



MARIN BONSAI CLUB
2022 July Newsletter

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BEGINNERS' WORKSHOPS

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MARIN IJ FEATURE

BLACK PINE DECANDLING



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. (Note: Special schedules for July and August.)

The next board meeting will be on Monday, August 8 at 7pm on Discord.

COVER PHOTO

A small juniper similar to one that could be created at the beginners' workshop.
(Photo by Tung X. Dao)

COVID HEALTH STATEMENT

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

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

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John Doig with his windswept juniper. (Photo by Tung Dao)

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BY TUNG X. DAO

It's summertime! That means we gotta keep a good eye on those trees and prune those that need the work. Black pines are ready for decandling, for example. Big thank you to Chris and Candace for their demo on this annual procedure.

We had a great demo last time when I presented the automated watering systems.

MARIN IJ FEATURE

Our club and Beginners' Workshops were featured last month in the Marin Independent Journal by PJ Bremier. A huge portion of our Beginners' Workshop sign-ups have come from this feature. Please give her a big hand for [her article](#), which is republished in this month's newsletter.

BEGINNER'S WORKSHOP

Our workshops are just about full! As of writing there's only 2-3 spots remaining on the 2nd workshop. I would like to ask all club members to come to the workshop to say hi to our potentially new club members, share your experiences with being in the club, and — if you are experienced — to help with creating their first tree.

If you have signed up, please remember to send in your fees to secure your spot in the workshops. After the 9th, any unconfirmed

spots will be offered to those on the waitlist.

AUGUST JOINT SALE

If you plan to sell plants and other goods at the sale, please come pick up the sales forms and tags at one of the two beginner's workshops. Alternatively, you can print out your own copies yourself. Please handle completing these forms out before the morning of as we will not have time the morning of to deal with this. And as a special reward to volunteers who help set up, they will get a special half hour before the sale starts to get first dibs on one item at the sale.

The sale will be from 11am-4pm on August 6. Set up starts at 8am (previously announced as 9am) and we have until 5pm to clean up. Please share the included flyer with your friends and get some of those trees and tools ready for the sale!

MAKISHIMA AUCTION VOLUNTEERS

If you are interested in volunteering at the Makishima auction, please contact George Haas as soon as possible. Volunteers are much needed as large crowds are expected for this very special event. Lunch is provided to all volunteers. 🍱

JULY BEGINNER'S WORKSHOPS

TUESDAY JULY 19TH AND 26TH, 2022 AT TLCC

In July, we will be meeting on the 3rd and 4th Tuesdays of the month with our Beginner's Workshops in July. *There will be no meeting on July 5th.*

These workshops are a wonderful opportunity to get some hands-on experience in a small group instruction setting. A tree will be provided along with necessary materials to teach you about bonsai basics such as pruning, styling, wiring, and care. As this is one of our

fundraising events for the club, the fee for the workshop will be \$65 per person, \$55 for members. The proceeds from the workshops will help fund future programs and demonstrators.

Please share the included flyer with your friends and family. We love seeing new people learning how to do this wonderful hobby of ours. Reserve your spot at https://bit.ly/mbc_beginners_bonsai_workshop. 📄

AUGUST SALE

SATURDAY AUGUST 6, 2022 AT TLCC

We will be having our Joint August Sale with REBS on Saturday, August 6 at TLCC. We will be starting at 9am for setup, with the sale itself from 11-4pm.

This is a great opportunity for us to get our hands on some great material that has been trained by our clubs. It's also a great opportunity to thin down your collection if you have too many trees, tools, pots, fertilizer, or anything that another member might

need. Proceeds from the sale will help fund the club's future programs.

If you plan on selling your material, please fill out the forms at the end of this newsletter.

Note that there is no meeting on Tuesday August 2nd. We will have our usual 3rd Tuesday general workshop on August 16th. 📄

AUTOMATED WATERING SYSTEMS NOTES

If you missed Tung's demonstration on automated watering systems, [the slides from the presentation](#) can be accessed on google drive. 📄

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. 📄

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.

Originally published on
2022 June 17 on the Marin
Independent Journal

<https://www.marinij.com/2022/06/17/find-the-inner-bonsai-in-marin-bonsai-clubs-beginner-class/>

Details: Marin Bonsai Club's beginners bonsai workshop is from 7 to 9:30 p.m. July 19 and 26 at the Terra Linda Community Center, room 4, at 670 Del Ganado Road in San Rafael. The cost is \$65, \$55 for club members. Reservations are required either online or by sending a check with your name and telephone number to MBC at P.O. Box 1461 in Ross. For more information, go to marinbonsai.org.

Marin Bonsai Club meetings are at 7 p.m. the first and third Tuesdays of the month at the Terra Linda Community Center. Membership is \$45, \$65 for families and \$25 for students. Membership includes opportunities to observe demonstrations, one-on-one instruction and field trips to nurseries.

FIND THE INNER BONSAI IN MARIN BONSAI CLUB'S BEGINNER CLASS

BY PJ BREMIER

In this era of supersizing and instant gratification, the intricate and patient art of bonsai might easily be overlooked, but not if the Marin Bonsai Club has anything to say about it.

The club, founded 65 years ago and now with 50 members, is offering two evening classes in July to encourage Marin residents to think small and grow a tree.

"Students will learn the basics of transforming a pre-bonsai into something that will become a beautiful bonsai that could be passed on to the next generation," says Tung Dao, a Novato resident and president of the Marin Bonsai Club.

Dao grew up with a mother who was an avid gardener, so he wasn't intimidated when, in college, he purchased a grow-your-own-bonsai-from-seed kit. Later, he says, he would learn that growing a bonsai from seed is the "slowest way to make bonsai."

That won't happen in these Marin Bonsai Club workshops.

Each student will receive a beginner-friendly tree, planting materials and instruction from the most senior members of

the club. Classes will be limited to eight or 10 students.

Bonsai, the Japanese art form of growing and training trees into miniaturized forms, "has been reaching the far corners of the world recently, with each region adapting bonsai to their local trees and creating new styles that have never been seen before," Dao says. "It is a worldwide shared love of trees and about the joy of creating one."

While, Dao says, "people have experimented with exotic and unconventional bonsai, such as rosemary, grape, local species and even poison oak," generally most bonsai is focused on plants that have a woody trunk that can be trained to be small, with the most popular species being Japanese black pine, Japanese maple and junipers.

"We generally value interesting trunks, beautiful branch development and sometimes the history of a tree can play a factor," he says.

And that's where the skill and training come into play.

"Bonsai is easy to learn and do, but it takes a lifetime to master and even the mas-



A juniper from a Marin Bonsai Club Beginners' Workshop from a few years ago. (Photo and tree by Susan Sullivan)

ters are continually learning to the point of realizing how much they don't know and that they are really still beginners," he says. "How's that for a Zen riddle?"

Susan Sullivan, who joined the MBC club four years ago, did so after taking one of its beginner workshops.

"We each got a juniper and were instructed how to find the bonsai hidden within," she recalls. "We trimmed and wired with much help from our teachers and, over the next four years, I brought my tree to club meetings where members helped me trim, wire and repot my tree."

Now, with patience and the help of the club, she's successfully growing several other bonsai trees, too.

"Bonsai artists must start with patience and an appreciation for the trees," Dao says. "People have to learn how and when to water them and when to work on them. Trees need to grow, and beginners tend to overwork their trees."

Beginners will learn that bonsai do best outdoors in a sunny spot, a water check should be done daily and a senior member should oversee pruning and other major operations.

Trees, he notes, "require a little more care and attention than a pet because they cannot communicate with you if something is wrong but the reward for successfully developing a bonsai, however, is immensely satisfying."

Candace Key, a past president of MBC, agrees.

"Bonsai are fascinating to all because of the successful illusion of a full-grown tree growing in a pot," she says. "It seems like magic, especially when they learn that these oaks, junipers, maples, really all trees that we create bonsai with would be full grown trees if we planted them in the ground." 🌲

Top: Another juniper created in a previous bonsai workshop by the Marin Bonsai Club. *(Photo and tree by Diane Matzen)*

Right: Marin Bonsai Club president Tung Dao, of Novato, with his collection of 30 bonsai trees. *(Photo by Tung Dao)*



Black Pine

DECANDLING BLACK PINE BONSAI – AN IN-DEPTH GUIDE

BY JONAS DUPUICH

Now that decandling season is coming to a close, I thought I'd share an overview of the process taken from previous posts. Let's begin with the obvious question:

WHAT IS DECANDLING?

There is a lot to say about decandling pine bonsai. There are as many approaches to decandling as there are bonsai professionals, and many of these approaches have merit. As we wrap up this year's decandling season, I'd like make a few comments on the topic in as straightforward a fashion as possible.

My starting point for this information is many years' study with Boon Manakitivipart and conversations with Japanese bonsai professionals including Daisaku Nomoto, Akio Kondo and Junichiro Tanaka. Connecting the various approaches used by this group are a few common threads, and it is with these threads that I'll begin.

A DEFINITION

Decandling refers to a set of cultivation techniques that focus on the removal of spring growth from red or black pines to stimulate a second flush of growth in summer.

The term typically refers to more than the simple act of removing spring candles as the timing of the practice and various techniques relating to after care have a large effect on the results of the practice.

WHAT DECANDLING ISN'T

The following techniques are similar to decandling in that they focus on improving the balance and vigor of pine bonsai, but fall outside of the practices commonly referred to by the term "decandling."



Cutting, breaking or removing spring growth before the spring needles emerge. One technique for balancing vigor in pine bonsai involves the reduction of spring candles as they are elongating. These techniques produce very different results from decandling and will be considered separately.

Removing part, but not all, of a spring shoot. Decandling involves the complete removal of given spring shoots. Reducing spring growth by half or some other percentage can be used to address vigor in pine bonsai, but produces different results from decandling.

A NOTE ON THE TERM "DECANDLING"

As spring growth develops on red and black pines, the emerging shoots can be said to resemble candles. As used here, however, the term decandling refers to the removal of spring shoots after the new needles have emerged. I don't know how the term "decandling" came to be associated with the removal of growth after the shoot ceases to resemble candles, but I'm loath to introduce another term as the community in which I participate uses the term decandling consistently and successfully.

The Japanese phrase for decandling is me-kiri: "bud-" or "shoot-cutting" (芽切り, if you were curious).

WHY WE DECANDLE

Sometimes the reasons why we decandle pine bonsai can get lost in the discussion of how we decandle. In short, decandling is the single-most important technique used to develop beautiful black and red pine bonsai.

WHY DECANDLE RED AND BLACK PINE BONSAI?

1. To stimulate back budding. The stress caused by removing spring growth can activate dormant or adventitious buds on woody growth. Back buds – buds that develop not at the ends of branches but from within the tree's interior – allow us to maintain the size and shape of our trees. Without them, bonsai would grow

ORIGINALLY PUBLISHED
ON 2016 JULY 22 ON
BONSAITONIGHT.COM

[HTTPS://BONSAITONIGHT.COM/2016/07/22/DECANDLING-BLACK-PINE-BONSAI-OVERVIEW/](https://bonsaitonight.com/2016/07/22/decandling-black-pine-bonsai-overview/)

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SPECIAL THANKS TO CHRIS
R. FOR THE SUGGESTION TO
INCLUDE THIS ARTICLE.

larger and larger each year.

2. To increase branch density. Decandling adds density by replacing single spring shoots with multiple summer shoots. Decandling further increases density by stimulating adventitious buds at the base of spring candles – barren areas that don't typically produce buds. And as summer shoots are usually smaller than spring shoots, internodes are further reduced yielding more refined ramification.
3. To regulate vigor. Decandling is a useful technique for keeping new growth on pine bonsai in check.
4. To promote balance. Various decandling techniques can be used to decrease vigor in strong areas and increase vigor in weak areas to improve overall balance.
5. To reduce needle size. Red and black pine bonsai are at their most beautiful when the needle size is a good fit for the tree. Decandling can let us produce short needles on small trees and larger needles on larger trees.

SELECTING TREES FOR DECANDLING

While decandling is a great technique for refining red and black pine bonsai, knowing when to decandle is just as important as knowing when not to decandle.

WHEN IS DECANDLING NOT APPROPRIATE FOR RED AND BLACK PINE BONSAI?

When the goal of training is to increase the size of the trunk. Let these trees grow until the trunk reaches the desired size before decandling.

When a tree is unhealthy. Decandling is stressful for pines – only decandle trees that are healthy, vigorous and insect-free.

When a tree is weak or under-fed. If otherwise healthy pine bonsai have not received adequate fertilizer in spring or have been weakened from stresses like repotting or inclement weather, take a break this year and decandle the following year when the tree is stronger.

Feel free to decandle when your red or black pine bonsai are in refinement phase, are healthy, well-fed, and growing in soil with

good drainage. Following are some examples of when to decandle and when to hold off.

PREPARING TREES FOR DECANDLING

Preparing red or black pine bonsai for decandling is straightforward – keep trees healthy, give them lots of sunlight, and feed heavily. If the tree is growing in poor soil, repot it in soil that drains well and decandle when the tree begins to grow vigorously.

HOW MUCH SHOULD I FEED BLACK PINE BONSAI I PLAN TO DECANDLE?

A lot. Start applying fertilizer as soon as the roots become active. In warmer areas, this may be as early as February – in areas with longer winters this may be as late as March or April.

If using dango or similar dry fertilizer, begin by placing a few balls on the surface of the soil and add more each week until the surface of the soil is nearly covered with fertilizer. If using liquid fertilizer, apply it consistently throughout spring. Combinations of dry and liquid fertilizer are also acceptable.

WHEN TO DECANDLE

Depending on our approach, we can decandle all of a tree's new shoots on a single day or spread out the process over a few weeks (more on that later). This period of time is defined primarily by climate.

CLIMATE

In general, decandle earlier in northern latitudes or cooler climates and later in lower latitudes or places with warmer climates. The following provides a rough guide to when we can start decandling in different parts of the US:

- Cool climates (Seattle, Pacifica) – late May
- Moderate climates (San Francisco Bay Area) – early June
- Warm climates (Los Angeles, much of the Midwest) – mid to late June
- Hot climates (much of the South) – early to mid July

If you're not sure where to start, seek help from an experienced bonsai enthusiast



Five weeks of fertilization.

in your area and, if possible, ask to see their trees to get a sense of how pines respond to decandling in your area.

TREE SIZE

The decision of when to decandle also depends on the size of the tree. The more time summer shoots have to develop, the longer new needles will become. Put another way, if we decandle on the early side, new shoots will have a longer time to develop than shoots decandled a few weeks later. Let's pause there for a moment...

In general, we try to encourage large needles on large trees and small needles on small trees. Very small needles on a large pine would look out of place – more like a white pine, in effect – and might make us wonder about the health of the tree. Large needles on a small tree look unruly and obscure branch pad definition. Developing needles in proportion to the overall size of the tree tends to produce pleasing results.

By decandling large trees early in the decandling season, we give summer shoots adequate time to develop appropriately long needles. By decandling small trees later in the decandling season, we give summer shoots less time to develop, thereby producing shorter needles. Let's pause again for a moment....

Still with me?

If so, great – you've just internalized one of the most important aspects of decandling. It may seem picky to make distinctions as small as a few weeks here or there, but pines respond well to these subtle adjustments, and it is with these subtleties that some of the most beautiful pine bonsai have been created, and by which some of the best pines of the future will be created.

MAKING THE CUT

After many years of decandling red and black pine bonsai, I find I still need to pay close attention as I work. It's easy to cut too high or too low, cut at an angle, or accidentally cut nearby needles. If you can avoid these cutting mistakes, you're off to a great start.

There are only a few things to keep in mind when making the cuts to remove spring growth, but each is important.

- Make the cut square – angled cuts can yield uneven summer growth
- Leave some new tissue – adventitious

buds sprout from new tissue; cutting into last year's growth will reduce vigor and stimulate needle buds

- Don't cut surrounding needles – it's easy to accidentally cut surrounding needles; make cuts with care

I'll say more about how much new tissue to leave below.

TECHNIQUES FOR CONTROLLING VIGOR

So far we have covered techniques for controlling the vigor of summer shoots for an entire bonsai. Now we'll look at three techniques for controlling vigor shoot by shoot. One of the greatest benefits of decandling is the ability to weaken strong branches and improve the vigor of weak branches. It is through the successful application of these techniques that well-balanced pines are developed.

HOW DO I CONTROL THE VIGOR OF INDIVIDUAL BRANCHES?

There are three main techniques for controlling the vigor of individual branches:

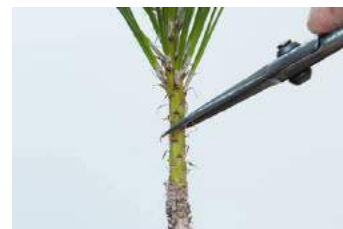
- Pulling needles
- Leaving stubs
- Decandling different branches at different times

Having decided to decandle a given branch, we first remove the spring shoots.

To further reduce the vigor of this branch, we can take the first approach noted above and remove some of last year's needles.

How many needles we can pull or leave depends on how many needles we started with, the relative vigor of the branch, and the general approach to decandling. The range is often between three and twelve pairs per branch. I'll say more about needle pulling below.

The second approach to reducing vigor involves leaving a stub at the base of the candle. Leaving a stub preserves tissue that produces auxins, the hormones that apical buds use to slow down the development of adventitious and lateral buds. The longer the stub, the more auxins, and the slower the adventitious buds are to develop. Simply put, long stubs slow down the development of summer shoots.



Two examples of bad angles



Good angle



Spring shoots



Spring shoots removed

USING STUBS TO CONTROL VIGOR

A common approach to leaving stubs is to leave long stubs on strong shoots, small stubs on weak shoots, and medium-sized stubs on medium-vigor shoots.

- Strong shoots – stub length is about 2x diameter of shoot, often between 1/4" – 1/2"
- Medium shoots – stub length is about 1x diameter of shoot, often between 1/8" – 1/4"
- Weak shoots – stub length is about 1/2x diameter of shoot, often between 1/16" – 1/8"

USING TIMING TO CONTROL VIGOR

The third approach to the reducing vigor of individual branches is to decandle weak shoots early and more vigorous shoots later. We know that the earlier we decandle a tree, the longer the summer shoots will have to grow. By removing spring growth from the weakest shoots first, we give the summer shoots on these branches a head start over the branches that will be decandled later.

PUTTING IT ALL TOGETHER – APPROACHES TO DECANDLING

There are many ways to decandle red and black pine bonsai. I don't believe that some techniques are better or worse than others as I've seen many techniques used to great effect by professionals and hobbyists alike. Rather, each technique has its benefits and drawbacks. I tend to use several approaches during any given decandling season depending on the needs of the tree and my available time.

ONE-DAY APPROACHES

A simple distinction among decandling techniques can be made based on the number of days required to complete the removal of spring shoots in a given season. The most efficient approach is to remove all candles on a given day. The one-day approach is appropriate for most pines that are regularly decandled, and it makes the most sense when time is limited. Traveling professionals, for example, often take this approach when return visits to a customer's home are impractical.

Removing all of a tree's spring shoots on a single day gives summer shoots an equal

amount of time to develop. Thus, the basic act of removing the spring growth does little to balance the weak and strong areas of the tree. The two most common techniques for balancing vigor when removing all of a tree's spring shoots on a given day are pulling needles and leaving stubs. In order for these techniques to work properly, one must identify the strong and weak areas of the tree.

In general, upper branches are stronger than lower branches, and exterior branches are stronger than interior branches, but the most obvious indicator of vigor is the size of the spring shoot.

Reducing vigor in stronger areas can help balance the overall vigor of the tree. When taking the needle-plucking approach, this means we leave fewer needles in strong areas and more needles in weak areas.

- Strong areas – leave 3-7 pairs
- Medium areas – leave 5-9 pairs
- Weak areas – leave 7-12 pairs

The weakest areas – shoots with 1-3 pairs of needles – are generally left alone.

The stub approach is similar. We leave longer stubs in strong areas and shorter stubs in weak areas.

- Strong areas – leave long stub
- Medium areas – leave medium stub
- Weak areas – leave very short stub

Don't feel comfortable evaluating the different areas of vigor on the tree? It's perfectly fine to keep all stubs short and pluck every branch to a set number of needles from top to bottom. Many pine growers in the U.S. and in Japan prefer this approach and have great results. Try both approaches and see what works best for your trees.

MULTI-DAY APPROACHES

When growth on a pine is way out of balance – some shoots are very strong while others are quite weak – I'll often decandle a tree over a period of several weeks, removing groups of spring shoots every 10-14 days. We begin by removing the weakest shoots to give the summer shoots on these branches the longest time to develop. After dividing a tree into groups of relative vigor, we can decandle as follows:

1. Remove all small shoots
2. Wait 10 days
3. Remove all medium shoots
4. Wait 10 days
5. Remove all large shoots
6. In practice, this might look like the following.



From top to bottom:

1. Day zero — before decandling.
2. Day zero — after removing small shoots
3. Day 10 — after removing medium shoots
4. Day 20 — after removing large shoots

PUTTING IT ALL TOGETHER

Decandling can become interesting when we start to combine techniques. For example, after removing all of the spring shoots from the above pine, I pulled needles from the strong areas to further reduce their vigor.

As an alternative to pulling needles, I could have left stubs in the strong areas. Or I could have combined all three approaches. In short, we can combine any number of approaches to decandling red and black pine bonsai.

Considering the number of options this leaves us with, it can be difficult to know where to begin. Experience is our best guide here. But as hiring a professional to work on our bonsai or taking our trees to a workshop with an experienced teacher isn't always an option, we may be navigating these options alone. Which is fine. Simply starting with a best guess and learning from the results is a great way to learn how our trees respond to decandling.

DECANDLING AFTERCARE

To restate a common theme: decandling is very stressful for pine bonsai. In some cases trees can lose up to 60% or 70% of their foliage during decandling. One-year old needles that have been growing beneath the shade of new shoots are newly exposed to full sun. Scores or even hundreds of small wounds have opened from which a tree may have lost sap. It's important to take care at this point to keep decandled pine bonsai healthy.

HOW DO YOU CARE FOR TREES AFTER DECANDLING?

Be kind to them. Freshly decandled pines are gathering their strength to send out new growth at this stage – growth that won't be as strong as it was in spring. Here are the areas in which you can make a difference.

- Watering – removing significant amounts of a tree's foliage reduces transpiration and the tree's need for water, however, decandling happens near summer solstice and even decandled trees can dry out quickly this time of year. As always, take care not to over or under water and reach for the hose before the soil completely dries out.
- Sunlight – keep decandled pines in full sun. Last year's needles may yellow

a bit but sunlight is necessary to help stimulate budding.

- Fertilizing – in general, stop fertilizing when you decandle. If you use dry fertilizer, remove it when you remove the spring shoots. If you use liquid fertilizer, stop applying it when you decandle. After four weeks, begin fertilizing again following the same incremental approach used in spring. Exception – if your tree is on the weak side, continue fertilizing throughout summer.

ANYTHING ELSE?

Yes! Right after decandling is a good time to wire pine bonsai. Some restraint is required as the biggest cuts and bends are best performed when the tree is less active, typically in fall or early spring. When wiring pines after decandling it can be easy to break needles or injure recently cut areas so proceed with caution. And as new buds can begin to appear after just one week, the window of opportunity to wire is narrow. Wiring pines once summer shoots appear is possible but not advised as new growth breaks easily.

Not sure if this is the right time for you to wire? No problem, there's no rush – feel free to wire in fall with the rest of us!

LET SUMMER BUDS GROW

In general, we want two new shoots at the end each branch to develop on black and red pine bonsai.

Nature, however, doesn't always provide us with what we're looking for.

One shoot can be acceptable – especially when that's all we get – but three shoots are less so. It's easy to fill a silhouette with branches that have three, four, five or more shoots each, but this isn't always desirable. What are the benefits of branches with two shoots each?

- More attractive branch structure
- No unsightly knuckles
- Easy to maintain balanced branch density
- Easy to wire

Are there any exceptions? Definitely. It's fine, for example, to leave more than two shoots when preparing a tree for exhibit if extra foliage is needed to improve the silhouette. I also occasionally leave three or more branches on trees in development knowing that I'll thin out extra branches in the future.

What do I do when more than two summer buds appear after decandling? Usually



Two, three, four, and many shoots of various pines.

nothing. Some practitioners recommend thinning summer buds to two to save us the work of fall cutback and to avoid swelling that results from large numbers of buds that emerge from the same spot. Removing extra buds in summer, however, does not always produce the desired effect.

The appearance of more than two shoots on a single branch is an indication that the branch is fairly strong. In general, the more summer shoots we find, the stronger the branch. Looking at problem in terms of strength, the problem to be solved is not the number of shoots but how best to deal with excess vigor.

Why not remove the extra shoots? Reducing the number of shoots can channel remaining vigor into a smaller number of branches, thereby producing even more vigorous growth on the remaining shoots. It's often better to let the extra shoots develop through summer and remove them when they harden off in fall or winter.

What if there are five or more shoots – won't that create a large knuckle? My main concern in these cases is not scars or the unsightly branch unions that may develop, but overall branch vigor. Unless it's important to preserve the branch, I'm more likely to remove it entirely as there's too much energy to be of use in a refined tree.

SO MUCH INFORMATION – WHERE SHOULD I BEGIN?

So, what if I'm somewhat new to bonsai and I think I have a tree that could benefit from decandling but I don't know where to begin? Easy – keep it simple. If you're having trouble finding a starting point and there are no decandling pros in the area, try the following:

- Remove all new shoots on June 15
- Don't leave stubs
- Leave no more than 10 pairs of needles per branch

That's it – for now. By taking a simple approach, you can learn how your tree responds to the decandling and you can begin making adjustments the following year. Is the summer growth too weak? Try feeding more, decandling earlier, or waiting until the tree is healthier before decandling again. Is the summer growth too strong? Try decandling later or removing more needles. Is the summer growth unbalanced? Feel free to experiment with the various techniques for controlling vigor.

Unhappy or completely surprised by the results? Take heart – many pines respond unpredictably to the first few decandlings. Red and black pines often settle into a pattern within 3-5 years. 🌲



Black pine on display at the 2011 Gomangoky exhibit.

Volunteer

**JULY 9, 2022
SATURDAY 11 AM - 4 PM**

**LOCATED AT THE
LAKESIDE PARK GARDEN
CENTER
666 BELLEVUE AVE.
OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA**

AUCTION: BOB GOULD
RGOULD1003@AOL.COM
925-935-1914

SALE: MIKE MELLOW
BONSAI1947@ATT.NET
510-825-4162 OR 510-886-1568

CASHIER: JAN SMITH
JDSMITH622@COMCAST.NET

OTHER: GEORGE HAAS
GWAAS@COMCAST.NET
707-762-9154

LUNCHES SERVED TO
VOLUNTEERS.

WE NEED AN ACCURATE
HEAD COUNT FOR
VOLUNTEERS. PLEASE
CONTACT ONE OF THE
ABOVE POCS AND SIGN UP!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

AT THE SPECIAL BONSAI AUCTION

BY GEORGE HAAS

Dennis and Joanne Makishima have donated their entire personal bonsai collection and related materials. Some 40 years of accumulation in bonsai history. This is the largest donation ever of bonsai trees and related materials to the Bonsai Garden at Lake Merritt, Oakland, California. This auction will feature legacy pines and more from the mid-1950's to early 1960's, significant to the Japanese American bonsai pioneers - Iseya-ma Furusawa, Mas Imazumi, Jimmy Inadomi, Toshio Saburomaru, Peter Sugawara, Johnny Uchida, and others. This is an extraordinary, one of a kind auction.

Sale following immediately after auction.

All proceeds from this fundraiser will go to support the newly created Dennis and Joanne Makishima Curator Fund. Join us on Saturday, July 9th for a rare opportunity to bid on and purchase bonsai trees from the Dennis and Joanne Makishima collection.

- Set up at 8:00 AM
- Preview Auction - Vista Room at 11:00 AM
- Welcome - Vista Room at 12:00 PM
- Live Auction - Vista Room at 12:15 PM
- Sale - Ebell Room after auction
- Silent Auctions - Garden Room
- Tear down 4:00 - 5:00 PM

BGLM needs the support of volunteers to make this event a success! Volunteers are needed in the following areas:

- Early morning tree transporters from BGLM to Garden Center
- Auction, Silent Auction and Sale Room set ups
- Kitchen crew
- Auction runners
- Auction recorders
- Bidder sign ups
- Cashiers
- Auction, silent auction and Sale Room tear downs
- Security and Tear down 🚧





Beginners' Bonsai Workshop

**TUESDAY JULY 19 AND 26, 2022 AT 7PM-9:30PM
TERRA LINDA COMMUNITY CENTER, ROOM 4
670 DEL GANADO RD
SAN RAFAEL, CA 94903**

**CREATE YOUR
OWN BONSAI
TREE!**

**LEARN FROM
SOME OF THE
BEST IN MARIN!**

Create your very own bonsai tree!
Learn hands-on techniques such as
pruning, styling, wiring, and basic care.

One tree and materials will be provided to each student.

The workshop will be led by our senior club members who have decades of experience. Everything you need will be provided to create your very own bonsai tree.

The fee for a session is \$65 per person (\$55 for club members). Reservations are required and there is a limit of 8-10 students per class. Please reserve your spot at https://bit.ly/mbc_beginners_bonsai_workshop and send a check to Marin Bonsai Club, P.O. Box 1461, Ross, CA 94957 to secure your spot.

The proceeds will help fund future club demonstrations and activities. We look forward to sharing this wonderful and fascinating hobby with you!

* There will be no meeting on the first Tuesday of the month, July 5th.

**NEW EARLIER
START TIME**



MARIN BONSAI CLUB

Joint Fundraising Sale with REBS

**SATURDAY AUGUST 6, 2022 FROM 10AM-4PM
TERRA LINDA COMMUNITY CENTER, BASKETBALL COURTS
670 DEL GANADO RD
SAN RAFAEL, CA 94903**

**BUY YOUR OWN
BONSAI TREE!**

**FIND RARE POTS
AND TOOLS!**

**SURPRISES
AROUND EVERY
CORNER!**

The Marin Bonsai Club and Redwood Empire Bonsai Society will be hosting an outdoor fundraising sale.

We extend an invitation to the entire bonsai community to join us. There will be pre-bonsai, bonsai, pots, tools, and more. We will accept cash and checks.

Join us for your bonsai shopping needs and to help our clubs raise funds for our educational programs for 2022 and beyond.

For details, contact Diane Matzen at dcmatzen@gmail.com or George Haas at gwhaas@comcast.net. Visit the Redwood Empire Bonsai Society at <https://www.rebsbonsai.org/>.

* There will be no meeting on the first Tuesday of the month, August 2nd.

MARIN BONSAI CLUB
SALES DONATION OR CONSIGNMENT FORM

Please Print

Page ____ of ____

Name: _____ Date: _____

Telephone Number(s): _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Email Address: _____

Please complete information above and columns A - D for each sales item: Column A = Donor's initials + number, i.e. GH-1
Choose how you would like to donate:

- To donate all sales proceeds to the MBC check ☒ column C
- To donate 20% of sales proceeds to MBC check ☒ column D

A	B	C	D		
Donor's initials - #	Description (Name, size, style, etc.)	Donation 100%	Consign-ment	Price	Owed to Donor
Totals					

Sales official(s) reserve the right to remove material deemed unhealthy from the Sale.

Remainder of form to be completed by club officials.

Page Total/Owed to Donor	
All Page Total	

Page _____ of _____

Page _____ of _____

Name: _____

	This Page Total Owed to Donor
--	--------------------------------------

Bonsai Events

SPECIAL MAKISHIMA BONSAI AUCTION

**JULY 9, 2022
SATURDAY 11 AM - 4 PM**

**THE LAKESIDE PARK
GARDEN CENTER
666 BELLEVUE AVE.
OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA**

Join us on Saturday, July 9th for a rare opportunity to bid on and purchase bonsai trees from the Dennis and Joanne Makishima collection.

- Preview Auction - Vista Room at 11:00 AM
- Welcome - Vista Room at 12:00 PM
- Live Auction - Vista Room at 12:15 PM

Sale following immediately after auction. All proceeds from this fundraiser will go to support the newly created Dennis and Joanne Makishima Curator Fund.

JOINT BONSAI SALE BY MBC AND REBS

**SATURDAY AUGUST 6, 2022
11AM-4PM**

**TERRA LINDA COMMUNITY CENTER
670 DEL GANADO RD
SAN RAFAEL, CA**

Joint Bonsai Sale, hosted by MBC and REBS, on Saturday, August 6, 2022, from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., at the Terra Linda Community Center, 670 Del Ganado Rd, San Rafael. The sale will include established and starter bonsai trees, pots, tools, etc. Checks and cash accepted. Free admission. Parking available. For details, contact Diane Matzen at dcmatzen@gmail.com or George Haas at gwhaas@comcast.net.

THE SECOND JOHN Y. NAKA MEMORIAL BONSAI EXHIBITION

**AUGUST 20-21, 2022
10AM-5PM**

**244 SO. SAN PEDRO ST.
LOS ANGELES, CA 90012**

The second John Y. Naka Memorial Bonsai Exhibition (formerly known as Nambu Kai) during Nisei Week, George J. Doizaki Gallery, JACCC, 244 So. San Pedro St., Los Angeles, CA 90012, 10am to 5pm.

GSBF BONSAI RENDEZVOUS 2022

**SATURDAY AND SUNDAY
OCTOBER 8 & 9, 2022**

**HOTEL MISSION DE ORO
13070 S. HIGHWAY 33
SANTA NELLA, CA 95332**

Annual GSBF event held at Hotel Mission de Oro, 13070 S. Highway 33, Santa Nella, CA 95322. Free and open to the public. 30+ vendors from northern and southern California as well as several out of state vendors will be on hand both days.

Admission is free, donations are appreciated. Free demonstrations throughout the days. Bring-your-own bonsai work area. Mel Ikeda and his tomodachi group will demonstrate the art of creating bonsai amongst friends. Silent auctions of bonsai trees and related material will be held both days. Consignment silent auction sells opportunities are available. Rendezvous hotel room rate \$155 two-night minimum. For more information contact Rich Guillen at richguillen@att.net or (831) 348-5015.

MIDORI BONSAI CLUB SHOW

SATURDAY 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.

THE CAPITAL CITY BONSAI ASSOCIATION SHOW

**JANUARY 21 & 22, 2023
10AM-430PM**

**TEMPLE CITY LIVE OAK PARK
COMMUNITY CENTER — LIVE OAK ROOM
10144 BOGUE ST
TEMPLE CITY, CA 91780**

The Capital City Bonsai Association Show will be held at The Shepard Garden and Arts Center (in McKinley Park), 3330 McKinley Blvd. Sacramento, CA 95816. Show hours are 10 am - 4 pm both days. The show is a benefit to raise funds for the Bonsai Garden at Lake Merritt and will feature trees from American Bonsai Association, Sacramento; Bonsai Sekiyu Kai Sacramento Bonsai Club; and the Satsuki Aikokai Association

The sale will include established and starter bonsai, pots, tools etc. Admission is free. Contact Paul Holtzen for more information at pbholtzen@sbcglobal.net.

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.

59TH WINTER SILHOUETTE SHOW AND SALE

JANUARY 21-22, 2023

**TEMPLE CITY LIVE OAK PARK
COMMUNITY CENTER
LIVE OAK ROOM
10144 BOGUE ST.
TEMPLE CITY, CA 91780**

59th Winter Silhouette Show and Sale, Temple City Live Oak Park Community Center, Live Oak Room, 10144 Bogue St. Temple City, CA 91780, 10am to 4:30pm. Sales and demonstration at 1pm on both days. Deciduous bonsai are featured from club members and invited guests. The Nagata-Komai award will be presented, and there will be a demonstrator at 1pm on both days. There will be a sales area with club and vendor plants, pots, tools and more. For more information, please visit baikoenbonsai.com or email Joe Galgoul, joegalgoul@yahoo.com. 🌳

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. 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