prep at the May 18th meeting and encourage you to bring in potential show trees for feedback.

Our main program focused on tree styles and how to develop them. We took lots of pictures of most of the trees that were presented which will be posted on the Facebook page and both the webpage and Instagram account in the future. Here is a summary of the trees.

* Formal upright – Marty’s Japanese larch from a seedling. The eye poker branch at 2/3 height needs to be repositioned to the right side.
* Informal upright – Roger’s crabapple and shohin cotoneaster. The crabapple was developed from field grown prebonsai stock while the cotoneaster is from 1 gallon nursery stock.
* Broom – Roger’s field or hedge maple and Marty’s shohin Japanese maple. The field maple is the single trunk broom style which has a very natural appearance while the Japanese maple is being developed from an airlayer. Some of the longer shoots of both trees will be removed as back budding develops.
* Clump – Roger’s vine maple. This was a single tree that died back to the roots and sent out multiple shoots. Clumps and forests are closely related – clumps come from a single root while the trees in forests are on their own roots that often fuse as they mature. Vine maples tend to have long internodes and petioles, but they will reduce.
* Exposed root – Tom’s Chinese elm. This was most likely grown in southern China based upon where Tom bought it and has been inside this winter. It will want to be outside most of the year with some winter protection. Unfortunately, we did not get a picture.
* Literati – Roger’s garry oak. This was collected around Yakima and has great movement and bark. One or more of the sprouts along the trunk will be developed into a small leaf pads.
* Slanting/windswept – Ed R’s juniper procumbens nana. This was done in a Bonsai and Beers workshop with GraytoGreen nursery. It is rather long compared to the trunk thickness and there were several ideas of how to compact it a bit. Unfortunately, we did not get a picture.
* Semicascade – Marty’s trident maple. This is a tree in early development that shows that smaller trees are created by cutting down a taller tree. There is a second picture after Marty pulled the cascading branch closer to the trunk that may even convert it to a cascade (lowest branch below the bottom of the pot).
* Raft – Roger’s Japanese maple. This informal upright tree had most of the branches on one side and a large pruning scar (both undesirable) so Roger laid it on its side to become a raft. The gap under the trunk is a somewhat Chinese penjing style. Lots of discussion of the continued development of this tree including replacing some long sections without branching once the new shoots develop more.
* Airlayer example – Marty’s Japanese maple that was airlayered in 2024 to create a second tree and a shorter primary tree. After the meeting it was found that the airlayer callused, but did produce roots so it was cleaned up and rewounded before being repacked with soil to create roots.
* Trident maple – Marty’s kifu sized tree that was cut back from a taller tree in 2024 and will be cut back again to produce a shohin size tree. There are two more images from work that done after the meeting. The first is after the initial cut back and the second is after determining that there was a bar branch that was cut off. It should respond with strong growth that can be directed.
* Field grown Japanese black pine. Mitch is working to improve the nebari of this informal upright tree using a method suggested by Michael Hagedorn. Plant it in a deeper pot with coarser (1/4 – ½”) pumice with akadama if available in the bottom ½ - 2/3 of the pot and normal bonsai soil in the top. This allows both strong growth and the development better roots in the nebari. The top of the tree will most likely be cut off and the apex developed from the next lower set of branches.
* Kishu juniper (J. chinses “kishu’  that had been wired and twisted 20 years ago by someone in the Portland club. It now has a nice big trunk and will be styled in the next yar or two after it becomes fully established in the current bonsai pot.
* Yamadori douglas fir. David W got this on the recent club collecting trip. This strong, vigorous tree is tall and thin and is probably best wired into an informal upright or similar design. Unfortunately no picture is available.