



# MARIN BONSAI CLUB

2023 September Newsletter

MARINBONSAI.ORG

**JONAS DUPUICH**

# TREE EVALUATION

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

CRITICAL TREE EVALUATION

REBS SHOW RECAP

DMS POTTERY



# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BY TUNG X. DAO

## BEGINNER'S WORKSHOP RECAP

Our beginner's workshops were a success. Both workshops were fully booked and we had to open a waitlist. I want to thank all the members who helped by being instructors, provided refreshments, and helped the workshops run smoothly.

I hope that our students enjoyed their time with our members learning about bonsai and that they continue their bonsai education with us.

## REBS SHOW RECAP

I had the opportunity to attend the first day of the [Redwood Empire Bonsai Society](#) (REBS) 2023 show, featuring Ryan Neil. The atmosphere was very lively, as members from clubs all around the Bay Area and vendors from all over the state attended. It was a fantastic show that I hope all were able to attend.

Ryan Neil discussed a wide variety of topics as he styled a pygmy cypress provided by Bob Shimon. He talked about the importance of calcium in bonsai, how bonsai can be used to save the world through agronomy and science, and asked us, "how many years of age can we add each time we work on our tree?" I hope that his energy and dedication to the art continue to inspire many across the world.

Many thanks to the members of REBS for hosting and organizing an amazing show. We all look forward to next year's show.

## JONAS DUPUICH DEMONSTRATION

This month, we have Jonas Dupuich of [Bonsai Tonight](#) teaching us how to look at trees critically and assess their potential as bonsai. All practitioners, new and experienced, should hone their ability to assess

what a tree can offer and how to make the most of it.

## OCTOBER MINI-SHOW

Our mini show is coming up in October. On the first Tuesday of October, we will start a little bit early at 6:30pm. Please invite friends and family to enjoy our fine trees at 7:30pm. Please sign-up your tree at <https://forms.gle/aiPUxSokdd1bRiyY7>.

Refreshments and food are welcome, a food sign-up sheet will be posted online.

More importantly, this is an opportunity for us to go through the motions of putting on a show—from arranging the trees, to supplies, and display intricacies. It will be a worthwhile endeavor for our club as senior members will help pass along the show set up knowledge to our newer members. This will prepare us for larger upcoming shows.

I hope you all have been thinking about the one or two trees you would like to display. We will have two rooms to use for our show. Bring extra accent plants and stands if you have extra to share. Please clean the pots, remove weeds, and make your trees presentable. Trees-in-training are ok if they're your best.

## THIRD TUESDAY WORKSHOP

Please bring your trees to the 3rd Tuesday workshop on September 19 to do last minute preparation for the show. For trees not in the show, September is a month where lots of work can be done on certain species as trees push out their fall growth.

We will have our continued beginner's workshop as we accommodate the overwhelming interest in this art form. This is a wonderful opportunity to meet and greet potential new enthusiasts. Stay tuned for potential upcoming beginner's workshops. 🌳

The Marin Bonsai Club meets every First and Third Tuesday of each month at the Terra Linda Community Center Room 4 from 7-9:30 PM.

The next board meeting will be on Monday, September 11 at 7:30pm on Zoom. Please contact Tung if you would like to attend.

### COVER PHOTO

A tree on display at the Pacific Bonsai Expo in 2022. *Photo courtesy Jonas Dupuich/Bonsai Tonight.*

### MARIN BONSAI CLUB BOARD MEMBERS AND OFFICERS

*PRESIDENT*  
Tung X. Dao

*SECRETARY*  
Brendan Crotty

*TREASURER*  
Susan Stapp

*BOARD MEMBERS*  
Gwynessa Aetherwyn  
Daniel Keller  
Susan Sullivan

*BGLM DOCENT COORDINATOR*  
Art Wasserman

*MEMBERSHIP*  
Daniel Keller

*NEWSLETTER EDITOR*  
Tung X. Dao

*PROGRAM CHAIR*  
Candace Key

*WEBMASTER*  
Sharon Bone

Reach us at  
[info@marinbonsai.org](mailto:info@marinbonsai.org)

Join our Discord  
<https://discord.gg/us25mAsn5A>

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# Jonas Dupuich

Photos courtesy Jonas  
Dupuich/Bonsai Tonight.

## CRITICAL TREE EVALUATION

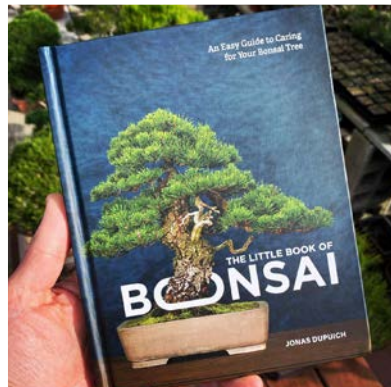
BY CANDACE KEY

He's baaaack! The long awaited return of Jonas Dupuich of **Bonsai Tonight** fame will be September 5 at the Terra Linda Community Center. One of our most popular presenters will be discussing how to evaluate bonsai trees, both at exhibitions and for possible purchase and inclusion in your bonsai collections. If you think you know a good bonsai tree when you see one, think again. Jonas will guide us through how to look at trees critically and assess their potential. Everyone is sure to pick up some new considerations regarding the quality of a tree and it's future as a bonsai.

For many of us Jonas needs no introduction, but for the newbies out there here are the Cliff Notes: Jonas has been a bonsai professional for over 15 years, and before that was a deeply engaged student and a foundational member of the Bay Island Bonsai club

headed by professional Boon Manakitivipart. He started his *Bonsai Tonight* blog to share his processes and explorations in bonsai, and after 20 years still posts indispensable knowledge in his weekly posts. (Anyone who is not signed up to receive these posts is really missing out.) You may also know Jonas as the co-creator of the wildly successful Pacific Bonsai Expo which had its inaugural show this past November. Or you might know Jonas for his excellent bonsai primer *The Little Book of Bonsai*. We are fortunate to have Jonas as part of the Bay Area bonsai community and a local resource for both bonsai wisdom and supplies.

You don't want to miss our September meeting and the chance to learn from this immensely talented bonsai artist and educator. 🌲



# Club News

## NEWSLETTER SUBMISSION DEADLINES

Got something you'd like to include in the newsletter? The deadline for submission is the 15th of each month. Please send any materials to Tung at [tung@marinbonsai.org](mailto:tung@marinbonsai.org).

## UPCOMING CLUB EVENTS

Unless noted, the 3rd Tuesday of each month is an open workshop. Members are invited to bring in trees to work on or ask questions. Non-members are invited to attend to find out how our club can help with their bonsai journey.

### SEPTEMBER

Jonas Dupuich, a local bonsai expert will share his techniques for evaluating our trees. This will help you improve your trees by looking at them more objectively.

### OCTOBER

We will have our mini-show. This is a good chance to use the analysis tools in Jonas's September show to evaluate our own trees. Please invite friends and family to this.

## AVAILABLE CLUB POSITIONS

We have a few positions available if you are able to help the club out.

### IT/TECH DEVELOPER

We are looking for someone with experience with IT/web infrastructure. This includes web design, databases, and other small programming tasks. We want to be able to bring our Bonsai Club into the modern age.

### SOCIAL MEDIA

The club could use a social media chair. This person would maintain the club's online and social media presence by posting relevant updates and media for the public.

### NEWSLETTER

The newsletter one is an interesting one because I'll be mentoring you on the art of layout editing. I'll need a little assistance in the long term making these very important newsletters for the club. (Don't

### NOVEMBER

Bill Castellon will show us Japanese Black Pine Maintenance for the fall and winter months.

### DECEMBER

We will close out the year with a Winter Holiday Party and show decoration contest. We will have prizes for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place trees!

There will be no 3rd Tuesday workshop in December. Happy holidays and safe travels!

If you have suggestions or ideas for next year's program, please let us know! 🙏

worry, I'll continue doing it for as long as I my schedule allows.)

If this is something you're interested in learning, let me know and I'll be happy to teach you how to use InDesign or similar to produce these newsletters!

### CLUB HISTORIAN

Help digitize historic club documents and document current activities.

### WRITER

Help write content for the newsletter. We're looking for someone who can write summaries of club events, demonstrations, and more.

### REFRESHMENTS

Bring each meeting to life by providing the club with snacks and drinks. 🍱

## BGLM DOCENTS

Our club has a commitment to support the broader bonsai community. One of the ways we do this is by being a docent at the Bonsai Gardens at Lake Merritt.

Docenting there is a joy and it's not difficult. If you are a first timer, please talk with an experienced member about what it's like to help out at the Gardens.

Your visit there will inspire you. The Gardens has dozens of masterfully crafted trees with rich histories. *Beginners are strongly encouraged to docent with an experienced member in their first year.* It will be an eye-opening experience for you.

Please contact Art to see when the next available docent spot is. 🌳

## ADDITIONAL BONSAI EVENTS

For additional events, please check out the Golden State Bonsai Federation events page at <https://www.gsbfbonsai.org/events>. 🌳



# DMS Pottery

A letter to the editor originally written for the Midori Bonsai Club.

Denise Soultanian is a local potter here in San Jose. She takes on this art with bold, experimental colors in her contemporary style, while retaining the classical qualities of a traditional bonsai pot.

Hello Tung!

*I just photographed my new pots and have photos to share with you. I'm starting to work on larger pots. Here are a few photos.*

*If members want to stop by to look at pots in San Jose, feel free to have them contact me at 650.701.0632. Members can also take a look at my Etsy shop: [DMSPottery](#).*

Thanks!

:) Denise Soultanian





# Previously

*This page: (Top) Two Beginner's Workshop participants show off their trees. (Middle) Two trees from the REBS Show. (Bottom) Bob Shimon introduces guest demonstrator Ryan Neil and the Pygmy Cypress. Ryan explains many of his philosophies toward bonsai development during his demonstration. Photos by Tung X. Dao*

*Following 2 pages: Tree highlights from the REBS show. Photos by George Haas.*

*Last page: Additional tree highlights from the REBS show. Photos by Jack Christiansen.*

















# Resources

## BONSAI RESOURCES

Here are some resources for bonsai materials, both online and in-person.

This is a work in progress, please send suggestions in and we'll make this an even better list.

### LOCAL PROFESSIONALS

Jonas Dupuich — Bonsai Tonight  
Eric Schrader — Bonsaify  
Matthew Walker — Bonchi Bonsai  
Peter Tea  
Boon Manakitivipart

### MATERIALS

Bonsai Tonight  
Bonsaify  
Bonchi Bonsai  
First Branch Bonsai  
Lone Pine Gardens  
Mendocino Coast bonsai  
Evergreen Garden Works  
Driftwood Bonsai  
Carman's Nursery (bonsai starters and nursery material)

### EDUCATION

Mirai Live  
Bonsai U  
Bonsai Empire

### MUSEUMS AND ASSOCIATIONS

Golden State Bonsai Federation  
Bonsai Gardens at Lake Merritt  
The National Bonsai and Penjing Museum  
at The United States National Arboretum

### BLOGS

Peter Tea Bonsai  
Bonsai Tonight  
The Art of Bonsai Project  
Bonsai Empire

# Minutes

2023 August Board meeting Agenda and Minutes

Board members: Susan Sullivan, Susan Stapp, Tung, Brendan, Gwynessa

Members: Candace, TJ Williams.

Continuing beginner's workshops

BAR: Should we have continued Beginner's Workshops with the people on the interest form?

MSC: Tung Susan, Susan, Brendan

Google Workspace

Update: Tung has not had a chance to get the ball started on this yet.

Next year's Sale

BAR: 3.5 hour sale next year?

MSC: Tung, Susan Sullivan, Brendan, Susan Stapp

BAR: Set up at 8, Start sale at 930, end at 1.

MSC: Susan Sullivan, Tung Brendan, Susan Stapp

October Show

Susan Sullivan will make a template for people to hand write their tree name, how long in training, name/initials.

Tung will ask debbie: 2 rooms starting at 6pm.

Make Food List Form

December: Holiday party (1st Tuesday of Dec)

Dinner

Tree decorating contest

Prizes (100 Gift certificate, 75, 50) towards Jonas/bonsai community

BAR: Get GC's from local bonsai artists?

MSC: Everyone in attendance.

Treasury

As of August 07: \$8422.54



# Membership Application and Renewals

**NAME****DATE****I AM A**

- ☐ NEW MEMBER  
☐ RETURNING MEMBER

**PLEASE CHOOSE YOUR MEMBERSHIP**

- ☐ SINGLE (\$45)      ☐ HOUSEHOLD (\$65)      ☐ STUDENT (\$25)

**ADDRESS****CITY****STATE****ZIP****EMAIL**

Please keep your email up to date to receive important updates from the club such as newsletters, shows, and events. We will not share your email outside of our club.

**PHONE**

- ☐ CELL      ☐ HOME

**HOW DID YOU HEAR ABOUT THE CLUB?****HOW I CAN HELP THE CLUB****MONTHLY MEETINGS/WORKSHOPS**

- ☐ RAFFLE EVENTS  
☐ WORKSHOPS  
☐ PROGRAMS  
☐ PUBLICITY  
☐ BOARD MEMBER  
☐ OTHER: \_\_\_\_\_

**ANNUAL ACTIVITIES**

- ☐ DOCENT AND OTHER SUPPORT AT BGLM  
☐ SETUP/DOCENT MARIN COUNTY FAIR SHOW  
☐ AUCTION COMMITTEE  
☐ HOLIDAY PARTY

Each member of the club is encouraged to volunteer at monthly and yearly club activities. Please check at least two areas where you can contribute to the club. **Docenting at BGLM is especially encouraged for new members.** Thank you!

If you are a continuing member, please fill out this form if you need to update your information with us.

To pay for your membership online, please go to <https://marinbonsai.org/membership>. We encourage you to sign up for an automatically renewing membership.

If you would like to pay by check, please make checks payable to **MARIN BONSAI CLUB**. Please send your check and application to:

**MARIN BONSAI CLUB**  
**PO BOX 6645**  
**SAN RAFAEL, CA 94903**