



The Tree Shrinker

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A MONTHLY BULLETIN

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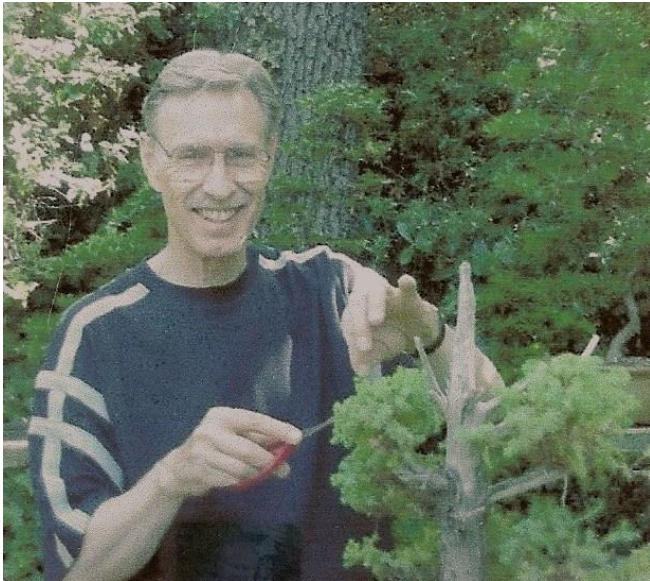
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East Bay Bonsai Society

September Meeting: September 12, 2014 @ 7:30 p.m.

Jim Heady

Jim Heady, a long time active member of East Bay Bonsai Society who served as president of our club, died peacefully on July 22.



September Meeting

The September meeting will feature a presentation on tropical plants given by Jerry Carpenter. This is the first time that Jerry has presented a program to EBBS and we welcome him to our club. Some of us know Jerry through the articles he has written for Golden Statements about web sites that are packed with valuable bonsai information.



Tropical plants not only make fine bonsai but also may be grown indoors for extended periods, very much in contrast to the usual trees that we grow as bonsai. Tropical trees are not often seen in bonsai shows which is unfortunate because they have much to offer. Jerry has given talks about tropical plants to several of the local bonsai societies and all have received very favorable reviews. Don't miss this opportunity to expand your knowledge of trees that make wonderful bonsai.

There was no formal sign up for refreshments for the meeting, so if you have enjoyed the refreshments in the past meetings and have not recently furnished refreshments, it is your turn.

President's Note

Tropical bonsai trees. I've only seen them in YouTube videos from Indonesia, Philippines, and Malaysia so I'm excited to learn more about them at our September show.

It's also once again upon us in a few months...our annual Club Show. I encourage everyone to display one of your trees, accent plants, etc. Also, our subcommittees are in need of volunteers, everything from hospitality to kitchen to the sales area. I hope you contact one of our club board members and sign up for some portion of our show.

Michael

October Show

Because the show is in the same week as our regular meeting, the October meeting is canceled so that you will have time to prepare for the show. Now is the time to be looking at your collection and selecting which trees you would like to display. The EBBS board hopes that everyone will display at least one tree. Your best tree or trees will be most welcome regardless of whether it is a humble Juniper or a spectacular finished bonsai. Each and



every tree in the show makes a contribution to the overall success of the show. Now is also the time to be sure that the pot compliments the tree and that you have a stand for the tree. If not, there are usually extra stands available at the show setup, but bear in mind that they may not do your tree full justice.

If you haven't already signed up to help with the show, do so at the September meeting. If you wish to reserve a tokonoma, either sign up for one at the next meeting or contact Janice Dilbeck.

August Potluck

The August potluck was held at the home of Janet Nelson and Rick Trumm. It was a wonderful event which gave the members the chance to socialize with one another. The weather was pleasantly warm, the collection of bonsai was breathtaking and the food was superb. If your idea of a potluck dinner comes from the times when everybody's mother prepared her favorite version of gluey mac and cheese for the elementary school benefit, you were in for a big surprise. The meal demonstrated once again that EBBS has some very talented cooks. The food offerings were both abundant and tasty. Thanks to all the members who contributed their culinary efforts.



The best part of the day was the gracious hospitality of the hosts. The club not only owes Rick and Janet a big thank you for hosting the potluck this year, but also for the many times they have done it in the past.

Plan Ahead

After eating all that candy you got when you were trick or treating on Halloween, the next big thing on your calendar should be on November 21. This is the repeat performance of the John Doig wiring workshop. John is not only a fine bonsai artist but also a superb teacher.

The workshop will take place in the workshop area of the Bonsai Garden at Lake Merritt from 9:00 to 12:00 pm and will cost \$25, a real bargain for what you will learn. The trainee is asked to provide a tree he wishes to wire, or work on one of John's Kishu junipers, or you

may purchase one of his trees for \$45. Aluminum wire will be provided by the club, but those wanting training in copper are asked to provide their own wire.

A major problem with the workshop is that it can accommodate only eight students. Last year it sold out and there were several disappointed people who wanted to join the workshop after it had filled. Because of all the favorable reviews of the workshop last year, this year places are going fast. Contact John Nackley as soon as possible to secure your place. Snooze and you lose out in one of the best events of this year to learn how to better manage your trees.

Suzanne Muller



This month the spotlight is on one of our relatively new members, Suzanne Muller. She joined EBBS about a year and a half ago and, at the time, bonsai was also a new adventure for her. She is a now very active member of the board of directors and also was one the principal members of the EBBS group that arranged for food service at the mammoth fund raiser at the bonsai garden last February.

You probably have seen her at the club meetings taking pictures which show up in the newsletter. Yes, your newsletter does have a photojournalism department. Her enthusiasm and willingness to help wherever needed is a wonderful example for us all. Thanks, Suzanne, for all that you bring to the society.

Show

Visualize a person new to bonsai facing his first bonsai show. He grew a couple of little shimpaku Juniper bonsai and, much to his surprise and delight, they flourished under his care. Drunk with success, he purchased a nice tree for the exorbitant sum of, say, 50 dollars. Come show time, he wanted to show his new prize tree. The word was that the tree was to be part of a composition which included a pot and a stand as well as the tree. The tree came in a bonsai pot so that should be OK. He wasn't troubled by details like the shape of the pot and whether the shape complimented his tree. As for the stand, he speculated that spending money for a piece of furniture that was used for only a couple of days a year and then had to be carefully stored for the rest of the year just was too much. Stands could be borrowed before the show. Let someone else store it for the rest

of the year. He did pull the weeds out of the pot and he did wash the dirt off the pot before he brought his tree to the show.

None of this is necessarily bad. Many of us have approached our first show thinking at least a little bit this way. It just means that this person has a bit longer journey to becoming an accomplished bonsai artist than some of us. As a matter of fact, at least part of this scene is probably familiar to most of us when we were starting out on our bonsai journey.



This story is about one end of the spectrum of the bonsai world. There has been a lot of discussion lately about the top 1%. Did you ever wonder how the top 1% of the bonsai world handled their trees and shows? Let's go to Japan and peek over their shoulders. At the wave of the magic wand you are now a very rich industrialist in the top 1% and you want to exhibit for the first time a tree in one of the top shows in the country. You let one of the bonsai masters that you trust know that you are in the market for a tree and he will provide a fine specimen for you. Expect to pay something like the cost of a new car. If the tree is especially nice, had been in cultivation for a very long time and had been owned by important bonsai masters in the past, expect to pay up to the cost of a house. It is likely that the master will keep the tree at his nursery where he will care for it. Further, he will probably keep it for a couple of years before he feels that the tree is totally ready to be shown. He could also allow you to keep it at your house, but in either case, he will do all the critical work such as repotting, pruning and wiring, for a fee of course.

The tree will be grown in an undistinguished and relatively inexpensive pot which will be replaced before the show. The master will recommend a pot for the show. The very best pots are antique Chinese pots usually worth many thousands of dollars. The master might also rent a fine old pot for your tree just for the show. After the show the tree will be repotted back into the growing pot. The master will select a stand which complements the tree. Appropriate stands are generally very old and are frequently Chinese antiques. Just like fine pots, they can be rented. If purchase is involved, think in terms of cost up to as much as the cost of a gently used small car.

Of course, the master will do the final grooming of the tree for the show. He will pay special attention to top dressing the tree with moss, and will arrange

transportation of the tree to the show. All, of course, is for a fee.

And so there you have it. Being in the top 1% sure takes a lot of work out of your part for the show, but did you notice how little management of the tree was performed by the owner? Other than bragging rights, it is a question of how much pleasure the top 1% get from their trees. You have to admit that they sure do have nice trees, though. Needless to say, most Japanese are not in the top 1% and many local Japanese shows are not all that different from our EBBS show. You might be surprised to know that our EBBS show has more and better quality trees than some of the local Japanese shows.

If the next EBBS show is your first time to exhibit a tree, take heart. We all have been through what you are probably thinking. Further, your tree may be better than some trees in some Japanese shows.

Bonsai Calendar

- Sun – gradually move shaded deciduous trees into sun to promote fall color.
- Watering – Water regularly, but don't over-water.
- Fertilizing – Use low or zero nitrogen fertilizers.
- Repotting – Begin repotting redwood, shimpaku and quince after mid-month. Begin repotting flowering and fruiting varieties of prunus.
- Styling/Pruning – Remove seed pods and dry fruit. Do not wire deciduous trees until leaves drop. Renew pinching junipers and severely prune one last time this season.
- Insect and disease control – Maintain defensive treatments for fungus. Remove dead plant material. Watch for and treat insect infestations.
- Propogating/Collecting – Last opportunity to take hardwood cuttings from deciduous trees. Last opportunity to remove air-layers this year.

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

Bonsai Instruction at Merritt College

The bonsai workshops at Merritt College will continue on the fourth Monday of each month that the college is in session. They are a splendid opportunity to learn how to develop your tree into first class bonsai. You will work on your own trees under the guidance of an experienced bonsai artist. The workshops are open to all experience levels.



The workshops are held at 7:00 pm in the Landscape Horticulture Building at Merritt College which is located off Redwood Road. Leading the workshops are two outstanding bonsai artists who are also members of EBBS, Bill Castellon and Randall Lee. The workshops are free (except for a small parking fee) and are a wonderful learning experience. All you need to take advantage of them is to just show up with your tree. For more information, call Bill at 510-569-8003 or Randall at 510-846-0841.

Golden Statements

We are living in an age of rapid growth in high tech. Many of us own smart phones loaded with apps that can perform a dazzling number of tasks. There probably is one which reminds us to feed the family dog and, who knows, perhaps in the not too distant future will feed the dog as well. Wonderful as these things are, we should not lose track of an innovation that was at the very cutting edge of technology in its day and was first developed by the Egyptians over 4,000 years ago. It is still in use today. That is the written word on a piece of paper. We are reminded of this innovation every time we get a delivery in our mailbox by a postman (remember him?).

What better way to celebrate this age old technology than to have a magazine delivered to you that is packed with information on bonsai? Here's where Golden Statements comes in. It is a magazine

filled with timely cultural tips as well as stories about the movers and shakers of the bonsai world. The magazine features pictures in beautiful color of trees in recent shows which gives you information about how to style (or not how to style) your tree. Another feature of the magazine is general articles on topics relating to bonsai. The best part of all of this is that it is available at a very low price.

If you want to expand your knowledge of the bonsai world and all it contains by having a subscription to a magazine such as this, send your check made out to GSBF for twenty five bucks to: Golden Statements, PO Box 722434, San Diego, CA, 92172-2434. You may also subscribe online at www.gsbf-bonsai.org/golden-statements/subscribe-to-gs/. If you are already a subscriber, you know just how valuable a resource the magazine is. Just be sure to renew your subscription when it runs out.

Events by Others

GSBF's Bonsai and Suiseki Garden: open Tues. - 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.

September 25 – 27, Portland, Oregon - The Artisans Cup held at The Portland Art Museum. The Artisans Cup is the premier exhibition of American Bonsai. The event will also feature select artisans who are creating distinctive supporting elements such as ceramics, woodwork, tools, and more. For further information, visit our website at <http://www.theartisanscup.com/>.

Articles or Services for Sale (or give-away)

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 2015
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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 9 Tropicals – Jerry Carpenter
Sept 27 BGLM Introduction to Bonsai – Don Meeker
Oct 14 No club meeting due to proximity to show
Oct 25 BGLM Introduction to Bonsai – Tom Colby
Nov 11 Juniper Jubilee – Mike Pistello
Nov 22 BGLM Introduction to Bonsai – Bob Gould
Dec 9 Holiday Dinner

Special Events

Oct 10-11 Fall Show – Ryan Nichols
Nov 21 Wire Workshop – John Doig
