



The Tree Shrinker

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A MONTHLY BULLETIN

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East Bay Bonsai Society EBBS PICNIC: August 10, 2019

Picnic 2:00 PM - Dusk

August Potluck Picnic

One of our favorite events is the upcoming August Potluck picnic! Here we get to go all out with our favorite dishes from the talented EBBS cooks. This year the picnic will be at the home of Michael Jensen-Akula. Michael and his wife who live on Ocean View in Oakland have a beautiful (wait for it) ocean view. This event will replace our normal meeting, so make sure to mark your calendar that there will be **NO MEETING ON WEDNESDAY**.



The meal is potluck and the food assignments are as follows:

- Appetizer - Last name A-G
- Entrée - Last name H-L
- Side dish or salad - Last name M-R
- Dessert - Last name S-Z

Be sure to bring utensils required for serving your contribution. The club will provide wine, beer and soft drinks. Also, the Oakland hills can occasionally be a bit cool and breezy so dress in layers. Hats and sun screen are also a good idea. This is also a great time to bring a bonsai to show as Michael has requested members to share their trees as part of the event. The event will begin at 2:00 PM and last until sunset.

Michaels address is:
6143 Ocean View Dr. Oakland

Michael lives just off highway 24. Take the Broadway exit South, then turn onto Ocean View Drive.

Auction

The July auction is a major fund-raising event for the society and this year was a great success. It is clear that our treasury benefited from all the efforts of the many club members who helped to organize and stage the event, as well as those who bought and sold plants. Many thanks are due to many people, but perhaps most specifically to Suzanne Muller. Suzanne coordinated all of the volunteers and tasks as well as cashiering. It is a big job rounding up volunteers for all the many tasks that need to be accomplished and Suzanne made it look easy. All their hard work resulted in a very smooth operation.



EBBS is grateful to those members who furnished items for sale at the auction and specially to those who donated items to the auction which meant the entire proceeds of the sale went to the club. Your generosity will be repaid by the club being able to fund outstanding speakers in the future.

If you missed out on selling your plants at the auction or if you have items worth less than ten dollars, take heart. EBBS has a sales table at our show in October and all



plants, and especially inexpensive plants, are welcome with the usual twenty percent of the selling price going to the club.

For those wondering just how well the auction went here are some statistics:

Total sales	\$7,746.00
EBBS benefit	\$1,359.05
Highest bid	\$ 260.00
# of bidders	50
# of sellers	20
# of items offered	136

September meeting

Due to unforeseen circumstances our September presenter will not be able to attend our meeting. Instead our September meeting will be "A Surprise"! Watch for the September issue of the Tree Shrinker for more details on the program.

Stolen Bonsai

By: Janet Nelson-Trumm

A couple months ago we heard that a number of bonsais had been stolen from Maruyama's Nursery in Sacramento. We have now received photos of a Korean Hornbeam that was among the trees taken. The tree was brought from Japan by Yuzo Maruyama many years ago and it had belonged to Mrs. Ishimoto (who also donated several trees to BGLM). The hornbeam was purchased about 45 years ago from Mrs. Ishimoto's estate. This year, the current owner took it for re-potting to the Maruyama nursery from which it was stolen. The loss was devastating news for the owners, especially those with a long history for a significant tree. Please watch for this tree and report back if you see it. Also be careful about safeguarding all bonsai at home and bonsai events.



The Quiet Ones

By: Tom Colby

When most of us attend a bonsai show, the first trees that catch our eyes are the big ones. Usually there is at least one collected Juniper and that not only catches our eye but smacks us between the eyes. These trees are truly spectacular and they scream for our attention. There are so many smaller trees in the show that they overwhelm us and they slowly dissolve into a sea of green blobs. We usually then spend some time chatting with our friends. Most shows have a few suiseiki on display and they are usually used as sort of stony accent



plants. Nice additions, but definitely subordinate to the trees. We quickly pass by the shohin trees on display and comment that they are nice. We leave the show feeling confident that we have seen all the show has to offer.

The beauty of either a shohin display or a suiseiki is not revealed in a quick glance as we pass by but requires a bit of thoughtful contemplation. A combined shohin and suiseiki show was held at the garden center at the end of June. The show was noteworthy because there were no big trees to distract our attention and not lots of green blobs to overwhelm us.

Devoid of these distractions, attendees could focus on the quiet beauty of both the trees and the stones. The shohin trees rewarded our time spent studying them at the show. The little trees are difficult to grow because of water management issues and are difficult to maintain as a properly proportioned tree so they can represent the pinnacle of bonsai art. The show featured a veritable plethora of superbly grown trees.



Those of you that attended the June meeting of EBBS were fortunate to hear an excellent presentation on the display of shohin trees by John Doig and with his talk in mind you could better appreciate the artistry of the many displays. The same EBBS presentation also featured a talk by Polly Gould on suiseki which gave us a better understanding of the art of suiseki so we could more fully grasp what the many stones had to offer. There were many examples of superb suiseki to be seen. Suiseki at their best can show all the beauty that nature can offer in exactly the same way that bonsai trees can. Seeing a large display of shohin and suiseki together made it easy to see that they say the same thing using a different language.

A wonderful aspect of the show was the large vender area where attendees could fully satisfy the lust for more trees and accessories that the show generated. All the local bonsai shows are produced by a single club. The combined shohin and suiseki show was not the result of the efforts of a single club but rather was a cooperative venture by the members of several of the local clubs. By bringing together shohin and suiseki enthusiasts from the whole bay area the show was far more comprehensive than could ever be achieved by a single club. The cooperation shown was a new and most welcome addition to the local scene.



A combination featuring shohin and suiseki successfully showcased items in a bonsai show that are frequently not given the attention that they deserve. If you missed this show, you missed a major and much needed bonsai event. This show was the first time that the quiet ones were featured and we all hope that there will be more shows of this type in the years to come.

Pyracantha Collecting

By: Brian Brandley

The last time I wrote about collecting I focused on sites in mountains, national forests, and other wilder places. Urban collecting opportunities often present

themselves, but they must be grabbed when they appear. You may stumble upon a neighbor taking out a hedge, or some road expansion work that requires plant removal. One example of that has been our collecting *Pyracantha* from Crown Memorial State Beach in Alameda.

Tom wrote about *Pyracantha* as bonsai material in the March, 2018 newsletter. You can find it in the EBBS website archives. To that I'll just add that *Pyracantha* is considered an invasive plant, particularly in cool, moist, coastal locations. Fortunately for us, many of the characteristics of an invasive plant make *Pyracantha* bonsai friendly. They are very tough, tolerate pruning and root work easily, and propagate without much effort. Their biggest liability is their susceptibility to fire blight, a bacterial infection that pollinators can transmit through the flowers.



I noticed *Pyracantha* had taken hold along a stretch of the dunes at the Alameda beach and approached the park staff to see if they wanted them removed. It never hurts to ask permission to collect, especially when the land owner may benefit from the removal. I was pleased to learn that Crown Beach has a resident botanist, and he was happy to have help removing *Pyracantha* from the site. So I organized a collecting day for Saturday, Dec 1. The weather was "iffy" and we got wet early while we were getting organized. But it cleared up and we ended up with a pretty nice day. Digging in the dunes was incredibly easy. We had a total of 12 people take part from EBBS, Sei Boku, Midori and the Kusamura clubs.



Urban collecting requires you to take what you find, and what we found were many *Pyracantha* of a variety of sizes, happily growing on the dunes right next to the road. No need to hike away from cars in search of trees. No need to haul heavy trees and tools back to a remote vehicle. What we did NOT find were many feeder roots close to the trunks. These trees were growing in sand. During the dry season they must push roots a long way to find a stable source of water in that sandy environment. If these were some other type of trees our collecting hopes would have been dashed. For conifers in particular, no feeder roots means no survival – no exceptions. But for *Pyracantha* that seemed to be only a modest challenge. I took home 8 trees, all with almost no feeder roots. I potted them up in 100% pumice, watered and misted frequently. Six weeks later all had started sprouting new growth. I'm hoping others had a similar experience.



We've not yet cleared all the *Pyracantha* from the dunes in Alameda, so there remains the potential of additional collecting trips. In the meantime, I'll keep one or two collected trees and feed the rest through the club as they gain strength.

Bonsai Calendar

- Watering – Maintain moist but not damp condition of soil.
- Fertilizing – Reduce nitrogen in late July and August. Do not fertilize de-candled pines.
- Repotting – Not recommended at this time except for tropical and semi-tropical trees.
- Styling/Pruning – Avoid pruning on flowering varieties. Rotate trees at least twice this month as flower buds are set.
- Insect and disease control – Watch for chewing insects.

Refer to the EBBS Bonsai Calendar for more details on seasonal care.

Bonsai Instruction at Merritt College

Instruction is in the form of workshops and is a splendid opportunity to learn how to develop your trees into first class bonsai. In these workshops you work on your own tree under the guidance of an experienced bonsai artist. The workshops are open to all experience levels and are usually held at 7:00 pm on the fourth Monday of each month when the college is in session.

The meetings are in the Landscape Horticulture Building at Merritt College which is located in the Oakland hills off Redwood Road. The workshops are free. There is a gate across the road leading to the parking lot that will automatically open when you pull up close to it. Leading the workshops are two members of EBBS, Bill Castellon and Randal Lee. You can contact Bill at 510-569-8003 or Randall at 510-864-0841.

Upcoming EBBS Event

November 9, 2019 Sueiseki collecting Black Butte Lake

This is an all-day collecting trip with the SF Club. Black Butte Lake is just west of Orland. Contact Lisa Harper for details if interested. Email: lisaharper@me.com or phone: (510) 220-3339.

Events by Others

August 24 - 25, 2019 Santa Rosa, California

Redwood Empire Bonsai Society (REBS): 36th Annual Bonsai Show, at the Santa Rosa Veterans Building, 1351 Maple Ave. Featuring Bonsai Master Kathy Shaner. Bonsai demonstrations both days, 1- 3 PM. Demonstration tree to be raffled. Largest bonsai and suiseki stone exhibition. Large bonsai vendor and plant sales. Exciting silent auctions. Free admission and parking. Relax with the Bonsai Cafe. Contact Bob Shimon at 707-884-4126 or shimon@mcn.org. Visit our website www.rebsbonsai.org

September 21, 2019 San Andreas, California

Mother Lode Bonsai Club: Fifth Annual Bonsai Exhibition at the San Andreas Public Library, 1299 Gold Hunter Road (off Mt. Ranch Rd.), San Andreas. Show hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Demonstrations at 11 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. 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. Visit club website at www.motherlodebonsai.org.

October 5 – 6, 2019 Thousand Oaks, California

Conejo Valley Bonsai Society: 16th Annual Bonsai Exhibition at the Resource Center at the Gardens of the World, 2001 Thousand Oak Blvd. Show hours are 9 AM – 4 PM with demonstrations in the Bandstand at 1 PM both days. 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

October 12 - 13, 2019 Oakland, California

East Bay Bonsai Society: Annual Show at the Lakeside Park Garden Center at Lake Merritt, located at 666 Bellevue Avenue. Show hours are Saturday 10 AM - 5 PM and Sunday 10 AM - 4 PM with a demonstration at 1PM on Sunday by Sergio Cuan, notable bonsai artist awarded the "finest deciduous bonsai" at the US National Bonsai Exhibition. There will also be a benefit drawing and sale of bonsai and related materials. For additional information, visit www.eastbaybonsai.org.

vendors selling bonsai related items. Included a large club tree sale, and Doctor Bonsai will be their for guest who bring in a outside bonsai trees. Formal in class bonsai school for outsiders at 10 AM who want to purchase a bonsai starter tree for a nominal charge. Free admission, and plenty of free parking outside the building facility. For further information contact: Jack Christiansen (408) 280-7539, or Jackchristiansen@sbcglobal.net .

October 19, 2019 Cupertino, California

Midori Bonsai Club: 58th Annual Show at the Quinlan Community Center, 10185 N. Stelling Rd. Show hours are 10 AM – 5 PM with demonstration by John Thompson at 1:30 PM and demonstration tree raffled off afterwards. Enjoy our new location and show room with over 60 trees on display. Show will include many

Newsletter Editor: Beverly Martinez
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East Bay Bonsai Society—Schedule for 2019

Regular Meetings: Second Wednesday, every month (except 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/

<u>Meeting</u>	<u>Program</u>
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Aug 10	Annual picnic – hosted by Michael Jensen-Akula
Aug 25	Introduction to Bonsai at BGLM – John Nackley & Bob Gould
Aug 26	Workshop at Merritt College
Sept 11	TBD
Sept 22	Introduction to Bonsai at BGLM – Janet Nelson
Sept 23	Workshop at Merritt College
Oct12/13	Show time – no regularly scheduled program
Oct 27	Introduction to Bonsai at BGLM – Tom Colby
Oct 28	Workshop at Merritt College
Nov 13	John Thompson – Oaks
Nov 24	Introduction to Bonsai at BGLM - Michael Jensen-Akula
Nov 25	Workshop at Merritt College
Dec 11	Holiday dinner