



## Bonsai Wire Marin Bonsai Club

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

January 2015

### From the VP of Programs...

Happy New Year, everybody! Another Holiday season is over, the solstice has passed and winter is upon us, but the days are now getting longer and my new favorite pre-spring activity is about to begin—it's repotting season!

I usually try to progress from recaps of past events to announcements of upcoming things, but since I've already expressed my excitement for the upcoming repotting activities, here are some important dates to remember . . .

January 6<sup>th</sup>: We will be switching our workshop and meeting days again so that this first meeting of the season can feature a repotting lecture and demo from one or more of our more knowledgeable veteran members. So far there are no volunteers, but I'm confident someone or someones will step forward to properly guide us into our 2015 repotting season. The fun begins at 7:30 p.m.

January 20<sup>th</sup>, February 3<sup>rd</sup>, and February 17<sup>th</sup>: these will all be workshop days, fully dedicated to repotting, starting at 7:00 p.m. The club will have a good general soil mix available for a by-tree nominal fee. As always, advice and assistance are available free for members, \$10 for non-members.

All of our events in January and February will take place in the new location, the Marin Society of Artists (MSA) building. To remind everybody,

the MSA building is still on the Marin Art & Garden Center grounds, it's simply to the right after the gates rather than to the left. There is a sign pointing that direction that says "Art Gallery."

Continuing to look ahead, the dates have been announced for the Mammoth Auction and Sales Fundraising event for the Bonsai Garden at Lake Merritt. Mark your calendars for February 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> because you won't want to miss this excellent gathering of bonsai vendors and enthusiasts. New this year: Joe Byrd, the Chairman of the Garden, has invited every Bay Area bonsai club to assemble a promotional display to be up all day on the 22<sup>nd</sup>. Every club that accepts the invitation will be provided a 6-foot table at no cost. It's up to us to dress up the table however we please and to have club members taking turns standing at the table to answer questions and hand out literature. I hope this excites some of you to come up with creative ideas for the table and that enough of us will be on hand to keep the table manned all day Sunday.

The Christmas party was very well attended, well decked with food, and adorned with several decorated trees. We have Candace to thank for much of the organization, and of course a special thank you goes out to Roger and Marlene who hosted the celebration once again. Candace is going to tell you more, but I want to throw in one more public thank you to Lone Pine Nursery for getting the lovely gift certificates to us in a

## VP Programs Continued...

timely fashion. Oh, and a small spoiler . . . I can't wait to use my gift certificate!

Now if you'll excuse me, as I write this the torrential rains we had for two weeks in December have just finished and I've got to replace a bunch of my topsoil! See you at a meeting real soon.

David Eichhorn



## Marin Bonsai Holiday Party - The best ever!

The Marin Bonsai Club has been hosting a holiday party featuring great food from the talented chefs in the club and a tree decorating contest for as long as I can remember, that being about 12 years, and this year's has to have been the best. How can I say that? First, crazy great trees in the competition, and the fact that guests didn't seem to want to leave when the party was over. People hung out, relaxed, talked, enjoyed the scenery at Roger and Marlene's lovely house and were in no hurry to depart. The flow of good holiday cheer was palpable and the decorated trees delightful. Who would want to leave?

As usual there were awards and presentations. We toasted our outgoing president Tim Burke in absentia, and thanked him for his service, (then once again made a plea for a club member to step forward and take his place.) We recognized longtime club member D.D. Drowley who passed away this year. D.D. was a pillar of the club for many years and served as president, as did his wife Sylvia, who now lives with her children in Washington State. They both contributed tirelessly to the bonsai community and our club in particular.

And we thanked long time club member David Stern for his decades of support for the club. There were several tributes to David's kindness, generosity, creativity and ingenuity, and he and his wife June Ruben were awarded a Lifetime Achievement certificate and lifetime membership to the club for their service and support of the Marin Bonsai Club.

The air crackled with suspense as the voting began for the best decorated bonsai. There were 6 entries this year and anyone of them could have taken top prize in most years, but competitors reached for the stars and it was clear winning this contest was a lifelong aspiration for some. Alison Seaman came out on top

## Christmas Party Continued...

with an adorable saikei of Kingsville boxwood trees in a snowy setting, populated with tiny figures she had picked up in Peru. (no, that is not cheating) An incredible effort and a very deserving winner. David Stern with his 'natural Christmas bonsai', and David Eichhorn with a beautifully lit saikei were runners up, but I think most would agree it was an excellent effort by all participants and we thank them for their inspired contributions to the holiday cheer.

Another year properly commemorated, and thanks to all who made it a good one. The holiday party is a wonderful club tradition and we hope to see even more of you next year. Same bat time, same bat station.

Cheers, Candace



Christmas Nandina by Chris Ross



Candyland Christmas by Candace Key



Pine by Jay McDonald

## Christmas Party Continued...



First prize, Christmas in Peru by  
Alison Seaman



Christmas saikei by  
David Eichhorn, runner up

Photos Courtesy Candace Key

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## Dues are due

It is that time of year again folks. Membership's dues for 2015 should be sent to the address on the membership form or brought to the workshops in January. We are requesting that everyone fill out the membership form, even if you are a long standing member, so we can make sure club records are correct with addresses, and phone numbers. Also, don't forget to check the boxes at the bottom of the form for ways you can contribute to the club. We need everyone to participate to keep club programs running smoothly. And make special note of our club obligations at the Bonsai Garden at Lake Merritt. Please schedule a docent or work day now. It is painless and fun.

Membership fees are noted on the form. Please get your payment in as soon as possible.

Candace Key



Mother Nature's Christmas by  
David Stern, runner up

## The Taskmaster, January 2015

January in the Northern Bay Area microclimates is often a month when you see it all: The rain, the wind, the seventy degree days, the occasional frost, and even a freeze or two. If the rains continue for more than two or three consecutive days, make sure to prop up one end of the bonsai pots to encourage draining. Take note of frost warnings and get pots under leafy canopies, or up under the eaves against the house, or under their own benches to prevent possible damage. They might all be okay, but why take the chance? Tropical plants and those with tender stems and leaves must all go to the garage or even inside for a while. If the temperature drops below freezing for more than a short few hours, make sure that all the above procedures get done, and invent some more protections as well. Soil in small pots freezes faster than in bigger ones, and frozen roots usually mean true disaster. Wet soil freezes and crushes roots, dry soil encourages roots to expand and rupture; so here we are back to the old necessity of being able to judge whether to water at all, and how much? Because the soil should always be moist, neither wet nor dry. This is a tough recurring problem, this water thing, one that we all have to master eventually, and for a surprisingly long and varied list of reasons.

Don't forget to use a dormant spray at the end of the month, the third and last one of the year. If you forgot the one at the end of December, do it in early January and repeat it three or four weeks later. Put newspaper or something over the soil to prevent getting the stuff into the root zone, then do a very thorough job of soaking over, under, between and beneath everything so that the spores, eggs, larvae and dormant forms of an army of creatures won't have to be battled, sprayed and eradicated later.

Repotting becomes possible toward the end of the month in the Mediterranean-type climates that most of us enjoy here in the Bay area. When the buds begin to swell is the golden

perfect time to trim roots, refresh soil and begin anew. The ideal is to get a new pot, a new angle, a new front, some new soil engineered for the perfect water retention needs of that specific tree, or all four at once. The trees that are starting to bud out are first, the pots that drain too slow are next, and the ones you can't be sure about have to be done even if (or maybe especially if) they were recently acquired. It's a good idea, in January, to get a good quality five-power magnifying glass, one with a light is ideal, to begin examining buds and growing tips so that you become familiar with growth stages, damage patterns, and the look of healthy tissue. These observations give weight to your decisions and hunches about what your trees need next, and why, and when. Learning a little more horticulture and botany always comes in handy.

Other than getting ready for Spring, it's not a very busy time in the average bonsai garden. Just keep the garden safe from freeze and flood, stay calm and carry on.

The Taskmaster

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## Upcoming Northern California Bonsai Events

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January 14, 2015 Oakland, California at Lakeside Garden Center, 666 Bellevue Ave, Oakland, CA. East Bay Bonsai Society would like to invite your bonsai club members to "BREAK IN THE NEW YEAR WITH KATHY SHANER!" on Wednesday, January 14th at 7:30pm in Oakland, CA. Kathy will be working on a Korean Hornbeam and after the tree will be raffled, along with other items.

Kathy, given the title of "Bonsai Master" by the Nippon Bonsai Association in Japan and also the curator of GSBF Bonsai Gardens at Lake Merritt, will demonstrate the nuances of bringing out the essence of a multi-trunk Korean Hornbeam. The demo tree along with other items will be raffled following the demo. Don't miss this chance to see Kathy in action!  
Michael Hylton, Vice President, East Bay Bonsai Society. [www.eastbaybonsai.org](http://www.eastbaybonsai.org)

January 24-25 Oakland, California  
Bay Island Bonsai Annual Bonsai Exhibit at the Lakeside Garden Center, 666 Bellevue Ave. Hours: 10AM-4PM, Saturday and Sunday. Auction on Saturday, preview at noon and auction at 1pm. Bonsai demonstration by Boon Manakitivipart on Sunday at 1 PM. Guided tours of the exhibit both Saturday and Sunday. Vendor sales, Club sales, Educational bonsai material for sale, A special pots sales this year. Entry to Exhibit is free, donations accepted. For more information (510) 919-5042 or go to <http://bayislandbonsai.com/bib-annual-exhibit/>

February 21 – 22, 2015 Oakland, CA  
GSBF Bonsai Garden at Lake Merritt: The annual Mammoth Fund Raiser will be held at 666 Bellevue Ave. (Garden Center Building). Saturday: Auction preview at noon with Auction starting at 1 PM. Sunday: Vendor Sales start at 9 AM, Plant Sales start at 10 AM, and Demonstrations at 1 PM. Also on Sunday help us celebrate our 15th Anniversary! The Bonsai Garden at Lake Merritt will celebrate the many bonsai clubs who have created and supported the Garden by inviting Bonsai Clubs from all over Northern California to showcase their best trees. Bonsai Garden will be open 10 AM to 4 PM on Saturday and Noon to 4 PM on Sunday. For more information or to sell trees, email [bonsailakemerritt@gmail.com](mailto:bonsailakemerritt@gmail.com) and visit [www.gsbf-lakemerritt.org](http://www.gsbf-lakemerritt.org).

### 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](mailto:mbcnews@marinbonsai.org)



# 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 \$40**  
                              **Family \$60**  
                              **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

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## Marin Bonsai Club Events

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January 6, 2015: Monthly Meeting,  
Marin Society of Artists Building, 7:30 PM.  
Demo, possibly repotting.

January 20, 2015: Repotting Workshop,  
Marin Society of Artists Building, 7 PM.  
Free for members. \$10 for non-members.

February 3, 2015: Repotting Workshop,  
Marin Society of Artists Building, 7 PM.  
Free for members. \$10 for non-members.

February 17, 2015: Repotting Workshop,  
Marin Society of Artists Building, 7 PM.  
Free for members. \$10 for non-members.



### 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
Docent Coord	Vacant	

Marin Bonsai Club  
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Address Correction Requested  
Please Forward

