



# The Tree Shrinker

A MONTHLY BULLETIN  
Volume XXXIX, No. 12

**East Bay Bonsai Society**  
**Holiday Celebration:** December 14, 2011 @ 6:30 p.m.

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## **Ruben Guzman**

Ruben was born on March 28, 1929 and died on November 16, 2011 after a brief bout with cancer. He is survived by his wife Kay, daughter Janet, granddaughter Noel and two great grandchildren. Ruben received his Bachelors degree in Medical Sciences from UC Berkeley and his Masters in Pharmacology and Toxicology also from UC Berkeley. His entire career was spent at Cutter Laboratories (now Bayer) in Berkeley. In his early years he built furniture, did ceramics, water colors and started Bonsai in 1970. Ruben was an active member of East Bay Bonsai Society, Bay Area Bonsai Associates and Bay Area Satsuki Associates. He grew pre-bonsai, cared for a mature, showable collection, and taught beginning bonsai. He had a large group of friends and will be missed.

## ***Letter from Kay and Janet:***

To East Bay Bonsai,

It is with great gratitude and appreciation Kay Guzman and family wish to convey to all of you for the many wonderful years of friendship, good times and happy memories you have given Ruben. Especially appreciated have been your emotional support and many acts of kindness during his illness and after his passing. Ruben's love of bonsai carried through his last days as he was able to view his loving collection through the family room windows. You were all his very dearest friends.

Thank you for everything.

Kay Guzman and Janet Sanderson

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## **November Meeting**

The November meeting did not get off to very a promising start. The city, in their infinite wisdom, left the back door to the garden center open but did not unlock any of the meeting rooms. Thank you very much. As a result, the meeting was held in the kitchen. Randall Lee rewarded our patience and good humor with an outstanding program on Hinoki Cypress as bonsai. He deserves an extra thank you for doing a

demonstration under somewhat less than ideal circumstances.

He provided examples of several cultivars of Hinoki to show the considerable variation in growth pattern that Hinoki provides and then presented a detailed discussion of Hinoki cultivation. Hinoki Cypress trees make great bonsai and have several advantages. First, it is easy to find decent material because Hinoki are common landscape plants. The trees grow well, the foliage is easy to work with and they make bonsai rapidly. The trees have lush green foliage and look good year around.

Hinoki are forest trees and require cool roots which means that in hot areas the trees should be provided with some shade as well as protection from hot dry winds. In all areas Hinoki do well in part shade in contrast to many of the more usual bonsai trees which do best in full sun. Variegated cultivars of Hinoki tend to drop their foliage and burn easily on exposure to sun and therefore are probably not good choices for bonsai.

Branches can be wired when the bark on the branch turns brown. Juvenile branches are green and are easily broken when wired. The trees are relatively fast growing so they should be carefully watched for wire biting into the branches. The flat fan like foliage quickly forms pads which can be further shaped by a combination of clip and grow as well as with fine wire.

Cutting of major branches is best done in the spring before the hot weather of summer. If it is necessary to remove major branches in the summer, the tree should be placed afterwards in a shady location to prevent leaf burn. The trees are fertilized between March and October. Randall has had good success with slow release fertilizers and recommends them. Hinoki give you easy-to-spot indications of poor culture. If they are too dry, the inside foliage dies out and if they are too wet the foliage tips die.

The demo tree was a twin trunk tree and care was taken to find a front which allowed the minor trunk to be slightly forward on the main trunk. Soil was removed to expose the junction of the two trunks and then the tree was reduced to about 30 inches in height. The secondary trunk would eventually be trimmed to about two thirds the height of the primary trunk. Several long branches were removed to define the basic shape of the tree. The remaining long branches were first positioned downward and then bent into gentle curves. Only after

this had been completed were these branches reduced to the desired length. Positioning the branches before reducing them in length prevented them from being cut too short. The inner branches were then thinned which completed to initial styling of the tree. The demonstration certainly verified the assertion that Hinoki are fine material for bonsai and that a promising bonsai could be quickly made using a commercially grown tree.

For more fascinating information on Hinoki, check out this website: [www.rhtubs.com/hinoki.htm](http://www.rhtubs.com/hinoki.htm).

### **December Meeting**

The December meeting is our traditional holiday season celebration with a potluck dinner. Do plan to come and be part of the festive occasion. We begin the festivities at 6:30 p.m. with appetizers and beverages. Note that we start one hour earlier than usual.

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

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

Be sure to bring your own plate and eating utensils, and decorative place mats to make a decorative setting for the meal. Also bring appropriate serving utensils if required. In past years the dinners have been truly memorable due to the many fine cooks in the club.

People are also encouraged to bring bonsai trees decorated for the season as centerpieces which greatly add to the ambiance.

### **January Meeting**

The January meeting will feature a presentation on Camellias as bonsai by Marin club members Chris Ross and Candice Key. Many Camellias are challenging materials for bonsai because of their large flowers which can be out of scale with the plant size. The smaller flowered plants such as the Susanqua hybrids as well as some other Camellia species can make splendid bonsai, but are not well represented in bonsai collections. The meeting will be a much needed introduction to this underused material for bonsai.

### **Dues**

It is that time of the year when you need to be thinking about paying your club dues which are \$30 for single memberships and \$40.00 for couples. The dues are the major source of income for the club and are mainly used to fund our biggest expenses which are meeting room rent and the monthly programs. Our treasurer, Pat Cahill, will be delighted to take your check for dues at the holiday dinner or an upcoming meeting, or mail the attached form with your check to her home.

### **East Bay Bonsai Society Board**

The East Bay Bonsai Society is governed by a board which is made up of the officers and several directors all of whom are elected by you. It is charged with managing the business affairs of the society ranging from major items such as club finances and

selection of speakers at the regular meetings all the way down to who will provide tablecloths for the holiday potluck dinner. The board generally meets each month away from the regular meeting. The work the board does allows the regular meetings to be devoted to further study of the fine art of bonsai as well as fellowship with like minded bonsai enthusiasts, and not to be consumed with the business details of the society.

Over the years many of the club members have served for a year or two on the board and we all owe these people a big thank you for your efforts in making the society run smoothly. At the last regular meeting it was mentioned that in a 2002 newsletter Pat Cahill was singled out for the fine job she was doing as the club treasurer. Ten years later she is still our treasurer and is still doing the same fine job of managing the club finances which is probably the single most important job in the society. We owe Pat a huge thank you for her long years of service and for the outstanding job she is doing.

### **Bonsai Instruction at Merritt College**

The only way you can become an expert as a bonsai grower is by actually working on your own trees in a workshop setting. Fortunately there is a continuing series of workshops available to all EBBS members. Training is available at the Merritt College Bonsai Club which is open to all experience levels, from beginner to advanced and is an opportunity that we all should take advantage of.

Leading the workshops are two distinguished artists who are also members of EBBS, Bill Castelon and Randall Lee. The meetings are on every 4<sup>th</sup> Monday except when the college is not in session. Meetings start at 7:00 pm at the Landscape Horticulture Building. The college is located off Redwood Road in the Oakland hills. Members of EBBS who have questions about the workshops can contact Bill at 510-569-8003 or Randall at 510-864-0841

### **Golden Statements**

The Golden State Bonsai Federation publishes Golden Statements, a magazine which comes out six times a year. If you are not a subscriber you really should be. The magazine features a broad picture of the statewide bonsai activities. There are pictures from shows around the state, articles about cultivation of bonsai, biographies of important bonsai artists, calendars of future bonsai events and many other items of interest. The November-December edition includes articles detailing seasonal care of your trees and collection of native trees, pictures of Ryan Neil styling a huge Sierra Juniper, pictures of trees from the Redwood Empire bonsai show and pictures of the suiseki show by the San Francisco Suiseki Kai.

The cost of subscription is only \$25.00 per year which is truly a bargain for all the magazine provides. Subscriptions may be sent to: Subscription Manager, 3681 E. Curtis Dr., Sacramento CA, 95818.

### **EBBS Needs a Newsletter Editor and Articles**

The newsletter is the voice of the club and that means that it is your voice. If you have something that you would like to share with the rest of the club, jot it

down and send it to Janice Dilbeck for inclusion in the newsletter.

If you have any interest in being newsletter editor, please let one of your board members know.

#### **Newsletters and Rosters by E-mail**

For each member, annual costs to produce and deliver monthly newsletters and a roster average approximately \$7. To save that cost, 21 members have notified your editor that they will accept their newsletters and rosters via e-mail. If you want to receive newsletters via e-mail, notify [janicedilbeck@comcast.net](mailto:janicedilbeck@comcast.net).

#### **Events by Others**

GSBF's Bonsai and Suiseki Garden: open Wed., Thurs., Fri. 11:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m., Sat. 10:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m., Sun. 12:00 noon–4:00 p.m. Enter at gate across from Boat House.

January 14-15. **Oakland, California. Bay Island Bonsai: Annual Bonsai Exhibit** at the Lakeside Garden Center, 666 Bellevue Avenue. Hours are 10AM-4PM, both days. On Saturday at 1PM there will be an auction, with a preview at 12 Noon. Guided tours of the exhibit both days. Benefit Drawing (need not be present to win). Vendors; club member and educational bonsai material will be for sale. Free entry to the exhibit. Donations accepted. For more information call 510-919-5042 or visit [www.bayislandbonsai.com](http://www.bayislandbonsai.com).

January 28-29. **Oakland, California Bay Area Bonsai Associates: 31st Annual Bonsai Exhibition** at the Lakeside Park (Lake Merritt) Garden Center,

666 Bellevue Avenue. Show hours are Saturday, 5-9PM and a demonstration by Ryan Neil starts at 6:30PM, followed by a raffle of the demonstration tree. Sunday hours are 10AM-4PM. A plant sale (including bonsai related items such as pots, tools, soils, wires, books, etc.) will be continuous both days. Admission is free. For more information contact John Roehl at [bigbluemoon@comcast.net](mailto:bigbluemoon@comcast.net) or 707-827-3206.

February 4-6. **Santa Nella, California. California Shohin Seminar 2012** at the Hotel del Oro. Registration forms and information will be available starting October 30, 2011. Visit the website at [www.calshohin.org](http://www.calshohin.org) or email [calshohin@yahoo.com](mailto:calshohin@yahoo.com).

#### **Articles or Services for Sale (or give-away)**

Mature bonsai for sale as well as a large variety of bonsai pots of different sizes, shapes and colors. Call Jim Heady 925-253-9399

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#### **Wanted to Buy (or for free)**

SOMETHING you need or want? Call or write to place an ad.

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Each membership household, free of charge, may place a five-line ad related to bonsai in two newsletters each year. Members wanting to place either larger or frequent ads should contact the editor. Send a copy of ads to your editor by the fourth Monday of the month to appear in the next publication. To place an add call (925) 458-3845.

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### **East Bay Bonsai Society—Schedule for 2011-12**

**Regular Meetings:** Second Wednesday, every month (except August and October) @ 7:30 p.m.

Place: Lakeside Garden Center, 666 Bellevue Avenue, Oakland.

Visitors welcome—for more information: call: (925) 431-0452

Visit EBBS' web site: <http://www.gsbf-bonsai.org/ebbs/>.

Website for Bonsai Garden Lake Merritt <<http://www.gsbf-bonsai.org/lake-merritt/NewHome.html>>

#### **Meeting Program**

**Dec 14** Holiday potluck dinner

**Jan 11** Chris Ross and Candice Key demonstration on Camellias

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**Dues:**

If you will not attend a meeting, or just wish to mail your dues for 2012, make your check for \$30/yr. for an individual or \$40/yr. for a household and mail it with this form to:

Pat Cahill, 4933 Cochrane Ave., Oakland, CA 94618-2701

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: 94 \_\_ \_\_ \_\_ — \_\_ \_\_ \_\_ \_\_

Telephone: ( \_\_ \_\_ \_\_ ) \_\_ \_\_ \_\_ — \_\_ \_\_ \_\_ \_\_

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