



# The Tree Shrinker

Volume XLIX, No.6

A MONTHLY BULLETIN

<http://www.eastbaybonsai.org>



[facebook.com/eastbaybonsai](https://www.facebook.com/eastbaybonsai)

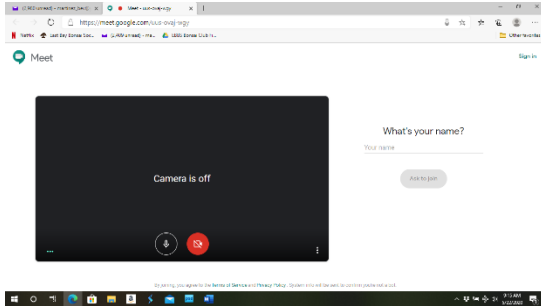


[twitter.com/EastBayBonsai](https://twitter.com/EastBayBonsai)

**East Bay Bonsai Society**  
**Monthly Meeting June 10, 2020 7:30 PM On-Line!**

## EBBS On-Line

In case you were not able to join us last month for our regularly scheduled meeting, here is a little information on the application we are using. The app is titled Google Meet. To join a meeting, click on the join link in the email invitation and you should be presented with the following screen. If joining for the first time you may be asked to install the Meet application. It is free and only takes a few minutes to install. Once you receive this screen, turn on the microphone and video by clicking on them, type in your name and click the "ask to join" button.



Once you join, you can adjust your screen to look similar to the one below. The images with people have the cameras turned on, images with letters, are on smart cell phones or computers and have their cameras turned off. The image with a phone number is called in on a regular phone so no name was captured, just the partial phone number.



Addison was presenting at this time during the meeting, so the screen reflects this. At the bottom of the screen are buttons for turning the video and audio on and off, and leaving the meeting. To the far right are 3 dots which give additional options. At the top of the screen is additional information and a "chat" box. During the meeting, if you wish to ask a question, you will do it through the "chat box". Our next meeting will again start early at 7:00 PM so members can become familiar with the screen settings. We will begin the actual meeting at 7:30 with announcements.

We are looking forward to seeing many members in June for our monthly meeting. Please feel free to contact Addison Galambos at 650-495-9342, email: [barcalod@gmail.com](mailto:barcalod@gmail.com). Or contact any of the following board members for help in signing into the meeting.

Michael Jensen-Akula - 510-821-0199  
Andrea Callegari - 206-973-6508  
Beverly Martinez 925-437-2347

## May Meeting

The May meeting was a great success! Janet Nelson educated us on grafting with a fabulous PowerPoint demonstration which included: why to graft, when to graft, how to graft and follow-up care. Janet also provided her own trees that she had grafted as examples of each type of graft.



Grafting can solve various problems in tree design and there are four reasons why one might graft: Adding a branch in a location that is lacking, to insert different foliage, or add roots or different root stock.

Depending on where and why you will be grafting, you may need to use a variety of types of grafts. For instance, a scion or bud/stem graft is often used on conifers and commonly known as an asparagus graft. A Thread graft places a branch through the branch or trunk of a tree by drilling a hole where the new branch is needed. Approach grafts are grafts which are branches laid alongside of the tree trunk so that the cambiums touch and grow together. This is often used to add branches or roots.

Phoenix grafts are not grafting at all, but rather the inclusion of a separate piece of drift wood which lays alongside a trunk giving it the appearance of deadwood (often called tanuki).



Finally, there is air layering, where sphagnum moss is placed around a branch or trunk which has had its outer layer removed leaving the cambium open to the air. By placing the moss around the cambium and covering with a plastic bag and keeping it moist, roots will grow and eventually the branch or tree can be cut away with new roots.

Janet then walked us through what tools to use and explained each style of grafting in depth with pictures. Janet explained that in 6-8 weeks the two parts of the graft should start melding and wait at least a season before removing the tape or plastic. Let it grow at least a year before cutting or starting to work on a newly-grafted branch. The branch union will always be weaker than a natural joint and if all foliage is replaced, start gradually to cut back old foliage.



Grafting should only be done during the dormant season and we were provided with this time line:

- Conifers: February – April
- Deciduous: February – May
- Live Oaks: March
- Tropicals: June

Some of the common grafting targets include:

- White Pine onto Black Pine root stock
- Shimpaku foliage onto American native junipers
- Corkbark pine onto Black Pine
- Blossoming Ume onto non-blossoming Ume
- Maple branches/roots onto same tree where branches or roots/nebari are desired
- Black pine foliage onto Ponderosa pine

In closing, Janet left us with these reminders:

- Start with a healthy tree
- Sharp Grafting Knife
- Keep scions moist
- Similar size scion & parent
- Line up the cambium
- Graft with an expert
- Make it secure
- Be patient
- Not all grafts take

Thank you, Janet, for being our first on-line presenter with such a fascinating topic.

## Looking for Suggestions!

As we have had to cancel our planned meetings and are now on-line, we are looking for suggestions for topics of discussion for July and future meetings.

You may contact any board member by phone or send an email to [EBBS\\_Distribution@Yahoo.com](mailto:EBBS_Distribution@Yahoo.com) with ideas! Any and all will be appreciated!

Thank you,  
Your EBBS Board

## June Meeting

Our June meeting will once again be on-line. As June is a busy month for bonsai, we will have a group discussion with presentation of trees and what we should be doing with them. This will not be a single person presentation, but rather society member trees to show with questions or recommendations regarding their care during June.

Many of us are wondering what should we do in June for our trees. Are they ready to trim or wire? Should they be defoliated or needles pulled? Come to the meeting and we will find that out together.

“How do I show my tree at the meeting?” you might ask. Well, there are several ways. One would be by logging into the meeting using your cell phone and pointing your phone at the tree. Another might be by bringing the tree into your house and setting it next to you at your computer (recommend for smaller trees). And the last choice may be taking a picture of the tree and bringing it up on your computer screen. You can then present your screen at the meeting as your image. Or, if you will be calling into the meeting, you can send the picture(s) to Addison Galamobs at [Barcalod@gmail.com](mailto:Barcalod@gmail.com) who will present them on screen while you speak to them.

Either way, come to the meeting as it should be interesting, educational and fun for all.

### **What to do in June**

For reference during our June meeting, following are the full instructions from the EBBS San Francisco Bay Area Calendar for Bonsai Care.

#### **General**

- Rotate trees at least twice this month to promote symmetry as canopy continues period of rapid growth

#### **Fertilizing**

- Scratch soil surface to aid penetration of nutrients
- Deciduous trees: start regular feeding
- Satsuki azaleas: fertilize to thank plant for blooming
- Conifers: continue regular feeding
- Black pines: remove fertilizer balls at time of decandling
- Remember to remove fertilizer balls when temperature exceeds 90°
- Foliar-feed cascades: apex (= bottom) 3 times, mid 2 X, top 1 X
- Place deep-potted cascades in saucers (1/2 depth of pot) containing MiracleGro for a few days at beginning of month

#### **Watering**

- Assure trees and soil are not drying out
- Adjust automatic, programmed watering system for warm weather
- Defoliated trees: water less because of reduced transpiration.
- Satsuki azaleas: water when mulch on soil has dried or top of soil is dry to your touch; avoid overwatering that fosters rotting of roots

#### **Insect, disease, & weed control** (see Appendix 9)

- Control rapidly multiplying insects as soon as possible
- If ants are in a tree, look for aphids, scale, or mealy-bugs; tip pot on its side to observe lower sides of leaves and branches where insects are to be found; if found, apply Malathion or Sevin
- Satsuki azaleas: apply Safer Soap or Other/Orthenex to control sucking insects; if unlikely rain is expected, apply Bayleton or Captan to prevent flower blight on late-blooming cultivars

#### **Styling/Pruning**

- Sacrifice/escape branches: strip lower leaves and secondary branching to prevent shading of tree
- Check wiring on fast-growing branches, particularly on maples and oaks, to prevent injury
- Maples (but not cut-leafed), hornbeam, sweet gum, elm, and zelkova, but not beech: if healthy, may defoliate by cutting petioles to produce a second crop of smaller leaves; later you do it the smaller the replacement leaves; do it too late (after mid June to early July) trees may not refoilate until next year; fertilize two weeks prior to defoliation and four weeks after with half-strength; do not defoliate in consecutive years
- Quince, ume, oaks, maples, etc.: late in month wire and bend down uprising branches
- Satsuki azaleas: remove all flowers, seed pods, and unopened buds when 80% of flower buds have opened; reduce vegetative growth to no more than two shoots at each tip and two leaves on each shoot; remove unwanted smaller branches; seal all wounds
- Needle and shimpaku junipers, cryptomeria, elms; continue pinching
- Black and other hard pines: mid-June in cooler regions and late-June in warmer regions, complete decandling strongest shoots in staggered method; if using one-time method, prune all candles in early June in cooler regions and in late June in warmer regions

#### **Repotting**

- Not recommended at this time for trees of temperate climates  
Pomegranate, citrus, bougainvillea, figs, and other semitropical or tropical trees: in warmer regions, repot in early summer; remove top 1/2 inch of soil from trunk/root base to pot lip to remove old fertilizer, debris, insect eggs, and weed seeds; add new soil to encourage new rootage and insulate root mass from summer's heat

#### **Propagating/Collecting**

- Deciduous trees: root softwood cuttings
- Graft only Japanese maple (see Appendix 8)
- Maples and wisteria: sever air-layers made in February, if roots adequately developed
- Satsuki azaleas: root softwood cuttings

#### **Writers needed!**

Have a story to share about bonsai? How about a technique or something special you have learned during your bonsai journey? Or maybe you'd like to head up a column in our newsletter. The Tree Shrinker is in need of writers. If you enjoy writing, have a story to tell, or information to share, please feel free to submit it to: [EBBS\\_Distribution@Yahoo.com](mailto:EBBS_Distribution@Yahoo.com).

The only requirement is that it must be related to Bonsai.



**How is your garden growing?**

Thank you to everyone who sent in pictures of their bonsais and gardens for publication. If you would like to see yours in the Tree Shrinker next month, be sure to send your pictures to [EBBS\\_Distribution@yahoo.com](mailto:EBBS_Distribution@yahoo.com). Include type of tree, age and how long in training if known. Also indicate if you would like to be anonymous and in Facebook as well as the newsletter. Here are this month's submissions:

**Suzanne Muller – Camellia, purchased in 2016**



**Peter Guero – Companion azalea in bloom with moss carpet**



**Peter Guero – Azalea trimmed to multiple trunks from nursery stock in February and repotted.**



**Peter Guero- Semi-cascade, two-year old Juniper, tilted and repotted late winter in custom made pot, and partially wired.**



**Adam Kleinberg – Japanese Maple (Acer Palmatum)**

**Won in the Benefit raffle after styling by Segio Cuan at the EBBS Show October 2019.**





## Azaleas

By: Tom Colby

Selected from: *Tree Shrinker* June 2017

Many EBBS members attended the splendid program on azaleas given at the regular meeting by Bob Gould. Inspired by his presentation, many members then attended the annual azalea show hosted by the local azalea club. Completing the azalea trifecta for this month (or perfect azalea storm if you prefer) is the following article reprinted from archives of the *Tree Shrinker*, and one of the greatest hits of 2015, as I am sure that you recall. The article has been edited for clarity.



Unfortunately, there is a divide in the bonsai world at least as big as the Grand Canyon. On one side are the folks who grow azaleas so lushly that they have to whack the daylight out of them each year to prevent them from becoming a huge bush. On the other side of the chasm are the folks who provide a sterile and harsh environment for azaleas where the cold winds of death blow through the desolate land. Why is it that some folks can easily grow azaleas and others have no success at all in growing them?



There are many reasons why trees fail to grow for us, but for many of us who live on the wrong side of the chasm, the main culprit is the shimpaku juniper. More often than not, we started our bonsai adventure with a shimpaku juniper. These are endearing trees that can tolerate a fair amount of unintended abuse, and patiently wait while we learn how to manage necessities of bonsai life like proper potting soil, water and fertilizer.

As our collection grows, we add other species of trees, and we apply all we have learned about shimpakus to the new trees. In most cases, this works splendidly. But there are a few cases where this assumption fails, notably for azaleas. Azaleas have requirements that are distinctly different from shimpaku junipers, and if you try to grow them using the cultural conditions that you would use for shimpaku, you are doomed to failure. Recognizing this difference is the line between success and failure.

As usual, it is all about roots, and specifically, about keeping the feeder roots alive. As with all bonsai, the feeder roots will die when they dry out. In nature, the roots of shimpaku junipers grow deeply into the ground, and as a result, the roots dive to the bottom of the pot when a juniper is placed in a bonsai pot. They like sun, and during a hot day, the top half of an inch or so of the potting medium can dry out. Most of the feeder roots are down at the bottom of the pot, and the dry surface does not bother them. As long as there is at least a little moisture at the bottom of the pot, they will survive without damage. In short, for most bonsai, the most critical area of the pot to be kept moist is the lower third of the pot, where most of the feeder roots are located.



The ancestors of satsuki azaleas grew as understory plants in the forests of Japan. The soil is hard and impenetrable, and is covered with a layer of leaf litter. The feeder roots of the azaleas grow on the surface of the soil under the leaf litter. Further, the feeder roots are very fine and die very quickly if allowed to dry out. When an azalea is planted in a bonsai pot, it is not surprising that the roots reach for the surface of the potting medium. If an azalea is placed in the sun on a hot day and the top one half of an inch of the potting medium dries out, good bye feeder roots. In contrast with most bonsai, the most critical area for the medium to be kept

moist for an azalea is not the bottom one third, but rather the top one third of the soil.

So, how do you prevent the surface of the soil from drying out? The answer is to place a layer of mulch on the pot to keep the top portion of the soil moist. Many azalea bonsai are grown with a layer of special sphagnum moss on top of the soil to protect it from drying out. Other forms of mulch also work well.

Azaleas are subject to root rot if the soil is continuously soggy wet. The choice of soil must be directed towards one that drains well, yet retains some moisture. The window between too dry and too wet for azaleas is a bit narrower than for shimpaku junipers, and a bit more on the wetter side.

### **Events by Others (subject to change due to Coronavirus)**

#### **June 20 - 21, 2020 Livermore, California**

**Valley Bonsai Society:** 12th Annual Show at Alden 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.

#### **August 8, 2020 Mateo, California**

**Bonsai Society of San Francisco, East Bay Bonsai Society, Kusamura Bonsai, Midori Bonsai, San Jose Betsuin Bonsai, and Sei Boku Bonsai Kai:** sponsoring a Bonsai Flea Market/Swap Meet at the San Mateo Garden Center, 605 Parkside Way, San Mateo. Saturday only, from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM. Admission is free to the public. To reserve a table for \$10 contact Bill McDonald at [bill@walter-mcdonald.com](mailto:bill@walter-mcdonald.com) or (650) 678-5517.

#### **August 22 - 23, 2020 Santa Rosa, California**

**Redwood Empire Bonsai Society:** 37th Annual Bonsai Show at the Santa Rosa Veterans Memorial Building, 1351 Maple Ave. Hours are Saturday 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM and Sunday 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM. Featuring Kathy Shaner bonsai demonstration, both days from 1:00 to 3:00 PM. Demo trees to be raffled. See largest bonsai exhibit, San Francisco Suiseki Kai stone exhibit, large vendor area, large member sales, and exciting silent auctions. Free admission and parking. Free refreshments. Contact Bob Shimon for additional information [shimon@mcn.org](mailto:shimon@mcn.org) or visit our website [www.rebsbonsai.org](http://www.rebsbonsai.org).

#### **September 19, 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](mailto:pete.camarena@sbcglobal.net).

#### **September 19 - 20, 2020 San Andreas, California**

**Mother Lode Bonsai Club:** Sixth Annual Bonsai Show at the San Andreas Public Library, 1299 Gold Hunter Road (off Mt. Ranch Road.), San Andreas. Show hours on both days are 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM. Demonstrations at 11:00 AM and 1:30 PM with prize drawings immediately following. Vendor and member bonsai-related items will be available for sale. Open to the public with free admission and free parking. For more info, contact Richard McKinstry (209) 288-2330 or email [richardwandr@aol.com](mailto:richardwandr@aol.com). Visit club website at [www.motherlodebonsai.org](http://www.motherlodebonsai.org).

#### **October 3 – 4, 2020 Thousand Oaks, California**

**Conejo Valley Bonsai Society:** 17th Annual Bonsai Exhibition at the Resource Center at the Gardens of the World, 2001 Thousand Oak Blvd. Hours are 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM both days. Demonstrations in the Bandstand at 1:00 PM Saturday and Sunday. Free Admission. No sales of bonsai related items. For information, call Marj Branson at 805-373-1330 or visit our web site at [www.cvbs-bonsai.org](http://www.cvbs-bonsai.org).

#### **October 30 - November 1, 2020 Nella, California**

**Golden State Bonsai Federation (GSBF):** 2020 Convention 43 "MISSION: BONSAI" to be held at the Hotel Mission De Oro, 13070 S. Highway 33. Hotel rooms \$121 + tax (two night minimum). Featuring headliner Yasuo Mitsuya of Japan. A full slate of workshops, seminars and critiques. There will be two banquet dinners, Friday and Saturday evenings with live auction and raffle. Vendors from northern and southern California in one huge location. Online Registration Date: July 1, 2020. Reduced convention price of \$199.00 (watch for early bird and club bundle registration discounts). For further information, contact Bob Hilvers at [bonsaigui@comcast.net](mailto:bonsaigui@comcast.net).

---

Newsletter Editor: Beverly Martinez

Contributors: Tom Colby

Newsletter Photographers: various members

<b>East Bay Bonsai Society—Schedule for 2020</b>
--

**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.gsbf-lakemerritt.org/](http://www.gsbf-lakemerritt.org/)

<b>Meeting</b>	<b>Program</b>
----------------	----------------

June 1	EBBS Board Meeting
June 10	On line discussion – What to do in June
June 29	EBBS Board Meeting
July 8	Annual Auction – <b>Delayed until further notice</b>
Aug 3	EBBS Board Meeting
Aug 15	Annual Potluck Picnic – Michael Jensen-Akula home (Oakland)
Aug 23	Introduction to Bonsai at BGLM -
Aug 24	Workshop at Merritt College
Aug 31	EBBS Board Meeting
Sept 9	Gordon Deeg – Camelias
Sept 27	Introduction to Bonsai at BGLM
Sept 28	Workshop at Merritt College
Sept 28	EBBS Board Meeting