



## EAST RAND BONSAI KAI

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NEWSLETTER MARCH 2010

### CLUB NEWS

Hello once again,

What a pleasure it was to watch the demonstration given by Lynne on Mame's. We hope to see more mames entered at shows and put on display at the club.



The following can be used as an indication to determine what mame bonsai is and what the size of the mame tree should be. (submitted by Tony)

*Mame* bonsai are known as pocket bonsai, or palm bonsai, because several can fit in the palm of a hand. They are usually less than 6 inches high but more than 2 inches high. The size classification *shohin* bonsai is somewhat smaller (1-9).

*Shito* bonsai, or *keshitsubo* bonsai, are the smallest of all. Their maximum size is around 2 inches high and includes anything smaller that's horticulturally possible. English translations include the names "poppy seed bonsai," "fingertip bonsai," and "pea-size bonsai." These plants, pot and all, will fit on a fingertip and certainly test the growing skills of the enthusiast.

As you can see from the chart Bonsai Classifications,

These size classifications are overlapping and a bit imprecise; however, this does not detract from what they indicate. Their very existence gives the bonsai artist a

full range of canvases on which to create art. Advantages of miniature sizes far outweigh the advantages. They are highly portable, easily made, and provide more satisfaction in a period of time than their larger counterparts. Never thought you might be interested in starting this fascinating hobby, miniatures could be the they give you an affordable, accessible, no-frills beginning. Their gratification is instant, their biology non-threatening, and their art simple and satisfying.

### **Bonsai Classifications**

#### **Large Bonsai**

Imperial bonsai Eight-handed bonsai 60 to 80 Inches 150 to 200 cm  
 Hachi-uye *bonsai* Six-handed bonsai 40 to 60 Inches 100 to 150 cm  
 Dai *bonsai* four-handed bonsai 30 to 40 Inches 76 to 100 cm  
 Omono *bonsai* four-handed bonsai 30 to 40 Inches 76 to 100 cm

#### **Medium Bonsai**

*Chiu* *bonsai* two-handed bonsai 16 to 36 Inches 40 to 91 cm  
*Chumono* *bonsai* two-handed bonsai 16 to 36 Inches 40 to 91 cm  
 Katade-mochi *bonsai* one-handed bonsai 10 to 18 Inches 25 to 45 cm

#### **Miniature Bonsai**

*Komono* *bonsai* One Handed 6 to 10 Inches 15 to 25 cm  
*Mame* *bonsai* One Handed 5 to 8 inches 12 to 20 cm  
*Shohin* *bonsai* Palm size 2 to 6 inches 5 to 15 cm  
*Shito* *bonsai* Finger tip 2 to 4 inches 5 to 10 cm  
*Keshitsubo* *bonsai* poppy seed 1 to 2 inches 2.5 to 5 cm

(As stated before **exact sizes for each individual class varies from one authority to another**)

**Remember your pen and paper to make notes on the tips given by the demonstrators and the members that attend, as in all the cases, we have been given quite a few tips based on their experiences.**

#### **AGENDA FOR APRIL**

***NEW TALENT COMPETITION – 3 APRIL 2010 @ 12:00 - FOR THOSE OF YOU WHO WOULD LIKE TO ENTER THE NEW TALENT COMPETITION PLEASE INFORM RUDY OR TONY. KINDLY MAKE A NOTE THAT THE MEETING WILL START AT 12 NOON. JOFFRE WILL GIVE A TALK AND 'HOW TO' ON THE NEW TALENT – ENTRY WILL BE R60.00, WHICH INCLUDES THE TREE. STYLE OF THE MONTH FOR APRIL: CLUMP – SO WE HOPE TO SEE A LOT OF TREES ON DISPLAY ON THE DAY!!***

#### OTHER NEWS

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**NB !!! Remember the annual subscriptions are due by 1 May 2010. Unfortunately, if the subscriptions are not paid, we won't be able to email/post you a newsletter !**  
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#### **At meetings:**

**1st Saturday at 14:00.** Remember to bring your trees for Style of the month and the Critique table. The demonstrator of the day will give his/her input on the trees placed on the critique table. Raffles are available at **R5** and all donations are more than welcome. If any member would like to sell some trees, you are also more than welcome. Just have a word with the Treasurer.

#### **Workshops.**

**3rd Saturday at 14:00.** The club workshops are held every 3rd Saturday of the month and you are welcome to bring along any tree that you would like to work on or that you require assistance with. This is still the best way we learn, so bring a tree and get some input on what to do if you aren't sure.

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Should you have any tips and or comments that you feel we can place in the newsletter, please let Des know.

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***More snippets of events in "Recent" Bonsai History***  
***(Courtesy of Bonsai Book of Days)***

#### **One day in March**

**25/3/1995 -- An olive bonsai, originally collected from an olive ranch in Fontana, CA on July 4, 1958 and then also designed by him, was donated this day by John Naka to the Golden State Bonsai Federation Collection at the Huntington Botanic Garden. ("GSBF Collection at the Huntington," <http://www.gsbf-bonsai.org/huntington/GSBFHuntGalleryBonsai.html>, accessed 03/17/03)**

28/3/1983 -- A Japanese White Pine and a persimmon bonsai were presented to President and Mrs. Ronald Reagan by [His Majesty Hassan II](#), king of Morocco. The trees came from his personal collection. ("Spring Festival Celebrates Asian Horticultural Arts - Bonsai, Ikebana, Suiseki in Spotlight," Friends of the National Arboretum, <http://www.fona.org/members/spring01/festival.html> ; *The National Arboretum Book of Outstanding Garden Plants* by Jacqueline Hériteau, NY: Simon & Schuster; 1990, pp. xx)

**Cheers**

Des

