



# Fog City Bonsai

Newsletter of the Bonsai Society of San Francisco  
Hall of Flowers, 9th Avenue and Lincoln Way

## Bonsai Events at-a-Glance...

**Thurs., Sept. 11.** September BSSF Meeting & Auction.

**Sat. & Sun., Sept. 20-21.** San Mateo Bonsai Club 45th Annual Show.

**Sat., Sept. 27.** Midori Bonsai Club 47th Annual Show.

**Thurs., Oct. 9.** BSSF General Meeting -Jay McDonald and Fruiting and Flowering Trees.

**Sat. & Sun., Oct. 11-12.** East Bay Bonsai Society 47th Annual Show with Dave DeGroot.

**Thurs.- Sun., Oct. 30-Nov. 2.** Golden State Bonsai Federation: Convention XXXI.



## Iron Bonsai Challenge

### August BSSF General Meeting

The August General Meeting of the BSSF was our 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Iron Bonsai Challenge. Master of Ceremonies Tim Kong called the action as our own Eric Schrader, Lawrence LeClaire, Robert Smith, John Edwards, and Steve Jang worked furiously to create bonsai from nursery-grown junipers in record time. Work was limited to 2 hours, so our artists had to clip quickly to complete their creations. At the beginning of the meeting, our artists selected assistants from the audience to help with the work. Each team (continued on Page 2)...

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BSSF

## Auction, Auction, Auction!!!

### September BSSF Meeting

BSSF will be holding its annual auction Thursday, September 11th starting at 7:30PM. There are many ways in which you can help:

The BSSF auction is entirely made up of donations. Bring in material that is cluttering up your yard so that other people can take it off your hands and the club can benefit.

Come with checkbook in hand to buy some great material. Please see page 5 for auction rules and suggestions.



(continued from Page 1) had 2 minutes to study their material, which was distributed randomly by Tim. After a brief review of each team's plans with the audience, shears were drawn, and the foliage removed. All of the junipers were relatively young, perhaps 3-5 years old in three gallon nursery containers. Each of our team leaders recognized that the material was mostly suited for *shohin*-sized bonsai so all of the final designs were less than eight inches or less tall. The plans for each team's material covered a range of bonsai styles from full cascades and informal upright to *bunjin*. After the designs were finalized, team leaders and assistants started the cleaning process by removing all unnecessary and dead foliage. Trunk lines were identified and large branches removed. *Jins* were created from the stubs and main trunks were wired into position. While the young trees did not offer much trunk girth, they were still quite flexible to introduce dramatic movement into their forms.

With five teams participating in the Challenge, we were able to demonstrate several different techniques for creating bonsai from juniper nursery stock.

Team 1 consisted of Eric Schrader and Randall de Rijk. Together they created a small informal upright with a full canopy and large cascading branch. Because Eric saved much of the foliage, he was able to begin forming foliage pads to fill the shape of the tree. This tree will fit nicely in a small oval pot and be ready for display in 2-3 years.

Lawrence LeClaire and June Graham tried to design and create a high

**Bonsai Teams preparing for battle.** (top, left) Minh and Steve start by designing their tree on paper prior to removing foliage (top, right) John and Debra inspect the trunk on their juniper using a chop stick to work away the loose soil. (bottom, left) June and Lawrence try to find the front of their tree after it is removed from the container (bottom, center) Robert and Bob get to work quickly on their tree. Robert is clipping away unnecessary foliage while Bob starts wiring the branches in position. (bottom, right) Randall and Eric team up to wire the large first branch of their tree. Their final design features a prominent main branch.

mountain juniper in the *bunjin* style. Much of the tree's foliage was removed to expose the trunk. The long slender trunk was wrapped in raffia to prevent the cambium from separating from the tree. The raffia also protected the trunk, which was ratcheted into a tall upright position. Lawrence envisioned the tree in a small round pot that complements the rugged nature of the new tree.

Team 3 included Robert Smith and Bob Carlson. Robert and Bob created a very classical style bonsai with a cascading front branch. The branches of the original plant were cut to generate rapid and sharp movement in the new trunk line. Branches were wired down and set to their new positions. This tree can support a variety of pots, but those that show off its semi-cascade branch will be ideal.

Team 4 with John Edwards and Debra Bleemer created a classical informal upright tree. A large *jini* on the bottom left of the tree was great addition to the design that added instant age to the tree. Once the foliage fills in along the branches and fresh wire used to arrange the new pads, this tree will fit nicely into a small oval. If the owner keeps the tree looking rugged, a small unglazed rectangle would compliment this tree.

Steve Jang and Minh Nguyen completed Team 5. Steve saw a small cascading tree in his material. Steve selected a low, long branch to cascade over the edge of his pot. The apex of this tree was positioned over the trunk and secondary branches arrange around the primary cascading branch. This tree, after several years of reducing the root ball, will fit into a tall thin cascade pot or round bowl.

All of the material styled during the program was left in the original containers. Styling trees and repotting them in the same session can be too stressful on the plants. In fact, most experts recommend not repotting them for over one year after the initial styling. While this prevents the tree from being stressed, it also helps to develop the tree. With a strong mass of roots, foliage will return quickly to the tree and the final design will be realized much quicker than if the trees are placed in small shallow containers.

At the end of the program, the trees were raffled to members of the audience. We hope these trees survive to be examples in the coming years' Iron Bonsai Challenges.

**Team leaders working on their trees.** (right) John checking the angle of his tree as he adds the final touches to the design. (bottom, left) Steve Jang carefully positions the cascading branch on his juniper. Copper wire was used to drastically move the first branch down below the base of his tree. (bottom, right) Lawrence uses his heavy pliers to wrap copper wire around the length of his juniper while carefully manipulating the branches from under the coils. Raffia was used to protect the tender bark of the tree.





**The finished products!** The results of fast and furious bonsai action and the prizes for the night's raffle. (We expect to follow the progress of these trees over the next few years. *(top, left)* Eric and Randall's compact informal upright creation. *(middle, left)* Robert and Bob's semi cascade tree with. *(bottom, left)* John and Debra's informal upright tree. *(top, right)* Lawrence and June's *bunjin* style tree. *(bottom, right)* Steve and Minh's full cascade. Chopsticks denote the new planting angle for the trees in their final pots. Thanks to Diana Lum for the great photos!

## Auction, Auction, Auction!!!

Our annual fundraiser and auction will be Thursday, September 11 at the Hall of Flowers. Our annual auction is a great event and perfect opportunity for members to obtain material for bonsai. We have had several large donations of material this year from former members. Great deals can be had on bonsai items such as raw material, tools, books, pots, and more.

Material for the auction should be brought to the Hall of Flowers between **6:30PM** and **7PM**. Preview will begin at **7PM** and the auction will begin promptly at **7:30PM**.

**Items for the Auction!** All items in the BSSF auction are full donations. All proceeds go to the BSSF. No consignments. **If you are caring for auction material, please bring it to the meeting. If you cannot be present at the meeting or if you need help transporting the material, please make arrangements to have it picked up for you. Call either Lawrence LeClaire (415-200-8967) or Bernard Marque (415-254-2985) for help.** We also ask that all members please donate at least one item for the auction. We all have material in our gardens, extra tools, and pots that are taking up valuable space. Use this opportunity to clean out your extra stuff. We have many new members who could benefit. New member? This your chance to snag a new tree and test out your new skills.

The club will be providing some refreshments. However, if you have favorite dessert or wine, please share!

John Boyce will be our esteemed auctioneer. John will provide useful information and suggestions for each item up for bid. Cash and checks will be accepted for payment at the end of the evening. See you there!

### Bay Area Bonsai Notes for September

Wow, Is it really September already? Well, at this point it may already be too late but keep an eye on your wire. Remove wire before it has a chance to cut into the bark of your tree. On some trees it is a good idea to remove all the wire, but on others you can remove just the pieces that are cutting in. Rewiring can either be done immediately or left a while until Fall cleanup. Remember, styling begins in October and November.

By September many deciduous trees in San Francisco are just looking ragged from the fog, salt and wind. Personally, my maples always seem to get powdery mildew and by September they look like they're almost dead. Do all you can for the trees, shield them from wind, while giving them as much sun exposure as possible. Schedule repotting of trees that are in dense soil, which can cause them to be more susceptible to disease.

Meanwhile, work on your junipers and cypress. Fall is a great time to clean out the growth and wire new branches. Some people will tell you to pinch junipers, but I find this to be counter-productive. Let them grow, if a tip juts out more than an inch beyond the silhouette cut it back and it will bush out. To contain the size of the tree cut back strong growth and leave interior growth to fill in for it. Remove downward growing foliage to clean up the look of the pads. Remove foliage that is in the middle which does not contribute to the shape of the pad. Look to define smaller pads within larger ones. Black pines are still growing in September, and if everything has gone right they will be showing their new needles, nice and short, in proportion with the tree. White pines, pinyon, ponderosa, shore, lodgepole and other pines that are not candle cut finish their growing earlier in the year. By the middle to end of September you can start cleaning them up by removing old needles and doing light wiring on the branches. Leave heavy wiring and cutting until October or November.

If you've thought about going collecting, now is a great time! Think about private land that you have access to, this can be the best place to collect. Land in the Northern Coastal ranges of California can contain Coast Live Oak, Valley Oak, Redwood, Huckleberry, Red Alder and a variety of promising willow species for collecting. Get permission and go dig some stuff to add to your collection. If you want to go to the mountains, contact the Inyo National forest and ask for a forest products permit. \$7.50 per tree will get you some fine Utah Juniper, Pinon, Lodgepole, Jeffrey, or Ponderosa pine as well as a chance at other as-yet-untested potential bonsai material like Mountain mahogany, sagebrush, aspen and many others. - *Eric Schrader*

## Upcoming Events

### September 20-21, 2008 - San Mateo Bonsai Club 45th Annual Fall Show.

San Mateo Bonsai Club is holding its 45th Annual Fall Bonsai Show at Central Park Recreation Center at 50 East 5th Avenue, San Mateo, CA (5th & El Camino Real). Hours are Saturday 10AM - 4PM. Demonstrations will be held at 2PM both days. Plant sale and drawings will be held during the show. For further information, contact Sam Tachibana (650) 548-9470.

### September 27, 2008 - Midori Bonsai Club 47th Annual Show.

Midori Bonsai Club will hold its 47th Annual Show at Northside Community Center, 488, N. 6th St (Japantown). Hours are 10AM-4:30PM./ Demonstration Saturday at 1PM by Kathy Shaner. Shibui Bonsai will have tools and bonsai supplies for sale. Sales, raffle tables, and Dr. Bonsai help will be present. Expanded *shohin* section for the show. Contact Peter Tea (408)421-6112 for more information.



### October 11-12, 2008 - East Bay Bonsai Club 47th Annual Show.

East Bay Bonsai Society's 47th Annual Show will be held October 11 & 12 at the Lakeside Garden Center, Oakland CA (666 Bellevue, off Grand Ave from I580). Hours are Saturday 10AM - 5PM and Sunday 11AM - 4PM. Dave De-Groot, curator of the Weyerhaeuser Pacific Rim Bonsai Collection will give a workshop at 1PM Saturday and a demonstration on 1PM Sunday. Free Admission. A bonsai sale and raffle will be held on Saturday. For more information call (925)-935-1940 or visit <http://www.gsbfbonsai.org/ebbs>.



### October 30-November 2, 2008 - Golden State Bonsai Federation Convention XXXI.

Golden State Bonsai Federation: *Convention XXXI* at the Doubletree Hotel Modesto and the Modesto Centre Plaza, 1150 Ninth Street. Featured headliners are Boon Manakitivipart, Martin Schmalenberg, and Tak Shimazu. Enjoy Exhibits, Demonstrations, Workshops, Vendors, Field Trips, Design Contest, Critiques, Raffles & Auctions, and Banquet. Stay tuned to Golden Statements and <http://www.gsbfbconvention31.com/> for more information.



## BSSF Meetings and Workshops

### September 11, 2008 - September General Meeting - Annual Bonsai Auction

BSSF will be holding its annual auction Thursday September 11th starting at 7:30PM. There are many ways in which you can help: Bring trees: The BSSF auction is entirely made up of donations, bring in material that is just cluttering up your yard so that other people can take it off your hands and the club can benefit.

Come with checkbook in hand to buy some great material: Many club members, and ex-club-members donate high quality material to the auction. For whatever reason: moving, need more space in the yard, sick of bonsai, cat wont leave the fertilizer alone, you name it, people bring in some really great trees, and they will all be auctioned off, you can get some material for \$5 which at retail could sell for \$100.

Donate Wine, Beer, or other refreshments: Special refreshments and wine will be served starting around 6:30PM generously provided by Tim and Emma Kong, the club will provide wine, but if you have a good bottle to share or some tasty treats bring them in to get the party started.

As usual, John Boyce, our esteemed High Auctioneer, will be presiding over the evening and will spark the imagination of all in attendance with his plans for the future of each piece of auction material. Don't miss it!

### September 18, 2008 - Third Thursday Members Free Workshop.

Make plans to stop by the Free Third Thursday Workshop on September 18. The workshop begins at 7PM and is a lot of fun for everyone. Late summer work is important to getting the most out of the San Francisco growing season. So, bring a couple trees by the Hall of Flowers and get advice from advanced members of the club.

### October 9, 2008 - October General Meeting - with Jay McDonald - Fruiting and Flowering Trees

Jay McDonald will be giving a demonstration and talking about using fruiting and flowering trees in bonsai. There are a few tricks to getting fruiting and flowering trees to bust into bloom and Jay has the info. Jay always locates some fantastic material for his demonstrations and we can guarantee that you do not want to miss out on this chance to catch Jay in action and win a fabulous tree. Show starts at 7:30PM!

### Board Members and Officers

**President:**  
**Robert Smith-**  
 (650) 726-1713



**Vice President:**  
**Lawrence LeClaire-** (415) 200-8967

**Treasurer:**  
**Daryl Quijano**  
 (415) 307-5569 | (415) 332-0657 x104

**Secretary :**  
**Diana Lum-** (415) 731-7793

**Newsletter Editor:**  
**Lawrence LeClaire -** (415)-200-8967

**Board Members at Large:**  
**John Edwards**  
**Randall De Rijk**  
**Tim Kong**  
**Benard Marque**  
**Aaron Newton**  
**Joe Nersveen**  
**John Pennington**  
**Eric Schrader - aka Website Guy**

**Librarian:**  
 John Pennington

**General Meeting Hospitality Host:**  
 Tim Kong - (415) 387-7398

#### About our Club

The Bonsai Society of San Francisco exists to perpetuate the enjoyment of the art of bonsai. BSSF General meetings are on the **second Thursday** of the month at **7:30PM**. The **members' workshop** is the following Thursday, **3rd Thursday of the month at 7:00PM**. BSSF Board meetings are held on the Fourth Monday at **7:00PM**. All of the meetings occur in the **Hall of Flowers (Strybing Arboretum)** at the corner of **Ninth Ave and Lincoln Way**. Enter through the parking lot at Tenth Ave and Lincoln and walk along sidewalk behind the building to the doorway to the garden club meeting room.



## Announcements

**Give back to your FAVORITE local bonsai club.** BSSF is accepting nominations for officers and Board members. Want to have a hand in club activities or planning? Feel guilty about all the fantastic skills and information you learned from BSSF for your tiny membership fee? Be part of the leadership! Ask Diana Lum about becoming a BSSF club officer.

#### Hapi Coats?

BSSF members, new and old, wishing to order a new stylin' BSSF Hapi coat should contact Robert Smith at the next meeting/workshop. Coats feature the logo tree and "Bonsai Society San Francisco" embroidered on the back.

#### Name Tags

Please wear your name tag to our meetings or workshops. We have lots of new members and wearing your name tag will facilitate learning everyone's name (and for the memory-challenged, a way to avoid an embarrassing moment). If you need a new or replacement name tag, see Robert Smith at the next meeting

#### Collection North Docents Needed.

The GSBF Collection North needs volunteers to be docents. This is a fun and educational opportunity for all bonsai hobbyists. No matter your skill level, you can help care for these wonderful trees and educate the public about the art of bonsai. Please check the docent calendar at <http://www.gsbf-bonsai.org/collectionnorth/docent.htm> or call Hollis & Kay Hardy at (952) 933-9543.

#### BSSF Bonsai Library

The BSSF has on hand a large assortment of books, magazines, and other literature about our favorite hobby. To access the library, arrive early at either the monthly meeting or the monthly workshop and speak to John Pennington. Checking out materials requires a \$5 deposit per item.

**FOG CITY BONSAI** is the monthly newsletter of the Bonsai Society of San Francisco. Images and articles are the property of BSSF and permission must be granted before reproduction of any kind. If you have advertisements or announcements for the BSSF or local bonsai community and would like them published in Fog City Bonsai, please contact Lawrence LeClaire at [lleclaire@gmail.com](mailto:lleclaire@gmail.com) or (415) 668-8456.





BSSF Guide to Fall Bonsai Care in the San Francisco Bay Area  
 Fall in San Francisco, your best chance for heat and sun? You got it! The growing season continues. Watch that wire! Stay up to date on your Fall bonsai chores with our guide. Please see [www.bssf.org/guides](http://www.bssf.org/guides) for the complete Year Round Care Guide or ask for a copy at our next meeting.

	Aug	Sep	Oct		Aug	Sep	Oct
<b>Black Pine</b> (including any two needle pine; red pine delay 1 week)	Normal Feeding			Fruiting and Flowering all apple, plum, ume, quince, cherry, etc	Fertilize		0-10-10
	Check Wire		Remove Wire if necessary				Heavy pruning, repotting, wiring
<b>Maple</b> Japanese / Trident / Natives		Feed	0-10-10	Beech			0-10-10
	Check Wire	Check Wire	Remove Wire Remove leaves -leave Petiole		Cut Leaves in 1/2		Heavy pruning, repotting, wiring (remove leaves first)
<b>Elm &amp; Zelkova</b> Including Hornbeam, Hackberry, Willow (all alternate budding trees)		Feed	0-10-10	Redwood	Pinch Buds - Feed to promote Vigorous Growth, Light feeding for established trees. Keep moist (not wet) all year; Shade tolerant for fast growth place in full sun, for slower more compact growth morning sun only.		
	Light pinching		Remove Wire				0-10-10 or Light Fertilizer
<b>Junipers-Common</b> (not california or sierra)	Feed all year			Wisteria	Fertilize after blooming is finished		
	Repot all year- best time is Spring / Pinch and Wire all Year						0-10-10
<b>Spruce and Cedar</b>	Fertilize		0-10-10	Olive	Feed / Pinch new growth		
							0-10-10
<b>Oaks</b> E:Evergreens D:Deciduous		D: 0-10-10		Willow (weeping-style training)		Feed	0-10-10
		E: Cut Leaves in half			Check Wire		Remove Wire
<b>Azaleas</b>	Summer Shoots / Terminal Buds		0-10-10	Hinok Cypress	Feed		
	Pinch to two leaves / two shoots				Check Wire		
<b>White Pine</b> (5 needle pines)	Normal Feeding			All Quince			Remove Wire
					Feed		0-10-10
				Hornbeam			

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