



The Tree Shrinker

A MONTHLY BULLETIN
Volume XXXIX, No. 10

Annual Show:	October 8-9, 2011
<u>October Meeting:</u>	October 12, 2011, CANCELED

Fall Show, October 8-9

Hear ye, hear ye show time is upon us! The East Bay Bonsai Society will hold the annual show on October 8 and 9 at the Lake Merritt Garden Center. It will be a special show celebrating our fiftieth anniversary. Fifty years ago interest in bonsai was limited to only a dedicated few. At that time, some of the clubs were open only to Japanese gardeners and the meetings were conducted in Japanese, which limited membership to say the least. Today, a wide interest in bonsai has grown and East Bay Bonsai Society has mirrored this growth.

A successful show requires the help of a lot of people. Every member should volunteer to help with one of the many activities that are responsible for the show running smoothly. Help is particularly needed for security and hospitality, although all of the committees could use a hand. If a committee chairperson calls, give generously of your time. Everyone should plan to help with show setup starting at 6:00 pm on Friday night. Pizza and beverages will be provided for those who participate. Show tear down also needs your help on Sunday afternoon starting at 4:00 pm. All too frequently we grab our plants as soon as the show is over and leave, which means final cleanup is left to an overworked few.

Everyone should exhibit at least one tree in the show. Many of us have only trees that are in the early stages of becoming a finished bonsai, and these are most welcome in the show. If you have not displayed a tree before, you'll be surprised at how nice it looks when it is dolled up for the show. Preparing your tree for show is not hard. Be sure that your tree is bug free, the weeds are removed, dead leaves or unwanted small branches are trimmed, and the pot is cleaned. A light coat of mineral oil on an unglazed pot will show it at its best. The tree must be shown on a stand. The last Tree Shrinker listed inexpensive and acceptable alternatives for stands if you do not have one adequate for the showing of your tree. A light coat of oil or wax on your stand will complete your preparation. Old English Scratch Remover (available from Safeway) works great for stands, but there are many other products that also could be used.

The show is the high point for the club for the year. The fun comes in knowing that you actively participated in the show by displaying a tree and by volunteering to

help on one of the many committees needed to make the show run smoothly. See you there!

Show Schedule

Friday Night -10/07/11

6:00 p.m. Set-up starts
7:30 p.m. About time pizza arrives
9:45 p.m. Set-up should be finished
10:00 p.m. Garden Center is locked

Saturday – 10/08/11

9:00 a.m. Hall is opened
9:30 a.m. Pastries and coffee are provided in large kitchen
BABA meets in Ebell Room for a critique. EBBS members are welcome.
10:00 a.m. Show and sale open to public
11:30 a.m. Food service begins in large kitchen
1:00 p.m. Kathy leads workshop in Ebell Room
1:30 p.m. Kitchen closes
4:00 p.m. Workshop ends
5:00 p.m. Show and sale close to public

Sunday – 10/09/11

8:00 a.m. Hall is opened
8:30 a.m. Kathy's critique of the show starts
11:00 a.m. Show and sale open to public
11:30 a.m. Food service begins in large kitchen
1:00 p.m. Demonstration begins in Ebell room
1:30 p.m. Kitchen closes
4:00 p.m. Plant sale closes
4:00 p.m. Show closes to public
Teardown commences

Show Set-up – Friday Evening

Volunteers are needed to arrive early and to help Bob Gould set up tables and backdrops for the show. Doors of Lakeside Garden Center will be open for work to start at 6:00 p.m. You need not go home for dinner before helping with set-up because EBBS will provide pizza and cold beverages for all workers. Come and join in the camaraderie of setting up the show.

All trees and accent and companion plants are to be delivered to the central hallway before 7:00 p.m. Trees are to be placed in the central hallway along the wall

next to the large kitchen. Companion and accent plants are to be placed on that wall toward the entrance doors. Materials for the tokonoma displays are to be placed, either on their carts or on tables, near the beverage dispensers.

In our show room, Janice Dilbeck will arrange the display of trees, and Polly Gould and Virginia Callaham will arrange companion and accent plants. Inge Woelfel will arrange the shohin display.

Bob Gould will be responsible for assigning particular tokonoma tables for displays by individual members. Each individual member is responsible for arrangement of his or her tokonoma.

Bob Callaham will be responsible for labeling trees after the display is arranged. Find him in the hallway making temporary labels to record the name, approximate age, years in cultivation, and owner's initials for every tree. Better yet, anticipate his need and ease his burden: fashion a label with that information and tape it onto the pot of each tree you bring.

BABA Tree Critique Saturday Morning

Kathy Shaner will do a critique of trees for the Bay Area Bonsai Associates on Saturday starting at 9:30 in the Ebel Room of the Garden Center. Many of the trees in the critique will be nearly finished bonsai that are worth seeing, and her comments will be of particular interest. EBBS members are welcome and encouraged to attend as silent observers.

Saturday Afternoon Workshop

There will be a workshop on Saturday afternoon starting at 1:00. Here, participants will work on their own trees under Kathy's direction. Participants will come away with not only a fine tree, but a little better understanding of the mechanics of bonsai creation. The cost to participate is \$50. Participants will provide their own trees, tools and wire. If you want to reserve a space in the workshop, call Janet Nelson (510) 482-8428. There are still several places available. Silent observers are welcome, so this is a learning experience available for us all.

Sunday Morning Critique

A critique of the trees in the show will be conducted by Kathy Shaner on Sunday morning starting at 8:30. This is a splendid learning experience for each of us and is by far the most valuable part of the show. Kathy has the view that fine bonsai are created only by a large number of small improvements over the years. No matter where your tree is in its development, she can point out changes to make it a better tree.

Sunday Demonstration

As her grand finale at our show, Kathy will refine a snarling, twisting juniper. You will want to attend her demo Sunday, starting at 1:00 p.m. to hear her explanations as she styles a special tree.

You must be present on Sunday at the conclusion of the demonstration to win Kathy's demo tree. Buy your tickets at any time, and drop your tickets in the bucket for the benefit drawing. Be present Sunday afternoon or leave your ticket stubs with someone who will attend the benefit drawing that follows the demonstration.

Teardown of show, Sun. Oct. 11, 4:00 p.m.

Our show will be dismantled promptly at 4:00 p.m. on Sunday, October 9. If you have trees in the show, you must be in position to remove them at 4:00 p.m. sharp. If you cannot fulfill this responsibility, then delegate it to someone who will be there. EBBS will not be responsible for damage to a tree or stand left unattended during this seemingly hectic process.

Hospitality Changes This Year

The Garden Room, where we usually have lunch during the show, will not be available to us at all on Saturday, and we will not have time to change its configuration on Sunday for lunch. So we are planning to confine serving and eating food to the large kitchen.

We will not have our usual potluck. Instead, the club will provide a modest fruit and sandwich lunch, mainly for club members. We will also have an anniversary cake.

Although our lunch will be "downsized", Bet will still need help in the kitchen preparing and serving lunch, and cleaning up afterwards. All of us can help by picking up after ourselves.

If you feel compelled to share a special treat, please make sure it does not need heating and is ready to serve when you bring it, and please clean up afterwards.

No Mid-Show Dinner

Note that without the Garden Room, we will not have the mid-show dinner on Saturday night.

Supporting the Show

Every member is asked to work at least one shift of two to three hours, either Saturday or Sunday. If you haven't already signed up, you can do so Friday night at set-up, or call the chairperson of the committee you wish to assist.

Please assist these responsible persons:

- **Show Chair** John Nackley, 925-376-9418
- **Hospitality (food service)** Bet Neary, 510-531-3141
- **Docent and Security (in show hall)** Ron Reed
- **Sales (of consigned and donated bonsai items)** Bill Castellon, 510-569-8003; Jim Gremel vending his pots, wire and tools in demonstration room
- **Workshop** Janet Nelson, 510-482-8428
- **Demonstration** Rick Trumm, 510-482-8428
- **Benefit Drawing** Alex Clarke, 707-746-1325
- **Reception** Tom Colby, 510-483-0858
- **Show set-up** Bob Gould 925-935-1914
- **Show teardown** Dennis Hawkins, 510-657-8229
- **Display** Janice Dilbeck 925-458-3845
 - **Tokonoma** – Bob Gould
 - **Accents** – Polly Gould, Virginia Callaham
 - **Shohin** – Inge Woelfel
 - **Labels** – Bob Callaham
- **Pizza** Janice Dilbeck

- **Beverages** Bob Callaham

Gremel vending at show

Jim Gremel will be selling his wire, pots, and tools in the Ebell Room during our show.

Donate your bonsai items for benefit drawing

John Nackley asks members to continue their tradition of generously donating quality bonsai-related items. Each item donated, whether for the benefit drawing or the sale area, qualifies as a contribution if you itemize your tax deductions.

Proceeds from the benefit drawing and from consignment sales are our primary means of recouping the substantial cost to EBBS for the demonstration. Members are asked to donate quality bonsai-related items for the drawing Sunday afternoon. This could be a tree, pot, stand, tool, book, plant, or suiseki.

Your donated items should be brought to Lakeside Garden Center Friday evening or Saturday before 11:00 a.m. Mark each item as a donation and, if you so desire, with your name. Leave your donations on the tables near the water fountain where items for benefit drawings are displayed.

Please remember that the benefit drawing is to raise money for EBBS. Only donate items you would appreciate winning. Any donated item considered unsuitable as a prize for the benefit drawing will be tagged and placed in the sale area. If the item is not sold, then the owner is responsible to remove it Sunday afternoon when the sale closes.

Sell your bonsai items at fall show

Chairman of the committee responsible for our sale of bonsai-related items is Bill Castellon. He reminds you that bonsai-related items may be donated to the sale to generate income for EBBS (and to provide a personal tax deduction). Any **donations** will be accepted Friday night, about 7:30 p.m., after the show room is set up or early Saturday morning.

Consignment items that members hope to sell should be brought at the same time. Remember that EBBS will retain 20-percent of income from each consignment item sold. If bringing items to be sold, you must obtain a supply of two-part tags plus a sheet for identifying your items.

Here are rules for sales at our shows:

1. Items that may be sold: healthy plants, **clean** pots, stands, tools, publications, saikei, and suiseki.
2. Bill has authority and responsibility to limit items from members that exceed the capacity of his limited space.
3. Seller must complete an inventory form, listing and describing every item and showing expected selling price. A completed tag must be attached to each item sold. If you reduce your price during the show, you must amend the inventory form. Bill will have forms and tags.
4. Each seller's earnings will be calculated as 80 percent of the "selling" price

5. Owners must claim unsold items by 4:00 p.m. on Sunday.

6. Treasurer's checks to sellers will occur within 30 days.

September Meeting

The speaker at the September meeting was Gordon Deeg who presented a fine program on pots. He illustrated the program with a large collection of his own pots.

A repeated point was that the pot must be in harmony with the tree. The choice of pot is important because it contributes to the artistic merit of the tree display and can be compared to the frame around a picture. The shape of the tree dictates the shape of the pot. Strong trees require a strong pot whereas delicate trees need a delicate shallow pot. As a general rule the size of the pot is determined by the height of the tree with the length of the pot being about two thirds of the height of the tree.

Conifers are usually shown in unglazed deep pots and deciduous trees are shown in glazed shallow pots. The pot chosen must provide a healthy environment for the tree with room for the roots to grow. Low fired pots are desired because they hold moisture in the growing medium which promotes root growth. Muted pot colors are desired because they do not focus attention away from the tree.

A pot exposed to the environment slowly develops a patina which indicates great age. While it is frequently thought that you should not use a good pot for a bad tree, the pot will develop a patina by its use and even though the tree may not have a bright future, the pot will benefit by exposure to growing conditions. The beauty of bonsai trees is the apparent great age of the tree. The older the apparent age of the pot, indicated by the patina, the greater is the apparent age of the tree.

Prior to a show, an unglazed pot should be gently cleaned and oiled. Mineral oil, or even better, butcher block oil can be used. Glazed pots are not oiled because oil makes the pot shinier and new looking. Vigorous cleaning of the pot, particularly with harsh chemicals, can remove the patina from the pot and thus is discouraged.

An excellent source for more information on pot selection is *Bonsai Techniques, Volume Two* by John Naka which has an extensive discussion of pots. A second source is any of the Kokufu catalogues which show pictures of trees, pots and stands chosen by Japanese masters, and is a guide to combining tree shape to pot shapes.

Gordon gave insight to a subject that doesn't always get the attention that it deserves. We look forward to having Gordon again as a future speaker.

No Meeting October 12

Our regular October meeting has been canceled due to its date being only three days after our show. Next regular meeting will be November 9.

November Meeting

Hinoki cypress makes splendid bonsai and yet is not seen as often as it should be. Randle Lee, a long time

member of EBBS, will present a much needed program on the joy of growing Hinoki cypress.

Collection's Introduction to Bonsai

An introduction to the world of bonsai is held at the Bonsai Garden Lake Merritt on the fourth Sunday of the month. The program is an informal short lecture about bonsai, often followed by a walk through the garden illustrating points raised in the talk. East Bay Bonsai Society has taken over this program to reach out to the community, and to recruit participants as prospective club members. J. D. Lin is the September leader. If you are interested in leading one of these worthwhile programs in the future, contact one of the board members.

Merritt College Bonsai Club recommended for bonsai instruction

Your Board of Directors recommends that new and experienced members who want hands-on bonsai training join Merritt College Bonsai Club.

Merritt College Bonsai Club is where many EBBS members started their work with bonsai. MCBC has meetings every 4th Monday except when college is not in session. Meetings start at 7 p.m. The venue is the Landscape Horticulture Building at Merritt College, off Redwood Road in the Oakland hills.

Leading the workshops are two distinguished bonsai artists who are members of EBBS, Bill Castellon and Randall Lee. Members of EBBS having questions should contact either Bill @ (510) 569-8003 or Randall @ (510) 864-0841.

EBBS Needs a Newsletter Editor and Articles

The newsletter is the voice of the club and that means that it is your voice. If you have something that you would like to share with the rest of the club, jot it down and send it to Janice Dilbeck for inclusion in the newsletter.

If you have any interest in being newsletter editor, please let one of your board members know.

Newsletters and rosters by e-mail

For each member, annual costs to produce and deliver monthly newsletters and a roster average approximately \$7. To save that cost, 21 members have notified your editor that they will accept their newsletters and rosters via e-mail. If you want to receive newsletters via e-mail, notify janicedilbeck@comcast.net.

Events by others

GSBF's Bonsai and Suiseki Garden: open Wed., Thurs., Fri. 11:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m., Sat. 10:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m., Sun. 12:00 noon–4:00 p.m. Enter at gate across from Boat House.

October 1. **San Jose, California.** Midori Bonsai Club: 50th Annual Bonsai Show in conjunction with the Spirit of Japantown Festival at the Wesley United Methodist, Fellowship Hall, 566 N. 5th Street. Hours are 10AM-5PM. Bonsai demonstration at 1PM by Kathy Shaner with a raffle at the end of the demonstration. Admission free.

October 15-16. **Union City, California.** Yamato Bonsai Kai: *40th Annual Bonsai Exhibition* and demonstrations featuring Johnny Uchida, at the

Southern Alameda County Buddhist Church, 32975 Alvarado-Niles Road. Admission of \$5.00 includes entry to the exhibit & sales area, viewing of the demonstration and a raffle entry for the demonstration tree. Saturday event hours are 1PM - 9PM with an evening demonstration at 7PM. Yamato members will serve dinner from 5-6PM; donations accepted. Come for the Saturday exhibition, have dinner and stay for the demonstration. Sunday event hours are from 10AM - 4PM with an afternoon demonstration at 1PM. Visit www.yamatobonsaikai.org for additional information.

October 22-23. **Sacramento, California.** Capitol City Bonsai Association: *12th Anniversary Show* to support the GSBF Bonsai Garden at Lake Merritt and the Sacramento bonsai clubs. Location is the Shepard Garden and Arts Center, 3330 McKinley Blvd. in McKinley Park. Show hours are Saturday, 10AM-5PM and Sunday, 10AM-4PM. Demonstration both days at 1:30PM by sponsor clubs with special bonsai raffle drawings to follow. Vendor and club member sales areas. Contact Gary Judd, juddbonsai@att.net or 916-622-8048 for more information.

October 27–30. **Riverside, California.** *Golden State Bonsai Federation Convention XXXIV, Bonsai Full Circle* at the Marriott Hotel and Convention Center, 3400 Market Street. Headliners are: Kathy Shaner, Ryan Neil, Roy Nagatoshi, and Pedro Morales. Demonstrations, seminars, critiques, workshops, benefit drawings, vendors and more. More information available at www.gsbf-bonsai.org.

November 3. **Hanford, California.** The Clark Center for Japanese Art and Culture Annual Spring Festival/*Kazari Bonsai Display Competition 2011* at 15770 Tenth Avenue, Hanford, featuring lectures, a workshop, and a Bonsai and Antique Fair with art and food vendors, sale of bonsai and plants, and an after hours reception. Hours are 10AM-5PM. Prize money for the best judged Tokoname displays will be \$2500, \$1000, \$500 in the honor of the contributions of Japanese-American citizens. General admission: \$5. To reserve tickets for the lecture by Kathy Shaner, Curator of the GSBF Bonsai Garden at Lake Merritt, the Beginner Workshop or the Wine and Cheese Reception contact us at info@ccjac.org. For details about participating in the competition contact the Clark Center's Bonsai Curator, Bob Hilvers at bonsai@ccjac.org

November 11-12. **Ross, California.** Marin Bonsai Club: Fall Show at the Marin Art and Garden Center, Livermore Room, 50 Sir Francis Drake Blvd. Friday hours are 5:30-9:30PM and includes a dinner at \$5 per head, a bunjin style Shimpaku Juniper demonstration by Ted Matson, a silent auction and raffles. Saturday hours are 10AM-4PM and include individual consultations by Ted Matson from 9AM-1PM, a club demonstration at 11AM, vendor and club sales and raffles. At 1.30PM there will be a critique of show trees by Ted Matson. For dinner

reservations or more information call Jeanette Arnold, 415-883-2651. For individual consultations call Candace Key, 415-491-1989.

December 3. **Fresno, California.** Fresno Area Bonsai Clubs: Fourth Annual Bonsai Yard Sale at 736 West Browning Avenue from 8AM-3PM. There will be a very large selection of raw materials, some finished bonsai, used pots, books, magazines, and stands, all at very reasonable prices. Everyone is welcome to participate. If you wish to sell or trade bonsai related items or need a table, please contact us in advance so that we may plan space accordingly. Lunch will be available. Contact Ralph Schroeder at 559 271-8299 or ralSch@sbcglobal.net

Articles or Services for Sale (or give-away)

Mature bonsai for sale as well as a large variety of bonsai pots of different sizes, shapes and colors. Call Jim Heady 925-253-9399

Wanted to Buy (or for free)

SOMETHING you need or want? Call or write to place an ad.

Each membership household, free of charge, may place a five-line ad related to bonsai in two newsletters each year. Members wanting to place either larger or frequent ads should contact the editor. Send a copy of ads to your editor by the fourth Monday of the month to appear in the next publication. To place an add call (925) 458-3845.

East Bay Bonsai Society—Schedule for 2011
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Regular Meetings: Second Wednesday, every month (except August) @ 7:30 p.m.

Place: Lakeside Garden Center, 666 Bellevue Avenue, Oakland.

Visitors welcome—for more information: call: (925) 431-0452

Visit EBBS' web site: <http://www.gsbf-bonsai.org/ebbs/>.

Website for Bonsai Garden Lake Merritt<<http://www.gsbf-bonsai.org/lake-merritt/NewHome.html>>

Meeting Program

Oct 12 Meeting canceled due to proximity to show
Nov 9 Randall Lee will do a demonstration on hinoki cypress
Dec 14 Holiday potluck dinner

Special Event

Oct 8-9 Fall Show, Kathy Shaner, featured artist
