

What's new in the Marin Bonsai world this month

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New growth is popping out like crazy this Spring – Needle Juniper

Marin Bonsai Club - April 2017 Newsletter

President's Message

Ryan Nichols is scheduled for the next meeting on April 4, 2017. Ryan has a masters degree in Plant Biology and has studied bonsai with Ryan Neal in Oregon. He has taught at Cal Poly Pomona and currently teaches at the Bonsai School at Lake Merritt. He also stays busy with work as a turf and landscape consultant and giving seminars and workshops throughout the country on the horticultural aspects of the art of bonsai. At our meeting Ryan will share some of his vast knowledge and discuss pests and diseases that can harm our bonsai collections. He will lead us through a maze of active and pro-active measures to ensure no harm comes to our bonsai. Don't forget, the meeting starts at 7:00 PM.

Then, on April 18, **if we have a minimum of five members RSVP** for the monthly workshop, we'll include some close examination of the bonsai you bring in for pests and diseases. A sheet of white paper and magnifying glass are something to consider in aiding the detection of infested areas. And, there will be time to style and wire your trees. Again, 7:00 is starting time.

Have you seen the award-winning Marin Bonsai Club website lately? It is full of information about bonsai happenings. There is a way for you to never have to look up the website ever again. Just go to the home page and

Bonsai Garden at Lake Merritt is using crowd funding to help in raising the \$100,000 for the GRO project. I'm pleased to report that BGLM has raised \$27,386 of the goal, to date. There is a way to go yet. New benches and display stands are being delivered and installed already. Please support this effort and share with your friends. This is the first major project at the BGLM since it opened its gate in 1999.

Visit <https://www.youcaring.com/gsbfbonsaigardenatlakemerritt-742808>.

I heard it from the BGLM Chairman, Joe Byrd, that the Golden State Bonsai Federation (GSBF) Convention 41 will be held sometime in September or October of 2018 at Lake Merritt. It won't be the same hotel/convention model as in the past, but rather a conference or summit. Whatever name or theme the end up calling it, the gathering of bonsai artists, instructors, vendors, enthusiasts, and public are in for a bonsai bonanza. You can help design the logo by being creative and combining BGLM, Lake Merritt and Oakland's skyline into an attractive logo for the bonsai bonanza at Lake Merritt. But don't delay, entries are now being called for.

I hope to see you at our next gathering,
George

p.s. Don't forget to bring your trees for 'Show and Tell'. Jay isn't the only one who has interesting trees to learn from.

Would you like to read up on our guest, Ryan Nichols for the April meeting? He has a wonderful website that gives more detail on his background and path to becoming a bonsai professional. There is lots to learn [here](#), and much more to be shared at the meeting. You don't want to miss it.



BONSAI GARDENS
AT LAKE MERRITT -
DOCENTS NEEDED



CHERRY BLOSSOM FESTIVAL

Once again the Marin Bonsai Club will have a display at the Cherry Blossom Festival, April 15-16 in

Bonsai Gardens on our club's March service date. The trees are showing tons of Spring growth right now and it is fun to see them coming into their full glory. The visitors really appreciate the peace of the Gardens and the information the docents provide.

We are looking for docents for Saturday April 22 from 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM. If you can help out please notify us through our website or let us know at the meeting and we will sign you up. If the April date doesn't work for you, but another might please let us know that too. Our club is responsible for the morning shift on the 4th Saturday of the month. You can see on our [website](#) the months where we need docents by clicking the "Volunteer" link.

We thank all our Docent volunteers very, very much.

from several clubs are shown and the theme is always light and cheerful with Spring color. Jay McDonald is organizing the exhibition and will be in touch with members about trees he would like to include. You can also contact Jay if you have a tree in flower, or one you think would be particularly good. This is a small show and Jay will have to do some brutal editing.

We need docents both days to keep an eye on the trees and talk with visitors. LOTS of people come through the show and it is the most fun for spreading the gospel of bonsai to such an enthusiastic crowd. Please contact us through the website if you can be there for a couple of hours between 11:00 and 6:00 either day.

This is the second largest festival of its kind in the country and lots of fun with the many Japanese cultural arts on display, fun food and crafts fair that are part of the weekend. You definitely won't regret the time spent there. Please let us know if you can help out.

Did you miss the March Meeting?

No worries. VP of Programs, David Eichhorn has written excellent notes from the presentation of Chris Ross and guest presenter Tim Kong on styling and developing juniper bonsai. Check it out on our [website](#).



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