

## Features

- Meet Aarin Packard
- Tree of the Month
- Mammoth Fundraiser
- Director's Corner
- Edu-Fun: Recap of the Mitsuya Event

## Calendar of Events

- **Oct. 25-4<sup>th</sup>** Sunday Event
- Kathy Shaner will be in the garden on the following dates:  
**Nov. 28,29**  
**Dec. 26-Jan 3**  
**Feb 20-28, 2010**  
**Mar 1-2, 2010**
- **Nov. 7** Janice Dilbeck will host a "fall cleaning" day where the team will clean the pots, remove weeds and any moss from the pots, rake the soil, and remove moss from the deadwood. Time: 10AM-3:00PM.

## Oakland Museum

docents are now showing groups through the Gardens at Lake Merritt of which BGLM is a part. Their tour in our garden lasts about 15 minutes. As garden docents, they have studied important trees in the garden enabling them to speak knowledgeably to our visitors.

## Grant Source Request

BGLM is looking for Grantors for projects listed in the garden such as the Shohin Bench, new garden gate, path modification/renewal, and others. If you know sources please contact Andrea Burhoe at [bonsailakemerritt@gmail.com](mailto:bonsailakemerritt@gmail.com).

## Meet Aarin Packard

### Assistant Curator of National Bonsai & Penjing Museum of Washington, DC

*Editor's Note: From time to time we get visitors/workers at the Garden who were sent our way because of the reputation of our renowned curator or the beauty of the garden. We had an opportunity to meet Aarin Packard for just such a reason.*

Aarin Packard has held the position of assistant curator for three years. He is originally from Modesto, CA where his parents were gardeners. When he was about 20 years old, he started learning bonsai from books along with a club of friends developed to create their first bonsai. He



remembers reading the classic bonsai texts of "Bonsai Basics", the Naka books, and Amy Liang's, "The Art of Bonsai". He had to leave all his trees in CA to move East.

Upon moving to the Washington, DC, area, he had some trees in training. He attended George Washington University achieving a degree in Museum Studies. Three months

before graduating, he interviewed at the National Bonsai & Penjing Museum in DC and got the job in 2006. (Photo: Aarin receives instruction from Kathy on making a Jin that will drain water rather than collect and rot.)

His teacher, Jack Sustic, decided Aarin would benefit from visiting other bonsai gardens to gain experience. Mr. Sustic knew Kathy Shaner and believed it a good idea for Aarin to spend some time learning from her.

Aarin's primary duties include hand-watering and checking the collection three times a day, and assisting Mr. Sustic with trees as needed. He also produces articles for the NBG Bulletin. Volunteers are supervised by the curator and can do some basic pruning. Wiring and all other care is done only by the curators.

Aarin has not yet studied in Japan. He believes he can get his education from those who were trained there. His favorite type of bonsai are Japanese Maples, but black pines are fast becoming favorites.

## Garden Factoids

**RACCOON ALERT!** Raccoons have recently been seen around the garden. Please do not feed animals or leave any food garbage outside the docent office or the workshop. Take garbage inside or carry it out away from the garden. The raccoons are beginning to play inside the garden and will dig, chew and climb about things and can cause damage to the trees.

<http://www.gsbfbonsai.org/lake-merritt/>

## GSBF Bonsai Garden at Lake Merritt

### Board of Directors

**Gordon Deeg** – Chairman  
**Grace Li** – Recording Secretary  
**Laurie Feetham** – Corresponding Secretary  
**Andrea Burhoe** – Treasurer  
**Bob Gould** – Director of Facilities  
**Linda Soliven** – Volunteer Coordinator, Mammoth Fundraiser Event  
**Kathy Shaner** – Curator  
**Jerry Carpenter** – Newsletter/Website  
**Kay Hardy** – Docent Scheduling  
**Al Hightower** – Irrigation  
**Phyllis Swanson** – Awards Coordinator & Donor Registry  
**Gareth Shepherd** – GSBF Liaison

### Directors Emeritus

Walter Brainerd, Warren Clark, Bill Hashimoto, John Planting, Gene Kremer, Jim Ransohoff, Ray Thieme

Contact the editor of *The Collection-Connection* at [gsbcnorth@gmail.com](mailto:gsbcnorth@gmail.com), [bonsailakemerritt@gmail.com](mailto:bonsailakemerritt@gmail.com) or [icsf1090@comcast.net](mailto:icsf1090@comcast.net). Just specify in the subject the newsletter title. Thanks to: Cristina Pitzer, Wilson Linker and Margaret Coy for proofing.

We asked Aarin for his first impressions of the garden: "It is great to show the development of bonsai which is unique to the BGLM." The museum preserves the "finished" tree or historical trees.

*"My visit to the [Garden] was a great experience. I learned so much that will help me care for the collection at the National Bonsai and Penjing Museum better. I was really impressed by the beauty and health of the bonsai on display. My time spent working with Kathy was invaluable. She is a naturally gifted teacher and I hope to one day have half of the knowledge about bonsai that she does. I also really enjoyed meeting all the volunteers that donate their time to keep the collection open to the public. In this day and age, public bonsai collections are few and far between and everyone at the Garden should be very proud of all the work they do to make sure there is a place in the Bay Area where people can come and learn about these natural works of art."*

## Tree Update: #178 The Refvem Raft

by John Boyce

While trimming the raft juniper over a 1 ½ years ago, we noticed that the right front branch was getting weak. Looking at the configuration of the crossed branches, it was seen that the upper branch was pressing

on the lower branch and may be cutting off good circulation in the lower one.



To correct this problem the upper branch was raised to relieve pressure below. The branches are now about 2½ inches thick. Wire cannot do the job of repositioning the two branches, so steel rebars were used to lift the upper branch. One rebar was tied to the left side of the raft. The second rebar was placed across the upper branch, protecting the lower branch with a piece of rubber hose. The second rebar was then lifted and attached to the first rebar and fastened in place.

The result of this action raised the upper branch ¼ inch so that the two branches have room to grow without causing a problem.



Update: The raft was marked for special consideration by Master Mitsuya while he was working at the garden. On Sept 4, 2009 Mitsuya removed the rebar. He indicated that the tree needed continued thinning of the canopy. He found scale and marked a branch for treatment. He was insistant that we continue to work

on the refinement of the tree branches and to watch the left and right sides for color changes.

## Opportunity May Knock Just Once a Year!

For bonsai enthusiasts young and old, experienced or just beginning, the opportunity comes February 27th and 28<sup>th</sup>, 2010 at the Garden Center of Lake Merritt.

Invite family and friends to attend!

Experience the excitement of a fast paced auction! Enjoy watching the Master-Kathy Shaner create a masterpiece, have a bite to eat, a cup of coffee.

Get in on good buys, shop at a marketplace of vendors with complete bonsai supplies from tools, pots, books and soil to jewelry, scrolls and more, join in the raffles and silent auction.

And, auction or sell on consignment or donate to the tree sales and silent auction.

### DON'T MISS IT!

For more Information check our website or contact Linda Soliven: [lsolivenster@gmail.com](mailto:lsolivenster@gmail.com)

## Mitsuya BGLM Workshop Reflections

We asked several BGLM Mitsuya workshop attendees to express in their terms the importance/learning/benefit of taking one of the many Mitsuya workshops at the Garden from the Edu-Fun program. Here are some of their responses.

*"My impression of the workshops that I attended is: that Mitsuya was showing us that every detail matters. Whether it was keeping our tools sharp, knowing the differences for care of each type of tree, examining the faults and features of a tree, size and shape of the pot, or displaying of season(to just name a few). All elements needed to be addressed.*

*Also the pure joy of working on trees and bringing out the gem in each of them!!" -Alex Loughry*

*"I was very pleased once again with Mitsuya's workshops. Hugely informative and relatively easy to follow. I particularly enjoyed the "What the hell do you do with this tree" workshop and the seminar on scrolls." Bob Gould*

*"The Mitsuya workshops were the pinnacle of my sabbatical; a chance to dedicate time to working intensely on my trees, intensely with Kathy Shaner, and most of all – what I will call an opportunity of a life-time, to work with Master Mitsuya several times on quality material that I will treasure for the rest of my life." -Jerry Carpenter*

*"The time that I spent at the Bonsai Garden at Lake Merritt with Kathy and her sensei Mitsuya-san was well worth the effort, and expense, required to get there from Milwaukee.*

*Toshio Saburomaru was one of my earliest bonsai teachers; the collection contains two of his trees, a black pine and a mugho pine. I was able to work on both of these trees. It was inspiring to watch Mitsuya-san and Kathy as they directed the work on the two trees, while respecting the tree's heritage.*

*The way Mitsuya-san's hands just flew through the clipping and trimming reminded me of Tosh. Later in Tosh's life, after the Alzheimer's had started its deadly work, he came to Milwaukee for a visit. In my tiny little house, he could not remember where the bathroom was but when he walked out into my bonsai garden, it was evident that the disease had not affected his hands. They just went on automatic as he did the trimming and pruning." – Jack Douthitt*

## Volunteering at the Mammoth Fundraiser is FUN and FULFILLING!

Please step up to join one of the committees and be a part of making this fundraiser the best of all! Give the chair a call with your offer to help.

Event Chair: Linda Soliven, 925.683.3506, [bonsaigirl43@att.net](mailto:bonsaigirl43@att.net)

Wine Hosting, Reception, Security, Sign makers

PUBLICITY: Jerry Carpenter, 408.557.0166(h); 408.823.9525(c) [jcsf1090@comcast.net](mailto:jcsf1090@comcast.net)

Deliver Flyers, Distribute Garden Posters

AUCTION ITEM INTAKE AND PREPARATION OF TREES: Bob Gould, 925.935.1914 [rgould1003@aol.com](mailto:rgould1003@aol.com),

SATURDAY AUCTION CREWS: Gordon Deeg, 650.325.2729 [gdeeg@comcast.net](mailto:gdeeg@comcast.net)

Set up/take down, place trees

Seiji Shiba, 408.354.9391, [bonsaiten@aol.com](mailto:bonsaiten@aol.com) Runners, Auction Spotters, Recorder

SUNDAY SALES: Mike Mello, 510.886.1568, Dennis Hawkins, 510.657.8229 [IDHAWK@comcast.net](mailto:IDHAWK@comcast.net)

Area setup/takedown, assist with sales, monitor sales and traffic

TRANSPORTATION, SETUP/TAKEDOWN: Bob Gould, 925.935.1914 [rgould1003@aol.com](mailto:rgould1003@aol.com)

Vehicles to transport, crew to load/unload

FOOD/BONSAI GARDEN CAFE: Randi Keppeler, 650.598.0127 [rkkeppeler@yahoo.com](mailto:rkkeppeler@yahoo.com)

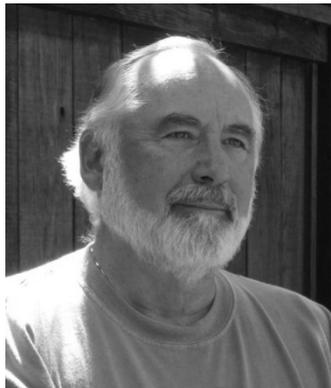
Servers, sandwich makers, clerks, etc.

TREASURER: Lucky Fung, 415.566.2649 [luckyfung88@yahoo.com](mailto:luckyfung88@yahoo.com) Cashiers, Asst. Intake and Deposits

SILENT AUCTION: Mike Haley, 650-962-9336 [Mike.Haley@ucsf.edu](mailto:Mike.Haley@ucsf.edu) Solicitors to visit neighborhood nurseries/businesses for donations/advertisement, Set-up Silent Auction

## Director's Corner: Gordon Deeg

During the month of September Mitsuya-San visited from Japan. For those of you that don't know Mitsuya-San, he is one of the top bonsai artists in Japan. He has been Sensei for many students studying in Japan. Kathy



Shaner completed her 5 year apprenticeship at Tokai-En, Mitsuya's bonsai garden. Mitsuya-San has been our unofficial Sensei sense we opened, visiting every couple of years. Each time he visits, he comments on the improvements in the Garden. Mitsuya-San spent 7 days to giving workshops, working on the Garden's bonsai and making suggestion on how to improve others. It's always inspirational to watch him work on a bonsai and see the improvements the tree makes. Many of the Garden's trees benefited from his efforts. If you haven't visited the Garden lately, come by and see.

The first Sunday in October was Volunteer Appreciation Day. With all the tree maintenance crew, construction and ground workers, and docents being volunteers, this is an important day for us. Without your help we would not have a Bonsai Garden at Lake Merritt. We have over 100 volunteers each helping as best as they can. Heading the list of volunteers in hours spent at the Garden were Bob Gould, Andrea Burhoe, and Linda Soliven. Kay Hardy is our docent coordinator and deserves special thanks. It's her responsibility to find enough docents every month to keep the Garden open. Not always an easy job.

HOBA, Hands on Bay Area, a volunteer coordinating group had about 1000 people working around Lake Merritt and central Oakland on Saturday October 3<sup>th</sup>. About 10 were assigned to work at the Bonsai Garden. The work party consisted of volunteers of all ages. They removed the diseased nandina, pulled weeds and put down ground cover around the outside the Garden fence. They are planning on making the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of each month a volunteer day, with the Garden involved each time. It's nice to see these mostly Oakland residents helping to keep their city clean.

The Mammoth Fundraiser will be here before we know it. The organizing groundwork has been done with Linda Soliven the Chair. We are now looking for appropriate material for our auction on Saturday. These items can be either donated or auctioned on consignment. We are planning on having pictures of all auction items on our website by Dec. 15<sup>th</sup>. In order to meet this deadline we need to have all auction items by Dec 1<sup>st</sup>.

<b>Newsletter Subscription Form</b>	
Golden State Bonsai Federation – Collection-North: Collection-Connection	
A Quarterly Publication focused on education and points of interest concerning the Collection North	
<input type="radio"/> One year Subscription - \$5.00	<input type="radio"/> Two year Subscription - \$10.00
<input type="radio"/> Cash	<input type="radio"/> Check
Mail Subscription Form with Payment to: <b>Collecton-Connection</b> <b>P.O. Box 16176, Oakland, CA 94610-6176</b> <b>Please Print:</b>	
Date:	Amount Enclosed:
Full Name:	
Address:	
Telephone (Optional)	
Email Address (Optional)	
Your Club Affiliation (Optional)	

## Edu-Fun Recap: Workshops/Seminars with Master Mitsuya



*Attendees enjoyed a delightful day of working on landscape trees. The team watches as major changes unfold.*



*Don & Alex Loughry observe as Mitsuya discusses the design of John Boyce's bunjin.*



*John Boyce executes the master's ideas to finish his bunjin style juniper*



*Alex Schneider works on restyling a Sierra Juniper with direction from Mitsuya.*



*Sensei Mitsuya works at restyling his donated black pine to recreate it after its recent hardships.*



*Mitsuya studies a Utah Juniper of Jerry Carpenter adoring the deadwood.*



*J.D. Lin states his tree design as Sensei Mitsuya prepares to show his chosen style.*



Workshop on "what the heck to do with this tree" had attendees picking trees and talking about restyling.



Michelle Zimmer chose a great tree to talk about and Sensei Mitsuya had much to offer before he restyles the tree.



Sensei Mitsuya with newly restyled Daimyo Oak.



Sensei Mitsuya working on needle pruning the Mas Imazumi Black Pine with a trained team from his workshop on old growth bonsai.



Sensei Mitsuya and Shaner, Jack Douthitt, and Carl Osterholm restyling the Tosh Mugho while looking at its published show picture.



L TO R: Vince Owyung (donor of the pomegranate tree), Kathy Shaner, Moshe Klugman, Linda Soliven, Kathy Owyung, Sensei Mitsuya, J.D. Lin

## Tree of the Month: #101 Redwood

by John Boyce

A tree dug up while making highway 101 many years ago by coincidence was named 101 also. It was donated by Bill Sullivan who had collected it in a slide area.

The tree was until recently very full and bushy, giving it a shrubby look. Kathy's professional eye saw that the power in the tree was hidden by the fact that there were too many branches and they were too heavy with foliage.



After changing the top



The lower branch on the left side appeared young due to the copious foliage. Old redwoods have weak lower branches usually because the top is very dense. In the wild they often grow fairly close together shading the lower branches thus weakening them.

The lower branch was reduced greatly and the top of the branch was jinned to make it old in appearance. Due to that action, the branch was weakened enough that it would not regain its previous vitality and fill out.

The other branches were reduced in order and some removed to help give an aged look. As the branches thicken they in turn must either be removed or jinned in a similar fashion to the lowest branch.

Another way Kathy will help the aging of the tree is by letting a fair number of shoots develop on top of a branch and let them grow to form a bole, then she will jin it. This helps to make the branch irregular and also adds age.

The redwood is over tall and the trunk is shaired all the way to the bottom, so the apex was jinned four inches and brought down as a front branch.

The small branches around the apex will be trained to form a cap, giving the apex a bit softer look that will take away the strong look of the old jinned top that is now pulled forward. The massive shari that travels the length of the trunk along with the bulbous base and a cave like opening in the front presents a very unique structure. Kathy is letting the sprouts grow out at the ground level to help extend the base of the tree. This will help give a different look from our other redwood (#105).

A grooming technique is to pinch the tip buds on the branches. This will encourage more budding back. If; however, the leaves behind these buds have matured there will be no back budding. In that case the branch must be removed and started over.

It is interesting to note that this redwood is shorter than #105, but since it is the heaviest it needs to be shorter to stay in proportion.

## HandsOn Bay Volunteers for Gardens at Lake Merritt

"HandsOn Bay Area, Volunteer, Learn, Lead." Donald Cooper, Development Manger based in SF for the organization known as [hoba.org](http://hoba.org) organizes local community volunteers for a "Be the Change" campaign wherein citizens give their time to work on projects the local community. HOBA manages 120 service projects per month designed to meet critical community needs in education, homelessness and environmental protection.

October 3rd the group volunteered to clean up the lake area. They also worked in the Gardens at Lake Merritt. Sevven to ten volunteers worked in the Bonsai garden to remove growth deemed infested/infected and over grown. Andrea Burhoe and Gordon Deeg provided organization and support. Their help is greatly appreciated at the garden. Hopefully there will be a group join us monthly on third Saturday.

### Mitsuya Workshop Reflections

*"This was the second special opportunity to learn from Master Mitsuya-san. I attended the seminar on "Working with Old Growth-New Growth trees". One tree presented for the Master's advice was the pomegranate donated by Vince and Kathy Owyong. After thoughtful observance, Mitsuya went right to the core of what steps this tree needs to develop to its potential. It strikes me that this gentle, humble unassuming man who works hard and constantly, ... can share such phenomenal and commanding knowledge and insight into each tree put before him. I also enjoyed the obvious respect, affection and humor displayed between Master and his student, our Curator Kathy Shaner. Kathy's translations were an added bonus. This was truly a worthwhile learning experience for me." -Linda Soliven on the Mitsuya workshops*

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

*Phone: 510.763.8409*

*Website: <http://www.gsbf-bonsai.org/lake-merritt>*

## **2009 Volunteer Appreciation Day Awardees**

October 4th the following individuals were given service awards for their contributions to the BGLM. Pins for 50 hours of Docent Service: Janice Dilbeck, Linda Ferzoco, Michael Haley, Helen Reist, Inge Woelfel. Certificates for 75 hours of Docent Service: Jerry Carpenter, John Cross, Gordon Deeg, John Edwards, Mike Mello, Frances Noles.

Workshops were given for 100 hours plus of volunteer effort: Maggie Burbakes, John Boyce, Andrea Burhoe, Jerry Carpenter, Janice Dilbeck, Sylvia Drowley, Donna Farmar, Chuck Galleger, Bob Gould, Alan Hightower, Lonnie McCormick, Mike Mello, Frances Noles, Carl Osterholm, Ron Reed, Linda Soliven, Gary Tom

Be sure to check our website for more updates on events in the Garden: <http://www.gsbf-bonsai.org/lake-merritt/>