



MARIN BONSAI CLUB

2024 March Newsletter

MARINBONSAI.ORG

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BONSAI STORIES

THE PASSING OF JESSICA WASSERMAN

UPCOMING SHOWS

JOHN NAKA RE-STYLING

PBE SUBMISSIONS



**ERIC
SCHRADER:**

PACIFIC

BONSAI

EXPO

2024

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BY TUNG X. DAO

I hope everyone is having a great start to their bonsai season this year. My cherry family trees are starting to flower and my deciduous trees are starting to bud. Despite the rains, the activity in my garden signals the end of winter and joy of spring's entrance. We have some fantastic adventures ahead!

If all goes well, I am sure that we will proudly present the best bonsai that Marin has to offer to the world.

CLUB SWAG

With the possibility of the show in the near future, start thinking about club swag. We have made some sample happi coats and aprons for all of us to try out. These will compliment the existing coats that have been made in the past.

If you do not have a club happi coat, please stay tuned for an announcement to place an order for one. The suggested prices are yet to be determined, but will be in the \$40-50 for a happi coat and \$20-30 for the aprons. New name tags are still being prototyped and will likely be in the \$10-15 range. 📌

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

The next board meeting will be on Monday, March 11 at 6:30pm on zoom. Please contact Tung if you would like to attend.

COVER IMAGE

The Pacific Bonsai Expo 2024 logo.
(Courtesy Pacific Bonsai Expo)

MARIN BONSAI CLUB BOARD MEMBERS AND OFFICERS

PRESIDENT
Tung X. Dao

SECRETARY
Nadine Zimmerman

TREASURER
Susan Stapp

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Daniel Keller
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PROGRAM CHAIR
Candace Key

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Sharon Bone

MEMBERSHIP
Daniel Keller

BEGINNER'S PROGRAMS
Julius Clado

NEWSLETTER EDITOR
Tung X. Dao

Reach us at
info@marinbonsai.org

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

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RETURN TO THE COUNTY FAIR?

We have attempted to put together a show at the County Fair for the past two years. Various forces have prevented the shows from happening.

This year, I remain hopeful as we discuss the possibility of our return to the County Fair in July with the show organizers. Please start thinking about getting your trees ready to show and volunteer some time meeting with the public to discuss our passion for bonsai.

OUR FIRST TUESDAY PROGRAM

BY CANDACE KEY

Eric Schrader of the Bonsai Society of San Francisco will present a program on the Pacific Bonsai Expo at our March 5 meeting. In 2022 Eric and Jonas Dupuich created and produced the first national bonsai show in the Bay Area and it was a rousing success. Thousands of bonsai enthusiasts attended and were rewarded with an exhibit of extraordinary bonsai. This year will be the second Pacific Bonsai Expo October 26-27 in Oakland and we expect even more outstanding trees and exhibits, not to mention vendors.

Eric will provide behind the scenes insights as to how and why he and Jonas decided the Bay Area and the bonsai world

needed another bonsai show, and the immense amount of work it took to successfully put on the show. There will be a slideshow of some of the outstanding trees in the exhibit with Eric discussing why these trees were selected for the show and how they were judged, giving us a better understanding of just what makes a bonsai truly extraordinary.

In addition Eric will fill us in on how plans for this year's Expo are coming along, and how we as members of the Bay Area greater bonsai community can support the Expo and contribute to the success of the show. There will be much to learn and enjoy from Eric's presentation and we hope to see you there on March 5. 📌

DOCENTS

BY ART WASSERMAN

We will need an additional docent for the Saturday March 23 and April 27 dates. If you have never docented or have just done the training, this one is ideal as we have an experience club member on these dates to show you the ropes. Our shift starts at 10am and

goes to 1pm. Please contact Art at jessnart@comcast.net if you are able to volunteer for a fun and educational opportunity. 📌

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 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.

MARCH

On the first Tuesday of March, **Eric Schrader** will provide behind the scenes insights as to how and why he and Jonas decided the Bay Area and the bonsai world needed another bonsai show, and the immense amount of work it took to successfully put on the show.

There will be a slideshow of some of the outstanding trees in the exhibit with Eric discussing why these trees were selected for the show and how they were judged, giving us a better understanding of just what makes

a bonsai truly extraordinary.

On the third Tuesday of March, Tung Dao will be doing a small **Wiring Fundamentals Workshop** to prepare for the spring. Please contact him at tung@marinbonsai.org if you are interested to ensure that there are enough materials. A \$5 workshop fee is requested for members, \$10 for non-members.

We will have our open workshop at the same time for those who want to work on their trees with the club.

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 with suggestions. 🙏

ADDITIONAL BONSAI EVENTS

For additional events, please check out the Golden State Bonsai Federation events page at gsfbbonsai.org/events. 🙏

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. Anyone is welcome to bring refreshments any time. 🙏

Bonsai Stories

*Photos courtesy
Nadine Zimmerman.*

CULTIVATING JOY, CREATIVITY, AND COMMUNITY WITH THE MARIN BONSAI CLUB

BY NADINE ZIMMERMAN

My husband and I joined the Marin Bonsai Club in 2023. I have always enjoyed having plants and gardening became a joy in my early 20s. I loved the creative arts and grew up going to the Japanese Tea Garden in San Francisco as a child—in those days it was free!

Prior to COVID, my husband and I attended a Bonsai lecture and demonstration at the Marin County Fair. Chris was giving the lecture and John was demonstrating how to create a Bonsai.

In June 2023, we decided to join MBC. We signed up for the beginner's workshop in July. At the workshop, we were given a Juniper to work with and the instructors taught us what to look for when choosing a tree on our own. We were guided as to what branches we might want to prune to create a style we would be pleased with. Also, we were taught how to wire branches and create jin if we wished it! In August, we attended the MBC sale and we each purchased a Black Pine.

This was so exciting—my husband and I had caught the bonsai bug! We found ourselves buying trees over the next 6 months because to start and not have anything new to work on was driving us NUTS. We were obviously not keeping count because in those 6 months, we purchased 2 California Redwoods, 6 Alberta Spruce, 2 Princess Persimmons, 2 Black Pines, 6 Wiltonii Junipers, 10 Larches, 1 Crepe Myrtle, 1 Boxwood, and 6 Sea of Green Junipers only

to find out that these are probably not going to work as bonsai. We also dug up several volunteer Privets.

The months in between, we attended lectures and workshops. I have attempted pruning and wiring on my own and have made a multitude of mistakes, but I am learning from them. I recently brought 3 plants into the repotting workshop only to learn from Jay that it was too soon, as I had already repotted them 2-3 months earlier. As Dan mentioned to my husband, "If you want immediate results, bonsai is not the hobby for you." Thankfully, Susan let me help her with her tree. I was also able to talk to other members as they worked, find out what type of tree they had and how they came to acquire those trees. Seeing their work is so inspiring!

As an interesting side note, my blood pressure has always been normal but has dropped by 20 points. Honestly, this has been the only change in my life so I am guessing it must be bonsai. With this said I feel bonsai is meditative, creative, fun and a wonderful way to meet new people who share the same passion! We are so happy to have found Marin Bonsai Club. 🌲



Jess Wasserman

Photos courtesy
Wasserman Family.

A WONDERFUL BELOVED, GENEROUS WOMAN

BY ART WASSERMAN

Hi family, friends and people who loved Jess—and who didn't? To know her was to love her.

I believe that most of you are aware that Jess passed away a few weeks ago.

Thank you all for your cards, notes, e-mails, phone calls, flowers, food, and—most of all—for your love and support.

I cannot say enough about the love and devotion that has been shown to Jess and me and Ben and Sam and how much it has meant to us.

The attached picture and the one in the local newspaper was taken on December 26, 2023 on the bridge over Collier Creek flowing

into Lake Lagunitas. This was a favorite hike of ours 5 miles from home and the scene of many picnics and BBQs with friends at the waterfall at the end of the spillway. Jess was feeling not great, but generally OK on that day.

Ten days later, she was in ICU and two weeks later she died from lymphatic cancer. Fortunately, when she fell asleep 12 hours before dying, her last thoughts were, "I am going to start chemo tomorrow and I will be fine."

Ben, Sam, and I were at her side when she died.

We all thank you for your love and support.

Art, Ben, and Sam 🙏

JESSICA (JESS) WASSERMAN 1949 - 2024 SAN ANSELMO, CA

Jessica passed away on January 17, 2024 due to lymphoma, exacerbated by HLH. She was surrounded by Art (her husband of 53 years), son Ben (age 47), and daughter Sam (age 42).

Jessica was born in 1949 in Hollywood and adopted at three days old by Boyd and Joyce Vaughan. Joyce was a stay-at-home mom, while Boyd was a graphic artist in the movie industry. Jess's father brought home signed photos of actors with whom he worked. She must have been inspired by the arts as she had an artistic eye and was talented with drawing, crafting, and her home and garden design.

In 1968, Jess went on a blind date with Art Wasserman and they were married in 1970. In 1971, Art and Jess felt that the vibe in the Bay Area was more to their liking and moved to Fairfax in 1972 and again in 1975 to San Anselmo where they settled down for good.

Jessica received her BS in cultural anthropology from

SF State in 1971. When discussing graduate school or fieldwork in her major, her



college professor told Jess, "You are married, go home and have children." So, Jess got a teaching credential and, due to the teacher shortage, only did a bit of substitute teaching. Jess taught at the Marin CC as well as San Dominico where she had to inform the Sisters that as a Jew, she was not qualified to teach catechism.

Ben and Sam, for 3 years each, attended the San Anselmo Co-op. Jess was on the Board for years and at one time President. Jess was also on the Founding Board of Directors for the Marin Girls Chorus and the Board of Directors of the Marin Chapter of Amigos de las Americas.

Jess was an avid gardener and became a Marin Master Gardener (MMG) where she met and made many friends. Jess was instrumental in the establishment of the beautiful MMG Succulent Demonstration Garden at the Falkirk Mansion, including concept, design, plant selection, hardscape, rocks, and ground cover. Jess spent thousands of hours in "her" garden and was named an Honorary Lifetime Master Gardener.

She was also very proud of her garden at her home in San Anselmo. Whenever she had visitors, she would always show off the latest addition to the garden. She also as a great cook and critiqued what seasonings a chef should have used or used more or less of. She admitted that she would have been a great chef.

Jess was also for many years in a bowling league at Country Club Bowl where she also made many friends. Jess ran the Bay to Breakers and sang in a local chorus with friend Cindy. She tried tennis, but it was too mano a mano competitive—not a strong suit for Jess. More recently, Jess and Art were in a Bocce Ball league at Albert Park.

The fact that Jess could relate to and get along with people from divergent groups speaks to her as a person. As a friend recently wrote to Art, "Jess was such a wonderful beloved, generous woman". One of her few "faults" as that she always thought of the other guy first. Jess could have been a good therapist, as friends always found her to have a shoulder to cry on, and someone with whom to confide.

When younger, Jess, Art, Ben, and Sam did a lot of car camping and went on tons of wonderful family vacations. Later, Jess and Art traveled extensively and frequently with friends Al and Judy.

Jess would be most sad that her 4-year-old loving grandson Nathan may not

remember her and would have been a different person had he had the opportunity to better know his beloved Nana. We will try to keep her memory for him.

In addition to her husband Art, son Ben, daughter Sam, and Grandson Nathan, Jessica leaves behind beloved sister-in-law Jan, nephews Evan and Jon, nieces Marla and Amy, great-nephew Ethan, and cousins Jane, Elaine, and Larry and their children and grandchildren.

A memorial is planned at a future date. 📅

Photographs of Jessica Wasserman and her family on December 26, 2023 near Lake Lagunitas.



Upcoming Shows

SAN JOSE BETSUIN

BY PAUL DOMINIC

Hello everyone,

It's my pleasure to invite you on behalf of the Betsuin Bonsai Club to our Annual Bonsai Show, the first one after COVID. The show will be held in San Jose Japantown at the Betsuin Church. More details in the flyer attached.

The members are excited to show you some of our Bonsai and I'm sure you will enjoy them.

We will have a Demo on Saturday 16th March by David Nguy with Bonsai sales and other fun activities.

Hope to see you there. Please forward this invitation to your club members and friends.

Regards,
Paul Dominic
President 🌳



SAN JOSE BETSUIN BONSAI CLUB 49th Annual

Bonsai Exhibition

San Jose Buddhist Church Betsuin

640 North 5th Street, San Jose, CA 95112

March 16 & 17, 2024

Saturday 11 am - 5 pm Sunday 12 noon - 4 pm



Bonsai Demonstration

at 1 pm both days:

David Nguy -- Saturday

Club member -- Sunday

Benefit Drawing immediately following the Demonstration
(winning ticket must be present.)



Scheduled Sales:

- West America
(David and June from Chino)
- Legacy Cork Oak
(Barry from Hacienda Heights)
- Club members' sale of plants and pots

For more information, text 408-476-1488

www.sanjosebonsai.com

San Jose Betsuin Bonsai Club is a member of the Golden State Bonsai Federation.

AMERICAN BONSAI ASSOCIATION, SACRAMENTO



64th Annual Bonsai Show and Sale

Saturday, 4/13 - Sunday, 4/14, 10AM - 4PM

Shepard Garden & Arts Center, 3330 McKinley Blvd., Sacramento



Featuring:

Bonsai & Suiseki Stone Exhibit
Vendor and Consignment Sales
Daily Demonstration at 1:30PM
with raffle to follow

Beginners' Workshop

Sunday at 10AM, \$15, includes
tree, pot, soil and instruction.
Email: abasbonsaiclub@gmail.com
to reserve a space.

free admission and parking
check out abasbonsaiclub.org for more info

Headliner: Tyler Sherrod



DOGWOOD BONSAI STUDIOS,
NORTH CAROLINA

Formally Trained in Japan
Bonsai Artist and Teacher
Live demonstration each day,
1:30PM. Tree to be raffled.

KUSAMURA BONSAI CLUB



62nd Annual Show

April 20 – 21 2024

Addison School
1045 Webster Street
Palo Alto, CA 94301

Saturday, Noon-4PM
Sunday, 11AM-4PM

Headliner: Mike Pistello

Saturday 1:30

- Over 60 Bonsai Trees on display.
- Sale: Bonsai and Pre-bonsai trees, bonsai pots, stands, books
- Docent tours of the show throughout both days
- Show critique at 4pm Saturday
- Sunday demonstration: making a saikei (tray landscape) at 1:30 provided by club members
- Benefit drawings at 3pm each day
- Educational guide of bonsai terminology.

For more information contact show chair:

Idris Anderson | idrisan@gmail.com

Please see www.kusamurabonsai.org for more details

Re-styling

THE RE-STYLING OF JOHN NAKA'S CALIFORNIA JUNIPER BONSAI

TEXT AND PHOTOS BY GEORGE HAAS

Originally published online at

<https://www.rebsbonsai.org/the-re-styling-of-john-nakas-california-juniper-bonsai/>

**BONSAI GARDEN AT
LAKE MERRITT (BGLM)
ITEM #146**

CALIFORNIA JUNIPER

JUNIPERUS
CALIFORNICA

DATE OF ACQUISITION
1999

HEIGHT
45 INCHES

STYLE
INFORMAL UPRIGHT

DONATED BY
JOHN NAKA

*The John Naka California
juniper before re-styling (2023).*



This tree was collected in 1989 from the northwest end of the California Mojave Desert referred to as the Sand Canyon.

The Mojave Desert is an arid region located in southeastern California with portions in Nevada, Arizona, and Utah. The environment has little or no rain, too dry or barren to support much vegetation and hot climate. The climate experiences extreme variations in daily temperatures, frequent winter frosts and averages annual precipitation of two to six inches (50 to 150 mm). The Mojave has mountain-and-basin topography, and sparse vegetation which includes California juniper (*Juniperus californica*), creosote bush (*Larrea tridentata*), Joshua tree (*Yucca brevifolia*), burroweed (*Isocoma tenuisecta*), and occasional cacti (mostly species of Cholla). Named after the Mojave people. The Mojave Desert

occupies more than 25,000 square miles (65,000 square km). [Source: *Britannica*]

John Naka is referred to as the father of North American bonsai for his efforts to promote the living art of bonsai throughout the U.S. He was present and spoke at the grand opening of the Bonsai Garden at Lake Merritt in Oakland, California, on November 6, 1999. Naka collected some extraordinary California junipers from the Mojave Desert for bonsai.

From time to time, all legacy bonsai trees such as this John Naka California juniper must undergo re-styling as they continue to grow and increase in foliage mass. BGLM volunteers Samuel Tan and Addison Galambos undertake the task of re-styling this iconic bonsai. It will take several days to clean, prune, wire, and shape the large California juniper. 🌲



Left: Samuel Tan and Addison Galambos undertake the task of re-styling the California juniper (January 2024).

Right: Cleaning by removing old wire and thinning foliage.

Below left: Cleaning and thinning foliage.

Below: Use of guy wire holding branch downward.





Left: Use of raffia for bending thick branches.

Right: Use of heavy gauge copper wire for bending branches.

Center left: Stripping bark off of branch to create aging deadwood, referred to as *jin* in Japanese.

Below left: Cleaning live vein in contrast to deadwood.

Below: John Naka California juniper after re-styling (January 2024).



Submissions

2024 PBE: SUBMISSIONS ARE OPEN

BY JONAS DUPUICH

Originally published online at

<https://bonsaitonight.com/2024/02/23/2024-pbe-submissions-are-open/>

If you're thinking about submitting to the 2024 Pacific Bonsai Expo, now's the time!

We're accepting submissions through April 30 so the deadline's a ways off, but now is a good time to take pictures of any deciduous bonsai you're thinking of submitting as we'll need photos of these trees without leaves. Maples, plums, ume, and elms are already leafing out in Northern California so time is limited.

Here's what you need to know about submitting to the Expo.

- We've expanded the jury this year to include five outstanding jurors: Bjorn Bjorholm, Dave De Groot, Michael Hagedorn, Todd Schlafer, and Expo board member Eric Schrader. These jurors will evaluate all submitted trees and provide their scores to the organizers who will tally the results and notify the submitters. We expect to announce the results in May or June.
- The Expo will feature the same judging

categories as last year plus three new categories: XL conifers, XL broadleaf evergreens, and XL deciduous bonsai.

The line between the large and extra large categories will be trees with a combined height and width of approximately 64". Trees smaller than a combined 64" will be shown on 6' tables in the large category. Trees larger than a combined 64" will be displayed on 8' tables in the extra large category.

- The jury showed a strong preference last time for trees that were wired and/or styled beautifully (they didn't opt for shaggy trees), and trees that were photographed well (good lighting, clean background). Help your submissions stand out by following these two tips!

If you have questions about your submission, feel free to write the organizers. You can find complete instructions for submitting at the **Call for Entries** page on the Expo website. 🙏



*Bonsai from the 2022 Expo.
(Photo courtesy Jonas
Dupuich/Bonsai Tonight)*

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