



The Tree Shrinker

A MONTHLY BULLETIN
Volume XXXIX, No. 9

September Meeting: September 14, 2011 @ 7:30 pm

July Auction

The accounting for the July auction has been completed by our world traveling treasurer. The income to the club was nearly \$1000 and was far higher than in recent years. The increased income was due in part to the high level of donations (nearly \$500) and also a reflection of the fine quality of the trees offered. Thanks to all who sold and who bought trees as well as to the many people who helped with making the auction a great success. The income from the auction will allow the board to continue to fund the fine programs that the club has enjoyed in the past.

Last Month's Picnic

The August potluck was held at the home of Rick Trumm and Janet Nelson. It was a wonderful event. The weather was pleasantly warm, the collection of bonsai was breath taking and the food was superb. Once again the meal demonstrated the East Bay Bonsai Society has some very talented cooks. The best part of the day was the gracious hospitality of the hosts. The club owes a big thank you to Rick and Janet not only for hosting the potluck this year but for the many times they have done this in the past.

September Meeting

Pots, pots, pots. Have you ever wondered why trees look better with some pots than others? Did you think that round pots are only meant for people who can't decide on where the front of their trees is? Have you heard that some pots breathe better than others? Now that is a scary thought.

On the next regular meeting on September 14 at the garden center Gordon Deeg will present a program on pots and will answer these questions as well as much more. Gordon brings a wealth of experience to his programs. He has been active in bonsai for many years and is currently the Director of the Bonsai Garden Lake Merritt. He regularly goes to Japan to work with Yasuo Mitsuya, one of the outstanding masters in Japan. On top of all that, Gordon is a fine lecturer.

There will not be a demo tree to be raffled at this meeting, but if you have a pot or a tree you could donate to the raffle it would help make the raffle interesting.

September Refreshments

Thanks in advance to Pat Cahill, Polly Gould, and Grant Foerster who will provide refreshments for your enjoyment at our September meeting.

Fall Show, October 8-9

Show times a coming! Our 50th year anniversary show will be held in October and we want to make this show special. Our headliner will be Kathy Shaner who completed a five year apprenticeship in Japan with Yasuo Mitsuya, who is one of the finest bonsai artists in Japan. Kathy has given many highly successful workshops and demonstrations in the Bay Area in the past and we are very fortunate to have her as a talented headliner. This will be her first appearance at Easy Bay Bonsai Society for several years so we are looking forward to a special event.

Part of making our show special is for everyone to participate. There is a lot of work to be done so please plan to help with one or more of the activities. A particular need is help with teardown and cleanup at the end of the show when everyone just wants to take their tree and go home. Be generous with your time both at sign-up at the September meeting and when the various committee chairs call asking for help. We still have a need for a publicity chair and a person who can solicit donations for the raffle from local nurseries. Contact John Nackley if you are interested in either position.

Another way to make the show special is for everyone to display at least one tree. If you have never displayed a tree, don't be shy. You will be surprised how nice your tree will look when it is all dolled up for the show and how proud you will be that your tree is on display. Part of the show activities is a critique of the trees by our headliner Kathy Shaner on Sunday morning. This is an opportunity for seeing what could be done to improve your tree. This is particularly valuable for beginners, but also benefits everyone who displays a tree.

Kathy will lead a workshop in connection with the show in which you will work under her direction on one of your trees. This is a fine learning experience where you not only see improvement in your tree but the techniques you learn can be applied to other trees in your collection. The workshop will be Saturday afternoon, 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. The fee for the workshop is \$50, which must be prepaid. There will be a sign-up for the workshop at the September meeting. There's a limit of 6 participants, so sign up early. For more information, contact Janet Nelson at 510-482-8428.

Part of the show is a plant sale by members. This is a great opportunity to sell plants that you no longer are interested in. The customers are not only bonsai people

who appreciate good quality bonsai but also the general public who are interested in starter plants. Look over your collection to see if there isn't a plant or two that you would like to sell. As usual, be sure your plants are in good health. The seller gets 80% of the selling price and the remainder goes to the club to help defray the cost of the show.

As is the custom, all trees exhibited in the show should be shown on a stand. This is sometimes a problem particularly for first time exhibitors. There are a couple of inexpensive options if you do not have a stand. Mats made from long pieces of bamboo are available in stores catering to Asian goods and make great platforms for trees. They should be at least 3 or 4 inches longer than the pot so best measure your pot before you go shopping. Another alternative is a group of three wooden boards 3 or 4 inches longer than your pot and placed side by side with a small gap between them. Easily available one by four lumber works well for this. Cut the lumber into sections, sand them and paint them black. Krylon spray, sold at the local hardware store, does the job nicely.

Help to set-up and takedown. Just a reminder that the services of every member will be needed in the set-up on Friday Oct. 7, at 6:00 p.m. and take down of the show on Sunday Oct. 11 at 4:00 p.m.

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.

Introduction to Bonsai

EBBS is taking over the 4th Sunday workshops at the BGLM. The target audience is people new to bonsai. If interested, please feel free to drop in. These are free, on the 4th Sunday of the month at the BGLM, and from 1-3. You may bring a tree, or not. These sessions are pretty informal, and led by our club members.

Club Finances

The board of directors is responsible for carrying out the business of your club. They arrange for programs, manage finances, negotiate with the city for a meeting place and all the many other details required to make the club run smoothly. If you have any questions or suggestions about the club activities, bring them up to a member of the board for discussion at the next board meeting. The club finances are about your money. Each month the treasurer prepares a detailed accounting of the club finances. If you have questions about the club finances, ask the treasurer for a copy of her current report.

Roster Updates

Oops--- we got it wrong. The phone number for Ruben and Kay Guzman was incorrectly listed in the roster. Their number is 925-978-4697.

We also have a new member who has joined EBBS, Ernest Katler. His number is 510-52-7461. Welcome to the club Ernest!

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 think 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. This might be a comment on a bonsai technique or a show you attended at another club or whatever else you think is of general interest. Don't be shy - it is your newsletter. Janice reserves the right to play the role of gentle editor.

Janice wants to give special thanks to Tom Colby and John Nackley for their ongoing contributions to the newsletter. They have made the job of interim editor a piece of cake!

That said, EBBS could use a permanent newsletter editor. If you have any interest, 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.

August 27-28. **Santa Rosa, California.** Redwood Empire Bonsai Society (REBS): *28th Annual Show* at the Veteran's building, 1351 Maple Avenue. Hours are Saturday from 10AM-5PM and Sunday from 10AM-4PM. There will be 200 trees on display, a large vendor area, a members sales room, a demonstration by Kathy Shaner at 1:30PM each day and a benefit drawing and silent auction. Admission and parking are free. Contact Bob Shimon at shimon@mcn.org or 707-884-4126 for additional information.

September 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

September 3-5. **Seattle, Washington. Pacific Northwest Bonsai Clubs Association Convention XXII:** Elegance in Emerald City at the Fairmont Olympic Hotel, 411 University Street. Featured Artists are Michael Hagedorn, Boon Manakitivipart, Ryan Neil, and Suthin Sukosolivist. Bonsai exhibit, demonstrations, workshops, critiques, raffles, auctions, and vendors. Visit www.psba.us for more information.

September 18. **San Mateo, California.** San Mateo Bonsai Club: 48th Annual Bonsai Show at the San Mateo Gardeners Association Hall, 503 E. 5th Avenue. Hours are 10AM-5PM. Demonstration at 2PM. Bonsai sale. Free admission. For more information contact Sam Tachibana, 650-548-9470.

September 24-25. **Penryn, California.** Sierra Bonsai Club & Nevada County Bonsai Club are jointly participating in the Placer Buddhist Church Annual Food Bazaar and Bonsai Show at the Placer Buddhist Church, 3192 Boyington Road. Hours are Saturday, 11AM-5PM and Sunday, 11AM-4PM, with bonsai demonstrations at 2PM both days. Bonsai trees and pots will be for sale. For more details visit www.placerbuddhistchurch.org

October 1-2. **Thousand Oaks, California.** Conejo Valley Bonsai Society: *8th Annual Bonsai Exhibition* at the Resource Center at the Gardens of the World, 2001 Thousand Oak Blvd. Hours are 9AM-4PM both days. Demonstrations in the Bandstand at 11AM and 2PM Saturday and Sunday, respectively. Free Admission. No sales of bonsai related items. For more information, call Marj Branson, 805-373-1330 or visit our web site at www.cvbs-bonsai.org

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 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.

Officers of EBBS, 2011

President — Jim Blanton (925) 431-0452

Vice-Pres. — John Nackley (925) 376-9418

Past-Pres. — J.D. Lin (510) 834-8717

Secretary — Janice Dilbeck (925) 458-3845

Treasurer — Pat Cahill (510) 547-0831

Directors, 2010-2011 — Tom Colby, Bob Gould

Directors, 2011-2012 — Dennis Hawlins, Inge Woelfel

Editor, "The Tree Shrinker" — vacant

Librarians — Tom and June Colby, (510) 483-0858

East Bay Bonsai Society—Schedule for 2011

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

Sep 14 Gordon Deeg will do a presentation on pots

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

Preparing trees for show

(Adapted, with supplementation by Bob Gould, from an article in the Kusamura Bonsai Club newsletter, April, 1997, which was adapted from both an article by Bob Bauder in Marin Bonsai Club newsletter and "A Year of Bonsai Tips" by Jim Ransohoff)

Crown

- Fine wiring is the key to detailed grooming, but for a tree to be shown this fall it should have been wired in March or last fall
 - Remove wire that has served its purpose; no wire should cross the trunk
 - Shorten or remove elongate new shoots, so-called water sprouts
 - Resist the temptation to prune foliage, apply fine wire and move to appropriate positions
 - Remove undergrowth on each branch; show undersides of major branches
 - Cutback foliage that interferes with viewing of trunk; shorten to two leaves or remove entirely
 - Pay particular attention to the apex; as a focal point it needs special attention; assure that it bows to the viewer (except on a formal-upright styled tree)
 - Remove any yellowing or brown foliage
 - Examine critically the trunk and branches, remove any unsightly stubs of branches, and apply cut-paste
- Apply a top-dressing of relatively fine, uniform particles; consider using 1/8"–1/4" screened fir bark, 1/16"–1/8" screened expanded shale, black lava, or combinations (sources are Clarke's Rocks at Clawitter and Wilson in Hayward and American Soil Products in Berkeley and Marin Co.); press down firmly and then brush lightly for uniform texture
 - Moss, if appropriate as a top-dressing under your tree, should be fresh and green; mixes or mosaics of mosses and lichens give a more natural look; moss should be patchy, not "wall-to-wall"; islands of moss in a top dressing of black lava are attractive; screened fine bark sprinkled over moss and then lightly brushed off gives a natural look

Trunk

- When appropriate, spray trunk with water and rub with tooth (or wire) brush to remove bark flakes

Growing medium

- Add growing mix to cover exposed roots up to just below their departure from the root collar; sever small exposed roots or cover them with growing mix
- Remove all moss and liverworts growing on either the trunk or exposed roots
- Remove debris from surface

Accent and companion plants

- Clean out dead and dying vegetation, except when it gives the very desirable appearance of natural growth in fall where dead and dying members bend over and touch the ground while living members stand tall
- Remove debris, moss, and liverworts, as above
- Apply appropriately sized top-dressing

Pots and stands

- Remove mineral residue on pots by applying white vinegar or rubbing alcohol to a cloth and rubbing; stubborn deposits may require rubbing with a green "Scotch" scrubber; erasers for cleaning tools also are effective on pots
- Just before the show, wipe unglazed pots with mineral or vegetable oil on a "hard," lint-free rag (old toweling); buff with a dry lint-free rag
- Apply felt pads to feet of pots to prevent scratching of stands
- Polish stands and apply scratch remover where needed

Hideko Metaxas on “Displaying Bonsai”

(Based upon a lecture and demonstration given at a meeting of East Bay Bonsai Society, 13 Sep 2000, Lakeside Garden Center, Oakland, CA)

Hideko Metaxas opened her talk with her
“Basic Rules”:

1. Essentials for your display—
Tokonoma, an alcove in a Japanese home, a place of honor; intent is to bring universe into home with flowers, suiseki, bonsai, other art-forms
Japanese crafts—bonsai and shohin, screens, carvings, cloth or paper materials, etc.
Honor the season (or a special day, e.g., doll-day)
Express your own creativity
2. Space is more important than crowding (if space is confined use only one or two objects))
3. Express time and care—Japanese consider themselves fortunate to achieve a displayable tree in five years
4. Clean thoroughly—tree, top-dressing, pot, and stand
5. Find a correct pot. (You never find the perfect pot!)
6. Find a correct stand. (You need a closet full of different sizes and shapes!)
7. Find complementary pieces—
A tree, no matter how small never should be used to complement a bonsai!
A suiseki (= viewing stone) must have a dai (= stand) or be in a suiban (= very shallow pot lacking a drainage hole)
Ceramic or metal animals must conform to season: frog in spring or summer; cricket in summer or fall
Scroll
If using calligraphy, know meaning and correct top
Express season: flowers and birds in spring and summer; autumn leaves in fall; shooting star in summer/fall; persimmon in late summer/fall; moon and ferns any month
8. Recognize and honor direction of visual flow—
Tree's visual flow is from dominant side (usually narrower) toward recessive side (usually wider or with spear-branch)
Companion piece (plant, suiseki, etc.) must have the opposite direction of flow and be placed to frame or “stop” flow of the tree's visual image
Companion plant(s) usually is (are) placed in line with front of tree's stand
Companion suiseki usually placed behind projection of rear of stand (as a distant mountain). Hagedorn and DeGroot confirm that only very rarely is a suiseki shown with a bonsai at the grandest bonsai shows
Scrolls also are right- or left-side dominant and should be placed to “stop” the flow of tree's visual image
9. Tiered or circular stands—
Plant on uppermost shelf should be from a source of highest elevation and plants from lower elevations should be on lower shelves
Hideko's further comments and discussion brought out these points:
 - Pot depth should be greater or less than height of stand; stand height never should = pot depth
 - Bunjin-styled trees (long, slender trunk, crown of few branches) must be in a bunjin pot (round and shallow)
 - Stand for a bunjin-styled tree never should be rectangular or with sharp corners: use an oval stand, better yet use a slab that moves in direction of tree's visual flow
 - Companion plant for a bunjin-styled tree should be on a thin slab, never on a rectangular stand; consider removing plant from its pot and placing it directly on slab or in a suiban