



The Tree Shrinker

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A MONTHLY BULLETIN

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East Bay Bonsai Society Monthly Meeting September 9, 2020 7:30 PM **On-Line!**

August Meeting

By: Tom Fedor

With the help of electronic wizardry, once again (thanks, Addison!), we boldly soared into the cloud this month to meet up with award-winning bonsai artist and educator Mike Pistello. Mike led a master class discussion on a variety of timely topics: summer shade and how to provide it, the importance of pH, and the of decandling pine trees.



He took questions from all comers this evening, and outlasted all of them. Talking about water and pH led to talking about watering and fertilizing and fertilizers, and Mike always emphasized mindfulness in choosing methods to best results; too much can be as problematic as too little, depending on your tree and your goals for it. Then, after sorely stretching an azalea lover's attention span with a (whole!) half-hour on decandling pines when and how and with whom, and fertilizing them before and

after and when, Mike closed with a discussion of soil composition. We were treated (for free!) to his own usages of soil component proportions per species. Thanks, Mike. I'm going to keep my recording of the evening's proceedings. And, just kidding about azalea lovers. I'm a pine guy, me, and I loved it.



September Meeting

There are few bonsai presenters who can speak to plants which are out of season at the time of the presentation. But our next presenter is not only a master, but a fine teacher as well, and very able to take on the task. Gordon Deeg will be presenting on Camellias. That beautiful and often difficult bonsai to care for. In addition, Gordon will be advising us of when and how to fertilize our bonsais, another difficult task.

In 2015 Jonas Dupuich wrote an article on Gordon's garden and said "Gordon Deeg is a familiar name to Northern California bonsai enthusiasts. He has served more positions in more bonsai organizations than I can count. A former Chairman of the Bonsai Garden at Lake Merritt, Gordon is now its Garden Master and a teacher at its bonsai school. Gordon is also responsible for another impressive bonsai garden – his own. I had the chance to visit during Sei Boku Bonsai Kai's annual barbecue and was amazed by its depth and breadth. Gordon has the usual varieties like pine, juniper, maple and azalea, and he has just as many less-common

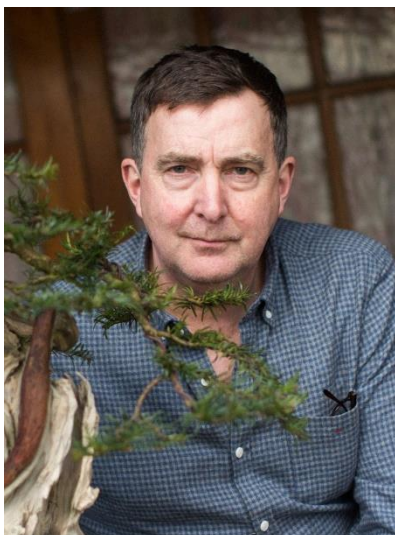
varieties including cryptomeria, pomegranate, styrax and needle juniper.”



Gordon continues to be the Director at the Bonsai Garden at Lake Merritt and is sure to be entertaining and educating so we can fertilize properly and be ready to manage our camellias when the season is right.

Get Ready for the October Show!

This year we will not be able to meet together for the show, but we still want to have a gala event just the same. The headliner we were going to have for this year's show, Tony Tickle from England, will unfortunately, not be coming to the states, but instead he will be presenting via video from his home base in Great Britain. Tony submitted an extensive list of topics he could present in person, several on various countries and their bonsais. We have requested Tony to combine a few of those so we can see a presentation of “Bonsais Around the World”.



Tony Tickle

As every country has their favorite tree(s), this will give us an insight to trees we've not seen before. Tony has numerous YouTube videos if you are curious to see him in action. <https://www.youtube.com/user/tonyticklebonsai>

We are looking forward to his presentation, and who knows, maybe it will be just a teaser for the full show next year. Here are just a couple of Tony's trees.



Kifu Yew



Cascade Blackthorn
in Flower

The presentation part of the show will take place at 7:00 PM Wednesday, October 14th, and will be open to all bay area clubs. Information on the online application used for this meeting is forthcoming and will be identified in the October Tree Shrinker newsletter with log on instructions. There will also be a flyer sent to other clubs with the log on information.

The second part of the show that we hope everyone will participate in, is showing your trees! For everyone who would like to show their tree; get it all gussied up, placed in a nice show pot with top soil or moss and take a really nice picture of it.

We will be publishing a special edition of the Tree Shrinker with the show trees and presenting them on-line in our Facebook page and during the show. To submit your picture, email it to

EBBS_Distribution@Yahoo.com no later than September 23rd. Include your Name, Type of tree, Common and Botanical if known, Age and Years in Training. Also please indicate whether you want your name associated with the tree on-line or in print and if we can use the picture as part of the new EBBS Seasonal Guide (refer to story below). Last year's show was such a hit with beautiful bonsais, we are hoping this year will be equally as nice.

Crepe Myrtle

By: Tom Colby

We get awfully enamored with the big three of bonsai trees, namely juniper, maple and pine, and for good reason. Each of these are a source of splendid bonsai and, at least for the juniper, are very easy to grow and maintain as bonsai. We lose track of the fact that many other trees can also make very rewarding bonsai. An outstanding example is the crepe myrtle. It is not seen very often at local shows, and that is a pity.

Crepe myrtles have a lot to offer. They produce an abundant display of flowers from April to September. The flowers can range from white to pink to purple, depending on the cultivar, and have a crinkly texture, hence the name. The bark is to die for. It is nearly white, and the bark can scale off, producing a mottled visual texture. Further, the trunk is usually furrowed with many soft curves which gives natural movement to the tree. The wood is hard and durable, and can be carved readily into jins and sharis. Crepe myrtles usually produce spectacular fall leaf color as an added benefit.



Let's look a bit closer at crepe myrtles. They are native to Asia and Australia, and are at their best in hot and humid climates. Although they have the reputation of

being frost tender, not to fear. They are frequently seen locally as splendid landscape trees, at least west of the hills. During the severely cold weather that occasionally is seen east of the hills, bonsai trees might enjoy a bit of winter protection. Crepe myrtles may be found in local nurseries, but be aware of the fact that there are many cultivars available and they range from dwarfs to energetic trees that can quickly grow to thirty feet or higher. You would probably be more pleased with the dwarf varieties as bonsai.

Crepe myrtles grow readily from seed or cuttings. The trunks on the seedlings thicken only slowly with time, but the process can be speeded up by heavily pruning them and then allowing the trees to grow freely the following year. The trees bloom on new wood which means that they can be heavily pruned at the end of summer. This is in contrast with trees that bloom on old wood where heavy pruning at the end of summer will remove the flower buds that are needed for bloom the following year.

The biggest problem with crepe myrtles is wiring them without scarring their biggest asset, their bark. If the tree is wired, the wire should not be left on the tree for more than a very few months. Sometimes wire is tightly wrapped with paper, and this helps reduce the possibility of scarring. Guy wires are also another possibility to reduce the chance of scarring.

Placing the trees in full sun will allow the best flowering of the tree. Once the tree has flowered, removal of the old flowers can possibly produce a second crop of flowers later in the year.

So, there you have it. A possible new addition for your bonsai collection. You will be delighted with what crepe myrtles have to offer.

EBBS's Seasonal Care Guide for the San Francisco Bay Area

It's been a long year in the making, and the 5th edition of the EBBS San Francisco Bay Area Calendar for Bonsai Care is nearing completion. Your Calendar Committee has been working hard redesigning, restructuring and validating the information and has now sent out versions to several club "guru's" for final corrections and approval. The only thing missing now are pictures of the East Bay Bonsai Society trees. The guide currently has pictures of BGLM's trees, but would be so much better if supplemented with club member trees. Here is a sneak peek of a couple of pages where your tree could reside. If you would like your tree to be included please either send a picture to Martinez_Bev@yahoo.com or if you are sending your picture in for the October Show indicate that the you would like your tree to be included in the new Care Guide as well. We will need Type of tree and whether to print your name in the guide.

WINTER

PROPOGATING/COLLECTING

- Graft only true firs, spruce, and pine (see Appendix 4)
- Start grafting, air layering and ground layering late this season
- Graft most species in mid-winter (for Conifers, late winter is better)
- Gather seedlings and collect wild trees
- Pollinate early-flowering fruit and berry trees
- Good time to make cuttings

CONIFERS start grafting when finished with deciduous trees.

Pines: as soon as candles start to elongate and until fascicles of needles show like pimples along candle.

DECIDUOUS TREES

Japanese maples: graft toward end of season.

Maples, wisteria, and other deciduous trees: air- or ground-layer before buds swell; plan to sever by summer or next repotting season. make thread grafts before buds swell and break.

Deciduous trees and satsuki azaleas: make thread grafts before buds swell and break.

Hardwood deciduous: take cuttings before buds swell

EVERGREENS:

Can graft root cuttings

Satsuki Azaleas: make thread grafts before buds swell and break.

ACCENT PLANTS:

Divide clumps of bamboos, grasses, sedges, herbaceous perennials, bulbs, etc.

Your picture here!



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SPRING

STYLING/PRUNING (Late Spring)

Watch wire for biting during this period of fast growth.

CONIFERS

Black and other multi-flush hard pines: In larger pines start decandling in late Spring in cooler regions and early Summer in warmer regions, start decandling weakest shoots in staggered sequence of decandling (i.e.: lower branches and interior candles first).

DECIDUOUS & EVERGREENS

Deciduous and broadleaf evergreens: By now the new growth should be bushy, has hardened off and tips are extended. If so, it is time to cut and wire. You may also defoliate trees like trident and Japanese maples. This is a cyclical process for deciduous trees during the growing season.

Pomegranate, ume, plum, apple, quince, and bougainvillea: after next year's flower buds have formed, shorten branches on flowering and fruiting trees.

Spruces and cedars: pinch-back to avoid leggy growth, but not beyond last bud.

Satsuki azaleas: Trim shoots extending beyond flowers or flower buds seal all wounds; mark branches to reflect flower colors you want in cuttings; move to a dark, coolest place if blossoming starts too early; move to a warmer, sunny place (even inside the house if weather is cool) to accelerate blooming; clean pots of soil and stains; pull any weeds or liverworts growing on surface of soil; trim growth not needed in training; seal all wounds after trimming.



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Bonsai Calendar

- Sun – gradually move shaded deciduous trees into sun to promote fall color.
- Watering – Water regularly, but don't over-water.
- Fertilizing – Use low or zero nitrogen fertilizers.
- Repotting – Begin repotting redwood, shimpaku and quince after mid-month. Begin repotting flowering and fruiting varieties of prunus.
- Styling/Pruning – Remove seed pods and dry fruit. Do not wire deciduous trees until leaves drop. Renew pinching junipers and severely prune one last time this season.
- Insect and disease control – Maintain defensive treatments for fungus. Remove dead plant material. Watch for and treat insect infestations.
- Propagating/Collecting – Last opportunity to take hardwood cuttings from deciduous trees. Last opportunity to remove air-layers this year.

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

Writers needed!

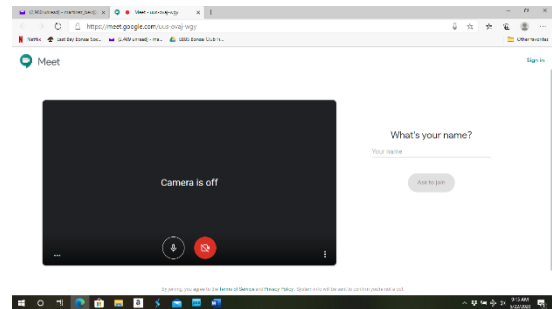
Have a story to share about bonsai? How about a technique or something special you have learned during your bonsai journey? Or maybe you'd like to head up a column in our newsletter. The Tree Shrinker is in need of writers. If you enjoy writing, have a story to tell, or information to share, please feel 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 7:15 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 August 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, Tom Fedor

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
Sept 9	Gordon Deeg – Camelias/Fertilizer
Sept 28	EBBS Board Meeting
Oct 14	Tony Tickle – Bonsai Around the World
Nov 2	EBBS Board Meeting
Nov 11	Bill Castellon – Pines
Dec 7	EBBS Board Meeting
Dec 9	Holiday Party