

Redwood Empire Bonsai Society



REBS NEWSLETTER

Volume 32, Issue 10

October 2015



REBS President Bob Shimon

President's Message

Hello REBS,

The long anticipated Artisans Cup is now in the books, and it was quite the event. There has never been a show quite like this anywhere, and folks attended from all over the U.S. and other countries. REBS was well represented, as only 70 trees were selected out of over 300 applicants, and 3 of those selected came from REBS members. There were 5 judges, and 2 of the REBS trees were the top pick of 2 of the judges.

There were several folks from our REBS club in attendance including Ivan Lukrich. Ivan is in

charge of our show set up, and rumor has it that he was in Portland to get ideas on redesigning our whole show for next year. Speaking of our show, the hall rented out our 4th weekend in August to another group, a date that we have had for 32 years. We have been rescheduled for the third weekend, August 20 & 21, set up will be on August 20. So put this on your calendar now so as not to conflict with vacations, weddings, funerals, etc.

Bob Shimon

Holiday Dinner Info on Page 5

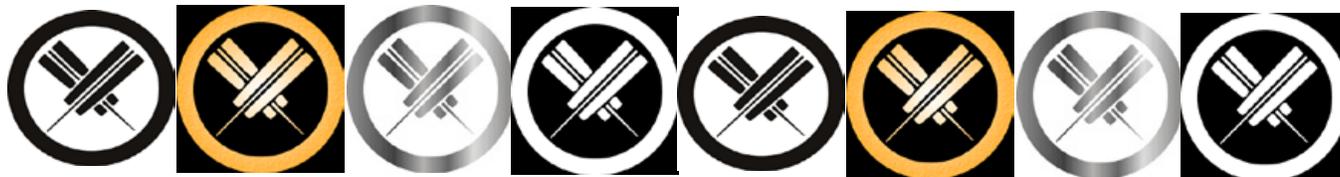
Inside this issue:

President's Message	1
Announcements, Calendar, & Upcoming Events	2 & 3
GSBF Convention #38	4
Holiday Dinner	5
Directory	5
Tree Care Guide	6 & 7
GSBF	7



Redwood Empire Bonsai Society

Announcements and Upcoming Bonsai Events



October 17 & 18, 2015

Union City, California

Yamato Bonsai Kai: 44th Annual Bonsai Exhibition at the Southern Alameda County Buddhist Church, 32975 Alvarado-Niles Rd. Hours are Saturday Noon to 6pm and Sunday 10am to 5pm. Demonstrations each day at 2pm by Johnny Uchida, with Mike Baker and Tony Hayworth. Benefit raffle each day after the demo. Raffle includes the demo tree. Large Vendor and Plant Sales area. Free Admission & Parking. For additional information, call Tony Hayworth at 510-289-5731 or visit our web site at www.yamatobonsai.org.

October 24 & 25, 2015

Sacramento, California

Capital City Bonsai Association: 15th Annual Show supporting GSBF Bonsai Garden at Lake Merritt and Sacramento bonsai clubs. Shepard Garden Center in McKinley Park, 3330 McKinley Blvd. Hours are 10am to 5pm Saturday and 10am to 4pm Sunday, with demonstration both days at 1:30pm by sponsor clubs with bonsai benefit drawings to follow. Vendor and club sales throughout the show. For more information contact Gary Judd at 916-622-8048 or juddbonsai@att.net.

October 29 – November 1, 2015

Riverside, California

Golden State Bonsai Federation (GSBF) presents 2015 Convention 38 "Bonsai Fusion: Where Tradition Meets Innovation" at the Riverside Convention Center, 3637 Fifth Street near Main. Headliners: Bjorn Bjorholm and John Wang. Guest artists: David Nguy and Tak Shimazu. Demonstrations, seminars, critiques, workshops, benefit drawings, vendors, and much more. More information available at www.GSBF2015.com.

Headliners

Guest Artists

Bjorn Bjorholm

John Wang

David Nguy

Tak Shimazu



The Artisans Cup
Winners



Third place (II)



Third place (I)



Second place (I)

And, first place..... can be found by clicking [HERE](#).

But of course there were so many more trees, which can be found by clicking [HERE](#).

The main website can be found here,

www.theartisanscup.com

Calendar Of Events

October 2015

15th Intermediate I Workshop, Thursday, Santa Rosa Senior Center, 704 Bennett Valley Rd., Room 17, Santa Rosa, with Richard Hoskins and Ivan Lukrich.

27th REBS General Meeting and Demonstration, 4th Tuesday, 7:30-10:00 p.m., Luther Burbank Art & Garden Center, 2050 Yulupa Avenue · Santa Rosa · CA · 95405.

****Board Meeting starting at 6:30****

*****Bill Castellon will do the demo*****

Meet Bill Castellon

Bill Castellon began working with plants after high school in green houses of rural Pennsylvania. In the mid-1970s he moved to San Francisco and was employed by a landscape contractor who maintained interior and exterior plants and landscapes. In 1980 Bill started his own maintenance business. At Merritt College, Bill studied Aesthetic Pruning and Bonsai with Dennis Makishima. Through the East Bay Bonsai Society, Bill met master Japanese garden builder Mas Imazumi. For over eight years Mas mentored Bill, teaching him the art and mechanics of traditional Japanese rock placement and garden building. In the mid-1990s Bill shifted from maintenance to designing and building gardens with a Japanese aesthetic.

Bill Castellon has been involved in bonsai for over 25 years. His first instructor was Dennis Makishima who instilled a love of pines in Bill. Bill is a member of Bay Area Bonsai Associates and Merritt College Bonsai Club and a past president of East Bay Bonsai Society. Bill has led workshops and given demonstrations for clubs throughout California, including the GSBF Convention and the Shohin Seminar. Bill's favorite material for workshops and demonstrations are pines. Visit Bill's website at billcastellon.com.



Calendar Of Events

November 2015

19th Intermediate I Workshop, Thursday, Santa Rosa Senior Center, 704 Bennett Valley Rd., Room 17, Santa Rosa, with Richard Hoskins and Ivan Lukrich.

24th REBS General Meeting and Demonstration, 4th Tuesday, 7:30-10:00 p.m., Luther Burbank Art & Garden Center, 2050 Yulupa Avenue · Santa Rosa · CA · 95405.

*****Kathy Shaner will do the demo*****

Redwood Empire Bonsai Society

GSBF Convention 2015

October 2015

GSBF Convention 2015 Headliners and Guest Artists

(Below article copied from GSBF Convention website)

Riverside is once more the venue for the upcoming Golden State Bonsai Federation 2015 Convention, but much has changed since we were last there. Attendees can stay in the historic Mission Inn — the largest mission revival building in the United States, favored by Presidents, royalty, and movie stars. Relax in its world-famous and complimentary Eucalyptus Spa. The other hotel choice is the Hyatt Place, a new hotel with a modern flair where each room is a suite. Both hotels are only \$99 per day, and this rate is good for three days before and after the convention.

The Riverside Convention Center has been completely rebuilt and is bigger and better than ever. But the real reason to come to Riverside in 2015 is to watch the artists that will be sharing their knowledge and working their magic on trees. The demonstration stage will be occupied from Thursday morning through Saturday afternoon.

Our two headliners both studied in Japan. Bjorn Bjorholm, a Swedish-American from Tennessee, has been studying under Japanese bonsai master Keiichi Fujikawa in Osaka since 2008. Bjorn is also the co-founder and co-instructor of the Fujikawa International School of Bonsai. He's won numerous awards in Japan including a 2013 prize at the Taikan-ten show for a spectacular Shimpaku. This will be his first time visiting and displaying his artistry in Southern California.

Bjorn will style a California Juniper during one session. In a second demonstration, he'll redesign and refine an existing bonsai. He'll also conduct a "bring your own tree" workshop as well as critique the bonsai in both the judged and invitational exhibitions.

John Wang, a Chinese American from Los Angeles, studied at Sansei-en with Seiji Sakurai. John is a master carver who often works on massive California junipers, grafting onto live wood and sandblasting dead wood. He'll need two demonstration sessions to transform a large California juniper into a beautiful bonsai.

The first time John steps onto the headliner stage will be at our convention. He'll also critique exhibitions and conduct a bring-your-own-tree workshop. From Thursday morning until Sunday brunch, attendees can be inspired and enlightened by the craft and artistry of Bjorn and John.

Our guest artists are bonsai masters from Southern California. David Nguy is known for the massive California junipers he collects and styles. He'll conduct a demonstration on one of his collected junipers, the same type of material he'll offer in his workshop.

Tak Shimazu is a resident of Riverside and a master of styling juniper and pine. He may be known for his Shimpaku, but he's found several old twisted pomegranates for his workshop. For his demonstration, Tak will style either a pomegranate or a Japanese black pine. Come to Riverside and see which tree he works on. Then visit Tak's garden, one of several on a garden tour (including David Nguy's) during the convention.

Your \$289 registration will give you access to five demonstrations by four bonsai masters over three days. You'll get unlimited access as a silent observer to all workshops. The Thursday banquet is included in your registration. Workshops, seminars, and collecting trips are on a first-come, first-served basis. The hotel reservations are contingent on full registration and will sell out. Registration opens on July 1st. We look forward to seeing you in Riverside — where tradition meets innovation, where east meets west, where different cultures come together, and where strangers make friends. Get more details (and pictures) at www.gsb2015.com!

Holiday Dinner

Our annual holiday dinner will be held once again at the China Chef located at 7991 Old Redwood Hwy, Cotati 94931 on Tues, Dec 8.

Social will start at 6:30 and dinner at 7:00. Peter always puts out 6 to 7 dishes prepared specially for our group.

I talked to Lisa, and she said that they would include sea bass and Peking duck for sure. Cost is \$30 and includes tax and tip.

You can sign up and pay at the Oct or Nov meeting or contact Mike Treinen to RSVP at treinen@sonic.net or 526-0872.



Directory 2015

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PONY TAIL PALM BONSAI CARE

General Background:

The Pony Tail Palm is not actually a palm; this native of southeastern Mexico is actually a member of the lily family and, also goes by the names Bottle Palm and Elephant's Foot because of its bulbous base. Ponytails make great indoor Bonsais and, are ideal for beginners who desire a slow growing, low maintenance plant for home, office or anywhere. Considered extremely hardy, they do well in either bright indirect or full sun making it a bonsai to sit back and enjoy. Simply providing light and a little water will ensure that this plant will flourish for years.

Tree Features:

The Ponytail Palm has a unique feature in the swollen base of the trunk, which is where it stores a reserve of water making it highly tolerant to drought. The texture of the trunk looks and feels like an elephant's foot from which clusters of long strap-like leaves arch and droop gracefully from the trunk giving the impression of a tropical palm. No two specimens are alike ensuring that your ponytail bonsai is a one of a kind treasure.

Temperature:

Ponytail Palms are native to a dry Mexican climate; this habitat allows it to survive outdoors in dry hot summers as well as giving it the ability to withstand interior winter heat very well, once the temperature goes below 55 degrees. If it is normally indoors and you take it outside,

do it a little at a time until it gets used to its new environment. Avoid putting your Bonsai near a draft or vent, which dries out the foliage.



Lighting:

Provide your ponytail palm with bright indirect light to full sun. Any window space indoors particularly one facing north will suit the light requirements of this high-light plant; however, full sun is best. This Bonsai can adjust to bright artificial light as well as it is not at all picky.

Watering:

Because water is stored in the trunk for longer time periods, it doesn't need to be watered frequently. Your Ponytail palm will need its soil to dry well between watering, and if you have any doubt on whether or not to water the plant, skip it until the next week. If your Pony tail palm develops dry, brown foliage, a shriveled stem or desiccated roots, you can be sure that these are signs of under

watering. Excessive watering can drown the roots and let the tree decay. Remember, The Ponytail Palm's extraordinarily thick, bulbous trunk serves as a reservoir, storing water against dry spells which makes it very drought tolerate. This feature allows the tree to last up to four weeks without water without harming the plant. Ponytails generally need to be watered every couple of weeks, but there is no set schedule. Check your Bonsai regularly by sticking your finger into the soil. Do not water the tree if the soil is damp or cool and when the topsoil feels dry, water thoroughly and deeply. If yellow foliage begins to appear, allow several days to pass before watering again and make sure the soil is draining well and the roots are not sitting in water.

Fertilizing:

Fertilizing a Bonsai is essential to its health because nutrients in the soil are washed away with each watering. Fertilizer is like vitamins and minerals for a plant. When new growth appears in the spring, it's time to start feeding your Bonsai. Use an organic liquid fertilizer or a chemical fertilizer diluted to 1/2 strength. Ponytail Palms should be fertilized once or twice per month during the growing season and once a month in the winter. Water your tree well before fertilizing. Fertilizing a weak or freshly repotted tree will cause stress to the tree by burning the roots.

Pruning / Training:

The tuft of thin leaves that poke out of the top of the bonsai will need only a little trimming to keep the entire plant looking fresh. To keep this Bonsai miniature, it needs to be trimmed and pruned as new growth appears. Never remove all the new growth at one time. Ponytail Palms are pruned by cutting the top to force foliage to grow from the sides of the trunk creating the ponytail look. Sit at eye level with your Bonsai tree and use Bonsai trimming shears. Your cuts should be smooth or slightly concave so the wound will heal quickly. If the cut surface is brown, add pruning paint to the surface. Ponytail Palms can be trimmed throughout the year. The Ponytail Palm does not need training like some Bonsai and cannot be wired. Regular pruning should be all that is needed to keep your Palm in shape.

Insects / Pests:

Insects such as spider mites and scale are common Ponytail palm pests. Small moving pinpoints of red or brown on branch tips identify mites, severe infestations leave "spider webs" on branch tips and yellow leaves all over the tree. Scale is identified by brown or black bumps on the branches. These bumps contain insects under a protective waxy shell which should be removed by hand. To combat pests, spray a light coat of Neem oil or a solution of 1 tsp. dish soap to 1 quart warm water and rinse well. Repeat as needed.

Propagation:

Pony tail palms can be grown from seeds. Lay two layers of paper towels onto a flat surface and sprinkle the ponytail palm seeds onto the paper towels. Mist with water so that the paper towels are moderately damp. Layer a single sheet of paper towels on top of the seeds and mist with water. Place in a cool, dry place shielded from wind, heat and sunlight. Keep the paper towels moist, checking daily to ensure the towels are not drying out. Wait for the seeds to sprout. This may take approximately two weeks. Remove the ponytail palm seedlings once they have germinated and the seed hulls have fallen off of the seedlings. Use tweezers to carefully remove the seedlings, as baby ponytail palms are fragile. Carefully insert into the seedling trays and cover with the seedling mix so that only the seedling's top leaves are visible and place the tray in an area that gets two to three hours of direct sunlight.

Too much sunlight can quickly dry out the seedling mix and kill the plants. Water gently, being careful not to wash away the seedling mix to expose the fragile plant. Once the seedlings have grown to a height of 2 inches tall, carefully scoop up the seedling and its surrounding soil and place in a pot filled with potting soil. Place the pots in direct sunlight and water twice daily. You may choose to replant the ponytail palms into the ground when they are too large for their pot or continue transplanting them to pots that are progressively larger.

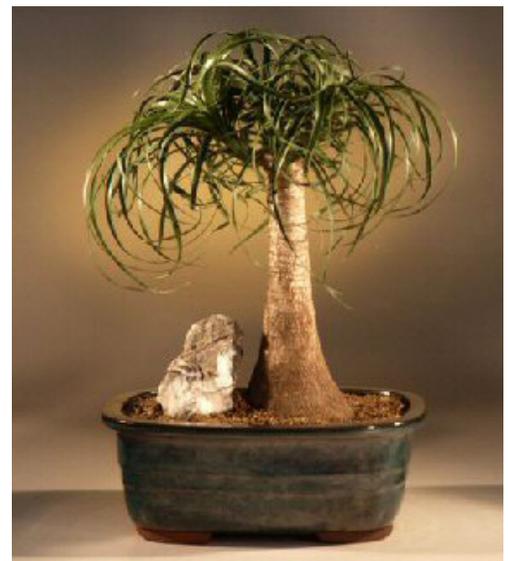
Repotting:

A sandy-mix soil will minimize the probability of root rot. After repotting, water thoroughly and do not fertilize for 3-4 weeks. Re-pot the plant only if you want it to grow taller. This type of plant likes to be root bound so it is not necessary to put it in a larger pot if you see that there is not much soil and a lot of roots. However, if you desire the plant to be larger, re-pot it in a larger pot. Clay or ceramic work best as their roots have been known to bust out of plastic pots. You can transplant this Bonsai in the spring or summer.

Additional Comments:

The Ponytail Palm is normally grown in containers and indoors. They can reach heights of 20 feet with the right conditions which is why you will want to keep it in a small pot to ensure that your bonsai stays small.

<http://care.bonsaioutlet.com/>



Official REBS Newsletter is published monthly.

Redwood Empire Bonsai Society



Luther Burbank Art & Garden Center,
Santa Rosa, California

REBS was founded in 1981 for bonsai enthusiasts. Our club meets every fourth Tuesday of the month (except in July and December). The monthly meeting and demonstration are held at the Luther Burbank Art and Garden Center, 2050 Yulupa Avenue, Santa Rosa, 95405. Meetings are open to the public. Please refer to our calendar of events for specific time, date and guest demonstrator.

We're on the web:
www.rebsbonsai.org

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*Address Correction Requested
Please Forward*

