

# Marin Bonsai Club

January 2016



Happy New Year, everybody! And welcome to our first attempt to replace the club newsletter with eBlasts linked to full stories on the club website. We are giving you just the basic information in this email, but more detail, additional photos and articles are linked to the UPDATED WEBSITE at - [marinbonsai.org](http://marinbonsai.org) (just click the blue links to get there) Sharon Bone has done a great job on the development and there are many more refinements to come, so check out the new look.

## Here's what's happening in the Marin bonsai world

January 5 - Meeting with Peter Tea with a demonstration on repotting. Two lucky members will have their tree repotted by Peter as he discusses techniques and best practices. 7:00 in the Multi-Purpose room at MAGC. (details below and here <http://marinbonsai.org>)

January 19 - Repotting workshop. Member cost - \$5 for a small tree, \$10 for large, \$20 for non-members. 7:00 in the Multi-Purpose room at MAGC. Fee covers soil and wire provided by the Club. Bring your tools and a selection of pots to consider, and protective covering for the tables.

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## **Dues are Due**

Dues are \$45 per single, \$65 per family and \$25 per student. Mail your check now to the Marin Bonsai Club, P.O. Box 1461, Ross, CA 94957. Or bring your check on January 5, 2016 when you come to enjoy Peter Tea.

Membership forms should accompany your payment. They are linked here <http://marinbonsai.org/wp/wp-content/uploads/pdf/MBCMembApp2016.pdf> and will be available at the winter meetings and workshops. Please let us know if your contact information has changed.

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## **Club Meeting January 5, 2016, 7:00 PM –**

### **Marin Art and Garden Center, Multi-Purpose Room**

Repotting season begins January 5th with a repotting demo by Peter Tea. Members who have donated time at the **Bonsai Gardens at Lake Merritt\*** during 2015 are eligible to have their tree selected for repotting by bonsai expert Peter Tea. Peter will select from trees presented; one tree in active development stage and one, a more refined tree, to repot and discuss the different approaches for each. Bring a tree for consideration as well as your tools, and a selection of pots and your preferred soil if you don't want Peter to use Club Soil. Please note: Peter will make his selection based on which trees will give him the best talking points. It is very possible you will bring your tree and materials and NOT be selected. Never-the-less, showing up with a tree will certainly elicit comments and suggestions, possibly from Peter, on how you should proceed with your tree, so it is a risk worth taking for those eligible.

\*To be considered, members must have volunteered as Docents, worked on Collection trees, helped with the Mammoth Sale and Auction events, or participated in our club's annual work day at the Gardens in February.

Peter will have the Clay King bonsai soil mix for sale at the meeting. Cost is about \$40 per bag.

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## **Winter Workshops**

The remaining three workshop/meeting dates in January and February will be dedicated to repotting. There will be a \$5/tree fee for small trees, \$10 for medium and large to cover repotting supplies. Soil, wire and mesh provided. Bring your tools, pots - a few extra never hurts, and a protective cover for the work tables.

See you at a repotting workshop!

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## **Bonsai Gardens at Lake Merritt**

Marin Bonsai Club provides docents for the bonsai gardens the 4th Saturday of each month from 10 AM-1 PM. We need docents for January 23. Art Wasserman has offered to 'train' any new people who want to learn about all the good work being done at the Gardens and see the amazing collection there this month. Please contact him at [jessnart@comcast.net](mailto:jessnart@comcast.net) if you would like to help out.

## **Holiday Party 2015**

Congratulations to the winners of the tree decorating contest at our holiday party in December. Sharon Bone took first prize with an elegant, understated mystery tree and Jay McDonald finally won one of the coveted prizes. Chris Ross took third prize, but all the trees were gorgeous and added to the festive atmosphere. Roger and Marlene were excellent hosts as usual, and special thanks goes to them for their generosity and holiday spirit. Candace Key was honored for holding the club together in 2015, and many others were thanked for their many contributions to keeping the Marin Bonsai Club functioning. More on our website <http://marinbonsai.org>

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## **The Taskmaster - January 2016**

The word for the Winter is protection. The smallest pots dry out the fastest and freeze the firstest. No dormant tree needs much sunlight, so stick the smallest and most temperate-to-tropical plants under their stands and benches, under the eaves, and in the storage shed or garage for the coldest spells. Don't forget to water, just enough to keep the soil damp while growth patterns are slow. Most of the evergreens can stand some frost, so you can be braver with them, but no small tree in a pot can be for-sure safe in a prolonged freeze. Read more Taskmaster here [http://marinbonsai.org/?page\\_id=101](http://marinbonsai.org/?page_id=101)

The repotting demo coming up with Peter Tea should be a must-attend class for everyone. Even old hands with lots of experience will learn something new, or experience that odd moment when some detail suddenly makes sense after all this time. And repotting is serious business, a great opportunity to renew and refresh a tree, but fraught with pitfalls and danger.

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