**Inland Empire Bonsai Society**

**Club Meeting Notes, May 19, 2024**

**Members present:**  Bradley, Cailen, Caleb, Cass, Dotty, Ed R, Emily, Jeffrey, Jennifer, John B, John K, Karen, Kurt, Marty, Mitch, Roger

**New Members:** Scott, Zach

**Guests:**  David

**Items of Discussion:**

1. Review of the experience at the Garden Expo last weekend.  Went very well with a lot of interest.  Handed out a lot of club brochures. Sold $900 of trees & materials.
2. Club Show & Sale will be the 3rd Sunday of July.  Trees to be displayed need to be in bonsai pots, preferably a ceramic pot but mica pots could be acceptable. We will discuss show prep and display at the June meeting.
3. Review of feedback from the survey of club members.  Thank you to everyone who participated.  Marty provided us with a summary handout.  Had a good response of about 50%.  Discussed the tension between how to best serve experienced members versus new beginner members.  We have traditionally tried to do both.
4. Mirai Live was mentioned as a great source of information.  Check out their beginner videos on YouTube.
5. Roger updated us on a bulk club order for akadama.  We need to do an order now.  Let Roger know what you need.  The next opportunity probably will not be until fall of 2025.  This order would probably arrive in a month.
6. Demo:  Roger demonstrated post-flush harden pruning on a crabapple.  Once the new growth has “hardened off” and run out its energy, it is a good time to cut back to inner buds/branches. Goals of pruning:  control growth, encourage backbudding and ramification, maintain the silhouette of the tree, keep leaf size small and internodes short.  Generally cut back to 2 nodes or directlonly prune.  Also showed an example of a larch to discuss post flush harden pruning on larches.
7. Demo:  Marty demonstrated partial defoliation on a Japanese Maple.  Removed one leaf of every pair, and then reduce the leaf size on the remaining leaf.  This leaves some energy production for the plant, but encourages the tree to put out another flush of growth that will have smaller leaf size and shorter internodes.  Strongly recommend this partial defoliation technique over total defoliation which risks killing the tree at some point.
8. Activities for this time of year:  Post-flush harden pruning, air-layers, removing tight wire.  Perhaps pinching short needle single flush pines.
9. Members’ trees presentation & discussion:
   1. Crabapple (Roger) - used for above demonstration of post-flush harden pruning.  Was field grown by Randy Knight.  Roger obtained it 20+ years ago.  Is in refinement at this point
   2. Larch (Roger) - post repot this Spring.  Discussed post flush harden pruning strategy on larch.  Look for buds close to the base of the shoot to cut back to.
   3. Japanese Maple (Marty) - used to demonstrate partial defoliation.
   4. Loose-Flowering Hornbeam (Marty) - started as a seedling 20 years ago.  Repotted with a significant angle change this Spring after comment at another meeting.  Had previously had trouble with the top of the tree continuing to die back every year.
   5. Hinoki Cypress (Cass) - received this nursery stock tree for Mother’s Day.  Too late to do root work this year.
   6. Japanese Maple (Caleb) - nursery material, repotted into a grow box this year, looking for advice on what to do with it.
   7. Satsuki Azalea (Ed) - not blooming this year.  Might have a root problem or was under- or over-watered over the winter.  Will need repotted with better soil.
   8. Japanese Maple, Lace-Leaf (Zach) - nursery stock.  Looking for advice on what to do going forward.  Needs to be repotted into bonsai soil next year.
   9. Dwarf Mugo Pine (Zach) - nursery stock.  Looking for advice on what to do next.  Talked about reducing whorls to address inverse taper.
   10. Alaskan Black Spruce (Mitch) - collected in 1999, first wiring.  Discussed front options.
   11. Colorado Spruce (Mitch) - yamadori, obtained from Todd Schlafer, in a wood box.  Repotted in to the bonsai pot in 2021.  Recently re-wired this Spring.
   12. Siberian Elm (Kurt) - in a $3 yard sale pot, talked about straight section of trunk, perhaps shortening upper portions of tree.
   13. Cottonwood sapling (Kurt) - grown from seed

**Next Club Meeting:  June 16, Manito Room, Manito Park.  Planned Topic:  Show Prep, Rock stock demo**