



# MARIN BONSAI CLUB

2024 January Newsletter

MARINBONSAI.ORG

## REPOTTING WORKSHOPS

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

REPOTTING

BGLM DOCENT TOUR

OLE LAUSTSEN—BONSAI STAND  
MAKER

HAPPI COATS

BABA BONSAI SHOW

GOLDEN ZOOM — MIKE LANE

MAMMOTH AUCTION AND SALE

25 YEARS OF BGLM





# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BY TUNG X. DAO

Happy New Year, everyone! I want to welcome all of us into 2024. I can't wait to find out what it has in store for us ahead.

## NEW YEAR, NEW BOARD

At the meeting in December, we elected two new board members, Nadine Zimmerman (Secretary) and Julius Clado (Social Media). Their enthusiasm and ideas will surely contribute to the future of the club.

Our returning board members are Susan Sullivan (Programs), Susan Stapp (Treasurer), Dan Keller (Membership and Workshop Instructor), Gwynessa Aetherwin (Programs), and myself (President). Longtime member Candace Key will be Programs Chair Lead and a Board Member At Large. Our Docent Coordinator will be Art Wasserman. Our Workshop Instructors will be Chris Ross, John Doig, and Dan Keller. Our webmaster continues to be Sharon Bone.

## LOOKING FOR A NEWSLETTER EDITOR

I am currently looking for someone to take over making the newsletter. I have some commitments that I need to devote more time. I will continue to make these as time allows. If you have a background in graphic design or are interested in learning how to put together a newsletter, feel free to reach out to me.

Our newsletter has been a vital source of information for members and prospective members alike. I have thoroughly enjoyed putting together the newsletters for the previous 2 years and will continue to do so when I am able to.

On a related note, if you would like to contribute stories from events you've attended, bonsai found during travels, and your successes and failures with bonsai, please submit them for the newsletter.

## UPCOMING PROGRAMS

It's repotting season! Get those trees, soils, and pots ready. January and February meetings are devoted to helping you with this important part of bonsai.

Our **Tuesday January 09** meeting will be an open repotting workshop. Beginners are

welcome to come to this meeting to watch how it's done. Then, on the **Tuesday January 16** meeting, we will have a demonstration that goes into repotting step-by-step and in more detail.

These workshops continue into February, as well.

Workshop fees are \$5 for smaller trees and \$10 for a larger tree for these workshops to help fund club expenses. You are welcome to bring in your own materials at no charge. Our instructors look forward to helping you with these!

## BGLM DOCENT TRAINING AND TOUR

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.

On **Saturday January 27** is our BGLM Tour and Docent Training. If you are a new member in the last year, you are strongly encouraged to attend this meeting. The Bonsai Garden is a very inspiring place and a place where we can welcome others to take up this art form and hobby.

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.

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 Wasserman at **jessnart@comcast.net** to see when the next available docent spot is.

## ANNUAL DUES

With the new year, we would like to remind everyone that it's time to renew your membership. You are welcome to pay at a meeting, send us a check to our PO Box, or you can pay online via credit card. You also have the option of setting up an automatically renewing membership so you don't have to worry about that next year.

Your continuing support helps our club thrive and keep our hobby for generations to come. Thank you! 🌱

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, January 22 at 6:30pm. It will be an in person dinner at Susan Sullivan's place. Please contact Tung if you would like to attend.

### COVER PHOTO

Exposed root style tree by Jay McDonald. Photo by Tung X. Dao.

### MARIN BONSAI CLUB BOARD MEMBERS AND OFFICERS

**PRESIDENT**  
Tung X. Dao

**SECRETARY**  
Nadine Zimmerman

**TREASURER**  
Susan Stapp

**BOARD MEMBERS**  
Gwynessa Aetherwyn  
Daniel Keller  
Susan Sullivan  
Julius Clado

**BGLM DOCENT COORDINATOR**  
Art Wasserman

**PROGRAM CHAIR**  
Candace Key

**WEBMASTER**  
Sharon Bone

**MEMBERSHIP**  
Daniel Keller

**SOCIAL MEDIA**  
Julius Clado

**NEWSLETTER EDITOR**  
Tung X. Dao

Reach us at  
**[info@marinbonsai.org](mailto:info@marinbonsai.org)**

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

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# 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](mailto:tung@marinbonsai.org).

## UPCOMING CLUB PROGRAMS

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.

### JANUARY AND FEBRUARY

2nd and 3rd Tuesdays of January are our Repotting Workshops. The 3rd Tuesday of January will be a demonstration on repotting.

The 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of February continues the repotting workshops.

Workshop fees help fund future club activities, and you are welcome to bring your own supplies. The club has the proper Akadama and Pumice mix needed for most trees.

## ADDITIONAL BONSAI EVENTS

For additional events, please check out the Golden State Bonsai Federation events page at [gsfbbonsai.org/events](https://gsfbbonsai.org/events). 🌳

We will be accepting membership dues at meetings.

Saturday January 27 is our Docent Training and Club Tour of the Bonsai Garden at Lake Merritt (BGLM). Please contact Art Wasserman for more details.

### FROM OUR PROGRAMS CHAIR

An exciting slate of programs is coming together for the year, but we would still like to hear what topics our members would like to see presented, and activities they would like the club to sponsor. Please contact Candace at [mckassoc@yahoo.com](mailto:mckassoc@yahoo.com) with suggestions. 🌳

## 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.

### 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.

### REFRESHMENTS

Bring each meeting to life by providing the club with snacks and drinks. 🌳

# Stand Maker

## DANISH SIMPLICITY WITH JAPANESE DESIGN

COURTESY THE ARTIST

Originally from Copenhagen, Denmark, Ole Laustsen began his career as a woodworker in 1952, when he entered a five-year apprenticeship to become a Master Cabinetmaker. His descriptions of his days as an apprentice sound very like descriptions of a bonsai apprenticeship in Japan: long hours of physical labor, menial tasks, and exacting standards. He learned the skills and techniques to make refined pieces of Danish furniture.

In 1965, Ole emigrated to the United States with his wife, and soon after began to work for McGuire Furniture Company in San Francisco. It wasn't long before he was running the shop. In the forty years Ole worked at McGuire, he made furniture for the famous, including kings, Presidents, and Hollywood stars. The White House and the Rockefeller Estate commissioned pieces. One of Ole's tables has been featured in Architectural Digest.

In retirement, Ole has not given up his love of working with wood. At 86, he is in his garage shop almost every day, making

or repairing furniture and other woodwork for friends, neighbors, and others who seek him out. He takes commissions of all kinds. When he hasn't been working on projects for others, he's made cutting boards in three different sizes, each with 50 different species of wood, the largest with 900 pieces, each piece a different size.

Neighbors like to drop by his garage just to see what Ole is working on. Recently, he fitted out a new large Mercedes travel vehicle with fine woodwork furnishings, perfectly fitted into the contours of the van's space. Also recently, a friend commissioned him to make a small stand for a black pine she would display at the annual exhibition of Kusamura Bonsai Club of Palo Alto. He found such an interest and satisfaction in his work on that stand that he decided he would devote his time and effort to create more.

Ole's bonsai stands are a blend of Danish simplicity and craftsmanship with Japanese design and architecture. He works with high quality woods, including walnut, maple, cherry, and oak. He has been pleased



*Photos courtesy Ole Laustsen.*



recently to use reclaimed redwood and cedar. The grain, burl, and live edges just beg for special treatment.

He welcomes commissions for bonsai stands with custom designs and sizes. Currently he charges \$85.00 per hour for his custom work. For the stands he has made so far, prices range from \$250.00 to \$500.00, just barely covering his labor. He enjoys the work and is happy to complement his customers' refined bonsai trees with the quality of stand they deserve. He may be reached at [ole.laustsen@gmail.com](mailto:ole.laustsen@gmail.com). 🌲







# Happi Coats

## CLUB HAPPI COATS UPDATE

BY TUNG X. DAO

We have been working hard behind the scenes with our vendors to make our happi coats. The samples have come in for adult and children's sizes. We will have them at the January meetings for you to look at. 🌳





# **Bay Area Bonsai Associates**

## **42th Annual Bonsai Exhibit**

**January 13 & 14, 2024**

Lakeside Park Garden Center at Lake Merritt  
666 Bellevue Avenue, Oakland, CA

**Exhibit Displays, Snacks, Presentation, Plant Sales, Raffle**

**Presentation on Pines by Bill Castellon**

**Saturday, January 13, from 5:00 pm to 9:00 pm**

Exhibit and Plant Sale area open

Presentation on Japanese Black Pine by Bill Castellon from **6:30 pm**

**Sunday, January 14, from 10:00 am – 4:00 pm**

Exhibit and Plant Sale open

*Admission Is Free. Parking fee to the Lakeside Park entrance is required during park hours.*





Monday January 22, 2024

6:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. (PDT)

Golden State Bonsai Federation invites member clubs  
to our 2024 first quarter Golden Zoom series  
featuring Florida's Mike Lane.



Mike will discuss Clip and Grow theory and application: focusing on proportion and wound closure. Contrary to popular belief, clip and grow refers to the growing theory of allowing trunks and branches to attain desired diameter before being cut and has little to do with whether wire is used or not.

We will send the Zoom link to GSBF clubs, who are encouraged to share it with their membership.

See you there!



George Haas

December 20, 2023 at 11:47 AM · 🌐



On January 6, 2024, all auction bonsai trees and related items will be photographed for the auction catalog and posting to the website. Now is the time to consider donating or consigning your bonsai in support of the Mammoth Auction & Sale, scheduled for February 17 and 18, 2024. All proceeds go to support the GSBF Bonsai Garden at Lake Merritt, Oakland, CA.



# *Mammoth Auction and Sale 2024*





# 25 YEARS OF THE BONSAI GARDEN AT LAKE MERRITT

BY GEORGE HAAS

On November 6, 2024, the Golden State Bonsai Federation's Bonsai Garden at Lake Merritt, in Oakland, California, will be celebrating its first 25 years. It was as early as 1974, when the concept for the bonsai garden came about during a conversation between Toicho Domoto and Bill Hashimoto, two notable Japanese American bonsai pioneers. They were interested in preserving bonsai produced in northern California. They understood bonsai required a permanent place to continue to thrive. They asked themselves what will happen when we can no longer care for and maintain our bonsai trees? The answer to their question was and is the Bonsai Garden at Lake Merritt.

On April 5, 1997, an official groundbreaking ceremony was held at the site located within the Gardens at Lake Merritt. Construction took more than two years. Support for the bonsai and suiseki display garden came from individuals and bonsai clubs throughout the State of California. Hundreds of volunteers and donors were responsible for making the concept into a reality.

BGLM opened its gates to the public on November 6, 1999, by hosting a grand opening celebration of bonsai and suiseki, held on site at the Gardens of Lake Merritt and Lakeside Park Garden Center. Dennis Makishima was master of ceremonies for the grand opening, including then Mayor Jerry Brown, John Naka who talked at length, Harry Hirao, Yasuo Mitsuya of Japan, recreation and parks Officials, and many more. In addition to the ribbon cutting, there was a lively celebration inside the Lakeside Park Garden Center; well attended, Japanese Taiko drum music, donated sake keg, etc.

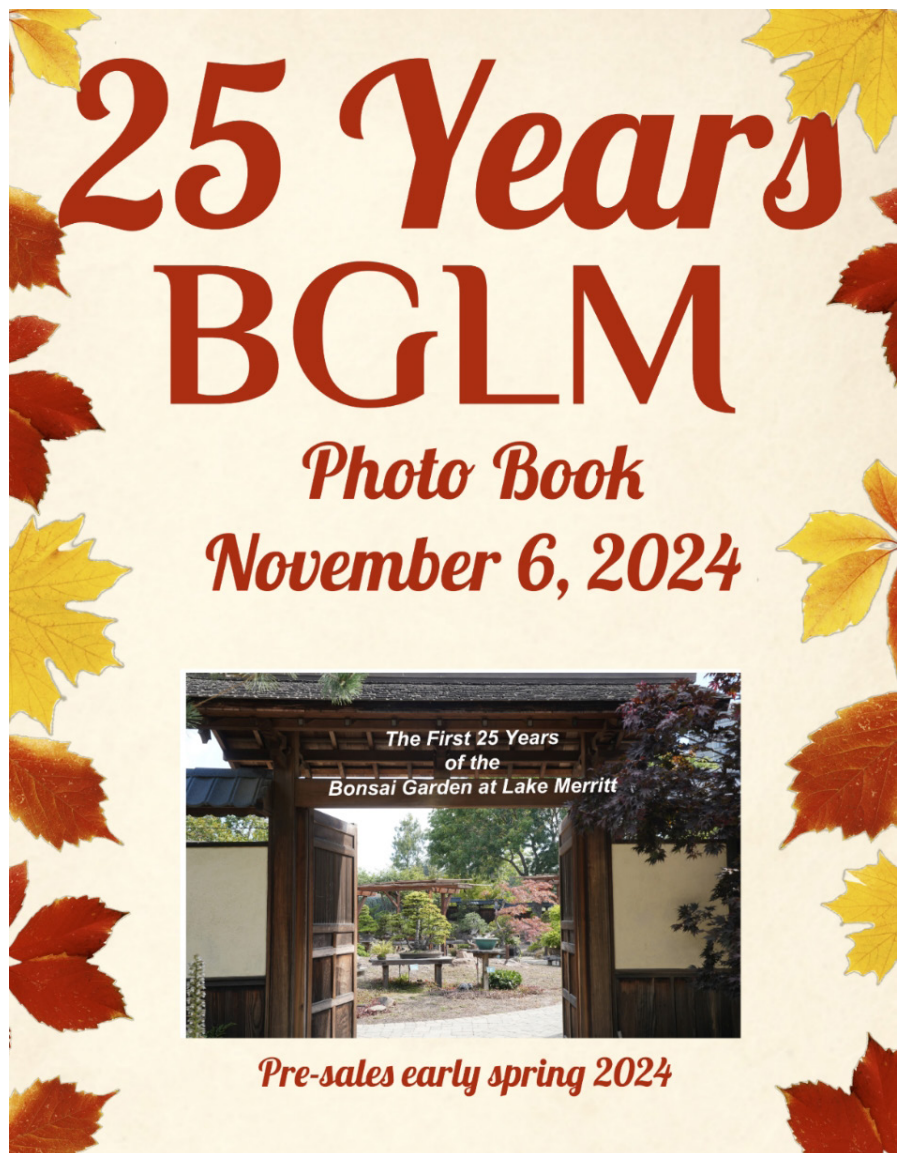
Since the gates were opened to the public, the collection has dramatically grown in size. The most significant historic and legacy trees include the historic Daimyo Oak (Tree #115) brought to the U.S. during President Abraham Lincoln's administration in the 1860's, the 500 year old Japanese Black Pine (Tree #262) donated by Mas Imazumi, and featured at the 1915 Panama-Pacific International Exposition in San Francisco, and legacy trees by famous bonsai pioneer artists; Harry Hirao, Jimmy Inadomi and John

Naka just to name a few.

A group of dedicated volunteers is working to publish a book which captures the history of the garden thus far.

The book, whose working title is "The First 25 Years of the Bonsai Garden at Lake Merritt", is intended to present the very best bonsai trees in the collection and to celebrate the many donors, supporters and volunteers who have contributed to the evolution of what is now a museum quality bonsai and suiseki garden.

Pre-sales for the book will start in mid-April, with a publication date scheduled for November 2024.



**25 Years**  
**BGLM**  
*Photo Book*  
**November 6, 2024**

*The First 25 Years  
of the  
Bonsai Garden at Lake Merritt*

*Pre-sales early spring 2024*

## BGLM LEADERSHIP

Bill Hashimoto	1991 - 1995
Seiji Shiba	1996 - 2006
Gordon Deeg	2007 - 2011
Joe Byrd	2012 - 2017
Gordon Deeg	2018 - to present
Kathy Shaner	
Curator	1999 - 2022
Gary Tom	
Curator	2023 to present

## VISION STATEMENT

Provide a Garden/Museum that advances the art of bonsai.

## MISSION STATEMENT

1. Promote and maintain the living art and culture of bonsai within a permanent museum of bonsai masterpieces in northern California.
2. Educate the public about the art and practice of bonsai.
3. Provide a garden for the public that reinforces the beauty of nature through the pleasure of experiencing the works of art on exhibit.
4. Promote and encourage the art form through the development of future bonsai artists.
5. Practice environmentally safe horticulture.

## ACQUISITION

Bonsai trees and suiseki are acquired by BGLM through donations from estates, artists, clubs, hobbyists, and include permanent loans.

## SPECIAL EVENTS

### *MAMMOTH ANNUAL AUCTION AND SALE*

Yearly fundraiser for BGLM on the third weekend of February.

### *WORLD BONSAI DAY*

Initiated by the World Bonsai Friendship Federation (WBFF) in honor of Mr. Saburo Kato of Japan, the world bonsai patron and founder of WBFF, World Bonsai Day is recognized annually on the second Saturday of May.

### *AUTUMN LIGHTS FESTIVAL*

Yearly fundraiser for the Friends of the Gardens at Lake Merritt, including BGLM, on the second weekend of October.

### *VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION DAY*

Introduction to Bonsai Basics - hosted by East Bay Bonsai Society, fourth Sunday of the month (except February and December).

### *MEMORIAL ACCENT PLANT DISPLAY*

To Mary Sakaishi by Lucy Sakaishi-Judd.

### *SALE OF COMMEMORATIVE ENGRAVED BRICKS*

Fundraiser for BGLM.

### *DENNIS AND JOANNE MAKISHIMA*

### *SPECIAL AUCTION AND SALE FUNDRAISER*

For BGLM and the creation of curator's fund.

### *MEMORIAL SUISEKI DISPLAY*

Dedicated to Mas Nakajima by Janet Roth.

## HOURS OF OPERATION

BGLM is open Tuesday thru Friday from 11:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., and Sunday from 12:00 to 3:30 p.m. Closed Mondays.

If you would like more information about the bonsai and suiseki display Garden/Museum, check out the BGLM website at [bonsailakemerritt.com](https://bonsailakemerritt.com).

### *GEORGE HAAS*

BGLM MARKETING MANAGER



# 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

# 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**