



The Tree Shrinker

Volume LX, No.9

A MONTHLY BULLETIN

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East Bay Bonsai Society

Monthly Meeting: September, Wednesday, 8th, 2021

In Person at the Garden Center Lake Merritt at 7:30 PM

We are Back!!

The City of Oakland has granted our return to our normal meeting place at the Garden Center at Lake Merritt. However, to minimize our risk of passing Covid19 we are going to require face masks during the meeting and we will use social distancing in the seating arrangements. Unfortunately, we will also curtail the goodies until we can return to a normal state. This meeting will not occur on-line, but we are working on having the on-line set up available in time for the November meeting.

If you can recall back to March 2020, Randall Lee was scheduled to demonstrate rock plantings. We are going to pick up where we left off and Randall will be with us to once again present on Rock Plantings. You have likely seen some of Randall's rock plantings in the past and have wondered just how that is done and what kind of care will keep the plants looking so nice and healthy. Well, wonder no more. Randall will walk us through the process and give advice on maintaining the trees as well.



It is always a delight to have Randall present. Last year he showed us how to create a beautiful Hinoki Cypress bonsai from a 3+ foot nursery tree and the year before he walked us through group slab plantings.

Randall's bonsai experience started in 1984 as a young boy. Since that time, he has studied with Dennis Makishima, Kathy Shaner and Mas Imazumi. He is continuing to add to his expertise by currently attending classes with Peter Tea.

Randall belongs to two bonsai clubs; our own East Bay Bonsai Society and the Merritt Bonsai Club where he has reigned in the past as president and holds monthly workshops with Bill Castellon. Randall is also a Certified Aesthetic Pruner and holds the title of Past President of the Aesthetic Pruners Association. He presently gives demos, workshops and consultations both in pruning and bonsai.

Feel free to bring in show and tell bonsai trees and viewing stones as well as donations. We will not be holding our regular raffle but will be having a silent auction for donated items. Randall's rock planting will also be auctioned off at the end of the meeting.

August Meeting

What a fun evening we had seeing our members and helping each other resolve tree issues. Thank you to Rick and Janet Trumm, Bob and Polly Gould and Michael Hylton for providing photos of some of their wonderful trees.

We started out with Lisa Harper walking us through the summer guidelines from the East Bay Seasonal Care Guide that will soon be available for sale. We had discussion on when best to decandle Black Pines and Lisa shared how she manages to keep very small trees

alive during the summer heat. Here are a few pictures in case you missed the meeting:



Janet's beautiful Bougainvillea and succulent accent plant



Rick's Asian pear with fruit. Rick received from Tony and it is at least 30 years old.



Bob's Trident Maple 30 – 40 years old



Bob's shimpaku grafted onto a California juniper



Michael's Live Oak Grown 12 years from seed



Janet and Ricks pitcher plant that catches its own food

The EBBS Annual Show is Coming!

It's our time to shine in the bonsai community! October seems to be a long way off, but it will be here before you know it. Now is the time to be looking at your collection and selecting which trees you would like to display. The EBBS Board hopes that everyone will display at least one tree. Your best tree or trees will be most welcome regardless of whether it is a humble Juniper or a spectacular finished bonsai. Each and every tree in the show makes a contribution to the overall success of the show. Now is also the time to be sure that the pot compliments the tree and that you have a stand for the tree. If not, there are usually extra stands available at the show setup, but bear in mind that they may not do your tree full justice.



We will have sign up sheets at the September meeting for volunteering. The show takes all hands to run smoothly so have your pens loaded, locked, and at the ready so you can sign up to help with the show on September 8th. If you are not able to sign up at the September meeting you may send an email to EBBS_Distribution@Yahoo.com stating what you would like to volunteer for or contact Bev Martinez at 925-437-2347.

Following are the categories needing volunteers:

Security and Docents – to secure the tree area ensuring all trees are safe from theft and check purchases of plants and items exiting at the door.

Reception table – Greeting and directing visitors arriving at the show.

Plant and bonsai material sales – selling and assisting the selling of member trees and other bonsai related items.

Hospitality (food, beverage & kitchen) – Preparing, serving and cleaning up foods and beverages for volunteers.

If you wish to reserve a tokonoma, either sign up for one at the next meeting or contact Janice Dilbeck at janicedilbeck@comcast.net.

Our show also features a plant sale. Now is the time to select plants, pots or other bonsai related items that you

would like to sell. Many of the visitors to the show will see bonsai for the first time and are eager to buy small trees. They are especially interested in plants that cost less than ten dollars. There will be plant consignment sale sheets and tags at the available at the September meeting for your use. If you are unable to pick them up at the meeting an email will be sent to all members prior to the show with instructions for filling out the forms.

New Board Elections are coming!

Do you want to help run the club? Got some great ideas for events or a special talent that can aid the club in making decisions or bringing about events? Then We need you! Elections are coming soon. Officer terms are for 1 year and can be reelected annually. Director's terms are 2 years and can continue for multiple terms if desired. You can submit your election nominations to Stephen Lysaght at smllysaght@sbcglobal.net at any time.

Bonsai Calendar

- Sun – gradually move shaded deciduous trees into sun to promote fall color.
- Watering – Water regularly, but don't over-water.
- Fertilizing – Use low or zero nitrogen fertilizers.
- Repotting – Begin repotting redwood, shimpaku and quince after mid-month. Begin repotting flowering and fruiting varieties of prunus.
- Styling/Pruning – Remove seed pods and dry fruit. Do not wire deciduous trees until leaves drop. Renew pinching junipers and severely prune one last time this season.
- Insect and disease control – Maintain defensive treatments for fungus. Remove dead plant material. Watch for and treat insect infestations.
- Propagating/Collecting – Last opportunity to take hardwood cuttings from deciduous trees. Last opportunity to remove air-layers this year.

Refer to the EBBS Bonsai Seasonal guide for more information on care

Shows

By: Tom Colby

Every year since EBBS was formed, a show was held each year. The show allowed club members to show off their best trees and to allow others to enjoy the fruits of their efforts. The virus has disrupted much of the club activities including our annual show. Hopefully in the not-too-distant future (this year) we will be able to once again hold a show.

At each show there is a scene that always occurs and that involves a person new to bonsai approaching his first show. He has grown a couple of little shimpaku junipers and, much to his delight, they have flourished under his care. Drunk with success he then purchased a nice tree. Come show time, he wants to show his new tree. The word was that the tree has to be part of a composition which included a pot and a stand as well as the tree. The tree came in a bonsai pot so that should be ok. He was not troubled with details like the shape of the pot and whether or not it complimented his tree. As for the stand, he speculated that spending money for a piece of furniture that was used for only a couple of days a year and then stored for the rest of the year just was too much. Stands could be borrowed before the show. Let someone else store it for the rest of the year. The stand he ended up with probably did not enhance the composition. He did pull the weeds out of the pot and he did wash the dirt off the pot before he brought the tree to the show. All this just means that this person still has a bit of a journey before becoming an accomplished bonsai artist. As a matter of fact, this scene is probably familiar to most of us when we were starting our bonsai journey.

This story is about one end of the spectrum of the bonsai world. Did you ever wonder how the top 1% of the bonsai world handled their tree and shows? Let's go to Japan and peek over their shoulders. At a wave of the magic wand, you are now a very rich industrialist at the top 1% and you want to exhibit for the first time a tree in one of the top shows of the country. You let one of the bonsai masters that you trust know that you are in the market for a tree, and he will provide a fine specimen for you. Expect to pay something like the cost of a new car. If the tree is especially nice, had been in cultivation as a bonsai for a long time and had been owned by important bonsai masters, expect to pay up to the cost of a house. It is likely that the master will keep the tree at his nursery where he will care for it. Further, he will probably keep it for a couple of years before he feels that the tree is

totally ready to be shown. He could also allow you to keep the tree at your house but in either case he will do all the critical work such as repotting, pruning and wiring, all for a fee of course.

The tree will be grown in an undistinguished and relatively inexpensive pot which will be replaced before the show. The master will recommend a pot for the show which is appropriate for the tree. Most of the absolute best pots are antique Chinese pots usually worth many thousands of dollars. The master might also rent a fine old pot for your tree just for the show. After the show, the tree will be repotted back into the growing pot. The master will also select a stand which compliments the tree and completes the composition. Appropriate stands are generally very old and are frequently Chinese antiques. Just like fine pots they can be rented for the show. If purchase is involved, think in terms of cost up to as much as the cost of a gently used car.

Of course, the master will do the final grooming of the tree for the show. He will pay special attention to top dressing the tree with moss and will arrange transportation of the tree to the show, all of course for a fee.

And there you have it. Being in the top 1% sure takes a lot of work out of your part for the show but did you notice how little of the management of the tree was performed by the owner? Other than bragging rights it is a question of how much pleasure the top 1% get from their trees. You must admit that they do have nice trees, though. Needless to say, most Japanese bonsai enthusiasts are not in the top 1% and many local shows are not that different from our EBBS shows in the past. As a matter of fact, you might be surprised to know that our past club shows had more and better-quality trees than some of the local Japanese shows.

In October we can once again stage a show, so take heart. Your tree may be better than some trees in some Japanese shows.

Meet your Board Members

Officers

Lisa Harper (President)	lisaharper@me.com	(510) 220-3339
Tom Fedor (Vice President)	thomas.fedor@att.net	(510) 541-7683
Stephen Lysaght (Secretary)	smlysaght@sbcglobal.net	(925) 254-5751
Pat Cahill (Treasurer)	cahi2lpat@gmail.com	(510) 547-0831

Directors

Tom Colby	thcolby165@comcast.net	(510) 483-0858
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Andrea Callegari	andy.callegari@gmail.com	(206) 973-6508
Alise Lacosse-Offeman	alacosse@gmail.com	(925) 330-2991

Make your tree a Social Media Star! Our Facebook page is in need of member's trees to display. If interested in showing your tree, send a picture to EBBS_Distribution@Yahoo.com.

Each membership household, free of charge, may place a five-line ad related to bonsai in two newsletters each year. Please submit your ad by the preceding Monday of the month to appear in the next publication. Send your ad to EBBS_Distribution@yahoo.com.

Bonsai for Beginners is back!

Introduction to Bonsai (Bonsai for Beginners) is back on the 4th Sunday of each month from 1:00 – 3:00, excluding February and December. Sign up at Eastbaybonsai.org. Classes are held at the workshop in the Bonsai Garden at Lake Merritt.

Events by Others

October 2 and 3, 2021 Santa Nella, California

Golden State Bonsai Federation (GSBF) will host the 2021 GSBF Bonsai Rendezvous. The event theme is "Bonsai Rendezvous." A two-day event for renewal and celebration for the love of bonsai. No registration fees. Open to the public. Free bonsai demonstrations both days. Free professional bonsai critiques, Bring Your Own Bonsai and Do It Yourself Bonsai settings. Vendors from Northern and Southern California in one huge location. There will be silent auctions for quality bonsai and related items. There will be no banquet dinners. Additional information and schedule of activities is now available at the [GSBF website](#). For further information or to volunteer in support of the event, contact Rich Guillen at richguillen@att.net or call 831-233-1612.

Newsletter Editor: Beverly Martinez

Contributors: Tom Colby

East Bay Bonsai Society—Schedule for 2021

Regular Meetings: Second Wednesday, in person every month (except July, August and October) @ 7:30 pm.
Place: Lakeside Garden Center, 666 Bellevue Avenue, Oakland. Visitor's welcome.

<u>Meeting</u>	<u>Program</u>
Sept. 8	Randall Lee – Rock plantings –Live In the Garden Center
Sept. 26	Introduction to Bonsai at BGLM – Janet Nelson
Oct 4	EBBS Board Meeting
Oct9/10	Annual Show (no monthly meeting)
Oct 24	Introduction to Bonsai at BGLM – Tom Colby
Nov 1	EBBS Board Meeting
Nov 10	Monthly meeting – TBD
Nov 28	Introduction to Bonsai at BGLM – Michael Jensen-Akula
Nov 29	EBBS Board Meeting
Dec 8	Holiday dinner