



The Tree Shrinker

Volume XXXXII, No. 10

A MONTHLY BULLETIN

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East Bay Bonsai Society

Annual Show: October 11-12, 2014

October Meeting: ~~October 8, 2014~~ **CANCELED**

Show

Our annual show will be held on Saturday October 11 and Sunday, October 12 at the Lakeside Garden Center. Show hours are 10:00 to 5:00 on Saturday and 10:00 to 4:00 on Sunday. Set up for the show will be from 6:00 pm to 10:00 pm on Friday, October 10.

The headliner for the show is Matt Reel who has spent several years in Japan studying bonsai under a Japanese master bonsai artist. He is currently considering relocating back to the United States. Our show is one of the first events featuring his talents since his return from Japan and we are very lucky to have him as our headliner.

Schedule of Show Events

The schedule of the weekend activities is as follows:

Friday Night -10/10/14

- 6:00 pm Show set-up starts
- 10:00 pm Set-up finished, doors locked

Saturday – 10/11/14

- 9:00 am Hall is opened
- 9:30 am Pastries and coffee are provided
- 9:30 am BABA critique in Ebell Room
- 10:00 am Show and sale open to public
- 11:30 am Hospitality room opens for lunch
- 12:30 am BABA critique ends
- 1:00 pm Workshop in Ebell Room
- 2:00 pm Hospitality room closes
- 4:00 pm Workshop ends
- 5:00 pm Show and sale close to public

Sunday – 10/12/14

- 9:00 am Hall is opened
- 9:00 am Pastries and coffee are provided
- 9:30 am Matt critique of show
- 11:00 am Show and sale open to public
- 11:30 am Hospitality room opens for lunch
- 1:00 pm Demonstration begins in Ebell room
- 2:00 pm Hospitality room closes

- 3:30 pm Benefit drawing begins
- 4:00 pm Plant and vendor sales close
- 4:00 pm Show closes to public and teardown commences

Your Trees

Tree labels are created for all of the bonsai in the show. Please send Janice Dilbeck a list of the trees you may display no later than October 5 so that she can create labels for your trees. Also, if you are interested in doing a Tokonoma, a more formal display of your tree, please contact Janice Dilbeck at janicedilbeck@comcast.net or 925-458-3845.



What You Can Do for the Show

In a word, the best way to enjoy the show is to participate. Bring at least one tree to the show. EBBS would like to have each member show a tree. There is space for trees in all stages of development. Even if your best tree is a humble beginner tree, it will be welcomed. Every one of us has a tree worth sharing with the world. You would be surprised how good your tree will look when it is all dolled up for the show. Don't be shy.

There is a lot of work involved in setting up the show and EBBS needs all the help that it can get. Come promptly at 6:00 pm on Friday and be prepared to give a hand with the setup. The club will provide dinner and beverages so you do not have to eat before you come.

Help is always badly needed to make the show run smoothly. Security always needs volunteers as well as greeters at the front desk. The kitchen crew can use your help managing the breakfasts and lunches both days. Plan to donate at least a couple of hours of your time to help make the show a success. Sign-up sheets will be in the kitchen.

Finally do plan to spend at least a little time at the conclusion of the show to help with the cleanup before you depart the scene. We are all anxious to grab our

plants and go once the show is over. Cleanup all too frequently falls on a few hardy souls and these folks greatly appreciate your help.

Workshop at the Show

On Saturday afternoon Matt will lead a workshop where members bring and work on their own trees. The cost of the workshop is \$50. Matt will provide his expert guidance on styling, pruning and wiring your tree as well as describing future care for your tree. Participants should plan to arrive by 12:30 in order to set up and be ready to begin the workshop promptly. Participants should bring their own tree, a turntable, tools, wire and any other supplies they might need such as note paper and pen.

The workshop will be open to silent observers who may circulate around the room to learn from listening to the discussions and observing the work in progress. Photographs will be permitted. Observers are expected to respect the priority and work space of the paid participants and the workshop leader.

Priority consideration for workshop space will be given to EBBS members. If you would like to participate or would like to be placed on the waiting list, contact Janet Nelson at 510-482-8428 or by email at rjin@pacbell.net as soon as possible since the workshop is nearly full.

Lunch at the Show

EBBS provides lunches on both days of the show to members and honored guests. The style is potluck with augmentation and beverages provided by the club. Assignments for both days are as follows:

- Appetizer, Last name H-L
- Entree, Last name M-R
- Side dish or salad, Last name S-Z
- Dessert, Last name A-G

In each case make the dish for 8-10 people and be sure to provide serving utensils if required.

Look, Listen and Learn at the Show

You may have thought that bonsai shows consist only of an exhibit of trees, a place to greet friends from the bonsai community and working together to make it all happen. If so, you have missed the most important aspect of the show. It can be a superb learning experience.

Janice Dilbeck gave a wonderful presentation about tree placement at the September meeting. Now is the time to see her words become action as she places trees during the show set up on Friday night. Try to see why she selects the order of trees that she uses. Each tree will complement its neighbor and all the trees will form a single composition. It takes great skill to stage a show really well and we are fortunate that we have Janice as our stager.

On Saturday morning Matt Reel will conduct a critique of trees for the Bay Area Bonsai Association from 9:30 to 12:30 in the Ebell room. EBBS members

are welcome as silent observers. Many BABA members have outstanding trees, and seeing these trees and hearing what Matt has to say about them is a valuable learning experience.

On Saturday afternoon, Matt will conduct a workshop. Here again is a great learning experience. All are welcome to observe how he deals with a variety of trees and what he says to the owner of the tree. The only requirement is that you observe silently and are respectful of the priority and work space of the paid participants.

Some time on Saturday walk slowly through the show and look at each tree. Ask yourself whether the composition of tree, pot and stand really works. Bob Gould presented a fine talk on how to prepare your tree for the show. Does each tree reflect his teaching?

Sunday morning Matt will do a critique of the trees in the show. Here the emphasis is on what a fine bonsai artist sees that is good about the composition, including tree, pot and choice of stand, and what could be done to make it even better. Compare your thoughts about each tree with his. What did he see, if anything, that you may have missed? The show critiques are always considered the best event of the show and this year should be the same. All are invited to the critique and it is especially valuable to the newer members of the club.

The demonstration on Sunday afternoon will feature Matt converting a Sierra Juniper bush into a marvelous bonsai. It is always a thrill to see a fine bonsai master at work. Pay particular attention to how he trims and wires the tree. Creation of fine bonsai requires a good artistic eye. You can sharpen your eye by watching a fine artist at work.

Matt's demo tree will be raffled. You must be present on Sunday at the conclusion of the demonstration to win the 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.

As you can see, the show has more to offer than you might have thought in the way of a learning experience. Do take advantage of all that it has to offer.

Show Plant Sale

The show is very important to the club in many ways. It is easy to overlook the fact that the sale of plants and bonsai related items such as pots, scrolls or stands at the show is a real money maker which goes a long way toward funding the cost of the show. The more items we have, whether pre bonsai or very developed bonsai, the more it is likely that prospective buyers will find something that they like. Look at your collection and see if there is something that you would like to send to a new and more loving home. Our recent auction featured trees that were well along in development as opposed to small cuttings. For many of the folks who drop by the show this is their first look at what bonsai are all about. They are thrilled and delighted to take home a small



cutting in a pot and as a result they sell like hot cakes. Above all it is important to remember that something that you no longer have interest in may be a treasure to another.

Items may be either donated to the sale where 100% of the selling price goes to the club, or may be sold on consignment where 20% of the selling price goes to the club, leaving 80% for the seller. Hopefully you will spend it on new treasures from the sale.

Friday night is the best time to bring your items to the Garden Center, although you may still bring them on Saturday or Sunday. Sellers must tag their own trees and provide a completely filled out sale sheet. Both tags and sales sheets will be available at the show. The more attractive you make your tree by removing weeds and trimming that awkward branch, the more likely it will sell. A bit of preliminary wiring also helps. Here is a place to practice your merchandising skills by turning your tree into a bit of eye candy.

The rules for sales at our shows are:

1. Items that may be sold: healthy plants, clean pots, stands, tools, publications, saikei, and suiseki.
2. Dennis has the 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 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. Dennis will have forms and tags, and a form is attached at the end of this newsletter.
4. Each seller's earnings will be calculated at 80 percent of the "selling" price (except for donated items).
5. Owners must claim unsold items by 4:30 pm on Sunday.
6. Treasurer's checks to sellers will occur within 30 days.

Show Set-up – Friday Evening

All members please plan to help with set-up. There is a lot of work involved in setting up tables, skirting them, adding backdrops in the exhibit room, and moving stands and trees. We also need to set-up tables and chairs in the dining room, set-up tables and a few chairs for the plant sale and reception near the front door, and set-up tables and chairs for the BABA critique, workshop and vendors in the demonstration room.

Doors of Lakeside Garden Center will be open for work to start at 6:00 pm 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 pm. 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 the 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 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 arranging his or her tokonoma.

November Meeting

The November meeting will be the third annual celebration of the Juniper Jubilee which focusses on the humble work horse of the bonsai world, the juniper. Many of us started our journey in bonsai with a small juniper. Not only is the juniper forgiving of our misguided early attempts at culture and styling but in many cases can become truly spectacular bonsai in time. Mike Pistello will show us how it can be done.

September Meeting

The September meeting focused on our upcoming show. Janice Dilbeck discussed how the show is staged. Bob Gould explained how to prepare your tree for the show and Tom Colby stressed the need for stands and presented some inexpensive alternatives.



Janice Dilbeck is in charge of the overall layout of the show and she provided insights of how it all worked. She started by showing a floor plan of the exhibit which allowed spaces for tokonomas, shohin trees and individual bonsai. The display of individual bonsai is presented on long counters around the room. A very strong tree is selected as the anchor tree which sits under the clock. Strongly directional trees are selected for the two ends of each counter with their directions toward the center. The counters are then filled with trees with an eye toward varying the height which gives an up and down quality of the display. Also the types of trees are varied so that two pine trees, for example, are not displayed side by side. An accent plant should be

displayed with the bonsai tree and adds interest to the bonsai. The accent plant and the tree should face one another.

The show will feature 12 or 16 tokonomas. These are individual tables reserved for you and in which you present your own composition. The bonsai tree is the dominant item and is supported by one or two other objects such as a stone, figurine, scroll or accent plant. These items reflect what excites you about your tree. Janice said that the most effective tokonoma compositions are simple displays and that the items in the display should harmonize. She further said that the display should have no mini-mes. By this she meant that design features should not be repeated. For example if your bonsai tree is a pine tree, do not use a small pine as for your accent plant. Variety is not only the spice of life but also is the heart of tokonoma composition. Janice stressed that assembling a tokonoma is a lot of fun and she encouraged everyone to sign up for one.

Bob Gould gave a demonstration on how to prepare your tree for the show. The first thing to do is to look carefully at your tree. Prune any leaves or twigs that point down from the branches. Any twig that points up should either be trimmed off or wired down. Japanese had a great apathy of dirt in the house and because of this typically did not bring their bonsai indoors because of the dirt that would come with it. This fear of dirt carries over to the display of bonsai. Wipe the pot with clear water to remove any loose dirt and then wipe the pot with a cloth which has been moistened with oil. The oil helps to remove deposits arising from water.



Bob showed a remarkable transformation of a pot which was brought about by blackening the feet of the pot with a magic marker. The pot was a glazed pot with unglazed feet. These were visually distracting. The darkened feet brought out the color of the glaze.

The next step is to address apparent cleanliness of the soil in the pot. A top dressing may be applied. Top dressings are fine material and are selected for color to provide a transition between the color of the pot and the trunk of the tree. Useful tools for applying the top dressing are small scoops, a small flat tamper and a

brush. Forceps are a great help in removing stray particles which distract from the top dressing. An alternative to top dressing is the use of moss. Bob showed how the individual pieces of moss could be pinched together before it was applied to give a textured surface. Laying the moss in sheets gives the appearance of a lawn which is less interesting. Bob suggests that if moss is used, it should be applied a month before the show so it is growing well. Fertilization of the tree after using moss will help to establish it.



Tom Colby discussed the use of stands in a bonsai display. They serve in much the same role as a picture frame does for a picture. The stand focuses your attention to the tree, but does not compete with the tree. We tend to put all attention on the tree we are showing and sometimes lose track of the fact that we are actually presenting a composition which includes the tree, the pot it is growing in, and the stand it is shown on. All three are important and must be in harmony for a superior composition.

Stands come in a wide variety of shapes and the best selection for a stand for your tree is one that complements the tree. For example, a stand with very straight legs would reflect the strength of a massive pine tree. A stand with curved legs would show the graceful nature of a maple tree. Whatever stand you select for your tree, be sure to clean off any dust and dirt. A bit of wax will make it glow like the fine furniture that it is. Also be sure to place small felt dots (available from Ace Hardware among other suppliers) to the feet of your pot to prevent accidental scratching of your stand.

Tom discussed several alternatives to bonsai stand which included borrowing a stand, making a stand, using bamboo mats and slabs. Three boards can be used as well as simple pieces of lumber which are sanded and finished.

Wire Workshop

On Saturday, November 15, EBBS will hold a workshop for improving wiring skills with hands on practice. It will take place in the workshop area of the Bonsai Garden at Lake Merritt. Thanks to a grant from the Golden State Bonsai Federation, we will be able to

bring a well known wiring instructor, John Doig, to train bonsai artists who can use help in this area. We are limiting the class to only ten participants so that we get the maximum benefit of John's teaching.

The workshop will provide a trainer fir tree and the aluminum wire for your use. There are still a few slots open but they are going fast. If you want to participate in this event, contact John Nackley at [jnackley@gmail](mailto:jnackley@gmail.com) as soon as possible to reserve your slot. To conform to our Golden State guidelines, we will open the workshop to members of other bonsai clubs if the class is not filled.

We are all very excited about providing this type of basic bonsai education for members by John Doig who is an outstanding local bonsai artist.

August Potluck Revisited

Members of EBBS are, as a group, very generous. Many of us have left our hearts in San Francisco. Some of us have left remembrances of the potluck with Janet Nelson after the event was over. She has a small collection of bowls, silverware and a server that were left behind. Each of these items is longing to return home. If you are the owner of any of these items please help them out. See Janet to retrieve them. They will be very glad to be back home once again.



Bonsai Soil Part 3?

I know some of you are sitting on the edge of your seats wondering, where's Bonsai Soil Part 3?! Yes, we left you with a cliff hanger. Because this month's *Treeshrinker* is so full of show information, we're holding off on Part 3 until next month. It will come in plenty of time for you to prepare your soil for repotting season!

Bonsai Instruction at Merritt College

These workshops are a splendid opportunity to learn about how to develop your trees into first class bonsai that you would be proud of. In these workshops you work on your own tree under the guidance of an experienced bonsai artist. These classes are open to all experience levels.

The workshops are held at 7:00 pm on the fourth Monday of each month when the college is in session. The meetings are in the Landscape Building at Merritt College, which is located in the Oakland hills off Redwood Road. Leading the workshops are two members of EBBS, Bill Castellon and Randall Lee. Interested parties can contact Bill at 510-569-8003 or Randall at 510-846-0841. The workshops are free (except for a nominal parking fee) and are wonderful experience. All you need to take advantage of them is to just show up with tree in hand.

Bonsai Calendar

- Sun – Continue to move shaded deciduous trees into sun to promote fall color.
- Watering – Adjust watering for fall, but don't under-water.
- Fertilizing – Use low or zero nitrogen fertilizers.
- Repotting – Repot when plants become dormant. Begin repotting flowering and fruiting varieties of prunus.
- Styling/Pruning – Shape both evergreens and deciduous trees.
- Insect and disease control – Remove dead plant material. Watch for and treat insect infestations.
- Propagating/Collecting – Begin root cuttings.

Refer to the EBBS Bonsai Calendar for more details on seasonal care.

Events by Others

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

October 4, San Jose, Midori Bonsai Club: 53rd annual show at the Northside Community Center, 488 6th St. Hours are 10 AM – 5 PM with demonstration at 1 PM by Juan Cruz (tree will be raffled off). Beginner's workshop from 10 AM – 1 PM. Advice from Dr. Bonsai for trees brought in. Large plant sale by club members along with many vendors with bonsai supplies and trees. Free admission and parking. For more information contact John Thompson at jtbonsai@gmail.com

October 12, Salinas, The Salinas Bonsai Club is presenting an Exhibit of Bonsai from 10am to 4pm at the Salinas Buddhist Temple located at 14 California Street in Salinas. Admission is free. Stop by for the free Bonsai Clinic from 10-1 and watch a demonstration by renowned bonsai artist, Katsumi Kinoshita at 1:30. Tea and cookies will be served

and a raffle will be held. If you bring your “tired or overgrown” bonsai with you, event organizers will help you restore it.

October 18 – 19, Union City, Yamato Bonsai Kai: 43rd Annual Bonsai Exhibition at Southern Alameda County Buddhist Church, 32975 Alvarado-Niles Road. Hours: Noon – 6 PM Saturday & 10 AM – 5 PM Sunday. Demonstration each day at 2 PM featuring Johnny Uchida working with advanced Black Pine material to create bonsai. Don't miss this special event. Benefit raffle drawing each day after the demo; raffle includes the demo tree. Large vendor and plant sales area; free admission and parking. Doctor Bonsai support will be available. For more information call Tony Hayworth at 510-289-5731 or bonsaicho@comcast.net or visit our club website www.yamatobonsai.org.

October 30 – November 2, Sacramento, GSBF-37: Golden State Bonsai Federation and American Bonsai Society presents 2014 Convention XXXVII “Bonsai Visions of the West” at the Double Tree Hotel, 2001 Point West Way. Reservations for hotel

916-929-8855. Headliners include Peter Tea, Kathy Shaner and David De Groot, ABS Learning Seminars with Ted Matson and Jack Sustic, Joshua Roth New Talent Bonsai Competition, and Special Tribute to John Naka – 100 years (b. August 16, 1914). Demonstrations, seminars, critiques, workshops, excursions, benefit drawings, vendors, and much more. More information available at www.gsbfcconvention.org.

Articles or Services for Sale (or give-away)

Expanded Shale soil, less than 6mm size, for sale at 5 gal container for \$10. A good inorganic ex-pander for bonsai soil. Contact John Nackley, at 510-693-2420 if interested.

Wanted to Buy (or for free)

Each membership household, free of charge, may place a five-line ad related to bonsai in two newsletters each year. 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 2014

Regular Meetings: Second Wednesday, every month (except August and October) @ 7:30 pm

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

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

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

Meeting Program

Sept 10 Show Prep
Sept 28 BGLM Introduction to Bonsai – Don Meeker & Linda Soliven
Oct No club meeting due to proximity to show
Oct 26 BGLM Introduction to Bonsai – J D Lin
Nov 12 Juniper Jubilee – Mike Pistello
Nov 23 BGLM Introduction to Bonsai – John Nackley
Dec 10 Holiday Dinner

Special Event

Oct 11-12 Fall Show – Matt Reel

Nov 15 Wiring Workshop – John Doig

Preparing trees for show

This article was assembled from a variety of sources, edited and written by Bob Callahan. It was published in a past Tree Shrinker and is presented here because of its timely content. Thanks Bob

Watering

- Trees become desiccated during shows, so water your tree thoroughly on Friday morning, before you apply top dressing

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 be seen crossing the trunk
- Shorten or remove elongate new shoots, so-called water sprouts
- Reshape carefully and only slightly to avoid crown having a static (symmetrical) shape; prune only coarse branching to leave fine branching; apply fine wire and move branches 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

Trunk

- When appropriate, spray trunk with water and rub with tooth (or wire) brush to remove bark flakes
- Remove white deposits of minerals from watering when present on base of trunk and exposed roots; start this process with a toothbrush; progress to a nylon brush; finally go to a soft brass metal brush

Growing mix

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

Top-dressing

- Apply a very thin layer of relatively fine, uniform particles; make the layer level with pot's rim; extend it to trunk but not over exposed roots
- 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 Clwitter and Wilson in Hayward and American Soil Products in Richmond); 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

Accent and companion plants

- Plant(ing) should be about 5 in. high for an average tree or 7 in. for a very large tree. In Japan, where stands are tall, plants are not taller than top of stand
- 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 moss or 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; do not remove pot's patina and leave it shiny; pot's feet are hardest to clean but most obvious if not cleaned; Kathy Shaner recommends leaving calcium deposit and dying it with India ink
- 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; may spray with kitchen olive oil, rub off excess, and buff
- Apply felt pads to feet of pots to prevent scratching of stands
- Polish stands and apply scratch remover where needed

SELLER'S NAME _____

PLANT # + INITIALS	PLANT NAMES/DESCRIPTION	SALE PRICE	COMMENTS
1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			
5.			
6.			
7.			
8.			
9.			
10.			
11.			
12.			
13.			
14.			
15.			

TOTAL SALES: \$ _____ Net to Seller \$ _____ Net to Club \$ _____

1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15