



The Tree Shrinker

Volume XLIX, No.7

A MONTHLY BULLETIN

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East Bay Bonsai Society Monthly Meeting July 8, 2020 7:30 PM **On-Line!**

June Meeting

The June meeting was a big success! Thank you to everyone who participated and signed in to either share a tree or comments. This was a great opportunity to learn from others in our society about the care and management of our collective trees.

Stephen Lysaght kicked off the meeting with photos of his Valley Oak and Coastal Live Oak. Stephen's trees are 3 ½ feet tall and he was wondering what he could do with these to make them better bonsai.



Janet Nelson advised that since it is too late to repot, scraping away the top of the soil and replacing it with good soil should be the first place to start. This eliminates the old decaying soil and fertilizers.

If adding branches is wanted, Tony Saraceno advised us that anywhere an Oak is cut, it will produce new growth. Rick Trumm volunteered that defoliating the large leaves on the oaks right now would be advantageous, and both Rick and Janet agreed that oaks are very brittle; they scar easily so care should be taken when wiring. As with all trees, the best time to work on them is when they are bushy and the leaves are hardened off.

Next up was Michael Hylton with his very leggy Crab Apple. Janet recommended to repot the plant into a larger pot allowing it to grow larger. Lisa Harper suggested cutting the branches back and Rick advised to lean the tree to the left after cutting the branches. Finally, John Nackley suggested that air layering might be an option and wondered if the lower branch would become a root if buried.



Andrea Callegari then presented his plum with thinning foliage and asked if he could cut back more. He was advised to fertilize it and let it grow. Also, any pruning should be carried out in the dormant season.

Lisa showed two roses, one a true miniature rose and one a grocery store version. She was considering whether to cut back to 2 leaves rather than cutting back hard as landscape roses are cut. Maria Sargent recommended to place it in the sun and cut blooms back to 5 leaves. Janet then showed her lovely shohin rose bonsai in bloom.

Ernie Katler presented his beautiful Kingsville Boxwood which resides under a Maple tree in his yard. He recommends every bonsai collection should have one.

Ron Sanchez showed us his bushy Zelcova Elm which he cut back earlier this year, and would like to cut back again. Tony advised "Yes, do it!".

Tony introduced us to his 40-year-old Ficus Nerifolia which he will be defoliating this season.



Adam Kleinberg requested information on defoliating his Japanese maple; and was advised that defoliation will allow the sun to reach the inner leaves as well as causing it to produce smaller leaves.



Finally, to complete the evening, Addison Galamobs (our meeting host) showed his Black Pine looking for decandling advice.



It was a good educational discussion between all 27 members that joined in. Special Thanks to Janet, Rick, John and Tony and all those who graciously gave advise on how to manage our trees in June.

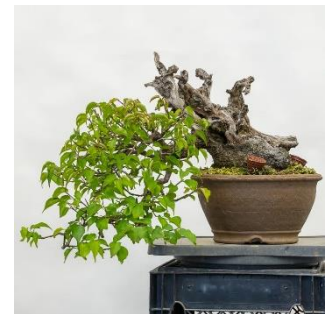
July meeting

We are pleased to announce that Jonas Dupuich will be joining us in July in our On-line meeting. Jonas will be covering what he had been working on in June and what he is currently working on in July. Jonas has been presenting On-line to other bonsai clubs in the Bay Area since the beginning of the pandemic. He is a fabulous speaker and I am sure the meeting will be informative and as educational as always.



As you may recall, Jonas was our presenter in January where he walked us through all the reasons to repot and how to do it. 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.

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 published The Little Book of Bonsai which can be purchased on-line. Although written with newly budding bonsai artists in mind, it serves as an excellent guidance for all.



Before and after trimming UME

Please plan to join us on-line at 7:30 PM July 8th. Refer to page 4 of this newsletter for instructions and assistance in logging in on-line.

Kingsville Boxwoods

By: Tom Colby

In local nurseries one can occasionally find very small cultivars of normal trees. These cultivars look like regular sized tree but are very small. After many years planted in the ground, they might be only a couple of feet high at the most. These plants come about from little buds on normal trees that do not quite get all the genetic information that they need. The growing branch is normal in every way except one. The growth is very much smaller than the rest of the tree. These growths are called witches' brooms and can be found on a wide variety of trees and especially on conifers. Witches' brooms can be propagated by rooting cuttings from the growth. These little trees are treasured by folks who want a very small tree for their landscaping projects.



One would think that the little trees would be a natural fit for bonsai but in fact they have had little impact on the bonsai world. One of the most important features of a fine bonsai is that the tree shows great age and one way it does this is by having a fat trunk. The little cultivars develop fat

trunks only after a very, very long time.

The Kingsville boxwood is an exception and has been embraced by the bonsai world. As a result, it can be seen in many bonsai collections. The Kingsville boxwood has a long history which starts in a nursery in 1913 when it was found growing as a witches' broom on a normal boxwood. The owner of the boxwood rooted ten cuttings of this small growth and grew them for ten years. On his death they fell into the hands of a nurseryman whose nursery was located near the town of Kingsville, Maryland, hence the name. The little boxwood was not the commercial success that the nurseryman had hoped for as a landscape plant.

Fortunately, they were discovered by the bonsai world in the 1960's. In 1975 one of the original ten cuttings was still alive and was donated to the collection at the National Arboretum at Washington, D.C. It had been grown as nursery stock for cuttings and it took several years of training before the tree became a bonsai.

Kingsville boxwoods are now readily available and are a tree that should be in every bonsai collection. They have very small leaves that are in scale for the small trees. The little tree grows very slowly, only adding one half to three quarters of an inch each year. Because they are so

slow growing the little boxwoods are generally seen as shohin bonsai or are members of a group planting. On the rare occasions when a larger Kingsville is shown, it should be appreciated as being a very old tree.



Cultural requirements of Kingsvilles are modest. Their natural growth pattern is wider than high although they can be trained as an upright tree. The trees seem to prefer somewhat deeper pots because the growth of the root ball is faster than you might expect for such a little tree whose above ground growth is painfully slow. Kingsville's, along with regular boxwoods, do best in open shade since exposure to strong sunlight can lead to yellowing of the leaves. Kingsville's particularly resent drying out and show their disgust at your neglect by promptly dying. As branches age they become brittle so great care is needed when working with them to avoid breakage of the branch.

Just as rarely a bud on a normal tree can get its genetic information wrong to form a witches' broom, once in a great while buds on witches' brooms rarely get their information right and produce a normal sized branch. When this happens, the normal branch grows so much faster than the rest of the tree that it takes charge and the smaller branches quickly die. Fortunately, Kingsville's seem to do this less often than most of the cultivated witches' brooms. In the rare case this does happen, the normal branch should be removed as soon as it is identified. Incidentally, as an aside, variegated plants occasionally produce a "normal" totally green leaved branch and they, too, should be removed before they take over the whole tree.

A question that frequently comes up is whether bonsai can be grown inside the house. Bonsai can and should be taken inside the house for a few days to fully enjoy them but should then be taken back outside. The problem with growing bonsai in the house is that light and humidity are difficult to manage. Extended periods in a house usually lead to a precipitous decline in health on bonsai due to poor light and dry atmosphere. Kingsville's and tropical Ficus species are exceptions because both can be grown inside the house by careful management of light and water.

When bonsai shows and sales begin again look for Kingsville's. They have many endearing attributes and deserve a place in your collection.

Bonsai Calendar

- Watering – Water regularly. Don't over-water defoliated trees.
- Fertilizing – Continue regular feeding but stop fertilizing de-candled pines.
- Repotting – Not recommended at this time except for tropical and semi-tropical trees.
- Styling/Pruning – Avoid drastic pruning. Wire uprisng branches on quince, ume, oaks, etc. Prune excessive growth on trees.
- Insect and disease control – Maintain defensive treatments for fungus. Watch for and treat insect infestations.

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

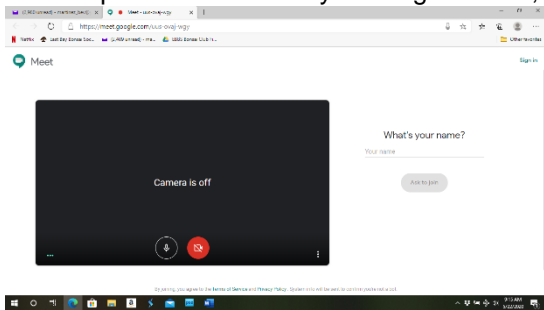
Writers needed!

Have a story to share about bonsai? How about a technique or something special you have learned during your bonsai journey? Or maybe you'd like to head up a column in our newsletter. The Tree Shrinker is in need of writers. If you enjoy writing, have a story to tell, or information to share, please feel free to submit it to: EBBS_Distribution@Yahoo.com.

The only requirement is that it must be related to Bonsai.

Instructions for joining an on-line meeting

In case you were not able to join us last month for our regularly scheduled meeting, here is a little information on the application we are using. The app is titled Google Meet. To join a meeting, click on the join link in the email invitation and you should be presented with the following screen. If joining for the first time you may be asked to install the Meet application. It is free and only takes a few minutes to install. Once you receive this screen, turn on the microphone and video by clicking on them, type in



your name and click the "ask to join" button.

Once you join, you can adjust your screen to look similar to the one below. The images with people have the cameras turned on, images with letters, are on smart cell phones or computers and have their cameras turned off. The image with a phone number is called in on a regular phone so no name was captured, just the partial phone number.



Addison was presenting at this time during the meeting, so the screen reflects this. At the bottom of the screen are buttons for turning the video and audio on and off, and leaving the meeting. To the far right are 3 dots which give additional options. At the top of the screen is additional information and a "chat" box. During the meeting, if you wish to ask a question, you will do it through the "chat box". Our next meeting will again start early at 7:00 PM so members can become familiar with the screen settings. We will begin the actual meeting at 7:30 with announcements.

We are looking forward to seeing many members in July for our monthly meeting. Please feel free to contact Addison Galambos at 650-495-9342, email: barcalod@gmail.com. Or contact any of the following board members for help in signing into the meeting.

Michael Jensen-Akula - 510-821-0199
Andrea Callegari - 206-973-6508
Beverly Martinez 925-437-2347
Lisa Harper 510-220-3339

Articles or Services for Sale (or give-away)

Wanted to Buy (or for free)

Each membership household, free of charge, may place a five-line ad related to bonsai in two newsletters each year. Send a copy of ads to your editor by the fourth Monday of the month to appear in the next publication. Send your ad to EBBS_Distribution@yahoo.com.

Events by Others All bonsai events have been cancelled until further notice

Newsletter Editor: Beverly Martinez

Contributors: Tom Colby

Newsletter Photographers: various members

East Bay Bonsai Society—Schedule for 2020
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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/

Meeting	Program
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July 8	Annual Auction – Delayed until further notice
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Aug 3	EBBS Board Meeting
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Aug 15	Annual Potluck Picnic – TBD
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Aug 31	EBBS Board Meeting
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Sept 9	Gordon Deeg – Camelias
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Sept 28	EBBS Board Meeting
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