



From the Prez.




Our annual SF Garden Show display has come and gone. While the display itself was masterfully assembled by Eric Schrader and the quality of trees, stands and accents was impressive with many members participating, the experience this year left many wanting more.

I think it is time for the Bonsai Society of San Francisco to return to its home in the County Fair Building with a larger annual exhibit that allows all members to participate fully. When I joined the club in 1994 we were putting on an annual show with no entry fees, a large exhibit, generous sales area and on-going demos, raffles and workshops. This show was set up on a Friday night and open to the public during the day on Saturday and Sunday. On Saturday night the option exists to have a party for invited guests and friends and to have special demonstrators and raffles.

Our display at the SF Garden Show gives us unprecedented access to a great many people but its future is limited in terms of engaging the full membership of the club and our abilities. A show here, in the

Hall of Flowers, would give us the opportunity to really show what we can do, not just for the public but also for us. I think we can do both. In the past couple of years we have mounted smaller displays for other events like the Friends of the Urban Forest auction and to compliment a Japanese painting exhibit at the Asian Art museum. Pursuing these other venues is good for our club and good for our trees and helps us develop our skills. Plus, we should continue to pursue these smaller limited displays which the Garden Show has now become.

I challenge you all to work toward this goal of a large, inclusive bonsai show held annually in The Hall of Flowers. In the coming months the club must submit a schedule to the Park Service for 2008. In the next board meeting I will initiate a discussion on when that could take place. At the upcoming meetings we will be asking members to commit to helping with the planning and execution of all the elements that must go into this show.

This can only work if we all participate and get to work early. The rewards will be great both for our club and our growth as individuals and the public which will see what we can do given the freedom to run our own show. -John Edwards 



Resolving Drainage Issues

by John Boyce

In the rainy San Francisco winters or with pots without adequate drainage holes, drainage issues can arise that can seriously harm our trees. With a few simple tips and suggests, we can resolve these issues and provide our trees with the best possible growing conditions.

Start by removing all moss, leaves and other detritus from the top of the soil. These things can cause the soil to shed water rather than absorb it. Next, make holes in the soil 1/2" to 2" in size depending on the size of the pot. Start by making a cone shaped hole with a sharp chopstick, gradually making it into a cylinder shape all the way to the bottom of the pot. Fill with well-draining soil with lots of pumice. The pumice is a fast draining component of bonsai soil.

Tip the pot up on one side with a small wedge. leave it this way for a week or so, then tip the other side up the same way and lower the first side. Water will drain from pooled areas in the pot.


Cover the top of the soil with a sheet of plastic, but leave it loose on the edge so air can get in. Leave the plastic on when the rains linger for more than a day. Then remove it and let the air get at the soil surface. When the rains start again do the same thing until you can use the first two or three techniques listed above.

If the soil is really wet and stays that way for a couple days, then more drastic steps are necessary. The tree may need to be repotted even out of season or you may lose it to root rot. Take the tree out of the pot and carefully remove most of the soil. If it is not in good soil to begin with, remove all the soil. Cut away the

rotten roots or black roots. The bad roots will be slimy. If a lot of root material must be removed the tree may need stabilization. This can be done by using split bamboo pieces or soft chopsticks to wedge over the root mass. Then tie in securely and fill the pot with well draining soil. (Larger pieces and more pumice). Chop in well and put the tree in a protected spot, but not in the dark.

This last procedure is only done when very necessary, because it will be a great shock to the tree, but it is better than losing the tree. If the tree remains sickly looking after repotting, do not feed it for several months. If the foliage remains pale or yellowish apply a very light application of iron sulfate. Iron is a primary component of chlorophyll, the molecule which gives plants their green color and converts sunlight into chemical energy, and will promote its production.

Poor drainage conditions can be the result of too many fine particles or too much organic material in the soil that have broken down or poorly sifted from the fresh soil. Remember the tree's roots want fresh air more than water (80% to 20%). Organic material is usually fine or the more coarse stuff will break down quickly and tend to clog the drainage holes and pathways inside the pot. Water the tree sparingly but thoroughly every other day, making sure soil is damp but not wet. When strong growth appears resume feeding, beginning with light feeding and progressing to regular feeding until the tree has recovered.

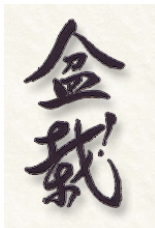
Poor drainage is common in trees bought in gallon or five-gallon containers from nurseries. When buying a tree look at the soil and the top roots; this will tell you right away if the tree is healthy. 

-John Boyce

Upcoming Events

Marin Bonsai Club Sale April 17.

Marin Bonsai Club will hold a Bonsai Sale on Tuesday, April 17. Preview at 7PM, sale begins at 7:30PM. Checks and cash only. All Bay Area bonsai clubs and public invited. The sale is at the Marin Art & Garden Center, 30 Sir Frances Drake, Ross in the Livermore Room. Please go to maagc.org for a map and directions. Refreshments provided, free parking. Trees in all stages of training and pots for sale. For more information contact Michael Jaffe at mjaffe@swagroup.com.



Kusamura Bonsai Club 47th Annual Show April 28 & 29.

The show will be held at Mitchell Park in Palo Alto located at 3800 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto, CA 94303. The show date will be April 28-29, 2007. Please visit <http://www.gsbf-bonsai.org/kusamura/> for more information or call



American Bonsai Association of Sacramento April 14-15.

The American Bonsai Association of Sacramento will be holding its annual spring show & sale at McKinley Park Garden & Arts Center, 3330 McKinley Blvd. Show hours are 10AM-5PM, both days. Demonstration at 1:30PM both days. Benefit raffle follows the demonstrations. Vendor and member sales of bonsai trees, pots, plants, and other bonsai related items. For information, contact Tim Johnson, (916) 362-8147.



Collection North 'Fun Raiser' June 11-17

The Collection North will be hosting Yasuo Mitsuya for week long series of lectures and demonstrations at the Collection North. Please visit <http://65.110.71.27/gsbf/> or call Andrea Burhoe at 415-824-9315 for full details and times for this exciting event.



BSSF Meetings and Workshops

April 12 - BSSF General Meeting - Companion Plants

For our April general meeting, we will have Kora Dolager as a guest to lead a workshop on companion plantings. As you may already know, or have learned at the March meeting, companion plantings are small plants used with bonsai in displays to set the tree off and convey a feeling of nature in the display. Companion plantings should be natural looking. The grass, fern or other plant should fill the pot entirely and look like it has been growing there for quite some time, even if you just put it there. While trees represent man in traditional display, the companion planting is meant to represent nature.

Kora will be bringing supplies for people to make their own plantings including pots and plants. Participation will be free to all BSSF members. Participants use one pot and plants to go with it to make a planting. **All of the plantings will be placed on the raffle table at the end of the workshop. Participants who want to buy their own planting can do so for \$15.**

April 19 - BSSF 3rd Thursday Free Workshop

Bring those trees into workshop for help from John Edwards, Tim Kong and others!

April should see some of your early sprouting trees with new growth hardened off. Once new growth has hardened, you can wire and shape it to fit the silhouette of the tree and start to fill in gaps in the canopy. If your branches are already the length that you want, let one of the innermost buds run and wire it to form a new secondary branch.

Fertilizer is as important as anything you do for your tree. Whether you apply Miracle grow once every couple weeks or use slow release organic fertilizer or both, you should develop a fertilization regimen and stick to it. Don't underestimate the importance of watering either; even with regular fertilization a tree cannot grow with a lack of water. Although a tree may survive on little water, reducing its growth rate to compensate and entering a state of stress, it will not grow and thrive as is needed in bonsai. With so many variables, including weather, don't let a lack of water and fertilizer limit the growth of your trees.

If you don't have any growth to work with how do you expect to make a tree look good? Let your tree grow to increase the vigor of the tree, then cut it back and the tree will fill out.

Board Members and Officers

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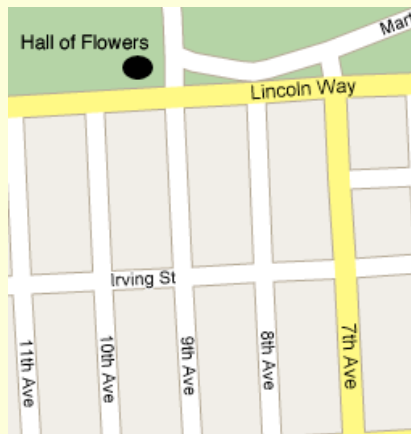
General Meeting Hospitality Host

Tim Kong - (415) 468-1664

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

**May 10 - BSSF General Meeting - Kathy Shaner and Yasuo Mitsuya!**

May will be an exciting meeting for the club as Japanese bonsai masters Kathy Shaner, curator of the Collection North and Yasuo Mitsuya, sensei to Kathy, will be giving a demonstration and talk. BSSF has pulled out all the stops and purchased a \$300 tree for use in the demonstration. It will be raffled off at the end of the demo, so bring your wallet to buy some raffle tickets. This tree will be worth every penny! Members are asked to bring additional trees and plants for the raffle. Bring a friend too!

Announcements

Dues!

If you have not paid your 2007 dues, this will be your last copy of the Fog City Bonsai. So, don't miss the next issue. Mail your dues to Bonsai Society of San Francisco, County Fair Building, 9th Ave and Lincoln Blvd, San Francisco, CA 94122. The yearly renewal fee is \$25 for individuals, \$45 for families, and \$20 for seniors. Alternatively, bring your dues payment to our monthly meeting. Prompt dues payments are necessary to fund monthly programs, the website, and newsletter. Thanks!

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.

Bonsai Sales at the Monthly Meeting

Please remember that any time during the year you wish to sell bonsai trees, the BSSF welcomes you to bring the trees to our monthly meetings or workshops. The club will receive 20% of the purchase price.

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 Paul Hrisko or Rinda Burleigh. Checking out materials requires a \$5 deposit per item.

FOG CITY BONSAI is the monthly newsletter of the Bonsai Society of San Francisco. 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 or (415)668-8456.



BSSF Guide to Spring Bonsai Care in the San Francisco Bay Area

YES! Spring is here for Bay Area residents. Prepare for your spring bonsai chores with our SPRING bonsai care calendar. Please see www.bssf.org/guides for the complete Year Round Care Guide or ask for a copy at our next meeting.

	Apr	May	June
Black Pine (including any two needle pine; red pine delay 1 week)	Increase Feeding	Remove some needles	Decandle
Maple Japanese / Trident / Natives	Pinch buds / Remove water shoots	Feed	Defoliate - remove petiole & Repot
Elm & Zelkova Including Hornbeam, Hackberry, Willow (all alternate budding trees)	Pinch buds continually	Feed	Continue pinching Defoliate & Repot
Junipers-Common (not california or sierra)	Repot all year - Pinch and Wire all Year	Feed all year	Thin out Heavy Growth
Spruce and Cedar	Fertilize after initial Spring growth Pinch 1/2 of emerging tips		Thin out Heavy Growth
Oaks E: Evergreens D: Deciduous	Pinch buds / Remove water shoots	Feed	Pinch buds Wire
Azaleas	Fertilize with 5-5-5 Fish Emulsion every two weeks Root Growth / Spring Shoots Cut Large Branches-leave stub on		Pinch to two leaves/ two shoots Remove Flowers
White Pine (5 needle pines)	Increase Feeding Decandle when candle is covered in white dots	Buds appear 10-15 days	Break Candles in Half Thin Buds
Fruiting and Flowering all apple, plum, ume, quince, cherry, etc		Fertilize after blooming is finished Light Pruning	Thin Fruit
Beech	Pinch before leaves open as buds form crescent shape	Feed	Thin Fruit Pinch 2nd budding
Redwood	Pinch Buds - Feed to promote Vigorous Growth Light feeding for established trees		Keep moist (not wet) all year; Shade tollerant - for fast growth place in full sun, for slower more compact growth morning sun only.
Wisteria	Fertilize after blooming is finished Flowering		Drown Roots as weather gets hot - soak bottom 1/2 of pot
Olive		Feed / Pinch new growth	Defoliate & Repot Leave two tip leaves remove all others
Willow (weeping-style training)		Feed Prune to Vertical Leaf	Place pot in water
Hinoke Cypress		Feed	Pinch back Hard
All Quince	Remove flowers as they fade	Feed	Do Not Pinch
Hornbeam	Remove Wild or Strong Growth Pinch	Feed	Partial Defoliation

Bonsai Society of San Francisco
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