



Bonsai Wire Marin Bonsai Club

Monthly Meeting
3rd Tuesday, 7:30PM
Marin Art & Garden Center
30 Sir Francis Drake Blvd. Ross, CA

March 2014

From the President...

Hi All,

I hope your repotting season is running as smoothly as mine. I'm down to conifers in my collection and a rogue satsuki azalea on the bench, but that is all. Members have been helping out tremendously and hopefully we've all learned a little something in the process. Real quick, the instructors aren't paid and if members could please stay and help clean up and take their discarded soil home with them it would lighten the load. The trash has to be emptied every night and when it's filled with soil it is a bit of a sting for volunteers.

Other news, we are looking forward to Jay's penjing demo in the multipurpose room which will also feature a raffle. It is a must attend evening. Be sure to read David's article here for more details.

Attendance is solid and membership is growing, but there is room for more; so, please help promote bonsai as well as our club to friends, family and more. One day bonsai will be taught in every school in the nation, if I have my way.

With that, I'm always looking for fresh ideas regarding bonsai education; my ears are wide open on the topic. If you have comments, suggestions, ideas or constructive criticism, let's hear from you.

Bonsai like life.....when the growing ends, death begins.

Remember, don't fertilize repotted trees for at least a month, full winter sun helps roots grow, and deciduous trees should have short and multiple internodes. Don't let your trees dry out, but don't flood them either. Watering in the late morning warmth is ideal.

Get Wired,

Tim Burke



From the VP of Programs...

Hopefully February was a productive month for all of you and your trees. Personally, too many of my Japanese Maples were overly productive; they needed repotting at least two weeks earlier than I anticipated, so it was quite the busy month for me. There are probably plenty of similar stories with the mild Winter we've been having. An odd sign of the mildness of our Winter: I have trees that are sprouting their new Spring leaves, but there are one or two of the previous season's dried up leaves still hanging right next to the new growth!



I heard that the Lake Merritt Work Day went well. A prior commitment prevented me from taking part, as much as I would have liked to be there. Thank you very much, Candace Key, for making this happen and to all the people who showed up to help. I know both Candace and Roger Lion wrote pieces about the Lake Merritt Bonsai Garden in last month's newsletter, but let me put my two cents in: The garden is truly beautiful, the trees are amazing, and you really must try the docent duty on some fourth Saturday because the three hours whiz by like nothing. And if being around all those beautiful trees for three hours isn't enough incentive, there's the joy of seeing the awe on visitors' faces and their enthusiastic gratitude often expressed to you for having such a place available. Many visitors are from rather far away places and they are all impressed with the garden. Tim, Jay, and I are

trying to fill as many of the fourth Saturday spots as possible, but we (Frances Noles and Roger Lion, who volunteer as frequently as anybody) can't do it alone. Please consider donating time at least once a year and I promise you won't regret it.

The repotting workshops have been going very well. Apparently I was mistaken in my last submission, by the way: the March 4th Workshop is also going to be dedicated to repotting. I wasn't aware we had enough soil to have four repotting workshops, but apparently we do. After that, we have Jay McDonald's P'en Jing demonstration on March 18th at 7:30 pm. Please take careful note that Jay's demonstration will be in the NEW LOCATION: the Marin Society of Artists Building, also on the Marin Art & Garden Center grounds in Ross. The building is not hard to find and it has its own parking lot that we can use. The Marin Society of Artists Building is approximately 150 yards directly south from the Multipurpose Room we've been using for the past several years. I hope to see you there on the 18th.

Time to climb atop the soapbox again: Tim Burke brought up an important issue at the last workshop that I feel needs to be addressed further. Lots of old soil and wire goes into the trash at every repotting workshop and not only does that make for one very heavy garbage bag at the end of the night, it's a shame when there are composting and recycling bins on the premises. To help us dispose of our waste more sensibly, I am going to make an effort to wheel the appropriate bins up to the Multipurpose room at the next workshop. If it works out, please use those for your old soil and wire instead of the garbage. Thank you, Karen, for alerting me to the (admittedly obvious) fact that old aluminum wire can be recycled.

Looking ahead, our very own Craig Thompson is confirmed for his ficus demonstration on April 15th at 7:30. This will also take place at the new location, the Marin Society of Artists Building. As an added bonus, Jim Gremel will

VP of Programs Continued...

be assisting Craig. The completed tree will be raffled at the end of the night.

Here comes Spring! What a wonderful time to be raising bonsai. Back to the workbench . . .

David Eichhorn

Club Work Day at Bonsai Gardens at Lake Merritt

It was a small but energetic band of Marin Bonsai Club members who arrived at the Bonsai Gardens at Lake Merritt on February 15 for the annual Club work day there, ready to help with any and all tasks necessary to prepare the Gardens for the Mammoth Fundraiser weekend. We plucked weeds from trees destined for the auction (assessing and admiring them in the process), cleaned up pots, organized and priced trees/pots/stones/tools for the sale, and then applied ourselves to a general weeding and clean up of the garden itself. Bob Gould, our gentle taskmaster, was very appreciative of the time, effort and expertise our merry band of volunteers contributed. As is usually the case, many hands made light work and it was an enjoyable as well as productive day. Thank you to new members Andy Lafrenz and Barry Crotty for jumping in with both feet, and long time members Roger Lion, Marlene Philley, Michael Jaffe, Karen Marx, John Doig, Chris Ross and Candace Key for giving of their time, enthusiasm and bonsai spirit.

Candace Key

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

It's time to renew your annual membership. The dues are: \$65 family, \$45 single; and \$25 student. A membership form is included in this month's newsletter. Copies of the form will also be available at our monthly workshops.

Please submit your dues promptly; and remember, the workshops are free for paid up members and \$10.00 each for non-members. Checks are payable to the "Marin Bonsai Club" and must include your name, address and telephone number. Either give your dues to Art Wasserman at the monthly workshop, or mail to Marin Bonsai Club, PO Box 437, Ross, CA 94957.

Thanks to all of you,

Marin Bonsai Club

North American Satsuki Bonsai Center Announcement

North American Satsuki Bonsai Center is proud to co-host internationally recognized satsuki bonsai master, Suisho Nakayama, for a special evening demonstration at Bay Area Bonsai Associates annual show on March 8-9 at the Garden Center at Lake Merritt in Oakland. Reserve this date as a "must see" to enjoy one of the best bonsai displays in the SF Bay Area and be entertained and enlightened by the finest satsuki instructor in Japan. Demonstration at 6:30 on Saturday evening. See Bonsai Events listing at the end of the newsletter for more details.

Candace Key

The Taskmaster, March 2014

Spring is just around the corner, so they say, when you get to March. But here in the Northern California Bay Area microclimates the thing is a reality already. Buds are swelling, leaves are beginning to show, recently repotted trees are showing a disturbing tendency to dry out a lot quicker, and the bonsai garden is beginning to hum. And you better be ready to hum too, friends and neighbors, because it just goes faster from here on out.

You can still repot many trees with immature leaves showing, but not fruiting or flowering trees. And older, more styled and ramified trees are frankly at risk if you wait too long. And of course you have to keep right on chugging through the conifers (hurry up!), to get to the evergreens, to get to the junipers, to get ready to start Spring pinching on deciduous trees. Repot anything that didn't thrive, or that drained slowly, or seemed prone to weak leaves, splotchy bark, or the signs of fungus (all of the preceding symptoms and then some). Repot things that deserve a better pot or angle or a new front.

New leaves mean the glory of life reborn to us, and the miracle and beauty of the yearly pageant of the promise of renewal. But it's all just tender vittles to the army of sleepy and voraciously hungry bugs and critters who use your garden for a bed and breakfast retreat. So keep a sharp lookout for a reason to use safer soaps, water streams, insect sprays or fungicides as soon as trouble starts.

Pinching back on a maple is easy- you just have to be quick. To maintain shape and aid ramification, pinch out the second set of leaves everywhere as soon as they appear. If the branch needs to be longer, pinch out the third set as they appear. If the branch needs thickness, let it grow untouched until it gets thick enough, then cut back to the right length and let it bud out and start the pinching process. Pinching back an elm is hard, because they grow so many branches so fast. You need to pinch them back to three leaves everywhere, every time you go outside for a few

weeks. Not kidding around here. They're fast, and they're sneaky. But the same rules apply about lengthening and fattening the branches. Pinching back junipers is under debate in many parts of the bonsai world. Seems best to let them grow out and only take off the leading bud to prevent long, wild end growth, then cut back to a desired shape, size, or direction later on.

Feeding deciduous trees with nitrogen this time of year will create larger leaves, longer internodes, and rampant growth that is hard to keep up with. Feeding with an N-P-K of 0-10-10 will give trees good strong roots and stems. April and May is soon enough. All other trees can continue with the regular feeding schedule.

This is prime time for wiring evergreens, but deciduous trees grow too fast and are too tender.

This is prime time for writing haiku, watching the miracle of life unfold, and inviting poetry and miracles into your own life.

The Taskmaster

Upcoming Northern California Bonsai Events

March 8 – 9, 2014 Oakland, California
Bay Area Bonsai Associates: 33rd Annual
Bonsai Exhibition at the Lakeside Park Garden
Center, 666 Bellevue Avenue. Show hours are
Saturday 5 – 9 PM and Sunday 10 AM – 4
PM. Demonstration by satsuki bonsai master
Shuicho Nakayama from Japan (co-sponsor by
North American Satsuki Bonsai Center) starts at
6:30 PM Saturday, followed by a raffle of the
demonstration tree. Continuous plant sale in-
cluding bonsai related items (pots, tools, soils,
wires, books, etc.) both days. Admission is
free. Parking fee to the Lakeside Park entrance
is required during the park hours. For more in-
formation, please contact Bob Gould at (925)
935-1914.

March 15, 2014, Sacramento, California
American Bonsai Association, Sacra-
mento: Annual Bus Trip departs The Sacra-
mento Garden & Arts Center, 3330 McKinley
Blvd., at 7:30AM and returns at 6:30PM. Five
stops are planned in the Santa Rosa and Se-
bastapol areas: the private collection of Frank
and Barbara Bardella, Lone Pine Gardens Nurs-
ery, Momiji Maple Nursery, California Carnivores,
and West Country Oasis Bamboo Garden. The
\$35 fee includes donuts, coffee and water en-
route to the area, with a raffle, complimentary
drinks (water, sodas, beer, wine) and chips on
the return trip. Bring a lunch. This trip is open to
the general public. For reservations make checks
payable to ABAS c/o Renee Seely, 1636 Vallarta
Circle Sacramento, CA 95864. For information
phone: (916) 929-2106, e-
mail breadcrust@comcast.net or visit our website
at <http://abasbonsai.org>

March 19 – 23, 2014 San Mateo, California
Bonsai Society of San Francisco: Annual
Bonsai Exhibit at the San Francisco Flower and
Garden Show, San Mateo County Event Center,
1346 Saratoga Drive. Hours: Wednesday – Satur-
day 10 AM – 7 PM, Sunday 10 AM – 6 PM. There
will be demonstrations and trees for sale. For
more information about the club, visit our web-
site: www.bssf.org. For group and early bird
ticket information to the Flower and Garden
Show, visit <http://sfgardenshow.com>.

March 22 – 23, 2014 Santa Cruz, California
Santa Cruz Bonsai Kai: 26th Annual Show at
the Museum of Art & History, 705 Front Street. 10
AM – 5 PM with a demonstration at 2 PM by John
Thompson both days. Raffle drawing for demon-
stration tree after demo each day. Trees espe-
cially prepared, trimmed and wired by club mem-
bers will be part of the raffle each day. Sales area
will include both vendor and member trees, pots
and other related bonsai items. Admission price
includes entry to bonsai show, the Museum of Art
& History and complimentary coffee, tea and
cookies. For more information contact Ed Lambing
at edinbonnydoon@sbcglobal.net.

April 12 – 13, 2014, Sacramento, California
American Bonsai Association of Sacramento
(ABAS): Annual Spring Show will be held at
the Shepherd Garden and Arts Center, 3330
McKinley Blvd. Hours: Saturday 10 AM – 5 PM and
Sunday 10 AM – 4 PM; demonstration both days
by Kathy Shaner at 1PM. For further information
email Paul Holtzen at pbholtzen@sbcglobal.net.

Bonsai Wire Newsletter Submissions:

The deadline for the Bonsai Wire
Newsletter is the Saturday following the
Club's Monthly General Meeting.

Please email any news, articles, event
info, Haiku, photos etc. to:
mbcnews@marinbonsai.org



MARIN BONSAI CLUB
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION OR RENEWAL

(PLEASE PRINT)

NAME(S) _____ DATE: _____

Check one: Single _____ Family _____ Student (under 18) _____

ADDRESS _____

HOME PHONE: () _____ WORK PHONE: () _____ CELL: () _____

EMAIL** _____ Year you joined Marin Bonsai Club _____

** It has become increasingly important for us to have your email address so you can be kept up to date on last minute shows and events. Please print clearly.

Membership Fees: Single \$45 Family \$65 Student \$25

Make checks payable to Marin Bonsai Club. Send check and application to:
Marin Bonsai Club, PO Box 437, Ross, CA 94957

Monthly Newsletter: We distribute a monthly Club newsletter—*Bonsai Wire*—to our members. It is also published on the Club website at <http://www.marinbonsai.org/newsletters.php>.

Please indicate how you would prefer to receive the newsletter:

_____ Email notification _____ USPS mail _____ No newsletter

As a member of Marin Bonsai Club, we ask that you volunteer in at least two areas where you can be helpful to the Club. You will also be asked by our Hospitality host to bring refreshments once a year. Please indicate which areas you are interested in:

Monthly Meeting / Workshop Activities

- _____ Raffle events
- _____ Field trip coordination
- _____ Publicity
- _____ Newsletter contributor
- _____ Website assistant
- _____ Photographer
- _____ Welcome Committee
- _____ Cleanup management

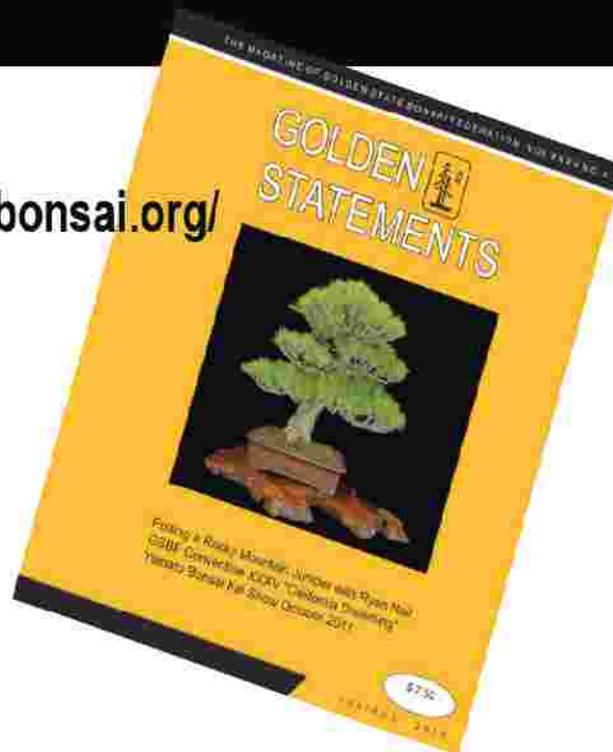
Annual Activities

- _____ Setup and takedown Marin County Fair show
- _____ Auction Committee (need lots of people)
- _____ Setup and coordination Fall Show
- _____ Summer picnic
- _____ Holiday party

THANK YOU FOR YOUR INPUT AND YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT OF THE MARIN BONSAI CLUB



<http://www.gsbf-bonsai.org/>



Now you have more sources for where you get your bonsai information.

Go online for the new and redesigned GSBF Web homepage — <http://www.gsbf-bonsai.org/>. It's free. Be sure you subscribe to the automatic notifications via email for the absolute latest news and other posted information.

Subscribe to the bimonthly GSBF *Golden Statements* Magazine, the full featured magazine of the Golden State Bonsai Federation. To subscribe, just go online at <http://www.gsbf-bonsai.org/golden-statements/subscribe-to-gs>.

12/26/2012

Marin Bonsai Club Events

March 4, 2014: Repotting Workshop,
Multipurpose Room, 7 PM. Free for
members. \$10 for non-members.

March 18, 2014: Monthly Meeting,
Marin Society of Artists Building, 7:30 PM.
Jay Mc Donald Demonstrating P'en Jing.

April 1, 2014: Monthly Workshop,
Multipurpose Room, 7 PM. Free for
members. \$10 for non-members.

April 15, 2014: Monthly Meeting,
Marin Society of Artists Building, 7:30 PM.
Ficus Demonstration by our own Craig
Thompson assisted by the lovely Jim
Gremel.



2013 Marin Bonsai Club Officers:

President	Tim Burke	415-259-7372
VP Programs	David Eichhorn	415-888-3756
VP Shows	Jay McDonald	415-847-8909
Secretary	Candace Key	415-491-1989
	Daniel Keller	415-453-7265
Treasurer	Art Wasserman	415-454-3077
Historian	Carolyn Robbins	415-460-0339
Librarian	Roger Lion	415-924-5134
Webmaster	Sharon Bone	415-898-9618
Newsletter	Scott Piatanesi	415-456-6848
Hospitality	Marlene Philley	415-924-5134
Docent Coord	Vacant	

Marin Bonsai Club
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