

Bonsai Wire

Marin Bonsai Club

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

October 2011

President's Letter...

Our November Fall show is coming fast. This is our time to show the bonsai community our fabulous trees and talent! As always we're hoping that **all** club members participate in some way. Please read my 'Can you help' article in this newsletter to see where you can sign up. It would be great to get lots of volunteers to join in the fun and spread the workload.

Also, we really need nice donated items for the raffles that we hold throughout the show. Raffles are a very good way for the club to generate money while keeping our visitors glued to the event. Apart from the demonstration trees that get raffled, we'll be having a Silent Auction on Friday night, which also requires generous donations from club members. Donation items ranging from pre-bonsai to developed healthy bonsai trees, tools, pots, books, and Japanese-themed items generally attract more attention (and \$\$). Whatever you can donate will be very welcome – and the better the quality, the better the response from the visitors!

It would also be nice if every member could show at least one quality tree that you feel would demonstrate great fall color. Please start thinking about which trees you want in the show and bring them to either the October or November workshops to get them into shape. Talk to Jay McDonald about your planned show tree and check what you need to do.

This year's show headliner bonsai master for the Friday evening is Ted Matson, who is a wonderful and very knowledgeable bonsai master. You have the opportunity to sign up with him to have a special

bonsai class of your own on the Saturday Nov 12 – please arrange with Candace Key. Our November newsletter will cover all the details of the Show.

Our October 19 meeting is a great opportunity to see another great master at work – Jay McDonald, our MBC workshop expert and fabulous bonsaist. Jay has many years of bonsai experience and his wonderful trees appear at bonsai shows around the Bay Area. Please come and see him demonstrate, where you will be sure to learn some great new tips to create show-ready bonsai, and who knows, maybe even win the tree raffle!

- Alison Seaman

Call for Raffle Prize and Silent Auction Items

I hope the Fall Show is not far from the minds of all good club members and you are combing your bonsai collection for treasures you can donate to the club for raffle prizes. Also needed are a few choice items for the silent auction on Friday night. These two activities are critical to the financial success of the show and this is a way everyone, no matter how long they have been practicing bonsai, can contribute.

Books, tools, stands, pots and trees are the obvious bonsai items we can use, but a good bottle of wine, or gift certificates for something fun or delicious will work as well. Use your imagination and think about what you would like to win in a raffle. Chances are that would be desirable to others as well. Those who can contribute something extra special for the silent auction please contact me to discuss.

- Candace Key

September Meeting Wrap Up

It was a grand night of bonsai tips, tricks, and advice from practiced hands and cautionary tales from those sadder but wiser at our September meeting. The show-and-tell format with the theme of both good and difficult lessons learned and shared was an entertaining and educational evening with club members of all levels of experience sharing what they had learned over the years.



Among the tidbits imparted: don't count on the weather to be predictable, or drip watering systems for that matter; even trees that seem dead can come back to life if you are very lucky; when a bonsai teacher tells you a tree is not healthy and you shouldn't buy it you would be wise to heed their advice; bad things, i.e. dead trees, happen to everyone;



air layering can be a highly successful and satisfying way to enlarge your bonsai collection; even seemingly 'perfect' bonsai trees can be improved or artistically styled in new and challenging ways; talking to your trees and plants works!! . . . sometimes; trees dug out of your yard can become successful bonsai, despite the doubts of your instructors and colleagues.

Most importantly, we found we often learn best from each other through

the exchange of our experiences and helping each other improve our knowledge and skills. Thank you everyone who brought their bonsai and shared their stories, and all those who came to listen and learn.



- Candace Key

Photos by John Doig

October Meeting

The program for our October meeting will feature our own bonsai artist Jay McDonald who will style a coast redwood to the delight and amazement of all who attend. We have seen Jay's magnificent redwoods at our bonsai shows and this is your chance to learn how he chooses material, determines how to style and develop the tree and carve the trunk to create the successful illusion of age so important in bonsai.

Below is a photo of the demo tree, a fine specimen collected by Bob and Zack Shimon, experts in the field. Jay will do some work on it before the demonstration so he can spend more time styling the tree and talking rather than wiring during the program.



This is a fine tree already and it will be close to show quality by the end of the evening when one lucky raffle ticket holder will take it home. Be sure to attend what should be a great program and a wonderful opportunity to learn more about developing and caring for these native California bonsai.

Sign Up for Ted Matson Consultations

Hopefully you all know that Ted Matson is the featured speaker for our Fall Show on Friday night November 11. Did you also know that for a modest price you can spend a half hour consulting with Ted about your trees?

On Saturday from 10am until 1pm we will be scheduling half hour sessions with Ted for the price of \$35. You bring as many trees as you think you will have time to talk about and your burning bonsai questions and Ted is yours for the half hour.

Anyone who has worked with Ted before knows he will never stop talking and you will be sure to get more than your money's worth from the effort. Those who have not had a chance to work with Ted will be in for a wonderful surprise.

Use the opportunity to get styling tips for next spring, or find out more about how your trees grow and will respond best to training. Ted seems to know almost everything there is to know about bonsai and it is a great opportunity to avail yourself of his expertise.

Limited openings are available so please sign up with Candace Key immediately to be sure you get a place in the lineup.

- Candace Key

Can you help with our Fall Show?

I am looking for any members who have the time to help make our Fall Show (Nov 11-12) another wonderful event. Whatever you can do would help us greatly. To give a general idea of how and when we need your assistance, here are the main activities we need to cover:

Friday, Nov. 11

Setup for event – moving tables, building backdrops, covering tables with cloths, cleaning pots and stands, helping to set out chairs, etc.

Friday Night Dinner - Selling dinner tickets and raffle tickets, helping to set out and serve food /beverages, cleaning up after dinner, greeters for people arriving at show, docents for the display, assisting with raffles and silent auction.

Saturday, Nov. 12

Selling trees, docents for the display, greeters for people arriving at show, selling raffle tickets, helping with food and beverage, event cleanup.

Please contact me if you are available, either 415-789-1167 or email alisonseaman@sbcglobal.net. I'll have signup sheets at all our meetings before the Show.

- Alison Seaman

Taskmaster - October 2011

Fall in the Northern California Bay Area microclimates can mean fog all morning or even all day, ninety degree heat, sixty five degree days, warm nights when you leave the windows open and don't need a blanket, chilly nights when you want to build a fire and cuddle up, hot dry winds that burn the tips off the leaves and enough variability to drive a bonsai practitioner stark raving mad.

More than anything else, it means the following:

Switch over to 0-10-10 fertilizer as soon as the mostly hot days are mostly over. In warmer locations one or two more shots of low nitrogen preparations in which all the numbers are below ten is a good idea at ten day intervals. Somewhere in there another teaspoon or two of cottonseed meal/bone meal at 70/30% ratio will insure healthy winter resistance to cold, fungus, excessive dryness, and promote dormant growth.

Cut off wild Summer growth and re-establish the shape and compactness of the trees.

Assess each pot before watering. By now, some will be slow to dry and others faster than you anticipate.

Spray for mold and mildew, this is their favorite time of year.

Spray for aphids and ants, they're all making a last push before the cold comes.

Give all the deciduous trees full sun to make Fall color; Azaleas too, to promote new buds.

Cut, don't pull, the old needles from five needle pines. Remove some of the buds from black pines if you haven't already done so; leave two where three or four grew, and leave three where five or six grew. go back late in the month and remove the third bud so winter finds two everywhere.

Loose wiring is possible now that growth is slowing, but it's a bit early. Better to wait until nearer leaf-fall so the wires have a better chance to stay on all winter without cutting in.

Stay strong, stay passionate, stay vigilant, stay connected, stay true, stay healthy, stay open, stay optimistic. All these little trees depend on you, as does the whole blue shining planet.

- The Taskmaster

HELP WANTED
Assistant to VP of Programs

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Assistant to VP of Programs

Skills required: enthusiasm, love of bonsai, respectable organizational skills, willingness/ability to communicate via email, interest in getting to know bonsai professionals and working with them to set up programs for the club.

There is a lot more we could be doing as a club in terms of field trips and advanced workshops with visiting bonsai experts and more, but we are limited by the time and energy the current VP of Programs can commit to the job.

Your contributions would enhance the fun and enjoyment of bonsai for all club members and no doubt be greatly appreciated.

Submit applications to Candace Key early to have the best chance to secure this highly coveted position.

VEGETABLES NEEDED
We are seeking individuals who are interested in helping our club members with their vegetable gardens. We are looking for people who are willing to share their knowledge and experience with others. If you are interested, please contact us at [phone number] or [email address].

BAY AREA BONSAI EVENTS



October 1

San Jose, CA

Midori Bonsai Club: 50th Annual Bonsai Show in conjunction with the Spirit of Japantown Festival at the Wesley United Methodist, Fellowship Hall, 566 N. 5th Street. Hours are 10AM-5PM. Bonsai demonstration at 1PM by Kathy Shaner with a raffle at the end of the demonstration. Admission is free.

October 1

Salinas, CA

Salinas Bonsai Club: Annual Bonsai Exhibition at the Lincoln Avenue Presbyterian Church, 536 Lincoln Avenue. Show hours are from 10AM-4PM, and a demonstration by Katsumi Kinoshita will begin at 1:30PM followed by raffle drawings and door prizes. For more information, contact Tim Shea at twistedtreeguy@yahoo.com.

October 8-9

Oakland, CA

East Bay Bonsai Society: 50th Annual Show at the Lakeside Garden Club, 666 Bellevue Avenue. Hours are Saturday, 10AM-5PM and Sunday, 11AM-4PM. There is an entrance fee to the park, but show entry is free and donations are welcome. Silent observers are welcome to the club's workshop on Saturday from 1PM-4PM. A demonstration by Kathy Shaner will from 1PM-4 PM, Sunday, followed by a raffle of bonsai and related items. A large selection of club member consignments will be for sale throughout the show. Contact Janice Dilbeck, 925-458-3845, or John Nackley, 510-693-2423 for more information.

October 15-16

Union City, CA

Yamato Bonsai Kai: 40th Annual Bonsai Exhibition and demonstrations featuring Johnny Uchida, at the Southern Alameda County Buddhist Church, 32975 Alvarado-Niles Road. Admission of \$5.00 includes entry to the exhibit & sales area, viewing of the demonstration and a raffle entry for the demonstration tree. Saturday event hours are 1PM-9PM with an evening demonstration at 7PM. Yamato members will serve dinner from 5-6PM; donations accepted. Come for the Saturday exhibition, have dinner and stay for the demonstration. Sunday event hours are from 10AM-4PM with an afternoon demonstration at 1PM. Visit www.yamatobonsaikai.org for additional information.

October 22-23

Sacramento, CA

Capitol City Bonsai Association: 12th Anniversary Show to support the GSBF Bonsai Garden at Lake Merritt and the Sacramento bonsai clubs. Location is the Shepard Garden and Arts Center, 3330 McKinley Blvd. in McKinley Park. Show hours are Saturday, 10AM-5PM and Sunday, 10AM-4PM. Demonstration both days at 1:30PM by sponsor clubs with special bonsai raffle drawings to follow. Vendor and club member sales areas. Contact Gary Judd, juddbonsai@att.net or 916-622-8048 for more information.

November 11-12

Ross, CA

Marin Bonsai Club: Fall Show at the Marin Art and Garden Center, Livermore Room, 50 Sir Francis Drake Blvd. Friday hours are 5:30-9:30PM and includes a dinner at \$5 per head, a bunjin style Shimpaku Juniper demonstration by Ted Matson, a silent auction and raffles. Saturday hours are 10AM-4PM and include individual consultations by Ted Matson from 10AM-1PM, a club demonstration at 11AM, vendor and club sales and raffles. At 1:30PM there will be a critique of show trees by Ted Matson. For dinner reservations or more information call Jeanette Arnold, 415-883-2651. For individual consultations call Candace Key, 415-491-1989.

MARIN BONSAI CLUB EVENTS

October 4, 2011: Workshop

Livermore Pavilion 1, 7pm - Bring in your trees for our monthly workshop. \$10 for members, \$20 for non-members.

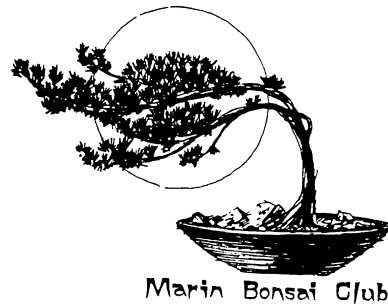
October 18, 2011: Meeting

Livermore Pavilion 1, 7:30pm - Marin Bonsai's own Jay McDonald will present a program on styling native redwood trees as bonsai for our October Meeting. Jay will bring a display of mature redwood bonsai to show the range of possibilities with these trees and members are encouraged to bring their own redwood trees for show and tell and comment from our resident expert.

November 1, 2011: Workshop

Livermore Pavilion 1, 7pm - Special emphasis on getting trees ready for the show and presentation skills. \$10 for members, \$20 for non-members.

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



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
Newsletter/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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www.marinbonsai.org

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