



Bonsai Wire

Marin Bonsai Club

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

November 2009

President's Letter

I want to thank Greg McDonald for a fantastic demo last month. Greg did wonders on those oaks. It is great working on and displaying trees that are native to our area here in Marin. And congratulations to Alison Seaman, the lucky raffle winner.

I also want to thank someone who, for as long as I've been in the club, has been on the Board and has been a tireless worker. Michael Jaffe has decided to retire from the Board as secretary. Michael is a very big part of our club and does many, many important things. Not only does she do a lot of the thankless jobs the club needs done, but she is an ambassador of sorts, along with a few others, going to many other clubs' events. So thanks, Michael, and we know that you will continue to be an important part of the club even without being on the Board.

So, speaking of the Board, elections are this month (at the club meeting, which is the FIRST Tuesday this month only) and we need someone to be secretary. So please let us know if you are interested. Also, a new president would be a good idea. Actually, anyone who would like to be a board member, just let one of us know. Any and all club members are welcome to be nominated.

We have a new librarian, Karen Stagg. Karen is a new club member and will be there at the meetings with our bonsai books.

Well, the show is coming very, very soon. There is a lot of information in the newsletter regarding the show and what we need. What we mostly need are helpers on both Friday and Saturday and also we need donations for the raffle. The dinner will have a \$5 charge this year and I hope all club members can make it. See you there!

- Craig Thompson

Hither all ye slackers...

It's election time again gang. Carolyn here; your slip-sliding historian with a drawer full of photos. I've been thinking about the last time I handled the club memorabilia a while back, for a poster display and how good it felt to read past articles. I've been rather tied up this past year, so I might appear to be absent but I think about you all when I'm tending to my trees and I'm with you in spirit. I think about the club when my friend Lesley says she didn't renew her membership and I have to do a song and dance about how important it is to keep the club alive so she'll send in her dues. I might not be around, but I'll be there when called on to do my part. I hope you all feel the same.

Yessiree, I'm a club devotee!

Now I won't pester you (too bad) with all the reasons why the elections are important because you probably know. If it hadn't been for Adam and

Michael giving me the ol' sly eye, I probably wouldn't have put in my two years as a prez, and then wouldn't have much authority to fuss at all you slackers out there. And you know who you are. But since I put in my time and goodness sakes we know Candace has, being the longest running president or maybe it's Michael, who should be given the Hard-Wire Saints Award by now. Craig keeps the anchor in place by stepping up again and again and Jay, my ol' buddy, holds the megaphone if nobody is listening. Reflect for a moment what the club would be like, if Tim was too tired to take the long drive from the city to help us? Or consider all the times D has picked up a folding chair and stacked it on the rack? What if Sharon hadn't picked up the torch for The Wire? Where would we be right now? You got it: nowhereville!

Yep, it's that time again, and if you don't have any new ideas, or plans to support, or advice to suggest or you're not getting up on the soap box....well then, you might want to consider yourself one of those branches on your tree that hasn't budded in awhile. That's all I got to say. Get busy!

- Carolyn Robbins

Fall Bonsai Show Help Needed

Volunteers

There are still plenty of opportunities to sign up to help at the show – whatever 2 hour slot you feel you can fit into your schedule on Friday, November 13, and Saturday, November 14, will be most welcome. It's a great way of meeting up with old friends, finding new fellow enthusiasts, helping the club generate funds, and most importantly having a really great time.

In particular we're looking for volunteers to help with dinner ticket sales, raffle ticket sales and kitchen activities on Friday night (6-8pm). On Saturday, between 10am and 5 pm, there will be show activities requiring greeters for our guests; docents who love to talk about bonsai and handle questions, and raffle ticket sellers who encourage our guests to buy tickets for our exciting prizes. For those who prefer more "behind the scenes" activities we also need people to help with food and beverage preparation, as well as show cleanup.

Please contact me if you are available, either 415-789-1167 or email alisonseaman@sbcglobal.net.

Food and beverages

As everyone knows, great food and drinks make for a successful social event, along with lively entertainment.

The club is providing the Friday dinner main course, delicious lasagna and Caesar salad by member Mark Lesley's Ambrosia Restaurant, along with wine, water, tea and coffee. We need to offer a dessert table which is where we need help from all of our members. Ideally we want to offer a good supply of bite-size cookies and fruit, or sheet cakes. Please plan to bring items already cut and on serving dishes to speed up delivery and service. If you can add to our beverage range, such as sparkling water or sodas, or top off our available wine offerings, we won't say no!

For Saturday we also require donated snacks such as cheese, dips, vegetables, sweet items, etc. to sustain members and visitors. To ensure we get a fair distribution of items could we ask members with last names A-K vegetables, cheese or other savory food, L-R brings fruit or cookies, S-Z bring sweets? If you don't feel like sticking with this plan, any and all donations will be gratefully received by our ever hungry and thirsty visitors!

Please bring all items to the kitchen door, by the rear of the Livermore Pavilion, ready to be handed off to the kitchen staff.

Show Raffle (Candace Key)

It has been heartening to hear of some very nice raffle prizes coming in for the show. I've seen some beautiful trees, learned of instructional gift certificates to be offered, and other terrific prizes. This is great, but we're greedy. We want more!

As you know by now, these raffles are our best opportunity for bringing in revenue to pay for the Fall Show, so it is essential that we have lots of high quality prizes to tempt the billfolds out of pockets and keep those ticket sellers busy. It also speaks well of the club when our visitors see that there are so many people who care about the success of the show and have donated the best they have to offer to make our show the premier bonsai event it has become. Another opportunity we would have if there is enough good material is to have a silent auction on Friday night. We have seen these be very successful for other clubs and with the high caliber of guests we are expecting this could be another good revenue stream.

Can you help? Even if you haven't been in bonsai long enough to have trees or pots you can donate perhaps a restaurant gift certificate, bonsai book or a bottle of your favorite wine, anything would help the case. If you have any questions about what would be acceptable or would like to offer your help in setting up the raffle items Friday and Saturday and selling tickets please call Candace at 415-491-1989. Thank you!!!

General Fall Bonsai Show Information

On Friday, the show opens and dinner starts at 6pm followed by a fabulous demonstration with the amazingly talented Marco Invernizzi around 7pm. Coffee, dessert, etc. will be available during the evening's entertainment, and the various raffle activities will occur at the end of the night. Please note that due to rising costs and depleting funds, we have reluctantly decided we need to charge dinner guests \$5 per head. Tickets will be needed only for the Friday dinner and can be purchased at the door.

On Saturday, Marco will be spending individual time with specific people and their trees on the patio, where a limited number of members and visitors may observe in silence. Our own inimitable Jay MacDonald will take the stage at 1:30pm for a saikei demonstration. A big raffle of the demonstration material plus other bonsai items will follow.

Here's a brief rundown of the logistics for the show itself:

Show trees can be delivered to the small Livermore Room on Thursday between 5:30pm to 9:30pm. As the large Livermore Room will be in use by another club, it will be really helpful if you could keep any conversation low. Along with the tree please provide relevant information on the form so that appropriate signs can be made by Jeanette Arnold. If you can't make Thursday, trees can be delivered to the Livermore room between 8:30am to 10am on Friday. Sorry, but no trees will be accepted after that time.

Raffle items can be dropped off with trees or up until show time on Friday. It really helps us if we can get items as soon as possible, please, before the show opens. Candace Key (415-491-1989) would love to hear from you can if you plan to bring in raffle items or need any help or information.

What to wear? Friday attire is dressy and name tags will be welcome information to help our guests put names and faces together. Saturday attire is more casual, with happi coats and name tags as well.

Our Saturday show ends around 5pm. and so plants need to be collected and cleared from the room by 8pm.

Any general queries, please contact Alison. It's going to be a really beautiful show, and made all the better for the tireless support that so many members and guests plan to give. Thank you so much in advance.

- Alison Seaman



Tag team effort. Greg McDonald talks while his brother Jay defoliates and wires at the October meeting.



*Alison Seaman checks out Greg's work on the Cork Oak (*Quercus suber*) she won in the demo raffle while Jay points something out (or at) Nick Winer.*

November Program - Special Date November 3

Jay McDonald - Planning and arranging a successful bonsai exhibit

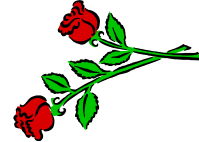
We focus a lot in our club, as most clubs do, on developing our trees for bonsai; repotting, wiring, styling, fertilizing, etc., but at our November meeting we are going to focus on another important area - the appreciation of bonsai in an exhibit or show. We learn much from our own bonsai practice about judging bonsai trees, viewing stones and accent plants, but what does it take to pull them all together in a successful exhibition? Why do we seem to float through some exhibits with a sense that all the trees are in harmony within their own space and with the trees near them? Why at other shows do we feel like it is one isolated display next to another isolated display without any sense of continuity or flow to the placement of trees and stones?

Our own Jay McDonald will reveal the mystery of how successful displays are created, how to bring the elements together in harmony rather than jumping from one tree to the next. There are standard conventions which are observed in all good bonsai shows and there are other elements which take great care and a bit of time to pull together properly to ensure a peaceful and satisfying viewing experience. As well as the art of bonsai, there is the art of the bonsai display. Understanding how it all goes together, knowing what to look for in the harmony of the tree, pot, stand and accent plants will enhance your enjoyment of our Fall Show coming up and others you attend. For those showing trees this will be the last opportunity to get some pointers on preparing your trees for the show and pick up some top dressing if you need it. Jay has studied with the best, Kathy Shaner and Boon Manakitivipart, and has received many accolades from those in the bonsai community as well as those stumbling upon bonsai for the first time. The guy knows his stuff and he loves to strut it, so don't miss the show - the meeting on the 3rd and the Fall Bonsai Show on the 13th and 14th.

A special thanks to Greg McDonald - yes, mad bonsai skills do run in the family - for a terrific program at the October meeting. Greg's love and knowledge of California native oaks is staggering and his enthusiasm is contagious. There is such variety on the hillsides right outside our doors, and

so many opportunities to collect and work with very promising native materials that I for one found it difficult not to grab a shovel and head for the hills in search of my new great oak bonsai. Thank you Greg for the wisdom you imparted and the beautiful trees you brought to share with the club. We'll have you back soon!

- Candace Key



Our condolences

The club would like to extend its sympathy to Mark Lesley for the loss of his wife Shirley on October 16.

Refreshments Planner

Although we will have no formal 3rd Tuesday meetings for the remainder of the year, I am requesting refreshment volunteers for the first two or three months of 2010. It's right around the corner. I would very much appreciate it if you can either send me an email or call me if you are willing to provide 1/2 of the refreshments for January 18, February 15, or March 15. That means 1/2 the nibbles or beverages to accompany the coffee which is always provided. We don't normally have refreshments for any other meetings or workshops.

Please volunteer ahead of time if at all possible. Call 415-924-5134 or send a brief note to mkphilley@earthlink.net. Thank you.

- Marlene Philley, Hospitality Coordinator

Holiday Party

Please be sure to save Sunday, December 13 for the Christmas/Holiday party. More information to follow after the November show.

TASKMASTER - November 2009

November, you would think, must be a good time for a poor tired bonsai artist to finally just kick back and watch the rain intermittently sprinkle the trees and relax a little, for crying out loud. But no. The best time to wire and lightly trim and shape maples and other deciduous trees is the ten days following leaf fall or failure. Failure is when the leaves get loose and lose their green. They can then be cut off and the wiring can be done much more easily, with clear views to avoid buds, improve shaping, thinning heavy growth at the crowns, and removing unwanted growth on trunks and in crotches. Remember to use a light wiring hand, because all wood fattens in fall and widens in winter, and you're hoping to leave these wires on with no biting-in until mid February or even March.

Scrape the top half inch of soil off of any pot that is going to sit all winter to get rid of weeds and their seeds and bugs and their eggs and mosses that climb up trunks and over exposed roots. Replace it with a fresh cover of soil for the winter, and add 0-10-10 every three or four weeks for the next three months for good winter root growth. See? They're working too, those little trees.

Evergreens get the same surface care, can be repotted now if the need is clear, and should get a couple of spoonfuls of 70% cottonseed/30% bone meal sprinkled on and scratched in monthly over winter. Cut off all down-growing growth and straight-up growth on junipers, but retain crotch and trunk budding on junipers and pines until much later in Spring, as these can often be used to great advantage as primary growth in reshaping a tree.

Move everything into full sun to promote fall color, winter root growth cycle jump-start, and the formation of good strong buds for spring, especially azaleas.

Clean your benches and stands and the bottoms of pots so mold, mildew, fungus, and bugs can't thrive, and spray juniper and cedar foliage thoroughly with soap solution or safer soap now to ward off mites and other critters that are more active now. At the end of the month it's time for the first of three dormant sprays, four to five weeks apart, to smother eggs, larvae and spores, and to get rid of the organisms that cause leaf curl, fruit blight, soft and hard scale, bark mold, and several other unpleasant things. You should spray the benches, top and bottom with dormant sprays too, all three times.

Make sure all old needles on five-needle pines are clipped at a quarter to an eighth of an inch and plucked off of black pines to get maximum sun and air in, but no repotting or cutting any more until spring growth is strong.

Try to find time on a clear evening or two to stand in the gloaming and watch in awe as the Northern constellations wheel up and overhead, and the planet settles slowly back for long cold nights dreaming of rebirth, as we too must. Settle. Dream. Begin again. Never cease.

- The Taskmaster

Welcome to our newest member!

Karen Joy Negri Marx - San Rafael, CA

BAY AREA BONSAI EVENTS

November 5-8 **Riverside, CA**
Golden State Bonsai Federation XXXII Convention. The GSBF annual convention will be held at the Riverside Convention Center. Many lectures, workshops, field trips, and displays are planned for the event. 760-431-1014. www.gsbfcconvention.com

November 13-14 **Ross, CA**
Marin Bonsai Club: Fall show at the Marin Art and Garden Center, Livermore Room, 30 Sir Francis Drake Blvd. Hours are Friday, 6PM-10PM, dinner, demonstration and raffle and Saturday, 10AM-5PM. For more information call Craig Thompson, 415-472-6685.

January 16-17 **Pleasanton, CA**
Bay Island Bonsai Annual Bonsai Exhibit. New location. Bigger facility. Hall of Commerce, Alameda County Fairgrounds, 4501 Pleasanton Avenue, Pleasanton, 94566. Admission \$ 5.00. Free Parking. Same great auction on Saturday, with preview at noon and auction at 1 PM. Guided tours of the exhibit both Saturday and Sunday. Bonsai sale and vendors both days. Hours: 10AM - 4PM Saturday and Sunday. For more information: (510)865-1008 or www.bayislandbonsai.com

MARIN BONSAI CLUB EVENTS

November 3, 2009: Demonstration

Jay McDonald will be talking about showing your trees.

November 13-14: Marin Bonsai Club Fall Show

Friday, Nov. 13th, 6pm to 10pm, reception and Marco Invernizzi demo. Saturday, Nov. 14th, 10am to 5pm. Jay McDonald demo at 1:30pm.

November 17, 2009: Demonstration

The monthly workshop has been moved to the 3rd Tuesday this month.

December 13, 2009: Holiday Party!

Details to come.

January 5, 2010: Workshop

Starting at 7pm, this will be a repotting workshop with Tim Kong and Jay McDonald. Fee is \$10 for members, \$20 for non-members.

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



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	Michaele Jaffe	415-945-9930
Treasurer	Frances Noles	415-461-0437
Historian	Carolyn Robbins	415-460-0339
Librarian	Karen Stagg	415-897-6824
News Editor	Sharon Bone	415-898-9618
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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