



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., January 8. BSSF
January Meeting. Japanese
Black Pines in Bonsai.

Thurs., January 15. BSSF 3rd
Thursday Workshop.

Sat. & Sun., Jan. 17-18. Bay
Island Bonsai 10th Anniversary
Bonsai Exhibit and Auction.

Sat., Jan 17. BSSF Bonsai
Basics II - Wiring Workshop.

Sat., Jan 24. Lunar New Year
Flower Market.

Sat., Feb. 21. Bonsai Basics I -
Beginners Workshop.

Sat. & Sun., Feb 28 - Mar. 1.
Mammoth Fundraiser at the
GSBF Bonsai Garden at Lake
Merritt.



BSSF Holiday Party 2008

December Meeting Notes

Happy New Year! We hope you had a great holiday with friends and family. If you were with us on December 11 for our holiday party, we know you enjoyed a few hours of BSSF hospitality with old and new members. The BSSF Holiday Party is always a favorite for all our members. It is such great time to chat with friends over great food and drink. We would like to thank all of our members who took time to set up tables, provided food, and cleaned up the mess (*continued on page 2*)...

In this Issue:

December Meeting Notes

Bonsai Notes for January

What You Are Missing

*Upcoming Events, Meetings, and
Announcements*

*Your Winter Bonsai Care
Calendar - BSSF*

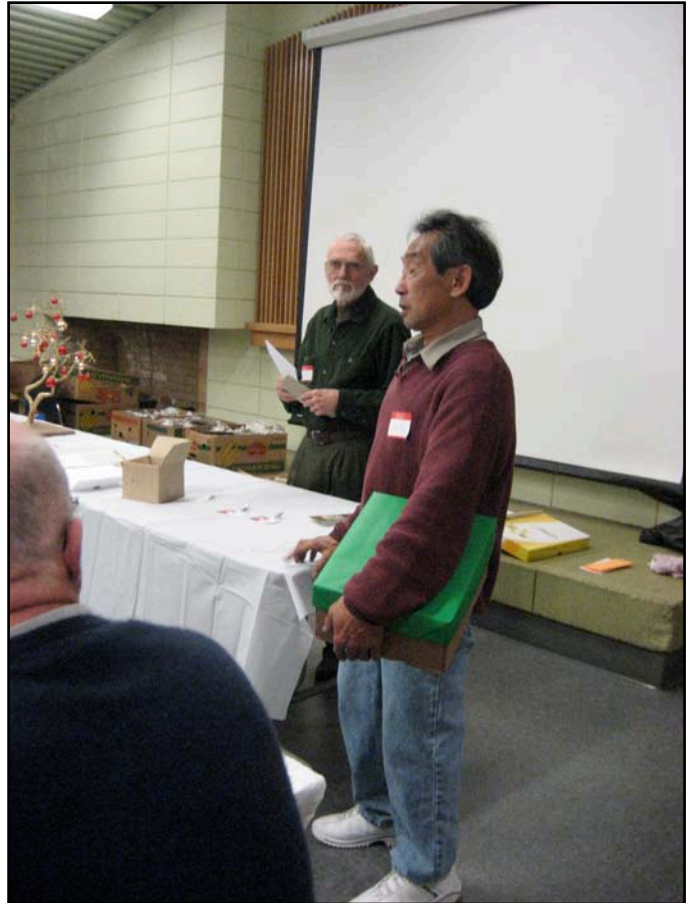
Japanese Black Pines

BSSF General Meeting, January 8

Japanese Black Pines are one of the classical species used in bonsai. Our first program of the year will be a presentation and demonstration by our own Eric Schrader. Eric will explain the basics of JBP culture and styling while demonstrating on an excellent *shohin* JBP material. The pine will be raffled at the end of the meeting. Please bring your JBPs for show-and-tell. Well developed trees are nice for show and tell but we would like to see some trees in training for discussion. See you there.

(continued from Page 1) The highlight of our Holiday Party is always the curator's raffle. Tim Kong spends the year searching for quality prizes that we raffle every December meeting. This year, Tim put together an exceptional collection of prizes that included a great Japanese Black Pine, old San Jose juniper, fantastic *suiseki*, and hand carved stands. We would like to thank John Boyce, Randall de Rynk, Bob Carlson, Alex Hatch, and Jay McDonald for the donations to the raffle. It was a great success. We raised a record amount of cash for the curator fund thanks to the generosity of our members. For those who won items from the auction, you really acquired some great material and we expect to see your creations in the future at BSSF shows, displays, and workshops. To those members who experienced our raffles for the first time, start saving for next year!

Of course all activities provided by the BSSF are with help of our members. So, we would also like to give thanks to Debra Bleemer, Diana Lum, and Marge and Dan Casey for showing up early to set up the room and for help cleaning up our mess. BSSF and all of its members would like to give special thanks to Tim and Emma Kong for their contribution to the night.



BSSF members enjoyed the party at the Hall of Flowers. (Top, left) Bob surveying the dessert selection. (Bottom, left) John Boyce selling raffle tickets for our fine curator's raffle. (Top, right) Tim Kong handing out a few special gifts for busy officers. (Bottom, right) Quite a crowd enjoying great food supplied by the club and our meetings. Were you out shopping? See what you missed!



More photos from our holiday party. The one time of the year where we get to eat and drink the demonstration material! (Top, left) A fine Japanese Black Pine donated by John Boyce to our curator's raffle. Great potential for this old pine. (Top, center) A fantastic old juniper that was also donated by John Boyce. Eric Schrader spent the past few months wiring and styling this great old tree that once was styled by the great John Naka. (Top, right) Jay McDonald's festive contribution to the raffle and the evening with his gold and silver-plated trees. Thank goodness, no wiring or watering needed for these guys!

What You Are Missing

I spent Saturday, December 20 at Collection North and what a wonderful experience it was to be there. Our club is committed to being there as a docent from 1PM to 4PM the third Saturday of every month...no big deal three little hours.

John Edwards and I arrived at the same time. We were a little early, so he took me on a little tour of the garden area and handed me a guide to the trees. The guide is one of the things we hand out to folks that walk into the garden and it is a few pages of very well organized information about all the trees on display. From the moment I started walking around with him, I knew that I was going to spending more time there, it just felt like somewhere I wanted to be. The bonsai garden area was a nice size and beautifully maintained by an all-volunteer group of bonsai enthusiasts with it's own entrance and part of a larger horticulture garden.

After walking around for a bit we signed in at the docent hut and took over from the docents from the Marin Bonsai Society. At this point, I felt like I couldn't have been in a better place the weekend before Christmas, it was calm and lovely and all the hustle and bustle of Christmas was a million miles away. We then went to the back area where all the volunteers work on the plants for the garden. There were just four other people there that day, but quality people. I met Kathy Shaner, Bob Gould, Linda Soliven and Alex Voorhis. There was a whole selection of plants that were not on display back there and there was some pretty amazing stuff back there! Bob is a wealth of knowledge, he pretty much knew the name of every plant just by looking up and seeing where I was standing...and believe me there was a lot to ask about! Kathy was giving a workshop for volunteers, a thank you for helping out workshop. There was a very comfortable, friendly feeling back there. I went back and forth between the docent hut and greeting people coming in and poking around in the back. It was fun saying hello to people and handing them a guide and talking to them about bonsai. Some folks came there as their destination and others stumbled on it, but they were all very impressed with the gardens. Quite a few young people walked in and that was nice to see, John may have sparked an interest in bonsai in one or two of them. We gave out brochures for Collection North and the bonsai clubs in the bay area to anyone that may have been interested.

I talked to Kathy about volunteering as a real beginner and she said she would rather have a beginner with no bad habits then have to retrain someone with years of bad habits. Linda was working on one of the



The Mas Gate and entrance to the Bonsai Collection at Lake Merritt. Photo from the GSBF website.

workshop plants, she took a break and showed me how and where to sign up to volunteer, gave me her phone number and a number to call the garden. (510 763 8409). Alex is a year and a half veteran of bonsai and he was doing both the workshop and helping out that day. He was so enthusiastic about all that he has gotten out of volunteering it was catching; I can't wait to volunteer some of my time and be part of what goes on there.

Later, I was invited to go look at the plants they were getting ready to auction and sell next month. It was at this point that I realized just how much goes on there, all those plants had to be tended to and cared for and what an opportunity to work on *(continued on Page 5)* *(from Page 4)*

*On a personal note...*I would like to thank the members of the BSSF for inviting me to be a member of the board. I am a beginner to bonsai and the club. I was quite honored by the invitation. They told me they needed new blood to keep the club activities interesting to the newer members and maybe engage some of the veterans to the club. Lawrence is going to have a beginners wiring class on Saturday, January 17th, but I'm sure everyone could benefit from a basic review, and he has taken a class with Marco just recently and has no doubt picked up some new information to share with new and old members. If you don't have the wire you need for the workshop, send an email out to Jim Gremel and get what you need jim@jimgremel.com. I am very enthusiastic about doing fun, interesting activities with the club and its members. When you see me at the meetings and workshops please let me know what you would like to see happen at the club. - Debra

bonsai with all these experienced people who were thrilled you were there and wanted to help! There is some very, very nice stuff going up for auction. You can preview the plants on their website.(bonsailakemerritt.com) The week before the auction is a great time to volunteer your time, there is so much that needs to be done.

Needless to say I was very impressed by the garden and the people there that day. John was the icing on the cake, what a nice man to spend an afternoon with. I will definitely volunteer as a docent again, but I also look forward to escaping from the real world into the bonsai oasis right there in Oakland and spending time there learning FOR FREE from very knowledgeable people who are there because they love what they are doing. This, in my opinion, is what you are missing if you haven't spent time at Collection North.

-Debra Bleemer

Bonsai Notes for January

January is a busy time for bonsai. Start repotting your deciduous trees. Elms are always the last thing to drop leaves and the first to sprout them in my yard so I do those in the small window that I have available. Then move on to maples, oaks and other broadleaf trees. Pines should be repotted in the month of February. Junipers can be repotted anytime between November and March, just as they start growing in the spring.

January is also a time to catch up on styling that you may not have managed in the fall. Dec 21st was the winter solstice so keep in mind that as the sun rises higher during the coming days the trees will be starting to see more and more light, which will cause temperatures to rise, bringing them out of dormancy.

Collecting locally is a great activity to undertake in January. Many trees that are native are dormant or just coming out of dormancy, making it an ideal time to dig them up.

Take care not to over water your trees as the rains continue. Watch trees even during rainy periods to make sure they neither stay too wet or dry out in the sunny days between storms, in my yard I have trees that will dry out in only one day of sun, even in January. But, I also have trees that I only water occasionally during most of the winter. Allowing your tree to almost dry out before watering it is best. Pines are more sensitive than many other species; close observation of the growth habits of your trees will tell you if you are watering properly.

From The Board...

Welcome to BSSF 2009. While winter officially began a few weeks ago, we in San Francisco know that the growing season clock is now ticking. The days are getting longer now and with our warm sunny days and increasing sunlight, our trees will typically start moving before most growers in the area. In fact, you may have a few maples or elms hanging on to last year's foliage. Be prepared! The ideal situation is to have all winter work completed by the end of this month so that the development of your bonsai will be maximized. Depending on your neighborhood, the growing season may end in June or July, so we need to push as much growth out of our trees as possible. Therefore, take advantage of our 3rd Thursday workshops in January and February to get help with your trees.

Our first Bonsai Basics Wiring Course is on the 17th of this month. Please contact Lawrence LeClaire (415)200-8967 if you are interested in attending and submit your fee as soon as possible to reserve your spot. Spots are also disappearing for our February Bonsai Basics Beginners Course. If you are new to BSSF, this class is a must for you bonsai education.

The beginning of the year also brings a great opportunity for Bay Area Bonsai growers - the Mammoth Fundraiser at the Bonsai Garden at Lake Merritt (aka the Collection North). This is the number one event where you can purchase ALL bonsai supplies from local vendors. (bonsai and potensai, accent plants, tools, soils, soil components, stands, pots, etc.). You also have a chance to purchase high quality plant material from the Saturday auction and the Sunday consignment sale. Incredible deals are available from both sales. Do not miss this event.

Repotting time is here and most likely, you have been searching for that perfect pot for your tree. To help with your search, we will be having a very special February meeting this year that will discuss how to choose the perfect pot for your tree and will give our members a chance to sell/trade/browse the bonsai pots of our members. Plan to bring a few trees to the meeting that need repotting and also bring pots that you are willing to trade or sell. This will be our first "pot swap" and we hope it will be beneficial to our members. Repotting will not be performed at the meeting but will be performed at the following February Third Thursday workshop.

The Board would also like thank all those who helped with the Holiday Party. Nearly everyone in the club was involved in some way and we appreciate all you do for the club. It was a great success and we are already looking forward to the next one.

Upcoming Events

January 17-18, 2009 - Bay Island Bonsai 10th Anniversary Show.

10th Anniversary of "An Exhibit of Fine Bonsai" at Centennial Hall, 22292 Foothill Blvd. Hours 10AM-4PM both days. Admission fee: \$5 for both days and all events. Saturday: High quality auction from 1PM-3PM; Preview will be at 12PM. Sunday: Silent auction from 10AM-1PM; Demonstration at 1PM. Vendors will be available both days. For more information at (510)865-1008 or visit www.bonsaiboon.com



February 28- March 1 - Mammoth Fundraiser GSBF Bonsai Garden at Lake Merritt: 18th Annual Mammoth Fundraiser

at the Lakeside Garden Center, 666 Bellevue Avenue. Saturday (Feb 28) Auction 1PM-4PM with preview 12PM-1PM. Sunday (Mar 1) Mammoth Fundraiser 10AM-5PM. Demonstration and critiques by Kathy Shaner, Curator. Vendors, benefit drawings, raffles and large consignment sale of bonsai and bonsai-related items.



BSSF Meetings and Workshops

January 8, 2009 - Japanese Black Pine Bonsai

To kick off the Bonsai New Year, we will feature our own Eric Schrader giving a talk and demonstration on the "granddaddy of bonsai", Japanese black pine. Eric will explain the basics of JBP culture and styling while demonstrating on excellent JBP material. The demonstration material will be raffled at the end of the meeting. Please bring your JBPs for show-and-tell.

January 15, 2009 - Third Thursday Members Free Workshop.

Make plans to stop by the Free Third Thursday Workshop on January 15. The workshop begins at 7PM. Take a break from your shopping. Winter weather is here so time to start major work on those trees! Also, don't forget, now is the time to start prepping for our March Show. So, bring a couple trees by the Hall of Flowers and get advice from advanced members of the club.

January 17, 2009 - Bonsai Basics Class II - Wiring Workshop.

We are introducing Part II of our Bonsai Basics Workshop series. The class will cover wiring basics and techniques. The class will be held at the Hall of Flowers on January 17 from 10AM-2PM. The cost of the workshop will be \$25 per participant. The Bonsai Basics Class I is a prerequisite for this class. For your workshop fee, you will receive literature on proper bonsai wiring and a *Shimpaku* juniper for practice. You must provide your own wire and tools. Please

contact Lawrence LeClaire (415) 200-8967 for more information and to sign up for the course.

January 24, 2009 - BSSF at the 2009 Lunar New Year Flower Market.

This year, as in the past two, BSSF will offer a seasonal bonsai display at the Annual Lunar New Year Flower Market on Saturday, January 24, 2009, 10AM-3PM in the great hall at the County Fair Bld. It is a one day event, colorful and well attended and a chance to show some early blooming Japanese quince, forsythia, ume what have you. Robert Smith, BSSF president, is coordinating our display. Speak with him if you would like to contribute trees, stands, help set up, meet the public etc.

February 12, 2009 - BSSF General Meeting - Choosing a Pot for Your Bonsai and Bonsai Pot-Swap.

Choosing and finding a pot for your bonsai is a difficult task. For our February meeting, we will be discussing how to choose a pot for your tree. In addition, members will bring pots to the meeting for trade or sale with other members. Members should bring in trees to discuss potting options and maybe find that perfect pot. NOTE: Repotting will not be performed at the General Meeting but at the following Third Thursday workshop on February 19.

February 21, 2009 - Bonsai Basics Class I - Introduction to Bonsai.

Part I of our Bonsai Basics Class will be offered on Saturday, February 21 at the Hall of Flowers from 1:30-4:30PM. This class is a basic introductory course to the bonsai hobby and serves as the basis for all club workshops and activities. We cover bonsai styles, fundamentals, tools, and tree design. The cost is \$60 and includes instruction, literature, and two trees. We will supply basic tools and wire. Membership in BSSF is required. Please contact Lawrence LeClaire at (415) 200-8967 to enroll or ask questions.

March 18-22, - 2009 BSSF Annual Show at the San Francisco Flower and Garden Show.

We are now in the planning stages for our annual show at the San Francisco Flower & Garden Show at the San Mateo Event Center. We will have more space than last year's show and expect all members to show at least one tree. As with years past, we will have no sales area. Instead, we will have a separate sale at the Hall of Flowers at a date to be determined. Eric Schrader is our show coordinator and will need plenty of help scheduling volunteers/security, soliciting demonstrations, and setting up the displays. We need your help! So please speak to Eric at our next meeting to volunteer. Also, begin selecting and preparing your trees for the display! Identify 1-5 trees you wish to display and submit the information to Eric ASAP. All members, new and old, are encouraged to display at least one tree.

2009 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
Debra Bleemer
Tim Kong
Bernard Marque
Joe Nersveen
Eric Schrader - aka Website Guy

Librarian:
 Bernard Marque

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 **2nd 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 **4th 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



Announcements

DUES!!! Your 2009 BSSF dues need to be submitted to Daryl Quijano. In the next few weeks, you will be receiving a reminder in the mail. In addition, you will have the opportunity to update your contact information and newsletter delivery preferences. Please take the time to complete the form and return your payment promptly.

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. The price for a new Hapi Coat is approximately \$62.00.

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.

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 Bernard Marque. 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 lleclair@gmail.com or (415) 668-8456.





BSSF Guide to Winter Bonsai Care in the San Francisco Bay Area
 Get busy! Your time to finish winter work is ending!. Wire! Prune! Are your trees ready for Spring? Proper winter work will help your trees be their best next year. Please see www.bssf.org/guides for the complete Year Round Care Guide or ask for a copy at our next meeting.

	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
Black Pine (including any two needle pine; red pine delay 1 week)	0-10-10 Heavy Pruning and Wiring Needle Removal	finish wiring finish needle removal	Feed Repot as candles begin to elongate	
Maple Japanese / Trident / Natives	0-10-10 Heavy Pruning and Wiring	finish wiring	Pinch buds / Remove water shoots Repot as buds swell	
Elm & Zelkova Including Hornbeam, Hackberry, Willow (all alternate budding trees)	0-10-10 Heavy Pruning and Wiring		Pinch buds continually Repot as buds swell	
Junipers-Common (not califonia or sierra)	0-10-10 Heavy Pruning and Wiring	Finish Heavy Pruning & Wiring	Feed all year Repot all year - best time is Spring/Pinch and Wire all Year	
Spruce and Cedar	0-10-10 Heavy Pruning and Wiring	Loose Wiring Leave wire on Spruce -2years Cedar -3years	Pinch 1/2 of emerging tips Repot as buds swell	
Oaks E:Evergreens D:Deciduous	E:0-10-10 Heavy Pruning and Wiring	Wire Pinch buds / Remove water shoots	Wire D: Repot	
Azaleas	0-10-10		Fertilize with 5-5-5 Fish Emulsion every two weeks Wiring (Alluminum only)	
White Pine (5 needle pines)	0-10-10 Heavy Pruning and Wiring Cut needles, leave sheath on.		Feed Repot as buds swell	
Fruiting and Flowering all apple, plum, ume, quince, cherry, etc	0-10-10 Heavy pruning, repotting, wiring	Do Not Feed until done blooming Wire before blooming	Remove water shoots	
Beech			Pinch before leaves open as buds form crescent shape	
Redwood	0-10-10		Pinch Buds - Feed to promote Vigourous Growth, Light feeding for established trees Heavy Pruning and Wiring Repot as growth begins	
Wisteria		0-10-10 Repot as growth begins	Flowering	
Olive	0-10-10 Heavy Pruning and Wiring	Repot	Feed / Pinch new growth	
Willow (weeping-style training)	0-10-10 Heavy Pruning and Wiring	Wire	Place pot in water Prune to Vertical Leaf	Feed
Hinoke Cypress	0-10-10	Feed	Pinch back Hard Repot	
All Quince	Repot, Prune to shape & Wire	Wire	Remove flowers as they fade	
Hornbeam	Heavy Pruning and Wiring	Wire	Remove Wild or Strong Growth	

Bonsai Society of San Francisco
 Ninth Ave and Lincoln Blvd
 San Francisco, CA 94122