



MARIN BONSAI CLUB

2022 June Newsletter

AUTOMATED WATERING SYSTEMS



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

JUNE DECANDLING

BEGINNERS' WORKSHOPS

JOINT AUGUST SALE

MAY DEMO RECAP

BGLM DOCENT REPORT

b•hyve

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, June 13 at 7pm on Discord.

COVER PHOTO

The faceplate for the B-Hyve Smart Watering controller. (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.

MARIN BONSAI CLUB BOARD MEMBERS AND OFFICERS

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Tung X. Dao

SECRETARY
Brendan Crotty

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BOARD MEMBERS
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Daniel Keller
Diane Matzen

BGLM DOCENT COORDINATOR
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NEWSLETTER EDITOR
Tung X. Dao

PROGRAM CHAIR
Brendan Crotty

SHOW CHAIR
Brendan Crotty

WEBMASTER
Sharon Bone

Reach us at
info@marinbonsai.org

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

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BY TUNG X. DAO

Our unusual weather continues with some heatwaves in May and small showers in June. Keep an eye on those trees on those hot days! All it takes is one hot day and that can mean bad news for some of the smaller ones. Besides that, our trees should be growing vigorously and have lots of leaves that will be hardening off soon.

COUNTY FAIR SHOW POSTPONED

With much sadness, I announce that our club will not be presenting at the County Fair this year. Having an outdoors show was deemed too risky by many of us. The logistics and tree safety concerns of having an outdoors show led to very few people volunteering their priceless trees for display. We wanted to keep the bar high, and a show doesn't quite feel right with 3 or 4 trees, does it?

That said, please give a hand to everyone who was willing to volunteer their time! We had a wonderful show of help with our volunteer sign ups with 18 of us who were willing to help. I hope we continue this spirit into next year.

Also, please give a hand to the many people who helped prepare us behind the scenes. Brendan, for arranging and dealing with so much of the behind the scenes of this. Dan, for helping coordinate the volunteers. Candace and Chris for their valuable wisdom and advice. Jay for teaching us how to prepare our trees (hopefully we remember for next year!) and for knowing who to talk to. Gwynessa for helping us out with leading a meeting and for your powerful spirit. Marcia for keen eye for consistency and for your advice. Diane for signing up for almost all the shifts and helping with arrang-

ing the beginner's workshop. John Doig, for your wonderful insights and for keeping the bonsai spirit alive for the next generation of artists. Sharon, for keeping everyone up to date with our online presence. And lastly, the show organizers for inviting us back and helping us with organizing everything. I hope I got everyone!

We have all tried to make it work out, but we will hold our heads high and set our sights on next year's show. I understand that the organizers will be doing their best to have us back indoors again next year. Fingers crossed!

JUNE DEMOS

We will have a very special double feature for the first meeting of June. On June 7, we will have a presentation on *Automated Watering Systems* by myself and another on *Black Pine Decandling* by Candace and Chris.

I will be going over some of the many different kinds of automated watering systems, the pros and cons of each, and some sage advice that I have gathered from many years of using the various systems.

The black pine demonstration is just in time for decandling season. This starts in June and typically goes until about the end of July. This is a great opportunity for those of you who have black pines as you can work on them for the 3rd Tuesday open workshops.

BEGINNER'S WORKSHOP

In July, we will have a beginner's workshop. This is a wonderful opportunity for our newer members to get their hands dirty with learning some bonsai basics. In small groups, we will be showing you the basics of

bonsai such as pruning, styling, wiring, and care. Other major techniques of bonsai will be introduced.

There is a fee for these workshops which helps fund future club programs. Members get a discount and early sign up. This year the fee will only be \$65 per person, and \$55 for members.

I have included a flyer for us to share with our friends. Feel free to print them out and post them wherever there's a bulletin board.

AUGUST JOINT SALE

We will be doing a special Joint Sale with REBS in August. This is a great opportunity for us to sell those bonsai trees, pots, and gear. I know the last one was a while back, so we are all looking forward to this.

The sale will be from 11am-4pm on August 6. Set up is at 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!

BGLM DOCENT VOLUNTEERS

Please give Candace and Chris a huge hand for volunteering as docents at the Bonsai Gardens at Lake Merritt (BGLM). They

had a great time continuing our tradition of helping out at the Gardens. Please see their write up on their experience there.

If you have never volunteered at the Gardens, it's a fantastic opportunity to give back to the community and meet wonderful inquisitive people who visit the Gardens. No extensive experience with bonsai required, any one can do this!

MEMBER TREE SALES

George Haas and I were talking about adding a member tree sales section to the newsletter. If you have a tree that you'd like to feature for sale in the newsletter, please send them my way. We request that at least 20% of the sale goes towards the club to fund future programming and demonstrations. Send a photo and any descriptions you would like to go along with it. Who would like to be the first one? 🌳

PS: I would like to thank George Haas for the photos of the Makishima collection in the previous newsletter.

JUNE DOUBLE FEATURE

TUESDAY JUNE 7, 2022, 7PM AT TLCC

New to Bonsai? Don't have a watering routine yet? Traveling for vacation? How will our trees get watered? Our president Tung Dao will be giving a demonstration on automated watering systems.

This demo will cover all sorts of systems from simple gravity systems, to manual timer systems, to smart controllers. He will discuss the pros and cons of each type of systems and how they affect your trees.

Also, it's June, and that means it's decandling season for Japanese Black Pines. Chris and Candace will be doing a demonstration on how to do this essential task.

Please bring in a tree for a quick show and tell after intermission if you have something that's in season.

We will have our regular 3rd Tuesday general workshop in June. 🌲

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. 🌲

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.

VOLUNTEERING AT BGLM

BY CANDACE KEY

Chris and I had a terrific docent experience at the Bonsai Gardens at Lake Merritt last Saturday. The weather was perfect, and being a holiday, many people were taking a leisurely day to explore Oakland, and the Gardens were high on their list of must-see places to visit. Out-of-towners and locals enjoyed the gardens in their own way, some being awed by the quality of the trees, or the peacefulness of the gardens, or asking detailed questions on how they could get involved in bonsai. It made for a satisfying shift answering so many questions and seeing the love so many people have for bonsai. The garden is in its summer glory and there is so much to learn from just observing these world class trees.

We also got a preview of some of the books, pots, scrolls, and other items that will be auctioned and sold at the Special Auction of the Dennis Makashima collection July 9. Organizers can use some help in sorting and pricing items, so if you have time to volunteer with any aspect of this very special event please let George Haas (gwhaas@comcast.net) know and he will put you in touch with the right people.

There is so much to enjoy and learn at the Gardens and we are happy to partner newbies with seasoned pros on an upcoming docent shift. Please contact Dennis Plaut if you would like to get involved. You won't regret it! 🌳

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. 🌳

RECAP: JAY'S SHOW PREP DEMO

BY CANDACE KEY

It felt like old home week at our May 17 meeting. Many long-time and new members came to see a top notch presentation by the ever-entertaining, talented, senior club member Jay McDonald. What had been planned to be a show-prep presentation was quickly turned into a mini show of fabulous bonsai from Jay's collection when it was announced that Marin Bonsai Club has pulled out of the Marin County Fair this year due to security and logistics concerns.

Jay artfully pivoted to discussing each of the trees showcased, noting their origin—sometimes humble—and his development and care techniques which transformed them into the magnificent specimens they are today.

There was time for a bit of show-and-tell of member trees which proved educational too as Jay and other members commented. Keep reading for some of the highlights of the presentation.

JAPANESE BLACK PINE

First up was a **Japanese Black Pine**, the *King of Bonsai*. Jay quoted several of his teachers as saying "If you don't have a JBP in your collection you aren't doing bonsai." The variety Jay presented looked a little different from the typical JBP because of its cork bark.

He demonstrated the decandling process which he was doing early in the season because the cork barked trees grow more slowly than the typical JBP and would need more time in the summer growing season to put out new buds. For the usual variety June and early July are the months for decandling, but, as Jay would mention often during the presentation, don't do anything strictly by the calendar or because some teacher told you to do it. Look at your trees, determine their health and condition of soil, size of candles and other factors before doing any work on your tree. The reason for decandling is to develop needles of the same size on the tree and develop ramification.

Jay also emphasized the importance of wiring on JBP. The branches just will not be in the right places without wire. Copper is used on conifers because it will hold the branches in place better than aluminum and looks nicer. Wiring can be done right after decandling so as not to disturb new buds that will be coming in during the summer and fall.

Needle plucking and reduction of new buds is done around November and fertilizing throughout the year is recommended for the best results.

REDWOODS

Moving on to the **redwood trees** Jay again emphasized the importance of wiring. He wires almost all branches on a tree when he begins styling so they can be used to fill in blank areas and create the serene look we associate with redwoods.

The larger of the two trees Jay has worked on for many years and he revealed the trick he used to create a tapered apex where they had been just a flat cut. It helps to be a finish carpenter to execute some of these techniques, but the results are spectacular.

Jay also discussed a tree he works on for member Peter Miller and demonstrated how the length and direction of branches can be controlled with aggressive pinching in the growing season. When doing this it is important to keep the shape of the tree you want to create in mind and leave the lower branches longer than the top. Don't be in a hurry, stop and step back to check your work frequently. Don't be on auto-pilot with any work you do on bonsai.

BLUE ATLAS SPRUCE

The **Blue Atlas Spruce** Jay brought we mostly just admired. Good specimens are difficult to find and Jay was delighted to bring this tree into his collection, admiring it for the soothing blue color, large trunk and magnificent branch development.

Again, wiring is key to having a tree look the way you want it to. It will take spruces longer for the branches to set and it might require 3 wirings over 5-6 years to get it just right. Maintenance is easy with just frequent plucking of old and long needles behind the smaller needle bundles, but beware, BACs don't bud back, so do everything possible to preserve the buds closer to the trunk.

LIQUIDAMBAR FOREST

The **Liquidambar forest planting** was in need of defoliating which led to a general discussion about when to do it and which trees will tolerate it. Many members have been in the practice of defoliating their deciduous trees a few weeks before the Marin

County Fair in order for the leaves to look proportional to the tree, which is the main point of defoliation.

For a look at this lush forest in winter silhouette check out this video Eric Schrader created of Jay in his bonsai garden paradise.

SATSUKI AZALEA

The **Satsuki Azalea** presented had been sick the year before and Jay discussed what he did to bring it back to health. While it had many beautifully colored flowers on it they were not regularly spaced and there were a few open areas that caused the tree to look out of balance.

Jay has been feeding the tree consistently with Miracle-Gro and told us he would take all the flowers and buds off the tree the next day to preserve the strength of the tree, developing stronger branches which could later be styled to bring the tree back to its full beauty.

He also mentioned the danger of watering azaleas too much. They like to be moist, but not wet and he is using yamagoki moss as a top layer on his azaleas to keep moisture in without the need for watering so much. (Gorgeous satsuki azaleas were on display at the Bay Area Satsuki Aikokai show in Oakland, May 21-22 at the Garden Center at Lake Merritt.)

UME

Jay's **Ume (Japanese Apricot)** is often the hit of the winter BABA show because it is filled with flowers on its graceful silhouette, but we saw it with small apricots replacing the flowers and it was full of them.

Jay noted the necessity of reducing the number of fruit so as not to deplete strength from the branch development, and because the weight of too much fruit can break branches. His recommendation for making successful fruiting/flowering bonsai is feed-feed-feed!

CALIFORNIA JUNIPER

One of Jay's favorite trees is his **California juniper** which he bought for a song because the collector didn't see much potential

in it. Jay completely changed the orientation of the tree to be upright instead of horizontal and has worked on the deadwood areas consistently to create the contrast between live and deadwood.

A California juniper as light and delicate as this one is unusual and Jay continues to bring out the best of this tree with his vision and artistry—planning for another subtle change in position in the pot at repotting time adding to the grace and elegance of his tree.

SHOW AND TELL

We also had time for show-and-tell with members' trees which proved instructional.

Two pyracanthas were shown, one by Candace which has been developed over 6-7 years and needed only a light haircut to have been ready for the Fair, and Diane's newly rescued tree which needs new soil and removal of the berries to direct strength back to the branches so she can have the fun of working on it in another year or so.

Chris showed his honeysuckle which is always a hit at the Fair because of the sensuous shape of the trunk and lovely, fragrant flowers. People are amazed that a vine can be made into a bonsai and proves the point that some wonderful material can be found in urban collecting. (Be sure to get permission before you dig.) The hit of the show-and-tell session was Susan's juniper which she got at the Beginning Bonsai workshop in 2018. It has grown well and looks healthy, ready for a haircut and some wiring. We don't often see beginning bonsai trees do so well in the hands of beginners, but Susan showed she has the chops to make beautiful bonsai.

It was a great meeting and we want to thank Jay for making the effort to bring so many beautiful trees to impress and enlighten us, and members for bringing their trees to discuss. It was a great learning experience for all. 🙏



Eric Schrader of Bonsaify produced [a wonderful video of Jay's Garden](#). Some of the trees from this demo can be seen in this multi-part series.



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.

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.



Joint Fundraising Sale with REBS

**SATURDAY AUGUST 6, 2022 FROM 11AM-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	Price	Owed to Donor
Donor's initials - #	Description (Name, size, style, etc.)	Donation 100%	Consign-ment		
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	

MBC SALES DONATION/CONSIGNMENT- Continuation Form

Please Print

Page _____ of _____

Name: _____

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

This Page Total Owed to Donor

SEI BOKU BONSAI KAI 37TH ANNIVERSARY BONSAI SHOW

SATURDAY AND SUNDAY
JUNE 4 & 5, 2022
10AM-4PM WITH SPECIAL EVENTS AT
1PM BOTH DAYS

SAN MATEO GARDEN CENTER
605 PARKSIDE WAY
SAN MATEO, CA

Come celebrate Sei Boku Bonsai Kai's 37th Anniversary Bonsai Show, June 4 and 5, 2022, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the San Mateo Garden Center, 605 Parkside Way, San Mateo. Saturday demonstration by Steve Iwaki at 1:00 p.m. Sunday workshop by Jerry Carpenter and Valerie Monroe at 1:00 p.m. Raffles, door prizes, tree clinic, vendor sales, plant sales. Free admission. POC is Jeremy Foster at coastaqua@yahoo.com.

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

The Marin Bonsai Club regrets that due to the logistics of tree safety for an outdoors show, the club will be postponing our wonderful show until 2023. Once things are indoors again, please come back and check out our show at the County Fair!

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.

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.

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. 🌳

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