



## Bonsai Wire Marin Bonsai Club

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

September/October 2015

### From the VP of Programs

Congratulations everybody on another seamlessly executed annual auction. Candace Key is telling you all about it on a separate page, but one thing she cannot do is thank herself. So thank you, Candace, for planning and coordinating another highly enjoyable auction. You did an excellent and tireless job of rallying and guiding us to and through it all.

In the last newsletter I was uncertain with regard to the status of future Peter Tea lectures. Happily, not only are they continuing, but we are getting another lecture from him right away, at our monthly meeting on September 15<sup>th</sup>. Come join us for the latest installment from Peter Tea in the MAGC Multipurpose room at 7:30 PM. Also, note that the first Tuesday of September is also the first day of the month, so please consider bringing something to work on at our monthly workshop on September 1<sup>st</sup>, in the Marin Society of Artists building, at 7:00 PM.

By the way, the board has decided that next year, due to poor attendance, we will not be having the monthly workshops in April or September. Again, this does not take affect until next year, but I wanted to let you know about this change as soon as possible. Ironically, we had a very well attended workshop last month, with lots of people present working on various trees. Among them was Andy Lafrenzs Bonsai Boot Camp shimpaku juniper, which has now been handed on to Dan Olson, whose crabapple sadly did not survive the repotting done back in April. So both Dan and the juniper get a renewed chance at success in this continuing competition. Dan and his new mentor Roger Lion did a bunch more work on the juniper that night, which had responded well to the work that was done to it earlier in the competition, and needed some more pruning.

There will be no newsletter next month, so this is my last chance to remind you all that our October meeting will feature a redwood demo from Bob Shimon. Thats October 20<sup>th</sup> in the

MAGC Multipurpose Room at 7:30 PM. Dont miss it! Dont have any redwoods? Come to Bobs demo and maybe youdl win one at the end of the night. Bob may also bring a few trees for sale. Those of you who do have redwoods, feel free to bring them in case there is time for Bob to talk about your trees. No promises, but at the very least it would be nice to have the extra background trees there.

The October workshop will be October 6<sup>th</sup>, in the Marin Society of Artists building, at 7:00 PM.

Finally, please welcome new member James Phelan. James came early to the auction last month to find out more about the Beginnerso Workshop, which he later attended. He couldnt stay for the auction, but was impressed enough with our organization that he decided to take the plunge and joined up. Welcome, James! Hopefully we can help you with your stressed juniper.

Enjoy the Csecond Springo we always get this time of year. And may all your end-of-season bonsai decisions and timing work out as you hope.

David Eichhorn

## The Club Auction Rocks MSA

Candace Key  
Chief Auction Wrangler

The Marin Bonsai Club once again hosted a successful fund-raising auction at the Marin Society of Artist building at MAGC in August. While we don't have the numbers worked out yet, we know we had a good crowd and attracted bonsai enthusiasts from around the Bay Area who were delighted with the quality and diversity of trees auctioned. Operations flowed smoothly thanks to an amazing crew of people who did a brilliant job of getting all the behind the scenes work done so our guests could just relax and have a great time. The set up and take down squad led by Alan Voight was wonderfully efficient, and our solid team of number crunchers and trackers kept all the details straight. Filling in for his father Art, Ben Wasserman didn't miss a beat as a rookie cashier, and new to the Runner's Team this year, Morris Daily, wasn't going to let any young whipper-snappers show him up, he was tireless. David Eichhorn was everywhere making sure all details were covered. Michael Jaffe handled the Sales area masterfully and the all that great food and drink was orchestrated by Dan Keller, ably assisted by Marlene Philley. Jessica Wasserman and Sharon Bone handled the media out reach and as usual auctioneer Jay MacDonald was entertaining and energetic in selling the trees. There was great support behind the scenes by Robby Cameron and his wife Chris, Richard Dobson, floor manager Roger Lion, Craig Thompson, Jeannette Arnold, Chris Ross, John Doig and Frances Noles, without whom the auction just wouldn't be complete. It truly does take a village, or at least half the club to participate to make a production like the auction a success, and we owe this team a round of applause. And to all those who came, brought fine trees to sell, talked up the auction to friends, and bought trees, a big hand for you too. Cheers!

And a thought for next year . . . we saw this year that buyers are willing to spend good money for fine trees. We hope this will encourage more people to start thinking now of the trees they might want to auction next year, applying those Peter Principles of Bonsai Development to create trees that will bring the seller and the club great rewards!



Photos Courtesy George Haas.

## Our Popular Peter Tea Master Bonsai Classes Continue!

Due to popular demand and high attendance at our meetings featuring lectures by bonsai artist Peter Tea, we are pleased to confirm we will be continuing the series for another year. Peter will be back at our September meeting on the 15th to expand on the foundation of growing and developing better bonsai he establish this first year. We have benefited greatly from Peter's classes already, but as we know, the subject is deep and complex with so much more to learn. We will provide some details about the programs in advance of the meetings, but we know Peter will continue to focus on juniper and deciduous tree development. Stay tuned!

New for this series will be a \$5 fee for the Peter Tea meetings, a small price to pay for the wealth of knowledge Peter brings to the club. As far as we know, MBC is the only club in the Bay Area offering a bonsai development series of this caliber. We look forward to seeing you at the meetings.

Candace Key

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### New Club Mailing Address

The New Club Mailing Address is:

P.O. Box 1461, Ross, CA 94957

## Haiku for Autumn

While I watched the sky  
One more moon turned bright and full  
Summer disappeared

The Taskmaster



## The Taskmaster, September/October 2015

The Autumn is in the air when September and October roll around--if you live somewhere other than the San Francisco bay area microclimates. Oh, the nights begin to seem a bit longer and maybe cooler, but usually only just a bit. The wind can be unpredictable, and chilly nights and cool mornings can give way to really hot afternoons. Hard to keep up with, really. These months offer a bonsai gardener some opportunities and some challenges.

In September, trees can still be trimmed, wired, and shaped, and we can expect the soil and roots to stay warm and active enough so that some fairly active growth will continue into November. This not a great time to wire deciduous trees. The hardened-off deciduous growth of Summer can be trimmed, and some twiggy divisions may still have time to occur, and the all of it can best be wired when the leaves begin to fail or fall. When the chlorophyll is gone most of the feeding cycle stops, so the leaves can even be removed a little early. This allows you to see the true shape of the tree and makes it easier to wire. For about two weeks after most of the leaves fall off, the trees are flexible, and can be bent. After that, dormancy makes the trees brittle. Wire applied at this time can stay on for a long time, until bud swell usually, because growth slows down so much. But all the conifers, junipers and evergreens can be wired. Lots of trees can still be repotted up to early October because the roots can be expected to recover before Winter shuts down growth. Any fruiting or flowering tree suspected or known to have gall in the roots should definitely be repotted in Fall, which discourages the gall. Other trees of these types can be repotted if there are serious concerns about bad drainage over Winter, but it can cause fruit and flower buds to fail next Spring. The tradeoff for a safe Winter and a healthier tree in the long run can make it well worthwhile. By October all the wisterias, tamarisk, deep cascade pots and others that needed to be kept in a water bath for the hot months should be taken out of the water to sit on the bench and normalize for the Winter. Black pines can have their older needles pulled to slow down growth in the vicinity and to let light and air into the tree during Winter. Summer buds should be plucked back to just two where three are growing, and back to three where four or more showed up. Pines are a deep subject, and every tree is different.

Good advice can be found in the book PINES, by Stone Lantern Press as well as on the Bonsai Bark newsletter online and in the archives of the Bonsai Tonight blog by Jonas Depuich. White and five needle pines are best worked on in November.

Watch out for trees whose drainage is slowing down and mark them for special care regarding water until repotting can be done. Summer growth of trees, especially in smaller pots, will fill the pot with roots as surely as they filled the air with leaves, and failure to thrive, dying twigs or branches, or root rot are likely to be next.

Watch out for warm wind or hot afternoons that might scald and damage leaves or even next Spring's buds.

Watch out for bugs, and militate with vigor against their comfort and success.

Watch out for moss climbing on the bark and exposed roots, which will rot and spoil the base of the trees. Spray it with alcohol, then brush it gently off when it has thoroughly dried out.

Watch out for harvest moons, for Autumn constellations in the sky, for the ponderous mystery of the slow roll of the seasons into a new reality.

And watch out for signs of love in your life, of closeness and connectedness to each other, and to all our fellow creatures great and small with whom we live and move and have our being.

The Taskmaster.

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## Upcoming Northern California Bonsai Events

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September 26 – 27, 2015 Penryn, California Sierra Bonsai Club: Club show in conjunction with Placer Buddhist Church's Annual Fall Food Festival. Hours are 11 AM – 4 PM Saturday and 11 AM to 4 PM Sunday. Bonsai demonstration by Scott Chadd in the afternoon, both days. For more information contact Robin Knittle at [robin\\_knittle@yahoo.com](mailto:robin_knittle@yahoo.com) or Gary Judd at [juddbonsai@att.net](mailto:juddbonsai@att.net) or 916-622-8048.

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

October 24 – 25, 2015 Sacramento, California Capital City Bonsai Association: 15th Annual Show supporting GSBF Bonsai Garden at Lake Merritt and Sacramento bonsai clubs. Shepard Garden Center in McKinley Park, 3330 McKinley Blvd. Hours are 10 AM – 5 PM Saturday and 10 AM – 4 PM Sunday, with demonstration both days at 1:30 PM by sponsor clubs with bonsai benefit drawings to follow. Vendor and club sales throughout the show. For more information contact Gary Judd at 916-622-8048 or [juddbonsai@att.net](mailto:juddbonsai@att.net).

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### 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 Clubs Monthly General Meeting.

Please email any news, articles, event info, Haiku, photos etc. to:  
[mbcnews@marinbonsai.org](mailto:mbcnews@marinbonsai.org)

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## Marin Bonsai Club Events

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September 1, 2015: Workshop,  
Marin Society of Artists Building, 7 PM.  
Free for members. \$10 for non-members.

September 15, 2015: Monthly Meeting,  
Peter Tea Returns, Multi-Purpose Room,  
7:30 PM.

October 6, 2015: Workshop,  
Marin Society of Artists Building, 7 PM.  
Free for members. \$10 for non-members.

October 20, 2015: Monthly Meeting, Bob  
Shimon on Redwoods, 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	

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