



What's Happening at the Marin Bonsai Club in May - from the VP of Programs

What a wonderful Spring we are having! As if the new growth and flowers on our trees aren't delightful enough, the periodic rain is a heaven-sent relief from our watering regimes. With ideal conditions come ideal growth, but also an increased need for vigilance, so be sure to keep an eye on your trees' pruning needs, and **check your wires!** The Taskmaster frequently reminds us of this, but it cannot be emphasized enough.

Read more about what you should be doing on your trees this month on our [website](#).

Garden Notes

Thank you Karen Marx for being club docent at the Bonsai Gardens at Lake Merritt in April. Karen stepped in at the last minute and we really appreciate her keeping our long and honored tradition of service to the Gardens going.

Richard Dobson has volunteered to be at the Gardens on our May date, the 28th. It is always more fun with two people so if you would like to accompany Richard, please contact Roger Lion or Candace Key, and we will put you in touch with him.

President's Message

A literal translation of the word 'Bonsai' is 'planted in a container'.

A literal translation of the word 'Banzai' means '10,000 years'

Combine the two and you get a very old plant in a container. If you hear them yelled at you, then you should probably duck.

As a new practitioner of the art of bonsai and possibly second only to the other infamous Dan (Deadwood Dan that is) for losing trees, I have to say that ten-thousand hours is a more realistic goal. It makes me think about how much I've learned in the last year and the level of knowledge in the club.

So, as we step into the time of year where we can manipulate our trees, take a moment to reflect on how far you've come in your bonsai abilities. The hours/days/years of your practice all accumulate and lead you to now. The time that you put in to learning and working on trees from here forward will only help to hone abilities and enjoyment of your craft.

'Planted in a container' leaves a lot of latitude. Let's keep working.

Bonsai!

DanO

April Meeting Review

With our trees growing so rapidly, and pruning season well under way, the demonstration we received from Eric Schrader in April gave us a lot to think about with regard to the development of our deciduous and flowering trees. He began with a quiz of sorts for the audience, something Eric called a structure analysis and branch pruning exercise. Given a simple drawing of a leafless tree with a number of running, or "escape" branches (he captured my troubled trident maple so well!), we were instructed to mark where we would prune this tree to make it a better bonsai. Although he pointed out that there were no perfect "right" answers, there were definitely some theoretical pruning cuts that were more desirable than others. Questions and details regarding those cuts brought Eric's discussion around to the topics of trunk development, pruning distribution, and the use of timing and species knowledge to determine the changes most appropriate for a tree.

Read David's detailed report on Eric's presentation on our [website](#).

The 49th Annual Cherry Blossom Festival was Awesome!

Perfect weather, terrific trees and stones and a vast, appreciative crowd made this year's Cherry Blossom bonsai show the best yet. Jay McDonald did his usual stellar job of selecting trees and setting up the display for the Marin Club. Jeanette Arnold supplied exquisite accent plants, Chris Ross placed posters throughout the festival to direct the crowds our way, and Candace Key set up her first ever suiseki display, all contributing to a very successful show. The Bonsai Society of San Francisco, Yamato Bonsai Club and the California Suiseki Society rounded out the exhibit with fabulous displays of their own and it was a grand weekend of bonsai, food and fun. Check out some photos on our [website](#).



*An admiring guest at the
49th Cherry Blossom Festival*

Are you clicking the blue links in this newsletter? If you aren't you are missing lots of good articles and detailed information about Programs and the latest from the Taskmaster on our website. We're happy to see so many of you reading and enjoying our email newsletter, but don't forget to look at the website articles too!

Marin County Fair Docents

The Marin County Fair begins on Thursday June 30 and it is time to start thinking about what days and times you have available for docent duty. It is a 5 day show and in order to keep the exhibit well staffed for security and to answer questions from our guests we need everyone to sign up for multiple shifts if possible. This is not only the time our club gets to show off our bonsai chops, but it is also a big fundraiser for the club. Being a docent and helping with the set up on June 29 is a way for all members to support the club and be great ambassadors for the practice and art of bonsai.

Memorial Service for Frank Bardella

Saturday, May 7, 2016 at noon.

Saint Sebastian's Catholic Church, 7983 Covert Lane, Sebastopol, 95472.

Frank's wife Barbara has requested donations be sent to Redwood Empire Bonsai Society (REBS), Bonsai Garden at Lake Merritt in Oakland, CA, and/or the Sunrise Rotary in Sebastopol, CA.



May 3 Meeting

Our next meeting is another installment with our long-term mentor, Peter Tea. He will also be talking about deciduous trees. Much like he did a couple presentations ago, he will bring in several trees at various stages of development, allow us to look at them closely to see what's been done so far, and then he will do some work on them. The club requests a \$5 donation from attendees to support the high level of education Peter provides.



Frank Bardella 1936 - 2016

The bonsai community lost a great friend with Frank Bardella's passing on March 17, 2016. On our website is an excellent article about Frank's life, loves and contributions to the art and practice of bonsai. Even if you didn't know Frank personally you have benefitted from his contributions to the bonsai community over the decades. Read [more](#) . . .



Azalea Bonsai Show

The most colorful bonsai show in the Bay Area happens May 21-22, put on by the Bay Area Satsuki Aikokai. All Marin Bonsai Club members have a special invitation to attend since several members belong to both clubs and are eager to show off these very special bonsai trees. Azaleas can be developed for either their profusion of flowers, or styled in more traditional bonsai forms and you will see both types at the show. Check our [website](#) for show details.