



The Tree Shrinker

Volume XLIX, No.4

A MONTHLY BULLETIN

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East Bay Bonsai Society Monthly Meeting April 8, 2020 **Cancelled**

A message from your President

Hello Dear Friends,

This is such a strange and surreal time. I'm trying to stay positive and revel in the increased time I have to spend with my trees. I am also thinking of all you wonderful and inspiring members of our East Bay Bonsai Society. Each one of you make this club something special. While we are all in love with bonsai, together we are more than just bonsai enthusiasts. We are a community of like-minded people who enjoy each other's company. The key word is community. I know that we can help each other get through this unprecedented time. If you get sick or if you need help, even need groceries (or toilet paper?), please reach out to someone. Consider our bonsai community to be part of your village, and feel very free to call or email me anytime (lisaharper@me.com, 510-220-3339). The most important thing is to help each other stay safe, well and less anxious as best we can.

The EBBS Board will be meeting virtually, and we will be discussing ways we can still deliver bonsai inspiration to you through the internet. Fortunately, we have two new tech-savvy board members, Addison Galambos and Andrea Callegari, who can help us with this endeavor. If you have thoughts on this, please let me or any Board member know!

I am very much looking forward to when we return to normal, as I am sure you all are. It will happen! But in the meantime, I'm going to fertilize, and wire, and snip here and there and enjoy my trees.

Lisa Harper
President EBBS

It's Spring! And all our bonsais are waking up. Let's show them off! Submit 1 to 3 pictures of your nicest spring bonsais and we will publish as many as we can in the next Tree Shrinker, Facebook and Twitter. Send pictures (less than 2MB) to EBBS_DISTRIBUTION@Yahoo.com. Include your

name, type of tree, how long you have been caring for it, age of the tree and the maker of the pot (if known).

A walk down memory lane

In this uncertain environment and as we are in a holding pattern, we thought a walk down memory lane might be in order. In February 2015 Randall Lee gave a demonstration on Hinoki Cypress. Here is the review on that presentation and a couple of other highlights from 2015.

February Meeting 2015

By: Tom Colby

Randall Lee presented a program on Hinoki Cypress. There are many cultivars of Hinoki Cypress and Randall showed examples of several of the commonly found varieties. He is particularly fond of Hinoki Cypress variety Well's Special which has smaller and tighter foliage. The Sawara Cypress is very closely related to Hinoki Cypress and the two can be grown under the same conditions. Randall showed how to tell the two



apart by looking at the foliage at the tip of a branch. The Sawara has pointed foliage and the Hinoki has rounded branch tips.

Randall provided a handout which gives much detail on culture. He emphasized that Hinoki do not handle hot sun well. Those of us who live in the Walnut Creek area should protect their Hinoki from afternoon sun. Also, after repotting it is best to provide some sun protection until the tree is established, even if you live in the Oakland area.

The soil mix that Randall uses is about 50 to 60 percent akadama with the balance being assorted inorganics such as pumice and lava. Randall passed around a sample of his soil mix for inspection and it appeared that all the ingredients of the mix were about one eighth of an inch in size. This results from careful screening of the



components to eliminate both larger and smaller sizes. For fertilizer, Randall uses both inorganic water-soluble fertilizers as well as slow release pellets. He particularly likes Apex which is a commercial grade of the readily available Osmocote. He fertilizes during two periods of the year. He starts about April and ends in June, but resumes again in September and continues until November. The trees shut down for the summer and again in the winter, so no fertilizer is needed for these periods. Randall's schedule accommodates this. When purchasing a Hinoki, be aware that many of the examples for sale are grafted, and this may pose problems developing a smoothly tapered trunk. The problem comes from the fact that the rootstock may grow at a different rate than the tree above it, giving a bumpy look to the trunk. Well's Special variety of Hinoki is usually available on its' own roots and this, in addition to the finer foliage, makes it a fine candidate for bonsai. Look for trees that have roots that spread evenly around the trunk, a trunk that has taper and a tree that has a lot of small fine branches inside the outer foliage. These small branches are the basis for the fine bonsai to come. Special care must be given to keep these branches alive and healthy since they are quickly

shaded out and die, leaving long, straggly branches. The secret is to cut back the longer branches to allow light to fall on the interior branches with little foliage. The trunk of the tree should flow toward the viewer and there should be lower branches that come toward to greet the viewer.

Randall treats his trees gently when moving the tree from a nursery container to a bonsai pot. He recommends doing this over two years. The first year he reduces the root ball by about one half, and the second year he reduces the root ball again by another half. Also, cutting the foliage back is done over a two-year period. He demonstrated this on a shohin sized bonsai. Last year major pruning of large branches reduced the tree by about one half, and the final trimming was done at the meeting to make the foliage in proportion to the trunk.

Hinoki heal cuts very slowly. It is imperative that fresh cuts are quickly sealed with cut paste to prevent the cut from drying out which would delay or stop the healing process.

Randall showed several examples of his own Hinoki bonsai including a magnificent tree that he has been cultivating for more than twenty years. His program certainly built a great case for using Hinoki as bonsai. It was much needed and much appreciated.

August Potluck 2015



The August potluck was held at the home of Janet Nelson and Rick Trumm. It was a wonderful event which gave the members the chance to socialize with one another. The weather was pleasantly warm, the collection of bonsai was breathtaking and the food was superb. If your idea of a potluck dinner comes from the times when everybody's mother prepared her favorite version of gluey mac and cheese for the elementary school benefit, you were in for a big surprise. The meal demonstrated once again that EBBS has some very talented cooks. The food offerings were both abundant and tasty. Thanks to all the members who contributed their culinary efforts.

The best part of the day was the gracious hospitality of the hosts. The club not only owes Rick and Janet a big thank you for hosting the potluck this year, but also for the many times they have done it in the past

Pots

By: Tom Colby (Oct. 2015)

One of the perplexing problems to the new member of a bonsai club is choosing the right pot for your tree. When they purchased the tree it was in a pot, and isn't that good enough? Maybe it is not. When the tree is displayed it is part of a composition which includes the tree, the pot and the stand. Imagine being a lady invited to a fancy ball and you wear your beautiful Armani gown and your best jewelry and the tennis shoes that you used to work in the garden. That would be about the same effect as displaying a tree in a poorly chosen pot. So how do you pick the right pot?

A frequently quoted approach is to divide all trees into two groups, masculine and feminine. An example of a masculine tree is a stately pine tree, and a feminine tree example is a graceful maple tree. Many bonsai pots are either oval shaped or rectangular. The former is said to be feminine and the latter is masculine. So far so good. In theory all you have to do is to choose a masculine pot for a masculine tree and you are done. The problem with rigidly classifying all trees and pots into one of two groups is that there are many trees and pots that do not fit clearly into either group. A massive collected juniper with lots of craggy dead wood would appear to be a very masculine tree, but the beautiful flowing curved lines of the trunk and dead wood are features of the tree which seem to be feminine.



A way toward a choice of pot for your tree which bypasses a rigid classification into either masculine or feminine groups is to simply look at your tree. What is the most important feature of the tree that catches your eye? The pot you choose should echo this feature. Dave De Groot in his book, **Basic Bonsai Design**, offers a useful way of looking at what you might see in your tree and that is to consider a group of attributes, some or all of which your tree may have.

If the tree has a straight trunk and regular spacing of the branches, has a feeling of strength or drama or has the appearance of great age such as rough bark or deadwood, then the best choice of pot is a rectangular pot that has straight walls and plain feet and is of heavy construction. An unglazed pot would be best for this tree.



On the other hand, the tree may have an appearance of gentleness and grace, have gentle movement of the trunk line, have smooth bark or may appear to be young, indicated by lack of dead wood. Then the best pot is a rounded or oval form with curved walls and light color. Trees in flower or fruit also fall into this group. A glazed pot would work well. The construction of the pot should appear to be light with thin walls and small, curved feet.

Back to the collected juniper that didn't seem to easily fit into either masculine or feminine classifications. The dominant features of many collected junipers are the curved trunk and the swirling flow of the exposed grain of the dead wood. An oval pot reflects this nicely in spite of the fact that you would be placing a tree with a lot of masculine characteristics in a feminine pot.

One of the things that make bonsai such an exciting activity is that it is as much art as it is science. This means that there are few clear, unambiguous answers, and this is particularly true when choosing the best pot for your tree. A great place to start is to simply look at your tree and decide what is the most important feature. Then find a pot which enhances or reflects this feature.

Dues

As we were unable to have a meeting in March, we have extended the time period for collection of dues to April 30th. If you have not paid, please send your payment to Pat as soon as possible to be a member in good standing.

Bonsai Instruction at Merritt College

CANCELLED until further notice

Instruction is in the form of workshops and is a splendid opportunity to learn how to develop your trees into first class bonsai. In these workshops you work on your own tree under the guidance of an experienced bonsai artist. The workshops are open to all experience levels and are usually held at 7:00 pm on the fourth Monday of each month when the college is in session.

The meetings are in the Landscape Horticulture Building at Merritt College which is located in the Oakland hills off Redwood Road. The workshops are free. There is a gate across the road leading to the parking lot that will automatically open when you pull up close to it. Leading the workshops are two members of EBBS, Bill Castellon and Randal Lee. You can contact Bill at 510-569-8003 or Randall at 510-864-0841.

Events by Others

CANCELLED March 28 – 29, 2020 San Jose, California

San Jose Betsuin Bonsai Club: 49th Annual Spring Exhibit at the San Jose Buddhist Church Betsuin, 640 North Fifth Street. Hours are 11:00 AM – 5:00 PM Saturday and Noon – 4:00 PM Sunday. Demonstration at 1:00 PM, both days with guest demonstrator David Nguy on Saturday and a club member demonstration on Sunday. Club sales of plants and pots. Vendor sales include West America (June and David Nguy) and Bonsai Fusion. For further information, call Bob Shatsky (408) 353 3239 or Susan Yea (408) 464-7340.

CANCELLED April 4 – 5, 2020 Sacramento, California

Bonsai Sekiyu Kai: 43rd Annual Show will be held at the Sacramento Buddhist Church, 2401 Riverside Blvd. Hours are 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM with a demonstration at 2:00 PM each day by Yuzo Maruyama. Free Admission. Amenities include refreshments, light snacks, door prizes, raffles, and silent auction, as well as a member and vendor sale of plants and bonsai related items. Drop-in mini bonsai lessons will be held from 10:00 AM-12:00 PM for \$15. For more information, contact the Bonsai Sekiyu Kai at bonsaisekiyukai@gmail.com.

CANCELLED April 11 - 12, 2020 Sacramento, California

American Bonsai Association, Sacramento: Annual Spring Show at the Shepard Garden and Arts Center in McKinley Park, 3330 McKinley Blvd. Show hours are Saturday, 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM, and Sunday, 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM, with a demonstration by Dave De Groot at 1:30 PM, both days. Beginner workshop: Sunday morning from 10:00 AM – Noon. Large member sales and vendor areas, free admission and parking. Benefit drawings, both Saturday and Sunday, will include each day's demonstration tree and many bonsai and bonsai related items. For additional information visit our website: <http://www.abasbonsai.org> or contact Renee Seely, 916-929-2106 or email breadcrust@comcast.net.

CANCELLED April 18, 2020 Modesto, California

Modesto Bonsai Club: 38th Annual Spring Show at the Stanislaus County Harvest Hall, 3800 Cornucopia Way. Show hours are Saturday, 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM, with a demonstration at 1:00 PM by Sam Adina. Exhibits, sales, plants, pots, tools and more, multiple raffles. Free admission and parking. Benefit drawing Saturday, will include demonstration tree and many bonsai and bonsai related items. For additional information visit our Club Facebook Page [Modesto Bonsai Club](#), or contact our Club President Peter Camarena, 209-529-1759 or email pete.camarena@sbcglobal.net.

CANCELLED April 18 - 19, 2020 Santa Cruz, California

Santa Cruz Bonsai Kai: 31st Annual Bonsai Show at the Museum of Art & History, 705 Front Street. Show hours are from 10:00 AM – 5:00 PM with demonstrations at 11:00 AM and 2:00 PM. Saturday's demonstrators are Enrique Castano. at 11:00 AM and Gordon Deeg at 2:00 PM and Sunday's demonstrators are Enrique Castano at 11:00 AM and Scott Chadd at 2:00 PM. Demonstration trees and trees prepared by club members will be part of the raffle after each day's demonstration. Sales area will include quality vendor and member trees, pots, and other related bonsai items. Come and enjoy the Museum of Art & History, over 100 bonsai trees on display, and demonstrations on how to create bonsai from nursery stock. In addition, enjoy the Watsonville Taiko Drummers, a hang drum demonstration, and other Japanese cultural events in the recently revitalized Abbott Square next to the Museum. For this weekend only, admission price is \$5.00 for both the Museum and the Bonsai Show (Half off the normal Museum entrance fee). For more information, contact Sarah Tiller at sarah.tiller@gmail.com or Robert Potts at cbobgo@gmail.com.

CANCELLED April 25 - 26, 2020 Palo Alto, California

Kusamura Bonsai Club: 60th Annual Show, Lucie Stern Community Center, 1305 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto. Show hours are Saturday, Noon – 4 PM, Sunday 11 AM – 4 PM. Free admission. Bonsai trees, pots, and other bonsai-related items will be for sale. Bring your tree to our Bonsai Clinic for advice on care and development. Tours of the show will be held starting at 1:30 PM, each day. For more information contact Charlene Fischer at charlenerae@mac.com or visit www.kusamurabonsai.org.

CANCELLED April 25 - 26, 2020 San Diego, California

San Diego Bonsai Club: The 55th annual Spring Bonsai Show and Sale of the San Diego Bonsai Club will be held at in Balboa Park's Prado Building. The two-day event is open to the public from 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM. More than 50 amazing bonsai of various sizes and species will be on display. The wide range of activities will include bonsai demonstrations by expert members on both days, and a table sale featuring hundreds of

trees, plants, pots and other bonsai merchandise offered by SDBC members. For more information, go to <http://www.sandiegobonsaiclub.com>.

CANCELLED April 26, 2020 Watsonville, California
Watsonville Bonsai Club: 47th Annual Bonsai Exhibit held at the Watsonville Buddhist Temple, 423 Bridge Street. Show hours are 11:00 AM – 4:00 PM, with a demonstration by award winning Bonsai Master Katsumi Kinoshita at 1:30 PM. Over 50 outstanding bonsai, large and small, young and old, will be on display. A raffle of bonsai items, plants and the demo tree will follow. Tea & cookies will be served. Plenty of parking for vehicles of all sizes; even for group outings. A vendor will be available to sate your plant appetite for bonsai or otherwise. For more information contact Michael Anderson at (831)247-9028 or margiesmemories@aol.com.

May 2 - 3, 2020 Chico, California
The Chico Bonsai Society: Annual Exhibition at the Chico Area Recreation District (CARD) Center, 545 Valombrosa Avenue. Hours are 11:00 AM to 5:00 PM Saturday and 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM Sunday. Demonstrations by society members both days. Trees, pots, and material will be available for sale. A raffle will be held with drawing on Sunday. The show is open to the public and admission is free. For more information contact Show Chairman Pat Gilmore at gilappl@gmail.com or visit our web site <http://www.chicobonsaisociety.org>.

CANCELLED May 2 - 3, 2020 Sacramento, California
Sacramento Bonsai Club: 74th Annual Bonsai and Suiseki Show at the Sacramento Buddhist Church, 2401 Riverside Blvd. Show hours Saturday 11:00 AM – 4:00 PM and Sunday 12:00 Noon – 4:00 PM. Demonstration both days at 1:30 PM by Sam Adina. Refreshments, benefit drawings and sales of plants and bonsai related items. For more information, contact Lucy Sakaishi-Judd at (916) 300-8103 or email juddbonsai@att.net.

May 16 - 17, 2020 Sacramento, California
Satsuki Aikokai Association of Sacramento: Hosts our Annual show of flowering Satsuki azalea bonsai at the Shepard Garden Center, 3330 McKinley Blvd. Hours are Saturday 10:00 AM – 5:00 PM, and Sunday 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM, with demonstrations at 1:00 PM on both days. Satsuki information booth, vendors, raffles, etc. For more information contact Ronn Pigram at 916-428-8505 or email satsukiaikokaisac@sbcglobal.net.

May 16 - 17, 2020 San Gabriel, California
The Chino Bonsai Club: presents its Inaugural Bonsai Exhibit at the San Gabriel Valley Medical Center (separate building across the street) 261 S. Junipero Serra Dr. Hours are Saturday from 9:30 AM to 8:00 PM and Sunday from 9:30 AM to 3:30 PM. Exciting events will take place such as round robin demonstrations, bonsai demonstrations, vendor and club sales, raffles, auctions, exhibit, and Saturday's dinner reception. On

both days, round robin demonstrations begin at 9:30 AM and David Nguy's bonsai demonstration will be at 1:00 PM. For more information, please contact David Nguy at (323)842-6188 or Jerry Garcia at (909)270-7776.

May 17, 2020 Van Nuys, California
Sansui Kai of Southern California: Annual Bonsai Exhibition to be held on May 17, 2020, at the Japanese Garden. 6100 Woodley Ave. Hours are 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM. Demonstration at 1:00 PM. Demo tree will be raffled at end of demonstration. Sales table with member and club bonsai material available all day. Annual Bonsai Exhibition and sale at the beautiful Japanese Garden. Free admission to the bonsai exhibit.

May 30 - 31, 2020 Oakland, California
Bay Area Satsuki Aikokai: presents their annual Satsuki Azalea Bonsai Show at the Lakeside Park Garden Center, 666 Bellevue Ave., Lake Merritt. Hours are on Saturday from 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM and on Sunday from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM. Featuring bonsai Satsuki azaleas in full flower bloom. Expert demonstration and raffle on Saturday from 1:00 to 3:00 PM. Educational forums all day. Member sales with beginner and Japan imported material. Vendor sales. Free admission. For more information, contact George Haas at gwhaas@comcast.net. Visit our website at satsukiazaleabonsai.org.

May 30 - 31, 2020 Santa Barbara, California
Bonsai Club of Santa Barbara: Annual Bonsai Exhibition and Plant Sale in the Fellowship Hall at Trinity Lutheran Church, 909 N. La Cumbre Road, Santa Barbara (corner of Foothill Road). Hours are Saturday 11:00 AM – 4:00 PM and Sunday Noon – 4:00 PM. Demonstrations at 1:00 PM: Mel Ikeda on Saturday, Ann Erb on Sunday. Free admission. For more information, contact Joe Olson (805) 964-0869, email joeyuccaseed@gmail.com, or visit <http://www.santabarbarabonsai.org/>.

June 6 - 7, 2020 San Mateo, California
Sei Boku Bonsai Kai: 37th Anniversary Bonsai Show located at the San Mateo Garden Center, 605 Parkside Way (at Beresford Park). Hours are 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM, both days. Saturday demonstration performed by Gordon Deeg from 1:00 to 3:00 PM. Sunday demonstration performed by Valerie Monroe from 1:00 to 3:00 PM. Demo trees for raffles! Also, there will be door prizes, tree clinic, vendor sales, plant sales. Free Admission. Contact Marsha Mekisich for more information at Springhill.2@outlook.com. Visit our web site at <http://www.seibokubonsai.org/?sec=show>.

CANCELLED June 13 - 14, 2020 Oakland, California
Suiseki Societies of Northern California, California Shohin Society and Bay Area Shohin Society enthusiastically present The Second Annual Bay Area Suiseki and Shohin Show at the Lakeside Park Garden Center, 666 Bellevue Ave., Lake Merritt. Hours are Saturday from 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM and Sunday from

10:00 AM to 4:00 PM. This show will feature Suiseki viewing stones and Shohin bonsai from clubs around the San Francisco Bay Area. There will be demonstrations and large vendor and club sale areas. For more information, contact Lisa Harper at lisaharper@me.com.

Lane Nursery, 981 Alden Lane. Show hours are 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM with a demonstration at 1:00 PM on both days. The finished tree will be raffled off at the end of the demonstrations. Bonsai pots, soil, etc. available for purchase. Admission is free.

June 20 - 21, 2020 Livermore, California
Valley Bonsai Society: 12th Annual Show at Alden

Newsletter Editor: Beverly Martinez
Newsletter Contributors: Tom Colby
Newsletter Photographer: various members

East Bay Bonsai Society—Schedule for 2020
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Regular Meetings: Second Wednesday, every month (except July, August and October) @ 7:30 pm
Place: Lakeside Garden Center, 666 Bellevue Avenue, Oakland. Visitors welcome.
Website for Bonsai Garden Lake Merritt: www.gsbflakemerritt.org/

Meeting	Program
Apr 8	Cancelled
Apr 26	Introduction to Bonsai at BGLM - Cancelled
Apr 27	Workshop at Merritt College - Cancelled
May 4	EBBS Board Meeting
May 13	Janet Nelson - Grafting
May 24	Introduction to Bonsai at BGLM – Michael Jensen-Akula
May 25	School holiday – no workshop at Merritt College
June 1	EBBS Board Meeting
June 10	Janet Roth – Suiseki
June 28	Introduction to Bonsai at BGLM – John Nackley/Bob Gould
July 6	EBBS Board Meeting
July 8	Annual Auction