



MARIN BONSAI CLUB

2022 March Newsletter

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MARINBONSAI.ORG

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BY TUNG X. DAO

The weather is starting to warm up and cause a lot of my trees to bloom and buds to start pushing out. It is a magical time of the year as we exit winter and enter springtime. I can feel the excitement as I make plans for each tree this growing season.

I hope you all experience the same joy that I do when I check in on my garden every morning. With that said, we have some really important events coming up to note.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

For March, we have a Peer Tree Critique program. This program is a favorite of mine as I am always eager to hear the various opinions the club members have about how to go forward with trees.

I have also appreciated learning about other people's trees and the various techniques that could be used to improve their trees. As I hear the feedback, I think about how those techniques could be used on my trees that I may not have brought in.

It's also a great opportunity to prepare your tree for our Cherry Blossom show next month. I look forward to seeing what kinds of trees we will all be bringing in.

April will be a program not to miss. We will be having the renowned Bjorn Bjorholm present for us over Zoom from his Tennessee studio. I hear the topics we will be discussing will very interesting.

The third Tuesdays of each month continue to be our open workshop. Bring in some trees, maybe a friend or two, we'll all learn something new.

UPCOMING SHOWS

We also have two shows coming up. We need your help to make the shows successful.

The first show is the San Francisco Cherry Blossom Festival on April 16-17. Please [sign up](#) by March 3rd for a spot on one or both days. You can bring trees that are show ready or trees in training to work on. People will have many questions about the trees and they would love to see the process of training and developing a tree into a show ready tree.

The second show is our beloved Marin County Fair. This year's show will be special in that it will be outdoors. Please [sign up](#) for this event as well, as we will need all the help we can get for the 5 day event.

MASKS

I am pleased to announce that masks will no longer be required for those who are fully vaccinated for our club meetings. As long as things go well, we hope that it will stay this way. Those who wish to continue to wear a mask are welcome to do so.

DUES

It's been brought to my attention that some of our members haven't renewed our membership for this year yet. Please consider renewing your membership to continue to support our club as we work tirelessly to organize wonderful bonsai events for us. This year will have many interesting and new topics for all of us at Marin Bonsai.

To all the renewing and new members: our Treasurer, Membership Chair, board members, the whole club, and myself thank you. The future is looking bright at Marin Bonsai Club. Thank you all so much and I hope to see you at our next meeting! ■

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 March 29 at 7pm on Discord.

COVER PHOTO

A shohin Sawara Cypress by Dan Keller for the 2022 Mammoth Auction and Sale.
(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

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

SHOW CHAIR
Brendan Crotty

WEBMASTER
Sharon Bone

Reach us at
info@marinbonsai.org

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

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PEER TREE CRITIQUE

MARCH 1, 2022 AT 7PM AT TLCC

The first Tuesday meeting of March will be our Peer Tree Critique program. This is a wonderful opportunity to bring trees that you would like advice on.

We will have time to review at least one of each person's trees, so bring in no more than 3 trees. Each person will have about 5 minutes on the stage to tell us about their tree and for the members to provide feedback on the tree.

This is a great opportunity for both beginners and experienced practitioners. For beginners, it's great to learn about various techniques that are appropriate for a variety

of trees. If you are experienced, it's a great opportunity to share your thoughts and teach the next generation of bonsai artists. No RSVPs necessary for this program.

The third Tuesday program will be an open workshop. As usual, if you would like to work with an instructor, please RSVP at <https://bit.ly/marinbonsai-rsvp>.

However, RSVPs are not required and there are no limits to attendance. Feel free to bring a friend or two, even if they don't have a tree to work on! Someone will be around to guide you if you need help. Happy tree critiquing season to all of us. ■

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 topics are to be determined.

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. ■

CHERRY BLOSSOM SHOW

APRIL 16-17, 2022 AT THE JAPANTOWN PEACE PLAZA IN SAN FRANCISCO

Our club has been invited to participate in the 2022 Northern California Cherry Blossom Festival in San Francisco.

This will be a fantastic time to show our trees and share our passion of bonsai to the public. Our club has been invited to the 2nd weekend of the festivities. Each day will run from 11AM-6PM.

We would like you to sign up for any day that you are available as well as what kind of trees you are willing to display. **Please RSVP at <https://bit.ly/marinbonsai-rsvp> no later than March 3rd** so we can inform the event organizers of our club's intent. ■

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.

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 2022 AT TLCC

Further ahead, we have decided to do a joint sale with REBS in August. They will be joining us for a weekend at TLCC where we will be having a club sale. More details to come.

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. ■

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

TASKS FOR MARCH

BY THE TASKMASTER

Most bonsai artists in the Northern California Mediterranean-type microclimates learn to love the month of March, and there are several good reasons for that.

Spring comes earlier to our gardens than to those in most other places, and the deeply satisfying elongations of buds on the trees into bursts of color, leaves, and blossoms can delight and inspire us while others may still have to wait.

REPOTTING

Along with that pleasure comes a wake-up call to action. The repotting of dormant deciduous plants should be all safely finished by now, or nearly so, and second on the list were the broadleaf evergreens; these are followed by the conifers and junipers which should be done by April.

Some of the deciduous trees can still be repotted late, if some of the buds aren't opened yet and the leaves aren't fully formed. Some care must be taken to spare more of the roots and to keep the rootball fully moistened during the process, which may mean you can't use that perfect pot or correct the root pattern as much as you would like to. Sometimes it's better just to wait and flag it for early repotting next year if it still drains moderately well.

Sometimes drainage can be improved by raking off the top half inch or so of soil, driving a Phillips screwdriver down completely through the rootball in a dozen or so places to admit water and oxygen, and topping it back up with new soil. But it should be noted that it will need to be checked more frequently and watered differently from everything else all year long, usually requiring a little less water but a little more often.

PEST CONTROL

Along with the new leaves and blossoms come new pests and early insects. Most of these can be eliminated by one or more of a few simple methods.

1. Knock them off with a strong spray of water (not too strong or you will damage new growth).

2. Spray with a teaspoon of dishwashing soap in a gallon of water.
3. Spray with 2 cups of peroxide in a gallon of water. Get the common 3% peroxide at the drugstore.

One of these should be done every week through the Spring. Don't forget the junipers—they are budding now, or very soon, and most of their problem pests are not really visible until the damage they do is advanced. Any tree not budded out and all the junipers can still be sprayed with dormant strength horticultural oil, usually 4-5 tablespoons, about two ounces or so, per gallon of water. Since it's a *smotherant*, it's best to spray it early in the morning and then rinse it off of green foliage like juniper after an hour or so, so the new buds can breathe.

FERTILIZATION

Any tree young enough to just need rampant growth can be fertilized but with some exceptions, the trees that you have begun to shape need to have more control and grow more slowly so that internodes don't elongate too much and control is possible. Fertilizing can wait for awhile on these trees.

March is cool, a fun month to be in command of the garden. Then things get tough. Stay tuned. ■

HAIKU FOR EARLY SPRING

Winter left its mark
Scarring the weak, and the old.
Springtime brings new life.

Pacific Bonsai Expo

HOW YOUR CLUB CAN SUPPORT THE PACIFIC BONSAI EXPO

BY JONAS DUPUICH

I've received questions from clubs in recent weeks about what they can do to support the Pacific Bonsai Expo this fall. They're excited about the event and they want to help! As part of documenting the process of how the event is coming together, I thought I'd share suggestions for how bonsai clubs can support regional bonsai events like the Expo.

My top suggestion is for clubs to spread awareness about the exhibition among its membership. This can include mentioning the event at club meetings and publishing dates and venue information in the club newsletter and on social media accounts ([#pacificbonsaiexpo](#); see dates and venue info for the Expo below).

Clubs are also in a great position to encourage their members to submit trees for juried exhibitions like the Expo or the U.S. National Bonsai Exhibition. Encouraging members to submit trees can raise awareness about the club (the Expo will note club affiliations, if any, with accepted entries) and help clubs identify members who can show trees in their own exhibitions.

Some clubs have looked at providing services to their members that relate to the exhibit.

By hosting a photo day, clubs can help members set up displays and take photos so they can submit their trees to the jury for consideration. (The submission period for the Expo is open now through April 30.)

Clubs can also arrange for accepted entries to be driven to the exhibit. For clubs that aren't close to the Oakland, California, venue,

setting up a car pool can help members get their trees to the exhibit and reduce the number of cars headed to the event.

On the education front, clubs can present programs on exhibit-related topics like evaluation, display, and show prep. I've presented on these topics to a number of local clubs and there are a variety of enthusiasts and professionals around the country who are well-qualified to lead similar programs. Some clubs (Bay Island Bonsai is an example) include discussion of member displays at every monthly meeting!

One thing I haven't seen much in the US is the idea of a "club display." This would be any display that includes components contributed by different club members. The approach can work well with small and medium sized trees in that multiple members can contribute trees or an accent that will be displayed together.

We did this informally at the Bay Island Bonsai exhibit when we mixed and matched display elements including trees, stands, and accents. By doing the matching up front it can be much easier to create a display with multiple elements like a shohin display, and it could help make a submission more competitive by combining multiple outstanding display elements.

If your club is located in the greater Bay Area, it might be in a good position to provide resources to help the event run smoothly.

Clubs can encourage members to volunteer at the event. We're currently looking for project leads, and once we've identified



PACIFIC BONSAI EXPO 2022

these we'll put out a general call for volunteers later in the year.

Ambitious clubs are welcome to serve as project lead by managing the volunteers for an aspect of the event like security or the front desk. You can see a list of project lead opportunities on the Expo Volunteer page.

There are also opportunities for clubs to support the event financially. One way to provide support is to cover exhibitor's fees for any members whose trees are accepted for display. Clubs are also welcome to sponsor awards or make direct contributions to the event (see Donations and Sponsorships for details).

If you have questions about any of the above suggestions or have additional suggestions for how bonsai clubs can support regional events, feel free to note them in the comments below. ■

THE PACIFIC BONSAI EXPO

AN EXHIBITION OF
EXTRAORDINARY BONSAI

THE BRIDGE YARD

OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA

NOVEMBER 12-13, 2022

Editor's Note: Our club will be planning a photoshoot later in the year to practice photographing our trees for events like this. Stay tuned for more information.

This article was originally published on <https://bonsaitonight.com/2022/02/18/how-your-club-can-support-the-pacific-bonsai-expo/>. Republished here with permission from the author.

UPPER RIGHT: Photography setup at the 2014 U.S. National Bonsai Exhibition.

LOWER RIGHT: Shohin display at the 2019 Gafu-ten.



Mammoth Auction

MAMMOTH AUCTION & SALE 2022

BY GEORGE HAAS (MAMMOTH AUCTION & SALE CHAIR)

I want to thank all those MBC members who volunteered to help out with the 2022 Mammoth Auction & Sale over the weekend of February 19 and 20, 2022. I don't want to mention names for fear of leaving one out, but there were many of you who spent a day or the two days at the Lakeside Park Garden Center, Oakland, CA. I believe some of you even got the opportunity to visit the Bonsai Garden at Lake Merritt.

2022 Mammoth Auction & Sale recorded a new high in gross receipts from the live auction on Saturday. There were 110 auction items. Only one bonsai tree was returned to its owner having a reserve bid price of \$1,500.00. Sometimes having a high reserve bid price works against you in a live auction. There were some 120 bidder number cards and catalogs sold. The Vista Room at the garden center was packed with standing room in the rear only. Bidding was very lively, ranging from \$100.00 to \$1,100.00 for bonsai trees.

Vendors and bargain sales took place on Sunday from 9:00 a.m. for vendors and 10:00 a.m. for bargain sales. The vendors did extremely well. Some bonsai supply items were sold out, especially akadama soil.

The attendees for bargain sales started to line up outside the entrance doors to the garden center before 8:00 a.m. Bargain sales included bonsai trees, pre-bonsai, pots galore, display stands, bonsai equipment, etc. Only a few items remained at the 3:00 p.m. closing.

Some 100 or so sealed lunches were served both days to the volunteers. About 20 sealed lunches were sold to vendors and attendees for \$8.00. The awesome sandwiches were prepared for the event by Safeway, Grand Ave., Oakland, CA.

"THE VISTA ROOM AT THE GARDEN CENTER WAS PACKED—WITH STANDING ROOM IN THE REAR ONLY—AND THE BIDDING WAS VERY LIVELY!"

COVID protocol required verified vaccinations and issued wristbands for entry to the garden center. Some 500 wristbands were issued. We ran out of wristbands early Sunday and resorted to marking in ink "VC" (aka Very Cool). Attendance was robust for the two-day event.

Again, I want to thank all the volunteers and attendees for making the 2022 Mammoth Auction & Sale a great success in fundraising for the Bonsai Garden at Lake Merritt.

Hope to see everyone in 2023. ■



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, virtually!

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.CUPERTINOCHERRYBLOSSOMFESTIVAL.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

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

ADDISON SCHOOL
650 ADDISON STREET
PALO ALTO

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 co-chairs: 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

9AM-4PM
MAY 14-15, 2022

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.

VALLEY BONSAI SOCIETY 12TH ANNUAL SHOW

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

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*.

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. ■

Minutes 'n Things

Below are the board meeting minutes. Present were Tung, Brendan, Dan, Diane, Candace, and Michael.

1. MASKS: Pending on what TLCC responds with, we agreed to end the mask requirement if TLCC does the same. We expect TLCC to have the same rules as the county, which is masks are no longer required. People will be encouraged to do what they feel comfortable with in terms of masking up.
2. MARCH DEMO: I will reach out to Chris Ross to lead our Peer Tree Critique. If he can't commit, then I'll lead.
3. BJORN: April 5th, 7pm confirmed. Topic TBD. REBS and Midori will be splitting the costs at \$150 per group. Tung will cancel our TLCC Reservation for that date since this will all be online. Only members in good standing can obtain the link, non members can for 5(?) dollars.
4. JONAS: Possible demo for later this year.
5. MARIN COUNTY FAIR: We are confirmed a spot. Will be outdoors. June 30-Jul 4. Could do a hybrid mini show/instructional area. We will need to get people to sign up for trees for the show.
6. FUTURE PROGRAMS: Yamadori hunting weekend, nursery tour, automated watering systems, jades, kintsugi (golden joinery ceramics repair), Pacific bonsai expo prep.
7. FINANCIALS: We have about \$6500 in the bank at the moment. The club will continue to get GSBF membership and general liability and volunteer accident insurance.
8. MEMBERSHIP: Dan will reach out to members who have not paid via email. The board agrees that not enough people responds to the outreach, we will charge non-paying members (as well as non-members) who show up to our meetings.
9. NEWSLETTER: No major updates. Will need to rush March edition out because of other commitments.
10. WEBSITE: No major updates. Sharon has been working on updating the websites. Would love to hear about any progress.
11. REBS AUGUST JOINT SALE: REBS would like to join us for an August sale. We will be having one in August.



Pablo repotting his windswept juniper at our February repotting session.