



The Tree Shrinker

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A MONTHLY BULLETIN

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East Bay Bonsai Society
No Scheduled Meeting in October
October 12th & 13th 2019
IT'S SHOW TIME!

Show time!

The moment we have been waiting for all year is almost here, the October EBBS show. And this year should prove to be one of the best. We are bringing an artist from the East Coast for his first trip to California to educate and delight you with his skill and artistry.



Sergio Cuan is a visual artist who graduated with a BFA in Art and Design from Pratt Institute in Brooklyn, NY. Professionally, he works as a creative director for a major entertainment company in New York City. A highly versatile visual artist and designer, he works on a diverse range of location-based experiences across the globe which include hotels and resorts, live events and themed parks.

Sergio has a passion for art and horticulture alike. Early on he realized that bonsai was the ideal synthesis of both. As a result, he became fascinated with bonsai as an art form. Sergio, also known as MACH5 by some in the bonsai community, is a largely self-taught bonsai artist. However, he has taken workshops with prominent bonsai masters Bill Valavanis, Mauro Stemberger and Bjorn Bjorholm which he continues to take from time to time to further his bonsai studies and skills.

Although Sergio works on a variety of species such as Engelmann spruce, Rocky Mountain juniper and Eastern white cedar, he has developed a particular interest and passion for a wide range of deciduous species such as maples, elm and beech among many others. In 2014 he built a bonsai garden in Northern New Jersey in a beautiful setting surrounded by rolling hills, lakes and deciduous woodlands. The intimate yet spacious garden features many species of trees in which he recently started to conduct private workshops.

Although bonsai is deeply rooted in Asian culture, Sergio believes that bonsai is a true, universal art form that holds commonalities with painting, drawing and sculpture. But unlike those art forms, bonsai is alive. Practicing bonsai is an intimate and continued dialogue between artist and nature. The give and take, the cause and effect. There is an interactive component that gives bonsai its own unique fourth dimension.



Sergio's work has appeared in International Bonsai magazine, Bonsai Focus magazine and Bonsai Bark blog. His work has been shown at numerous exhibitions and has received several awards including "Finest Deciduous Award" at the 4th US National Bonsai Exhibition in Rochester, NY and "Best in Show" at the 2016 Winter Silhouette Expo in Kannapolis, NC. He travels often across the US to conduct workshops, lectures, critiques and demonstrations.

From your president

It's my favorite time of the year - EBBS Showtime! I have so much appreciated the camaraderie of working together with other club members for the show. It is so rewarding, and makes our community stronger. It's an intense weekend where we get to know each other better and learn more about our common interest- every facet of bonsai! I encourage every single member to show a bonsai tree, even you very new members.

At my first show, I was very nervous to bring a tree. I had only learned from books, and looking back, my spindly olive tree was pretty pathetic. But we are very lucky in our club to have experienced bonsai experts who are also kind and gentle to new practitioners, 5 and I went away not shamed, but full of ideas for my tree, pride that I participated and a deeper understanding of bonsai from viewing all the other trees and talking with members at the show. I hope everyone has a good experience at this year's show!

Since we have a number of new members (yay!), Beverly, Janice and I have written more explicit information about the show. If you have any questions before or during the show, please don't hesitate to call or email me (510-220-3339, lisaharper@me.com). I also invite ALL new (or newish) members to join me at 10 Saturday morning at the reception table to talk about the show, and to show me your trees (until about 10:45am).

Set-up Friday Evening, October 11

The doors of the Lakeside Garden center will be open for work to start at 6:00 pm, so plan to arrive at 6pm. Volunteers are needed right away to help with installing the tables and backdrops. You don't have to go home for dinner before helping with set up because the club will provide pizza and beverages for all workers. Come and join the camaraderie of the show set up. In addition to a lot of work it is also a lot of fun. The pizza is good, too.

Phase ONE of Set up proceeds like this:

- 6pm: One group of volunteers will set up the show tables and backdrops in the Vista room. A second group will set up tables in the hallway for temporary tree placement.
- Once all the tables in the hallway are set up with appropriate labels, please bring in all your trees, accents, and stands. By 6:30 we want to have all trees for the show in the hallway, ready for setting up in the show. Please put your trees and items on the appropriate tables, which will be labeled: Shohin, Tokonoma, Non-tokonoma.

After you have unloaded your trees and other items, please help in one of these efforts:

- Join John Doig and Bob Gould in the setup of the Vista room for the actual show
- Join Michael Hilton in the setup of the Ebell Room for the demonstrations and talks by Sergio Cuan.
- Join Pat Cahill in the Garden room to set up our club members and guests' hangout and dining areas for Friday, Sat and Sunday.
- Join Beverly Martinez to set up the club Sale Area at the front of the Hallway.
- Join Suzanne Muller and John Nackely to organize the kitchen for the weekend festivities.

When all the tables, backdrops, chairs, etc are set up, we all have a pizza dinner together! Then Phase TWO of set up proceeds:

- Janice Dilbeck will lead in the placement of Non-Tokonoma Trees in the show room. Her back is not what it used to be, and she will need help placing trees from volunteers.
- Bob Gould will assign people to tokonoma tables. Go to him to find out where to set up your tree. Each person who signed up for a tokonoma will be responsible for setting up their own display.
- Polly Gould will set up accent plants
- Bill Castellon and John Doig will arrange the shohin wall, and then individuals will set up their shohin displays.
- Then, Join Lisa Harper in the setup of the Vendor area in the Hallway.
- Bring sale items into the sales area and check in with Beverly Martinez
- Sometime during phase two the pizza will arrive. Enjoy a break to enjoy the pizza, but if there is still work to be done, please finish your meal and then jump back in and help complete setup.
- All Members insure everything is set to go!

All done and doors locked by 10pm.

Preparing your tree for display

Every member is encouraged to bring a bonsai tree to display. The show is a great place to get feedback on your efforts, compare styles, pots, species and more! Your tree does not have to be a show-stopper, but it does have to meet a few basic requirements:

- The tree should be in a bonsai pot, not a nursery pot. To clean the pot, you can rub with a lightly oiled rag to remove dirt and stains without removing patina. Use walnut oil (<https://bonsaitonight.com/2010/01/15/pass-the-sock/>), mineral oil or any other type- just one with no smell.
- Your tree should be free of weeds, pests, and pesticide smell. View your tree carefully and remove damaged leaves. Trees may be neatly wired. Prepare the top of the soil with either live

moss or a top dressing of new soil or small gravel- in a color that works with the tree and the pot.

- Trees should be on a stand or jita (wooden slab). Several generous members bring extra stands to borrow. If you will need to borrow a stand, please put felt pads on the bottom of your pot's feet, so that no stand gets scratched. You can also make your own stand. Search the web for ideas and be creative. If you have any accent plants, please bring them. They really add a finishing touch to our displays.
- Lisa Harper will be printing the labels this year for the non-shohin trees. Please send the information (Common name, botanical name, tree age, years in training and your 3 letter initials) to Lisa at LisaHarper@me.com no later than October 4th.
- Lastly, put your name and contact info on the bottom of your plants and stands with tape, or use a return address label.

Sunday Breakdown and clean up

At 4pm on Sunday, the show will end, and doors will close to the public. Then we will take down the show, and be out of the building by 5pm. **This year, another group has reserved the Garden center after us, and will arrive at 5 pm.** We need a lot of help after 4, and all members are strongly encouraged to help clean up. Seriously, we are begging you not to leave all the work to the last few people standing. Specifically, please:

- Remove your trees, accents and belongings first.
- Pick up any items left in the kitchen.
- Help remove and pack up table clothes and backdrops.
- Help put away all tables in the Ebell and Garden rooms. This year, chairs from these rooms can be loaded onto their dollies and left in the hallway. Tables and chairs can remain up in the Hallway and in the Vista room for the next event.
- Help clean the kitchen, remove leftover food
- Sweep obvious debris from floor

Volunteers needed!

This is your show and it will only be as good as we the collective club participants make it. We are in need of volunteers for every category.

It is a tremendous help to know when club members are available to help out during the show so that we can ensure all areas will be covered. If you have not yet signed up for a category please let the following team leaders know that you want to participate in their area.

In addition to these categories we are anticipating some large (heavy) trees and planters to arrive in the plant sale area Saturday morning. Arrivals will come as early as 8:00 am and strong volunteers are needed to help lift and carry plants, etc. If any of the plants and accessories remain at 5:00 PM, we will need assistance in bringing the plants in for the night.

Hospitality – Suzanne Muller (925) 890-0506
Kids' Corner – Lisa Harper – (510) 220-3339
Reception – Lisa Harper – (510) 220-3339
Plant Sales – Bev Martinez – (925) 437-2347
Security – Roger Brady – (415) 350-9999

Sign-up sheets will be posted in the kitchen Friday night so you will have a chance to physically sign-up also.

Lunch at the show

EBBS lunches are available on both days to members and honored guests. The style is potluck with augmentation and beverages furnished by the club. Assignments for both days are as follows:

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



In each case, make the dish for 8-10 people and be sure to provide serving utensils if required. Remember to pick up your dish and utensils on Sunday by 3:00 pm.

Tokonomas Available!

There are still several Tokonoma spots available, so if you haven't signed up or would like to grab another one contact Janice Dilbeck at (925) 698-0627 or email janicedilbeck@comcast.net.

Show Plant Sale

The sale is very important to the club in many ways. It is easy to overlook the fact that the sale of plants and bonsai and related items such as pots, scrolls and stands is a real money maker for the club and goes a long way toward funding the cost of the show.



Look at your collection and see if there is something that you would like to send to a new and more loving home. Our recent auction featured trees that were well along in development as opposed to small cuttings. For many of the folks who drop by the show this is their first look at what bonsai is all about. They are thrilled to take home a small cutting in a pot and as a result, these little plants sell like hot cakes. Above all it is important to remember

that something you no longer have interest in may be a treasure to someone else.

As with the auction, items may be donated to the club where 100% of the selling price goes to the club, or may be sold on consignment where 20% of the selling price goes to the club, leaving 80% to the seller.

The more attractive you make your tree the more likely that it will sell. Simple things you can do to improve the appearance of the tree help a lot. Remove any weeds and dead leaves, and trim that awkward branch.

The fine print for the details of the sale is exactly the same as for our recent auction. Forms and tags will be available and each seller must complete an inventory form listing and describing each item, and showing the selling price, or clearly designating that the item is a donation. A completed tag must be placed on each item. Items are preferred to be brought in between 8:00 and 10:00 on Saturday and after 9:00 on Sunday. If bringing items on Friday, please wait until tables are set up to bring items inside.

Once again, we will be opening the plant sale to EBBS club member show volunteers early on Saturday morning at 9:00 am. This will give our volunteers the first opportunity to buy items in the sale before we are open to the public at 10:00 am.

BABA Critique and Discussion

Saturday from 9:30 to 12:30 BABA will hold a critique and discussion of advanced techniques with Sergio Cuan in the Ebell room. EBBS members are invited to participate as silent observers.

Silent Auction

EBBS is featuring a silent auction as part of the many events at our show. These auctions have proved to be very popular and have been a significant source of income for the club. All the items in the auction are donated to the club. You can be part of the fun if you have any item that you would like to offer in the silent auction. Most of the items have been bonsai related, but anything in good taste such as bottles of wine is most welcome. Let John Nackley know a suggested "take it away" price. Silent auction items should be brought to the show Saturday morning before 10:00.

Sunday Morning Critique

A critique of the trees in the show will be conducted by Sergio on Sunday morning starting at 9:30 am. This is a wonderful experience and is by far the most valuable part of the show. No matter where your tree is in its development, he can point out how to improve the way the tree is displayed, i.e. the choice of pot, stand and scroll if used. Seeing the show through the eyes of an experienced bonsai artist is always a privilege and always expands our knowledge of bonsai.

Kid's Corner

Kid's corner will be held on Saturday from 11:00 to 12:00 at the front doors. Each child that attends will be able to take away a small tree in a pot at the end of the session.

Sunday Afternoon Demonstration

Sergio will conduct a presentation on deciduous trees on Saturday, October 12th, from 1:00pm to 3:00pm and demonstration on two trees, a Japanese Maple and a Cork Bark Elm, on Sunday, October 13th, from 1:00pm to 3:00pm. Each tree will be raffled off separately.



Schedule of events

The schedule of the weekend activities are as follows:

Friday Night

6:00 pm Show setup starts
10:00 pm Set up finished, doors locked

Saturday

8:00 am Doors open to Members, Vendor set up
9-10 am VOLUNEERS ONLY Plant Sale
9:30 am BABA critique and discussion
10:00 am Show and sale are open to the public
10:00 am New member meet up at reception table
11:00 am Kids' corner opens
11:30 am Hospitality room opens for lunch
12:00 pm Kids' corner ends
12:30 pm BABA critique and discussion ends
1:00 pm Sergio - Deciduous presentation
2:00 pm Hospitality room closes
4:00 pm Presentation ends
5:00 pm Show and sale close to the public

Sunday

8:00 am Doors open to members and vendors
9:30 am Member critique of the show by Sergio
11:00 am Show and sale are open to the public
11:30 am Hospitality room opens for lunch
1:00 pm Demonstration begins in the Ebell room
2:00 pm Hospitality room closes
3:00 pm Benefit drawing begins
4:00 pm Plant sales and vendor sales close
4:00 pm Show closes and teardown commences
5:00 pm EBBS is done, next event arrives

September meeting

Our September meeting featured Lucy Judd and her traveling accent workshop. Accent plants are intended to accompany bonsai trees, but do not compete with the trees for visual attention. Kusamono are occasionally seen in bonsai shows. These are standalone compositions which usually involve several species of plants.



Lucy completed several accent plants in a demonstration and made clear just how easy and quick it is to produce a fine accent plant. Tools required are simplicity itself. All you need are tweezers, a chop stick, heavy shears for cutting soil and roots, small sharp pointed scissors for trimming the plants, and a small scoop for digging plants out of propagation flats. Lucy used mesh wallboard tape for covering the drain holes of her pots. The tape has a sticky side and is used for dry wall installation. The tape is a real time saver over the more usual screen held by wire that is used for bonsai. A pinch of bone meal is placed in the pot before plants are added which serves as fertilizer for the composition.

The accent plant should be a contrast to the bonsai. For example, a fern could be used for a bonsai tree with fruit. A grass could be used for a flowering bonsai. A tree in a formal rectangular pot could be accompanied by an accent plant in a round pot.

At the conclusion of the demonstration, the evening program turned into a workshop where members could make their own accent plants. Lucy supplied many small plants as candidates for finished accent plants as well as pots which were available for purchase.



Adam Magill with his tiny accent plant



The evening was thoroughly enjoyed by all. EBBS has always been known for fabulous accent plants in their shows, and from the many fine completed accent plants seen at the end of the meeting, the tradition will safely continue.

November meeting

We will once again return to our normal meeting schedule in November. John Thompson will be here to enlighten us on Oaks. John is a local oaks expert and with 60 different species of oaks just in the United States his program should take on a wide range of interesting variations on oak artistry.



Did you know?

East Bay Bonsai Society members and non-members can advertise in the Tree Shrinker!

Members are allowed 2 free Ads per year. The charge for ads is \$35 per ad after the first 2 free ads. For non-members the charge is \$48 per ad. Ads must be bonsai related. To place an ad, send it to: EBBS_Distribution@Yahoo.com along with the time period to be placed. Payment may be mailed to the Treasurer at: 4933 Cochrane Ave. Oakland, Ca. 94618. The ad will be reviewed by the EBBS Board and placed in the newsletter for the month(s) requested after payment is received.

Olives

By: Brian Brandley

Olives are broad leaf, evergreen trees native to Mediterranean and Asia. Humans have been using olives and olive oil since the Bronze Age. The Spanish brought olives to the western hemisphere, first to Peru and Chile, then to California (San Diego) in the 18th century. The oldest known living olive trees are about 2000 years old. There are hundreds of cultivars used commercially for fruit and oil, although bonsai people often prefer fruitless varieties and a dwarf version called "Little Ollie". There are more acres in olive production than any other fruit tree in the world. California's Mediterranean climate (hot, dry summers and cool wet winters) is perfect for olives. So much so that fruiting olive is considered an invasive species in Southern California and the Central Valley.



Commercial olive – *Olea europaea*

Olives are slow growing and rarely exceed 15 m in height. They grow well in poor soils, preferring a limestone base. They like it hot and sunny, and can withstand droughts, fire and at least light freezes. Even if the top is destroyed, they can regrow from roots. Olives are primarily wind pollinated, and that pollen is highly allergenic.



These trees can be propagated by seeds, cuttings (can be large) and layering. Olives will root easily despite the absolute lack of feeder roots during collection, as long as the base includes parts of the original root tissue. Cuttings from limbs or trunk will usually root as well. Newly collected trees do well in 100% pumice. They should be repotted in the traditional, spring repotting season, and, at least for the bay area, the trees should be situated in the hottest, sunniest part of the yard.



Large cuts will not heal over, so your choices are to disguise large chops or carve them to make a feature. Since many olives in nature retain deadwood and hollows, carving can be made to look very natural. Wire branches while young but take care to keep an eye on them. Olives are aggressive growers in the right location and wire will cut in fast. Olives are generally pest free in bonsai culture, but can occasionally get scale. In bonsai olives are most often presented as informal upright trees with gnarly trunks and lots of dead wood. They make good bonsai of all sizes, from mame to imperial size.



Take a look!

The June 2019 Shohin and Suiseki Show is featured in the Fall Golden Statements magazine. Read all about it on-line or download the magazine for free by logging into the Golden Statements website at <http://www.gsbfbonsai.org>.

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 Events

DATE CHANGE!!! November 10, 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

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 5 – 6, 2019 Menlo Park, California

John and Sandy Planting who have been involved in bonsai for over 60 years, are selling trees, pots, tools, scrolls, Ikebana containers and more. Saturday 10 -4, Sunday 10 – 3. Free terracotta pots and stones. No early birds, bring your own wagon. Cash, checks, credit cards accepted. Location: 898 Coleman Ave. Menlo Park (limited street parking). Contact Lynne O'Dell for questions at Lynnemo@sbcglobal.net.

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. A presentation on deciduous trees will be held at 1:00 PM Saturday by Sergio Cuan, followed by a demonstration Sunday at 1PM. Sergio is a 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.

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 vendors selling bonsai related items. Included a large club tree sale, and Doctor Bonsai will be there for guests who bring in 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 19th and 20th Sacramento, California

Capital City Bonsai Association: 20th Anniversary of the Association's Bonsai and Suiseki Show. In Loving Memory of Gary Judd. Mini demos 10 – noon, Demo's 1 – 3:30 PM. Benefit drawing, member sales, vendor sales, silent auction, free parking. Location: Shepard Garden & Arts Center 3330 McKinkey Blvd, Sacramento, Ca.95816. Sponsored by: American Bonsai Assc, Sac., Bonsai Sekiyu Kai, Sacramento Bonsai Club & Satsuki Aikokai. For more information contact:pbholtzen@sbcglobal.net.

October 19 - 20, 2019 Union City, California

Yamato Bonsai Kai: 48th Annual Exhibition and demonstration, featuring Johnny Uchida, will be held at the Southern Alameda County Buddhist Church, located at 32975 Alvarado-Niles Road. Exhibition hours are Saturday, from 12 PM – 6 PM and Sunday from 10 AM – 4 PM with a demonstration each day at 1:30 PM. Free admission and parking. Demo tree will be included in daily raffle as the grand prize. A daily Benefit Raffle will include several nice bonsai and bonsai related items. Event will include a large Vendor and Plant Sales area. Visit our website at: yamatobonsai.org

November 9, 2019 Las Vegas, Nevada

Las Vegas Bonsai Society: Viva Las Bonsai: A Bonsai Exhibit and Show at the Nevada Garden Center, Northwest corner of Lorenzi Park, 800 Twin Lakes Drive from 10 AM to 4 PM. Bonsai Demonstration by Jan Culek, professional bonsai artist from the Czech Republic. Discussion on Zen and the Arts by Zen Master Ji Haeng. Bonsai Exhibit of Society member trees. Local vendor sales of bonsai related items and club tree sale. Parking and admission is free but donations are

welcome. Raffle and silent auctions immediately following the demonstration. For further information contact irasisson@hotmail.com.

November 23rd, 2019 Clovis, California

Fresno Bonsai Society will conduct their eleventh consecutive bonsai yard sale from 8 AM until 2 PM at the Clovis Botanical Garden. The garden is located at 945 North Clovis Avenue in Clovis. The sale will be held under and around the big tent area. The event is free and the parking is free. Vendors of bonsai, pots and all related items are welcome free of charge. Everyone is welcome to buy, sell, or trade. There will be bonsai from both private collections and from the GSBF Clark Bonsai Collection. There will be used pots, hand-thrown pots from local potters. Look for books and magazines and display stands. The coffee is free and sandwiches will be available for \$10. Come early for the best deals.

Vendors are very welcome. Please contact Mike Saul (tinytreeme@sbcglobal.net) for assistance. This is an entertaining event every year and a wonderful opportunity for new bonsai hobbyists to acquire better quality material for very reasonable prices.

Newsletter Editor: Beverly Martinez
Newsletter Contributors: Tom Colby, Brian Brandley, Suzanne Muller, Lisa Harper, Janice Dilbeck
Newsletter Photographer: Krisa Fredrickson, Bev Martinez, Suzanne Muller

East Bay Bonsai Society—Schedule for 2019
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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/

Meeting Program

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