



## Bonsai Wire Marin Bonsai Club

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

June 2015

### From the VP of Programs...

In an uncharacteristically non-chronological fashion, I'm going to tell you about our program for June and beyond before putting in a few words about what you may have missed in May.

By the next issue of this newsletter, it will already be too late for me to urge you to sign up for as much Marin County Fair Show docent duty as possible, so I'm urging you now. Call up Jay McDonald if you cannot make it to the June 2<sup>nd</sup> workshop, where the sign-up sheet will most certainly be available. Jay will also have the sign-up sheet with him on June 16<sup>th</sup>, when he will be doing a demo for us (more on that in a moment), but why wait until the last minute? Better to sign up for the Fair sooner and save Jay some stress. The schedule is starting off with more gaps than usual because some of our past ever-present docents will be out of town this year. They shall remain un-named, only because it's difficult in writing to do the coughing-while-saying-*<Daniel>*! trick. Oh there, I found a way. In all seriousness, though, please free up as much time as you can for Marin County Fair docent duty because it is the members' knowledge and enthusiasm that really sell the show (quite literally, as Jay pointed out).

June 16<sup>th</sup> will be a busy day for Jay. Not only will he be passing around his sign-up sheet and giving a demonstration with a birch tree to be raffled off at the end of the night, he will also be looking at trees if you want a pre-fair inspection to make sure your trees are up to snuff. So

you really don't want to miss that meeting. 7:30 PM in the Multipurpose Room at MAGC. The birch demo alone should be extremely interesting and educational. Jay says he needs to do some significant branch pruning on the tree. And it's a birch, a unique and moderately rare species of bonsai, which you will have a chance to win for your collection once Jay has finished transforming it.

Don't forget that the June workshop comes early: June 2<sup>nd</sup> at 7:00 PM in the Marin Society of Artists building. Maybe we could see some of the Boot Camp trees? How's that crabapple doing? At the very least, we need a new recruit because, sadly, the club is losing Andy Lafrenz. That's right, we're losing one of our most active new members of the last two years because Andy is moving away. Sorry to see you go, Andy! And now somebody needs to adopt the tree that Andy and Roger Lion started. That was a rather nice Shimpaku juniper. Any takers for Andy's Boot Camp position and tree?

There was somewhat sparse attendance at the May workshop, but still plenty of interesting things to see. Morris began the defoliation process for an interesting trident maple grove with very nice trunks that were crying out to be exposed. It was reminiscent of Scott's giant bushy grove that he defoliated a month earlier. I hope we get to see how those trees end up later, guys!

## VP Programs Continued...

Another reminder: we will have our next lecture from Peter Tea on July 21<sup>st</sup>, which is a special meeting day since in past years we have taken the rest of July off after the Fair. Mark your calendars!

Looking back, for the May meeting, Jonas Dupich led a spirited discussion across a broad spectrum of topics. It was called "Ask Bonsai Tonight" and the floor was opened for questions from the audience for the entire evening. Popular topics such as watering and fertilizing methods arose, as well as some discussion about pruning, ground sowing, and other ways of getting fat, tapered trunks. At times it broke down to an almost conversational format, but Jonas managed to tie it all together in the end with some sage kernels of wisdom. For instance, he urged us to avoid an overly absolute approach to learning bonsai. He reminded us that not only are there exceptions to almost everything, but also that what we learn has to be adjusted for every tree and every environment. This is very much the same philosophy we are being taught by Peter Tea, which is part of why we like these guys so much!

Jonas also echoed a recurring tenet in bonsai literature and culture: To truly know your trees and what they need, you must, in a sense, repeatedly spend time "listening" to them. As if any of us needs another excuse to spend more time absorbing the tranquil beauty of our treasured trees!

David Eichhorn



The Artisans Cup is a Bonsai Show at the Portland Art Museum in Portland Oregon on September 25-27th, 2015. Some of the finest bonsai trees from all over the nation will be exhibited. If you want more information, go to: <http://www.theartisanscup.com/>.

## TREES FOR THE COUNTY FAIR

If you are showing a tree for the FIRST time, we need some information on it, i.e., common name, botanical name and age. Please email this data to me at [arnoldje@comcast.net](mailto:arnoldje@comcast.net) (or call 415 883-2651 and leave a message with the info) as soon as possible so name tag(s) can be prepared. Tags are prepared on labels printed on computer so we need this information several days prior to the setup of the show: SATURDAY, JUNE 27. This will be greatly appreciated by Jay and me. Thank you.

Jeanette Arnold

### It's Showtime!

I know you think it is too early to think about our annual show at the Marin County Fair, but it really isn't. In fact we might even be running late. Time to get those trees in tip top shade, clean pots, pull together accent plants, polish off plant stands. There is a lot of work to do.

First of all, at the June workshop and meeting, be sure to bring the trees you plan to show if you want Jay to bless them for the Fair.

Even more importantly, for the context of this notice at least, is to make sure you mark out time to spend being a docent at our exhibit during the 5 day course of the Fair. It runs from July 1-5 and there are 3 shifts each day. We need for all of them to be fully staffed so we can make sure our trees are safe from curious fingers, well watered, and the public well informed about the glorious art of bonsai. There will be sign up lists at the June workshop and meeting, so check your calendars, confer with significant others, look at the Fair schedule for other events you might want to explore on the same day, and sign up for at least 2 shifts, or more if you can possibly manage it. We need all hands on deck at the Fair, and for set up and take down as well. The Fair exhibit is a fund raiser for the Club and one of our best opportunities to reach out to the public and recruit new members. It's easy. It's fun. Your Club really needs you to help out.

Candace Key

June in the Northern California microclimates is a time for bonsai artists to be watchful and careful. Watchful because it is a time of rapid growth and careful because of the weather.

Rapid growth means unlimited opportunities for bugs and pests. Spray every week or two with a good fungicide or insecticide in the very early morning or late in the afternoon. Be careful not to use a very strong solution, and water the soil in the pots copiously later on to wash the drips and runoff from the soil. Spray with a strong stream of water just to knock the bugs all off every few days (a very effective strategy against spider mites and aphids), and use safer soap now and the just for good measure (you can make your own with a teaspoon of liquid dish detergent to a quart of water).

Rapid growth also means pinching back the growth of all trees to preserve shape, create shorter internodes, better Fall color, and smaller leaves. Deciduous trees can be defoliated now if they are healthy, except for beech trees, which may die off or not grow back. Cut off the leaves and leave the leaf stems, or petioles, to feed the new leaves, and leave the interior and smaller leaves alone.

This treatment is for mature, finished, or well-shaped trees, and not for material in development. Pinch out only the center primary tip on evergreens, to promote backbudding and thickening of the pads. Stop feeding defoliated and heavily pinched trees for three weeks, reduce water drastically, and put them in partial shade or morning sun only for two or three weeks with no fertilizer, then bring them out again slowly.

Rapid growth now can mean windburn, quick drying, and sunburn, so be especially vigilant about protection. Scratch and penetrate the soils with a chopstick to encourage draining and oxygen uptake, Cover or shade the pots,

## The Taskmaster Continued...

especially the smaller ones, and consider spraying with Cloud Cover or similar products to reduce drying in our frequent winds, and with Eleanor's VF-11 to foliar feed.

Rapid growth means a golden opportunity to air layer just about anything, but do it in the first half of the month before growth slows. Talk to someone who knows how or find a good article to read and go create some new trees, for free!

When the azaleas are finally nearing the finish of blooming, cut off all remaining blossoms, remove all seed stems from old blossom sites, prune all leafing branch tips to two stems, or terminal branchlets, and prune away all unwanted growth smaller than a quarter inch. Gently, loosely wire all the new Spring growth, but remember to check all wires in five to eight weeks for probable removal.

Pines get decandled from late May to late June. How decandling is done depends on the age, health, type, and state of progress of the tree as a bonsai. A good guide is seen on the blog, Bonsai Tonight; a thorough manual is available from Bonsai Today/Stone Lantern Press called PINES; and a fallback method is to cut them all at once in the second week of June. Cut them exactly straight across with very sharp scissors, leaving a green stub about as tall as the candle is thick. Never cut or remove weak interior buds because they may very likely be your valuable next branch to cut back to someday.

The weather in this region is notoriously changeable and unpredictable. Hot inland hills and colder ocean air push each other back and forth to create cold, then hot, mild, then strong breezes and winds, then give way to still, hot stretches. Trees slow or stop using or transpiring water when the temperature goes very much above eighty or so, and it's easy to overwater and rot the roots. Wind can speed up water loss and leave you with wilt or burn or dying off. The rest of the time it's perfect, man, just perfect. No better place to grow things than this.

So be watchful, and be careful. Be watchful in the garden and careful of the weather. Be watchful of your duties and careful of your relationships. Be watchful of the night sky and careful to use your days well. Be careful to use more of your heart than your eyes to watch over all, for all of your life.

Early Summer Haiku:  
When Spring blossoms fade  
Summer draws me to her heart  
Warm nights comfort me

The Taskmaster

---

## Upcoming Northern California Bonsai Events

---

June 6 – 7, 2015, San Mateo, **California**  
{?? Boku Bonsai Kai: 32nd Annual Show at the San Mateo Garden Center, 605 Parkside Way, next to Beresford Park. Admission is free. Hours are 10 AM to 4 PM; with Bonsai Master, David Nguy, conducting a demonstration Saturday and open viewing workshop Sunday from Noon – 3 PM, both days. Raffle and door prizes will be drawn both days at 3pm. Vendor sales, and member plant sales will be featured. Dr. Bonsai will be available to answer questions regarding bonsai care. For additional information contact Marsha Mekisich at (650) 477 -4761.

June 13 – 14, 2015 Oakland, California  
California Suiseki Society: 20th Annual Show at the Lakeside Garden Center on Lake Merritt, 666 Bellevue Ave. Free admission. Hours: 10 AM to 4 PM. Featuring our best stones collected from California sites over the last two decades under our late beloved sensei, Felix Rivera. The sales area will feature Suiseki books and magazines (many out of print) as well as Suiseki and Viewing Stones from members' collections. For information, contact Henry van der Voort at oldboar3@gmail.com or Bob Gould at rgould@aol.com.

June 14, 2015 Seaside, California  
Monterey Bonsai Club: 52nd Annual Exhibition at the Monterey-Peninsula Buddhist Temple, 1150 Noche Buena Street. Show hours are from 11 AM – 4 PM with a demonstration at 1:30 PM by Katsumi Kinoshita. There will be a benefit drawing for bonsai trees. Silent auction area will include bonsai trees, pots and pre-bonsai material. For more information contact Rich Guillen at richguillen@sbcglobal.net or Di-  
anne Woods at vinca27@comcast.net.

June 20 – 21, 2015 Livermore, California  
Valley Bonsai Society: 7<sup>th</sup> annual show at Alden Lane Nursery, 981 Alden Lane. Show hours are 10 AM to 4 PM both days with demonstration by an expert bonsai artist at 1 PM. Finished trees will be raffled off at the end of the demonstration and members sales table. Admission is free. For additional information contact Charles Harder at bonsainut@comcast.net

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](http://www.eastbaybonsai.org).

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 42<sup>nd</sup> 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>.

### 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](mailto:mbcnews@marinbonsai.org)

---

## Marin Bonsai Club Events

---

June 2, 2015: Workshop,  
Marin Society of Artists Building, 7 PM.  
Free for members. \$10 for non-members.

June 16, 2015: Monthly Meeting, Birch  
Tree Demo with Jay McDonald, Multi-  
Purpose Room, 7:30 PM.

July 1—5, 2015: Marin County Fair Show.

July 21, 2015: Monthly Meeting, Peter Tea  
Returns, Multi-Purpose Room, 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	

Marin Bonsai Club  
PO Box 437  
Ross, CA 94957  
[www.marinbonsai.org](http://www.marinbonsai.org)  
Address Correction Requested  
Please Forward

