



Bonsai Wire Marin Bonsai Club

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

April 2015

From the VP of Programs...

All things bonsai are in full swing, and our club activities are certainly no exception. There is much to report from March and to anticipate about this month, but events at the Mammoth benefit back in February take precedence both chronologically and for noteworthiness.

There was a new feature at the Mammoth Benefit Auction this year. Every Bay Area bonsai club was invited to assemble a simple display that would be up the entire second day of the event. Ours was one of about a dozen there that day, in the same room as Kathy Shaner's wonderful demo, accompanied by the silent auction items. At the end of Kathy's demo, a show-of-hands vote was used to determine the best club display. Many thanks to everybody from our club who was there, because we managed to sway the vote away from the excellent REBS display by just one vote, and our club took home the prize, which was a complete mystery until the very end. It's a lovely magnum of 2006 Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon, which we will parade out at our next big social function of the year. Maybe the Fall Show . . . ?

The club's first annual Bonsai Boot Camp kicked off at our March meeting. Attendance was high, planning was minimal, and expectations were . . . well, modest. Despite a healthy dose of apprehension, the dauntless planners and participants pushed forward to create an event that, by all accounts, was quite the crowd pleaser. Prior to the event, I had begun doubting almost

immediately the sensibility of my suggestion in the last newsletter that the "Recruits" repot their trees right away (I also decided that "Recruits" is a better word than "Draftees," used earlier). With just a little encouragement, however, every one of the newly formed teams did repot their trees, to varying degrees of severity, but all with what looked like great success. Time will tell for sure. And that is one of the great things about this event: the club gets to watch the progress of these four very different trees as the teams work on them throughout the year.

Many thanks to the Mentors who stepped forward: Roger Lion, Chris Ross, Daniel Keller, Craig Thompson, and George Haas. Craig Thompson wants very much to be a Mentor, but was unable to attend the March meeting. George Haas agreed to step in for Craig at the last minute and did an excellent job helping Dan Olson repot the crabapple that Craig's team will be working on this year. The Mentors were paired respectively with Andy Lafrenz, Karen Marx, Barry Crotty, and Dan Olson. Their trees were Shimpaku, Seiju Elm, Trident Maple, and Crabapple, respectively.

A special thank you goes out to Candace Key and Chris Ross who traveled to Lone Pine Nursery to pick out the trees, without which the Boot Camp never would have gotten off the ground. I also think Candace was excellent as MC. I was ready to do it, but think I would have

VP Programs Continued...

rambled on too much. Candace was very concise and decisive, as if she had done the thing before. It all made sense the way it unfolded and perfectly suited Candace's board-supported drive to work more education into club activities

Please join me in welcoming two new members who were in our midst during the March meeting. Sally and Charles Secor just joined the club and that was their first meeting. I think they were suitably impressed with our ambitious new Boot Camp event!

Going forward for the foreseeable future, we are remaining on the MAGC campus with our workshops tending to be held in the Marin Society of Artists Building (MSA; follow the sign that says "Art Gallery"), where our mess will be slightly more tolerated. Our meetings will be held in the Multipurpose Room, where the light is better. Any variation from this will be announced in advance.

Our next workshop will be in the MSA building on April the 7th. Our next meeting will take place on April 21st in the Multipurpose Room, featuring the third in our four-session series with Peter Tea. After two sessions covering mostly theory and general guidelines, this next one is anticipated to feature more specific techniques for working with maples and junipers. The Boot Camp teams are encouraged to bring their trees to show Peter what we're up to. Other members are welcome to bring trees, but there is no plan to have Peter talk about individual members' trees. Looking ahead to May, we will have Jonas Dupuich back on the 19th, in the Multipurpose Room, to answer any questions we wish to pose to him. That's right, a 100% question and answer format is the plan for that night. Candace has dubbed it "Ask Bonsai Tonight." That will be a good meeting to bring your trees.

I plan to catch all of it, so I'll see you soon!

David Eichhorn

Cherry Blossom Festival

The Cherry Blossom Festival in Japantown April 18-19 is one of the most colorful and festive street fairs in San Francisco. Japanese culture and crafts are exhibited and demonstrated in many venues, and the food is weird and delicious, sometimes both at the same time.

Marin Bonsai Club is privileged to be one of five Bay Area bonsai clubs to participate in a display during the Festival. We will show our trees along with Bonsai Society of San Francisco, Yamato Bonsai Kai, California Suiseki and the Bonsai Garden at Lake Merritt. It is a small gem of a show with each club showing only about 8-9 trees or stones, but it is the only show around where bonsai clubs exhibit together, making the event special and especially fun.

Our VP of Shows, Jay McDonald, is heading up the Marin Bonsai effort. He would like to show trees from many members, but because of space limitations the trees have to be in perfect condition in order to be chosen for the display. Fruiting and flowering trees are particularly desired. It is lots of fun to see kids dressed up as Manga characters line up to do selfies with a big wisteria. If you have a tree you think is right for the show please call Jay to discuss it, or bring the tree to our April workshop the first Tuesday of the month for review.

Even if you don't have trees to show we hope you will participate. We need docents to greet the public and watch the trees from 10-4 on Saturday and Sunday. Come for the day and take breaks to explore the other cultural events the Festival has to offer, and hang out with bonsai lovers in a very relaxed atmosphere.

Cherry Blossom Festival Continued...

Here are the details:

- ◆ We will be in the basement of the Japan Center at 1840 Sutter Street
- ◆ Set up is at 8 am. The show starts at 10 and runs to 4 PM both days
- ◆ This is a great family event, fun for kids, spouses and friends
- ◆ Your support both days would be most appreciated

Please let Jay or Candace know if you will be able to attend and help out.

Thank you,
Candace Key

Dues are Due

Our treasurer would like to remind those of you who have not paid their dues to please to do ASAP.

First Annual Bonsai Boot Camp



Chris Ross and Karen Marx comb out the roots of their seizure elm.



Andy Lefrenz assesses his newly revealed shimpaku juniper.

Bonsai Boot Camp Continued...



George Haas, Alan Voight and Dan Olson discuss a crabapple.



Karen Marx reviews styling options for a seiju elm.



Roger Lion and Andy Lefrenz wonder what to do with 'Cousin It.'



Barry Crotty loosens roots on a trident maple.



Dan Keller discusses options for developing a trident maple.

Candace Key



Spring gets us every time, doesn't it? Just when you think you'd better get out there and finally repot that tree you've had your eye on, the dang thing has leaves already! Can you still repot it anyway? Well, the answer is complicated. If it really doesn't drain well and you feel that its necessary in order to save the tree, then you can do a lift and plop. Get a bigger pot, prepare it as usual with a drainage layer and wires and a fresh soil layer and all, then pull the tree out of its old pot, rake all the old soil from the surface half inch or so, pick and pluck at the roots to loosen them some but don't cut any, and plop it in the new pot, wire it just hand-tight in place, and fill in all around with new soil. Gently chop the new soil into the root ball perimeter and surface. If the surface is too dense, get a square-shafted barbecue skewer (narrower, smoother, and stronger than a chopstick, for better penetration and less root damage), and spear it through the root ball in lots of places to conduct water and especially air down into the roots. There may be an element of luck, but if careful this should make the tree healthy until the next Fall or spring repot comes up. Don't forget next time. These work-arounds are things we all need to know, just in case. If you're shaky on this find someone who has done it successfully and get them to help you through it. That's one of the great things about the bonsai clubs. We all teach each other all the time.

Here in the Northern California Bay Area microclimates, if it doesn't rain, then the days get more late Springish even though the nights stay consistent with earlier Spring. This makes the trees go ahead and push into flower and into leaf sooner than one might expect, and suddenly, too. Don't let this fool you into watering more than is needed. The trees are using more water to grow, but the evaporation is lagging behind so you have to be careful not to create soggy soil. You still have to scratch the soil with a chopstick and wait to water until it's pretty dry one half to three-fourths inch deep. Newly repotted trees

The Taskmaster Continued...

are in soil that drains better, is better aerated, and dries faster than older repots, so they generally have to be watched and scratched and watered a little more than the others. It's helpful to group the faster, drier ones together so they can be observed and watered as a group without having to think about it too much.

Wiring can be done now, but not on growth that is too new and green. It will be too fragile and brittle. This growth will harden off by Summer and will still be flexible, much easier to wire than now. Any wire put on in Fall or Winter must be checked frequently for cutting in, because if the trees are as vigorous as hoped, branches and trunks will get fatter quickly and may be scarred before you know it. Some scarring may take years to correct. Some may never be correctable. Watch closely.

Watch closely for bugs, scale, fungus and other blights as well. Aphids, mites, leaf and bark-eating worms, and some other things can simply be squirted off. Just get one of those hose-end wands that adjusts to many patterns and select a flat spray, the regulate to the hardest spray that won't damage the foliage, and spray hard from all directions including from underneath every few days or so. It's quick and easy and healthy for the trees. For black, red, and the tiny white scale, all of which suck the plants and especially the new growth to death, horticultural oils in a lighter growing-season dilution can be the most effective control, killing adult, larval and egg forms. Just make sure that all tree surfaces get thoroughly sprayed, do it early in the morning, and don't water from overhead for a day. Cover the soil so oil doesn't get into the root zone. These measures are the more natural ones that tend to get rid of the problems but preserve the ecology of helpful insects and soil fungus that promote health and resistance to disease and drought.

Fertilizing is often done in the Mediterranean-type climates year-round, using organics with N-P-K numbers below ten. Some growers use 0-10-10 types until Summer begins, to try to control those long internodes that will just have to be cut back eventually anyway. Some young trees that are just being fattened up in their trunks and branches are fed much higher N-P-K numbers and allowed to grow out and do whatever they want until they get to be the right size. But they all need feeding during the rapid growth of Spring.

Plenty to do. Go out and do it. Plenty to think about. Go on and think it. Lots of life to live, make sure that you actively live it every day. Life may seem to go slowly sometimes, the hours can drag and the days may seem endless and exhausting. But the years? They're gone by like a bullet, my friend. Think back: They're just gone, just like that. Better find some peace in your heart, some deeper levels of communion with your friends, and make sure all the people you love know that you love them as often as you can.

The Taskmaster

Haiku for early Spring

White of Springtime moon
Blue-black of the midnight sky
Dreams sail toward the dawn



Marin Bonsai Club

Membership Application Or Renewal

(PLEASE PRINT)

NAMES(S) _____ Date _____

Check one:

Single _____ Family _____ Student (under 18) _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

HOME PHONE (____) _____ WORK PHONE (____) _____

E-MAIL* _____ .FAX(____) _____

YEAR YOU JOINED MARIN BONSAI CLUB _____

HOW DID YOU LEARN ABOUT 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. We do not share this with other members or clubs or anyone! Please print clearly.

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

Make checks payable to: Marin Bonsai Club. Please send your check and application to: **Marin Bonsai Club**, PO Box 437, Ross, CA 94957

There are many benefits to membership in the Marin Bonsai Club, but there are also responsibilities all members need to shoulder as well. Each member of the Club is required to volunteer at monthly and yearly club activities. Please check at least 2 areas where you can contribute to the Club. Thank you.

Monthly Meeting / Workshop Activities

- Raffle Events
- Assistant to Workshop Coordinator
- Assistant to Program Director
- Publicity
- Board Member
- Photographer

Annual Activities

- Setup Marin County Fair Show
- Auction Committee
(need lots of people!)
- Organize and coordinate Fall Show
- Holiday Party
- Docent at Lake Merritt

Upcoming Northern California Bonsai Events

April 11, 12 – Sacramento, California
American Bonsai Association, Sacramento's 56th Annual Spring Show will be held at the Shepard Garden and Arts Center in McKinley Park, 3330 McKinley Blvd, Sacramento, CA. Open Saturday: 10:00 AM – 5:00 PM, and Sunday: 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM. Headliner Dan Robinson, known as *The Picasso of Bonsai*, will demonstrate his skill for adding a dose of antiquity to a tree's soul. Demonstrations will be held on both Saturday and Sunday beginning at 1:30 PM. The club is offering a member-led, hands-on beginner workshop Sunday morning. Those interested may sign up Saturday, or Sunday before 10:00. The show will feature a large member and vendor sales area with a daily silent auction of quality bonsai and accessories. Benefit drawings will be held each day after the demonstration to include the demonstration tree and other trees and bonsai-related items. For more information visit <http://www.abasbonsai.org/>

April 18, 2015 Napa, California
Napa Valley Bonsai Club: Annual Show at the Napa Senior Center, 1500 Jefferson St., Hours are 11 AM – 4 PM with demonstrations at 2 PM with Jonas Dupuich. Vendors, Silent Auction and raffle of demo tree. Huge outdoor sales area with trees, pots, and bonsai related items. For more information please visit www.nvbonsai.org.

April 25 – 26, 2015 Sacramento, California
Bonsai Sekiyu Kai: Annual show will be held at the Sacramento Buddhist Church, 2401 Riverside Blvd. Hours are: Saturday Noon – 5 PM and Sunday 10 AM – 4 PM. Demonstration 2 PM both days by Yuzo Maruyama. Amenities include refreshments, light snacks, door prizes, raffles and a Silent Auction. Member and vendor sales of plants and bonsai-related items will also be available. For more information contact Doug Hamby at (916) 273-2328 or doughamby@gmail.com.

May 2 – 3, 2015 Palo Alto, California
Kusamura Bonsai Club: 55th Annual Show at the Lucie Stern Community Center, 1305 Middlefield Road. Show hours are Noon – 5 PM on Saturday and 11 AM – 5 PM on Sunday with a demonstration at 1 PM each day; special guest demonstrator Saturday. Club member sales available. For more information contact Mark O'Brien at (650) 327-0450 or mobrien-trees@hotmail.com. The club's website: www.kusamurabonsai.org also has more details.

May 2 – 3, 2015 Sacramento, California
Sacramento Bonsai Club: 69th Annual Bonsai & Suiseki Show at Buddhist Church of Sacramento, 2401 Riverside Blvd. Hours are Noon – 5 PM Saturday and 10 AM – 4 PM Sunday with demonstrations on both days at 2 PM by Sam Adina. Benefit drawings, plant and tree sales. For more information visit www.sacramentobonsaiclub.com or contact Gary Judd at ajuddbonsai@att.net or 916-622-8048.

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 Events

April 7, 2015: Workshop,
Marin Society of Artists Building, 7 PM.
Free for members. \$10 for non-members.

April 21, 2015: Peter Tea Returns,
Multi-Purpose Room, 7:30 PM.

May 5, 2015: Workshop,
Marin Society of Artists Building, 7 PM.
Free for members. \$10 for non-members.

May 19, 2015: Monthly Meeting, Jonas
Dupuich, 'Ask Bonsai Tonight,' Multi-
Purpose Room, 7:30 PM.



2015 Marin Bonsai Club Officers:

President	Vacant	
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
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Marin Bonsai Club
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