

Bonsai Wire

Marin Bonsai Club

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

September 2011

President's Letter...

This month was an important outreach and publicity period for the club with our annual Auction and Beginners Workshop.

Our Auction always attracts enthusiasts from within our club, from other bonsai clubs, and from the public. This year was no exception. The event has built up a good reputation over the years for quality material and for being a fun and social event. It was really nice to see many old acquaintances and some new faces among the attendees. We also had many trees and much other bonsai equipment that provided lots of opportunity for our eager buyers. Jay McDonald and Craig Thompson did a fabulous job at engaging the bids and moving the event along. Candace Key ensured the entire event ran smoothly with her team handling the buyers' and sellers' queries and transactions. I'd like to extend a big thank you to everyone who helped make our yearly auction such a great success – not only for all the great help and support that was given, but also for the better than expected profit the club made from the consignments. For those of you who missed the event, or still have trees to sell, you have a great opportunity to bring them along to our Fall Show (Nov 11 -12), where on Saturday we plan to offer plants for sale. Every Fall Show we get requests from our public to buy trees, and it's a good time to take advantage of this opportunity.

Our Beginners Workshop provided our eager participants with nice material (Kingsville Boxwoods and Junipers) from Tim Kong's special supplies. This year Chris Ross and John Doig organized and led the presentations and the workshops. I was only able to work at the first session, yet it was clear

that we were certainly passing on the spirit and art of bonsai to a very receptive audience. Already over half of the attendees have joined the club, which is a very good sign. Again, thank you very much to Chris, John, Jay, Roger Lion, Jeanette Arnold, Craig, Frances Noles and Candace for getting this event to work so well. The prospect of more active members in our club is always heart-warming.

This August has been another challenging month! With lower than average temperatures, maintaining our bonsai and landscape trees in peak health and appearance has been difficult. Signs of fall are starting already. As the Taskmaster suggests, checking moisture levels in the soil for each tree is essential, and adapting watering (and fertilizer) with the change of season is vital to retaining health and vigor. Remember, we have our annual show in 10 weeks time and we really want to show lots of healthy trees with fall color as appropriate! Please take a look at your collection and identify those trees you want to show, and for the deciduous ones, keep their leaves as healthy as possible. The Taskmaster's monthly care and maintenance section in our Newsletter is a great way to keep your bonsai in great shape.

Please plan to bring some of those special trees in for the "Show and Tell" event for our September 20 program. It will be a great opportunity to highlight what you've been doing with your trees, discuss plans for the future, have some fun, and possibly win a special gift certificate for your effort. Of course, there are our monthly workshops where you can always come and get some friendly, expert advice. Please come and join the fun!

- Alison Seaman

September Meeting Program – Member Show and Tell

There is a great deal of bonsai wisdom among our club members and this knowledge and experience isn't limited to our teachers and senior members. Anyone who has been doing bonsai for any length of time has picked up a wealth of information from classes, workshops and mostly just observing and working on their own trees. Some of the information is shared as we visit with fellow club members during our monthly workshops which is one of the greatest benefits of membership in the Marin Bonsai Club. Picking up on this idea, we thought it would be a good idea to formalize the experience and present a forum for bringing that knowledge and hard earned wisdom to all club members.

For the September meeting we will present a members 'show and tell' - the theme this year "The Thrill of Victory, the Agony of Defeat". We want to hear stories not only of your successes in bonsai development, but also your failures. It is as important to understand why things didn't work out as planned as it is to follow the rule book and have everything work out perfectly. We all know that rarely happens, so come share your experiences, good, unfortunate and in between, and learn from fellow searchers of bonsai knowledge.

The rules are simple. All members are invited to participate. You need only bring both a success story and a story of something that didn't work out so well. Photos and skeletons are encouraged to illustrate your experience and certainly the trees you will present, if possible. All participants will get 5-10 minutes to present their trees and field questions from the audience. All presenters will be entered in a raffle and three lucky winners will take home gift certificates from Lone Pine Bonsai Gardens. There is really no way to lose at an event like this even if you don't take home a raffle prize. One of the great things about the practice of bonsai is there is always something to learn and you are sure to hit the jackpot at this interactive event.

- Candace Key

American Bonsai Society Annual John Y. Naka Design Awards

Each year the American Bonsai Society (ABS) searches for outstanding bonsai for its John Y. Naka Design Awards. These awards honor one of our fathers of modern bonsai whose literature, teaching and ideas will continue to inspire us long into the future.

Any bonsai artist or hobbyist who resides in North America is eligible to enter the contest. There are two divisions each for both professionals and hobbyists that promote the use of both native North American material and material grown entirely in North America.

Now is the time to take photographs of your favorite bonsai to submit to the contest. These should be good photographs but need not be professional. Submit photos with completed entry forms by **April 1, 2012**.

Forms and more information can be found on the ABS website: <http://absbonsai.org/>

The awards will be presented in Denver next Summer at the [American Bonsai Society & Bonsai Clubs International](#) Convention June 21-24, 2012 : Visions of the American West.

Get Your Accents Ready for Fall Show

You should be preparing your companion plants for the fall show which is just on the horizon. If your tree is in a glazed pot, your companion should be in an unglazed one; if your tree is in an unglazed pot, your companion will look fine in a glazed pot. Be careful of color. If your tree is full of fall color, then your companion should not be. And vice versa. Fall is not the time for many flowering companions - grasses and ferns are awesome. We also need these beautiful creations to grace our dining tables. Let's get inspired now so that by showtime, they will be in perfect form and our display in all the rooms will be stunning!!

- Jeanette Arnold

Another Successful Auction !

We did it again! Thanks to an enthusiastic crowd of club members, friends and guests we once again pulled in a tidy sum for the club coffers and put on a great evening of entertainment at the annual club auction in August. It was a night of incredible bargains and while we might have hoped for more enthusiastic bidding on some items, given the economic times in which we find ourselves this was no surprise. We had a terrific crew working the event, keeping the pace brisk, the books well organized, the schedule on track and our guests refreshed with good food.

A huge thank you to all who came and worked, donated items and bought trees. Your efforts are greatly appreciated. We couldn't have done it without you. For all those who couldn't make it this year, we hope to see you next year. This is one of the core club events and we need the participation of all to keep the club vital and financially healthy. See you next year?

- Candace Key



Photos courtesy of John Doig



Taskmaster - September 2011

September in the San Francisco Bay Area microclimates is usually August, revisited. Still Summer, still hot days and the periodic drying and singeing winds that burn leaves, and still encouraging the bugs and fungi and mildews that thrive on heat and moisture. In other places, it's Autumn. But here? Summer.

So it's a poor time to repot most things, and the things that get repotted in the Fall should not have extensive root pruning done, which means if you think you must repot now or through October, you'll have to repot much sooner next time.

Fertilizing now with a good slow-release organic mix like cottonseed/bone meal in a 70/30% proportional split with a scoop of kelp meal added for micronutrients and manganese is essential for setting strong and numerous new buds for next Spring. This should be the first nitrogen boost in the last couple of months, and will make the trees turn Fall colors at the right time and beef up for the overwintering effort they must make. There is no soluble fertilizer as complete or as good or as long-lasting as the ones that you sprinkle on and scratch in, but Maxsea is a distant second best even though its nitrogen is too high and half of it comes from urine.

Speaking of Fall color, all the deciduous trees should now be moved to more full sun and then, in 2-3 weeks, true full sun for the Fall show of color and the setting of Spring buds for leaves and flowers and fruits. Pull them back briefly into some shielding when the warm winds whip around to avoid leaf burn.

Leaves that turn yellow now may just be aging castoffs, but if there are a lot of them, there may be a problem. Only the older leaves turning yellow in large numbers usually means not enough potassium and/or nitrogen. Mostly younger yellowed leaves usually means not enough iron and/or manganese. Yellowed edges is usually low magnesium and/or potassium. Yellow between the veins on all or lots of leaves is usually the lack of iron and possibly manganese. These findings are so common that each of these elements can be found in good

nurseries and hydroponics stores, and are sold separately with instructions for use. Using a mix that includes all elements complicates the problem for the future and should not be used.

And speaking of trace elements, add a teaspoon of Epsom salts per gallon to the first real feeding of azaleas for this season, because that is pure magnesium sulfate, and the azaleas thrive when magnesium, sulfur, and the extra acidity is added to the fertilizer.

Water now becomes an issue, too, because the plants begin to react to the shortening days and the ever more indirect sunbeams and begin to slow their growth rates and use less water even though the days are warm or even still hot. The solution is usually to water as often but not as much, to avoid both being boggy and drying out.

Check all wires and remove the tight ones. Wiring should not be done now on deciduous trees until leaf drop, and evergreens can be wired but only loosely because now they begin to fatten for a season, more than lengthen.

Keep willows, wisteria, pomegranates and all tall cascade pots in their one-third to one-half depth water baths for another month or so.

Use some Malathion or other bug controller now, as the seasonal change just beginning makes them dig into bark and soil and branch and leaf joints to lay eggs and begin to prepare to overwinter in your trees.

You have to overwinter, too, but not much preparation is necessary just yet. Just keep your heart open for the slow turning of the season, your eyes open for the slow change in the heavens of the dear old Autumn constellations, and get your spirit all purged and ready to welcome the rising of this year's full harvest moon. Glory is on the rise.

- The Taskmaster

Memo from the VP of Programs

The lineup of demonstrations and programs for 2012 is shaping up nicely, but we still need input from members as to who they would like to see visit the club, what they would like to learn, and what kinds of programs help them learn the most about the development of mundane plant material into beautiful bonsai.

Please contact Candace Key with ideas, requests and offers to help pull together a rich variety of programs for the next year. Really, we need your input and we need you to participate. Operators are standing by . . .

Beginner's Workshop

We graduated a fine crop of new bonsai enthusiasts from the Beginner's Workshops in August. Enthusiastic students dived into learning about styling and nurturing bonsai and gamely, if tentatively at first, took to styling elegant Kingsville Boxwood trees, and on the second evening doing dramatic work on Juniper material.

We welcome all participants - many of them freshly minted members - to continue to join us in the pursuit of bonsai knowledge at our monthly workshops and meetings.

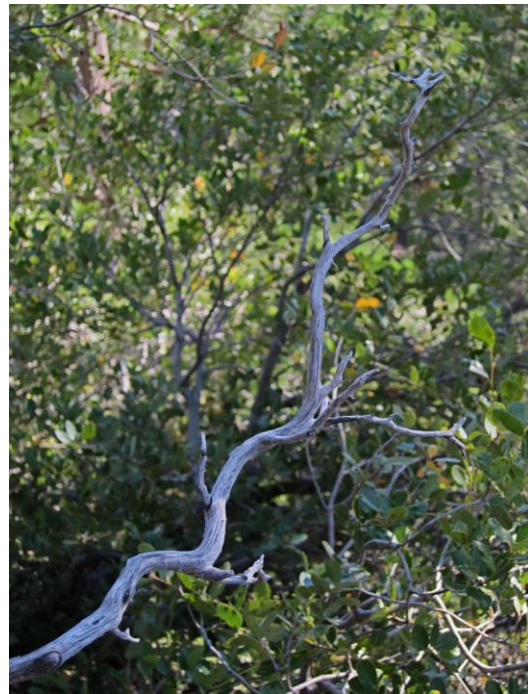
Special thanks to our wonderful teachers. Chris Ross led the program, ably assisted by senior members Jay McDonald and John Doig, and Frances Noles, Jeanette Arnold, Roger Lion, Alison Seaman, Craig Thompson and Candace Key who were there to make sure students got the personal attention they needed. Thank you Jeanette for your great organization of the participants and proceedings. It was another terrific team effort. What a great club!

- Candace Key

*No carving marks here.
MN* does exquisite work!*

Great Jin and Perfect Shari

Photos from hike in Sonora Pass near Deadman's Campground. Courtesy of Candace Key.



*Does your jin look like this?
No? Not surprising. Hard to beat MN*.*



** Mother Nature!*

Master Gardeners to launch seasonal Pest Control and Gardening Information e-newsletter

Would you like a timely reminder of how to handle a pest that suddenly attacked your trees or garden? Launching this fall, the *Marin Master Gardener Leaflet* is a free, quarterly e-newsletter filled with seasonal gardening advice, answers to pest/disease questions and announcements of upcoming talks and seminars. Simply go to www.marinmg.org and click on the "subscribe" button to receive the inaugural issue.

REBS Annual Bonsai Show

Our neighbors and friends to the north put on another magnificent show August 27-28 in Santa Rosa. The REBS club really knows how to throw a good party with member sales, raffles, silent auction, vendor sales, and most spectacularly - fabulous trees. Members, with the guidance of their sensei, Bonsai Master Kathy Shaner, did a stellar job of presenting some of the finest bonsai you will ever see, at least without crossing an ocean.

Congratulations to all the REBS members for an excellent show and thank you for all the hard work it takes to present this world class event. We are already looking forward to next year!

- Candace Key

Photos courtesy of Craig Thompson



Craig Thompson's grape Redwoods for sale



Gene Lynch's cork oak

Bob Shimon's coast redwood



BAY AREA BONSAI EVENTS



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.

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 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.

MARIN BONSAI CLUB EVENTS

September 6, 2011: Workshop

Decoration Guild, 7pm

Bring in your trees for our monthly workshop.

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

September 20, 2011: Meeting

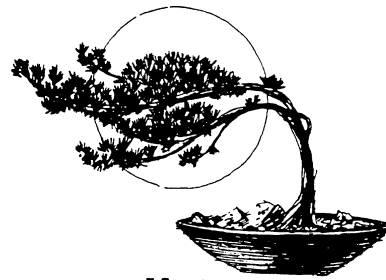
Decoration Guild, 7:30pm - Members Show and Tell

- Thrill of Victory/Agony of Defeat - Members will show and talk about bonsai successes and failures and what they learned from the experiences. Even the best of us can't get it right all the time, so come, learn from the experience of others or share your stories. Free to the public.

October 4, 2011: Workshop

Livermore Pavilion 1, 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
Newsletter/Web	Sharon Bone	415-898-9618
Hospitality	Marlene Philley	415-924-5134
Docent Coord	Roger Lion	415-924-5134

Marin Bonsai Club

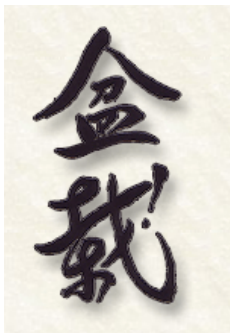
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Ross, CA 94957

www.marinbonsai.org

Address Correction Requested

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