



The Tree Shrinker

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A MONTHLY BULLETIN

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East Bay Bonsai Society Monthly Meeting May 13, 2020 **On-Line!**

We are live!

That's right, we are back to having regularly scheduled meetings. The twist, is that they will be on-line until we can again meet in person. Before the next scheduled meeting, each member with an email address will be receiving a calendar invite to the May meeting from Addison Galambos (barcalod@gmail.com). Addison is one of our newest board members, and is setting this up for us. The invite will include a link to click that will connect you to the meeting. That simple. Full instructions will be provided with the email including a number to call with questions.

May Meeting

We are pleased to present Janet Nelson who will speak on grafting at the May meeting. Janet is one of EBBS's most active members and has been learning, growing, showing and teaching bonsai for over 30 years. She and Rick Trumm have an extensive garden at their home with over 100 bonsais.



Janet got interested in bonsai when she met her now husband, Rick Trumm, who has been active in bonsai since he was a student in junior high school. The early days found them taking workshops together at Merritt

College given then by Dennis Makishima with EBBS assistants.

Janet has studied with many artists since that time including: Dennis Makishima, Ryan Nichols, Marco Invernizzi, Daisaku Nomoto, Akio Kondo, Jim Gremel, Gordon Deeg, Peter Tea and Rick Trumm. She has also participated in various workshops with Masahiko Kimura, Kunio Kobayashi, Boonyarat Manakitivipart, Kathy Shaner, and Bill Castellon. For the past several years, Janet has been doing ongoing study groups with Peter Tea. She was also part of the first-year class of the Bonsai School at BGLM which started in 2015.

Janet fully embraces bonsai. She has made many trips over the years to exhibitions, conferences and shows, including special trips to the 2016 Artisans' Cup in Portland, the September 2018 National Bonsai Convention in Rochester, NY, and her most recent trip in 2019 to Japan for the Kokofu-Ten Bonsai Exhibition in Tokyo.

Janet has also held many positions in the East Bay Bonsai Society from secretary to president and she continues to teach at the Introduction to Bonsai classes at the Garden at Lake Merritt.

Janet told me she recently completed repotting 120 trees and 46 succulents and accent plants. Now, that is dedication! Thank you, Janet, for taking the time and being once again on the leading edge of presenting bonsai instruction. We are looking forward to learning from you.

How is your garden going?

Thank you to everyone who sent in pictures of their bonsais and gardens for publication. If you would like to see yours in the Tree Shrinker next month, be sure to send your pictures to EBBS_Distribution@yahoo.com. Include type of tree, age and how long in training if known. Also indicate if you would like to be anonymous and in Facebook as well as the newsletter. Here are this month's submissions:

Michael Hylton – “Crabapple - 11" bonsai tree flowering in a Shuho pot. I've had it five years and was previously owned by Jim Heady and purchased at an EBBS auction.”



Michael Hylton – “18" Contorted Japanese Cherry in a John Cannon pot. The tree is 18" tall and was grown from a 4" starter tree purchased about 8 years ago from Lone Pine Gardens.”



Stephen Lysaght – “Quercus lobata (Valley Oak) from Larry Schmidt, in my collection for one year, age unknown.”



Janet Nelson – “This variegated maple (Acer palmatum Ukigumo) is the one I'm most proud of, since it's a weak variety but this year has lush foliage (thanks to Peter Tea's guidance)”.



Andrea Chin – “Plum tree, which is bearing fruit this year. The pleasures of a healthy tree.”



Suzanne Muller – “The azalea is my first bonsai started in 1989.”



A walk down memory lane

This month we are continuing our walk down memory lane; this time in the year of 2016. First up, an article by Maria Sargent:

Creating a Ginkgo Grove 2016

By: Maria Sargent

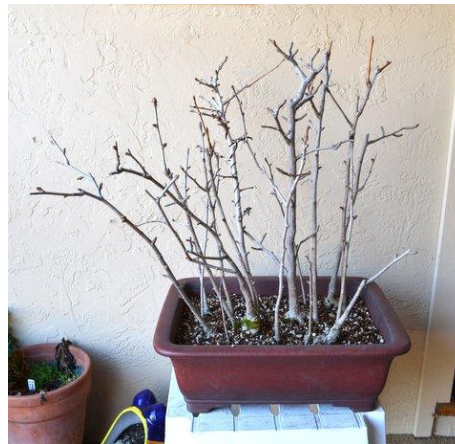
What do you do when bonsai friends know you enjoy Ginkgo Biloba and they are downsizing their collections for various reasons? Recently during my repotting time I took inventory of my Ginkgo and realized that I had 17 growing in various pots at various stages of development. These plants had come from a special bonsai friend of mine and I enjoy their fall color, so I did not want to part with them.



I recently worked with Peter Tea at a workshop. I asked him, "Do you have any ideas of what to do with these 17 Ginkgoes?" In the back of my mind, I knew Peter would know what to do with my trees. We looked in my backyard for a deep pot and found one that I had recently purchased. We put a layer of $\frac{1}{2}$ acadama, $\frac{1}{4}$ hyuga, and $\frac{1}{4}$ lava in the bottom of the pot, and then Peter made a little trellis out of chopsticks. (Ah, those visits to the Chinese restaurant are finally paying off). In goes the chopstick trellis and then he wired each of the trees on to the trellis to hold them in. It was nice that Bob Gould could help hold the trees straight so I could take the pictures.



Peter and Bob made sure the root crowns of each of the trees were at the same level in the pot. When filling with the soil mix, we only filled the pot up to the crowns. We did not do any styling at this point, but the trees were placed into the pot so that they will grow (hopefully) into a nice grove which will be worked on again in a couple of years, and I can remember my bonsai friends as this group planting develops.



Now that I have combined the smaller pots, I have a little more room on my shelves. Should I go bonsai shopping?

April meeting 2016

By: Tom Colby

The April meeting was devoted to suiseki. Tom Colby discussed some of the background of suiseki, Bob Gould showed collected suiseki from California rivers and Polly Gould showed how accent plants can be used with the display of stones.



Suiseki has a long history. Stone appreciation started in China and came to Japan probably about 1500 years ago. The Japanese modified the Chinese esthetics to their taste which was heavily influenced by Zen Buddhism. Early display of stones was in shallow trays

filled with water, hence the name suiseki meaning water stone. This method of display is still used today for about a quarter of the stones seen in contemporary suiseki shows, although sand is frequently substituted for water in the trays.

The beauty of suiseki is the color, shape and surface texture of the stone. The shape and surface texture is the result of exposure of the stone to the elements. The most vigorous exposure occurs in running water where the action of the water as well as the action of grit and sand carried by the water slowly sculpts and polishes the stone. Any attempt to "improve" the stone by either modifying the shape by grinding or modifying the surface by oiling, varnishing or waxing detracts from the natural beauty of the stone. While stones shown as collected are valued, many suiseki are sliced from larger stones. Examples of several different types of suiseki were shown. Most suiseki remind us of natural geologic features with by far the most common being mountains, some viewed from a distance or some close up. Mountain stones comprise about 75% of the stones seen at a typical bonsai show. Other features shown were waterfalls, streams, ponds and a stone representing an ocean reef. A relatively minor category of stones represents not geologic features but objects seen in nature such as animals, including human figures, boats or huts.



Suiseki are considered art by the Japanese, and as with most forms of Japanese art, are judged by Zen Buddhist criteria. These involve feelings the stone should generate in the viewer, and because of this, are very difficult concepts to understand or quantify. A simpler test for whether a stone is a suiseki or not and, if so, is it a good one, is to ask a question. Does the stone remind you of something that you have seen in nature, either in person or in a photograph? If it does not, then the stone is not a suiseki. This does not necessarily mean that the

stone is not worthy of your admiration. It means simply that the stone does not represent what suiseki are all about. If the stone represents a scene from nature, it is a suiseki. If your response is "wow, it really does", then the stone is a good suiseki.

Bob showed a number of his stones that had been collected in California. A striking feature of his presentation was that each river seemed to produce distinctly different stones. Bob emphasized that good suiseki are very hard to find. Although there are many rocks in a typical collecting area, a full day search will produce perhaps a single stone suitable for display as a suiseki. Most suiseki are found in rivers, but Bob showed a stone from the desert that had been sculpted by windblown sand. These stones are very rare because usually in the desert the wind blows from one direction, and so the stone is sculpted only on one side.



Polly Gould is a specialist in growing accent plants and many of the wonderful accent plants you see in our bonsai shows are her handiwork. She showed plants that could be used for accents for a stone. The plant should reflect the stone, and this is exactly the same kind of choice you would make in selecting an accent plant for a bonsai. The size of the plant should be in proportion to the stone. The choice of plant should harmonize with the stone as, for example, a succulent for a high mountain stone or a grass to accompany a stone shown with water. The color of the plant should complement the color of the stone.

There are a wide variety of plants available as accent plants. Polly commented that there are three specific species of plants used by Japanese that are always in style for both bonsai and suiseki. These are black mondo grass, hakoni grass and miniature bamboo. Among the many accent plants that Polly brought to the meeting, pots of dwarf hostas were particularly stunning.

Bonsai Calendar

- Watering – Water regularly to keep root ball moist, not wet, and never dry.
- Fertilizing – Start regular feeding of deciduous trees after first flush of growth is completed. Continue regular feeding of conifers.
- Repotting – Not recommended at this time.
- Styling/Pruning – Rotate trees. Watch for wire cutting during this period of fast growth. Start defoliation. Shorten branches on fruiting trees. Pinch junipers, spruces and cedars.
- Air Layering – Deciduous trees may be air layered if new growth has hardened.
- 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.

Bonsai Instruction at Merritt College

CANCELLED until further notice

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.

May 2 - 3, 2020 Chico, California

The Chico Bonsai Society: Annual Exhibition at the Chico Area Recreation District (CARD) Center, 545 Valombrosa Avenue. Hours are 11:00 AM to 5:00 PM Saturday and 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM Sunday.

Demonstrations by society members both days. Trees, pots, and material will be available for sale. A raffle will be held with drawing on Sunday. The show is open to the public and admission is free. For more information contact Show Chairman Pat Gilmore at gilappl@gmail.com or visit our web site <http://www.chicobonsaisociety.org>.

CANCELLED 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 – 4:00 PM and Sunday 12:00 Noon – 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.

May 16 - 17, 2020 Sacramento, California

Satsuki Aikokai Association of Sacramento: Hosts our Annual show of flowering Satsuki azalea bonsai at the Shepard Garden Center, 3330 McKinley Blvd. Hours are Saturday 10:00 AM – 5:00 PM, and Sunday 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM, with demonstrations at 1:00 PM on both days. Satsuki information booth, vendors, raffles, etc. For more information contact Ronn Pigram at 916-428-8505 or email satsukiaikokaisac@sbcglobal.net.

May 16 - 17, 2020 San Gabriel, California

The Chino Bonsai Club: presents its Inaugural Bonsai Exhibit at the San Gabriel Valley Medical Center (separate building across the street) 261 S. Junipero Serra Dr. Hours are Saturday from 9:30 AM to 8:00 PM and Sunday from 9:30 AM to 3:30 PM. Exciting events will take place such as round robin demonstrations, bonsai demonstrations, vendor and club sales, raffles, auctions, exhibit, and Saturday's dinner reception. On both days, round robin demonstrations begin at 9:30 AM and David Nguy's bonsai demonstration will be at 1:00 PM. For more information, please contact David Nguy at (323)842-6188 or Jerry Garcia at (909)270-7776.

May 17, 2020 Van Nuys, California

Sansui Kai of Southern California: Annual Bonsai Exhibition to be held on May 17, 2020, at the Japanese Garden. 6100 Woodley Ave. Hours are 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM. Demonstration at 1:00 PM. Demo tree will be raffled at end of demonstration. Sales table with member and club bonsai material available all day. Annual Bonsai Exhibition and sale at the beautiful Japanese Garden. Free admission to the bonsai exhibit.

May 30 - 31, 2020 Oakland, California

Bay Area Satsuki Aikokai: presents their annual Satsuki Azalea Bonsai Show at the Lakeside Park Garden Center, 666 Bellevue Ave., Lake Merritt. Hours are on Saturday from 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM and on Sunday from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM. Featuring bonsai Satsuki azaleas in full flower bloom. Expert demonstration and raffle on Saturday from 1:00 to 3:00 PM. Educational forums all day. Member sales with beginner and Japan imported material. Vendor sales. Free admission. For more information, contact George Haas at gwhaas@comcast.net. Visit our website at satsukiazaleabonsai.org.

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, or visit <http://www.santabarbarabonsai.org/>.

CANCELLED June 6 - 7, 2020 San Mateo, California Sei Boku Bonsai Kai: 37th Anniversary Bonsai Show located at the San Mateo Garden Center, 605 Parkside Way (at Beresford Park). Hours are 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM, both days. Saturday demonstration performed by Gordon Deeg from 1:00 to 3:00 PM. Sunday demonstration performed by Valerie Monroe from 1:00 to 3:00 PM. Demo trees for raffles! Also, there will be door prizes, tree clinic, vendor sales, plant sales. Free Admission. Contact Marsha Mekisich for more information at Springhill.2@outlook.com. Visit our web site at <http://www.seibokubonsai.org/?sec=show>.

CANCELLED June 13 - 14, 2020 Oakland, California Suiseki Societies of Northern California, California Shohin Society and Bay Area Shohin Society enthusiastically present The Second Annual Bay Area Suiseki and Shohin Show at the Lakeside Park Garden Center, 666 Bellevue Ave., Lake Merritt. Hours are Saturday from 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM and Sunday from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM. This show will feature Suiseki viewing stones and Shohin bonsai from clubs around the San Francisco Bay Area. There will be demonstrations and large vendor and club sale areas. For more information, contact Lisa Harper at lisaharper@me.com.

June 20 - 21, 2020 Livermore, California Valley Bonsai Society: 12th Annual Show at Alden Lane Nursery, 981 Alden Lane. Show hours are 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM with a demonstration at 1:00 PM on both days. The finished tree will be raffled off at the end of the demonstrations. Bonsai pots, soil, etc. available for purchase. Admission is free.

August 8, 2020 Mateo, California Bonsai Society of San Francisco, East Bay Bonsai Society, Kusamura Bonsai, Midori Bonsai, San Jose Betsuin Bonsai, and Sei Boku Bonsai Kai: sponsoring a Bonsai Flea Market/Swap Meet at the San Mateo Garden Center, 605 Parkside Way, San Mateo. Saturday only, from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM. Admission is free to the public. To reserve a table for \$10 contact Bill McDonald at bill@walter-mcdonald.com or (650) 678-5517.

August 22 - 23, 2020 Santa Rosa, California Redwood Empire Bonsai Society: 37th Annual Bonsai Show at the Santa Rosa Veterans Memorial Building, 1351 Maple Ave. Hours are Saturday 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM and Sunday 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM. Featuring Kathy Shaner bonsai demonstration, both days from 1:00 to 3:00 PM. Demo trees to be raffled. See largest bonsai exhibit, San Francisco Suiseki Kai stone exhibit, large vendor area, large member sales,

and exciting silent auctions. Free admission and parking. Free refreshments. Contact Bob Shimon for additional information shimon@mcn.org or visit our website www.rebsbonsai.org.

September 19, 2020 Modesto, California Modesto Bonsai Club: 38th Annual Spring Show at the Stanislaus County Harvest Hall, 3800 Cornucopia Way. Show hours are Saturday, 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM, with a demonstration at 1:00 PM by Sam Adina. Exhibits, sales, plants, pots, tools and more, multiple raffles. Free admission and parking. Benefit drawing Saturday, will include demonstration tree and many bonsai and bonsai related items. For additional information visit our Club Facebook Page [Modesto Bonsai Club](#), or contact our Club President Peter Camarena, 209-529-1759 or email pete.camarena@sbcglobal.net.

September 19 - 20, 2020 San Andreas, California Mother Lode Bonsai Club: Sixth Annual Bonsai Show at the San Andreas Public Library, 1299 Gold Hunter Road (off Mt. Ranch Road.), San Andreas. Show hours on both days are 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM. Demonstrations at 11:00 AM and 1:30 PM 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 3 – 4, 2020 Thousand Oaks, California Conejo Valley Bonsai Society: 17th Annual Bonsai Exhibition at the Resource Center at the Gardens of the World, 2001 Thousand Oak Blvd. Hours are 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM both days. Demonstrations in the Bandstand at 1:00 PM Saturday and Sunday. 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 30 - November 1, 2020 Nella, California Golden State Bonsai Federation (GSBF): 2020 Convention 43 "MISSION: BONSAI" to be held at the Hotel Mission De Oro, 13070 S. Highway 33. Hotel rooms \$121 + tax (two night minimum). Featuring headliner Yasuo Mitsuya of Japan. A full slate of workshops, seminars and critiques. There will be two banquet dinners, Friday and Saturday evenings with live auction and raffle. Vendors from northern and southern California in one huge location. Online Registration Date: July 1, 2020. Reduced convention price of \$199.00 (watch for early bird and club bundle registration discounts). For further information, contact Bob Hilvers at bonsaigui@comcast.net.

Newsletter Editor: Beverly Martinez
Newsletter Contributors: Tom Colby, Maria Sargent
Newsletter Photographer: 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.gsbflakemerritt.org/

Meeting	Program
May 4	EBBS Board Meeting (on-line)
May 13	Janet Nelson – Grafting On-line
May 24	Introduction to Bonsai at BGLM - Tom Colby CANCELLED
May 25	School holiday – no workshop at Merritt College
June 1	EBBS Board Meeting
June 10	Janet Roth – Suiseki
June 28	Introduction to Bonsai at BGLM – Michael Jensen-Akula
June 29	EBBS Board Meeting
July 8	Annual Auction
Aug 3	EBBS Board Meeting
Aug 15	Annual Potluck Picnic – Michael Jensen-Acula home (Oakland)
Aug 23	Introduction to Bonsai at BGLM – John Nackley/Bob Gould
Aug 24	Workshop at Merritt College
Aug 31	EBBS Board Meeting
Sept 9	Gordon Deeg – Camelias
Sept 27	Introduction to Bonsai at BGLM – Janet Nelson
Sept 28	Workshop at Merritt College
Sept 28	EBBS Board Meeting