

Bonsai Wire

Marin Bonsai Club

Monthly Meeting
3rd Tuesday, 7:30PM
Marin Art & Garden Center
30 Sir Francis Drake Blvd. Ross, CA

August 2011

President's News...

It's that time of the year again – you've been building your collection, had time to see the gems (and the soon-to-become gems) develop through the spring and summer. Of course you have some holes where you wish you had purchased that beautiful little cascade or ancient, gnarled maple at the recent show or Mammoth sale... Well, there is another opportunity to acquire and/or remove trees in your collection! Our annual August Auction is coming (Aug 16). From what we've heard so far, there will be some great trees to be sold (possibly by you) and lovely new trees to be bought (possibly by you). And it's a great place to find that "special pot", tool, or book.

We look forward to a really large response to the Auction. It's one of our main fund-raising activities, so come and give your support. Auctions and shows (see Bay Area Bonsai Events) are always a great opportunity to buy good quality material, and our Auction will have some of the best bargains and quality material to be found anywhere.

Like any good, helpful club, we're offering some handy options to consider if you're planning to acquire/change and develop your trees.

Our August 2 club meeting will be "Bonsai Basics - everything you need to know". It will focus on what to look for when selecting bonsai trees – ranging from pre-bonsai material and collected specimens to mature trees, how you might develop those beauties, how to wire, what pot and soil to use and the best part of all, how to maintain the condition of your trees to ensure maximum health and perfection. We'll have experienced members on hand to discuss all these subjects. Your participation

in this event will mean you'll be even more prepared to make those critical buying decisions at the auction. If you have a tree that you need to work on, or get advice, bring that along to the August 2 workshop.

At our August 16 Auction there will be plenty of people to check if you need help in making your selection. It's a great idea to have a second person to bounce ideas off, so you end up with the right tree.

Another thing that's worth considering before buying or changing out your trees is to check our library or Google online to find examples of trees that you might like to have. Check out their growing requirements and ensure that you have the right conditions in your yard. While we have a pretty reasonable climate not all trees species are equal or happy in Marin!

Moving on to matters of administration for the club, I'd like to have everyone think about how they can help support the club besides paying member dues and coming to our events. Our membership is running at about 60, yet we seem to have less than ten people who regularly perform all the duties required to make the club function and continue to promote bonsai in the community!

Apart from the board, we have some great opportunities and specific tasks where we can do with your help. We always need people to:

- Docent at the GSBF Bonsai Collection at Lake Merritt, Oakland (contact Roger Lion)

- Provide refreshments at our meetings (contact Marlene Philley)
- Perform specific tasks at special events such as the Auction, e.g. running items to the auctioneer, working on the sales area, at our Shows, docenting, greeting people, sales area, etc. (contact Candace Key)
- Provide communications to other clubs, newspapers etc. throughout the year (contact Alison Seaman)
- Write up meetings, and write articles for Bonsai Wire, our newsletter (contact Alison Seaman)

This list isn't exhaustive - we're starting to feel exhausted and would really welcome some extra assistance. We may even offer an incentive plan... Anyway, you get the message, and we'll be calling on you too. We also have our Board elections coming up in November and are looking for nominations.

Enjoy your (hopefully) sunny August. We look forward to seeing you at our upcoming club events.

- Alison Seaman



Club Auction August 16, 2011

Its club auction time again, and don't you all just love it? What a great time to both clear out trees you don't want anymore and pick up a bargain tree to get you all excited about a new bonsai project. There are always bargains in all price ranges and the occasional bidding wars are often entertaining. This year promises to meet or exceed all expectations. The club auction makes a prime opportunity for those looking for new challenges to take on or the perfect pot for that tree that is just about ready for show. It is also a wonderful opportunity to recycle trees you are ready to pass along to a new owner.

Auction particulars:

- ❖ Preview starts at 7pm - members will be there early to answer questions and advise on auction material
- ❖ There will be a short club meeting at 7:30pm with the auction starting soon thereafter
- ❖ Refreshments will be served
- ❖ Cash and checks only

The Livermore Room will be open at 5pm for tree delivery and **we need all items to be set up by 6:45pm**. Inventory forms need to be filled out for all trees be they consignment or donations so we can keep track of the sales, and identification tags are required on all donation AND consignment trees. Please consider if you will require a minimum bid on either a donation or consignment item. We will clearly mark the tags with this information, but it helps to have numbers firmly in mind before you get to MAGC on Auction night.

We are always very grateful for donations to the club and encourage members to donate items outright when they can. However, if you need/want to make some money off the sale yourself then there are 2 options; splitting the proceeds 50/50 with the club or an 80/20 split with the member taking 80%. The club will cap their share of the proceeds from sales of expensive trees at \$100. This is to encourage members to bring their better trees and know they will get the maximum for their investment in the tree selling it at the auction.

Information required on sales tags is the same as in previous years, item number, starting with your initials, i.e. CMR-10, description of item, juniper, black pine, etc. You will need to write this information **twice** as this is a 2-part ticket. If you are selling on consignment and have a minimum bid requirement please fill out a **red tag** that says only what this minimum bid price is and attach it to the tree along with the description tag. All items not sold must go home with you!!!

Leave yourself plenty of time to do your paperwork and tag your trees when you bring them in. We will have inventory sheets and tags at the workshop/program August 2, so you can get a jump on filling in the information we need. If you will not be at the August 2 meeting you can email or call Candace who will send tags and forms in the mail so you will have it all done when you arrive Tuesday evening. We really cannot accept items after 6:45pm. It is just too chaotic to do so. If you can't get there that early or at all please send trees and other items with a friend or call one of the board members and we can arrange a pick up.

Club Auction (continued)

A successful auction will take the participation by every single club member. This is our big fundraiser for the year and a profitable auction means the club can afford to bring in great speakers and teachers from around the world and have them work on quality trees for the demo and raffle. These terrific learning opportunities just aren't possible without a healthy bank account so we hope all members will participate as fully as they are able.

We need everyone to bring trees, pots, books, stands, tools to auction. If you don't have items to auction please come and bid - and bring friends! If you are cash-strapped please come and help us out running the auction, (you will not be so busy that you can't also bid on items if there is something just too good to pass up).

We need you all to spread the word. Publicity is always our biggest challenge. We will have notices in the local papers and local bonsai clubs will make announcements in their newsletters, but please talk the event up with friends and colleagues who you think might be interested. If you would like flyers to hand out at your workplace or another club please contact Jeanette Arnold.

Please invite anyone you can think of who has an interest in bonsai! There will be items of all prices and quality, certainly something for everyone.

Thank you everyone for digging deep into your collections and pockets to help the club out in this important fundraiser. We would not have such a robust and admired club if not for your generous contributions.

Come early with your items for auction, bid often and high, stay late and pick up those end-of-the-auction bargains to help us make this our best auction ever!

Call with questions or to request forms and tags in advance of the auction . . .

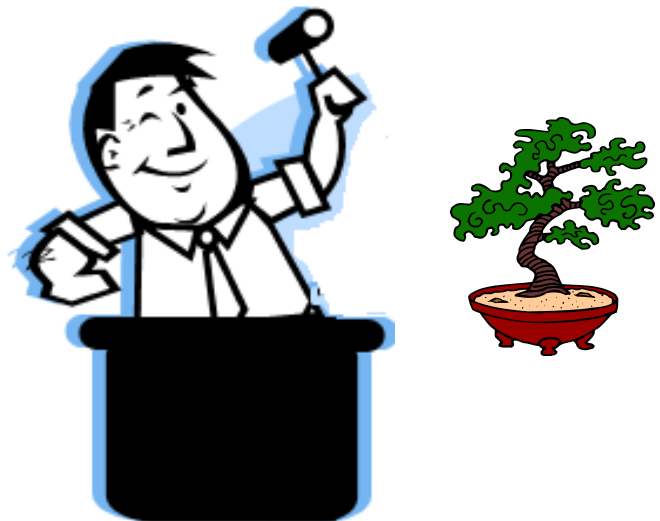
- Candace Key 415.491.1989

Sales Table Info and Auction Tips:

All decent trees and pots are welcome for auction, but we have seen in the past that we can get bogged down on small ticket items when we would really like to spend our time on the more expensive trees and pots. This year we will not be auctioning any item we don't think will command at least \$20. However, the **SALES TABLE** has been a successful addition to the event, and we will expand this area where members can just put a price on the item and anyone who wants to buy it outright can. There is no upper or lower limit price on sale trees. The same consignment splits mentioned in the 'Auction Particulars' section apply for sales trees.

Bonsai pots are welcome, but keep in mind they need to be clean and in good condition. Please consider grouping pots together to make the \$20 auction minimum as sadly most pots do not go for higher prices. Special pots certainly can stand on their own in the auction or on the sales table.

Trees that are well groomed, clear of weeds and moss and nicely potted in a bonsai pot if possible will bring the highest prices. Pots are also naturally more attractive and appear more valuable when they are clean. No cracked or chipped pots can be accepted. If you wish to donate these pots for club use in workshops please check with John Doig to make sure they are appropriate.



Taskmaster - August 2011

August in the San Francisco bay area microclimates is a puzzle and a challenge. Some days are foggy and cool, like our neighbors to the south, and some are so hot the trees literally cook. Some are half and half, and now and then a mean, parching wind whips in to sear the leaf tips and dry out the fruit and make the blossoms drop.

Shade the pots that are cooking in direct sun where possible or just wrap tinfoil around the outside. Remember that when the temperatures go over ninety, the trees stop transpiring and water needs diminish, so be careful with the water. If drying and burning and browning of leaves was a problem last year, spray the foliage with Cloud Cover or Stress 2000 now and then, and spray with Eleanor's VF11 once a week.

If wiltdown occurs, soak the pot to the rim for two hours in a dishpan with half-strength Miracle-Gro solution and set the pot on the North side of the house or fence (no direct sun) for two to three weeks, watering sparingly.

Set cascades and willow and wisteria in water dishes to one third the depth of the pot for August, and leave the willows and wisterias in water baths until mid October.

Spring and early summer growth can be safely wired now, and carefully cut off and remove any earlier wiring that looks as if it may soon bind the bark.

Paint all jin and shari now with full-strength lime sulfur to prevent rot, fungus, mildew and borers in the deadwood. The sun will bleach it white, so add a few drops of India ink if you don't like it so white.

In any pot that fills, drains too slowly, or stays too wet, stick in a popsicle stick that says "repot me" and give it less water more often and put it first in line for winter or late fall repotting.

If the buds have sprouted on the pines where you cut the candles earlier, now is the time to thin them out to two or three at each location. This is not a good time for pruning, but pinching tips and removing biggest leaves is helpful.

Take your favorite trees out and set them up for the best photo opportunity of the year in the golden late afternoon sun. Admire the art that you have created. Send those pictures to everyone you know,

as notecards, as jpegs, as emblems of hope for the spark of life that survives in spite of all in a world crowded with bad news and misfortune. Then turn off the bad news, turn your back on misfortune, and crowd the world with that spark.

- The Taskmaster

Bonsai Basics for our August 2 Workshop

August can be a tricky time to work on our bonsai because the chance of heat damage to newly plucked or styled trees is high, so we thought it was a good time to bring a Bonsai Basics refresher course to the club.

This program will be particularly beneficial for newer members just getting started, a reminder to those who have been practicing for a while now, and there are sure to be a few new ideas for the old pros among us. Our August 2 workshop date will be given over to a panel discussion on what anyone who practices the art of bonsai needs to know and implement on a daily basis.

One of the first questions no matter how long you have been in bonsai is how to **select a good tree** for bonsai development. There are many considerations to answering this question and the discussion is particularly timely with the CLUB AUCTION coming up on August 16. **Tools** are critical in working on your trees and getting the best effects, but do you need to spend a fortune on them? We will discuss what is essential, what the more advanced tools are, how to tell the difference and where to purchase them. **Styling** of trees will be discussed with the growth habits of deciduous, conifers, tropicals and others explained to help enthusiasts determine the best trees for their time, energy and interests. What about **pots**? How do you match a pot to a tree? Should it be glazed, colored, unglazed, hand-built, shallow, deep, oval or square? We will give you both general guidelines plus considerations for a more nuanced approach to pot selection. Of course **care and maintenance** is critical to keeping our trees healthy and our experts will give you suggestions on how to make sure your trees thrive rather than merely survive.

Come for good information, good fun and bring your trees along if you need advice or just want to work on them as you listen. See you there!

-Candace Key

Summer Picnic Pleasure

This year's summer picnic was hosted by Karen and Tom Marx at their lovely house and garden in San Rafael. The setting was ideal and peaceful, with shade and sun and the sound of falling water from the fountain. It was good to see friends gathered together on a pleasant afternoon, and the food was just terrific.

Lots of people took part, and some we don't see often enough. No bonsai get-together would be complete without David Stern and June Rubin supplying those delicious tortilla casseroles, and Dan Keller cooked up ribs of two kinds in his secret Coca-Cola glaze. Sharon Bone fed us marvelous beet salad. Sensei Tim and Emma Kong came up from San Francisco to get some sunshine and add their generous touches to the menu, and Sylvia and Dee Drowley held court at party central beneath a big umbrella at the main table, where all these and many other fine dishes were very seriously enjoyed. Frances Noles and her friend Anna wore the best hats, and Frances won biggest wildest hat award. Mervin Dowd brought his wife Betty, his sense of humor and his very own bottle of wine, and Karen showed off the moldy parts and ant colonies in her maple trees to the entertainment of all.

It was a delightful spread of good food lovingly prepared and brought by people of good will to share with our generous hosts. The afternoon was a sweet addition to the pleasures of summer and the friendships of the bonsai group.

Thanks again to Karen and Tom.

- Chris Ross



Bonsai Tips and Tricks

Member Dan Keller has a great and inexpensive tool idea to share for this month's column. We'll let him explain in his own words:

Does everyone already know about the bonsai fork-rake? Maybe not. I wanted something handier than a cyclopsian chopstick when the Taskmaster tasked me to "scratch in a teaspoon or two of cottonseed meal and bone meal in a 70-30% mix around the perimeter" of my trees. Also I had wanted a tiny cultivator to go after undesirable mosses and other weeds that appear in my bonsai pots.

So I thought of making a little "rake" from an old fork. With some pliers, I bent the last half inch of each tine at a right angle, making a dandy little rake. It turned out that I have used it even more than I thought I would.



As Dan points out, this isn't a new idea, but it is one some of us may need to be reminded of, and great to have his photos and testimonial.

Do you have a tip or trick to share? How about ideas on keeping plants in small pots from drying out in the summer sun? We know there are some inventive solutions out there, and we would love to hear about them. Yes, we mean you Mr. Stern.

- Your *Bonsai Tips and Tricks* Editors



Marin Fair 2011 Bonsai Show Thanks

Over 30,000 people visited our area at the Marin Show! We heard wonderful messages of praise and admiration, and listened to many questions and stories every day. It was fun and rewarding. The trees looked even better than last year—thanks to Jay McDonald and his "special" crew for setup, the members' trees, and some new and improved lighting by the Civic Center.

We couldn't have managed it without the help of: Jay McDonald, Jeanette Arnold, Alan Voight, Scott Piatanesi, David Stern, Mark Lesley, John Doig, Tim Kong, Ed Lee, Craig Thompson, Roger Lion, Frances Noles, Karen Marx, Tim Burke, George Haas, Richard Dobson, Michaele Jaffe, Candace Key, Chris Ross, Danny Slomoff, Adam Petras, Peter Miller, Dan Keller, Sharon Bone, Art Wasserman, Jessica Wasserman, Carolyn Robbins, Lesley Madison.

Thank you very much for making the event so special.

- Alison Seaman

BAY AREA BONSAI EVENTS



August 16

Ross, CA

Marin Bonsai Club: Annual Auction: Marin Art and Garden Center, Livermore Room, 50 Sir Frances Drake Blvd. Viewing at 7PM and auction starts at 7:30PM. Specimen bonsai, pre-bonsai and everything in between, along with pots and other bonsai related items will be auctioned. For more information please contact Craig Thompson, 415-472-6685 or craigethompson@hotmail.com

August 21

Sacramento, CA

American Bonsai Association: Annual Auction at the Shepard Garden & Arts Center, 3300 McKinley Park Blvd. Preview time is 1PM and the Auction starts at 2PM. A very popular event, which will feature bonsai in various stages of training (starter, moderately and highly styled) and nursery material, accents plants, pots, and other bonsai related items. No credit cards please. For more information contact Paul Holtzen at pbholtzen@sbcglobal.net

August 27-28

Santa Rosa, CA

Redwood Empire Bonsai Society (REBS): 28th Annual Show at the Veteran's building, 1351 Maple Avenue. Hours are Saturday from 10AM-5PM and Sunday from 10AM-4PM. There will be 200 trees on display, a large vendor area, a members sales room, a demonstration by Kathy Shaner at 1:30PM each day and a benefit drawing and silent auction. Admission and parking are free. Contact Bob Shimon at shimon@mcn.org or 707-884-4126 for additional information.

September 18

San Mateo, CA

San Mateo Bonsai Club: 48th Annual Bonsai Show at the San Mateo Gardeners Association Hall, 503 E. 5th Avenue. Hours are 10AM-5PM. Demonstration at 2PM. Bonsai sale. Free admission. For more information contact Sam Tachibana, 650-548-9470.

September 27

Santa Rosa, CA

Redwood Empire Bonsai Society (REBS): 7:30pm - Ryan Neil is going to work on a Sierra Juniper, which will be raffled off, at the REBS monthly meeting. Open to the public. Please note that the new location for the REBS monthly meetings is now the Luther Burbank Arts and Garden Center on 2050 Yulupa Ave, Santa Rosa, CA 95405. Contact Bob Shimon at shimon@mcn.org or 707-884-4126 for further information.

Our September Meeting

Learning how to care for your bonsai trees is a life-long pursuit, a long and winding road with many bumps, turns and sometimes dead ends. No one makes perfect bonsai, or always succeeds in keeping them alive. Failure and humility are part of the process of gaining an understanding of our trees and how they like to be treated. We often learn as much from our failures as our successes, so for our September meeting we will have an audience participation program with the theme '*The Thrill of Victory, the Agony of Defeat*'.

We want your stories of what went right and what went wrong to share with the group. Look through your garden and think about lessons you have learned, some the good way, some the hard way and bring them to share at our September meeting.

There is great wisdom and humor among the members of the Marin Bonsai Club and this is the time to share.

- Candace Key

MARIN BONSAI CLUB EVENTS

August 2, 2011: Workshop

Decoration Guild, 7pm

Senior club members will present a program on Bonsai Basics – Selection, styling, tools, pots, care and maintenance. Bring your trees along if you need advice or just want to work on them as you listen. Free for members, \$10 for non-members.

August 16, 2011: Bonsai Auction

Livermore Pavilion 1&2

Preview at 7pm, Auction starts at 7:30pm

See article in this newsletter for more info

August 18 & 25, 2011: Beginning Workshops

Decoration Guild, 7-9pm

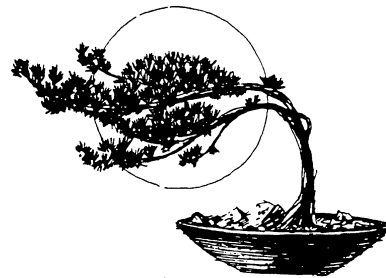
September 6, 2011: Workshop

Decoration Guild, 7pm

Bring in your trees for our monthly workshop.

\$10 for members, \$20 for non-members.

For a full list of currently scheduled MBC events, see <http://www.marinbonsai.org/events/index.php>.



Marin Bonsai Club

2010 Marin Bonsai Club Officers:

President	Alison Seaman	415-789-1167
VP Programs	Candace Key	415-491-1989
VP Shows	Jay McDonald	415-847-8909
Secretary	Jeanette Arnold	415-883-2651
Treasurer	Frances Noles	415-461-0437
Historian	Carolyn Robbins	415-460-0339
Librarian	Roger Lion	415-924-5134
Editor/Web	Sharon Bone	415-898-9618
Hospitality	Marlene Philley	415-924-5134
Docent Coord	Roger Lion	415-924-5134

Marin Bonsai Club

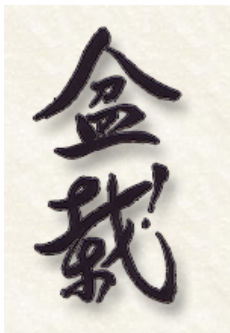
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