



Bonsai Wire Marin Bonsai Club

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

July 2014

From the President...

Hello Bonsai Fans,

Ah, summertime. Hot days full of keeping cool in rivers, creeks, and pools; and of course, the Marin County Fair.

This will prove to be the Marin Bonsai Club's largest show of 2014. I hope you can sign up and work a shift. It's loads of fun, it's super easy, and it's a teaching and learning opportunity. Don't be shy, sign up and greet the general public as they commonly get their first introduction to the wonderful art of bonsai.

Tree drop off will be Monday night June 30th for large trees and Tuesday am for everything else. Look for Jay in the first building at the end of the Boulevard of flags.

We will not have a meeting in July, but be sure to gear up for August as we keep summer happenings rolling with our beginner workshops (more on that from David Eichorn) and our annual auction.

The auction will be held in the MSA building at Marin Art and Garden Center on the third Tuesday of the month, the 19th.

The club does much of its fund raising at the auction and clean, healthy, styled trees tend to fetch the best prices. After reviewing the trees on display at the fair, stay inspired to make your collection looking its best, including the part you're ready to purge. You'll be glad you did. Also, the auction is a great time to purchase a

tree for your collection, I've never left our auction empty handed in the ten years I've been attending.

It is a great relief that pleading and prodding members to pitch in isn't required these days, thank you all for helping out with all of our functions and gatherings. Thanks for folding chairs, welcoming new arrivals, bringing snacks, reminding us of upcoming events and teaching fellow members' basics and advanced bonsai technics. The clubs attendance and pocket book are both solid and I believe it's to the team work that we all have.

There is one person in particular I'd like to thank and that's David Eichorn. I believe he joined the club less than 3 years back and has been a constant thread of support and creativity in every facet of the operations. He has been a dedicated and tireless leader as Program Director and Vice President and I could not have asked for a more solid individual to carry me through the ins and outs of our club. Thanks David, you are truly a blessing

With that I'll remind you all to stay wired

Tim Burke

From the VP of Programs...

Where to begin? Two months of events to summarize and the prep for the Marin County Fair well under way . . . the busy season is full upon us.

I'll write chronologically, beginning with a few words about the Iron Bonsai event we hosted back in May. Considering how quickly we had to throw this event together, it went fairly well. In terms of attendance, BSSF stole the show, having three teams of two and a lot of extra spectators. Our club was a bit embarrassingly under-represented, having to conscript almost all of our audience members into our teams. Many thanks to Candace, Roger, Dan, and Andy, who rolled up their sleeves and joined us, allowing us to work on three trees. Thanks also to John, Chris, and Francesca who were all on board from the beginning.

The setup for the event would have been impossible without the much appreciated help of Candace, Alan, and Tim. Thanks also to Candace and Roger, who were very helpful with the tree assigned to me and Andy. Neither of us had any experience with pines, so the guidance was extremely helpful in getting us on track. Everyone did an excellent job styling their respective trees, but the winning tree of the evening was a Texas Cedar Elm styled by the REBS team of Jim Gremel and George Haas, another competitor culled from the audience—thanks George! One of the best parts of the evening was raffling off eight trees to the lucky attendees.

In June, Jonas Dupuich talked to us about Pines and a few other trees. As usual, he was engaging and informative. Nearly everybody in attendance brought a tree and Jonas made a point to talk a little bit about each one. Some of his central points: (1) He finds he gets the best results if he separates the goals of working on growing a substantial trunk of a tree or developing its branches, never doing both at the same time. (2) Branch taper is accomplished by successive growing and pruning of a

branch over time, leaving a little more each year, much the same as is done with trunks. (3) The ground is the absolute best medium for encouraging trunk fattening in your trees, because when the roots find the sides of the pot, the tree slows its growth. However, if planting in the ground is not an option for you, Jonas has found that common plastic colanders make excellent rooting pots that will encourage free growth and trunk fattening almost as well as the open ground. Our own Alan Voight has apparently had some success with colanders.

As you read this, the setup for the fair will be just days away. A lot of members brought their trees to the June 17th show-prep workshop to get inspected and groomed for the show. One particularly interesting specimen was Daniel Keller's newly acquired boxwood raft. The donor tree must have been quite old already, because every trunk of the raft is hefty and joined by a beefy and contorted base, complete with some jinned sections. Wait 'til you see it!

The fair setup begins at 9:00 am on Tuesday, July 1st. That is a good time to bring your trees, even if you're not staying to help setup. Jay has asked that anybody with a particularly large tree try to get it there the night before, on Monday. Please contact Jay for details as to timing for that. As of this writing, there are still some open volunteer spots, particularly over the long weekend. Please consider signing up. We're not pulling your chain when we say it's fun. Even if you don't have a tree of your own in the show, it's great to be there representing these trees that everybody loves to look at and ask about. And you always get into the fair free for the day when you're volunteering.

The Multipurpose room at MAGC has been scheduled for our annual Beginner's Workshop. It will take place on two consecutive Thursdays, August 21st and 28th, from 7:00 to 9:00 pm. If you're working the fair, be sure to mention this workshop and direct interested people

VP of Programs Continued...

to the sign-up sheet for receiving more information about it. Also feel free to sign up yourself if you're new to bonsai and haven't taken the class yet. Cost to be determined in time for the fair.

Finally, the Board has made a decision to put more resources into acquiring expert mentors, either to help out at workshops, or maybe to do a series of demonstrations. We're still working out the details, but make plans to attend both the September workshop and meeting to be sure you don't miss anything good.

Enjoy the fair!!

David Eichhorn



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Auction Time!

I know this has been in the back of your minds for months now, but it is time to bring it to the forefront and start seriously gearing up for the very important Marin Club Auction, happening August 19 on our regular monthly meeting date. What do I mean by gear up? Glad you asked. Here's what we need from each and every club member:

- We need you to plan to attend whether it is to help out or be an active bidder.
- We need you to help out, even if you do plan to be an active bidder. Helping set up and run the auction does not preclude active acquisition. (Helpers also get a free pizza dinner)
- We need you to spread the word. Talk to friends and other club members. Drum up enthusiasm. The larger the crowd the more fun, as well as more lucrative for the club.
- Did I mention this is our second biggest fund raiser of the year? Well it is, and we have great plans for how to spend the money next year with an extensive new educational program, so the healthier the coffer, the more we can do.
- We need you to bring stuff. This can be bonsai and pre-bonsai trees, pots, tools, stands or other items you think bonsai people would be interested in. One of my favorite scrolls was purchased at our auction, and I know many prizes have changed hands between members, and members and the public. Even garden plants have been known to sell at the Sales Table we started a few years ago, so get creative and use this opportunity to do a little clean out of your collection.

The recycling aspect of bonsai and particularly bonsai auctions has always been one of the advantages of our practice. We get a tree, work on it, develop it to where we want it, or not, get bored, or decide to do some profit taking, but the trees just keep moving in a

Auction Continued...

slow game of musical chairs from one bonsai enthusiast to another. There is going to be some excellent material for sale this year and anyone interested in expanding their collection should take advantage of buying from a known source at what are usually bargain prices.

Auction Committee Forming

We have had a very strong auction team in years past and many members will be returning to help insure the show runs smoothly, but we have lost a few people and we have a new venue at the Marin Society of Artists space which will require a few extra hands. Please contact Candace to let her know if you can help with any or all of the following auction tasks:

- publicity-getting ads in local papers announcing the auction
- set up
- accounting table (tracking sales and checking people out at the end of the auction)
- runners - taking trees up to the auction table and back to the impound area after the item is sold clean up

Your assistance will be rewarded with pizza dinner, heartfelt thanks from the chief auction wrangler and the gratitude of your fellow club members. We're counting on you. Let us know soon how you would like to participate.

Candace Key

Marin County Fair

Thanks to everyone who has signed up for shifts at the Marin County Fair, and especially those who have signed up to do multiple shifts. Being a docent at the Fair is one of the most important things we do as a club and we are grateful for, and need, everyone's participation. We could still use a few people mid-day and evenings, so if you can help out please contact Candace or Jay.

As a docent your job is to chat up visitors to our exhibit and encourage them to sign up for more information from the club if they seem to have a sustained interest in bonsai. We will be sponsoring a 2 day Beginning Bonsai class in August and the Fair is the best time to sign up attendees for that too. Don't forget to wear your club hapi coat if you have one, (if you don't there will be a few extras that can be borrowed) and your name tag.

For newbies and long time members the show presents a wonderful opportunity to study some very good bonsai. As you are looking at and talking about the trees you might call to mind the lessons of Jonas Dupich and Tim Burke on evaluating bonsai. Take the time to further educate your eye and learn from more experienced members there, especially in light of the decisions you will soon be making on new bonsai acquisitions. Most of all have fun. It is a celebration of bonsai. This is our only show this year and we should make the most of the time and venue to honor the art of bonsai we love so well. See you at the Fair!

Candace Key

The Taskmaster, July 2014

July, the dog days of Summer. Hot afternoon winds to burn the edges of the leaves and spiking afternoon temperatures that can cook roots in a small bonsai pot like the carrots in a good beef stew. Most mornings are cool and pleasant, seems like an ad for California living from Sunset Magazine, then wham! Another Death Valley Days program for the afternoon.

This scenario is very common in many areas of California, and it requires some ingenuity to make everything come out OK. Smaller pots can be put on the north sides of walls and fences or in dappled shade under trees or bushes on the hottest days (or weeks) and medium pots can be put in the East side of fences and buildings for limiting them to morning sun. Remember that the hottest time of day is usually well after noon, and it's prudent to let pots cool down before any evening watering.

And watering can be a problem in the hot weeks. It's easy to use too little water, let a pot get too dry, bye bye bonsai. But transpiration slows or stops when the temperature is too high, and when the tree no longer loses water to the atmosphere the soil stays wetter than you might think. Little heat, little water, you'll be cooking those roots in a fungus casserole. The best thing is to water by hand, or at least check each pot every few days, right before the water goes on, to be sure they need the water you want to give them.

Fertilizer just complicates things, makes the stew a little richer for unfriendly organisms. This time of year it's best, with a few exceptions, to use only 0-10-10 type fertilizers, or at least the lowest nitrogen available. But when it's real hot, better just postpone the fertilization for a while.

If your garden seems to produce burned leaves or leaf edges frequently, the problem could be that the water has too many salts and/or chemicals. Or it could be the trees are pot bound and need to be marked for early repotting, moved into shadier or more protected placements, and watered carefully until repotting can be done safely. Or they may just need more shelter from the wind. But in all

cases it might help, sure couldn't hurt, to spray the leaves with a good "wetting" solution, something that feeds leaves and/or slows transpiration like Cloud Cover, Eleanor's VF-11, Wet Betty or others.

Make sure that all cascades are watered especially well when it's hot. Traditional cascade pots are taller than average, and gravity works harder on a tall column to drag the water out the bottom faster than average. Putting these pots in a deep water bath for a few hours or so now and then is a good idea, and of course some plants like wisteria and tamarisk need a water basin a third as deep as their bonsai pot all the way through October or even later depending on the weather.

Lots of deciduous trees with good development can be trimmed now, back to two or three leaf sets to maintain shape. Larger leaves can be snipped every few days or so from the outsides of tree profiles to let light into the tree. Undeveloped trees may need to be pruned and shaped in early Spring, then have the new growth wired as it matures (that is, wired pretty early, as soon as it hardens off) and then be allowed to just grow, to develop vigor and thickness in branches and trunks.

So Summer is a time of unwiring and rewiring, of waiting to see what may develop, of carefully placing, watering, protecting things. Sort of a time of busy waiting. Have some patience. Have a friend over, turn out most of the lights and have a glass of wine and some conversation in the semidark. Have some Summer fruit from the farmer's market and feed some of it piece by piece to someone you love. Have some sweet Summer dreams.

Haiku for a Summer's night

The full moon looks in
Through my window in Summer.
In the dark, I smile.

The Taskmaster

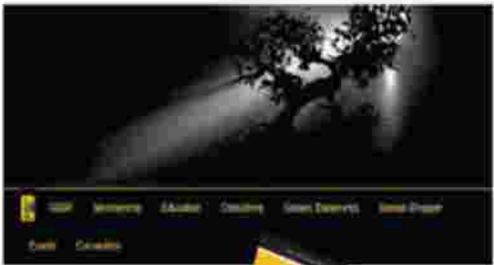
Upcoming Northern California Bonsai Events

July 9, 2014 Oakland, California,
East Bay Bonsai Society's 2014 Auction at the
Garden Center at Lake Merritt Park, 666 Belle-
vue Avenue at 7:30pm, preview at 7pm, featur-
ing trees, pots and bonsai items. For more in-
formation, visit www.eastbaybonsai.org.

In addition, to participate as a seller, please
contact Linda Soliven, our Club President, at
bonsaigirl43@att.net to receive auction item
forms or any seller questions.

August 23 – 24, 2014 Santa Rosa,
California,
Redwood Empire Bonsai Society
(REBS): 31th Annual show at the Santa Rosa
Veterans building, 1351 Maple Ave. 10 AM – 5
PM Saturday and 10 AM – 4 PM Sunday with
demonstrations both days at 1 PM by club
sensei Kathy Shaner. Large exhibit of members'
trees, vendors' sales room, members' sales
room, raffle and silent auction. Free admission,
parking and treats. Contact Bob Shimon @ 707-
884-4126 or shimon@mcn.org

October 30 – November 2, 2014
Sacramento, California,
GSBF-37: Golden State Bonsai Federation and
American Bonsai Society presents
2014 Convention XXXVII "Bonsai Vi-
sions of the West" at the Double Tree Hotel,
2001 Point West Way. Reservations for hotel 916 -
929-8855. Headliners include Peter Tea, Kathy Shan-
er and David De Groot, ABS Learning Seminars with
Ted Matson and Jack Sustic, Joshua Roth New Tal-
ent Bonsai Competition, and Special Tribute to John
Naka – 100 years (b. August 16, 1914). Demonstra-
tions, seminars, critiques, workshops, excursions,
benefit drawings, vendors, and much more. More
information available at www.gsbfcconvention.org.



<http://www.gsbf-bonsai.org/>

Now you have more sources for where you get your bonsai information.
Go online for the new and redesigned GSBF Web homepage —
<http://www.gsbf-bonsai.org/>. It's free. Be sure you subscribe to the automatic
notifications via email for the absolute latest news and other posted information.
Subscribe to the bimonthly GSBF Golden Statements Magazine, the full
featured magazine of the Golden State Bonsai Federation. To subscribe, just go
online at <http://www.gsbf-bonsai.org/golden-statements/subscribe-to-gs>.

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Bonsai Wire Newsletter Submissions:

The deadline for the Bonsai Wire
Newsletter is the Saturday following the
Club's Monthly General Meeting.

Please email any news, articles, event
info, Haiku, photos etc. to:
mbcnews@marinbonsai.org

Marin Bonsai Club Events

July 2— 6, 2014: Annual show at the Marin County Fair.

August 5, 2014: Monthly Workshop, Multipurpose Room, 7 PM. Free for members. \$10 for non-members.

August 19, 2014: Annual Auction, Marin Society of Artists, 7:30 PM.

August 21 & 28 2014: Beginners Workshop, Multipurpose Room 7 PM—9 PM.



2014 Marin Bonsai Club Officers:

President	Tim Burke	415-259-7372
VP Programs	David Eichhorn	415-888-3756
VP Shows	Jay McDonald	415-847-8909
Secretary	Candace Key	415-491-1989
	Daniel Keller	415-453-7265
Treasurer	Art Wasserman	415-454-3077
Historian	Carolyn Robbins	415-460-0339
Librarian	Roger Lion	415-924-5134
Webmaster	Sharon Bone	415-898-9618
Newsletter	Scott Piatanesi	415-456-6848
Hospitality	Marlene Philley	415-924-5134
Docent Coord	Vacant	

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