



## 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

March 2015

### MARIN BONSAI WANTS YOU!!

Calling all aspiring new bonsai enthusiasts: the Marin Bonsai Club is now accepting volunteers and nominations for its first-ever BONSAI BOOT CAMP. Beginners who participate will be provided a tree and paired with long-standing, experienced and knowledgeable MBC members who will mentor them through a 33-week program of tree styling and show preparation, culminating in a Fall auction of the trees. In the end, the beginner with the best tree is the only one who will get to keep their tree. The rest will have to bid on them alongside everybody else.

The Boot Camp kicks off March 17<sup>th</sup>, at 7:30 p.m., in the Multipurpose Room on the Marin Art & Garden Center campus. Note that this is our old haunt, the place with the superior lighting. On this first night, volunteers and nominees from the audience will be selected, introduced to the group, and paired with willing Mentors. After tree selection, the Boot Camp Draftees will immediately commence repotting of their trees under the guidance of their Mentors. Audience participation will be encouraged and the entire assembled group will judge the Draftees on their repotting at the end of the night. *(All activities subject to change as we fine tune this new event.)*

Following the kick-off event, participants will meet with their Mentors at club workshops, and individually as necessary, to work on their trees in ways appropriate to the time of year. Periodically, select Draftees will present progress reports to the group at club workshops, which may be judged for points. In November, either

as part of the reborn Fall Show (keep your fingers crossed) or as a replacement activity, the Draftees will present their trees to the audience and a guest judge. The judge will allot the final points that will determine a winner, and the only tree spared the auction block.

The Bonsai Boot Camp is designed to replace the Iron Bonsai event, which has proven to be excessively stressful to the subject trees. The Boot Camp places more emphasis on education, but there should be plenty of excitement as well, so please join us for the March 17<sup>th</sup> kick-off of this brand-new, one of a kind event.

In other matters . . . The second and third repotting workshops were successes. I was personally unable to attend the third one, but I'm including here a photo from the second one, which was quite well attended. I was too busy repotting a gifted "Mall-sai" that I'm trying to save, so do not have any stories from other people's projects this time.



## Marin Bonsai Wants You Continued...

Many thanks to the great number of helpers that came out to Lake Merritt the weekend before Mammoth to tidy everything in the Bonsai Garden. I was unable to attend but hear that everything got done in a timely manner. It was a beautiful weekend, so I'm sure the workers had a great time among the trees.

Our next event is our normally scheduled workshop, March 3<sup>rd</sup> at 7:00 p.m., again located in the Marin Society of Artists Building (on MAGC campus, follow the sign that says "Art Gallery"). This is not a dedicated repotting workshop. Repotting should be pretty much finished by now and there may not be any soil left. Pinching, pruning, and wiring are likely to be the activities, though some with their own soil may be repotting evergreens. Come on down!

Looking ahead: Our next visit from Peter Tea will take place on April 21<sup>st</sup>. This will also be in the well-lit Multipurpose Room, starting at 7:30 p.m. Jonas Dupuich will be back at least once, and we will be hearing from Bob Shimon about redwoods in October. Thank you, Candace Key, for setting that up for us.

The program is shaping up, but there's always room for more ideas and change. As always, don't hesitate to approach me with your ideas or wishes for bonsai activities.

David Eichhorn

## Newsletter Hard Copies

For those of you who are receiving a hard copy of the newsletter every month, we are asking that you re-evaluate whether or not you really need to receive it. The costs for paper and printing at a copy center, and postage every month, do add up. So in our efforts to stretch the Club's meager budget, we are asking that you please reconsider whether or not you really need the hard copy and let me know if you think you can forego the paper copy.

Thanks in advance,  
Scott Piatanesi

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## Bonsai Gardens at Lake Merritt weed-free thanks to Marin Bonsai Club Eradication Efforts.

Thank you to an energetic troop of club members who descended on the weeds of the Bonsai Garden at Lake Merritt with a vengeance on February 14 to clean up the garden for visitors to the Mammoth fundraising events the following weekend. Docent Coordinator Bob Gould was amazed and delighted by how much we accomplished in such a short time. It was a glorious day and a true pleasure to spend time in the gardens among such magnificent bonsai. A very big thank you to the following for giving so generously of their time and energy: Andy Lafrenz, Barry Crotty, Michaele Jaffe, Karen Marx, Art Wasserman, Chris Ross and Candace Key.

Candace Key

## In Memory

We sadly note the passing of long time Marin Bonsai Club member Clyde Ongaro on December 30, 2014. Clyde and his wife Merle were incredibly supportive of the club over the years and we will miss Clyde's spirit and enthusiasm for bonsai and life. Our thoughts, hearts and prayers are with Merle and the Ongaro family, and we hope to see more of Merle when she is ready work on her trees again.

Candace Key



# 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

## The Taskmaster, March 2015

March in the San Francisco Bay Area Mediterranean-type microclimates usually means warmish days and coolish nights. Some years it brings rains, some years not. Sometimes cold snaps, usually not. Breezy at times, an occasional day or two of real wind too. But the one thing March means to the bonsai artist in this area is this: March yourself out there to that garden as often as you possibly can and get busy. There's so much to do. Days with temperatures in the sixties and nights in the mid to upper forties is the very definition of ideal springtime growing conditions, and you know that means that repotting time is limited and very quickly disappearing. Any deciduous tree that hasn't budded out should be inspected for excellent drainage. A decision should be made about whether a better pot, a better front, a better angle or more vigor is needed. Any doubts about any of these means the repotting thing must be done, and done now. If the buds have produced leaves, then the tree should only be repotted if it seems necessary in order to save the tree's life. The roots must remain largely intact, and as undisturbed as possible. A larger pot is often helpful. And if you feel unsure about all this get some help and advice from someone who knows what to do.

After the deciduous trees, start on the broad-leaf evergreens and move on to the junipers and conifers. Don't slow down, or assume you can do it later. You may be able to repot late and not kill the tree, but you may rob it of months of vigor and disease resistance and strength for stress resistance.

Repotting is a grand opportunity to reintroduce life into a tree, the only way to make sure that the root system has great enough advantage to nurture the tree you have planned, and a good way to make sure that small branches and twigs that you are counting on to form the future shape and style of the tree get the push they need from the tree to become strong and successful. But it is the most profoundly dangerous thing you can do to a tree. It has to be done right, and it has to be done often enough

to make a positive difference in the momentum of the growth of the tree. This momentum can be visible and apparent in a tree (or not) from one year to the next, but is not much talked about because in many ways it is almost an intangible. It becomes the difference between a tree that slowly becomes a reasonable addition to a collection or relatively quickly flourishes into an enviable work of art. Any doubt as to how repotting is to be done should be researched and read about in the many good books and magazines, videos and blogs available to bonsai artists. Advice and hands-on assistance can be gotten at the many clubs and organizations available in the Bay Area, and anyone who knows more than you and who has strong successful trees should be consulted for techniques and assistance. All bonsai artists should be looking for opportunities to help others become more expert at their craft and art. You never learn something more profoundly as when you try to teach it to another.

A tree that has been repotted becomes an ideal candidate for restyling and loose rewiring and basic small-branch cutback and pruning. Loose rewiring, sometimes referred to as that which is done with a soft hand, is the only way to wire in the spring, because spring growth is fast, and the wires will tighten up and cut in sooner than you think.

With all this on the schedule, March beckons as the busy time of renewal, and danger, and opportunity, and hope for the future. Now that I say it, that sounds like the basic tenets we all live by in our daily lives. For humans, it would seem, every single day might as well be March in the garden. So while we pursue perfection among the little green lives we've chosen to protect and enhance, we might as well try to figure out how to pursue our own daily renewal with vigor, how to face our dangers and opportunities with courage and optimism, and how to find enough love and peace in our hearts to furnish hope for our future.

## Taskmaster Continued...

Haiku-The Song Of The Trees

Winter has been long.  
Springtime, warm me to my roots.  
I feel green again.

The Taskmaster

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**BONSAI SOCIETY  
SAN FRANCISCO**

Presents  
**A BONSAI EXHIBIT**  
AT THE

**SAN FRANCISCO FLOWER AND  
GARDEN SHOW**

March 18<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup>, 2015

Wed-Sat 10am-7pm, Sun 10am-6pm

Plant sales and demonstrations all five days

(Admission to Garden show required)  
San Mateo Event Center  
Parking entrance at 1346 Saratoga Ave, San Mateo, CA  
For more information visit <http://sfjsgardenshow.com/>  
Or [www.bsa.org](http://www.bsa.org)  
Email [contact@bsaf.org](mailto:contact@bsaf.org) or Call Eric Schrader 415-823-7984

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## Upcoming Northern California Bonsai Events

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Mar 14 – 15, 2015 Oakland, California  
Bay Area Bonsai Associates: 34th Annual  
Bonsai Exhibition at the Lakeside Garden  
Center, 666 Bellevue Avenue. Show hours are  
Saturday 5 – 9 PM and Sunday 10 AM – 4 PM.  
Demonstrations by Matt Reel at 6:30 PM Satur-  
day, followed by a raffle of the demonstration  
tree. Continuous plant sale including bonsai re-  
lated items (pots, tools, soils, wires, books, etc.)  
both days. Matt Reel has studied bonsai in Ja-  
pan for 8 years under Shinji Suzuki. Admission  
is free. Parking fee to the Lakeside Garden Cen-  
ter is required during the park hours. For more  
information, please contact Bob Gould at (925)  
935-1914.

Mar 18 – 22, 2015 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. Show hours  
Wednesday – Saturday 10 AM – 7 PM, and Sun-  
day 10 AM – 6 PM. There will be demonstrations  
and trees for sale. For more information about  
the club, visit [www.bssf.org](http://www.bssf.org). For group and ear-  
ly-bird ticket information to the Flower and Gar-  
den Show, visit <http://sfgardenshow.com>.

Mar 28 – 29, 2015 Santa Cruz, California  
Santa Cruz Bonsai Kai: 27th Annual  
Show at the Museum of Art & History, 705  
Front Street, 10 AM – 5 PM with demonstration  
at 2 PM (demonstrator TBA at a later date) both  
days. Raffle drawing for demonstration tree and  
trees especially prepared by club members are  
part of the raffle each day. Sales area include  
vendor and member trees, pots, and other re-  
lated bonsai items. Admission price to museum  
includes entry to bonsai show/demo and com-  
plementary coffee, tea and cookies. For more  
information contact Marc Shaw  
[atmarcshaw@sbcglobal.net](mailto:atmarcshaw@sbcglobal.net).

Mar 28 – 29, 2015 San Jose, California  
San Jose Betsuin Bonsai Club: 45th Annual  
Bonsai Exhibition at San Jose Buddhist

Church Betsuin, 640 North Fifth Street. Hours are  
Noon – 5 PM Saturday and 11 AM – 4 PM Sunday  
with demonstrations at 1 PM on both days by  
club members headed by Dr. Seiji Shiba. A bene-  
fit drawing will be held at each demo conclusion.  
Styled and pre-styled trees will be offered for  
sale. For more information, visit [www.gsbfbonsai.org/sjbonsai/](http://www.gsbfbonsai.org/sjbonsai/) or email Ken Azuma  
at [kennethazuma@sbcglobal.net](mailto:kennethazuma@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](mailto:mbcnews@marinbonsai.org)

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## Marin Bonsai Club Events

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

March 17, 2015: Monthly Meeting, Beginning of Bonsai Boot Camp, Multi-Purpose Room, 7:30 PM.

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.



### 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	

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