

# Marin Bonsai Club

April 2016



## What's Happening at the Marin Bonsai Club in April

The waiting is almost over. New growth is hardening off, buds have popped, branches are swelling, meaning we can start cutting and wiring and unwiring some of our trees. Be sure you know which ones! We will have a great demo by Eric Schrader of [Bonsai Society of San Francisco](#) on our meeting date April 5 where you are sure to pick up lots of tips, and a club workshop on the 19th when you'll have the chance to work on your trees under the watchful eyes of experienced bonsai practitioners.

We have the chance to show off our Spring bonsai finery at the Cherry Blossom Festival in Japantown this month, and there are many good shows throughout the Bay Area where you can see gorgeous trees, acquire some of your own, purchase tools and mingle with good bonsai folk. Be sure to check the GSBS website [Events](#) page for the latest calendar of events.

## March Meeting Review

Jonas Dupich held a crowded room spellbound with his slides and discussion of bonsai display at our March meeting. A topic that could have been dry as dust came alive with Jonas' illustrations, examples and an audience participation exercise to test our observations and skills. Vice President of Programs, David Eichhorn, has written a wonderful synopsis of the program, so if you missed it, or would like a review, check it out on our [website](#)

## President's Message

It's fun being a 'green' president. Not in the Ralph Nader sense, he never got elected and was pretty seasoned (salty) actually, but in the sense that the world of Bonsai is new and although the basics are sinking in, the art is still opening up every time I take time to study it. Maybe a quick reflection on what is great about the Marin Bonsai Club from a newbies perspective is in order.

Our mentors:

We are lucky to have as many mentors as we do when we show up to work on our trees the third Tuesday of the month. There is always an opinion, a piece of plant saving advice, or a discussion that can be had regarding our trees.

Our Speakers:

The speaker series gives us an opportunity to hear new ideas and in depth info on certain species and aspects of bonsai. It really is a great way to spend a Tuesday evening listening to someone who has spent years working with tiny dramatic trees.

Our Location:

I showed up early to our last meeting and took some time to walk around the Marin Art and Garden Center. It's a great place to slow down and transition from a busy day. It's a beautifully maintained garden and we are lucky to be there.

p.s.. Marin in general is not so bad. Drive over to Point Reyes and try keeping the car on the road while driving past multiple, perfect, root-on-rock ancient oaks.

Our board:

The core group that keeps the fires stoked and engines running for the Marin Bonsai Club is impressive. The amount of work, thought and creativity that goes into the club is great to watch and fun to be a part of. We are a small club but we are a mighty one because of their efforts.

May the learning continue as we spring in to the next season,  
DanO

Club favorite Peter Tea will be the headliner at the American Bonsai Association show in Sacramento on April 9 and 10. It is well worth the trip to see and hear Peter who will have some great material to style and discuss. The shopping for trees and bonsai supplies will be terrific as well. Read more about it here.

## **Bonsai Boot Camp**

Bonsai Boot Camp people, and you know who you are, Karen, Barry and DanO, should bring their trees to our April meeting to show off. Club members would love to see how the trees have developed under your care, and perhaps our guest speaker will have helpful tips to share for future improvements.

## **Garden Notes**

Thank you to Peter Miller for his time and good spirits as our club docent at the Bonsai Gardens at Lake Merritt in March. Peter had a good crowd on a gorgeous, sunny day. The trees were blooming and budding and were outright thrilled with the warm weather (the wisteria pictured in the header was in full display that day).

Could we have another volunteer or two for April? The date is the 23rd. Please contact Roger Lion or Candace Key, or sign up on the website, which you can do for other months as well. We appreciate your time and commitment.



### **April Meeting-April 5**

Eric Schrader, President of the Bonsai Society of San Francisco, will be on hand for our April meeting to talk about development of deciduous material, focusing on the critical stages of work. The subject of the demo will be an Italian plum tree which will be used to discuss various aspects of deciduous development, with a focus on fruiting and flowering trees. The tree will be raffled at the end of the evening. Members are welcome to bring trees to show off. Don't miss it!



### **Cherry Blossom Festival- April 16-17, Japantown**

The Marin Bonsai Club is one of five select bonsai clubs invited to exhibit their trees at the annual Cherry Blossom Festival in San Francisco. This is the most fun show we do because there is such a great crowd of appreciative people, a street festival and party is happening all around us, and lots of fun things to buy and eat.



### **The Taskmaster**

As always, there is lots to do with our trees in the Spring. Watering is tricky this time of year - don't let the trees dry out on a sunny day, but be careful not to overwater either because they aren't drinking deeply yet, check for bugs and scale, rotate weekly so all parts of the trees catch the good rays, and check for wiring biting in on new growth. Check out the [Taskmaster's column](#) on our website for detailed recommendations for our unique micro-climates.