



MARIN BONSAI CLUB

2023 July/August Newsletter

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

**BEGINNER'S WORKSHOP
AND AUGUST SALE**

SALE TAGS AND FORMS

MARIN LIVING MAGAZINE FEATURE

MARINBONSAI.ORG

BEGINNER'S WORKSHOPS

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BY TUNG X. DAO

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.

For July, our only meetings will be the two beginners workshops on July 18 and 25.

For August, our first meeting of the month will be the Sale on August 5, followed by our usual Third Tuesday Workshop.

The next board meeting will be on Monday, July 10 and August 14 at 7:30pm on Zoom. Please contact Tung if you would like to attend.

COVER PHOTO

A close up of wires and bonsai tools. Photo by Tung X. Dao.

MARIN BONSAI CLUB BOARD MEMBERS AND OFFICERS

PRESIDENT
Tung X. Dao

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Brendan Crotty

TREASURER
Susan Stapp

BOARD MEMBERS
Gwynessa Aetherwyn
Daniel Keller
Susan Sullivan

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MEMBERSHIP
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NEWSLETTER EDITOR
Tung X. Dao

PROGRAM CHAIR
Candace Key

WEBMASTER
Sharon Bone

Reach us at
info@marinbonsai.org

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

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I am so pleased to announce that our beginner's workshops have been sold out with further interest on a waitlist. I want to thank everyone who has been involved in making this program a success: the board, the instructors, the club members, and — just as importantly — the students. We hope that the new beginners will embark on a wonderful journey into bonsai with the help of everyone in our club.

I also want to give a special thanks to Caitlin Hamer for interviewing several club members for the Marin Living Magazine feature on our club. The outreach that this article has provided for us has been invaluable for introducing bonsai to Marin and Beyond.

BEGINNER'S WORKSHOP

Both workshops filled up within a few weeks of the initial announcement. Sharon, our webmaster kept the website up to date with the current availability. I kept a watchful eye on the count so that I could close sign ups as soon as it filled up. We still managed to get 2 overflow students and more have expressed interested in a future workshop that we're hoping to accommodate.

For us club members, please come to the Workshops to help the instructors as they lead their small group of students. Pay attention to what students will need to know on their first lesson. Some day we will be looking to you to pass on the knowledge to a future group of beginners.

If you would like to bring in some refreshments such as drinks or other easily shareable treats, please feel free to do so. We will all welcome it.

AUGUST SALE

The August 5th sale is coming up. Please look through your collection for trees, tools, and materials that you think another prospective member or beginner would find useful. This is a great chance for you to upgrade your trees for something more developed.

All of the beginners from the workshops will be looking out for new material to continue their bonsai journey with.

Please attach a sales tag for each item

that you bring in. Sales tags will be provided at the beginner's workshops or you can print your own. Additionally, fill out the Sales Form and hand that to the cashier at the beginning of the Sale.

Please be generous with the donation to the club on the sales form. There is a 20% minimum, but your generosity helps keep the club going.

It's best to fill out the tags and forms prior to the Sale.

The sale will start at 10am to the public, but club members who help set up will get a thank you in the form of a pre-purchase of 1 item at 9:30am.

Please let your friends in other clubs nearby know about this sale! We will also have a vendor who will be selling a wonderful collection of bonsai as well.

OCTOBER SHOW

In addition to our usual demonstrators, I want to highlight our upcoming mini-show in October.

Earlier this year, we tried to see if we could do a full day weekend show at the Terra Linda Community Center. However, the logistics of a full day show did not prove to be feasible. However, we still want to do a small show so that we can practice for next year's show (fingers crossed).

Thus, for the first Tuesday of October, we will be having an evening show with the goal of practicing show set up. We still start an hour earlier to learn the basics of setting up for a show. Those of you who cannot make the earlier start time are still encouraged to bring in your trees at our usual 7pm and set up your trees.

This means we'll need to start thinking about getting our trees ready for the show. Start cleaning up and shaping the tree so that it's presentable by October. We would like everyone to be able to bring in at least one tree to share with us. The exact number is to be determined.

Please sign up at <https://forms.gle/aI-PuXsokdd1bRiyY7> so we can start planning.

Please invite friends and family to come see our hard work. 🌳

Please Print

Page ____ of ____

Name: _____

Date: _____

Date: _____

Telephone Number(s): _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Email Address: _____

- 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					

Remainder of form to be completed by club officials.

Page Total/Owed to Donor	
All Page Total	

MBC SALES DONATION/CONSIGNMENT- Continuation Form

Page ____ of ____

Name: _____

[illegible]

This Page Total Owed to Donor

Club News

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 tung@marinbonsai.org.

UPCOMING CLUB EVENTS

Unless noted, the 3rd Tuesday of each month is an open workshop. Members are invited to bring in trees to work on or ask questions. Non-members are invited to attend to find out how our club can help with their bonsai journey.

JULY

BEGINNER'S WORKSHOPS

The **3rd and 4th Tuesdays** (18th and 25th) of July will be our Beginner's Workshops. These are now fully booked.

We will need your help to make the program possible. Please let us know how you can help to make this program a success.

AUGUST

CLUB SALE

The **first Saturday** (5th) of August will be our club fundraiser sale. This will be a chance to support the club by offering some of your collection for sale for the club's benefit. Of course, you can also help by purchasing the stuff offered for sale or by spreading the word about it.

Do you know someone who wanted to get into bonsai? Here's an opportunity to get them something to get their feet wet.

AVAILABLE CLUB POSITIONS

We have a few positions available if you are able to help the club out.

IT/TECH DEVELOPER

We are looking for someone with experience with IT/web infrastructure. This includes web design, databases, and other small programming tasks. We want to be able to bring our Bonsai Club into the modern age.

SOCIAL MEDIA

The club could use a social media chair. This person would maintain the club's online and social media presence by posting relevant updates and media for the public.

SEPTEMBER

Jonas Dupuich, a local bonsai expert will share his techniques for **evaluating our trees**. This will help you improve your trees by looking at them more objectively.

OCTOBER

We will have our **mini-show**. This is a good chance to use the analysis tools in Jonas's September show to evaluate our own trees. Please invite friends and family to this.

NOVEMBER

Bill Castellon will show us **Japanese Black Pine Maintenance** for the fall and winter months.

DECEMBER

We will close out the year with a **Winter Holiday Party** and show decoration contest.

There will be no 3rd Tuesday workshop in December! 🎄

NEWSLETTER

The newsletter one is an interesting one because I'll be mentoring you on the art of layout editing. I'll need a little assistance in the long term making these very important newsletters for the club. (Don't worry, I'll continue doing it for as long as I my schedule allows.)

If this is something you're interested in learning, let me know and I'll be happy to teach you how to use InDesign or similar to produce these newsletters!

CLUB HISTORIAN

Help digitize historic club documents and document current activities. 📄

BGLM DOCENTS

Our club has a commitment to support the broader bonsai community. One of the ways we do this is by being a docent at the Bonsai Gardens at Lake Merritt.

Docenting there is a joy and it's not difficult. If you are a first timer, please talk with an experienced member about what it's like to help out at the Gardens.

Your visit there will inspire you. The Gardens has dozens of masterfully crafted trees with rich histories. *Beginners are strongly encouraged to docent with an experienced member in their first year.* It will be an eye-opening experience for you.

Please contact Art to see when the next available docent spot is. 🌳

Living Art

LIVING ART

A MARIN LIVING MAGAZINE SPOTLIGHT

FEATURING AN ARTICLE BY CAITLIN HAMER OF MARIN LIVING MAGAZINE

BY TUNG X. DAO

Earlier this year, we reached out to Casey Gillespie, creative director of *Marin Living Magazine* to see if we could do some community outreach. Casey put us in touch with Caitlin Hamer, Associate Editor of *Marin Living Magazine* to interview a few club members about the bonsai scene in Marin.

Caitlin interviewed Candace Key, Jay McDonald, and Tung Dao about our experiences with bonsai. The following spreads include the feature of our club as printed in the Magazine's July/August 2023 edition, shared here with permission. 🌳



Living Art

The Marin Bonsai Club proves resilient, even after setbacks caused by the pandemic.

By Caitlin Hamer

Jay McDonald's home

FOR THOSE WITH GREEN THUMBS, there's nothing more satisfying than tending plants, perhaps especially the ones that exist primarily for decorative purposes. Among the most famous of aesthetically pleasing plants are bonsai trees. The love for cultivating these tiny trees has spread around the world from Japan, and dedicated groups of enthusiasts are clustered into clubs throughout the Bay Area. It's no surprise, given that the local climate is so bonsai friendly, allowing Japanese tree species like maple, black pine and juniper to do well here.

While Tung X. Dao, president of the Marin Bonsai Club (www.marinbonsai.org), succinctly describes bonsai as the art of growing miniature trees in pots, he admits it can actually be a little more complicated than that: "When we say mini trees, they can range in size," he says. "The pots can be as small as something you pick up with two fingers or something that requires being transported by a van and four people to lift it."

For novices and experts alike, there seems to be a deep love of artistry when it comes to bonsai, and learning


Tung X. Dao (this page and opposite)

techniques to influence the shape and size of the trees is a key component. "I like the challenge, and watching the trees go through their cycles of growth and trying my hand at guiding them in the way I desire," says Candace Key, a past president of Marin Bonsai Club. Dao adds, "Once you get into bonsai you realize there's a choreographed communication, a dialogue between the tree and the artist."

But that particular dialogue isn't the only communication happening in the bonsai community; the ability to engage with like-minded hobbyists to seek advice and trade tips is why this club has been going strong ever since it was founded in 1958. Though the pandemic halted its regular activities, the club has mostly returned to normal, although member numbers have dwindled in recent years. But the enthusiasm among the members remains the same, and the knowledge that local bonsai devotees have now surpasses what they had in the past. Club meetings often feature demonstrations on specific topics that can range from automated watering systems to how to prepare a tree for a show, but there are also workshops that allow members to perfect their skills and gather knowledge from senior members like Jay McDonald.

"I've studied with three of the top six guys in Japan," says McDonald. Among the numerous trees he maintains, some of them don't even belong to him; he's knowledgeable enough that members of the local bonsai community can entrust their trees to him as needed. But he loves it enough that a few extra trees are a blessing rather than a hassle.

"They're visual jewels," he says, but he connects to them on a much deeper level, as well. "We owe trees about as much as anything on the planet — for oxygen, shade, wood, beauty."

Though bonsai trees can require plenty of time and dedication, the club strives to keep the hobby accessible for whoever is drawn to it. The skills can be learned, but passion seems to be the biggest requirement. "What I love about bonsai is that there is always something to learn, always room for improvement, endless skills to perfect," says Key. "A bonsai tree is never done, unless it is dead." 

Marin Bonsai Club is holding its annual August sale on August 5 at the Terra Linda Community Center in San Rafael, where members will be selling trees and materials for working on bonsai. Beginners' workshops will be held July 18 and 25 and an open workshop will be held on August 15.



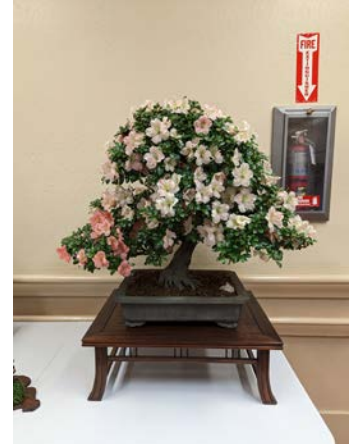
Jay McDonald pruning a bonsai tree

Previously

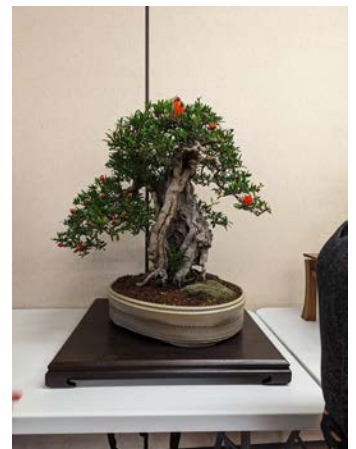
JAY MCDONALD PRESENTATION

In our June presentation, Jay McDonald gave a presentation on some of his trees that will be entered into the REBS show in August. He gave some growing and styling

tips, as well as shared some of the stories behind each tree. He concluded with a short demonstration on how to pinch redwoods. 🌲



Photos by Tung X. Dao



Bonsai Events

Events from the Golden State
Bonsai Federation website.
[https://www.gsbfbonsai.org/
events](https://www.gsbfbonsai.org/events). New events highlighted
with asterisks.

***GSBF GOLDEN ZOOM WITH PETER TEA**

ONLINE

MONDAY, JULY 24, 2023

A GSBF Member-Clubs-Only, Live stream event with Peter Tea. Peter will discuss structure and pad development for Junipers. Followed by live Q & A.

Link to be shared when available via club mailing list.

REBS 37TH ANNUAL BONSAI SHOW

SATURDAY, AUGUST 26, 2023
10:00 AM – 5:00 PM (4PM SUNDAY)

5401 SNYDER LN
ROHNERT PARK, CA 94928

The return of the Redwood Empire Bonsai Society hosting its 37th Annual Bonsai Show. New modern facilities with AC. Featuring the international renowned bonsai artist Ryan Neil as guest demonstrator.

***14TH INTERNATIONAL BONSAI & SUISEKI - CRESPI CUP 2023**

FRIDAY-SATURDAY
SEPTEMBER 16-17, 2023

CRESPI BONSAI
S.S. DEL SEMPIONE
35 20015 PARABIAGO (MI)
ITALY

Meet the great master Kunio Kobayashi
Get the chance to meet a great protagonist of the bonsai world to CRESPI BONSAI!

From 15th to 17th September, in Parabiago - Milan, to the Crespi Cup 2023 will be present, among others, also the famous master Kunio Kobayashi with demonstrations, workshops and lectures.

OPENING TIMES Friday 15th September:
6.30-11.00 p.m. Saturday 16th and Sunday
17th September: 9.00 a.m.-7.00 p.m

Go to: www.crespicup.it

SIERRA BONSAI CLUB SHOW

SEP 23, 10:00 AM – SEP 24, 4:00 PM

3192 BOYINGTON RD
PENRYN, CA 95663

The Sierra Bonsai Club will display bonsai and suiseki in the temple as well as outdoors in conjunction with the Placer Buddhist Church Food & Cultural Festival Bazaar all weekend.

Dine in the outdoor covered tents with friends/family, visit cultural booths of food and crafts, bingo, entertainment, & children's games. A bonsai demonstration will be in the program inside the temple. The bonsai will be auctioned at the completion of the demonstration. Winner must be in attendance.

Phone: (+1) 9163008103

YAMATO BONSAI KAI SHOW

*SATURDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2023
11:00 AM – OCT 15, 5:00 PM*

*32975 ALVARADO-NILES RD
UNION CITY, CA 94587*

Exhibition of Bonsai trees, plant sales, and vendors. Free admission and free parking. Demonstrations on both days at 1:30 pm, featuring Jonas Dupuich on Saturday and Yamato Bonsai Kai Club demonstrator Howard Correa on Sunday. For updates find us on Facebook at "Yamato Bonsai Kai"

Demonstration trees will be raffled off as grand prize each day. For more info and updates find us on Facebook by searching "Yamato Bonsai Kai".

Phone: (+1) 510-378-9150

Email: irishfishboy@yahoo.com

EAST BAY BONSAI SOCIETY SHOW

*SATURDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2023
11:00 AM – OCT 15, 5:00 PM*

*LAKESIDE PARK GARDEN CENTER
666 BELLEVUE AVE
OAKLAND, CA 94610*

The show features an impressive exhibit of quality bonsai as well as a demonstration by Jason Chan, owner of Eastern Leaf Bonsai Nursery, past board member of GSBF and author of a bonsai book dedicated to helping beginners and new bonsai enthusiasts.

There will also be a raffle, silent auction and a sale of bonsai and related materials. For information, visit our website at www.eastbaybonsai.org.

Or contact Michael Hylton mhylton@rocketmail.com.

GSBF RENDEZVOUS

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2023

*HOTEL MISSION DE ORO
13070 CA-33
SANTA NELLA, CA 95322*

Bonsai Sales ▪ Auction ▪ Workshops ▪ Lectures ▪ Community.

***CALIFORNIA BONSAI SOCIETY ANNUAL EXHIBIT**

*SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 04, 2023
10AM-5PM*

*1151 OXFORD RD
SAN MARINO, CA 91108*

Three demonstrations each day at 1:00 pm. No Reception. For more information, please contact Lindsay Shiba: shibalindsay@gmail.com or check the website: californiabonsaisociety.com or phone 323-828-2162.

60TH WINTER SILHOUETTES SHOW BAIKOEN BONSAI KENKYUKAI

SATURDAY JANUARY 13, 2024

*301 N BALDWIN AVE
ARCADIA, CA 91007*

First bonsai show of the year, bonsai trees in their leafless glory. Bonsai, pre-bonsai, pots, and tools for sale. Giant raffle/auction and entertainment. Demonstrations both days at 1:00 pm. For more information, please contact Joe Galgoul, joegalgoul@yahoo.com or phone 323-828-2162. 🌳

Resources

BONSAI RESOURCES

Here are some resources for bonsai materials, both online and in-person.

This is a work in progress, please send suggestions in and we'll make this an even better list.

LOCAL PROFESSIONALS

Jonas Dupuich — Bonsai Tonight
Eric Schrader — Bonsaify
Matthew Walker — Bonchi Bonsai
Peter Tea
Boon Manakitivipart

MATERIALS

Bonsai Tonight
Bonsaify
Bonchi Bonsai
First Branch Bonsai
Lone Pine Gardens
Mendocino Coast bonsai
Evergreen Garden Works
Driftwood Bonsai
Carman's Nursery (bonsai starters and nursery material)

EDUCATION

Mirai Live
Bonsai U
Bonsai Empire

MUSEUMS AND ASSOCIATIONS

Golden State Bonsai Federation
Bonsai Gardens at Lake Merritt
The National Bonsai and Penjing Museum
at The United States National Arboretum

BLOGS

Peter Tea Bonsai
Bonsai Tonight
The Art of Bonsai Project
Bonsai Empire

Minutes

2023 June Board meeting Agenda and Minutes

Board members: Tung Dao, Susan Sullivan, Gwynessa, Dan

BAR: Do we need an indoor room at the August Sale?

Vote to cancel the indoor room as we didn't need it last year.

MSC: Tung, Susan, Gwynessa, Dan

FYI: Add Dan to Stripe account.

BAR: Add Donate button to website?

MSC: Dan, Tung, Susan, Gwynessa

August Sale: need to reach out to potential vendors.

Programs:

Sept: Jonas

October: Still working on

November: Bill Castellon

December: Party/Tree Decoration Contest

Treasury: \$6687.93 as of Jun 12.

2023 July Board meeting Agenda and Minutes

Attending: Gwynessa, Susan Sullivan, Susan Stapp, Tung

BAR: Move backend to Google Workspace?

Let's see how feasible it is, if it is, go for it.

MSC: Gwynessa, Susan Sullivan, Susan Stapp, Tung

BAR: Beginner's Workshop, should we look into getting a few additional trees for an upcoming mini-beginner's workshop?

Yes, but only if we can get a teacher to agree to this and get trees.

MSC: Gwynessa, Susan Sullivan, Susan Stapp, Tung

BAR: Club Sale: Let's not do a live auction at noon, too much logistics that hasn't been done.

MSC: Gwynessa, Susan Sullivan, Susan Stapp, Tung

Programs

October: do a club mini show to show people how to set up for a show.

Membership

Dan has called and emailed club members. We are now at a strong 55 members, including some lifetime memberships.

Treasury

As of the board meeting, \$8283.41 in the bank. Lots of revenue from the workshops.

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. **Docenting at BGLM is especially encouraged for new members.** Thank you!

If you are a continuing member, please fill out this form if you need to update your information with us.

To pay for your membership online, please go to <https://marinbonsai.org/membership>. We encourage you to sign up for an automatically renewing membership.

If you would like to pay by check, please make checks payable to **MARIN BONSAI CLUB**. Please send your check and application to:

MARIN BONSAI CLUB
PO BOX 6645
SAN RAFAEL, CA 94903