



MARIN BONSAI CLUB

2022 May Newsletter

VOLUNTEER FOR THE COUNTY FAIR

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

SHOW PREP

**AUTOMATED WATERING
SYSTEMS**

**BGLM DOCENTS
NEEDED**

MAKISHIMA AUCTION

**EBBS BONSAI
AUCTION**

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BY TUNG X. DAO

We've been having some crazy weather lately. From rain, to wind, to a short heatwave. Keep an eye on those trees, they should now be growing vigorously and will take up quite a bit of water. Once the leaves harden off we can start our pruning work on a majority of our trees later this month.

SHOW PREP WITH JAY MCDONALD

With the County Fair coming up, we are getting ready from all fronts. To get the ball rolling, Jay McDonald will be hosting a Show Preparation Program for us in May. There's so much that is involved in preparing a tree for show, so he will demonstrate some of the tasks that are involved in doing so.

He will be bringing in a lot of trees to show us, so if you are able to arrive a little early to help him set up, he would appreciate that a lot.

SHOW VOLUNTEERS

In order to have a successful show, we will need all the help we can get. If you are an active member, please consider helping out in anyway you can. A sign up link is provided in the newsletter email that you can put your availability into. Our membership chair Dan Keller will be following up with all of us to make sure that we are well staffed.

New to bonsai? No fear! You don't have to exhibit a tree to volunteer. The public will be very curious about your experience in discovering bonsai from a beginner's perspective. We will also be coaching on you some common questions. They will also love to hear about what made you get into this wonderful hobby. With your help, we hope to get some new members so we can continue to share our passion for bonsai with Marin and beyond.

If you've been doing bonsai for a few years but don't have a formal tree, we will have an area for trees in training. We can show the public the various stages that trees go to become a formal bonsai.

If you are interested in displaying a tree, please submit pictures of your trees to our Discord server that so the planning team can decide where it will go in the display.

AUTOMATED WATERING SYSTEMS

For the month of June, I will be leading a demonstration on the various watering systems that exist. I have used a variety of systems as I lived in different living situations.

It has always been a challenge for me to find someone to take care of my trees while I'm on vacation or travel. Throughout the years, I've used very simple systems with varying levels of success. My current system is almost completely hands off. It takes into account the weather, estimates how much water my trees need, and waters accordingly. There's so much to learn so I hope to see you at this meeting.

BGLM DOCENT VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Our club has a responsibility to volunteer at the Bonsai Garden at Lake Merritt on the morning of the 4th Saturday of each month. However, in the last two months, we have not been able to send anyone to the Gardens. I hope we will be able to turn that around and continue to help out the bonsai community.

Volunteering is not difficult. You will be coached on what to do there. The best part is you get to see behind the scenes at the Gardens. They have a wonderful collection of trees there that are worth the visit.

I will pass around a sign up sheet at the next meeting. We hope to get some volunteers to keep this wonderful garden alive and well. If we are unable to fulfill our duties, we may have to withdraw from this commitment as a club.

APRIL MEETING RECAP

A huge shout out to Bjorn Bjorholm for a wonderful demonstration for all of us last month. Members from all three clubs took away some great knowledge from Bjorn. From all of us, thank you!

If you missed it, a recording was made for our libraries. The link is available to all members in good standing. Please contact Dan Keller if you need this link and haven't gotten it. 🙏

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

The next board meeting will be on Monday, May 9 at 7pm on Discord.

COVER PHOTO

A sunset over the Marin Civic Center, the location of the County Fair taking place in June and July.
(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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SHOW PREP WITH JAY MCDONALD

TUESDAY MAY 3, 2022, 7PM AT TLCC

Does my tree need moss? Is some wire ok to have for my tree on display? Can I display my tree in training? Should I shine my pot? So many questions for us as we get ready. Our club show coordinator Jay McDonald will show us how to prepare our trees for the show.

He has been helping the club prepare for many of our past shows, and he is back to share this wonderful knowledge with us. There's a lot to do, so come on by and see what it takes to get a tree show ready. 🌳

AUTOMATED WATERING SYSTEMS

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. 🌳

COUNTY FAIR CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

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

The Marin County Fair 2022 is nearly upon us, less than three short months will come quickly. We have a tentative plan in place, and we will need club members to help put it on. It will be a lot of work so every person's assistance will be needed. Whether it be in supplying their bonsai for the show or a shift to speak to crowds of eager visitors excited to see the MBC trees back on display—any and all participation from MBC members is appreciated.

The tentative plan: we will be setting up the day before the opening, with getting our tables in order, the displays out, the white sheets over, the lighting, and watering system. The trees will be kept in the Auditorium overnight, locked inside and out of sight of anyone. They will come outside every morning, an hour before the fair opens, and watered heavily before being placed on their designated spots on the display shelves. I know a lot of people have been concerned about the heat for some of the trees, but luckily we are going to be kept in the shade of the auditorium and trees from 10am through the rest of the day, with constant misting every hour.

There will be an interactive area for people to put their hands on different soil types and feel and see the difference between reg-

ular Marin soil, bonsai soil for conifers, soil for deciduous, and then just Akadama, Pumice, and Lava Rock to help people understand why substrate is so important in bonsai.

Every night the bonsai will come in around 7pm and put behind black screens so that no one can accidentally spot them. The access door to the auditorium has only one side available to the public and it will be used by this time only for the rest room. Security will be setting up barriers to prevent people from wandering around at that time.

The schedule for people to sign up for shifts or volunteer to bring bonsai can be found in the newsletter email. You may wish to only have bonsai available for a certain number of days, in which case that is completely fine and do indicate that on your sign-up.

Please sign up for a few shifts and display trees at the link in the newsletter email. We need at least 4 people per shift, so take a look at shifts that have less than that.

If you would like to display some trees, sign up on the second page in the spreadsheet. Also, please send pictures to our Discord server so we can plan accordingly.

Our main goal with the fair will be to get people to sign up for beginner's workshop in July. More details on this to come. 🌳

JULY BEGINNER'S WORKSHOPS

JULY 2022 AT TLCC

After the show, we will be having our beginner's workshops to introduce those new prospective members from the Fair. We will be having a limited number of workshop

spaces available. A tree and pot will be provided to each student. More information to come. 🌱

AUGUST SALE

AUGUST 6, 2022 AT TLCC

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

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

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.

Special Auction

SPECIAL BONSAI AUCTION

ANNOUNCEMENT 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—Iseyama Furusawa, Mas Imazumi, Jimmy Inadomi, Toshio Saburomaru, Peter Sugawara, Johnny Uchida, and others.

Most Japanese American hobbyists started their bonsai from seed in the 1950's after release from WWII imprisonment, making this an extraordinary, one of a kind auction.

Dennis took his first bonsai lesson in 1982. He had the wonderful opportunity to learn from the Japanese American pioneers in California. Their teachings instilled the styling and caring for trees with the traditions and philosophy of the Japanese living bonsai art form.

The first aesthetic pruning class at the Oakland's Merritt College Landscape Horticulture Department was a bonsai basics class taught by Dennis on December 12, 1986. Dennis then started an aesthetic pruning course at Merritt College which led to the formation of the Aesthetic Pruning Club in 1987.

The personal bonsai collection of Dennis grew over the years to more than 500 trees,

JULY 9, 2022
SATURDAY 11 AM - 4 PM

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

consisting of legacy pines, maples, junipers, and California yamadori native trees.

Dennis served an instrumental role for creating the Bonsai Garden at Lake Merritt, which opened its gates in November 1999.

Dennis served as president of the Golden State Bonsai Federation (GSBF) from 2002 to 2003.

Dennis was credited for his contribution to the Sunset Bonsai book in 2003.

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. 🙏



EBBS
JUNE 2022
BONSAI
AUCTION



east bay
Bonsai
society

June 8th

**Preview
7:00pm**

**Live Auction
7:30pm**

Lakeside Garden Center,
666 Bellevue Avenue,
Oakland, CA



The East Bay Bonsai Society will be having an in-person bonsai auction on Wednesday, June 8th in Oakland, California! The auction will start at 7:30pm with a preview at 7:00pm. It will include established and starter bonsai trees, pots, tools, etc. Credit cards, checks, and cash accepted. Sales tax will be added to purchases. Masks are required.



eastbaybonsai.org



[/EastBayBonsaiSociety](https://www.facebook.com/EastBayBonsaiSociety)



[@EastBayBonsay](https://twitter.com/EastBayBonsay)

Bonsai Events

CUPERTINO CHERRY BLOSSOM FESTIVAL

APRIL 30 & MAY 1, 2022

**MEMORIAL PARK
CUPERTINO**

[WWW.CUPERTINOCHERRY
BLOSSOMFESTIVAL.ORG](http://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

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

**ADDISON SCHOOL
650 ADDISON STREET
PALO ALTO, CA**

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

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

For more information contact show 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

**MAY 14-15, 2022
9AM-4PM**

**LOTUS BONSAI NURSERY & GARDENS
1435 LOWER LAKE DRIVE
PLACERVILLE, CA 95667**

This is the not-to-be missed once a year sale at the nursery. Big discounts on all bonsai trees and stock plants.

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

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

**666 BELLEVUE AVE.
LAKESIDE PARK GARDEN CENTER
LAKE MERRITT**

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

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

VALLEY BONSAI SOCIETY 12TH ANNUAL SHOW

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

ALDEN LANE NURSERY
981 ALDEN LANE
LIVERMORE, CA 94550

The finished tree will be raffled off at the end of the demonstrations. Bonsai pots, soil, etc. available for purchase. Admission is free.

MARIN COUNTY FAIR

JUNE 30-JULY 4, 2022
MARIN COUNTY CIVIC CENTER

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

SPECIAL BONSAI AUCTION

JULY 9, 2022
SATURDAY 11 AM - 4 PM

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

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MIDORI BONSAI CLUB SHOW

OCTOBER 1, 2022
QUINLAN COMMUNITY CENTER
10185 N STELLING RD
CUPERTINO, CA 95014

The Midori Bonsai Club will be having our annual show this October at the Quinlan Community Center. We may be joined by a local Ikebana club who has been presenting with us over the last couple of years. More details to come.

PACIFIC BONSAI EXPO

NOVEMBER 12-13, 2022
THE BRIDGE YARD
OAKLAND, CA

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. 🌳

WWW.PACIFICBONSAIEXPO.COM

Minutes 'n Things

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

1. 3rd Tuesday of April space at TLCC confirmed. Was a little confusion from TLCC about whether or not we would be using the space.
2. BJORN: Thank you note from Tung sent to Marcia. Marcia sent out the check to Bjorn. \$150 from Midori to be handed to Marcia. Zoom meeting link is uploaded and sent to Dan who will be distributing the link.
3. March Minutes were approved.
4. BRANDING: Tung reached out to some banner makers. Got quotes for around 80-180 dollars. He will follow up with one of them to go ahead and produce.
5. POT DONATION: Belinda Yee will be donating some pots to the club.
6. AUGUST SALE: Tung followed up with Debbie on it. Will be waiting to hear back as necessary.
7. PROGRAMS: Jay McDonald will be leading the May program to prepare us for the show.
8. SHOW LOGISTICS: We will push to get more volunteers. Diane will ask George who has the stuff for the show. Jay has a lot of the display materials.
9. We will create a sign up sheet and make a push for volunteers at the next meetings.
10. Brendan will prepare a rough schedule.
11. Show will have a formal display area and a trees in training area.
12. ~3 shifts a day.
13. Need to get materials for beginner's workshop.
14. Brendan to explain the tree security in a newsletter blurb.
15. Ultimatum to the club: If we don't get enough volunteers by the end of May, we will withdraw.
16. Marcia reports the balance as of 4/28 is \$6016.11
17. Dan needs a letter template for 501(c)3 letters. 📄



Bjorn explains the schedule for conifers to the members from the three clubs from his gardens in Tennessee in a pre-recorded video. The video was very informative and information packed as the members from the three clubs attended.

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