



# Bonsai Wire

## Marin Bonsai Club

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

October 2009

### President's Letter

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank John Doig for the marvelous wiring demo he did last month. Wiring is a very important part of our art and not everyone's favorite part. But John makes it look easy (although it isn't). I look forward to future demos by John. And congratulations to Dan Keller who was the lucky winner of John's four hours of wiring instruction.

The bonsai highlight of the last month was certainly the REBS show. For those of you who haven't gone, this is one of the premier bonsai events of the year. It is one of the top two or three shows in the country and a great opportunity to see some marvelous trees. It is also one of the top three events to buy bonsai and related items. The other two are our auction (in September next year) and the Mammoth Bazaar in February.

Our fall show is coming faster than you think! This is our time to show the bonsai community just what we can do. This year Alison Seaman is in charge of the show organization. We are asking all club members to please chip in and help out. Please read Alison's 'Can you help' article in this newsletter to see if there's something you can volunteer for.

It would also be nice if everyone could show at least one tree. Please start thinking about which trees you want in the show. Bring them to a workshop to get them into shape. We are again having one of the world's great bonsai masters, Marco Invernizzi, as our demonstrator on Friday evening. Our own Jay McDonald will be the demonstrator on Saturday afternoon.

We will also have a raffle on Friday and Saturday, so please start thinking about donations. We are asking all members to please bring at least one raffle item. Candace Key is handling donations (see Candace's raffle item article below for donation ideas).

A special event at this year's show will be Marco as the "The Bonsai Doctor". Marco will be available for either ½ hour or 1 hour to individuals (\$40 and \$75). This is an opportunity for you to bring a tree or several trees to Marco to have him give you ideas on styling or work on your tree. This is a very rare opportunity to have a great bonsai master all to yourself. Slots are filling up fast, so call me for a reservation (415-472-6685).

- Craig Thompson

### Fall Show - Raffle items

As many of you know already our best and practically only, opportunity to raise money to pay for the Fall Show we put on at MAGC in November is through raffle sales. Some of that will come from the raffle of trees that Marco Invernizzi will work on Friday night and Jay McDonald on Saturday, but there is another important category of items on display both Friday and Saturday that are also raffled. All of these items are donations to the club by members and friends and we depend on them heavily to help us recoup the high cost of putting on the show. In years past, the quality of these items has waxed and waned, but this year we really need for these items to be very strong and bring in lots of

money. We are asking our members to dig deep, be creative, give generously and do whatever possible to donate something of quality for the raffle prizes. Obviously a nice bonsai tree or pot is ideal, but so are books, scrolls, tools and stands. Last year private lessons with our more senior members were a big hit as well as unexpected items like a beautiful flower arrangement in a nice vase and restaurant gift certificates. If you can pull a favor from a friend or spouse to add to the bounty this would go a long way to helping us make this beautiful show self-sustaining, which it needs to be if we are to continue it. Please look around and see if you can get some neglected tree into good shape for a raffle prize or cull your bonsai library, whatever you can do to help us out. Even a cash donation so we could buy something to auction would be helpful or a bottle of nice wine if you are totally at a loss.

We are also going to need a good crew of raffle ticket sellers to maximize the opportunity these great prizes will present. If you could help out in that area, or have any questions about what would constitute a great raffle prize please call Candace at 415-491-1989.

### **Workshop Alert**

Please note that this October workshop is the perfect opportunity to bring in the trees you want to show in November for advice and tweaking by our bonsai experts. There will not be a workshop in November before the Fall Show on November 13-14 because of switching the workshop and meeting days this month. Fine-tuning in October gives the trees a little time to grow into their latest styling and we will provide top dressing for you to take home for that final touch right before the show. Don't miss this great opportunity to get your trees into tiptop show condition.

- Candace Key

### **Preparing trees for Show**

Our show focus is color – so select healthy trees that have wonderful foliage, berries or if you are very lucky, flowers. To show your tree at its best, it is good practice to run through these general procedures:

Check the overall appearance of the tree: its trunk, branches and leaves. While wiring is critical to promoting shape, it is better to remove any wire that is no longer serving any use. Any exposed wire-ends should be concealed or cut as appropriate. Ensure the branches are presented to their best advantage by removing foliage that obscures the underside of the branch, or that is not required (such as “water sprouts”, crossing shoots, shoots pointing upwards). Remove any dying foliage, but resist the temptation to prune throughout the tree! Examine the trunk and branches for unsightly stubs, and if possible remove and apply cut paste. Any superfluous debris from and around the trunk is best tidied up.

The soil on top of the pot should be clean and weed-free. Small exposed surface roots need to be removed or covered up. Top dressing of the soil is important and is best viewed as complementing the tree style and presentation. The soil surface can either be covered with fine dressing, or partially covered by moss. Fine dressing should be uniform particle size such as 1/16” – 1/8” expanded shale, black lava or sieved akadama. When applying the moss, it looks more natural to arrange discrete clumps rather than present a continuous carpet. The moss should be fresh and green, and may be mixed species.

Finally, clean the pot by removing overgrown soil dressing and any calcium deposits. Calcium deposits are usually removed by gently wiping with vinegar or rubbing alcohol, or for more stubborn stains, rubbing with a “Scotch” pot scourer. Apply a healthy glow to unglazed pot sides using a light application of some vegetable oil and a final buff with a lint-free cloth.

Your tree will thank you and the show audience reward you with compliments!

- Alison Seaman

## Can you help with our Fall Show?

I am looking for any members who have the time to help make our Fall Show 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's a general schedule:

Thursday, Nov 12, 7pm onwards:  
*Room setup*

Friday, Nov 13, 9am-5 pm:  
*Remaining setup for event*

Friday, Nov 13, Dinner 6-8pm:  
*Ticket sales for guests, raffle sales, food and beverage preparation, food/beverage servers, cleanup after dinner*

Saturday, Nov 14, Show 10am-5pm  
(with 2-hour shifts)  
*Docents for show, raffle sales, food and beverage preparation, event cleanup*

Please contact me if you are available, either 415-789-1167 or email [alisonseaman@sbcglobal.net](mailto:alisonseaman@sbcglobal.net).

- Alison Seaman

## October Meeting

Our demonstrator for October will be Greg McDonald on oaks. Greg will be working on a couple of collected oaks and this should be a great demo. Greg has asked club members to please bring any oak bonsai you have in your collection for show and tell.

## Workshop Fees

The monthly workshop is \$10 for members (\$20 for non-members). This fee is *mandatory* for all who show up to work on a tree and sees Tim or Jay.

We need this not only to pay Tim, but we also have all the other costs of doing business as a club, such as the cost of the Livermore Room each meeting (about \$60 every workshop). So when you get your number please pay at that time so Frances or whoever is giving out the numbers doesn't have to track you down for the rest of the evening. Exact change is appreciated.

- Craig Thompson

## Taskmaster - October 2009

October in the Northern California Bay Area microclimates demands a bit more activity from the bonsai artist, and a lot more vigilance. Days can be very warm, and some nights as well. You would think that means more water, but the trees are paying close attention to the longer nights, shorter days, and greater slant of light rays and are slowing or stopping growth, using less water, and building buds and bigger roots to store up energy over winter.

That means hand watering with restraint, checking individual pots daily to note too dry or too wet, scratching the surfaces for good penetration, and moving azaleas and deciduous trees into more direct sunlight. Be careful not to allow soft-leaved trees to get wind burned edges, but more sun and fertilizer now makes more color in November, healthier buds in spring, and juicier roots in between. Every ten days for the liquid and a good dose now of 70/30% cottonseed-bone meal for six more weeks and then it's 0-10-10 for the winter.

Any repotting now allows good root growth before cold weather, so go for it if the drainage is poor or there seems to be a general failure to thrive. But it can also cause spring failure of fruits and flowers, so decide carefully. And of course no extensive root pruning and cutting this time of year.

Finish cutting, not plucking the old needles off all 5-needle pines, and on black pine now eliminate all but two buds out of every 3 to 4 bud burst, and all but three of every 5 to 6 bud burst. Fertilize and foliar feed every ten days, and spray branches and needles from all directions in between feedings to discourage a host of conditions and bugs. Use Malathion every two weeks to Thanksgiving, at strict 2/3 strength.

Trim off summer overgrowths on deciduous and pinch recent tip growth on evergreens to maintain shape and beauty. Do some evergreen wiring with a light hand now, because growth has slowed and biting in is less of a problem and branches are flexible. Deciduous too can be wire shaped now, but the best time for them is right after leaf fall or failure (browning). In all cases with a little luck the wire can stay on until Feb-March when Spring growth begins.

Find time to put a tree or two up on a wedge at several different angles and see if inspiration for a new shape or pot or size takes you by surprise. These soft and numinous evenings are prone to be inspiring all on their own. You try to teach your trees how to be beautiful; let them try to teach you patient acceptance and optimism based on the sure certainty that tomorrow changes everything.

*Decide slowly  
Act decisively  
Complete swiftly  
Speak softly  
Give yourself the benefit of the doubt, every time.*

- The Taskmaster

**Welcome (and welcome back!) to  
these new and returning members:**

Daniel M. Slomoff  
Karen L. Stagg  
Richard F. Dobson  
Duane Johnson

## WANTED:

### EMPTY SOIL BUCKETS\*

Please bring them to the Oct. 6th workshop or the Oct. 20th meeting. Give them to Chris Ross or John Doig.

\* You know, those big white 5 gallon buckets that Tim Kong uses

## BAY AREA BONSAI EVENTS

### October 3 Salinas, CA

Salinas Bonsai Club: Annual bonsai show at the Lincoln Avenue Presbyterian Church, 536 Lincoln Ave. Show hours 11AM-4PM. Demonstration at 1:30PM by Katsumi Kinoshita. A raffle of the demonstration tree and other items will follow the demonstration. Tea and cookies will be served and there is plenty of parking. For more information please contact Don White, 831-724-9283; whiteslib@aol.com or Maggie Brubaker, 831-663-5044; [maggee36@aol.com](mailto:maggee36@aol.com)

### October 10-11 Oakland, CA

East Bay Bonsai Society's 48th annual show at the Lakeside Garden Center, 666 Bellevue (off Grand Avenue from I-580, near Fairyland). Hours are 10 AM - 5 PM on Saturday, and 11 AM - 4:30 PM on Sunday. Local bonsai artist, John Thompson, will perform a demonstration on Sunday at 1 PM. There will be a Saturday afternoon workshop open to silent observers. Admission is free with ample parking. There will be a Sunday raffle, and sale of plants and bonsai related items throughout the weekend. Info: 925-458-3845, [www.gsbfbonsai.org/ebbs](http://www.gsbfbonsai.org/ebbs)

### October 17-18 Union City, CA

Yamato Bonsai Kai: 38th Annual Bonsai Exhibition at (new location) South Alameda County Buddhist Church, 32975 Alvarado-Niles Road. Hours are Saturday, 10 AM-5PM and Sunday, 10 AM-4PM. Demonstrations both days at 1:00 by Johnny Uchida. Admission of \$5.00 includes exhibit & sales area, demonstration, and a raffle ticket for the demonstration tree. Additional information at [www.yamatobonsaikai.org](http://www.yamatobonsaikai.org).

### October 24-25 Sacramento, CA

Capitol City Bonsai Association: 10th 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. Demonstrations both days at 1PM by sponsor clubs with special bonsai raffle drawings to follow. Vendor and club member sales are. Contact is: Gary Judd at 916-630-1340

### 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.gsbfbconvention.com](http://www.gsbfbconvention.com)

### November 13-14 Ross, CA

Marin Bonsai Club: Fall show at the Marin Art and Garden Center, Livermore Room, 50 Sir Frances Drake Blvd. Hours are Friday, 6PM-10PM, dinner, demonstration and raffle and Saturday, 10AM-4PM. For more information call Craig Thompson, 415-472-6685.

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### Shohin Seminar in Santa Nella

After a 2-year hiatus, the time for the Shohin Seminar is near - February 5, 6, and 7, 2010. Imagine my surprise when I called for my room reservation - the name of the hotel has changed and the room rates have changed. Ramada Inn is now Hotel de Oro and room rates have increased from \$59 to \$75 plus tax. Regardless of these small changes, I am looking forward to the seminar.

For any of you who have not attended in the past, it is an adventure not to be missed. Friday, February 5 is registration day and the afternoon is filled with well-known bonsai artists demonstrating shohin styling techniques. That evening there is the "meet and greet" affair where we see old friends and meet new friends. Saturday is the big day with workshops all day led by even more well-known bonsai artists and the evening's big dinner, acknowledgments, and many, many raffle items. On Sunday morning there's breakfast, critiques of the shohin exhibit, more demonstrations and a leisurely check out. Of course, there are vendors and vendors, and even more vendors to fill our bonsai needs.

It's a fun weekend - hope to see you there.

- Frances Noles

## MARIN BONSAI CLUB EVENTS

### October 6, 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.

### October 20, 2009: Demonstration

Greg McDonald will be giving a demo on oaks. Tree to be raffled.

### November 3, 2009: Demonstration

Jay McDonald with tree TBA.

### November 13-14: Marin Bonsai Club Fall Show

Friday, Nov. 13th, 6pm to 10pm, reception and demo by Marco Invernizzi. Saturday, Nov. 14th, Jay McDonald will do a demo. 10am to 4pm, for a small fee Marco Invernizzi will be available for individual consultation. One hour (\$75) and 1/2 (\$40) hour times available.

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
Hospitality	Marlene Philley	415-924-5134
Docent Coord	Jeanette Arnold	415-883-2651

### Marin Bonsai Club

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[www.marinbonsai.org](http://www.marinbonsai.org)

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