



Bonsai Wire Marin Bonsai Club

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

October 2014

From the President...

Hello Tree Shepherds,

Fall is approaching and I'm sad to say we won't be prepping for a show this year. Instead we will be catching up on some long overdue bonsai instruction and education whilst we bring our trees to the next level.

Thanks to Peter Tea for a wonderful introduction to the coming year of higher learning, and let's welcome Jonas Dupuich back for some continued education on pine tree care this coming month. Which by the way, is in the multi-purpose room on the third Tuesday of October. I'll let David fill you in on the particulars.

In other news, we oddly enough are still taking nominations for the upcoming vacancies in the board, namely President and Docent Coordinator. If Bonsai is a passion of yours but you aren't ready for the instructor department yet but are wanting to give back, these are great opportunities.

As Docent Coordinator you get behind the scene information at the Bonsai Garden in Oakland where Sensei Kathy Shaner is grounds keeper.

As President you get the commanding respect of your peers who stop at nothing to make your job fun and easy. Trust me this is one you don't want to miss. I'd stay forever but they won't let me, my term is up. I've had so much fun answering emails and helping delegate very tough decisions that a well-seasoned board has

brought to the table. It's got some difficulty but anything worth doing has its salt as well.

See you all in October.

Get Wired,

Tim Burke



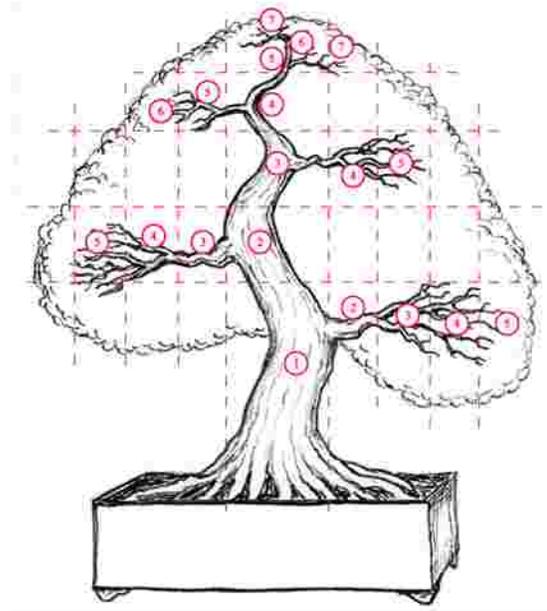
From the VP of Programs...

This has to be one of the tougher parts of being your VP of Programs: telling those of our dear readers who were not present just how much they missed by not attending our last meeting! Peter Tea delivered the first in his series of four lectures, dispensing excellent tidbits of knowledge for every skill level, while setting a clear and solid foundation for his future lessons.

Candace Key fully deserves a big, loud “I told you so!” Not that there were any real doubters when she said that Peter would make a good, consistent teacher for our club and that he can teach in a way that benefits beginners and skilled artisans alike. Still, I for one remained slightly skeptical, it sounding too good to be true, as if Peter could do for bonsai instruction what Shakespeare did for theater. Well, thank you Candace for suggesting and arranging for Peter to be our repeat instructor because after his first lecture, I think he may very well be an artist at presenting his art.

Peter Tea's artistry began showing itself when he talked about familiar topics like the paramount importance of trunk size and shape with enough basic information for the beginners, but then quickly brought it to a level that enlightened everybody in the room. I'm fairly confident that I wasn't the only one who had multiple “Aha!” moments as Peter Tea lifted the veil of mystery around several topics many of us treat somewhat mechanically. Let me see if I can give you a taste of what I mean and maybe you'll be motivated to make the rest of the lectures in the series . . .

Peter's discussions of trunk and branch thickening and branch internode issues were particularly engaging. He has a system for prioritizing the work that is done to a tree he calls “Bonsai by Numbers” that echoes other lessons we've heard, but with a particularly well-thought-out logic that both simplifies the topic and provides a framework for more sophisticated design strategies.



Peter Tea's “Bonsai by Numbers”

The figure shown here is a reproduction of a sketch Peter did to illustrate his system. The numbers on the figure denote levels of design priority. Note that the trunk and nebari (surface roots) together comprise the only Number One position, with numbers increasing in every direction from there. As we have learned over and over, the trunk and nebari are your top priority and you cannot worry about anything else until you know those are going to be good. The first branch is the second priority, but the second section of trunk leading to the second branch shares this level. Fattening the second branch and developing ramification on the first branch are 3rd level priorities because you cannot worry about them until the trunk, nebari, and thickness of the first branch are established. And so on upward and outward. Higher numbered priorities cannot be addressed until the lower numbered ones are settled.

Understanding this deceptively simple model laid the foundation for thinking critically about the next topic: internode issues. There's no space here to give everything away, but I have to say that the way Peter spoke about trees

VP Programs Continued...

that have branch internode issues (mostly maples and pines) made a great deal of sense and I know I'm not the only one who gained a deeper understanding of why we prune the way we do. Many of us already knew that maples will only bud from branch internodes, that they sometimes have the habit of quickly growing overly long internodes, and that sometimes you have to let the branch run before cutting it back gradually in stages to get the internodes to shorten. But I think it's safe to say that I wasn't the only one who learned for the first time exactly what is going there.

Apparently, if a strongly growing branch is cut (divided), the two new shoots will try to compensate for the lost growth by growing just as rapidly, if not more so, without stopping to produce internodes. The key to preventing this is a little complicated, but involves leaving more of the branch and balancing the energy that it is receiving when you cut it, such as by reducing fertilization, simultaneous trimming of other parts of the tree, or various other means that restore balance to the tree's energy distribution. The more you can slow the growth to the branch in question, the shorter the internodes. And any solution involving further pruning works best when the Bonsai by Numbers priority scheme is kept in mind as means of conceptualizing the tree's energy distribution and what can and cannot be trimmed from a design perspective.

If you want more, you'll have to come to Peter's next talk, in November. Until then, we've still got plenty of other stuff going on. Our first gathering this month is a regular workshop on the 7th. On the 21st, we will have another visit from Jonas Dupuich, who has been teaching us about pines, with plenty of interesting side points about other trees. His talk is certain to be engaging and informative.

Looking ahead a little, even though we don't have a Fall Show this year, I hope to see a lot

of Fall colors at the November workshop . . .

David Eichhorn

Christmas in October

. . . well, not really. But it might be a good idea to start thinking about the bonsai tree decorating contest we hold at the annual holiday party in December. Once again Roger Lion and Marlene Philley will graciously host the event at their beautiful home in Corte Madera. We don't have a date yet, but it will be the first or second Sunday of the month. Competition in the tree decorating contest will be fierce this year so we wanted to give members plenty of time plan, plot, prune and primp. Valuable prizes await the lucky winners. More details next month.

Candace Key

Rare Bonsai Pot Acquisition Opportunity

A very nice lady whose Japanese father did bonsai 40 years ago is giving Marin Bonsai Club members the opportunity to buy his pots. She will bring them to the meeting on October 21 for all to peruse and purchase. These pots are at least 50 years old, and of very good quality, most don't seem to ever have been used. The majority are basic brown with a couple of blue ones thrown in, and there is a wide range of sizes. With repotting season quickly coming up this is a wonderful opportunity to acquire quality pots for your trees at a reasonable price. Don't miss this special event!

Candace Key

The Taskmaster, October 2014

October in the San Francisco bay area microclimates is just more Summer. You can argue if you want, but it won't change a thing. Sure, the days are getting shorter, and the sun is declining to a different, lower angle, and the trees know it, oh yes they do. They're getting ready to do that sweet, sad Autumn surrender that North America demands of all its inhabitants. Just not yet, is all. We still got hot.

Although it's too late, probably, to safely do the deciduous tree trimming and pruning we had intended to get to, and too soon to do the Autumn repotting that we're still going to get to, and too soon to do the black pine cutting and styling, there are still some things that a good bonsai artist and gardener must make sure to do.

All the bugs that ever there were are getting the message that things are slowing down and the picnic will soon be over. They look for a strong finish, a good place to hunker down and overwinter, and a body change that will serve for dormancy. So be especially vigilant about watching for ants and using ant baits. Look for aphids, especially if you see ants, and spray them off with a strong stream of water and/or some safer-soap type liquid. Soft scale attract ants also, as do hard scale in some seasons, but you must use a growing-season dilution of horticultural oil spray, repeated three times at ten to fourteen day intervals to eradicate them. Anyplace where there has been aphids, scale, or ants, there's more than likely to be molds, mildews, rusts, and funguses and they all require a specialized spray, also applied in the week and a half/two week rotation or a good systemic like the Bayer rose preparations. This is especially important going into the dormant season, as this is when all the spores are in high production mode.

Feeding this time of year is a chancy thing. Nitrogen given too late in the Fall can cause tender growth just when it should be discouraged, and nitrogen-fueled green growth is known to deplete the flowering and fruiting

trees and lessen their ability to produce vigorous, plentiful buds for Spring. Give it one last shot, if you must, but only if the warm weather holds, and keep the NPK numbers below 10. Then it's only 0/10/10 for the rest of the time until Spring except for the junipers and evergreens, which in our climate get their weaker but full-profile feeding all year long.

Wiring that was done at any time previously on any tree needs to be checked now, because September and October is end of year growth spurt time for many trees and wires can cut in before you know it. The best time to resume wiring is in November, when the leaves change and growth visibly slows to an apparent stop. You can then leave those wires on for a good long time, usually until Spring growth begins.

Watering can be a problem in October. Pots that drain poorly stay too wet as growth slows, but persistent warmth dries things out sooner than expected. Scratch all soils to confirm the need for water, and water more lightly. Use a chopstick to punch holes for channeling oxygen down into the root zones of compacted, slow-drying and slow-draining pots, and mark these pots for earliest repotting. Lots of repotting can be done in Fall, but root pruning is not recommended. So unless it just must be done, it's best to wait for Spring.

Watch the seasons roll on, feel the days get cooler and the nights grow chill, see the afternoons grow shorter and the leaves begin to turn. Take a tip from this Mediterranean climate and slowly admit that there may be such a thing as Winter coming...But not just yet.

The Taskmaster

Upcoming Northern California Bonsai Events

October 4, 2014, San Jose, California
Midori Bonsai Club: 53rd annual show at the Northside Community Center, 488 6th St. Hours are 10 AM – 5 PM with demonstration at 1 PM by Juan Cruz (tree will be raffled off). Beginner's workshop from 10 AM – 1 PM. Advice from Dr. Bonsai for trees brought in. Large plant sale by club members along with many vendors with bonsai supplies and trees. Free admission and parking. For more information contact John Thompson at jtbonsai@gmail.com

October 11 – 12, 2014, Oakland, California
East Bay Bonsai Society: 53rd Annual 2014 Fall Show at the Garden Center at Lake Merritt Park, 666 Bellevue Ave, Oakland, California. Hours: Saturday 10 AM – 5 PM and Sunday 11 AM – 4 PM. Matt Reel, a bonsai professional, will be conducting a demonstration on Sunday afternoon. Trees, pots, and accessories for sale. All events free to general public. All day parking is \$5.00 on Bellevue Avenue.

The Golden State Federation Northern Bonsai Collection is next door to the show, be sure to take time to visit.

October 12, 2014, Salinas, California
The Salinas Bonsai Club is presenting an Exhibit of Bonsai from 10am to 4pm at the Salinas Buddhist Temple located at 14 California Street in Salinas. Admission is free. Stop by for the free Bonsai Clinic from 10-1 and watch a demonstration by renowned bonsai artist, Katsumi Kinoshita at 1:30. Tea and cookies will be served and a raffle will be held. If you bring your "tired or overgrown" bonsai with you, event organizers will help you restore it.

October 18 – 19, 2014, Union City, California
Yamato Bonsai Kai: 43rd Annual Bonsai Exhibition at Southern Alameda County Buddhist

Church, 32975 Alvarado-Niles Road. Hours: Noon – 6 PM Saturday & 10 AM – 5 PM Sunday. Demonstration each day at 2 PM featuring Johnny Uchida working with advanced Black Pine material to create bonsai. Don't miss this special event. Benefit raffle drawing each day after the demo; raffle includes the demo tree. Large vendor and plant sales area; free admission and parking. Doctor Bonsai support will be available. For more information call Tony Hayworth at 510-289-5731 or bonsaicho@comcast.net or visit our club website www.yamatobonsai.org.

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

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

October 7, 2014: Monthly Workshop,
Multipurpose Room, 7 PM. Free for mem-
bers. \$10 for non-members.

October 21, 2014: Monthly Meeting,
Multipurpose Room, 7:30 PM. Jonas Dupuich
on Black Pine Development.

November 4, 2014: Monthly Workshop,
Multipurpose Room, 7 PM. Free for mem-
bers. \$10 for non-members.

November 18, 2014: Monthly Meeting,
Multipurpose Room, 7:30 PM. Peter Tea
Returns.



2014 Marin Bonsai Club Officers:

President	Tim Burke	415-259-7372
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