

MARIN BONSAI CLUB

November Newsletter – 2021

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MARIN BONSAI CLUB 2021 FUNDRAISER CANCELED

Unfortunately, the Marin Bonsai Club 2021 Fundraiser had to be canceled this year. The club found itself to be not in full compliance with Federal, State and City rules governing non profit tax exempt status.

Therefore, it was necessary to suspend generating income from the scheduled sale and silent auction.

George Haas and the current board members initiated steps to prepare the required paperwork and government forms to request full compliance as a nonprofit educational corporation 501(c)(3).

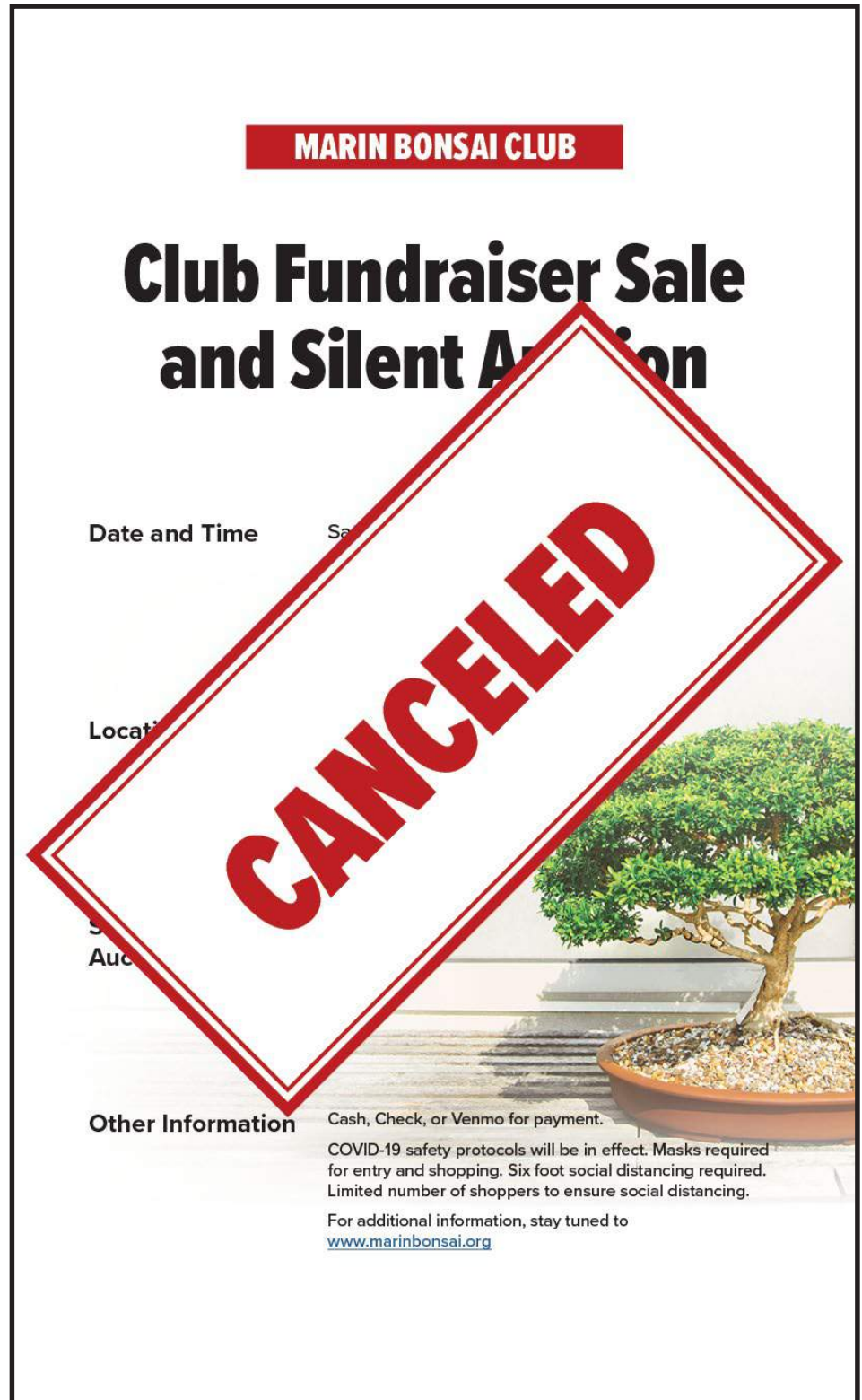
Tax exempt certification won't come quickly due to staff shortages and backlogs with the government agencies caused by the COVID pandemic.

For those members interested in learning more about 501 (c) (3) non-profit corporations, check out the websites below:

[How to Form a California Non-profit Corporation | California 501\(c\)\(3\) | Nolo](#)

[Applying for Tax Exempt Status | Internal Revenue Service \(irs.gov\)](#)

The good news is MBC can complete the paperwork and forms with its own resources. The club can reschedule a fundraiser for later in 2022. ■



MARIN BONSAI CLUB

Club Fundraiser Sale and Silent Auction

CANCELED

Date and Time See

Location

Silent Auction

Other Information Cash, Check, or Venmo for payment.
COVID-19 safety protocols will be in effect. Masks required for entry and shopping. Six foot social distancing required. Limited number of shoppers to ensure social distancing.
For additional information, stay tuned to www.marinbonsai.org

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello All MBC Members,

This is my last communication or president's message. I want to thank all of you for your support and trust placed in me over the years as your club president.

I was first introduced to MBC around 2003 by my dear friend and longtime club member Earl Minagawa of San Rafael. I was retiring that year and Earl thought I would be interested in bonsai as a hobby and to fill my time in retirement. I attended club meetings as a guest. When I spoke to Earl of joining MBC, he told me to check out the Santa Rosa Redwood Empire Bonsai Society or REBS. By residing in Petaluma, it didn't matter whether I drove north or south for club meetings. I attended a September meeting at REBS. Their club sensei was the renowned Kathy Shaner. I observed Kathy perform a bonsai demonstration. Afterwards, I joined as a member of REBS.

Over the years, I kept returning to MBC events as a guest. At sometime I felt guilty not paying yearly dues to MBC. So, I joined the club and took an active role as board member. I truly enjoyed all club programs and events. The annual fall show was special, well attended and supported by other clubs. At one point, I became president of MBC.

I was busy at times as a member of four bonsai clubs; REBS, MBC, Bay Area Satsuki Aikokai, and Bay Area Bonsai Associates. I served as editor of Golden Statements Magazine on two occasions. I serve as Marketing Manager and docent for the Bonsai Garden at Lake Merritt (BGLM).

Next year I will focus on my roles at REBS and BGLM. I will have more time to work on my bonsai collection at home.

I leave MBC with no regrets. MBC is a well established and old bonsai club within the greater SF/Bay Area. The club has money in the bank and is capable of generating funds to cover its schedule of activities throughout the year. The formula for programs, meetings and workshops, guest demonstrators, and more adequately meet the needs of its members, no matter what the skill levels.

MBC has the ability to attract new members. Please support and mentor new members as they will serve in the growth and future of MBC. Whether beginners or experienced bonsai practitioners the club must meet their needs to remain viable.

Thank you.

知り合いだったが、
今は友達として別れる。

*Now as friends,
we say goodbye.*

— George Haas ▪

THE QUEST FOR OUR CLUB LOGO

EDITOR'S NOTES BY TUNG X. DAO

The newsletter needed a new logo graphic and logotype to welcome the new design. In the last meeting, Brendan and I and brought in some draft designs to share with everyone. The design below is the current leading candidate after many different iterations.

It draws on many elements to make it unique to our club. The first Marin element is Mt. Tam cutting through a setting sun to the west. The next element that the design pays homage to is the Marin County's logo of the Civic Center. The tree, pot, and the sun silhouette mimics the layout of the building's design and re-imagines it as a bonsai tree display with a scroll on the side. It also beckons to bonsai's Japanese roots. The sun and the red colors are distinctive Japanese elements that are alluded to in the current design.

These elements combined together makes for a unique and relatable logo that reproduces well at many sizes. It should hold up well as a tiny icon, stamped on the side of a pencil, printed as a letterhead, as well as flown large on a banner or flag. Its simplicity helps make it memorable.

If you are interested in reading about the many previous design candidates, please see the appendix. This is an ongoing process, and any comments are always welcome. ▪



MARIN BONSAI CLUB

NOVEMBER MEMBER'S WORKSHOP AND TREE SWAP

NOVEMBER 16, 2021

All members are reminded that the club's final members workshop this year will be held Tuesday evening, November 16, TLCC Room #4, from 7:00 to 9:30 p.m. Please RSVP your desire to attend to George Haas at gwhaas@comcast.net.

All members are also invited to bring a limited number of bonsai trees to swap (members selling to members). Please limit the trees to two or three and bring plastic or tarp to protect table tops. This swap is an opportunity to sell bonsai trees between members without generating any income for the club.

As a reminder, please stop what you are doing at 9:15 p.m., clean up and put away all chairs by 9:30 p.m. sharp. ▪

2022 SCHEDULE OF PROGRAMS

The committee of Marcia Summers, Craig Thompson, and Brendan Crotty are busy at work in creating the 2022 Schedule of Programs. This involves dates/time slots for meetings/demonstrations, workshops, Marin County Fair show, beginners' workshops, auction, and more.

If you have preferences and suggestions for programs and guest demonstrators, please contact Marcia at msummers@pon.net. ▪

MARIN BONSAI CLUB ELECTIONS FOR 2022

The club elections for 2022 take place in November 2021 with nominations for newly elected officers and board members. MBC skipped having elections the last time around, primarily because no members stepped up to take on leadership roles in club business. This can not happen two years in a row.

More importantly, the club needs a president and treasurer as responsible officers to sign and submit the

required paperwork and government forms to obtain nonprofit corporation tax exempt status.

Please consider an active role in the club by showing your interest in serving as president, vice president, secretary, treasurer, or board member.

Contact any officer or board member now to help in the business side of MBC operations.

The deadline for making nominations is November 15, 2021. If you nominate someone other than yourself, be sure the person is willing to serve.

Voting in past years occurred during the first meeting in January. This year the voting will take place on December 1, 2021 by mass email to the members. A single YES vote will elect the new officers and board members as a whole. A single NO vote will reject them and the club will have to start over. ▪

UPCOMING BONSAI EVENTS

18TH BIENNIAL SHOHIN SEMINAR

FEBRUARY 4, 5, AND 6, 2022
HOTEL MISSION DE ORO

DETAILS

Registration begins on November 1, 2021. The event will be on February 4, 5, and 6, 2022 at Hotel Mission de Oro, 13070 Hwy 33, Santa Nella, California 95322. Please be sure and mention you are making a reservation for the Shohin Seminar to receive our discount.

Contact the hotel at 800-546-5697 or 209-826-4444 for Direct Hotel Reservations. Place your reservation early.

SUMMARY

The only event of its kind in the U.S. Every two years the California Shohin Society organizes a Shohin Seminar in Santa Nella, California, where bonsai masters, teachers, students, and general enthusiasts from all over the country gather to learn and share their love of Shohin bonsai.

The Shohin Seminar is considered to be one of the best, if not the best, opportunity in the U.S. to learn about Shohin. Thanks to the generosity of all who participate, it is an exceptional value for the cost.

ABOUT

About the Golden State Bonsai Federation (GSBF) Collections. Currently, the GSBF maintains three collections in California at the following locations:

- The Bonsai Garden at Lake Merritt in Oakland, CA
- The GSBF Collection at The Huntington in San Marino, CA
- Clark Bonsai Collection at Shinze in Fresno, CA

Proceeds from the Shohin Seminar will go to the three gardens. Visit the Shohin Seminar 2022 website <http://www.calshohin.org/>. ▪

21ST ANNUAL MAMMOTH AUCTION AND SALE

FEBRUARY 19 AND 20, 2022
OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA

The annual Bonsai Garden at Lake Merritt Mammoth Auction and Sale will be held on **Saturday, February 19 and Sunday, February 20, 2022** at 666 Bellevue Ave., Lakeside Park Garden Center in Oakland. You are invited to the biggest auction and sale of bonsai, pre-bonsai, pots, books, stands, and related material. A Mammoth fundraiser with all proceeds going to support the Bonsai Garden at Lake Merritt (BGLM).

Saturday auction preview starts at 12:00 p.m. with auction starting at 1:00 p.m. Sunday sale from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., large showing of vendors, plant sales, and much more. Purchase your bonsai needs. For further information, contact George Haas at gwhaas@comcast.net or stay tuned to the BGLM Website www.bonsailakemerritt.com.

Auction bonsai and items are now being collected at BGLM. Volunteers in all areas are requested to contact George Haas for leader assignments. ▪

APPENDIX: THE QUEST FOR OUR LOGO – THE NITTY GRITTY DETAILS

BY TUNG X. DAO

DESIGN ELEMENTS

In our brainstorming and research, we tried to find elements that made our club unique. Things like Mt. Tam, the Civic Center, the County Fair, the

native Coast Miwok, and the letter M stood out as representative of the place that we reside.

The letter M is rather interesting as a design element because it could represent the county, the club, the Coast Miwok, and Mt. Tam, so we used it often in our designs.

We also considered things related to bonsai (but not a tree) as potential concepts. This led us to things like pots and tools. Other ideas included techniques such as ramification, wiring.

If we had to use a tree, perhaps we could use a native Marin or Northern California tree such as the manzanita, madrone, or redwood. Other less concrete concepts that came up include community, perseverance, and education. After gathering these ideas, we drafted a few concepts on paper.

If you search for bonsai club logos, you'll find that every club seems to have some trite themes: a tree in a pot, a circle, perhaps the name of the club. All these logos get lost amongst each other in a sea of similar logos in various degrees of photorealism, complexity, and other questionable graphic design choices.

With all this said, what makes our club *unique*? What is something that says Marin Bonsai Club, something that no other club can use to have it represent them? That unique element is something that should be made into a logo. The difficulty is how and how to do it effectively.

LOGOTYPES

Two potential logotypes have been used so far. The logotype is the portion or a version of a logo that contains text that identifies the club.

The first is on these newsletters as the masthead (or the title text). The second is as the masthead for the Sale and Silent Auction flyer. Both are in Proxima Nova on a medium dark red background.

The second design used on the flyer alludes to the hachimaki headband in its design. It uses the club name on a very wide and thin red box. The hachimaki is a symbol of effort and courage.

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I think this design element has a lot to offer for us in a simple design.

The logotypes have been a bit quicker to design and implement. It's also simpler to change on a fly, if necessary. The search for the logo symbol, however, has led us on a long journey exploring many different aspects of bonsai and Marin.

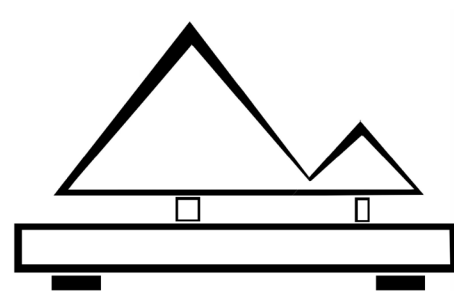
LOGO GRAPHICS

The graphic, or symbol, is the portion of the logo that contain only graphical elements. The symbol can stand on its own and should still be recognizable.

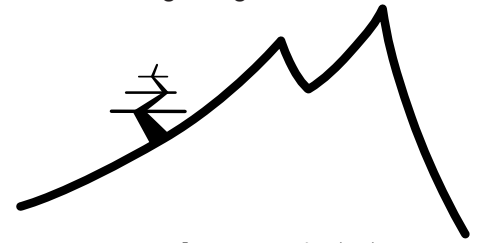
Two early designs used the essential bonsai tools as the design element. The butterfly shears commonly associated with bonsai were used. The idea was that the handles created the M that would represent the club and the county. An alternative was created using the long shears. The idea of using the handles to represent the M in Marin leads to an interesting problem of the logo being read as the "ARIN BONSAI CLUB".



Another early design concept uses two trees to form an M. The trees are in a shallow pot in a heavily simplified and angled form.



In a more curvy interpretation, the M is drawn as a swash, and a tree with an informal upright design grows off the slopes. This organic design gathered a lot of interest at the meeting and was a leading design idea.



marin**bonsai**club

We then explored the idea of creating a negative space style logo using the club's initials, *MBC*. The counters (the two holes) in the *B* were replaced with a silhouette of a bonsai tree.



In the latest version, we've combined many elements that are unique to our club, as well as elements from previous designs. It is strongly inspired by the Marin County logo of the Civic Center. It is constructed with a formal upright Redwood-type tree in a shallow pot. Its offset alludes to the spire in the County's Civic Center logo. In the background is the setting sun behind Mt. Tamalpais. We think these elements make this design unique, memorable, symbolic, and powerful. It's got a lot going for it.

The graphic in this version also would lend itself well to being used in the hachimaki graphic similar to



the masthead in the flyer as it reproduces well at a small size.

We would like to use a proper formal upright tree for the last design instead of stock art. If you have a great looking one — the skinnier the better — please send it to me if you would like to see it incorporated into the design. Stylized drawings also welcome!

If anyone has the original design files for the current logo and logotype, please send it our way so we can try to see what we can do with it.

CLOSING THOUGHTS

We hope one of these designs resonate with you. A logo should be something that symbolizes much more than what we do. It should be something we can all rally behind. More designs to come soon after feedback and comments for this round of designs.

I would like to thank my friends James Peters and Sharon Saigo for their proofreading assistance. ▀

Background image: An impressively tall flower stalk from an agave plant found in Marin County. (Photo by Tung X. Dao)

2021 BOARD MEMBERS AND APPOINTMENTS

Please step up for any open positions available.

OFFICERS & BOARD MEMBERS

President	George Haas
Vice President	Open
Secretary	Marcia Summers
Treasurer	Marcia Summers
Current Board Members	Dan Keller Diane Matzen Gwynessa Aetherwyn Brendan Crotty Open

APPOINTMENTS

Membership	Dan Keller
Webmaster	Sharon Bone
Newsletter	Tung Dao
BGLM Docent Coordinator	Dennis Plaut
Program Chair	David Eichhorn
Show Chair	Jay McDonald

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