



# The Snippet



Oct..2015

Sei Boku Bonsai Kai Inc.

Member of the Golden State Bonsai Federation

## Workshop Meeting

This month we will have an open workshop with emphasis on the trees members planted during the March meeting, which are now ready for repotting. New members will be assisted by more experienced members in the proper potting techniques, while other members are encouraged to bring in their trees for the workshop.

Please bring in soil, wire, screening and pots, plus a cover for your table. Cleanup will be the responsibility of all participants this meeting.

## President's Message

I would like to thank everyone who brought in donations last month for the Green Elephant Sale and items sold in the silent auction. All the money will be donated three ways. I will announce how much we brought in at this month's meeting.

We will also have the sign up for the SBBK holiday party on December 6th at La Lanterna in San Mateo. Remember you need to pay in advance and choose your entree for lunch. We had a great meal there last year and I hope everyone can make it.

Thanks  
Kevin Corrigan

## Holiday Party

SBBK's Holiday Celebration

La Lanterna  
180 West 25th Avenue  
San Mateo, CA

Sunday, December 6th from Noon to 4PM. SBBK special event, restaurant closed to the public.

Appetizers and corkage fee covered by the club so feel free to bring your own wine. Cash bar for other beverages (tea and coffee included with meal)

Meal selections and costs will be presented at the October 28th meeting by John Mekisich, where signups will begin. Meals must be prepaid.

We are starting an hour earlier providing more time for visiting and our bonsai related gift exchange.

## Tentative Calendar for 2015 (subject to change)

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

November 2015 Winter Care Marsha Mekisich and Randi Keppeler

January 2016 Val's Bonsai Surprise- Valerie Monroe

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## SBBK What's Up!

Oct. 28,2015 7:30 Monthly meeting at the San Mateo Garden Center

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

Nov. 4,2015 SBBK Board Meeting, 7PM in the Rose Room at the San Mateo Garden Center, all members welcome

December 6,2015 Holiday Party at La Laterna

## Master Series at Bonsai Society of San Francisco

BSSF has scheduled two workshops in November which are open to SBBK members who wish to sign up.

Nov. 7th and 8th Full day workshops with Matt Reel

Matt Reel apprenticed in Japan for eight years with Shinji Suzuki. He now lives in Portland and has become a member of the Portland Bonsai Village.

Each workshop day will be \$120. Saturday's workshop will be held in the

Garden room of the SF County Fair Building, 1199 9th Ave, enter parking on 10th Ave. Sunday's workshop will be in Bernal Heights at home of

Eric Schrader address to be given to those who register.

Email registration request to Catherine Wolf ,  
catherine.wolf@wolfwerk.com.

Nov.21 Potter workshop with Thomas Arakawa

Two 4 hour workshops, 1PM-4PM and 5PM-8PM on Saturday in the County Fair Building at Golden Gate Park. Thomas will describe techniques for pot making and then work with registrants to create 2-3 pots. pots will be glazed and fired by Thomas and returned within 4-5 weeks.

Each workshop will be \$80.

Email for registration to Catherine Wolf  
catherine.wolk@wolfwerk.com.

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, Mike Tracy

Mike Mello, Michael Haley

Special Consultant Gordon Deeg

Seibokubonsai.org

## Show Schedules

Details for the shows mentioned can be found at the Golden Statements website [www.gsbf-bonsai.org](http://www.gsbf-bonsai.org)

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

December 5,2015 Fresno, CA  
Fresno Bonsai Society: Eighth Annual Bonsai Yard Sale, from 8AM to 3PM  
at 736 West Browning Ave. [peteschaffert@gmail.com](mailto:peteschaffert@gmail.com)

February 27-28,2016 Oakland, CA  
Mammoth Fund Raiser, 666 Bellevue Avenue, Lake Merritt, Oakland.  
[www.gsbf-lakemerritt.org](http://www.gsbf-lakemerritt.org)

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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

## Artisans Cup

Reflections from The Artisans Cup by Marsha Mekisich Friday September 25th was here at last. Randi Keppeler and I began our road trip early, excited with anticipation to finally experience a weekend attending The Exhibition of American Bonsai at The Artisans Cup, destination Portland Art Museum in Portland, Oregon.

We arrived anxious for the museum doors to open on Saturday morning. While waiting we visited the vendor tent to see what damage could be done, the possibilities were endless! Sara Rayner was there surrounded high by her beautiful pots. Bob & Zack Shimon, Jim Gremel, Bill Valavanis from New York and others. Dave De Groot was on hand selling and signing his new long awaited book 'Principles of Bonsai Design'. A must read so I did my first damage here. Dave says hello to all and would be happy to visit SBBK again someday. Dan Robinson was there with trees, beautiful handmade carving knives and the beautifully illustrated book 'Gnarly Branches, Ancient Trees, The Life and Works of Dan Robinson-Bonsai Pioneer'. A number of other new and interesting vendors were in attendance, however not as many as I thought would be there as tent space between museum buildings was limited.

At last the show is open, upon entering I was given a very impressive show exhibition program booklet. My first time viewing bonsai displayed as art within a museum was very exciting. I left myself open to the idea and what it really would mean. Hardly giving the booklet a second glance I walked through the entrance to peak from above at the darkened dramatic display of bonsai in the museum ballroom below. A mass of color and texture from a wide variety of trees met my eyes. Trees were from all over the United States plus one from Canada. 300+ trees were entered making for difficult choices selecting the 71 show trees. The chosen collection included for me unusual varieties like majestic Mountain Hemlocks, Engelmann Spruce, a rare Limber pine, and a 51 year old Shaggy Barked Creeping Hydrangea that was a surprise to all. The displays created environments where each tree was displayed as an individual art piece. The custom tables and wood back drops were all in black. The split wood of the backdrops allowed a little hint of what was in the row behind it while also letting some light and depth through. Spot lights

were individually set to highlight the tree from top and bottom. If I were asked for one thing to enhance the next show it would be more available light between stand, container and nebari. The table displays were set in a saw tooth pattern instead of the usual straight rows of trees. No scrolls or suiseki. Focus was all about the trees and their companions, shadows and light, color and shapes. Each artful tree resulted in a feast for the senses. Some traditions were stretched and or broken causing pause and reflection. Dan Robinson for example used a majestic piece of deadwood for his stand. I personally thought the stand looked like a dragon, on it was an antique glazed Chinese pot with a powerful Mountain Hemlock leaning to spill out opposite the front. Another tree reminded both Randi and I of Tim's artful humor. Was a little Bunjin Larch whose container was created by... 'Hoover Vacuum USA'. Imagine. It was a surprise and delight to see the variety of interpretive art renderings. I could go on and on, hopefully my comments here paint a vivid picture of our experience. Randi and I spent 4+ hours viewing the trees and could have spent more time. One of the many goals of this exhibition was to provide an opportunity to honor America's bonsai material and the surging growth of this living art within our country. Perseverance and struggle through life, can symbolize the similarities and differences between people and bonsai. Our local Bay Area bonsai community was well represented with at least 10 trees from our Nor Cal artists including a beautiful 450+ year old Sierra Juniper styled by Rick Trumm from our BGLM collection and a wonderful Kishu Juniper grafted to an ancient California Juniper by our own John Thompson (JT). If an award or recognition for oldest trees was to be presented, Seiji Shiba would have run away with the top two for his impressive California Junipers ranging in age from around 700 to perhaps 1600 years old. Although our local trees did not win any of the top prizes, I believe the fact that they were selected for this show is a grand prize in itself. This may have been my only chance to see this exhibit as it may be off to Australia next and then MoMA in New York City and who knows where from there, I can only imagine. Ryan and Chelsea Neil and all the folks that helped in so many ways really made this a weekend to remember. If you want to know more please let me know. It is my hope that by reading this article my passion and excitement in attending this event has been conveyed. I took many photos and am still going through them to put on on-line for sharing, the link will be included in the next Snippet.

PS...Thank you to Randi Keppeler for letting me tag along and invade your family time. Was great fun, next road trip New York City? :)

# Meeting Wednesday October 28,2015

## Open Workshop

**Volunteers: Oct. 28,2015 7:00PM**

**Set up/clean up: Zake Stahl, Mike Haley**

**Refreshments: Mike and Kathi Page, Valerie Monroe**

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

**Volunteers: Nov.25,2015 7:00PM**

**Set up/clean up: Mike Mello, Dennis Hawkins**

**Refreshments: Richard Oakes, Cath Tierney**

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

**Volunteers: January 27,2016 7:00PM**

**Set up/clean up:**

**Refreshments:**

**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**

