

American Bonsai Association Sacramento

September 2010



The Bent Twig

Dedicated to the learning, enjoying and promoting of bonsai

August Business Meeting

By Renee Seeley

Treasurer Report – Ann Harris



- Ann announced that the Club has a balance of \$8867.61 (Garden Center lease, fall and spring Garden Center Sale fees are paid).

Paul announced that according to the by laws this is the last year that Ann can serve as Treasurer. If you are interested in this position, talk to Paul because you can work with Ann over the next year to learn the duties.

New Member Information – Bill Burns



Bill reminded new members to contact him for a new member information package and added:

- New members are encouraged to take workshops to develop skills; and join ongoing workgroups.
- Roger Steele will open a workshop for new members, and the board will find other experienced members who would be willing to host small workshops at their homes.
- Golden State Bonsai Federation Convention in October offers many excellent workshops.



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ABAS Program Schedule

- September – Ryan Neil demonstration.
- October – annual club auction; members are asked to bring food and refreshments.
- November – Peter Tea, Fall Pine Care.
- December – Christmas Party with Satsuki Aikokai.
- Greg McDonald shared ideas for 2011 club programs and they included: Bob Shimon with Redwoods, Peter Tea for Pines and Ted Matson. Please contact Greg if you have a suggestion for a club program.

Old Business

- Garden Center Sale Fall 2010 – Carolyn Van Hoecke volunteered to chair this club fundraiser.
- December Christmas Party – Carolyn Van Hoecke and Amanda will chair this event, but they are requesting someone with experience to assist them. Please contact Carolyn (530-666-6972) if you can help.
- Bus Trip 2011 – Ann Harris will charter the bus, but we need a volunteer to plan the route and contact nurseries.
- Fall Garden Center Sale – Set Up Friday, October 15th, sale Saturday, October 16th and Sunday, October 17th. Volunteers are needed, so please call Ann Harris or sign up at the September meeting.
- Capital City Show, October 23rd and 24th – Gary Judd explained show needs:

- Each participating club will set up 3 formal tokonoma displays, individual Shohin for display and 4 suiseki for a separate stone display. Members should let Paul know what they plan to display.
- ABAS will be responsible for the Saturday demonstration – we need ideas, so please contact Paul if you have suggestions.
- Potluck lunch – members and guests are welcome to attend, so please bring plenty of food.
- Saturday evening social – drinks and hors d'oeuvres will be provided by Capital City and the new nominees for the wall of fame at Lake Merrit will be announced.
- ABAS Club Auction will be held October 26th - We need a ton of volunteers to run the auction, so sign up at the September meeting. Sellers must get their numbers no later than 24 hours before the auction. **Please bring refreshments for the Auction because we will have more visitors than usual.**

August Meeting Workshop

The August meeting gave folks an opportunity to obtain design help on their trees. More experienced members were available to provide suggestions.



Greg McDonald gave members styling advice.

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Greg said that in his experience most people think it's about cutting new growth immediately, but he believes that it's really about letting new growth develop so that you can use it to make beautiful trees. Greg wires and lets new growth fill the tree out and then he wires the new growth. He feels that you need to wire completely and then cut back and that the biggest mistake is cutting back severely and then not having anything to wire.

Everyone was able to ask questions and get help with their bonsai.



Roger offers Ann some advice on her maple.



Paul helps Dolores with a tree.

September Meeting – Ryan Neil

Ryan Neil will provide a juniper demonstration for the September 28th meeting. Ryan gives a wonderful demonstration, so don't miss this meeting. We need additional volunteers to bring refreshments to this meeting because we usually have a larger audience.



Show and Tell



Timm discusses several of his trees.



Another good selection of raffle prizes - Thanks Bill.



Shepard Garden Center Sale

SATURDAY AND SUNDAY OCTOBER 16-17

Twice a year the Garden & Arts Center holds a well-advertised Bargain Bazaar free to the public. The event usually draws a good crowd of beginning and advanced gardeners as well as bargain hunters who can barely recognize a plant from a pot. American Bonsai always purchases a booth space and hopes to make enough money to pay for our annual facilities rental cost. Anything bonsai always sells well, but shoppers are also looking for the unusual specimen and for inexpensive landscape fill-in.

Past year items have included living wall hangings, botanical theme stationery, decorative rusty antique equipment and six-packs of miscellaneous cuttings. Other sellers will have both new and used books, jewelry, wind chimes, row labels, bulbs, tubers, ceramics, needlework, and you-name-it. The choice of plants may range from miniature sedums to tropical orchids, fruit trees, and everything in between. Some plants are in nice pots but most are in nursery containers. Prices start at a few cents and go up to hundreds of dollars.

Any club member who requests a seller number and brings items to the sale table on Friday October 15 is eligible to sell. Seller sign-up will be available at the September 28 meeting. This is an opportunity to dispose of all of those extra plants, pots, tools & general garden supplies that are too good to throw away, but don't fit your current needs. With each of your plants and items, there are two ways to participate. Either you can outright donate 100% to the club or you can sell it on consignment and the club keeps only 20% and you get 80% of the sales price. If your consignment doesn't sell, you need to pick it up by 4:30 on Sunday, October 17. Donated plants that don't sell will be distributed to club members for babysitting and then repurposed for other club uses such as raffle or auction items.

If you have any questions, contact Ann Harris (916) 455-8385 harris@surewest.net or Carolyn Van Hoecke (530) 666-6972 vanhoeckec@gmail.com

A NEW KIND OF PRE-BONSAI GROWING POT

By Carolyn Van Hoecke

Here's something new to try. Some hobbyists are having pre-bonsai growing out success using "Smart Pot" grow bags instead of plastic or ceramic pots. These are above ground cloth pots that hold moisture but allow air to reach the roots. When the roots reach the perimeter of the pot, they are "air pruned" and stop growing. The theory is that these pots will produce a more compact root ball without the long circling roots that can be such a problem.



I received my Smart Pot planted with a workshop oak at the Shohin Convention in February. So far, the little tree has made it through the winter as well as the hottest July and August summer months and the plant looks fine. I can't say that about other shohin size that were in plastic and ceramic containers. They usually get very stressed this time of year. I don't understand exactly how it works, but it does work. The fabric pot retains moisture even on hot dry windy days and the soil stays relatively cool. My favorite features are that it can't chip or crack and is very forgiving when it's moved around.

It's not pretty, but it's also not any worse than the other miscellaneous collection of recycled containers that I use for growing. For big trees, such as shown in the picture, the company recommends placing the pot bottom to conform to the ground and then letting a few small roots grow into the ground to further stabilize the plant.

The pots are manufactured by High Caliper Growing Systems out of Oklahoma City, OK. They have a video at their website that tells you exactly how the Smart Pots work. The website is www.treebag.com. The video is worth a peek.

Order from the company, or search "Smart Pot Plant Fabric Containers" on eBay. They are probably also available locally if you check your closest hydroponic gardener supply company. A one gallon size is about \$6.50. They also come in 3, 5 and 7 gallon sizes.

ABAS Club Auction Information

ITEM DROP OFF TIME 5:30 PM

PREVIEW 6:00PM

AUCTION START 6:30PM

Sellers may obtain a "Sellers Number" and sheet at the September Meeting or by contacting Ann Harris at (916) 455-8385 or harris@surewest.net. **No seller number will be issued on the day of the auction or at the auction.**

- ❖ For each item list:
 - the number of the item (seller number – item number; e.g. 1-8, seller number 1 item number 8)
 - Brief description - the auctioneer will hype this up for you.
 - Minimum Bid – your lowest acceptable price. Whole dollars only.
- ❖ Tag your item with your seller number and the item number.
- ❖ Any bonsai-related materials (plants, tools, pots, books, etc.) may be sold. Items may be sold individually or as a single lot (indicate the number in each lot in the description block on your list e.g. Bonsai pots 3 piece set).
- ❖ When pricing please consider that you will receive 80% of the final selling price.

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- ❖ The Treasurer will settle your account at the following club meeting or by mail whichever is more expedient.
- ❖ To get the best possible price, plant material should be pruned, healthy, free of weeds and pests, and tools and pots should be clean.
- ❖ Please pick up unsold items at the end of the auction otherwise an exorbitant storage fee will be charged!

Buyers may sign up and obtain a bidders number on the evening of the auction.

When you have completed your purchases:

- ❖ Bring your winning bidder slips to the pick-up area.
 - Your items will be totaled and sales tax added.
 - When you have paid for your items, you may pick them up from the holding area.
 - Please pick items at the completion of the auction otherwise an exorbitant storage fee will be charged!

Meeting Refreshment Schedule

Please remember to bring refreshments for the club meetings on the dates you volunteered. We need additional volunteers for October because the Auction always brings a larger audience than monthly meetings. We also need one more volunteer for the months of November, February and April 2011.

- August – Renee Seeley and Kathleen O'Donnell.
- September – Dolores Rauh, Barbara Kelley and Jill Willett.
- October – Carlotta Gutierrez. This is the club auction so we'll need more food than usual, so we need at least two other volunteers.
- November – Carlotta Gutierrez. Need one more volunteer.
- December – Christmas Party

October Tree Care

- Feed all non-flowering trees with slow release food. Foliar feed all conifers every two weeks with soluble fertilizer.
- Apply 0-10-10 or bone meal to azaleas and deciduous trees to slow growth, encourage good fall color and store nutrients for spring.
- Wiring may be done on most trees, but check wiring done earlier in the year as it may have to be removed.
- Most deciduous fruiting and flowering trees (other than azaleas) can now be repotted. The fall is the second best season for repotting.
- Temperatures can fluctuate, so watch watering needs carefully.
- Watch for pests, especially if the weather is warm and spray with insecticide when necessary. Fall is also a good time to do a Bayer dip to rid trees of pests.

ABAS Calendar of Club Events:

- **September 18th – Greg McDonald will host a Peter Adams workshop at his home. The cost is \$70 with a \$40 deposit. Call Greg if you are interested in signing up for this class.**
- **September 25th and 26th – Greg McDonald will host two Ryan Neil workshops at his home. The cost is \$120. This class is now full, but call Greg if you want to be put on a waiting list.**
- **October 26th – ABAS annual auction. Paul Holtzen and Dino Pappademos will be our auctioneers.**
- **November 23rd Club Meeting will feature Peter Tea discussing fall Black Pine work.**
- **December – Christmas Party.**

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Calendar of General Bonsai Events:

- **October 16th and 17th – Shepard Garden Center
Fall sale.**
- **October 23rd and 24th – Capital City Bonsai
Association annual show.**
- **October 28th – 31st – Golden State Bonsai
Federation Convention in Santa Clara.**

Board of Directors

President: Paul Holtzen..... (916) 933-3681
Vice President: Greg McDonald... (530) 642-2521
Treasurer: Ann Harris (916) 455-8385
Recording Secretary:
Vacant.....
Corresponding Secretary:
Rene Seeley (916) 929-2106

Members-at-Large:

Marty Bauman (916) 363-6962
Bill Burns (916) 988-4894
Dolores Rauh(916) 967-912
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