

# Marin Bonsai Club

February 2016



## **MBC Repotting workshops continue in February**

It was an ambitious group that jumped into their bonsai repotting at our January workshop and great things were accomplished. We had expert assistance from several long time club members and everyone did their best to channel Peter Tea's advice from our January meeting and do it all right. We'll be at it again during both our meeting dates in February, 2 and 16. The club provides wire and mesh for repotting.

Costs for soil are \$10 per tree for medium and large trees and \$5/tree for small trees. The club mixture is 40% Akadama and 25% each lava and pumice. This is a good mix for most trees. If you want a mix that will hold more moisture go to 50% Akadama, (this is the composition of the Clay King mix which is the base for our club soil), and for a drier mix use just 30%. Be careful if you go drier since it is more difficult to stay on top of your tree's watering needs. Thank you to everyone who came last month for bringing drop cloths to reduce the mess, and staying to help clean up.

## **Exclusive tour of the Bonsai Gardens at Lake Merritt on Saturday, February 27**

If you have ever wondered what all the fuss is about with the Bonsai Gardens at Lake Merritt, the tour led by MBC member George Haas will answer your questions and more. George has recently been named Marketing Manager for the Gardens, and is also a student at the bonsai school which trains bonsai teachers and hands-on docents for the Gardens. George is very knowledgeable about the trees and the Garden history.

The tour promises to be educational and inspirational. We will meet at 11am and the tour will take less than an hour. Anyone wishing to learn about being a docent at the Gardens can use the opportunity to get a brief training on opening procedures.

Did you notice that this is the same day as the Mammoth Auction Benefit for the Gardens? Well, it is, and you can go right over to the Auction preview at 12pm, Auction at 1pm, and have yourself a fine day of bonsai.

February is a big month at the Bonsai Gardens. There is the Mammoth Auction and the Mammoth Sale February 27-28, and Marin Bonsai supports the Gardens on Saturday February 20 with our annual Clean Up Day at the Gardens. Sometimes we pull weeds, and sometimes clean pots and weed bonsai that will be for sale the following weekend. It is a wonderful way to contribute to this invaluable bonsai resource we are blessed to have so near. We always have a good crew and plenty of fun along with the satisfaction of contributing to the bonsai community. Please sign up by contacting Candace. If you would like to carpool we will try to get a group together to save on travel costs. We start at 10:30am and will be done by 1pm, or stay as long as you want.



## 2016 Programs

We are in the process of booking speakers and demonstrations for our meetings this year. Some are already listed on the [website](#). You'll see some favorites there and soon a few new faces. Check it out!

## Repotting with the Experts

Bonsai professional Peter Tea gave us so many good tips for successful repotting at our January meeting it was difficult to keep track of them all. Luckily our VP of Programs was there to take notes, so if you missed it or need a refresher check out his report on [here](#).

## The Taskmaster

Winter is a dangerous time for our bonsai. Bugs and disease can set in with the damp, and trees in poor soil can drown in our super wet winter. Check out the Taskmaster's recommendations for keeping your trees healthy and happy by clicking [here](#).

