



MARIN BONSAI CLUB

2024 April Newsletter

MARINBONSAI.ORG

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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BGLM UPDATES

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TREE DEVELOPMENT WITH **ADAM TOTH**

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, April 15 at 7:30pm on zoom. Please contact Tung if you would like to attend.

COVER IMAGE

A typographical illustration of deciduous leaves budding out and becoming green in the spring. Certain varieties of trees first bud out with deep reds and oranges and gradually turn green as the leaves grow and harden. (Design by Tung X. Dao)

MARIN BONSAI CLUB BOARD MEMBERS AND OFFICERS

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Tung X. Dao

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Reach us at
info@marinbonsai.org

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

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BY TUNG X. DAO

Happy spring! The rains have still been keeping my moss green and happy. My trees are really starting to bud out. I'm keeping myself busy pinching and pruning them to get them off to a great year of development.

On a timely note, Adam Toth will be speaking about deciduous tree development this first Tuesday. Spring is a very busy time for us. Deciduous trees have a lot of work and monitoring this season and Adam will give us pointers on keeping them in tip top shape.

MARIN COUNTY FAIR

Great news, everyone! We have been invited to exhibit at the Marin County Fair on July 3-7. We have been talking with the fair organizers to make the show come to life. I think we have an exciting show planned and we'll need all the help we can get to make it happen.

The theme for this year's fair will be **Making A Splash**. We will be exhibiting alongside the Fine Arts and Textiles exhibits in the Exhibit Hall. We will be expecting a very large, enthusiastic, and curious crowd.

I would like to thank John Doig and Janice Dilbeck for being our show organizers. They will direct our display space set up. I would also like to thank Susan Sullivan for being our liaison with the fair organizers. Please give them a warm thank you for helping the club out with this task.

In addition to our **Formal Tree Display**, we will have several new sub-exhibits as volunteers allow.

The first is a **Work In Progress** display area. Here, our trees in various stages of development can be shown to show visitors the process of creating a bonsai. Everyone is welcome to contribute to this section, especially our newer members who may not have a formal tree. We also plan to make educational posters that illustrate various bonsai concepts.

The second is a **Bonsai Insights: Studio Conversations** area. Here, we work on our

trees as visitors come up to watch us work, ask questions, and see how we transform our trees into a show-ready tree. I have always loved the curiosity that visitors have because so few get to see how a bonsai is created and many will have questions. This will be a wonderful engaging mini-program.

Lastly, we will have a **Make Your Own Bonsai** area where visitors can get to create their first bonsai in an informal atmosphere. Who doesn't want a hands-on experience with bonsai, especially at the fair? It embodies the spirit of the fair by allowing visitors to experience the joy of creating something beautiful with their own hands.

We will need everyone to contribute to make this show a success—trees, docents, set-up, teachers, and more.

Please let us know how you can contribute your skills and talents to make it happen. Check out the link in the newsletter email for instructions on volunteering. Additionally, we will pass around a sign up sheet at the next few meetings.

CLUB SWAG

To help identify our club members at the show, we will be making club nametags and have club aprons available. Everyone in the club is welcome to place an order for a complimentary nametag. Please check out the link in the newsletter email to place an order for one.

Donations of any amount will be appreciated. For donations of \$25 or more, we will include a club apron. Once the nametags are made, please wear them to meetings so we can put names to faces. If you have a club nametag already, please wear those!

Since we have not been able to find a happi coat that meets our needs, we will be using our old ones this year. The club has a few coats from previous years for show use if you do not have one. 🙏

ADAM TOTH'S DEMO

BY CANDACE KEY

For our April meeting on the 2nd, Adam Toth will discuss the development of deciduous bonsai. As we are all seeing buds popping and internodes lengthening on our maples, elms, and fruiting and flowering trees this spring, it is a good idea to check in and make sure we are doing the right work at the appropriate time. Adam will bring some of his trees to talk about and we are suggesting members bring in a deciduous tree to discuss as well. There is no promise Adam will have time to get to each tree or provide much detail, but it will be instructive to see examples of work—good and not so good—on members' trees.

Adam fell in love with bonsai over 10 years ago and now, after apprenticing for over 3 years with Taiga Urushibata at the Taisho-en bonsai

garden in Shizuoka, Japan he has returned to the U.S. and established himself as a well-respected young professional. He has been a frequent guest artist at bonsai meetings and conventions in the Bay Area and beyond, and has been leading workshop groups as well. He particularly likes working on shohin and mame bonsai, but received a well rounded education in Japan and is adept at working on all bonsai species.

Special Note: We are asking members to bring items for a Member Raffle during our meeting. Please check your trees, pots, tools, books and other bonsai related items and bring something you think others would enjoy for this fundraising event. 🌱

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.

APRIL

Adam Toth will be presenting about **Deciduous Tree Development** on the first Tuesday, April 2.

Our usual **Open Workshop** will be on the third Tuesday, April 16.

MAY

Jay McDonald talks about **Azaleas** on the first Tuesday, May 7. He will have a fantastic raffle tree that you will want to get your hands on.

Our usual **Open Workshop** will be on the third Tuesday, May 21.

JUNE

John "JT" Thompson presents a program on **Oaks** on the first Tuesday, June 4.

Our usual **Open Workshop** will be on the third Tuesday, June 18.

JULY

We will be exhibiting at the **Marin County**

Fair July 3-7. Set up will be on the 2nd, and strike will likely be on the 8th. No meeting on the first Tuesday this month.

We will have our **Beginner's Workshops** on July 16 and 23, with the possibility of an August 6 overflow date. Everyone in the club is encouraged to help out. We'll need teachers and support crew to make it a success.

AUGUST

Our **Annual August Sale** will be on Saturday August 3. Stay tuned for whether we will have an August 6 meeting.

Our usual **Open Workshop** will be on the third Tuesday, August 20.

SEPTEMBER

Sam Tan will present a demo on **Monterey Cypress** on the first Tuesday, September 3.

Our usual **Open Workshop** will be on the third Tuesday, September 17.

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. 🌱

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.

IT'S EASY TO BE A MEMBER IN GOOD STANDING!

What is a "member in good standing?" It is simply one who has paid their dues. January of each year is dues collection month, the month that we all customarily pay our club dues. Besides having money in the budget, it gives the board members an idea about continuing membership size and is vital for program planning.

We are now almost three months into 2024. If you intend to continue in the club, please pay your dues now if you have not already done so. The easiest way to pay is through our automated dues system online at <https://marinbonsai.org/membership/>. Or send your check to Marin Bonsai Club, P.O. Box 6645, San Rafael, CA 94903. Membership dues are \$45 per single, \$65 per family and \$25 per student. Checks are made out to **Marin Bonsai Club**. You can find the **membership form here**. Please complete it, print it, and send it along with your check.

As you do this, please select a couple of ways that you can assist the Club at the bottom of the form, or consider helping us run the Club by becoming a board member. We are planning more interesting monthly programs, workshops, and sale events. Hope you will renew your membership and continue your bonsai journey with us!

Best regards,
Dan Keller
Membership Chairperson 🌱

MAY DEMO PREVIEW

BY CANDACE KEY

Long time club member Jay McDonald will be our guest speaker at our May meeting, doing a demonstration on a satsuki azalea and a talk about the special techniques and care these beautiful bonsai require. As usual Jay will have a plethora of gorgeous bonsai to illustrate the possibilities of the species, and his skill in bringing out the best in them.

Jay has selected a very special *Haru no sono* azalea for his demo and has already done the clean up and wiring part of the spring work, leaving more time to focus on styling and care during the presentation. This should be a colorful, entertaining and enlightening presentation. 🌱



DOCENTS

BY ART WASSERMAN

We will need an additional docent for the Saturday 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. 🌱

AVAILABLE CLUB POSITIONS

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

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. 🌱

ADDITIONAL BONSAI EVENTS

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

Left: An example of the flowers of an Azalea. Photo by Chris Ross.

INSIGHTS INTO THE PACIFIC BONSAI EXPO AND TIPS FOR ENTRY

BY NADINE ZIMMERMANN

Our March 5th meeting with Eric Schrader from Bonsaify was an eye opener! The first half of the lecture focused on the last Pacific Bonsai Expo. Here are some of the highlights from the lecture.

The location selected for the 2023 show had many windows and special considerations had to be taken into account as the natural light on the exhibits changed throughout the day. Shadows cast often produced dramatic effects, and emphasized the spectacular colors on the deciduous trees! Much thought was put into the placement of the trees to make the best use of the unusual lighting.

Eric discussed the construction of the backdrop and the months it took to find a fabric that was the right color and would not snag in a long, seamless run. The backdrop frame had to be sanded to prevent snags and all edges of fabric finished. It took 10 people to feed 70 plus feet of fabric into a sewing machine so that there would be no visible seams. These are just a few of the many details that went into making the show so professional and beautiful.

Eric showed slides of the exhibits and gave detailed explanations of which entries won and why. Also discussed was the criteria the judges were given for the show in selecting entries and winners. It was amazing to see the examples of years of careful work and artistry.

The second half of the lecture focused on the work one would need to do for their tree to be accepted for the 2024 PBE. All requirements are on the Bonsai Tonight website. The following are some of the tips Eric offered:

- Entrants can submit as many entries as they want but only 3 at most can be chosen.
- Good quality photos are essential!
- If you have deciduous trees make sure you submit a photo with the tree's fall color along with a picture of it in winter

silhouette.

- Submit photos of the tree straight on as well as from the side and maybe even one taken from underneath the branches.
- Use soft lighting with a white or black background.
- The more pictures the better.
- There is no limit to the number of Shohin bonsai that can be submitted — and they can be submitted separately or together.
- Exhibits can be created in conjunction with another person.
- Suiseki, sculpture, Ikebana are all acceptable as companion pieces to the main bonsai tree.
- The tree does not need to be in show condition for the entry photo. However, if it is deciduous, it should have a photo from the growing season. Similarly, the intended pot it will be displayed in should be submitted.

Please check the [submission guidelines](#) for the latest and most up-to-date information.

Even if I don't aspire to enter a national exhibition like the Pacific Bonsai Expo, Eric's presentation made me think about my own newly created trees and how I might display them in the spaces in my yard.

Also during the meeting, Jay McDonald brought in several trees for discussion at the break and a large crowd gathered around him asking questions and picking up expert tips on bonsai development. We will see a couple of the azaleas he previewed at his presentation in May, one of them to be raffled off during the meeting.

Be sure to check out Eric's website [Bonsaify.com](#), and find his instructional and very entertaining videos on YouTube for more about the Expo and developing fine bonsai. 🌳



PACIFIC BONSAI EXPO 2024

LAKE MERRITT SURVEY AND FUNDRAISING FLYER

BY DODIE NEWMAN (GSBF TREASURER)

Bonsai Garden at Lake Merritt, one of the three GSBF sponsored bonsai gardens, has launched a major fundraising drive for a new security system following the recent theft of 8 bonsai trees. Please see the attached flyer for details.

Also BGLM volunteers are busy creating a 25th Anniversary book highlighting the history of the garden. In order to determine the quantity and type of book to be printed, it is hoped that each person will take the **2 minutes survey that can be found here.** [👉](#)

PLEASE HELP US

Improve Security Measures Update!



Raised \$13,500 - Our Goal \$100,000



Scan me and donate now

Donation expenditures to include the following upgraded security systems:

- Harden the perimeter fencing
- Security lighting
- Security cameras
- Alarm system
- Video recording system
- Hire security company to provide 24/7 live security monitoring & police alert

On January 17, 2024, eight bonsai trees with an estimated value of \$20,000 were stolen from Bonsai Garden at Lake Merritt (BGLM). These thefts do not impact any one individual but rather our entire bonsai community. We are raising funds to upgrade our security measures.

Donations may be made via the QR code above. If preferred, mail checks payable to GSBF BGLM to GSBF Bonsai Garden at Lake Merritt, PO Box 16176, Oakland, CA 94610-6176. Write "Security Donation" on the memo line.

GSBF BGLM is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit charity and educational organization. All donations are tax deductible to the full extent of the law.

March 24, 2024

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.

EDUCATION

- Mirai Live
- Bonsai U
- Bonsai Empire

LOCAL PROFESSIONALS

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

MUSEUMS AND ASSOCIATIONS

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

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)

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