



# The Tree Shrinker

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A MONTHLY BULLETIN

<http://www.eastbaybonsai.org>



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## East Bay Bonsai Society Monthly Meeting January 8, 2020

### January meeting

We are opening our new year with a special treat! Jonas Dupuich, one of our favorite bonsai masters, will be here to teach us all about potting our plants. It couldn't be more aptly timed as January kicks off the potting season.

Jonas Dupuich is a Northern California bonsai teacher and writer. He began growing bonsai in 1993 after meeting Boon Manakitivipart while working at his family's nursery. Boon showed Jonas how to style a maple and Jonas was hooked! This kicked off more than two decades of study with Boon during which time he became a founding member of Bay Island Bonsai. Jonas also studies with Boon's senpai, Daisaku Nomoto, during his visits to the U.S.



In 2011, Jonas spent two months studying with bonsai grower and artist Junichiro Tanaka of Aichi-en nursery in Nagoya, Japan. Jonas worked on trees in Tanaka's collection and participated in the Gomangoku and Taikan-ten exhibitions.

Jonas is the author of the Bonsai Tonight blog. Created in 2009, the blog features over one thousand articles on a wide range of topics with new posts published every Tuesday and Friday. Jonas has also just published a new book – The Little Book of Bonsai. Although written with newly budding bonsai artists in mind, it serves as an excellent guidance for all.

As a follow-up to Jonas' presentation, EBBS will be having a "repotting party", Saturday January 11<sup>th</sup>. Get the details on page 3 of this newsletter under First Workshop of 2020.

Thank you in advance to anyone supplying goodies for the January meeting. We will have a sign-up sheet for February – March to pass around.

### February Meeting

The voting is complete. Eric Shrader will be here for the February meeting to teach us root over rock planting.



Eric Schrader grew up in Boonville, California, among beautiful redwoods, oaks and buckeye trees. His interest in bonsai has led Eric to explore the mountains of California, Arizona, Nevada, Idaho, Oregon, and Utah in search of wild and wonderful trees.

Eric approaches bonsai as an avenue for exploration of the natural world and as an art form that captures the essence of trees. Eric has been growing bonsai trees since 2001 and regularly starts batches of trees from seed and cutting, eventually growing them into mature trees.

## December Holiday Party

“And a good time was had by all...” The December holiday party was once again a fun and festive occasion! Our EBBS cooks out-did themselves with seasonal delights especially in the dessert section. Every year seems to get better and better. Michael Hylton’s presentation of the year’s events was well received. It’s always fun to look back at all we have done and accomplished for the year.

### **PARTY PICTURES**



## First Workshop of 2020!

Potting season has begun! And what better way to get started than with the East Bay Bonsai Society potting experts. Just in time to receive direction from Jonas' potting presentation, Janice Dilbeck, John Doig and Lisa Harper will help you to put this knowledge to good use.

The potting workshop will be held Saturday, January 11 from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM at the Lakeshore Park Bonsai Garden workshop area. There is a minimal cost of \$10 for space rental and you are encouraged to bring your own trees (1-3), tools, soil, pots and chopsticks. If you are in need of soil or pots, Contact Lisa at (510) 220-3339 prior to January 6 and she will secure some for a nominal cost.

Bring a bag lunch and get ready to immerse yourself in repotting your trees. To reserve your spot, email Lisa at [lisaharper@me.com](mailto:lisaharper@me.com).

Entrance to the gardens at Lakeshore park is temporarily moved to the main gate adjacent to the Garden Center building. It is a short walk through the gardens to the Bonsai Garden.

## Dues are Due!

For all of us who haven't paid our dues after October 1<sup>st</sup> 2019, our dues for the coming year are due. As announced at the holiday party, there is a small change in pricing for 2020.

Individual is \$30 (no change)  
Family or couples is \$40 (no change)  
To receive the Tree Shrinker by US mail rather than e-mail \$10 (up from \$5).

Dues must be paid in cash or check, sorry no credit cards. Make checks payable to EBBS. There will be a box with envelopes for dues at the January meeting or you may send your money to:

East Bay Bonsai Society  
Attn: EBBS Treasurer  
4933 Cochrane Avenue  
Oakland, CA 945618

Please be sure to note who the dues are from so you will be counted in the roster for our new year.

## Writers Wanted

Did you ever want to be published? How about a column in the local paper? Well here is your chance. The Tree Shrinker staff is looking for writers on Bonsai related topics. Send in your articles, pictures, comics, you name it to: [EBBS\\_Distribution@Yahoo.com](mailto:EBBS_Distribution@Yahoo.com). See you in print!

## EBBS Board Meetings

The EBBS board meets once a month to discuss a number of items which include: future programs, annual show headliner, field trips, and a variety of other items. Any member can sit in on a board meeting and we encourage you to do so. The time of the meeting is always 7:30 PM, but the location is subject to change. If you would like to join a meeting, please contact President Lisa Harper at (510) 220-3339 for the location of the meeting. The meeting dates will be published monthly in the calendar section of the Tree Shrinker in the future for your convenience.

### Scheduled Board Meeting Dates for 2020

January 6  
February 3  
March 2  
April 6  
May 4  
June 1  
June 29  
August 3  
September 28  
November 2  
December 7

## Ponderosa Pines (*Pinus ponderosa*)

By: Brian Brandley

Ponderosa pines are the most widely distributed pine in North America and are found exclusively in the more mountainous regions of the west. There are five recognized subspecies, in the central Rockies, southern Rockies, high plains, Sierra's, coastal range of northern California and Oregon. They are one of the most common native pines here in California, usually growing between 3,000 and 7,000 ft elevation.



Ponderosas are prized in bonsai for their rough, flaky bark, contorted trunks, flexible limbs and dramatic deadwood. Collected specimens can be wildly sculpted by their environment, resulting in beautiful twisted trunks, limbs and deadwood. In the mountains they can be found growing in pockets in the rock, stunting their growth. Many small collected specimens can be a hundred years old or more. If you find the right tree it can be easily collected with a great chance at survival, essentially removing it from a natural, rock pot and replanting in one at home. If you choose the wrong tree it might take dynamite to get it out of the rock fissures its locked into. Collected trees should be allowed to recover until they show strong growth again before working them.



The only negative about ponderosa pines is their naturally long needles. They will reduce with proper management, and some have successfully grafted Japanese black pine (JBP) foliage onto ponderosa trunks. Once established ponderosa back bud well with proper technique. They should not be treated like JBP though. Back budding is stimulated by removing terminal buds in the fall. As more branches with terminal foliage are established (a higher density of needles), the needles will gradually get smaller. Like any pine this should only be done on healthy trees.



Ponderosa pines take well to pot culture. They prefer things on the drier side so use coarse, free draining substrate. Once established they will want full sun, but when stressed they benefit from partial shade and frequent misting. They are very cold hardy. Subspecies that come from the Rockies may have a more difficult time with our mild winters. We would probably do better with more coastal subspecies.

Styling ponderosa pines usually features their rugged trunks, bark and deadwood. Don't expect a ponderosa to ever look as well groomed as a JBP, unless of course, you graft JBP foliage on it. The wild nature of collected ponderosa is usually reflected in the styling. Limbs are extremely flexible, allowing severe bends to bring the terminal foliage back closer to the trunk line. It does take a long time for these flexible limbs to set in position (two years or more), so be prepared to repeatedly wire them. The junctions of limbs to trunk are weak and easily torn so caution is called for. They make great medium to large size trees, as well as wonderful literati.

Tips on ponderosa pine management and styling can be found on Jonas Dupuich's site (<https://bonsaimirai.com/node/748>). Andy Smith at Golden Arrow Bonsai (<http://www.goldenarrowbonsai.com/>) has info and collected trees for sale. The most complete discussion on collecting, maintaining and styling ponderosa pines is Larry Jackel's book, Ponderosa Pines as Bonsai. Unfortunately, it seems to be currently out of print. It can be found on Amazon, but for about 10 times its list price, so check out club libraries and other bonsai friends for potential access to it. Ponderosa pines are a great Native American species for bonsai that really reflect the western US.

### **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.

## 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. For more information, please visit <http://www.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 <https://www.bonsailakemerritt.com>.

**February 22 and 23, 2020 San Marino, California**  
**Golden State Bonsai Federation Collection at the Huntington**: Bonsai-A-Thon XXIV will be held at Botanical Center Building The Huntington Library, Art Museum and Botanical Gardens 1151 Oxford Road. GSBF Early Bird Passes - Bonsai Club Members 7:30 AM - 5:00 PM General Public 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM. Event includes extensive bazaar area, bonsai exhibit, bonsai workshops for children and adults (pre-registration required), demonstrations, daily raffle and auction, guided tours, and pancake breakfast for BAT participants at 7:30 AM daily. .

**March 28 – 29, 2020 San Jose, California**  
**San Jose Betsuin Bonsai Club**: 49th Annual Spring Exhibit at the San Jose Buddhist Church Betsuin, 640 North Fifth Street. Hours are 11:00 AM – 5:00 PM Saturday and Noon – 4:00 PM Sunday. Demonstration at 1:00 PM, both days with guest demonstrator David Nguy on Saturday and a club member demonstration on Sunday. Club sales of plants and pots. Vendor sales include West America (June and David Nguy) and Bonsai Fusion. For further information, call Bob Shatsky (408) 353-3239 or Susan Yea (408) 464-7340.

**April 4 – 5, 2020 Sacramento, California**  
**Bonsai Sekiyu Kai**: 43rd Annual Show will be held at the Sacramento Buddhist Church, 2401 Riverside Blvd. Hours are 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM with a demonstration at 2:00 PM, both days by Yuzo Maruyama. Free Admission. Amenities include refreshments, light snacks, door prizes, raffles, and silent auction. Member and vendor sales of plants and bonsai-related items. For more information contact Bonsai Sekiyu Kai at [bonsaisekiyukai@gmail.com](mailto:bonsaisekiyukai@gmail.com).

**April 11 - 12, 2020 Sacramento, California**  
**American Bonsai Association, Sacramento**: Annual Spring Show at the Shepard Garden and Arts Center in McKinley Park, 3330 McKinley Blvd. Show hours are Saturday, 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM, and Sunday, 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM, with a demonstration by Dave De Groot at 1:30 PM, both days. Beginner workshop: Sunday morning from 10:00 AM -Noon. Large member sales and vendor areas, free admission and parking. Benefit drawings, both Saturday and Sunday, will include each

day's demonstration tree and many bonsai and bonsai related items. For additional information visit our website: <http://www.abasbonsai.org> or contact Renee Seely, 916-929-2106 or email [breadcrumb@comcast.net](mailto:breadcrumb@comcast.net).

#### **April 25 - 26, 2020 San Diego, California**

**San Diego Bonsai Club:** The 55th annual Spring Bonsai Show and Sale of the San Diego Bonsai Club will be held at in Balboa Park's Prado Building. The two-day event is open to the public from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM. More than 50 amazing bonsai of various sizes and species will be on display. The wide range of activities will include bonsai demonstrations by expert members on both days, and a table sale featuring hundreds of trees, plants, pots and other bonsai merchandise offered by SDBC members. For more information, go to <http://www.sandiegobonsaiclub.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).

#### **May 2 - 3, 2020 Sacramento, California**

**Sacramento Bonsai Club:** 74th Annual Bonsai and Suiseki Show at the Sacramento Buddhist Church, 2401 Riverside Blvd. Show hours Saturday 11:00 AM to 4:00 PM and Sunday 12:00 Noon to 4:00 PM. Demonstration both days at 1:30 PM by Sam Adina. Refreshments, benefit drawings and sales of plants and bonsai related items. For more information, contact Lucy Sakaishi-Judd at (916) 300-8103 or email [juddbonsai@att.net](mailto:juddbonsai@att.net).

#### **May 30 - 31, 2020 Santa Barbara, California**

**Bonsai Club of Santa Barbara:** Annual Bonsai Exhibition and Plant Sale in the Fellowship Hall at Trinity Lutheran Church, 909 N. La Cumbre Road, Santa Barbara (corner of Foothill Road). Hours are Saturday 11:00 AM – 4:00 PM and Sunday Noon – 4:00 PM. Demonstrations at 1:00 PM: Mel Ikeda on Saturday, Ann Erb on Sunday. Free admission. For more information, contact Joe Olson (805) 964-0869, email [joeyuccaseed@gmail.com](mailto:joeyuccaseed@gmail.com), or visit <http://www.santabarbarabonsai.org/>.

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### **East Bay Bonsai Society—Schedule for 2020**

**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.gsbflakemerritt.org/](http://www.gsbflakemerritt.org/)

#### **Meeting Program**

Jan 6	EBBS Board Meeting
Jan 8	Jonas Dupuich – Potting
Jan 11	Potting workshop at BGLM
Jan 26	Introduction to Bonsai at BGLM – John Nackley & Bob Gould
Jan 27	Workshop at Merritt College
Feb 3	EBBS Board Meeting
Feb 12	Eric Shrader – TBD
Feb 24	Workshop at Merritt College
Mar 2	EBBS Board Meeting
Mar 11	Gordon Deeg – Camelias
Mar 22	Introduction to Bonsai at BGLM – Janet Nelson
Mar 23	Workshop at Merritt College
Apr 6	EBBS Board Meeting
Apr 8	Darren Wong – Azaleas
Apr 26	Introduction to Bonsai at BGLM – Tom Colby
Apr 27	Workshop at Merritt College