



# The Tree Shrinker

Volume LXI, No.12

A MONTHLY BULLETIN

<http://www.eastbaybonsai.org>



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**East Bay Bonsai Society**  
**Next Meeting – In person only**  
**December 14, 2022 at 6:30 PM**

### A word from your editor

It has been a great privilege to be your editor of The Tree Shrinker these past 4 years. With each edition I have learned more about bonsai through the articles submitted by members (special thank you to Tom Fedor, Tom Colby and Brian Brandley), as well as enjoying our social aspects of the club through our programs, events and tips (Thank you photographers: Suzanne Muller, Stephen Lysaght, Jeremy Stevermer, Lisa Harper and Janet Nelson). As I move into my new position as President in 2023, I know you will be in very good hands with Adam Kleinberg as editor, and assistant Lisa Harper who will be stepping into the position of Past President of EBBS as well as helping Adam. So, I say Farewell to my editor days and look forward to serving you and all of EBBS in our new era.

Sincerely,  
Beverly Martinez

### December meeting – Holiday Dinner

What a great year it has been! To get back to having regular meetings, having our yearly Auction and finally our annual Show. To celebrate our successes our final meeting of the year will be a holiday dinner where we get to share and remember the events gone by. Michael Hylton is once again gearing up for his special video presentation of our events for 2022 so we can remember everything we did.

We will begin the festivities at 6:30 pm with beverages and appetizers. Note that we start one hour earlier than usual. Doors will open at 6:00 pm and we could use help in setting up for the event.



The club will furnish ham and chicken as well as beverages. The rest is provided by attendees as follows:

Last name	A-F	Dessert
Last name	G-L	Appetizer
Last name	M-R	Salad
Last name	S-Z	Side dish

The appetizer-people should plan to arrive early so food is available at the beginning of the evening. Please supply an appropriate serving utensil for the dish you are furnishing. Also, be sure to bring your own plate and eating utensils and glass. A decorative place mat would make a festive setting for the meal.



People are also encouraged to bring a small bonsai decorated for the holiday season as table center pieces. This greatly adds to the ambiance of the evening.

## November Meeting

Our November meeting was really a treat! Lisa starting the program rolling with announcements and Steven Lysaght held the election of officers and board directors. Only 1 director position was up for reelection and all officer positions were open for election.

Your new board for 2023.

President – Beverly Martinez  
Vice President – Tom Fedor  
Secretary – Alise Lacosse - Offeman  
Treasurer – Pat Cahill  
Past President – Lisa Harper

Directors:

Jeff Behring  
Tom Colby  
Addison Galambos  
Stephen Lysaght  
Michael Hylton  
Michael Jensen-Akula  
Adam Kleinberg (newsletter editor)  
Jeremy Stevermer (photographer)

Following the announcements Addison led a presentation on the why, how and when we repot. His repotting keys were:

Why?

Low water penetration – is your water pooling on the soil surface?

Unhealthy tree – is your soil quality low or does the tree have systemic diseases?

Aesthetics – Does your tree need a new pot or position/Angle?

When?

Optimal time in the Bay area is December – February before buds start to open on deciduous trees.

How?

From cutting the tie wires to rinsing after repotting, we were walked through the basic steps.

Then the fun began! Several members brought in trees to repot and shared the experience the new members. Soil and wire were provided by the club and almost everyone's trees were completed in the time allowed.



## The Mammoth is coming! Opportunity!

The Mammoth Auction and Sale that supports the Bonsai Garden at Lake Merritt is almost here. Yearly, EBBS steps up to help by cleaning up the trees and pots that have accumulated all year in the garden reserve area. This year we will be working from 9:00 – 12:00 on December 17<sup>th</sup>. It's a fun event to do together and it requires all hands for the work to be completed. Tools will be supplied. We will meet at the garden at 9:00 AM. If you are late, go on down to the reserve area. It is just past the bonsai garden. See you there!

## Thank you to our sponsors

This year we were able to get a helping hand from several local businesses. We'd like to thank our sponsors, Superfly Bonsai ([www.superflybonsai.com](http://www.superflybonsai.com)) and Bonsai Empire ([www.bonsaiempire.com](http://www.bonsaiempire.com)), for their generous donations to the silent auction at our annual show in October. Their contributions help support our club, so please check out their websites and support them if you can!



We'd also like to thank Red Boy Pizza for donating dinner to our volunteers. They have free delivery if you order direct from their website at [www.redboypizza.com](http://www.redboypizza.com), so give them a try!"



## In memory of Johnny Uchida

Via Yamato Bonsai Kai

Sensei Yoneo Uchida, known as Johnny to his friends and colleagues, was born in Kagoshima, Japan and graduated from Ichiki Nogei Koko (Ichiki Agricultural High School). He came to the United States in 1956 on an Agricultural Labor Contract and worked at various fruit farms in California. After he completed his labor contract in 1959, he was hired by the Domoto Nursery in Hayward as a nursery laborer. It was there that he became interested in bonsai.

Johnny joined the Fuji Bonsai Club in 1962 and began studying the art of bonsai. In 1969 Johnny helped found the Yamato Bonsai Kai in San Lorenzo, California. His friends Mr. Inadomi and Mr. Furuzawa were the first Sensei of the club.

In 1971 Johnny started his own nursery in Hayward specializing in bonsai. Grove Way Bonsai Nursery continues today, 47 years later, as one of the very few bonsai nurseries still in operation in the Bay Area. His clients count on his expertise and artistic abilities.

With diligence he continued to study techniques of cutting, pruning, wiring, shaping, and potting. In 1976, Johnny became Yamato Bonsai Kai's instructor, or Sensei. For the last 42 years he has served the club in this position. In honor of his service, the Yamato Bonsai Kai has placed a pedestal in his name at the Golden State Bonsai Federation's Collection North in Oakland.

In addition to serving the Yamato Bonsai Kai, Johnny has served as the Sensei of the Bonsai Sekiyu Kai in Sacramento. Many clubs ask Johnny to be the featured demonstrator for their club shows. Johnny has traveled to Alaska, Washington, Texas, Michigan, and throughout California to demonstrate the art of Bonsai as a featured demonstrator. Johnny helped Masahiko Kimura in Detroit, Michigan, with translation and demonstration, and convinced Mr. Kimura to be the featured artist at the Yamato Bonsai Kai's 33rd Annual Bonsai Exhibition in 2004. In 2005 Johnny was able to arrange for Shinji Suzuki to be the featured artist at the Yamato annual exhibition.

For 30+ years Johnny had conducted evening classes at Adult Schools in Castro Valley, Newark, and San Lorenzo. Johnny earned his teaching credential for the State of California in 1976 and his Life Credential is one of the few vocational credentials issued for Bonsai instruction in the State.

Johnny was honored by the Great Japanese Agricultural Society in 2001 "for his distinguished contribution to the development of agriculture and the friendship between Japan and America." The Governor of the Great Japanese Agricultural Society, Prince Nobuhito Katsura, and the President of the Great Japanese Agricultural Society, Eiji Yamagiwa, presented Johnny with the RYOKUHAKUJU-YUKOSHO (or the Medal of Green with a White Line) on November 22, 2001.

Johnny was presented with the Circle of Sensei Award at the GSBF Convention in 2003. This award honors those who have influenced the Bonsai world by being teachers of bonsai art and by their dedications and commitments to bonsai in California.

A visit to Grove Way Bonsai Nursery at 1239 Grove Way, Hayward, is a must for any Bonsai enthusiast who comes to Northern California. The gardens reflect the

skills of a true bonsai artist. As a member of the Circle of Sensei, Johnny is recognized as one of the great teachers of bonsai. He continues to share his knowledge, promote the awareness of the art of Bonsai, and serve as a gracious mentor to his many students. His enthusiasm and integrity make him the perfect teacher.



### **Bonsai Calendar**

- During the winter most trees are dormant or semi-dormant.
- Take advantage to photograph deciduous trees without leaves.
- Rotate trees at least once a month.
- Review exposure of trees to sun.
- Fertilize deciduous until dormant in winter.
- Water during prolonged dry spells between storms .
- Prop up one end of pots to help drainage during prolonged storms (good advice year-round)

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

### **Bonsai for Beginners**

Did you know that EBBS along with the BGLM supports and presents a class that walks through the history, horticulture and art of bonsai to anyone who would like a good foundation in bonsai? The classes take place in the workroom of the Bonsai Garden at Lake Merritt at 1:00 PM on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of each month (excluding February and December).

Our instructors do a marvelous job of not only a foundation for new bonsai enthusiasts but also examine trees brought in giving advice on the care needed to become a bonsai as well as give a tour of the bonsai garden pointing out characteristics of the trees with time allowed after the session. We currently have four excellent instructors: Janet Nelson, Tom Colby, Michael Jensen-Akula and Addison Galambos. If you are new to bonsai, I encourage you to take advantage of this opportunity to increase your knowledge with this free class that is open to the public.

### **ADS**

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](mailto:EBBS_Distribution@yahoo.com).

### **WINTER CLEANOUT!!!**

Very flexible .... all reasonable offers considered.

Pls contact Tony Saraceno  
– [asaraceno2011@gmail.com](mailto:asaraceno2011@gmail.com) for appointment.



Pictures from Pacific Bonsai Expo 2022

## Events

**Jan 21, 2023, 10:00 AM – Jan 22, 2023, 4:30 PM Temple City Live Oak Park Community,**

10144 Bogue St, Temple City, CA 91780, USA

**59th Baikoen Bonsai Kenkyukai Winter Silhouette Show and Sale,** Temple City Live Oak Park Community Center,

Live Oak Room, 10144 Bogue St. Temple City, CA 91780, 10am to 4:30pm. Sales and demonstration at 1pm on both days. Deciduous bonsai are featured from club members and invited guests. The Nagata-Komai award will be presented, and there will be a demonstrator at 1pm on both days. There will be a sales area with club and vendor plants, pots, tools and more. For more information, please visit [baikoenbonsai.com](http://baikoenbonsai.com) or email Joe Galgoul, [joegalgoul@yahoo.com](mailto:joegalgoul@yahoo.com).

**Jan 23, 2023, 6:30 PM Sergio Cuan - GSBF Golden Zoom Series**

GSBF Clubs will get the Zoom link to share with their membership for an evening with Sergio Cuan.

**Feb 03, 2023, 10:00 AM – Feb 05, 2023, 12:00 PM 18<sup>th</sup> Biennial Shohin Seminar**

Santa Nella, 13070 CA-33, Santa Nella, CA 95322, USA

The Shohin Seminar is a popular event! You may register and submit your workshop requests now but getting in relies on lottery system. To pre-register visit <https://www.calshohin.org/>

**Feb 09, 2023, 10:00 AM – Feb 12, 2023, 6:00 AM 2023 Kokufu-ten Japanese National Bonsai Exhibition**

Taito City, 8-36 Uenokōen, Taito City, Tokyo 110-0007, Japan

Kokufu-ten, is the largest and most prestigious bonsai event held in Japan.

**Feb 18, 2023, 11:00 AM – Feb 19, 2023, 4:00 PM Bonsai-aThon**

The Huntington, San Marino, 1151 Oxford Rd, San Marino, CA 91108, USA

Mark your calendar for Saturday & Sunday, February 18-19, 2023. Bonsai-a-thon at the Huntington! A weekend of festivities!

**Feb 18, 2023, 12:00 PM – Feb 19, 2023, 3:00 PM Annual Mammoth Auction & Sale**

Oakland, Lakeside Park Garden Center, 666 Bellevue Ave, Oakland, CA 94610, USA

All proceeds support the GBSF Garden at Lake Merritt

**Apr 08, 2023, 10:00 AM – Apr 09, 2023, 4:00 PM American Bonsai Association, Sacramento**

Sacramento, 3330 McKinley Blvd, Sacramento, CA 95816, USA

The American Bonsai Association, Sacramento's (ABAS) 63rd Annual Spring Bonsai & Suiseki Show and Sale will feature headliner, Todd Schlafer of First Branch Bonsai. Demonstrations will take place both Saturday and Sunday at 1:30 PM.

**Aug 26, 2023, 10:00 AM – Aug 27, 2023, 4:00 PM REBS 37<sup>th</sup> Annual Bonsai Show**

Rohnert Park, 5401 Snyder Ln, Rohnert Park, CA 94928, USA

The return of the Redwood Empire Bonsai Society hosting its 37th Annual Bonsai Show. New modern facilities with AC. Featuring the international renowned bonsai artist Ryan Neil as guest demonstrator.

**Oct 21, 2023, 10:00 AM – Oct 22, 2023, 3:00 PM Capitol City Bonsai Show**

Sacramento, 3330 McKinley Blvd, Sacramento, CA 95816, USA

This group show features tree and suiseki displays from participating area clubs.

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Newsletter Editor: Beverly Martinez

Contributors: Adam Kleinberg, Addison Galambos

Photographers: Stephen Lysaght

<b>East Bay Bonsai Society—Schedule for 2022/2023</b>
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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. Visitor's welcome.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Program</u>
Dec 7	Tree Shrinker delivered
Dec 17	Cleanup Mammoth auction trees & pots
Dec 14	Annual Holiday Dinner (6:30 PM)
Jan 7	Tree Shrinker delivered
Jan 14	Jonas Dupuich – Exposed root
Jan 24	Bonsai for Beginners – Tom Colby
Feb 1	Tree Shrinker delivered
Feb 8	Monthly program – TBD
Mar 1	Tree Shrinker delivered
Mar 8	Addison Galambos/Alise Offeman – Kokofu
Mar 26	Bonsai for beginners – Addison Galambos
Apr 5	Tree Shrinker delivered
Apr 12	Monthly program – TBD
Apr 23	Bonsai for Beginners – Michael Jensen-Akula
May 3	Tree Shrinker delivered
May 10	Monthly program – TBD
May 28	Bonsai for beginners – Janet Nelson
Jun 7	Tree Shrinker delivered
Jun 14	EBBS Annual Auction
Jun 25	Bonsai for beginners – Tom Colby