



The Tree Shrinker

Volume LXI, No.6

A MONTHLY BULLETIN

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East Bay Bonsai Society
Annual Auction: June 8, 2022
Setup - 6:00 PM
Viewing - 7:00 PM
Auction - 7:30 PM

It's Auction Time!

The time has finally come! So, get ready! The annual auction is right around the corner, and after 2 years of hiatus there should be many great plants, pots and other bonsai articles to bid on. If you have volunteered to work the auction, please be at the garden center by 6:00 PM so set up can go smoothly. If you have articles to auction, 6:30 is your set time to be there. Sign in with your paperwork in hand and the 3-part tags filled out completely. Each section should be filled out in full as each will be used for a separate task to ensure you receive proper credit for the sales. If you want your item to only be purchased by a set dollar amount or above be sure to record that value as the reserve amount on your consignment and donation sheet. to prove they are your items.

The auction is open to members and non-members for selling as well as purchasing. Viewing will begin at 7:00 PM with the auction commencing promptly at 7:30 PM.

There is no cost for paddles. They can be picked up at a table near to the first entrance to the Vista room. There you will sign in and pick up your paddle. The auction rules and information will be on the paddle card you receive. Be sure to read them so there is no confusion during the auction.



Once you have completed bidding and are ready to cash out and claim your items, bring your paddle to the Cashier Liaison, Suzanne Muller, and she will obtain your packet from the recorders. If you have any questions or concerns, Suzanne is your Go-To person. The recorders can-not, and will not answer questions. If you brought items for bidding and they did not sell, you may pick them up at the secure holding table after the auction is complete. Be sure to have your id handy to identify your items.

May Meeting

Prior to our normal presentation we were treated to a visit from a local artist, Magnolia Lee from Mag Lee Studios where she paints bonsais in their traditional bonsai settings using acrylic paints. She brought in several of her paintings for us to view. If you are interested in seeing more of her work or would like to contact Mag she can be reached at Magnolia.lee3@gmail.com or her website at magleestudios.com.



After announcements on the June Auction and other business we moved on to the presentation.

We were very fortunate to have Jerry Carpenter join us for the May meeting. Jerry had not done an in-person meeting for 2 years, so he was as excited as we were to present. Jerry came, in-hand, with many tropicals and donated two to the Benefit Drawing; a Buckeye and a Peruvian Pepper Tree.

Jerry opened the evening by introducing us to a Brazilian Rain tree which blooms puff balls similar to a Mimosa. It is only wired in the winter and can handle the cold down to the lower 30s°. It does require high humidity, but uses regular bonsai soil. They are available at Calaveras Nursery in Sunol.



Next up was a Buckeye. Buckeye leaves begin opening in January and are gone by July. He removes all of the flowers as they will “suck the juice out”. Buckeyes can handle a little drought. Jerry’s tree was collected 6 years ago and has been cut back to just over a foot tall. Recommendations: Cut back to 2 leaves and repot every 3 to 5 years. Congratulations to Suzanne Muller on winning this tree.



The next tree was very unusual – a Peruvian Pepper Tree. Being careful with this tree is an understatement, if the resin on the leaves or the sap touches you the burning pain can last for hours. Jerry recommended using gloves, goggles and long sleeves when working with this tree. Jerry was able to bud back this tree over time. He has also learned to not overwater the tree and not to cut the roots back hard. The tree needs heat so work on it when it is the hottest part of the year. This tree has been in a pot for 7 years and can stay for another couple of years. Congratulations to Janet Nelson on winning this tree.



In general, tropicals should be repotted when temperatures are high. Jerry has found that unglazed pots usually have warmer soil than glazed pots, so they are best used for tropicals.

Trees are considered tropical when their trunks are fleshy and contain latex or sap inside, but lack the woodiness of bark. However, although the centers are fluid, they can become woody over time.

When keeping tropicals indoors, they should be in a sunny location, but not next to a window. All indoor plants do best under grow lights where they receive the correct amount of light without the additional heat that a window can produce. In fact, Jerry does not heat his home when his trees are moved from indoors to outdoors daily to give them daily natural light and temperatures. If the indoors were more than a 10° difference the trees could suffer from shock.

If you are looking to begin a collection of tropicals, Jerry recommends starting with either a Tiger Bark or Microcarpa. Both are easy and very rewarding. Other trees Jerry provided were:

Ficus Green Island



Ficus Microcarpa



Schefflera



Jerry also provided the following list of Bay Area Friendly Tropical trees:

Ficus Nerifolia - Willow Leaf Do not let foliage get too dense. Common pest - Thrips Ficus

burt-davyi-Strangler Fig Good for Shohin, terrarium plantings, group plantings. Can produce many figs (small round green figs that turn purple when ripened).

Schefflera - Often sold in hardware stores as house plants. Leaf reduction to dime and nickel size with regular pruning. Keep foliage balanced and cut off extra strong growth.

"Grafted" Tiger Bark - commonly found as "ginseng" ficus. The long, sometimes fat roots can be come unsightly. They can be buried deep in the soil and later cut back to make a nice nebari. If they dry out or rot, they may not be recoverable.

Ficus benjam - Common as house plants that often fail due to light, temperature, humidity changes. One of the hardest ficus to maintain.

Rain Tree species: Peruvian rain tree - Difficult to maintain as bonsai but give a lovely red bloom Brazilian rain tree - Two types, one blooms and one doesn't

Jacaranda

Portulacaria afra - Dwarf jade

Serissa foetida

Water

By: Tom Colby

A frequently asked question by people new to bonsai is how much care does a bonsai tree require? We know that the daily care of bonsai takes about the same amount of time that feeding the family dog does. Each day some kibbles are scooped into his bowl and the water dish is checked to see if he needs water, and that's about it. How hard is that? In the case of bonsai each day the tree must be checked to see if it needs water. If it does, it is watered. Again, how hard is that? The tricky part is consistency. If you don't feed the family dog for several days, he will become very mad at you. If you let your bonsai go dry for several days, the tree may die. Of course, each year the bonsai tree requires a little more than just the daily care, and may be repotted and trimmed and wired as needed, but these activities are only performed once or, at best, occasionally during the year. The rest of the year is pretty easy.



and die and generally the tree will give up and die before it can grow new feeder roots. This scene is aggravated by the fact that very loose soil mixtures are used for bonsai, which avoids root rot but dries out quickly. The moral of the story? Check your trees daily for water needs and, by the way, don't forget to feed the family dog.

This just in!

The City of Oakland has reduced its mask and vaccination mandates. Accordingly, we will no longer be requiring masks or vaccinations for our meetings or auctions/shows. We will also be able to provide refreshments at meetings and the upcoming auction.

Show and Tell

We had another good turnout for Show and Tell.

Why is it that bonsai trees need to be frequently checked for water, whereas landscape trees can be left on their own all summer without water once they have become established? The simple answer lies in the feeder roots. These are structures at the very end of the roots and are responsible for slurping up water and nutrients that the tree needs. When the soil is moist, water flows from the soil into the tree. The flow of water is a gate which swings both ways. When the soil is dry water flows from the tree to the soil. Once water is lost from the feeder roots, they can become dehydrated. If water is promptly administered, the roots can rehydrate and no major harm is done. However, the dry roots can quickly pass the point of no return, and then no amount of water will forestall death of the roots. If this happens, the tree has no means of securing the goodies that it needs to survive and the tree becomes essentially a cutting which needs time to grow new roots. While waiting for new roots to grow, the tree is constantly losing moisture through the leaves. It becomes a race between losing moisture and replacing lost moisture through new roots. In short, the tree is in big time trouble and the prognosis is not good.

On a hot day, the top few inches of typical garden soil can dry out. The landscape trees know this and bury their roots deeply into the soil. Even though the top few inches of soil are crispy dry, there is enough moisture in the deep soil to maintain the feeder roots of the tree. However, in the case of the bonsai tree, if the top few inches of soil become crispy dry, that is all the way to the bottom of the pot and beyond, and that, of course, includes all the feeder roots. The feeder roots will dry out



Bob Gould - Satsuki Azalea



Mike Cullen – Tiger Bark Ficus



Jeremy Stervermer – Ficus forest



Vidit Joy - Azalea



Michael Hylton - Azalea

Bonsai Calendar - June

- Watering – Water regularly. Don't over-water defoliated trees.
- Fertilizing – Continue regular feeding.
- Repotting – Not recommended at this time except for tropical and semi-tropical trees
- Styling/Pruning – Rotate trees. Watch for wire cutting during this period of fast growth. OK to defoliate healthy trees in first part of month.
- Candle - prune black and other hard pines.
- Cuttings – Root softwood cuttings on deciduous trees and Satsuki.
- Insect and disease control – Maintain defensive treatments for fungus.
- Watch for and treat insect infestations.

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

Events Calendar

June 4 & 5, 2022 San Mateo, CA

Sei Boku Bonsai Kai: Come celebrate Sei Boku Bonsai Kai's 37th Anniversary Bonsai Show, June 4 and 5, 2022, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the San Mateo Garden Center, 605 Parkside Way, San Mateo. Saturday demonstration by Steve Iwaki at 1:00 p.m. Sunday workshop by Jerry Carpenter and Valerie Monroe at 1:00 p.m. Raffles, door prizes, tree clinic, vendor sales, plant sales. Free admission. POC is Jeremy Foster at coastaqua@yahoo.com.

June 8, 2022 Oakland, California

East Bay Bonsai Society Annual Auction: The East Bay Bonsai Society will be having an in-person bonsai auction on Wednesday evening, June 8th at 666 Bellevue Ave., Lakeside Park Garden Center (Lake Merritt) in Oakland, California. The auction will start at 7:30 p.m. with a preview at 7:00 p.m. It will include established and starter bonsai trees, pots, tools, etc. Credit cards, checks, and cash accepted. Free admission. Parking available. Sales tax will be added to purchases.

June 18 & 19, 2022 Livermore, California

Valley Bonsai Society: 12th annual show at Alden Lane Nursery, [981 Alden Lane](#). Show hours are 10 AM to 4 PM with a demonstration at 1PM 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.

July 9, 2022 Oakland, California

Bonsai Garden at Lake Merritt (BGLM): BGLM will conduct a special one-day auction and sale of bonsai trees from the personal collection donated by Dennis and Joanne Makishima, on July 9, 2022, at the Lakeside Park Garden Center, 666 Bellevue Ave., Lake Merritt, Oakland, California. Preview of auction will start at 11:00 a.m. and live auction at 12:00 p.m. Sale follows immediately after auction. This event is predicated on the largest single donation ever made to BGLM. Bonsai trees include legacy pines, cedars, maples, and more, dating back to the early 1950s and 1960s. All proceeds go to support the newly created Dennis and Joanne Makishima BGLM curator fund. For further information, contact George Haas at gwhaas@comcast.net or visit the BGLM website <http://bonsailakemerritt.com>.

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August 6, 2022 San Rafael, California

Marin Bonsai Club (MBC) and Redwood Empire Bonsai Society (REBS): Joint Bonsai Sale, hosted by MBC and REBS, on Saturday, August 6, 2022, from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., at the Terra Linda Community Center, 670 Del Ganado Rd, San Rafael. The sale will include established and starter bonsai trees, pots, tools, etc. Checks and cash accepted. Free admission. Parking available. For details, contact Diane Matzen at dcmatzen@gmail.com or George Haas at gwhaas@comcast.net.

November 12th & 13th, 2022 Oakland, CA

The Pacific Bonsai Expo is to be held November 12-13, 2022 in Oakland CA at the Bridge Yard. The Pacific Bonsai Expo is a juried exhibition featuring 70 outstanding bonsai displays and a selection of the community's top vendors. The Jurors, Bjorn Bjorholm, Ryan Neil, and William N. Valavanis will select the trees. For more information go to the homepage using the following link [Pacific Bonsai Expo](#).

Newsletter Editor: Beverly Martinez

Contributors: Tom Colby, Suzanne Muller

East Bay Bonsai Society—Schedule for 2022
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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. Masks required.

<u>Meeting</u>	<u>Program</u>
June 1	Tree Shrinker delivered
June 8	Annual Auction – no meeting
June 26	Bonsai for Beginners – John Nackley/Bob Gould
July 5	EBBS Board Meeting
July 6	Tree Shrinker delivered
July 13	Monthly Meeting - In Person/On line – Bill Castellon
July 24	Bonsai for Beginners – Addison Galambos
Aug 1	EBBS Board Meeting
Aug 3	Tree Shrinker delivered
Aug 10	No meeting
Aug 20	Annual picnic
Aug 28	Bonsai for Beginners – Tom Colby
Sep 6	EBBS Board Meeting
Sep 7	Tree Shrinker delivered
Sep 14	Monthly Meeting - In Person/On line – Gordon Deeg – Show preparation
Sep 25	Bonsai for Beginners – Janet Nelson
Sept 26	EBBS Board Meeting
Oct 1-2	Annual Show (Set up Sept 30)
Oct 5	Tree Shrinker delivered
Oct 12	No Meeting
Oct 23	Bonsai for Beginners – Michael Jensen-Akula
Nov 2	Tree Shrinker delivered
Nov 7	EBBS Board Meeting
Nov 9	Monthly Meeting – In Person /On line TBD
Nov 27	Bonsai for Beginners – John Nackley/Bob Gould