

MARIN BONSAI CLUB

2022 April Newsletter



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BY TUNG X. DAO

We got some last minute rain in March that our trees really appreciated. Make sure you keep an eye on the watering as the rain may not penetrate the canopies to wet the soil.

BJORN BJORHOLM DEMONSTRATION

For our First Tuesday meeting, we will be featuring Bjorn Bjorholm in collaboration with Redwood Empire Bonsai Society (REBS) and Midori Bonsai Club. He will be covering very special topics for us. This meeting will be on Zoom and will be sent out via email to all members in good standing. Don't come to TLCC on April 5th, no one will be there.

The first topic will be on junipers with a focus on deadwood, raffia application, and design tips. The second topic will cover the maintenance schedules of pines, junipers, cypress, and spruce from spring through winter. This includes pruning, wiring, fungicides and pesticides, and fertilization.

Make sure you are up to date on your dues. Please contact our membership chair if you plan to submit your dues last minute so he can include your email on the list.

MARCH MEETING RECAP

We had a wonderful set of meetings in March. It's great to be able to meet some old members return after a period of absence.

The Member Tree Critique program featured some wonderful trees that got very helpful feedback. The trees were in various stages of development and everyone who had their tree reviewed appreciated the advice they received for their tree.

The open workshop had a great turn out. People were busy pruning, repotting, and learning how to wire. We even had the pleasure of meeting two new guests who had a tree gifted to them many years ago and got some direction on where to go with the tree. We hope they become members to continue their bonsai adventures with us!

AUGUST SALE

Marin Bonsai will be teaming up with REBS to host a members sale on August 6. We know some of you have trees and materials that you've been wanting to sell for a while—thanks for bearing with us as we sort through the non-profit status of the club.

501(C)(3) STATUS

George Haas has informed us that the IRS has granted Marin Bonsai our 501(c)(3) tax exempt status earlier than expected. We will be continuing to finish applying with the state and county. Thank you, George!

We hope to see you at our meetings in April. We will have our usual open workshop on April 18 as usual at TLCC.

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, April 11 at 7pm on Discord.

COVER PHOTO

Bjorn Bjorholm with a Rocky Mountain Juniper. (Photo courtesy Bjorn Bjorholm)

COVID HEALTH STATEMENT

Masks are no longer required for fully vaccinated attendees. They are welcome for those who wish to wear them.

MARIN BONSAI CLUB BOARD MEMBERS AND OFFICERS

PRESIDENT Tung X. Dao

SECRETARY Brendan Crotty

TREASURER Marcia Summers

BOARD MEMBERS

Gwynessa Aetherwyn Daniel Keller Diane Matzen

BGLM DOCENT COORDINATOR Dennis Plaut

MEMBERSHIP

Daniel Keller

NEWSLETTER EDITOR Tung X. Dao

PROGRAM CHAIR Brendan Crotty

Dichadir Orotty

SHOW CHAIR Brendan Crotty

rendan Crott

WEBMASTER

Sharon Bone

Reach us at info@marinbonsai.org

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

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Diane takes some pictures of the trees from our Member Tree Critique session.



BJORN BJORHOLM DEMO

APRIL 5, 2022 AT 7PM ON ZOOM

We are proud to announce that we will be having Bjorn Bjorholm of Eisei-en do a demo for us for the first Tuesday meeting of April. This will be on Zoom, so please enjoy this demo from the comfort of your own home. Note that we will not be meeting at TLCC this night only.

This demonstration is not to be missed. He will be covering 2 topics for us, with a 15 minute question and answer session in the middle.

The first topic will be on junipers with a focus on deadwood, raffia application, and design tips. The second topic will cover the maintenance schedules of pines, junipers,

cypress, and spruce from spring through winter. This includes pruning, wiring, fungicides and pesticides, and fertilization.

This zoom meeting will be co-sponsored by two clubs very near and dear to us at Marin Bonsai: Midori Bonsai Club of San Jose and Redwood Empire Bonsai Society.

Please note that only members who are up to date on dues will be given a link to attend. Please ensure that your email is up to date to ensure that you'll receive the zoom link. Non-members may attend for a nominal fee to help support. Please email or contact us on our Discord for more information.

MARIN COUNTY FAIR

JUNE 30-JULY 4, 2022 AT THE MARIN COUNTY CIVIC CENTER

We have been invited to the return of the Marin County Fair. This fair has been a long time tradition for our club and we are pleased to participate in this again.

To help the club out, please RSVP at https://bit.ly/marinbonsai-rsvp and indicate

which trees you will be bringing to show. Also, we are looking for volunteers to help put the show together. Please let us know in the Discord if you are able to help. We cannot pull this show off without your help.

AUGUST SALE

AUGUST 6, 2022 AT TLCC

We will be having our August Sale on Saturday, August 6 at TLCC. We will be starting early to set up and ending around 4, with the sale itself tentatively being from 11-3pm.

If you plan on selling your material, there will be some forms to fill out. Stay tuned for these forms,

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 tungxdao@gmail.com.

MEMBERSHIP DUES

BY DAN KELLER (MEMBERSHIP)

2022 is already a great year for the Marin Bonsai Club. Our board is planning more fun, illuminating events for our monthly meetings. Demonstrations by bonsai experts yield not only valuable information, but give you the chance to win a new tree in our raffles. Attending bonsai club meetings gives you access to bonsai wisdom taking your bonsai skills to the next level. Repot, wire, prune with us at workshops and get inspired as you transform your tree into beautiful bonsai.

We are eager to share our expertise with you to make your trees spectacular. However, our club does not run on creativity and inspiration alone. It is very important that we pay our Marin Bonsai Club dues. Your dues help fund club activities, events, and workshops. Please send a newly completed membership information form and your check payable to

Marin Bonsai Club to: Marin Bonsai Club, PO Box 1461, Ross, CA 94957-1461 right away.

You can print out the member information form included in this newsletter, or find the application on our website. Dues are \$45 for individuals, \$65 for households, and \$25 for students.

There are many benefits to membership in the Marin Bonsai Club, but there are also responsibilities and we need all members to help. So, every member is asked to volunteer at monthly and yearly club activities. Please check at least two areas listed at the bottom of the form where you can assist the Club.

Please submit your dues by March 31 to continue to be an active member and receive updates on future club events. Thank you ever so much.

BGLM DOCENT VOLUNTEERS

BY DENNIS PLAUT (BGLM DOCENT CHAIR)

It's been a tradition for many, many years. Our Marin Club has donated to the Bonsai Garden at Lake Merritt (BGLM) providing docents for the 4th Saturday morning of the month. Once again we have stepped up for this commitment.

We need your help to do so. I do help out yearly as well as many others. You will have

someone else with you from our club. Please join us for this wonderful experience.

Contact me for more info and to commit to a slot at deplaut@comcast.net or 415 457-3709, deplaut@comcast.net

MARIN BONSAI CLUB

Membership Application and Renewals

PLEASE CHOOSE YOUR MEMBERSHIP O SINGLE (\$45) O HOUSEHOLD (\$65) ADDRESS		O STUDENT (\$25)		I AM ANEW MEMBERRETURNING MEMBER
EMAIL			Please keep your email up to date to receive important updates from the	
PHONE	O CELL	club such as newsletters, shows, an events. We will not share your emai outside of our club.		
HOW DID YOU HEAF	R ABOUT THE CLUB?			
HOW I CAN HELP TH	IE CLUB			
MONTHLY MEETINGS/WORKSHOPS RAFFLE EVENTS		ANNUAL ACTIVITIES DOCENT AND OTHER SUPPORT AT BGLM		
WORKSHOPS PROGRAMS PUBLICITY BOARD MEMBER OTHER:		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. Thank you!

Make checks payable to MARIN BONSAI CLUB

Please send your check and application to

MARIN BONSAI CLUB PO BOX 1461 ROSS, CA 94957-1461



TASKS FOR APRIL

BY THE TASKMASTER

Ah—early springtime in the bonsai garden. Too late to repot, mostly. Too early to trim and wire and shape. The things that got repotted will now dry out faster than the ones that didn't, so the watering puzzle gets a bit more complicated. But it's a more relaxed period than most. Put all the newly repotted trees in one area to make sure they all get plenty of water and attention, and don't forget to turn trees with new growth around on the bench every week so you can get even sun exposure and straighter, healthier and better-trained growth.

If you have maples, then daily pinching runs—Daily! The timing is critical!—are helpful if not actually required, especially up in the top of the tree. Maples are so apically dominant that the highest, smallest branches can quickly get too fat before you know it. Pinching will weaken the area a bit, which slows it down some, which is a very good thing. Between each new pair of leaves, a new tiny pair of leaves will appear. The sooner you get a tweezer and pluck those new ones out, the better. It's your one and only chance to shorten the internodes, and also to try for divisions close to the trunk which are necessary for achieving a ramified, well-shaped tree. Many or most plucked leaflets will cause a division, and then very soon there will be leaf plucking to do on each of those. Daily. You might ought to ask yourself how many maples you want to try to take care of.

Any branch that needs to get fatter is allowed to just grow untouched until it reaches the right diameter. It's not unusual to see an eighteen or twenty inch tall tree with a six foot long branch or two late in the Summer. All the other deciduous trees need some variation of this grow-to-fatten, pinch-to-divide and control the internodes effort, and controlling and directing Spring growth on the evergreen and/or broadleaf trees is a varia-

tion of the same effort and technique. It's all very similar to cutting back, which happens later in the season, but with the huge advantage of slowing the new growth and creating shorter internodes.

Of course, any tree or part of a tree that needs to be taller, longer, thicker, and sometimes a tree that just needs to get healthy can usually be allowed to just grow all season as much as it can.

If things don't add up for you and your trees somehow, bring them to a bonsai club meeting and get some hands-on advice. If you don't belong to a club, then join one. They're always inexpensive and always useful.

A good thing to do this time of year is to drape a large white towel or sheet over a door as a neutral background and take front and back pictures of some of your trees, especially those that were repotted. These will be amazing to look at later in the year, and besides being fun they may help you when it's time to prune and shape and you can no longer see the branch placement because of all the leaves.

Some think early spring is the most beautiful and interesting time in the bonsai garden, and that may be true for those of a certain sensitivity to the quickening of new life, a tendency toward Spring Fever, the deep subtle baseline feeling of hope that awakens along with the slow disappearance of Winter. Well, I guess that's most of most of humanity, and always has been.

HAIKU FOR APRIL

Eager for the sun
The garden trees are feasting
They weave life from light

THE LITTLE BOOK OF BONSAI: AN EASY GUIDE TO CARING FOR YOUR BONSAI TREE—By Jonas Dupuich

REVIEW BY GEORGE HAAS

I love reading about bonsai, which I call my only hobby for the past 16 years. Jonas Dupuich is someone I have followed with devotion since the very early days of my bonsai enrichment. I subscribe to his online bonsai blog postings every Tuesday and Friday. Jonas Dupuich is the creator and author of Bonsai Tonight, which he started in 2009. With over a thousand blog postings, Bonsai Tonight is the leader in bringing home expert guidance in creating, developing and caring for bonsai.

Jonas Dupuich began growing bonsai in 1993. A long time student of Boon Manakitivipart, during which time he became one of the founding members of Bay Island Bonsai Club.

The book, *The Little Book of Bonsai*, comes with highly respected recommendations by William N. Valavanis, Kathy Shaner, Boon Manakitivipart, and Michael Hagedorn, bonsai who's who in the U.S.

Photography by David Fenton, a commercial photographer, Oakland, California. The photographs are both beautiful and illustrative throughout the book.

In the preface and acknowledgments, Jonas Dupuich acknowledges his friend and teacher, Boon Manakitivipart and his bonsai roots:

"Were I not lucky enough to have a good teacher, I'm not sure I would have stuck with it."

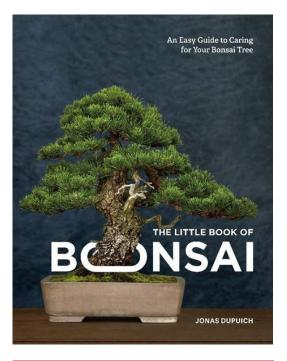
He places the importance of joining the bonsai community through instruction, club affiliation and exhibitions for gaining the ability to succeed in bonsai.

The Little Book of Bonsai contains six chapters covering *Bonsai Style, Caring for Your Bonsai, Tools and Techniques, Container and Display, Appreciating Different Species,* and *Next Steps.* Each chapter has a number of sub-titles. For example, one sub-title under *Caring for Your Bonsai* is *Fertilizer Basics.* The entire book is well organized and easy to use as a reference.

It is a little book for sure. However, every page packs a lot of valuable bonsai instruc-

tion for the bonsai enthusiast. The flow of text and images guide the bonsai enthusiast through the topics necessary to succeed in creating and caring for bonsai.

Jonas Dupuich throughout the book provides meaningful instruction and tips for bonsai. Chapter II emphasizes keeping your bonsai healthy by environment selection, watering, feeding, and guarding against pests and diseases. This quote reminded me of the importance of ensuring your bonsai gets rotated regularly so that the entire tree receives plenty of balanced sunlight. Bonsai need our constant guardianship:



THE LITTLE BOOK OF BONSAI: AN EASY GUIDE TO CARING FOR YOUR BONSAI TREE

AUTHORED BY JONAS DUPUICH

HARDCOVER 112 PAGES

PUBLISHER: TEN SPEED PRESS (RELEASE DATE

JANUARY 28, 2020)

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

ISBN - 978-0-399-258259-2

"With proper care and nourishment, your bonsai can stay healthy for a long time. Even if you are new to growing bonsai, you can learn to provide your tree with the sunlight, water, and fertilizer it needs to stay healthy, and recognize when it is troubled by pests or disease."

The selection of photographs aid greatly in understanding the guidance given. For example, these two photographs depict healthy bonsai in different locations, outdoors and indoors, where sunlight is critical.

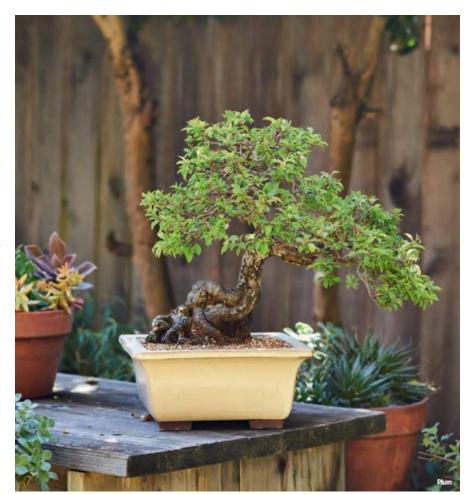
The overall theme of *The Little Book of Bonsai* is having a basic understanding for bonsai—bonsai sources, healthy plants, creation, styling and wiring, containers and repotting, and care. As I read the various chapters in the book, I could not help but think about my early days of working with bonsai. I had so many questions then and still do since bonsai is a living art. And, as a living art form there is constant change. Jonas Dupuich takes great strive in making bonsai basics easy for the bonsai enthusiast. He provides the answers to many of the questions I encountered when starting my bonsai collection.

Any effort to describe bonsai in one book is undertaking a big challenge. Jonas Dupuich makes every effort to include all the elements in the subject of caring for your bonsai. For example in Chapter IV, Container and Bonsai Display, includes crucial information on bonsai containers, repotting bonsai and displaying your bonsai.

Here is another quote from the book that deals with the right size of bonsai pot:

"More important than choosing a style is getting the size right. Cutting roots to make the tree fit in a tiny container is stressful for the tree, and trees in small pots can dry out quickly. That said, using a pot that is too large can make a tree look small and guide the viewer's focus to the pot rather than the tree."

The sub-chapter *Repotting Your Bonsai* is thorough and complete on the proper technique for repotting bonsai. It was well worth the reading about the correct individual steps to take when repotting your bonsai. Repotting is a crucial process for every bonsai. It might be transplanting your bonsai from nursery potting soil to a preferred bonsai soil mix. Sooner or later it will become necessary to





repot your bonsai and having a clear and concise understanding of the steps involved will make the process easy and successful.

Chapter VI, Next Steps, is full of resources for the bonsai enthusiast, whether or not just beginning the hobby or comfortable in a more advanced stage. The listed resources are all top quality in the U.S., and worthwhile connecting online or visiting as bonsai destinations.

I enjoyed reading *The Little Book of Bonsai*. It is a marvelously written and photographic work on the hobby of bonsai. It is easy to read and understand the many elements of creating and caring for bonsai. I believe *The Little Book of Bonsai* would serve as an excellent text supplement for any beginners' class or workshop. I found the writing fresh and concise in a comprehensive discussion on the subject of bonsai. The photography depicted essential techniques as well as providing beautiful bonsai specimens throughout the book.

I have read numerous writings by Jonas Dupuich as a result of subscribing to Bonsai Tonight over the past decade. In doing so, I gained wonderful insights and instruction on bonsai. In reading his first book on the subject, I had no expectations other than the highest standards in the quality of his writing and talent in leading me through the myriad of bonsai challenges. I certainly look forward to reading many more books written by Jonas Dupuich in the near future.



55TH ANNUAL NORTHERN CALIFORNIA CHERRY BLOSSOM FESTIVAL

APRIL 9-10 & 16-17, 2022

JAPANTOWN PEACE PLAZA SAN FRANCISCO

WWW.SFCHERRYBLOSSOM.ORG

Welcome to the Northern California Cherry Blossom Festival®, one of California's most prominent celebrations of Asian traditions and the largest Cherry Blossom Festival on the West coast. All are welcome to join in the festivities as we celebrate Japanese and Japanese American culture with you!

Since 1968, the Festival serves to cultivate the continued alliance between Japan and the United States using culture as its bridge. Each year, over 220,000 people attend this dazzling display showcasing the vibrant colors and grace of the Japanese culture, and the rich heritage and diversity of the Japanese American community.

AMERICAN BONSAI ASSOCIATION SACRAMENTO SPRING SHOW AND SALE

APRIL 9-10, 2022

SHEPARD GARDEN & ARTS CENTER IN MCKINLEY PARK
3330 MCKINLEY PARK, SACRAMENTO

Bonsai exhibit, member and vendor sales, Bonsai demonstration featuring daily at 1:30pm with Andrew Robson as headliner.

There is a large vendor and member sales area, free admission and parking, and a beginner workshop Sunday morning from 10am-12pm (to register contact Renee Seely).

The benefit drawings on both Saturday and Sunday will include each day's demonstration tree and many bonsai/bonsai related items. For additional information visit our website: American Bonsai Association of Sacramento, or contact Renee Seely, 916-929-2106, email breadcrust@comcast.net.

CUPERTINO CHERRY BLOSSOM FESTIVAL

APRIL 30 & MAY 1, 2022

MEMORIAL PARK
CUPERTINO

WWW.CUPERTINOCHERRY BLOSSOMFESTIVAL.ORG

The Cupertino-Toyokawa Sister Cities Committee is responsible for the annual Cherry Blossom Festival in Cupertino. The committee is also responsible for selecting & sending the delegation of middle school students to Toyokawa every year and a delegation of adults every five years.

KUSAMURA BONSAI CLUB 62ND ANNUAL SHOW

APRIL 30TH AND MAY 1ST, 2022 12PM-4PM SATURDAY & 11AM-4PM SUNDAY

ADDISON SCHOOL 650 ADDISON STREET PALO ALTO, CA Join us and see over 50 Bonsai Trees on display. There will be a Sale and Benefit drawing with over 100 bonsai and pots. Club members will put on a demonstration on Sunday at 1:30pm.

Bob Shimon of Mendocino Coast Bonsai presenting at 1:30pm Saturday.

For more information contact show cochairs: Lynne O'Dell at lynnemo@gmail.com or Idris Anderson at idrisan@gmail.com. Details will also be posted at Kusamura Bonsai Club website.

LOTUS BONSAI ANNUAL SPRING SALE

MAY 14-15, 2022 9AM-4PM

LOTUS BONSAI NURSERY & GARDENS 1435 LOWER LAKE DRIVE PLACERVILLE, CA 95667 This is the not-to-be missed once a year sale at the nursery. Big discounts on all bonsai trees and stock plants.

BAY AREA SATSUKI AIKOKAI (BASA) 25TH ANNUAL SATSUKI AZALEA BONSAI SHOW

MAY 21 & 22, 2022 10AM-5PM SATURDAY AND 10AM-4PM SUNDAY

666 BELLEVUE AVE. LAKESIDE PARK GARDEN CENTER LAKE MERRITT The Bay Area Satsuki Aikokai (BASA) 25th Annual Satsuki Azalea Bonsai Show will feature azalea bonsai in full bloom. Join us on May 21 & 22, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Sunday, at 666 Bellevue Ave., Lakeside Park Garden Center, Lake Merritt, for the display of beautiful flowering bonsai. Featuring large member sale and imported Satsuki azalea from Japan. Demonstration from 1–3pm, Saturday with raffle of the demo tree. Vendor area. Free admission. Public parking available.

For information, contact Darren Wong at sohjuen@aol.com or visit our website at http://satsukiazaleabonsai.org.

VALLEY BONSAI SOCIETY 12TH ANNUAL SHOW

JUNE 18-19, 2022 10AM-4PM WITH DEMONSTRATION AT 1PM

ALDEN LANE NURSERY 981 ALDEN LANE LIVERMORE, CA 94550 The finished tree will be raffled off at the end of the demonstrations. Bonsai pots, soil, etc. available for purchase. Admission is free.

MARIN COUNTY FAIR

JUNE 30-JULY 4, 2022

MARIN COUNTY CIVIC CENTER

Join the Marin Bonsai Club at the return of our annual show at the Marin County Fair. This year's show will be outdoors as we celebrate Being So Happy Together.

MIDORI BONSAI CLUB SHOW

OCTOBER 1, 2022

QUINLAN COMMUNITY CENTER 10185 N STELLING RD CUPERTINO, CA 95014 The Midori Bonsai Club will be having our annual show this October at the Quinlan Community Center. We may be joined by a local Ikebana club who has been presenting with us over the last couple of years. More details to come.

PACIFIC BONSAI EXPO

NOVEMBER 12-13, 2022

THE BRIDGE YARD OAKLAND, CA

WWW.PACIFICBONSAIEXPO.COM

The Pacific Bonsai Expo is a juried exhibition featuring 70 outstanding bonsai displays and a selection of the community's top vendors. Jurors Bjorn Bjorholm, Ryan Neil, and William N. Valavanis will select the trees. The exhibitors are the judges. Your trees are the stars. It's an event not to be missed.

Below are the board meeting minutes draft.

Present were Tung, Diane, Dan, Marcia, and Brendan

- March Meeting wrap up: 9 people attended the tree critique and 12 people attended the open workshop
- 501(c)(3) status: IRS granted status. George will finish filing with the state and county.
- Board meeting time: Future board meetings will be on the 2nd Monday of each month.
 This allows time for material to be prepared for the newsletter.
- 4. Banners: Tung will get quotes for a club banner soon.
- TLCC Rental: Diane will follow up with Debbie on the 2023 application. Tung will review and sign off when ready.
- Membership: Dan and Marcia reported that some members have responded to the membership call. Some have moved on to other hobbies and will not be renewing their membership.
- 7. Programs: Brendan has confirmed the topic for the April 5th meeting. Tung will be providing the zoom link for the meeting that will be shared with REBS and Midori. The final cost will be \$450 to be split among the three clubs. REBS has already paid, Midori

- to pay.
- County Fair: Waiting to hear back from organizers about minutia. May deadline for volunteers. Sign up forms will be sent to Tung to publish in the newsletter. Tung will check in weekly with Brendan on this matter.
- Upcoming programs: Will discuss at next meeting.
- August Sale: Exercise club uses indoors facilities from 8:30-10:30. Will need to work around them. Marcia will print forms for the sale.
- Financials: \$6500 in bank. Expenses include \$450 for TLCC rental. Future expenses include \$525 for next quarter of TLCC, \$450 for Bjorn. Income includes \$150 from REBS for Bjorn and \$80 donation from a club member.
- Newsletter: We will leave the newsletter list as is, people can unsubscribe if they wish to.
- 13. Website: The board wishes to send Sharon a big thank you for helping keep the website up to date for us!
- 14. Other news: Dan Keller has not received his monies for the MBC tree that was sold at the Mammoth auction. He will be following up in this.