

Bonsai Wire Marin Bonsai Club



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

July 2015

From the VP of Programs...

Have a fun time at our show at the Marin County Fair, everybody! It is such a great time to be among our trees and each other . . . and each other's trees. I look forward to seeing a lot of you and your trees there. And the inevitable inspiration brought on by time spent among the trees, educating people about them. Wait, I haven't said it enough times: TREES!

Don't forget: on July 21st we break with tradition and have a meeting in July, at which Peter Tea will be giving us the fourth in his series of four talks. Come join us in the Multipurpose Room at MAGC at 7:30 PM as Peter teaches us more about training our Maples and Junipers.

Looking ahead, the Annual Auction is just around the corner, having traditionally been held in August. The board is overdue for a meeting, because the Auction details are not yet available, but stay tuned and we'll let you know where and when that will be exactly. If it's anything like last year, it will likely be on our 3rd Tuesday, in the Marin Society of Artists building on the MAGC campus.

On our meeting date in June, Jay McDonald wowed us with a great demonstration on how to refine a birch tree. He started with the somewhat squat-looking, disheveled tree shown in the first photo below and gave it a little more of the elongation typical of birch trees, as well as their characteristic drooping branches, as seen in the second photo.



The birch tree, before Jay McDonald began working on it.



Jay McDonald showing how the pre-chosen front works with the completed styling of the birch.

VP Programs Continued...

Among the many tidbits of information Jay gave us during his demo, it was interesting to learn that birch trees are in the relatively small group of trees that can be effectively defoliated. He did not do it to this tree at this time, largely because he was already stressing it enough by chopping off numerous branches and wiring it a bunch. Besides which, it needed to look nice for the lucky winner, Art Wasserman, who won the raffle for the tree. Congratulations, Art! Several people also took home cuttings from the tree. Be sure to let us know how those work out! When asked if birch is easy or difficult to root, Jay reminded us: "I'm an artist, not a farmer." He's certainly no slouch when it comes to growing things, but his superior artistry was front and center that night. Thank you, Jay!

Don't forget about our workshops. There isn't one in July due to the Fair Show, but the ones for August and September should continue as usual. Attendance at them has been down a bit, but I'm sure many of you have work that needs to be done, so why not bring your trees to a workshop? Even if you don't need any mentoring, why not do some of the work at an upcoming workshop so others can see what you're up to? And you never know, maybe a comment from somebody will inspire you in an unexpected direction.

Perhaps at the August workshop we can take stock of our remaining Bonsai Boot Camp participants and their trees. So far there have been no takers to replace Andy, but his tree is also MIA, so that's sort of a dead end right now. Speaking of dead, I'm saddened to report that Dan Olson's Crabapple did not make it. I propose that he be allowed to take over Andy's tree, if we can find it. Otherwise, we're down

to two Recruits.

See you at the Fair!

David Eichhorn

Haiku for a Summer night

Mockingbird sang loud
Love was on his mind last night
We both were sleepless

The Taskmaster

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. Make sure your calendars are marked and reminders set because we count on you being there.

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 longtime 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 Peter Tea this past year. 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

Docent Duty at the Lake Merritt Bonsai Gardens

Candace Key will be taking docent duty at the Bonsai Gardens at Lake Merritt Saturday, June 27. If you are new to the club, or new to the bonsai gardens and would like to accompany Candace for an introduction and orientation please get in touch with her via the phone number on the last page of the newsletter. The shift starts at 10:00 and ends at 1:00PM, not a big commitment. Docenting at the gardens is a vital way for our club to give back to the bonsai community which is so supportive of the art we love. Please consider donating a bit of your time to this worthy cause. And . . .

We also need docents for July 25. Please contact Roger Lion if you can take our shift that day.

There are many Marin club members who enjoy the programs the club provides and have benefited from our repotting workshops and assistance during monthly meetings, but have not stepped up to their responsibilities at the Bonsai Gardens at Lake Merritt. As in every organization, with privileges come responsibilities. Please do your part. It is not only painless, but fun and educational. All of us have busy lives, but all of us have 3 hours a year to contribute to this very worthy organization. Please call Roger Lion to schedule your docent day at the Garden, the 4th Saturday of the month, 10:00 AM-1:00 PM.

Candace Key

It's Almost Auction Time!

It may have slipped your minds with so much excitement about our show at the Marin County Fair, but it is time to bring it to start seriously gearing up for the very important Marin Club Auction, happening August 18 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 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.

Candace Key

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. Last year, our first in the Marin Society of Artists space went very smoothly, but we will need a few more helpers to improve on the logistics and make the auction a positive experience for everyone. 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
- setup
- 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

The Taskmaster, July 2015

The month of July in the Northern California Bay Area microclimates is a jumble of changeable conditions and temperatures that can go from baking hot to crisply chilly in as little as a day. This poses some problems for the bonsai artist, most notably with watering. If the temperatures go much above eighty five degrees or so, the trees slow down all life processes to avoid water loss. This can cause the soil to remain surprisingly moist down in the pot, even though the surface gets toasted. A few days like that and if you're not careful there will be roots staying too wet and too warm for too long, and that's when friendly microbes die and fungi thrive. Add a little fertilizer, especially the chemical types, and the resulting soup can spell dead tree. Be careful in really hot weather to scratch down into the soil of each pot to be sure how much to add. During a very hot spell, move small pots to areas of less hours of sun, or even a few days of shade. Put cascades in a water bath for a few hours or a day every ten days or so through September. Put wisteria and tamarisk in a water dish about a third to a half as deep as the pot they're in until November or so, and water pomegranate well to encourage fruit set. July and August are usually said to be times when fertilizer is not necessary, as growth processes are necessarily slow in hot Summer weather. Many growers use low yield, slow release fertilizers all year round in our area with success. It's the big-boost and chemical products that are likely to cause rapid weak growth that is easily burned by sun and wind.

July is a good time to check on wiring done earlier and to replace wires that are too tight before they damage the bark significantly. When rewiring, try to follow a new path of untouched bark with the new wire, or even wire in the opposite direction to avoid repeat pressure on any spot. Cutting large leaves off as they appear to let light and air into the tree is a good practice, but defoliating is dangerous in hot weather.

Leafeating, leafcurling, and sucking bugs and caterpillars are active in hot weather, as are the molds and mildews. Spray for them early in the mornings and shake off the excess so they can mostly dry before the sun comes to burn the leaves. The same goes for the half strength or growing-season dilutions of horticultural oil used as a suffocate for scale. Try to find horticultural oils that are closest to ninety eight percent inert oil with no sulfur or other ingredients which can cause burning. Bugs tend to begin to tolerate the sprays after repeated applications, so switch around with different types and brands and remember that lots of critters can be sprayed off with a good hard water stream or discouraged with safer-soap type sprays.

If you see active wilt on any tree, soak it in a waterbath up to the rim of the pot for two or three hours, then put the tree in bright shade for two or three weeks and be careful not to overwater. Sometimes a tree that showed wilt can bounce right back, but some lose fruit, flowers and buds, even twigs or branches.

These are beautiful days in the bonsai garden. Beautiful nights too. Sometimes beautiful thoughts and feelings are waiting there. Be sure to commune with your carefully tended bits of nature after dark now and then for a new perspective. Sears now sells a ball cap made by Craftsman with two bright led lights mounted at a downward angle well back underneath the edge of the brim that will reveal some intimate details that you're likely to miss in the light of day or with a tool in your hand. Be sure look for peace but prepare for trouble. Be sure to look for mistakes but expect perfection. Try to keep dreaming your best dreams but keep your eyes wide open. Try to keep expecting love to lighten your heart often, and try not to accept anything less.

The Taskmaster

Upcoming Northern California Bonsai Events

July 8th, Oakland CA
East Bay Bonsai Society's 2015 Auction at the Garden Center at Lake Merritt Park, 666 Bellevue Avenue on Wednesday, July 8th at 7:30pm (preview at 7:00 pm) featuring trees, pots, and bonsai items. For more information, visit www.eastbaybonsai.org.

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August 1 – 2, 2015 San Francisco, California San Francisco Suiseki Kai: 4th Annual Suiseki Exhibit at the Union Bank Community Room, Japan Center, 1675 Post Street. Hours are 10 AM – 5 PM both days . Show coincides with the 42nd annual Nihonmachi Street Fair, so come early and enjoy your day in San Francisco's historic Japan Town! Suiseki and stone sales. For more information about our club, contact sfsuisekikai@gmail.com or visit <http://sfsuisekikai.wordpress.com>.

August 22 – 23, 2015 **Santa Rosa, California** Redwood Empire Bonsai Society (REBS): 32th 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 17 – 18, 2015 Union City, California
Yamato Bonsai Kai: 44th Annual Bonsai Exhibition at the Southern Alameda County Buddhist Church, 32975 Alvarado-Niles Rd. Hours are Saturday Noon to 6 PM and Sunday 10 AM to 5 PM. Demonstrations each day at 2 PM by Johnny Uchida, with Mike Baker and Tony Hayworth. Benefit raffle each day after the demo. Raffle includes the demo tree. Large Vendor and Plant Sales area. Free Admission & Parking. For additional information, call Tony Hayworth at 510-289-5731 or visit our web site at www.yamatobonsai.org.

Artisans Cup

September 25 – 27, 2015 Portland, Oregon. The Artisans Cup is being held at The Portland Art Museum. The Artisans Cup is the premier exhibition of American Bonsai. The event will also feature select artisans who are creating distinctive supporting elements such as ceramics, woodwork, tools, and more. For further information, visit our website at <http://www.theartisanscup.com/>.

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 1—5, 2015: Marin County Fair Show.

July 21, 2015: Monthly Meeting, Peter Tea Returns, Multi-Purpose Room, 7:30 PM.

August 4, 2015: Workshop,
Marin Society of Artists Building, 7 PM.
Free for members. \$10 for non-members.

August 18, 2015: Monthly Meeting, Annual Auction, Marin Society of Artists Building, 7:30 PM.



2015 Marin Bonsai Club Officers:

President	Vacant	
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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