



Bonsai Wire

Marin Bonsai Club

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

August 2009

President's Letter

Back to the future. Here I am again after two great years of Candace's presidency. I'm pretty sure no one else wanted to be club president because of the amazing job she did. But I decided that I would do it, at least through this year and maybe next (but that's all, folks) because...well, why the heck not? But I urge members of this club to step up to the plate and think about joining the Board and maybe even becoming president someday. It's not healthy having the same people doing the same jobs year in and year out even if you have great people doing those jobs, which we do. Every club needs new blood. Okay, I'll get off my soapbox now.

Candace will be transferring her incredible energies to being VP of Programs and she already has some great ideas for next year.

Wow, what a great show we had. I've never seen so many club members have so many great trees. Hats off to all of you who worked hard on your trees to get them show ready and also many, many thanks to all of you who volunteered. This is one of our club's major fundraisers of the year and is the way we recruit new members, so I don't have to tell you how important it is to the club's future. Most club members were there for at least one shift and we really appreciate it.

This month is our other major fundraiser, the club auction on Tuesday, August 4. If you have too many trees in your collection, maybe it's time to get rid of a few. This is the best time of the year to sell trees and to buy them. There will be great deals to be had, as there are every year. What I do personally is sell three or four trees I don't want anymore then with the money buy one really good one. That's a sure fire way of increasing the quality of your collection and not having so many bonsai to

deal with! If you are selling trees, make sure you get to the auction early to tag your trees and get them on the tables. There will be more information in the newsletter.

One more note of thanks to Sharon and John for hosting the picnic. They have a beautiful place and I must say it's the first time in my life I've seen someone with a chicken on their shoulder.

See you at the auction!



Club Auction August 4

The annual club bonsai auction is near and dear to my heart, possibly because I have acquired so many good trees and pots at this event over the years. 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 will take participation by every single club member however to make it a success. This is our big fundraiser for the year and a successful 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 be able to participate as fully as they are able. We need everyone to bring trees, pots, books, stands, tools to auction. We need bidders, lots of bidders. We need workers, lots of workers, but you will not be so busy

that you can't also bid on items you desire. 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.

Here are the auction particulars:

- * Preview starts at 7:00pm
- * There will be a short 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 5:00pm 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 on consignment so we can keep track of the sales and identification tags are required on all donation AND consignment trees. Please leave yourself plenty of time to do your paperwork and tag your trees when you bring them in. If you will be bringing lots of items and want to get a jump-start, let me know and I can 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.

A few other ground rules:

We cannot accept items that won't bring in at least \$10.00 at auction. However, we will have a sale table for the first time this year, so bring your small items in, donations only and hopefully there will be some takers at this new venue.

Consignment trees can be put up for auction at either a 50/50 split with the club or 80/20 with the larger percentage going to the member. 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 receive a good-sized portion of the proceeds.

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!!!

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

Candace Key 415.491.1989

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

- Candace Key

Club Nameplates

Although most of you have gotten your Club nameplate, I still have a few more to be picked up. Listed below are the plates for pickup.

- (1) Celeste Binnings
- (2) Mervyn Dowd
- (3) Barrett Lehnen
- (4) Ian Shapiro
- (5) Ivan Poutiatine

I also have the following nameplates for which I will need to collect \$6 each.

- (1) Andrew Poutiatine
- (2) T.J. Williams
- (3) Marilyn-Eileen Chung

Some of you may still want your nameplate although not registered as a member at this time.

- (1) Patricia Compton, (2) Jane Fielding, (3) Roger Griffin, (4) Christine Hansen, (5) Katie Hall, (6) Carol Zychowski and (7) Chuck Nold

I will have the nameplates with me at the Auction on August 4 and at the monthly meetings on the 3rd Tuesday of each month.

- Frances Noles, Treasurer

**Pics from the Annual Summer Picnic
July 19, 2009**

It was a hot time (102°F) in Novato!

Chris Ross, photographer (thanks!)

*Roger and Frances
in the shade*



*Some of the gang
in the shade*



*Anna and Jeanette
in the shade*

Taskmaster - August 2009

Everyone knows water is the big deal in August - but listen to this. If the pot drains well, you can water four times a day if you want or need to. But, if the pot doesn't drain well, and the temperature gets above 90, and/or a hot breeze blows, the trees shut down respiration to conserve water. That means too much moisture can stay in the pot for too long and rot the roots. Add a bit of fertilizer, and you've got an organic stew around those roots that fungus and bacteria just love. Mama Mia! What we gonna do? Segregate the pots that drain well, and water a lot. Group together the poor drainers, poke a stick down through the soil in lots of places for good penetration, and always check before watering. Water all foliage in evenings to open pores, wash off bugs and dust, and ease stress.

Spray for bugs; ants, aphids, whitefly and leaf rollers along with many others love hot weather. Always use insecticides in the late afternoon to avoid foliage burn.

Now it the best time to bleach jin and shari. Paint full strength lime-sulphur on with a brush and avoid getting it on bark, soil, or foliage. This will also harden and preserve the wood, plus eliminate mildew, fungus and borers. You can darken the wood later if it seems too white.

Keep on pinching everything, especially evergreens, and foliar feed them with Miracle Gro twice in August; but not deciduous trees. Don't cut, prune, leaf trim or foliar feed them in August. Trim old needles off five needle pines with sharp scissors, and leave the sheaths on the tree or they will bleed and weaken. Reduce black pine new buds to two per node, except if there are five or more, then you should leave three and then pinch back to two in late September.

Put willows and wisteria in pans of water about 1/3 as deep as the pots, and feed them a lot. No nitrogen for wisteria.

Check wiring done last Spring for bite. You can fertilize weakly, but keep it light. Make sure your trees are happy every night. And you, artist, gardener, protector, dreamer in an unbroken stream of leafy life down through time - Sleep tight, to awaken bright, in morning's light, to do what's right with all your might, Amen.

- The Taskmaster

WIRE CALL!

As many of us may know, scrap copper and aluminum wire can be turned in for cash. This is a great way for our Club to support the upkeep of our Bonsai Garden at Lake Merritt.

Our combined efforts will provide cash which can be used for maintenance of the Garden. Bring your donation to the monthly workshop where it will be combined with other donations and taken to the Bonsai Garden.

- Frances Noles

Docenting at Lakeside Bonsai Garden

What a wonderful way to spend three hours looking at beautifully trained trees. That was my first experience as a docent at the Bonsai Garden in Oakland. I had visited before, working with the Merritt College Pruning Club and had taken classes but to just look and enjoy the garden for itself was a real experience. Of course partnering with Frances Noles made it more fun.

I thought we'd have very few visitors but there were 35 people that strolled through the garden. Helping them to look at the trees helped me enjoy the trees even more. I was thinking that I had never seen the garden during each of the four seasons and docenting would bring me here at the right time of the year. It could do the same for you.

- Emily Shibata

Beginners Workshops with Tim Kong

August 20 and 27, 7-9:30pm

OR

September 3 and 17, 7-9:30pm

Cost: \$65 per person for two workshops.

Instruction, trees and wire provided

Class size limited to 12

Livermore Room, Marin Art & Garden Center

Please call Michaele at 945-9930 to register

Edu-Fun Seminars/Workshops

September 1, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9

GSBF Bonsai Garden at Lake Merritt, Oakland

*Yasuo Mitsuya, Bonsai Master from Japan
with
Kathy Shaner, Bonsai Master and Curator*

Yasuo Mitsuya, a Master of Gendai (contemporary style form of Bonsai training) in Japan, is an internationally renowned bonsai master who has been teacher to many students in California and other states such as Kenji Miyata, Kathy Shaner, Dennis Makishima, Cheryl Manning, Boon, David DeGroot, and Gordon Deeg. In Japan, he is known as the "Bonsai Doctor". After a two-year absence, he returns to California.

Kathy Shaner, the first non-Japanese citizen to be honored with the title of Bonsai Master by the Nippon Bonsai Kyodo Kumiai, served a 5-year apprenticeship with Sensei Mitsuya. Continuing to share the talents of her mentor, she is the Curator for the Bonsai Garden at Lake Merritt and teacher of many students throughout the United States.

EDU-FUN SEMINAR and WORKSHOP TOPICS:

Sept 1 Tue

A Day at the Garden with Mitsuya

Sept 3 Thurs

Difficult Styles (Cascade, Chokan - Formal Upright)

Sept 4 Fri

The Trouble with Troublesome Trees Seminar

Sept 5 Sat

Tree Transformation Workshop

Sept 7 Mon

What the Heck do I do with This Tree Seminar

Sept 8 Tue

The Art of Display at Show and Home

Sept 9 Wed

Working on Garden Old Growth/New Growth Trees

Registration forms and workshop details can be found at: http://www.gsbf-bonsai.org/lake-merritt/Mitsuya_atBGLM.htm

BAY AREA BONSAI EVENTS

August 29-30

Santa Rosa, CA

Redwood Empire Bonsai Society: 26th Annual Bonsai Show at the Santa Rosa Veterans Memorial Building, 1351 Maple Ave. Hours are Saturday, 10AM-5PM and Sunday, 10AM-4PM. Demonstration at 1:30PM, both days. Saturday features, from Japan Bonsai Master Yasuo Mitsuya. Sunday features Bonsai Master Kathy Shaner. Over 200 trees exhibited, along with a large vendor room, members' consignment sales, raffles, door prizes, benefit drawings and ongoing club member demonstrations. For more information, call Bob Shimon 707-884-4126 or email shimon@mcn.org. Web page: www.rebsbonsai.org/index.html.

September 1,3,4,5,7,8,9

Oakland, CA

GSBF Bonsai Garden at Lake Merritt: Edu-Fun Yasuo Mitsuya, a master of Gendai in Japan, teacher of Kathy Shaner, will have workshops and seminars at the Garden. Reservations will be on first come first serve basis. Workshop details are available on: http://www.gsbf-bonsai.org/lake-merritt/Mitsuya_atBGLM.htm. For more information, send email requests to bonsailakemerritt@gmail.com or gbscnorth@gmail.com.

September 26

San Jose, CA

Midori Bonsai Club: 48th Annual Bonsai Show at the Northside Community Center, 488 6th St. Includes 18 separate, 2 and 3-point displays of fine bonsai. At 1:30PM, nationally acclaimed artist Boon Manakitivipart will style a bunjin Japanese Black Pine. Sales of trees, tools, pots and bonsai accessories will be offered by Jim Gremel, Shibui Bonsai, Inc., and others. Free styling help and advice for the public from "Dr. Bonsai". Contact JT at (408)371-7737 or jtbonsai@earthlink.net

Please send newsletter submissions (articles, notices, photos, whatever) to: Sharon Bone, sbone27@comcast.net. Deadline for inclusion in the September 2009 issue is August 20.

MARIN BONSAI CLUB EVENTS

August 4, 2009: Annual Auction

Auction starts at 7:30pm, viewing starts at 7pm. Bring a tree to sell, bring your checkbook to buy a tree, pot or other bonsai paraphernalia. Great deals will be had!!!

August 18, 2009: Workshop

Starting at 7pm, our monthly bring-your-own-tree workshop with Tim Kong and Jay McDonald. Fee is \$10 for members, \$20 for non-members.

August 20 & 27, 2009: Beginner's Workshop

2 evenings, Aug. 20 and 27, 7-9:30pm. Sensei Tim Kong will teach this beginner's workshop. Cost is \$65. Instruction, trees and wire provided. Call 945-9930 to reserve your space.

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



Marin Bonsai Club

2009 Marin Bonsai Club Officers:

President	Craig Thompson	415-472-6685
VP Programs	Candace Key	415-491-1989
VP Shows	Jay McDonald	415-847-8909
Secretary	Michael Jaffe	415-945-9930
Treasurer	Frances Noles	415-461-0437
Historian	Carolyn Robbins	415-460-0339
News Editor	Sharon Bone	415-898-9618
Librarian	Tim Burke	415-259-7372
Hospitality	Marlene Philley	415-924-5134
Docent Coord	Jeanette Arnold	415-883-2651

Marin Bonsai Club

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www.marinbonsai.org

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