

Redwood Empire Bonsai Society



REBS NEWSLETTER

Volume 28, Issue 10

October 2011

President's Message: Help Wanted



REBS President Arty Kopecky

Dear friends in REBS:

I'd like to welcome Maria Pelletier, Susanne Scholz, James Sanders, Don Lipmanson, Josepha Eveleigh and Jacque Mielke, new members who have signed up to take beginner classes with our long time pillar, Ivan Lukrich. We like getting this addition of new enthusiasm. Again, welcome!

Handsome Ryan Neil was a big hit at our September club meeting. Six year apprenticeship: that's impressive, and it tells you something of how much knowledge goes into making quality bonsai. Great to have Ryan as a component of our bonsai family.

Here's a little problem folks: we have a crisis in REBSville! Our Web master, Celestia Amberstone, has been Newsletter Editor by default since George Haas moved on (and she

has done an excellent job). But now she needs a break. At the same time, George is dropping his left-over duties of posting the newsletter online and printing and mailing the dozen or so hard copies (REBS owns the equipment BTW). Worst case scenario—we sort of disappear. So, as we have been saying for a number of months, we need a new Newsletter Editor!! My phone number is 849-6974. Somehow 'we' have to crack this nut.

Another matter. Does any member have a storage shed we could put up at the Garden Center to keep our 'things' in? The Garden Center has a shed but it is sort of full. We hate to spend the money to purchase one, which negates the savings we created by changing locale.

REBS has been a very strong club through the years and it's reputation is of top quality in plants,

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Redwood Empire Bonsai Society

Announcements and Upcoming Bonsai Events

October 8-9

Oakland, CA

East Bay Bonsai Society: 50th Annual Show at the Lakeside Garden Club, 666 Bellevue Avenue. Hours are Saturday, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. and Sunday, 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. There is an entrance fee to the park, but show entry is free and donations are welcome. Silent observers are welcome to the club's workshop on Saturday from 1 p.m. - 4 p.m. A demonstration by Kathy Shaner will from 1 p.m. - 4 p.m. Sunday, followed by a raffle of bonsai and related items. A large selection of club member consignments will be for sale throughout the show. Contact Janice Dilbeck, 925-458-3845, or John Nackley, 510-693-2423 for more information.

October 22-23

Sacramento, CA

Capitol City Bonsai Association: 12th Anniversary Show to support the GSBF Bonsai Garden at Lake Merritt and the Sacramento bonsai clubs. Location is the Shepard Garden and Arts Center, 3330 McKinley Blvd. in McKinley Park. Show hours are Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. and Sunday, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Demonstration both days at 1:30 p.m. by sponsor clubs with special bonsai raffle drawings to follow. Vendor and club member sales areas. Contact Gary Judd, juddbonsai@att.net or 916-622-8048 for more information.

November 11-12

Ross, CA

Marin Bonsai Club: Fall Show at the Marin Art and Garden Center, Livermore Room, 50 Sir Francis Drake Blvd. Friday hours are 5:30-9:30 p.m. and includes a dinner at \$5 per head, a bunjin style Shimpaku Juniper demonstration by Ted Matson, a silent auction and raffles. Saturday hours are 10 a.m.-4 p.m. and include individual consultations by Ted Matson from 10 a.m.-1 p.m., a club demonstration at 11 a.m., vendor and club sales and raffles. At 1:30 p.m. there will be a critique of show trees by Ted Matson. For dinner reservations or more information call Jeanette Arnold, 415-883-265. For individual consultations call Candace Key, 415-491-1989.

Let's not forget to support our Marin Bonsai friends!

INTERMEDIATE 1 WORKSHOP MOVING

Beginning this month, Ivan Lukrich and Richard Hoskins will be sharing their esteemed wisdom and abundant creative and technical skills with Intermediate level 1 students at:

Santa Rosa Senior Center
704 Bennett Valley Road, Room 17
Santa Rosa 95404

This affects the Thursday night Intermediate 1 class only; the Friday night Intermediate 2 class continues at its present location, Bardella Bonsai Studio.



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shows and gatherings. So who will come forward?

Thanks for your consideration, friends, in these serious matters.

— Arty Kopecky



A Message from Our Show Secretary

Hi Everyone,

During the weeks leading up to the REBS Annual Bonsai Show, I dispatched several emails to our members requesting the identity of the trees they intended to show. This was done to encourage everyone to submit a tree or two, or more. The information was used to print identification labels for displaying the trees at the show and to help our club sensei Kathy Shaner with planning space requirements and tree placement.

I personally want to thank everyone who responded to the pleas for trees. At one point, we were at around 100 trees with only 12 members having committed to showing their trees. And it was getting close to show time!

I would like to share with everyone the results of your efforts. There were 56 different species of trees and shrubs on display as bonsai. A total of 35 club members displayed 206 bonsai. Species included: 12 redwoods, seven black pines, six white pines, 12 Japanese maples, 10 trident maples and 50 junipers. California native species included: coast redwood, Mendocino pygmy cypress, tamarisk, and pepper.

This count does not include the shohin trees, and there were many shohin that made a wonderful display. There were also many, many carefully designed and arranged accents plants that enhanced the show.

What did we accomplish? Hopefully, when the receipts are added up the club made money. These monies finance club operations throughout the year, as this is our only fund raiser. Just as important is our goal to educate the public in the art form of bonsai, and we also try to attract new members. We members also learn from showing our trees. To show a tree one strives to appreciate and improve the quality of his or her bonsai. As usual, a couple of trees were rejected by Kathy Shaner as not ready for prime time: August is not the season for winter silhouettes!

Our club offers instruction on bonsai for every level of experience, and there is no reason for not having trees in the show.

Congratulations to everyone who participated in this year's show. Now get busy planning for next year.

— George Haas,
Show Secretary



Redwood Empire Bonsai Society

Ryan Neil Demo Packs the House

September 27, 2011

Our latest general meeting was held on Tuesday evening, September 27, with Ryan Neil as guest demonstrator. Ryan gave an energetic and entertaining demonstration on a Sierra juniper (*Juniperus occidentalis*), collected by Bob Shimon. His demonstration provided valuable information on developing, styling and caring for junipers in general. His presentation was also filled with many untold stories of his six-year apprenticeship under Japan's Bonsai Master Masahiko Kimura. And, there was a full room of members and guests for the Ryan-athon occasion.

Ryan began his demonstration with a cautionary note about removing too much of the foliage from the Sierra juniper, and junipers in general. The juniper gets most of its strength from photosynthesis occurring in the foliage. Pines are different in that the foliage can be removed more severely and their roots will provide for strength, recovery and back budding.

Describing the signs of a good juniper specimen for bonsai, Ryan said it should be a healthy tree, show signs of new growth, green color, lots of branches to work with, and taper of the trunk. Some flaws in junipers include: lots of branches, small branches, long and thin branches, lack of foliage, and no taper in the trunk.

Two items to avoid in a bonsai are elements that appear to be perpendicular or parallel to the lines of the pot. With the exception



Ryan warms up with some enthusiastic orchestrations prior to laying his hands on the demo Sierra juniper.

of the formal upright style, these undesirable forms will be caught by the eye's pattern recognition function and will distract from appreciation of the bonsai's positive elements.



Ryan strips bark from the front aspect of the trunk to create deadwood—shari—for increased visual interest.

A good bonsai will display lots of movement and interesting drama for the viewer. These forms can sometimes be worked into the styling by altering the angle of the tree and pot. Ryan demonstrated this by placing wooden wedges underneath the edges of the pot to display the trunk and foliage at various angles.

Masculine vs feminine style: Ryan pointed out features in the demo tree that could be seen as either masculine (strong) or feminine (weak) styles. For a strong appearance, he suggested a reversal in movement of the branches, such as moving branches and foliage back across the flow of the trunk. For a more passive style, he suggested the branches and foliage continue to move in harmony with the movement of the trunk. Short and compacted foliage also suggests a stronger appearance.

Deadwood is carved into the bark for the appearance of age as well as strength in the design. Ryan cut and stripped the bark from the trunk, facing the front view, creating shari. The live veins on the sides will roll over and continue to allow for growth and expansion of the trunk as viewed from the front. The live veins should be visible to the front view, but it's the growing sides and expanding trunk that is most desirable.

Ryan warned about using power carving tools on bonsai. He allowed that using power carving tools may be appropriate for removing a

massive amount of material, such as unwanted deadwood; however, he said power carving tools oftentimes will result in an unnatural looking tree. Instead, he recommended cutting and stripping the bark as an easier way to carve and present a more natural appearance.



Wiring begins from the bottom up; Ryan's masterful hands work faster than the eye can follow.

Before branch selection can take place, it's important to "clean" the tree. This means to remove unwanted, dead, and small inside and crotch branches, and dead and weak foliage.

Ryan said to create the appearance of age he would style and develop a rounded apex or multiple apexes for junipers.

Proper techniques are important, such as wiring, which is fundamental to bonsai. Ryan emphasized that in addition

to acquiring the proper bonsai techniques, one should know the "why" in order to fully understand and create good bonsai.

With the demo Sierra juniper as a model, Ryan described the life cycle of styling junipers, starting with



Ryan brings out the big guns to perform amazing feats of power wiring—all while lecturing, too!

the initial styling, and thereafter monitoring the tree's response in the first year. In the spring, the tree's growth may require pruning back to another strong shoot, while in the fall the tree is shedding old needles, which again requires cleaning out the inside of the branches. By the second year, the tree's response to its first styling will likely require rewiring and establishment of a second structural design.

Ryan suggested a juniper can be quite comfortable in its first pot for up to six years. He said that when

a bonsai tree grows too big, it's time to re-style and manage that growth response. Often it becomes necessary to create a new tree design.

Ryan recommended organic fertilizer as a supplement, along with a general soil mix and watering, to ensure the healthy maintenance of bonsai.

The Ryan Neil-styled demo tree was raffled off at the conclusion of the demonstration. The little tree that was once collected by Bob Shimon was won by—wait for it—Bob Shimon in the raffle. Congratulations Bob!



Digging for that winning ticket. Did you fold a corner down, Bob, or what? (Just kidding!)



Redwood Empire Bonsai Society

Show and Tell

September 27, 2011



Junipers were the stars, large and small.
Dave Hadden brought this California juniper, collected eight years ago, showing off its beautifully twisting shari.



This cascading Shimpaku juniper, brought in by Arty Kopecky, also shows off his carpentry skills on this split level stand.



Despite its inelegant container, Bob Shimon's Sierra juniper shows off its fresh styling by Ryan Neil's talented hands.



Bob also displayed this incredibly contorted, but apparently thriving cascade style (?) juniper. (Ouch!)



Arty also displayed a Chinese landscape-styled redwood—admittedly in need of a haircut—on another of his stands.



Gene Lynch's buckeye bonsai seems to be pushing the seasons with its winter silhouette already showing.



Mary Wilson brought in her crape myrtle, full of buds on the verge of blooming.



A sweet grassy accent plant, in its hand-made pot, set off the many bonsai trees.



This formal upright redwood, belonging to Craig Thompson, benefitted from Ryan's input at his recent workshop.

Redwood Empire Bonsai Society

Directory 2011

*Don't forget our
new meeting*

location:



Luther Burbank
Art and Garden
Center

2050 Yulupa

Avenue · Santa

Rosa · 95405



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Calendar Of Events

October 2011

- 2 Kathy Shaner Advanced Workshop, Sunday (6.3). Date changed by Kathy, no payment expected if you can't make it.
- 4 Special Repotting and Wiring Workshop, Tuesday evening, \$45, 3 person limit.
- 13 Kathy Shaner Advanced Workshop, Thursday (6.1 & 3.1).
- 14 Kathy Shaner Advanced Workshop, Friday (6.2).
- 20 Intermediate I Workshop, Thursday. **Please note new location: Santa Rosa Senior Center, 704 Bennett Valley Rd., Room 17, Santa Rosa**, with Richard Hoskins and Ivan Lukrich.
- 21 Intermediate II Workshop, Friday, Frank Bardella's Bonsai Studio, with Frank Bardella and Gene Lynch.
- 25 REBS General Meeting and Demonstration, 4th Tuesday, 7:30-10:00 PM, **Luther Burbank Art & Garden Center 2050 Yulupa Avenue · Santa Rosa · CA · 95405**. Bob Shimon will be doing the demo on a Mendocino pygmy cypress.



Visit the web site of GSBF for complete monthly events and/or revised dates at:

www.gsbf-bonsai.org

ATTENTION MEMBERS, YOUR ATTENTION, PLEASE:

Have you got a little extra time you'd like to put to good use?

Do you have some basic computer skills you don't want to lose?

Can you type a list of announcements?

If you've got a bit of time and a tiny bit of skill, you can make a great contribution to your club without even breaking a sweat! This is a temporary gig for just a couple of months, but your help will be greatly appreciated, especially by your weary editor.

Please contact Arty Kopecky at 707-829-5670 or artsankopecky@msn.com for more details. Instant good karma guaranteed!

Many, many thanks & blessings!

—CA, your humble editor

Official REBS Newsletter is published monthly.

Redwood Empire Bonsai Society



Luther Burbank Art & Garden Center,
Santa Rosa, California

REBS was founded in 1981 for bonsai enthusiasts. Our club meets every fourth Tuesday of the month (except in July and December). The monthly meeting and demonstration are held at the Luther Burbank Art and Garden Center, 2050 Yulupa Avenue, Santa Rosa, 95405. Meetings are open to the public. Please refer to our calendar of events for specific time, date and guest demonstrator.

We're on the web:
www.rebsbonsai.org

Redwood Empire Bonsai Society
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Santa Rosa CA 95405-2872

*Address Correction Requested
Please Forward*

