



# The Tree Shrinker

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A MONTHLY BULLETIN

<http://www.eastbaybonsai.org>



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## East Bay Bonsai Society *Holiday Dinner: December 11, 2019*

### Holiday dinner

As the end of the year approaches, we are thankful again for all the special programs, shows, auctions, trees and companionship we have had in the East Bay Bonsai Society. 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 2019 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	Desert
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. 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 add to the ambiance of the evening.



### November meeting

By: Tom Fedor

On this occasion we were treated to a presentation from John Thompson about growing native oaks (Safeway oaks, named for their secret collection site) as bonsai. As noted in last month's Tree Shrinker, John is a lecturer, demonstrator and bonsai artist living in San Jose.



The first portion of his program was a discussion of his template for Bonsai Care and Development Considerations, which he passed out on good quality white or orange cardstock while pointedly discouraging any paper airplane construction. The template describes how to recognize, for a particular tree species, where in its development our various interventions can be beneficial. A holistic view of the particular tree and its current requirements precedes a focus on its particular needs for development and/or refinement. An eye to the season of the year is also important for predicting the success of our work on a tree.



In the second half, JT wired one of his Safeway oaks and treated us to a demonstration of ground-layering. The operation began by girdling the entire base of the trunk with a canal of considerable depth using one or two small chisel-like tools. This was done to completely sever the downward hydraulics occurring just beneath the bark while preserving the upward flow of nutrients through the trunk's interior. He surrounded the trunk with fabric below the wound and applied rooting hormone to its upper edges. The entire wound was then buried in soil and topped with sphagnum moss. The tree's lucky raffle winner, Patty Coyle, was advised to keep the wound from drying, and to look for a new radial root system in the fullness of time.

### January meeting

Potting is a very important step to maintaining your bonsai. If you have ever asked yourself "What soil do I use? Should I bear root my plant? Is this the correct time of year to replant?", then this program is for you.

The January meeting will feature Jonas Dupuich who will teach us all we need to know about potting our trees. You may recall that Jonas was our headliner in the 2018 October show and was very well received. He is always educational and is highly regarded in the bonsai world.

Jonas holds "Bring Your Own Tree" workshops that many of our club members participate in, as well as

maintaining the BonsaiTonight.com website providing regular blogs regarding tree maintenance and design, sales of tools and soil and workshop signups. Jonas has also recently published a beginner Bonsai book. We are looking forward to learn more about planting our trees with Jonas.



### **What Works for You . . . or Not?**

By: Roger Brady

Early next year, the EBBS Board is planning to issue a new Bonsai management guide replacing the current Bonsai Calendar. We will be adding new features and information to help all of us be more successful with our trees. To this end, we'd like to hear from YOU!

Do you have a "Tip, Trap, or Trick" you'd like to share with the rest of us? Finish these sentences or one of your own.

Possible topics: tree type or any operation - repotting, soil mix, watering, pruning, nebari positioning, wiring, sun control, wind control, temperature moderation, . . .

For instance:

"What works for me with "tree type" is \_\_\_\_\_."

"It gets really hot in "your location", so I beat the heat by \_\_\_\_\_."

"I learned a big lesson about "Topic". . ."

"\_\_\_\_\_ works for me"

"To be sure I don't over-water, I \_\_\_\_\_."

Send your entry to: Roger@BradysR.us by January 15, 2020

Put "TTT: Your Topic" in the subject line.

Add your initials for credit or just be anonymous in the calendar, if you must.

**Show and Tell**

Another group of fine and interesting bonsais in our Show and Tell segment of the November meeting:



Ernie Katler – Over cup Oak



Michael Hylton - Oak



Polly Gould – Viewing stones found on the field trip to Black Butte



Tony Saraceno – Arbutus Unevo



Stephen Lysaght Oak

## How Do Trees Determine Season?

By: Brian Brandley

Have you ever wondered how our trees figure out when to do what? Deciduous trees adapted to temperate climates have to know when to prepare for winter, and when to break buds in the spring. Conifers can continue photosynthesizing through the winter whenever the conditions are right, but they still need to push candles in the spring late enough to avoid freezing delicate tissue, and early enough to take advantage of the growing season and generate seeds. So how do they do this? Temperature alone is unreliable as a cue as it can bounce up and down wildly in autumn and spring.



In autumn trees begin to prepare for winter as day length shortens. Actually, they take their cues from longer nights. Trees sense longer nights through phytochromes, blue pigments that exist in two interconvertible forms. Native phytochrome converts to 'activated' phytochrome when hit by a photon of red light during the day. In the dark, the activated phytochrome reverts back to its native form. The amount of time in the dark required for all the activated phytochrome to return to the native state is how plants measure the length of the night. Long nights lead to the production of abscisic acid, which inhibits bud growth, promotes cork formation at leaf bases, and stimulates the complex 'hardening off' process that transforms the delicate live tissues of trees into something that can withstand severe cold. During dormancy, trees become progressively more resistant to freeze damage through cellular changes and accumulation of frost- and stress-protective compounds. They reduce the amount of free water that can freeze to ice crystals and cause cellular damage, while simultaneously producing antifreeze compounds.

Once truly dormant in late fall, trees will not respond to warm temperatures. Before becoming receptive to wake-up calls, they need a certain amount of time in the cold. This is referred to as the number of chill hours.

Trees start racking up chill hours at 44 degrees F, and it's generally accepted that below 30 degrees F chill hours don't accumulate. It's the time spent between 44- and 30-degrees F, generally through fall to midwinter, that counts. This suggests the trigger is due to some yet-to-be-defined biochemical counting process that stops once tissues and cells are below freezing. Perhaps it's something analogous to the phytochrome process, or an enzymatic "countdown" still waiting to be discovered.

In spring, budding is initiated by accumulation of warm hours, not just a single spike in temperature. Studies have shown that the timing of bud break depends on the



interplay between chill hours and warm hours. Trees that experience fewer chill hours require more warm hours for bud break. The amount of each warm hour needed is species specific and probably relates to the conditions where the tree evolved. When a tree fails to get the minimum chill hours it needs, bud break is delayed. It then tends to produce fewer needles/flowers/leaves, and the growth of the terminal bud slows.

So cold weather trees, not native to our mild California winters, can have late bud break and suffer poor growth in general because they're looking for more hours of "chill". This is why California's central valley doesn't produce commercial apples or pears (1500 chill hours needed), but we do grow almonds and olives (200 chill hours needed). Botanists are concerned that climate change and resulting warmer winters will eventually push more commercial fruit and nut tree species out of California. Scientists are working on developing varieties that can grow well with fewer chill hours.

Trees that have evolved out of the temperate zone will also depend on other cues. Near the equator day length doesn't change that much, but temperature and water availability (dry and wet seasons) may be more reliable indicators of the season. These are good reasons to select tree species that are adapted to our wonderful, Mediterranean climate and leave the zone 3 hardy trees to Canada.

You can see accumulated chill hours for your area here:

[http://fruitsandnuts.ucdavis.edu/Weather\\_Services/chilling\\_accumulation\\_models/Chill\\_Calculators/?type=chill](http://fruitsandnuts.ucdavis.edu/Weather_Services/chilling_accumulation_models/Chill_Calculators/?type=chill)

[https://northernwoodlands.org/outside\\_story/article/how-do-trees-know-when-to-wake-up](https://northernwoodlands.org/outside_story/article/how-do-trees-know-when-to-wake-up)

<https://www.npr.org/sections/thesalt/2017/01/25/510571835/if-these-trees-dont-get-time-to-chill-farmers-will-be-out-on-a-limb>

[http://homeorchard.ucanr.edu/The\\_Big\\_Picture/Tre\\_e\\_Selection/](http://homeorchard.ucanr.edu/The_Big_Picture/Tre_e_Selection/)

<https://www.fs.fed.us/pnw/sciencef/scifi183.pdf>

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

**Due to the holiday school closure, the workshop will be held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday, December 9<sup>th</sup> 2019**

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 Events**

#### **December 20 2019 – Garden Clean-up**

We will be cleaning trees in the Bonsai garden at Lake Merritt to get ready for the annual Bonsai Garden Mammoth Auction in February. The trees and pots must be cleaned with all traces of weeds and moss on the bark of the trees removed. The trees are then readied for photos by adding top dressings. It is a fun day and one of our club's way of supporting the Mammoth fundraiser.

### **Events by Others**

#### **January 18 - 19, 2020 Arcadia, California**

Baikoen Bonsai Kenkyukai, "Winter Silhouettes", 56th Annual Exhibition, at the Los Angeles Arboretum, Ayres Hall of Environmental Education, located at 301 North Baldwin Ave., Arcadia, CA 91007. Show hours on both days are 10am to 4:30pm. Deciduous bonsai in all their leafless glory are featured from club members and invited guests. The Nagata-Komai award winner will be announced, 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 Ken Teh at [kenwteh6@gmail.com](mailto:kenwteh6@gmail.com).

#### **January 18 - 19, 2020 Oakland, California**

Bay Area Bonsai Associates: 39th Annual Bonsai Exhibition at the Lakeside Park Garden Center, 666 Bellevue Avenue. Show hours are Saturday 5 – 9 PM and Sunday 10 AM – 4 PM. Light dinner at 5:30 PM Saturday followed by a bonsai demonstration by Peter Tea from 6:30 PM to 9:00 PM. Benefit drawing of demo tree. Winning ticket must be present. Sale of plants, bonsai, and other bonsai related items both days. Admission is free. Parking fee to the Lakeside Park entrance is required during the park hours. For more information, please contact Janice Dilbeck at [janicedilbeck@comcast.net](mailto:janicedilbeck@comcast.net).

#### **January 31 - February 2, 2020 Santa Nella, California**

California Shohin Society Seminar 2020: held at the Hotel de Oro Conference Center, Santa Nella, California. Benefit from the knowledge of several illuminati of the America Bonsai world. There will be multiple demonstrations over the three days of the seminar. This is the best gathering of America Bonsai experts and please remember they are donating their time to keep your costs down. If you plan to attend the hospitality suite either Friday or Saturday please consider bringing some liquid refreshment and/or a treat to share. Reservations for the Hotel de Oro should be made soon. Filling hotel rooms helps keep the overall Seminar costs within reach. Please mention the Shohin Seminar when you are making your reservations.

2020 Seminar Chairperson: Janice & Bob Hale & Fred Miyahara

- 2020 Vendor Chairperson: Bob Shimon
- 2020 Auction & Raffle Chairpersons: Doyle & Jason Saito
- 2020 Workshop Chairperson: Bill Castellon
- 2020 Hospitality Chairpersons: Cary & Steve Valentine

For questions, concerns, or to obtain more registration forms, email Randi at [calshohin@yahoo.com](mailto:calshohin@yahoo.com).

**February 15 and 16, 2020 Oakland, California**

Annual Bonsai Garden at Lake Merritt Mammoth Auction & Sale will be held on Saturday, February 15 and Sunday, February 16, 2020 at 666 Bellevue Ave., Lakeside Park Garden Center in Oakland. You are invited to the biggest auction and sale of bonsai, pre-bonsai, pots, books, stands, art, and jewelry. It is a giant fundraiser with all proceeds going to support the Bonsai Garden at Lake Merritt. Saturday auction preview starts at Noon with auction starting at 1:00 p.m. Sunday sale 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., vendors, plant sale, and much more. Purchase your bonsai needs. For further information, contact George Haas, at [gwhaas@comcast.net](mailto:gwhaas@comcast.net) or visit web site [bonsailakemerritt.com](http://bonsailakemerritt.com).

**April 26, 2020 Watsonville, California**

Watsonville Bonsai Club: 47th Annual Bonsai Exhibit held at the Watsonville Buddhist Temple, 423 Bridge Street. Show hours are 11:00 AM – 4:00 PM, with a demonstration by award winning Bonsai Master

Katsumi Kinoshita at 1:30 PM. Over 50 outstanding bonsai, large and small, young and old, will be on display. A raffle of bonsai items, plants and the demo tree will follow. Tea & cookies will be served. Plenty of parking for vehicles of all sizes; even for group outings. A vendor will be available to sate your plant appetite for bonsai or otherwise. For more information contact Michael Anderson at (831)247-9028 or [margiesmemories@aol.com](mailto:margiesmemories@aol.com).

Newsletter Editor: Beverly Martinez

Newsletter Contributors: Tom Fedor, Brian Brandley, Roger Brady

Newsletter Photographer: Suzanne Muller, Stephen Lysaght

<b>East Bay Bonsai Society—Schedule for 2019</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. Visitors welcome.

Website for Bonsai Garden Lake Merritt: [www.gsbf-lakemerritt.org/](http://www.gsbf-lakemerritt.org/)

<b>Meeting</b>	<b>Program</b>
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Dec 9	Workshop at Merritt College
Dec 11	Holiday party
Jan 8	Jonas Dupuich – Potting
Jan 20	Potting workshop at BGLM
Jan 26	Introduction to Bonsai at BGLM – John Nackley & Bob Gould
Jan 27	Workshop at Merritt College
Feb 12	Eric Shrader – TBD
Feb 24	Workshop at Merritt College
Mar 11	Gordon Deeg – Camelias
Mar 22	Introduction to Bonsai at BGLM – Janet Nelson
Mar 23	Workshop at Merritt College
Apr 8	Darren Wong – Azaleas
Apr 26	Introduction to Bonsai at BGLM – Tom Colby
Apr 27	Workshop at Merritt College