



# The Tree Shrinker

Volume XXXX, No. 8

A MONTHLY BULLETIN

**August Potluck Picnic:** August 11, 2012 @ 2:00 – 4:30 pm  
Nelson-Trumm Residence – see below for location and directions

**(No regular meeting in August)**

## President's Note

Congratulations to EBBS members for the success of our July auction! The good news is that we seemed to make our goal of funding the club's programs for another year. Bob Callaham, our experienced auctioneer, was unable to work his usual magic due to illness. We wish him a smooth recovery. Special thanks go to Bob Gould, Dennis and Bet Neary for arriving there at 6 PM to have the set up practically complete by the time the rest of us arrived.

Despite our financial stability, the increase in cost of annual programming has forced the Board to make some economical changes. Beginning in 2013, we are asking the members who receive *The Tree Shrinker* by land mail to pay \$5 annually to cover a portion of the cost of printing, postage, and paper. This allows the membership fees to remain stable. In addition to this change, we hope to add smarter purchase of food and supplies in the upcoming year.

In truth, the majority of the cost of our organization is reduced by volunteer manpower, that is, by the members who contribute their time and gifts. This factor remains the one distinguishing factor that floats or sinks any nonprofit group. So again, congratulations East Bay Bonsai, and let us kick it up a notch for the October show. Hope to see you at the August Potluck.

## Last Month's Auction

The July auction was a great success. Final accounting of the July auction indicated that the club earned \$825. This is a little less than last year but still a good reward for our efforts. Thirty four bidders purchased items from 9 sellers and 9 donors. The highlight of the evening was a magnificent red pine which exchanged hands for \$350. It is clear that our treasury benefitted from all the efforts of the many club members who helped to organize and stage the event as well as those who bought and sold plants. Once again Janet Nelson coordinated the event and her efforts made for a smooth operation. Thanks Janet for your help as well as for the many past auctions where you have served as coordinator.

Particular praise was heaped on our two auctioneers. The original intent was to have Bob

Callaham as one of the auctioneers, but he called in sick at the last minute. John Nackley filled in as an admirable replacement. The other auctioneer was Jim Blanton. Jim claimed last year that he had never served as an auctioneer but he would give it his best shot. He was wildly successful. He agreed to be an auctioneer for the recent auction and again performed brilliantly. Has he been practicing or is it raw talent? Thanks to both John and Jim for making the auction a fast paced, fun event.

Last year the board allowed nonmembers to enter items in the auction as an experiment which was ultimately judged as a positive move for the club. This year the auction was again opened to nonmembers under the same terms as members (20% of the selling price goes to the club etc.) and this resulted again in an overall improvement in the quality of auctioned items. Bob Gould solicited a number of trees from nonmembers which included a group of outstanding shohin.

John Nackley was able to solicit donated auction items from several local nurseries. Contributing nurseries were Moraga Garden Center, 1400 Moraga Rd., Moraga, Mount Diablo Nursery and Garden, 3295 Mount Diablo Blvd, Lafayette, Orchard Nursery 4010 Mount Diablo Blvd., Lafayette and McDonnell Nursery, 196 Moraga Way, Orinda. These businesses went out of their way to help us with their generous donations and it behooves us to go out of our way to patronize them when we need nursery supplies. While there, please pass the word to the manager that the club benefited from their contribution and that this was much appreciated.

Last, but not least, thanks to the many people who helped with the many tasks required to put on the auction. Your efforts to make the auction a success will be repaid in the form of more money in the treasury which, in turn will fund more of the great programs in future club meetings.

## August Potluck

August is the annual picnic which will be held on Saturday, August 11, at the house of Janet and Rick Trumm. The picnic will start at 2:00.

This is one of the clubs' social highlights of the year and should not be missed. Janet and Rick have a large collection of spectacular bonsai which they are happy to show off. The chance to see and enjoy their bonsai is worthy of your visit alone. Best of all, the picnic is a chance for members to socialize on an informal basis. The meal is pot luck and food assignments are as follows:

**Appetizer - Last name: A-G**

**Entrée - Last name: H-L**

**Side dish or salad - Last name: M-R**

**Dessert - Last name S-Z**

Be sure to bring utensils required for serving your contribution. The club will provide wine and soft drinks. Oakland hills can be occasionally a bit cool and breezy so best to dress in layers.

Directions are as follows: Take highway 24 (from the north or east) or highway 580 (from the south) to highway 13, the Warren Freeway. Proceed to the Redwood Road exit and go east on Redwood Road toward the summit. Take a right on Skyline Blvd. which is at the summit. Make a hard left onto Balmoral Drive and find #5749. The house will be on your left on a corner a short distance up the hill. If lost or you need other information, call 510-482-8428.

See you there!

### **September Meeting**

The September meeting will focus on how to prepare your trees for display at the show. The meeting will feature short talks by EBBS members on specific aspects of tree preparation. Dennis Hawkins will discuss grooming of the tree and will address matters such as what wire can be left on your tree and what wire should be removed for the show. Bob Gould will tell us how to top dress your tree. Tom Colby will address the problem of stands for displaying your trees. Polly Gould will present ideas for accent plants. As you may have noticed compared with other club shows, a strong point with EBBS is the fine quality of the accent plants. Polly is the creator of many of these plants so her talk will be most informative. Inge Woelfel will conclude with a discussion of the display of shohin trees. These speakers have each had long experience in bonsai and so the talks will offer new information to us all.

There will not be a formal workshop scheduled for this meeting, but time will be set aside for consultation with other club members on specific display questions you might have, so bring in your problem trees.

### **Show Times a' coming**

Excitement is building for our show in October. The time will be quickly upon us when we need to be assembling materials for our show display. The Redwood Empire Show in Santa Rosa held August 27 and 28 features a very large vendor sales area and most of your needs such as accent plants, stands and pots will be available for sale. And yes, there usually

are show-ready trees for sale, too. Further details of the show are listed in the *Events by Others* section of this newsletter. The show is also one of the largest and finest in the country so there is a lot to see. It is well worth the longish trek to Santa Rosa.

### **Our Pres.**

We have all seen our president, John Nackley leading the monthly meetings. He has a way of projecting the image that the meeting is not only important, but will be fun too. For this alone John deserves a pat on the back, but there is much that John does behind the scenes for which he deserves credit.

He willingly does jobs that somehow no one else is quick to volunteer for. For example, when Bob Callahan who was scheduled to be our auctioneer called in sick, it was John who not only filled in, but also stopped by Bob's house to pick up the beverages. It was John who approached local nurseries for donations, not only for this year's auction but last years as well.

It was John who purchased the refreshments for the recent frolic in the park meeting.

The Board has already begun to plan for the holiday meeting and it was John who volunteered to negotiate the best prices for the ham and turkey which the club provides. John also volunteered to pick up these items.

John also serves as a vital member of the mighty team which produces this newsletter. He is the Distribution Manager who prints, folds and mails newsletters to those who wish hard copies.

Board meetings can occasionally get a bit boisterous and John draws on skills learned in his most recent day job, dealing with kids, to keep the meetings focused.

EBBS would be a much poorer club without John and his willingness and enthusiasm. Take a moment at the next club function to personally thank him for his many contributions to the club. He richly deserves it and, by the way, don't you think that some of us should offer to give him a hand with his many tasks?

### **Golden State Bonsai Federation**

You may have heard about the Golden State Bonsai Federation (GSBF) but do not have a clear picture about what the various functions of GSBF really are. The original intent was that it would be an umbrella organization serving all the bonsai clubs in the State for matters of mutual concern, as well as serving as a vehicle for improving the status of bonsai within the State. These original precepts remain the focus of the organization today.

The GSBF has four broad areas of interest. The first is directly responding to club needs. California is divided into districts with a GSBF trustee assigned to each. Trustees are expected to visit the clubs in their district and serve as an information conduit between the clubs and GSBF, bringing the needs of the clubs to the attention of GSBF.

One need currently addressed is providing liability insurance to the clubs at a reasonable cost.

Currently under study is a program to subsidize the visit of noted bonsai teachers to some of the smaller

more outlying clubs. The driving force for this study is that these clubs have a problem attracting accomplished bonsai teachers. GSBF is exploring ways to help.

Other concerns of the clubs will be considered as they arise.

A second area of interest is to improve the status of bonsai in the state. Toward this end, GSBF is reconstituting the bonsai basics program to certify teachers throughout the state. GSBF is also interested in establishing a judged exhibit as these have led to improved bonsai trees in both Europe and the east coast of the United States. GSBF maintains grants and scholarship programs which help fund the study of bonsai by promising enthusiasts and teachers.

The third area of interest is in the area of communication. GSBF publishes Golden Statements, a magazine filled with articles about noted personalities, bonsai culture, club activities and much more. If you do not subscribe to Golden Statements you are missing out on a lot. The magazine comes out six times a year and the annual subscription cost is only twenty five dollars, which is a bargain for all the information you get. Subscription requests may be sent to Subscription Manager, 3681 East Curtis Dr., Sacramento, CA, 95818. GSBF also had a web site which also is packed with valuable information.

Lastly, GSBF maintains two collections of superior bonsai, one in Oakland and the other one in Huntington Gardens in southern California. Although day to day operation is conducted by local staff and volunteers, the overall operation of both of these gardens is overseen by GSBF who approves major expenditures, audits the books and provides liability insurance for the gardens.

The major fundraising effort to pay for all these programs are the conventions held each year, alternating between sites in southern and northern California. The 2012 convention will be held in Sacramento in late October.

The conventions have two agendas. First, they present an unparalleled learning experience because the demonstrators are usually some of the worlds' finest bonsai artists, coming from Japan and Europe as well as the United States. The many workshops available feature a wide variety of trees.

The second agenda is that the conventions are a place where you can meet fellow bonsai enthusiasts from all over the state. The friendships you make are arguably more valuable in the long haul than what you learn.

Vendors come to the conventions from all over the country and sell a wide range of trees and other bonsai related materials. If you are looking for a stand or a special pot for your tree, it is likely that you can find one at a convention.

GSBF makes a valuable contribution to bonsai in the state and deserves your support.

### **Bonsai Instruction at Merritt College**

The monthly workshops at Merritt College will resume starting in August. The workshops are a

splendid opportunity to learn about how to develop your trees into first class bonsai. The classes are open to all experience levels.

The workshops are held at 7:00 pm on the fourth Monday of each month in the Landscape Horticulture Building at Merritt College, which is located off Redwood Road in Oakland. Leading the workshops are two members of EBBS, Bill Castelon and Randall Lee. Members can contact Bill at 510-569-8003 or Randall at 510-864-0841 for further information. The workshops are a wonderful experience and all you need to take advantage of them is just to go and bring your tree. Don't pass them up!

### **Newsletters and Rosters by E-mail**

The cost of mailing a newsletter to a household is about \$7.00 per year. When a goodly number of members desire a paper copy the cost to the club becomes significant. If you would like to try receiving the newsletter by email, contact Janice Dilbeck either in person or at [Janicedilbeck@comcast.net](mailto:Janicedilbeck@comcast.net). If you find that an emailed copy does not meet your requirements you can always switch back to a paper copy.

### **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.

Aug 4 – 5, San Francisco: San Francisco Suiseki Kai: 31st annual exhibit at the Japan Center, 10 AM - 4 PM both days. Location: Union Bank Hospitality Room, Japan Center, 1675 Post Street.

August 21 Ross: Marin Bonsai Club Annual Auction, Marin Art and Garden Center, Livermore Room, 30 Sir Francis Drake Blvd. Viewing at 7PM and auction starts at 7:30 PM. Specimen bonsai, pre-bonsai and everything inbetween, along with pots and other bonsai related items will be auctioned. Cash and check sales only. For more information please contact Craig Thompson, 415-472-6685 or [craigethompson@hotmail.com](mailto:craigethompson@hotmail.com).

August 25 - 26, Santa Rosa: Redwood Empire Bonsai Society (REBS): 29th Annual Show at the Santa Rosa Veterans Memorial Building, 1351 Maple Ave. The show will be held on Saturday from 10 AM - 5 PM and Sunday from 10 AM - 4 PM. There will be 200 trees on display for public viewing, members' sales room, large vendor area, benefit drawing, and silent auction. Demonstration both days at 1 PM by club sensei Kathy Shaner. Refreshments, parking, and admission are free. For more information, contact Bob Shimon at 707-884-4126 or [shimon@mcn.org](mailto:shimon@mcn.org).

September 22 - 23, 2012 Penryn: Sierra Bonsai Club Show at the Placer Buddhist Church, 3192 Boyington Road is in conjunction with the Annual Placer Buddhist Church Teriyaki Festival & Bazaar. Cultural arts, food, & entertainment may be enjoyed at this free admission event. Hours are Saturday, 11 AM-5 PM and Sunday, 11 AM - 4 PM. For more

information, please contact Mark Knittle at (530) 401-2610.

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**Articles or Services for Sale (or give-away)**

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**Wanted to Buy (or for free)**

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

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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.

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<b>East Bay Bonsai Society—Schedule for 2012</b>
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**Regular Meetings:** Second Wednesday, every month (except August and October) @ 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.eastbaybonsai.org>.

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

**Meeting Program**

<b>Aug 11</b>	Potluck
<b>Aug 26</b>	BGLM Introduction to Bonsai with Janet Nelson
<b>Sep 12</b>	Preparing trees for the show
<b>Sep 23</b>	BGLM Introduction to Bonsai with Tom Colby
<b>Oct 10</b>	No club meeting due to proximity to show
<b>Oct 28</b>	BGLM Introduction to Bonsai with Bob Gould
<b>Nov 14</b>	Junipers
<b>Nov 25</b>	BGLM Introduction to Bonsai with Dennis Hawkins
<b>Dec 12</b>	Holiday Dinner

**Special Event**

**Oct 13-14** Fall Show, John Thompson, featured artist

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