



The Snippet



July 2015

Sei Boku Bonsai Kai Inc.

Member of the Golden State Bonsai Federation

THIS MONTH'S MEETING IS JULY 22, 2015 !!

July Meeting

At this month's meeting we will have a lecture by Bob and Polly Gould on Suiseki. Come and find out the fascinating story of stone appreciation.

President's Message

Thank you Gerry Fields for another great interclub Bonsai Challenge. I would also like to thank everyone who brought in donations for our monthly raffle table, we have been doing a fantastic job on this front.

We still need volunteers for the Garden Center Educational Day September 12th. The club would like to have a few trees displayed on two tables, someone to do a short introduction to bonsai demo and a couple of people to answer questions at the table. Remember this is another outlet for us to gain some new members. Please contact me if you are interested in helping out.

Kevin Corrigan

Helen Reist

Helen Reist passed away at home on June 5 after suffering a massive stroke. She was a member of Kusamura Bonsai Club, Sei Boku Bonsai Club, a regular volunteer at the Bonsai Garden at Lake Merritt and Filoli bonsai. She had been active in bonsai many years and was known for the great hospitality table she and her friend Stephanie North provided every year. Her cheerful face and happy manner will be missed.

SBBK What's Up!

July 22,2015 7:30 Monthly meeting at the San Mateo Garden Center

August 3,2015 1st Tuesday workshop, 7PM in the Rose Room at the San Mateo Garden Center

July 29,2015 SBBK Board Meeting, 7PM in the Rose Room at the San Mateo Garden Center, all members welcome

Sept. 12,2015 Garden Center Educational Day at San Mateo Garden Center

Sept. 19,2015 Garden Tour and BBQ at Gordon Deeg's

Tentative Calendar for 2015 (subject to change)

July 2015 Suiseki Presentation, Bob and Polly Gould

August 2015 Parade of Tree Styles-Jerry Carpenter

September 19,2015 Garden Tour and Bar B Q

September 2015 Green Elephant Sale

October 2015 Open workshop, bring March meeting trees to repot
Kevin Corrigan

November 2015 Winter Care Marsha Mekisch and Randi Keppeler

January 2016 Val's Bonsai Surprise- Valerie Monroe

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Show Schedules

Details for the shows mentioned can be found at the Golden Statements website www.gsbf-bonsai.org

August 1-2, San Francisco, CA
San Francisco Suiseki Kai "34th Annual Suiseki Exhibit at the Union Bank Community Room. Japan Center, 1675 Post Street 10AM-5PM
sfsuisekikai@gmail.com

August 22-23 Santa Rosa, CA
Redwood Empire Bonsai Society (REBS): 32th Annual Show at the Santa Rosa Veterans Building. 10AM-5PM Saturday, 10AM-4PM Sunday with demos 1PM by
Kathy Shaner. shimon@men.org

September 25-27 Portland OR
The Artisans Cup held at The Portland Art Museum.
www.theartisanscup.com

September 26-27, Penryn, CA
Sierra Bonsai Club: Club show in conjunction with Placer Buddhist Church's Annual Fall Food Festival. 11AM-4PM
Demo by Scott Chad.
juddbonsai@att.net

October 17-18, Union City CA
Yamato Bonsai Kai: 44th Annual Bonsai Exhibition at the Southern Alameda County Buddhist Church, 32975 Alvarado-Niles Road. Noon to 6PM Saturday
Noon to 5PM Sunday. Demo by Johnny Uchida
2PM. www.yamatobonsai.org

October 29-Nov 1 Riverside, CA
2015 Convention of Golden State Bonsai Federation, "Bonsai Fusion: Where Tradition Meets Innovation. gsbf.org

Sei Boku Bonsai Kai
President Kevin Corrigan
Kevnight@SBCglobal.net
Vice President-Marsha Mekisich
Marsha.mekisich@oracle.com
Treasurer - Randi Keppeler
rkahikikep@sbcglobal.net
Recording Secretary - Irene Hall
Corresponding Secretary - Kathleen Haley.
Khaley57@gmail.com
Board of Directors - Richard Oakes,
Dennis Hawkins, Phyllis Swanson, Steve Iwaki
Mike Mello, Michael Haley
Special Consultant Gordon Deeg

Seibokubonsai.org

Welcome New Members

Carl Levinson
Jim and Karen McManus
Jeremy Foster and Bree Tiura
Aili and Shun Yang

JT's Tree Tips

We're really getting some heat here at the beginning of Summer. Don't let your trees dry out. You might consider shade cloth (30%-50%) to protect your trees. Also some shade cloth on the surface of the soil extending out farther than the edge of the pot can help keep the pots cooler in the direct sun. (see below).

If you haven't done it already..Its de-candling time for your black pines. Start decandling your standard sized and large black pines. For shohin black pine, hold off for a week or so. See below. The longer you wait, within reason, the shorter will be the new candles and needles on your tree. Wait too long and if we have a cold overcast summer, you wont get enough growth on the new candles over the summer. Its always a balancing act. One caution: Don't decandle trees, or specific branches on trees that are weak, or branches tips that need to be lengthened or fattened in your design.

Typically, we start on the largest pine trees first and end with the shohin. The reason for this is that the early decandling will yield longer needles than the later decandling (longer time to grow before hardening). All things being equal, larger needles are more in scale on large trees and small needles look best on shohin.

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Sei Boku Bonsai Kai Meetings
Fourth Wednesday of the Month
San Mateo Garden Center
605 Parkside Way, San Mateo CA 94403

Meeting 7-30 pm to 10 pm

Cut all your candles at the base and leave more needles on the weaker branches and fewer on the strong branches to equalize the strength. Pull the fertilizer off the decandled trees until the new candles are pushing toward the middle of August.

Turn your trees regularly to keep growth even. If all of your bonsai look like windswept style trees its probably because you haven't turned them. Foliage grows toward the sun. You can defoliate or leaf-prune (cutting leaves off but leaving leaf stems on) deciduous trees except beech. Usually pulling half the leaves is sufficient to kick in a new crop. This will kick in a new set of leaves. This can be accomplished by cutting off the big leaves, every other leaf, the outside leaves or a select area of leaves of the tree. There are many ways to do it depending on your intended outcome. Be sure they are healthy and vigorous before trying this technique. It is usually best to remove most of the leaves on the top and outside of strong branches while leaving more of the inner leaves to strengthen this weaker area. Remember: pinching and defoliating, while helping to ramify, weaken a strong tree. Don't do it to a weak tree. And don't do it every year.

Keep pinching new growth on trees you are refining. When you see the growth spurts slow down, as it probably will this month or in August, let the growth go and return energy to the tree. We can trim it back prior to the show. The trees will naturally go through another growth season in the early fall.

For those trees in development, where you need movement and length for styling or to strengthen a branch, let the shoots grow after first wiring them.

You can still air layer your trees but please don't defoliate them at the same time. The more foliage load on the tree, the faster the roots will develop.

This is also a good time to take cuttings on hardened shoots. Spider mites, aphids, scale suck the life out of your trees. Look for them on the tree or tap a branch over white paper then smear whatever drops on to it. If you get a red smear, guess what? Spider mites most likely. Try spraying them off with a hose and/or nuke 'em! Try 3 applications spaced 7 to 10 days apart using your concoction of choice. UltraFine® oil, Neem oil, Malathion®, Diazinon®, Orthene®, Isotox®, and the like to stamp out the critters. Spray from underneath and on top. Use a

spreader, a few drops of dishwashing detergent, to make it stick to the trunk and branches and foliage. The same goes for fungicides like Daconil® or Benolate®, which can control mildew which breeds on the foliage when you have a combination of warm Summer evenings and moisture (from watering to late in the day) as well as other fungal problems.

Prevent heat damage to the roots. Sphagnum moss on the surface of the soil can help cool down these areas. Overhead shade cloth is another aid in relieving summer heat stress on trees. However it does restrict sun to the trees manufacturing plant – the leaves. (My shade cloth goes up in June and comes down in mid-September). Try 30% – 40% shade cloth, available through www.catalogclearinghouse.com, to just dampen the effects of the scorching sun without giving up the growing power the sun provides. In my microclimate this seems to be the perfect amount of shade. Most shade cloths available are 60% to 70% (available at OSH or Home Depot). These are more suitable to cooling the patio for people rather than helping bonsai grow. Growth under these darker cloths seems to be leggy and stay succulent longer. The internodes tend to stretch out and the tree can lose the compact foliage we fight so hard for. However, if you cut up pieces of 60% – 70% shade cloth and put them on top of the soil and covering out past the edge of the pot and you have a great cooler for your trees. I use this myself in stead of the moss covering.

Check your trees a couple of times a day. Water only those trees that need it. When you do water, make sure that the water penetrates completely through the soil. If a crust has formed the water may just be flowing off the top and down the sides without penetrating the root mass. Use a chopstick to agitate and break up the soil. Adding a little dishwashing detergent acts as a surfactant and helps the water to penetrate the surface soil area. Don't water the leaves in the evening as mildew can form in the warm conditions at this time of year. Early morning is the best time for thorough watering. Watering in the evening tends to also cool down the soil when it could benefit from steady warmth.

If your deciduous leaves dry up on an extremely hot day, don't panic. The safety system of the tree sloughs off flowers, fruit and leaves when it is distressed to protect the core life zone in the tree, namely the vascular system. You may loose some of the ramification in the branches but you should be able to build your tree up again. Many times the tree will sprout new buds as if a new season were beginning. Keep moist, but don't over water as you may drown the roots which have been weakened. Again, shading the soil with shade cloth or sphagnum moss covering should make this problem very rare indeed.

JT

Meeting Wednesday July 22,2015

Suiseki by Bob and Polly Gould

Volunteers: July 22,2015 7:00PM

Set up/clean up: John Mekisich, Milton Mun

Refreshments: Judith Karp, Randi Keppeler

If you can't be at the meeting, please check your club member roster and find a substitute. We are counting on you.

Volunteers: August 26,2015 7:00PM

Set up/clean up: Roy Murakami, Mike Tracy

Refreshments: Bill McDonald, Kathleen Haley

If you can't be at the meeting, please check your club member roster and find a substitute. We are counting on you.

Volunteers: Sept 23,2015 7:00PM

Set up/clean up:

Refreshments: TBD

If you can't be at the meeting, please check your club member roster and find a substitute. We are counting on you.

**THE BENEFIT DRAWING IS
ON**

Sei Boku Bonsai Kai
PO Box 4463
Foster City, CA 94404

FIRST CLASS MAIL

