



Calendar of Events

- Oct 3rd-Workshop Pine Needle Pulling Northeast Community Center, 1301 Valley Rd., Reno From 10 am until Noon
- Nov-TBD
- Dec-Holiday Luncheon
- Jan-Dues are due

Inside this issue:

Saturday Workshop Pine Needle Pulling	1
Wendy's Juniper	1
Meeting Minutes	2
What's Happening	3
Response From a Reader	3
Ramblings from a bonsai field	4
Bonsai Books Galore	4

Autumn Is Arriving

As Summer now draws to a close and the weather gets cooler, it is the time to begin preparing our trees for Winter. This Saturday we will work on cleaning our pines of their old and dead needles. In doing this, we prepare the plant for new candle growth in the Spring and in some cases even back budding on old wood. If you have pines that could use cleaning up, please bring them along. Pat has several pines he will bring that could use our assistance so there will be trees for the folks who don't



After lounging in the sun all Summer, this pine needs plucking and cleaning

have pines. Regardless of whether you're pine-less or have ample pines, join us this Saturday to learn one of the seasonal care issues of pines. Also, if any of your bonsai are showing their fall colors, it would be a joy to see them, so bring them along, to show off, on Saturday. This meeting will find us returning to the **North-east Community Center on 1301 Valley Road, in Reno.** I hope to see you this **Saturday, October 3rd, from 10 am until Noon.**

Errata, Or Boy Did I Blow That One!

In last month's YBK Newsletter, as I attempted to print all of the June Bonsai Show pictures, I neglected to include Wendy Ur-ruty's cascading juniper. In an effort to make up for my Faux Paux, here is the omitted picture on the front page. My apologies to Wendy.



In Attendance:

Member/ Tree

Pat Flynn

Anne Kelty

Marja Grant

John North

Carolyn Carrica

Charle Varble

John Sciborski

Bo Bradley

Oksun Horan

Mike Draeger

MEETING MINUTES

September 5, 2009

Meeting called to order, Treasurer's and Secretary's reports read and accepted.

- ◆ YBK Bonsai aprons are still available \$20 each.
- ◆ Garden Shop Nursery set to hold Grand Opening on October 3-4 at their new 3636 Mayberry Drive location.
- ◆ Pat is planning a Chrysanthemum bonsai workshop for YBK next spring. He currently is reading up on the topic.

Meeting Topic: Display of Suiseki: John North spoke to the group and presented several of his personal collection of viewing stones. Suiseki means "water stone" and are usually displayed in a suiban with water or sand surrounding the stone representing islands and oceans, or possibly mountains and plains. Another method of displaying the viewing stones is on a custom made wooden stand called a "daiza". These wooden stands are usually carved and crafted for an indi-

vidual stone and are very form fitting. Often the stone needs to be cut, so a flat bottom is created to place into the stand. To have a stone cut, one should look to Reno Gem & Mineral Society, or grave stone makers. John Sciborski informed us he is still able to have stones cut at a business in Portola, CA. Cutters usually charge by the square inch to cut stones

The bigger the stone, the thicker the stand and higher the feet should be. Select a wood with a fine grain, not large. Good woods to use are cherry or walnut. In Reno these woods can be found at Mastercraft. Trace the outline of your stone onto the selected wood, expand the outline by about 1/4 inch to define the outer edge of the daiza. For this next step John prefers to use rotary files and not a router to begin carving out the inner portion of the wood where the stone will be set. Later one might wish to use carving chisels to complete the sunken base for the stone.

From this point, the outer edge of the base should be cut out using another rotary file on a drill press. Continue working with your stone and daiza to complete the base, possibly adding feet or carving them into the bottom of the stand. Always consider using woods that will compliment your stone and not detract from its beauty.



John traces the stone base onto a piece of cherry wood



John S. and Pat use the drill press and rotary file to carve out the inset for the stone base

What's Happening Nearby

October 24-25 Sacramento Capitol City Bonsai Assoc.:

10th Anniversary Show to support the GSBF Bonsai Garden at Lake Merritt and the Sacramento bonsai clubs. Location is the Shepard Garden and Arts Center, 3330 McKinley Blvd. in McKinley Park. Saturday 10am-5pm and Sunday 10am-4pm. Demonstration both days at 1pm with special bonsai raffle drawings to follow. Vendor and club member sales areas.

Nov 4-8 Riverside Golden State Bonsai Federation:

Convention XXXII, "A Southwest Bonsai Journey" Kathy Shaner, Roy Nagatoshi, and Dan Robinson headline this event. Visit www.gsbfcconvention.com for additional information.



Response From a Reader

Last month's newsletter found its way into the hands of a bonsai student taking classes at a bonsai village outside of Tokyo. This student was kind enough to share pictures of her bonsai with me and also included a brief narrative of her discovery of the art of bonsai. She is interested to know about the challenges of growing bonsai in our dry climate, so I sent her the YBK newsletter from last May with Pat Flynn's article about the introduction and continuing bonsai culture in the Reno area.

Here is her story. "Let me introduce my sweet little baby bonsai of Shimpaku; *Juniperus chinensis* var. *sargentii*. It is only 10cm high in a shallow pot with a diameter of 12cm.

Since this spring, I have attended a bonsai class for beginners in a village named Bonsai-cho, located in the northern suburbs of Tokyo. I have been interested in gardening for a long time and after taking a class on English gardening, last year, I was awakened to the charm of domestic plants and the art of bonsai.



My class is held once a month at a historical nursery. They not only teach us how to make bonsai but also how to maintain them. First, we have to decide or discover the front of a tree. Then we decide its shape and begin pulling buds off to follow the rule of its shape. This tree will be styled in the Moyogi shape. Next February, I will bring the tree back to class to learn how to put on the wire.

To me, the best part of bonsai is the moss (Koke). I read in a book that there are about 2,000 species in Japan! Once I have put the moss on, covering the soil, the bonsai becomes something very special.

At the nursery, there are many nice looking bonsai on the shelves and I cannot stop thinking how wonderful they are.

What an art!"

Thank you to Rieko and Noliko, perhaps we will hear more from our new friend in the future.





Visit us on the web @

www.bonsaireno.org

To Promote Enjoyment and Appreciation of
Bonsai

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RAMBLINGS FROM A BONSAI FIELD

For those of us that put together newsletters, there always is the lurking challenge of how to fill the last page. We whole-heartedly jump into our periodical with clear visions of what to put on the first page and how the remaining layout should appear. But then as our energy begins to wane and subconsciously, we wish it was over, we arrive at the back page. This page must bring the edition to a cohesive close along with the pages that came before it. It's content cannot slack off from the caliber of the other pages or the reader will be disappointed and possibly even feel slighted. Not wishing to create irate readers, I, for one, want only quality printed on the last page. If you are beginning to suspect I am belaboring my point in an effort to fill an empty page, you are not too far from wrong.

So what should be on the last page? It would be an editorial coup if readers enthusiastically chose to read the back page, first, because of the literary enlightenment it imparted, and then turned to the front page to catch up on the other goings on. However, there is no Sports section in the world of Bonsai. Comics come to mind, as does a crossword, but who has the time to create a crossword that is correct and challenging? As for comics, I can't draw and am not that funny. Perhaps a Bonsai Obituary of our dearly departed plants. In my case, I might need more than the back page for this. I have thought about highlighting individual members, each month in an article, so don't be surprised if like Barbara Walters, I ask you what kind of tree (bonsai) you wish you could be. And last but not least, the back page could be devoted to a book review. Now book reports were one of my favorite subjects in school, ranking just behind Spelling Bees and going to the blackboard to work math problems. To quote the comics, "Ack!" So this month, let's talk books.

Bonsai Books Galore

There are so many books on bonsai, where do I begin? Let's begin at the public library. For the price of a library card, there is a wealth of books on bonsai to explore. The Washoe County Library System has an online catalog of their books and locations. These books can be put on hold, while online. Go to <http://library.washoecounty.us/> and select Catalog for a search engine, (better than the old card files). I got a list of 37 books on bonsai. The oldest is from 1965 titled Bonsai: Culture and Care of Miniature Trees and the most recent is from 2006, written by Peter Chan and called Bonsai Secrets: Designing, Growing, and Caring for Your Miniature masterpieces. So you can see that in over 40 years of writing books about bonsai, the titles really haven't developed beyond the basic foundations of caring for miniature trees. Of course, I am being sarcastic here. Other interesting titles were: The Art of Flowering Bonsai, Herbal Bonsai: Practicing the Art with Fast-growing Herbs and The Eternal Spring of Mr. Ito. This last book is available in the Juvenile fiction section. How many of us can guess what Mr. Ito's hobby is? Probably the most informative book on miniature trees is one titled Ye Cao Pen Zai: Ye Sheng Cao Mu De Qi Zhi Zai Pei Chu Ban. There is one copy of this, available only at the Northwest Reno Library in their Foreign Languages section. Would anyone who reads through this one, let me know how far off from the information in Ortho's All About Bonsai we are?

My point though, is don't forget your library when looking for good information and pictures of bonsai. I am sure everyone likes a good picture of bonsai.