

The Collection-Connection

A newsletter from the Bonsai Garden at Lake Merritt

Quarterly Newsletter

Volume VIII, Issue 4 December 2010

Of Special Interest

New Volunteer Recognition

New Way to Enter Your Hours

New Work-at-Home Forms Available

Calendar of Events

Feb 19--27: Kathy Shaner in the Garden

Feb 26, 4-7PM Club Connection Event

Feb. 26-27, 2011 Mammoth Fundraiser Event at BGLM

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New Volunteer Recognition and Volunteer Hours Accounting Process

The BGLM Board of Directors has been considering a better way to recognize our many volunteers. We have realized that over the years we have not altered the format of recording hours, hours accepted, or the manner of recognition of the hours served.

Accounting Hours Current Plan

Hours are currently logged on one of two logs: a Docent Log that is kept in the docent

house, or the Garden Log that is kept in the workroom. These log sheets recorded actual hours spent in the Garden.

New Program (Starts Jan 1, 2011)

First, let us say that the hours worked this year will not be lost. Hours from Jun 1 through Dec. 31, 2010 will be added to the new forms.

Our hours will be logged as door-to-door time. Thus, the time you leave

your house for the garden, the time at the garden, plus your return time should be added together and recorded.

Travel time shall be computed based on normal travel time from home to garden.

For example: If it normally takes you one hour from San Jose to Oakland, that will be the standard time used from your home location. You can use Google Maps to check your standard time if you need to.

New Way to Record Your Hours

If stops are made along the way, the standard time will remain the same for your trip.

Each volunteer will create a personal data sheet in the binder located in the workroom. On the data sheet, each volunteer can choose up to two clubs on their personal data sheets. They must assign a % split for each club.

Example: Club A: 50%
Club B: 50%

Work at Home

Many volunteers spend countless hours working on Garden projects while at home. For this purpose, we will be introducing a Work-at-Home form.

For work-at-home accounting, please include the description of your project. We encourage you to record your work in ½ hour blocks.

Your personal data sheets will be located in

the workroom by the door in a binder.

Locate your page and record your hours. If you wish to designate the type of work done, such as Docent, record a D with your time and date.

D = Docent
A = Administration
M = Maintenance
G = Grounds
B = Bonsai

If you are not a member of a club, please indicate Community.





This year we found a wonderful gift on the Daimyo Oak. This rare gift has not been seen in many years, but there it was. An Acorn was found on our wonderfully healthy restyled Daimyo Oak!

Volunteer Recognition (cont.)

Recognition

At the end of each fiscal year, we will tally total hours from Garden and work-at-home time sheets for each volunteer. Those hours are added to a central database. Recognition will be based on the following: Hours worked during the year and total cumulative hours worked for BGLM.

Award Hours

Our current system

awards volunteer hours with the following rewards: 50=Docent Pin, 75=Certificate of Appreciation, and 100=Workshop vouchers.

New Award Hours

Attendees at Volunteer Appreciation Day will receive tickets for a special drawing. The number of tickets given will be based on the following scale:

1 ticket for each 50 hours volunteered.

For 50 hours as a docent for the first year of volunteering, you will receive a Docent Pin. For 100 hours you will receive a Certificate of Appreciation.

Cumulative Hour Awards

We acknowledge that over the years of service we have given many pins, certificates and vouchers. The system we are moving to will keep your hours moving forward and give rewards for cumulative hours served.

New Cumulative Hour Awards

We will have a reward system that gives special gifts at each of the following levels: 500, 1000, 2000, 3000, 4000, and 5000 hours.

For those giving over 5000 hours of service, we will have to dream about a reward.

Previous workshop certificate awards will be turned in to the cumulative award hours. We will not be giving workshop coupons any longer.

To be fair to everyone, awards will be given based on the total of your cumulative hours.

We have decided that the workshop coupon is not sustainable for the long term as we have not been able to honor them.

So many changes, you may say, but we want to be sure that our hard-working volunteers feel they are appreciated. We want to provide a recognition we can live with and stand behind.

We want to make sure that gifts given at various levels represent your consistent efforts to make the make the Garden a place of peace and a Garden we are proud of.



BREAKING NEWS!

Yasuo Mitsuya Back in the Garden!

April 29, 30–May 1 and May 6–8, 2011

Six Days—Six Different Events. Check our website for updates on program and dates. Complete program, fees, and days will be posted soon.

May 7th

Special evening commemorative event called "With Gratitude"

Starting January 1, 2011, two new binders are provided for Garden volunteers. The Docent office area will host a binder that will gather important information about the guests, funds received, water checks and temperature information.

Secondly, there is now one binder for all time accounting located just inside the workroom door. Each person will have or create a time sheet and file it under the alphabetical tabs provided. Then each time you come in, simply record the date and total time at the garden plus your standard commute times.

At the end of each month, we will tally the time you have for that month. At the end of the accounting year, you will see the total time of service tallied on your sheet.

Your hours will be added to our cumulative-hours database that has been gathered by Kay Hardy and Phyllis Swanson. You can then look forward to a fun Volunteer Appreciation Day next fall.

Tree of the Month: Monterey Cypress

by *The Repotting Team*

Monterey Cypress #140
cupressus macrocarpa
Donated by
Katsumi Kinoshita

Informal Upright

Foster parent:
Andrea Burhoe

Work Intent: Creating age with the jins and reducing the heavy multiple branches that are in the same place. The tree will be repotted into a deeper pot, leaning it forward and tilting it up on the left side. The pot has more detail. The choice of pot is based on the girth of

the trunk, which has doubled since it arrived in the garden. We now want some of the limbs to grow substantially so a pot with more depth can be used to allow the tree more growing room. It also supports the general aesthetics of a larger canopy.

Work on the tree was completed in January 2011.



Above: Monterey cypress in 2000 before refinement. Pads are full and the tree is rather thin in trunk and foliage.

Many new jins have been created in front and back to enhance the aged look of the tree and represents the natural character of the Monterey Cypress.

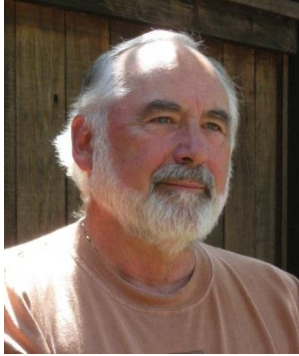
The tree is very dense so it needs to have foliage reduced and more perception of age created. Branches were selected for jin based on the visual space looking through the tree and providing space where the cypress will do its natural growth characteristic by developing branching through the cleared space above it. We also assessed the branch weight and the weight of branches near it and jins were chosen to create branch



differentiation based on thickness. More jins will be done in the future after the tree has some time to recover from the great amount of work already done on the tree.



Monterey Cypress after some restyling in December 2010.



Gordon Deeg

GSBF-BGLM:

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Gordon Deeg

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Kathy Shaner

Curator

Bob Gould

Maintenance

Andrea Burhoe

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Phyllis Swanson

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Mammoth Fundraiser Event

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Seiji Shiba

Past Director

Kora Dalager

Librarian

Volunteer Coordinator – Open

Historian - Open

Abe Far

GSBF Liaison

Directors Emeritus

Walter Brainerd, Warren Clark, Bill

Hashimoto, John Planting,

Gene Kremer, Jim Ransohoff, Ray

Thieme

The Director's Corner

The Bonsai Garden at Lake Merritt has undergone some major changes over the past year.

Our collection of bonsai has grown tremendously. We have added 35 new bonsai to our collection that were donated by 13 separate individuals or their estates. Our permanent collection now numbers 184 trees. Even though each and every one is a great tree we are looking to reduce this number to between 170 and 175. Bonsai that are no longer going to be part of permanent collection will be sold at auction at our Mammoth Fund Raiser. However, this year, because of the large number of quality bonsai in the auction, we are saving and working to improve the collection's bonsai slated for de-

accession until next year. Physical changes to the Garden include both design changes and repairs. After 11 years of being open, we saw the need to make some much needed repairs. Some of the Building and Grounds changes include:

- Seven new stands for chuhin size bonsai were installed
 - The pathway along the back fence has been redirected
 - New stones have been placed along this pathway
 - All the paths have been resurfaced
 - The gate leading from the display area to the reserve has been modified
 - Re landscaped by removing most of the mondo grass
 - Made repairs to the irrigation system.
- Operational changes and improvements include:

- Our newsletter, *The Collection Connection*, has been overhauled and upgraded
- We have formed an active Marketing Committee
- We are in process of photographing each tree on a yearly basis for archival and historical use
- We have produced a new 8½X11 poster for window displays in local businesses
- We have produced a new Giving Brochure with a Legacy Giving component

For the following year, we plan to concentrate on Buildings and Grounds improvements and repairs.

I hope everybody had a wonderful holiday; I'm looking forward to another great year at BGLM Bonsai Garden.'

Many New Projects...

Some of the projects we are planning include:

- Completely re-doing our irrigation system and installing an automatic fertilizing system. We are in the process of preparing a RFP to submit to several local contractors
- Storage of necessary supplies is becoming a major problem, so we are planning on having a storage shed built in our back reserve area
- The workroom exterior is in need of painting, and a local vendor has agreed to supply the paint. We are looking for a local painter to do the work

- Eighteen new bonsai benches will be constructed. These will have various designs to accommodate different sizes and styles of trees.
- A new tokonoma display area is also planned along the same pathway
- A new information center is being planned and is in the design stage

We are also changing how we track volunteer hours to make it fairer for all and to make tracking easier. The new system is discussed in an article appearing in this *Collection Connection*.

Calling Volunteers for Mammoth Fundraiser

If you are planning on attending the upcoming Mammoth Fundraiser and have not already signed up to help on one of the Committees, please consider donating a little bit of your time while you are here.

We need help selling Raffle Tickets both on Saturday and on Sunday. We also

welcome folks helping out with the following areas:

- Morning Setup - Coordinator is Bob Gould (925-935-1914 or rgould1003@sbcglobal.net)
- Mammoth Cafe - Coordinator is Kathleen Haley (CalShohin@yahoo.com)
- Auction Crew - Coordinator is Seiji Shiba (CalShohin@yahoo.com)
- Plant Sales Crew - Coordinators are Mike Mello (510-825-4162) and Dennis Hawkins (IDHawk@comcast.net)
- Afternoon Cleanup - **We REALLY REALLY Need help on this crew!** (650-598-0127 or Calshohin@yahoo.com)

Volunteers who let their crew bosses know they are available and who help out for 3-4 hours will also get a free lunch provided by the Mammoth Cafe. Please also note that there is a change in food service this year. Food sales to the public will occur on Sunday but not on Saturday.

The volume of sales to the public in the past few years has been so low on Saturday that we're going to lighten up the workload for the Cafe crew.

Trident Bark – Creating the Natural Look

We all probably have or had a Trident Maple in our collection. Did we ever achieve the natural bark look? We recently toured around the BGLM to look at some examples with Kathy Shaner. We should peel our tree bark and even make some careful scarring to get

bark on bonsai trees to look old and natural.



The photo on the left is from a tree in the BGLM.



To the left, we see the bark of a trident in nature. Notice the ripples in the water line and the flakiness of the bark. To recreate this look is our goal. In nature, wind, rain and animals help to shape the bark but we must manually take care of it to provide the aged look and feel.

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Golden State Bonsai Federation–BGLM: <i>Collection-Connection</i>		
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Date	Amount Enclosed	
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Email Address (Optional)		
Your Club Affiliation (Optional)		



Fifty 7th Graders were introduced to the art of bonsai through a demonstration on creating a yamadori style juniper.

Introducing Bonsai to the Youth

by Jerry Carpenter

Every chance we get, we should try to introduce our art and culture of Bonsai to inspire the younger generation.

That is exactly the intent of an educational event at Saint Andrew's Episcopal School in Saratoga, CA.

Lindy Lim, a friend of volunteer Gary Tom, has been introduced to. She

came up with an idea of bonsai from the BGLM been introduced to bonsai from the BGLM. She came up with an idea of taking that introduction to the art of bonsai to the school where her son was entering the 7 grade. She and I met at the Garden and since the school was not far from where I lived, I

offered to develop a program for them sometime during the year. Time had passed and then suddenly she called to say that the Social Studies class, taught by Erin Stacey, was going to be teaching the culture of Japan and asked if we could do the bonsai introduction during that study period. The opportunity presented itself in December.

Preparing the Presentation

Thanks to the BGLM and Gordon Deeg, 8 young junipers were provided for the students to work on. I transplanted the junipers from their growing pots into the new plastic bonsai pots.

I then prewired the trees with a #3 aluminum wire on several key branches. The class purchased some trimming tools so

that everyone would have a chance to trim some of their tree. Pots were procured from Kogura's in San Jose's Japan town.

My primary objective was to instruct the students on how to make a *yamadori* style juniper based on the instruction I had received from John Planting and Jim Gremel at several Kusamura

Bonsai Club demonstrations.

We set up a formal display table with trees from my collection on stands and one tree from Lindy Lim that Gary Tom was working on with her. The parents brought in some local treats and wore their casual Japanese kimono known as a *Yukata*.



Proud students stand with their tree, their trimming tools for a photo op at the event.

Teaching, Learning...



A team exercise, this class sat through a short lecture and then began eagerly styling their trees while we helpers ran from table to table to give assistance.



Ms Koon, Jerry Carpenter, and Lindy Lim contemplate the display before the students arrive. (continued on page 8)



Above: Jerry works with a group on how to bend wire.



Reflecting on the display.

News From Around the Garden

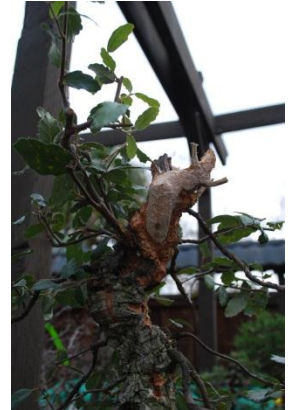
A Big Thanks for Club Contributions to BGLM

We want to extend a big thanks for the clubs that have held for many years have special fundraisers for the Garden and for the Curator Fund. The Board of Directors of the BGLM wishes to extend its heartfelt thanks to Sei Boku Kai

for donating the proceeds from their Green Elephant Sale for the Curator Fund. Thanks to the Capitol City Bonsai Association for their contribution as well as the Bonsai Society of San Francisco for donating the proceeds of the Christmas Curator Fund raffle and auction. Your efforts keep us moving forward. Thank you.

Time to Lime Sulfur?

Lime sulfur can be used to treat a variety of bugs. We have treated many of our trees this month.



Cork Oak gets new top. A large growth of cork was removed near the apex to create a dramatic jin. In the future the top will be wired to cross in front of the jin.

Volunteer Appreciation Day 2010



Some of our fantastic Garden volunteers gathered in September to receive rewards and catch up with each other.

We had a beautiful day, some fun foods, and some major pats on the back for a job well done.

Recent Visitors to the Garden Were From:

Switzerland
Oakland
Venezuela
Brazil

Comments:

.. and right here in our own city!
Lovely
Awesome

Club Connection Event! RSVP Required.

On Saturday, Feb 27, 2011 after the Mammoth Fundraiser Auction at 4-7PM the BGLM will be hosting a special event for club officers or their official representatives.

This event will be a wine and cheese event in the Garden wherein club officers will learn more about what the Garden is doing, where much more going and how that affects all the local

clubs. It will give a chance for local club officers to meet each other and enjoy the BGLM. This is an RSVP event. Club officers should send the RSVP to Randi Keppeler at:

Calshohin@yahoo.com .

The BGLM is asking local clubs to update their information for mailing, email, phone contact, and club officer information so

that we can make sure we get information to the people who can share it with the clubs.

Contact information is very important and we will treat it carefully. We do not send out a great deal of mail, but we do target program information to clubs all around the Bay Area and now across the nation.

News Updates

New large bonsai tree stands are being constructed near the fence. These were made possible by a generous donation by Mr Pye, a local Oakland resident.

GSBF Bonsai Garden at Lake Merritt

Located near the boathouse and Garden Center on Bellevue Ave at Lake Merritt, Oakland, California

Phone

Phone: 510.763.8409

E-mail

bonsailakemerritt@gmail.com



St. Andrews School 7th Graders standing with their initial bonsai tree.

Introducing Bonsai to the Youth (cont.)

The students listened to a lecture on key words, basic horticulture and soil, as well as care for the tree they would be working on. They were introduced to basic bonsai styles by looking at the formal display trees. They were so focused on the topic and asked many very good questions about the trees.

When the lecture ended, they divided themselves into eight groups and gathered around their trees to receive instruction about bending the wired branches and trimming foliage. We ran from table to table to help them out. We encouraged them to bend more and cut more to create an interesting design.

In the end we drew a numbered chop stick to find out who would take the tree home. Number 1s got their tree from each group. They were elated.

I would encourage you to teach any chance you get. It is a great learning experience for students and teachers.

About Our Organization

The GSBF Bonsai Garden at Lake Merritt is the home to some of the finest bonsai in Northern California. The Garden is the only public bonsai garden staffed and maintained by volunteers

and is supported entirely by donations.

This permanent collection assures that these precious trees by outstanding masters and collectors will be preserved for everyone's

enjoyment. The collection is changed regularly, so visit several times a year.

Curator Kathy Shaner is the only female Japanese-certified bonsai master in the United States.

*Golden State Bonsai Federation
Bonsai Garden at Lake Merritt
P.O. Box 16176
Oakland, CA 94610-6176*



We're on the Web!

See us at: www.gsbfbonsai.org/lake-merritt/
and on **Facebook**