



The Tree Shrinker

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A MONTHLY BULLETIN

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East Bay Bonsai Society
Monthly Meeting: March 10, 2020 7:30 PM On-Line

March Meeting

It is with great pleasure that we bring Mauro Stemberger all the way from Italy for our meeting presentation this month. Mauro was born in 1978 in Feltre, Italy, and he currently works as an Architect and Bonsai artist. At the age of 14 he was fascinated with Bonsai Art and began his passion with the local Bonsai club Feltre. Between 1994 and 2001 he was able to join workshops with well-known European bonsai masters such as: Hotsumi Terakawa, Marc Noelander, Horst Crekler, Edoardo Rossi and much more. In 2002 during a meeting in Arco he met Alfiero Suardi and Enrico Savini. Thanks to them, he was able to improve his technique while studying architecture at IUAV university in Venice. In 2005, Mauro founded the Italian Bonsai Dream workshop with a group of bonsai enthusiasts. There they work and enjoy bonsai art 360°.



Since Mauro's graduation in 2006 he has written numerous articles for well-established bonsai magazines such as Bonsai Focus, UBI bonsai, BCI bonsai and Stone Appreciation magazine. His website displays his book entitled "Bonsai Dream". "Bonsai Dream is a book about creating Bonsai all over the World and sharing my bonsai experience, techniques, vision and passion."



Mauro has held positions as President of the Italian Bonsai Association (UBI) and director of UBI bonsai magazine. In 2011 he founded with a group of students the Italian Bonsai Dream School at Garden Verde – Marostica. He is currently performing demonstrations and workshops for bonsai clubs and associations in Mexico, USA, Belgium, Germany, Holland, Italy, Croatia, England, Austria, France, Portugal, Czech Republic, Lithuania, Poland, Spain, Venezuela, Argentina, and Brazil.



Mauro will be presenting on Mugo Pine on March 10, Wednesday at 7:30. So watch for your invite for this fabulous opportunity.

February Meeting Review

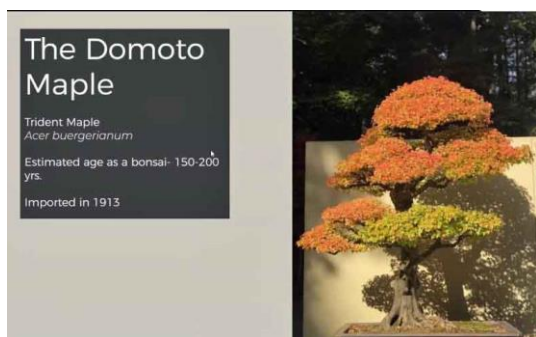
By: Tom Fedor

We were visited virtually this evening by Aarin Packard, curator of the Pacific Bonsai Museum in Federal Way, WA. And he brought with him the entire special exhibition, "World War Bonsai: Remembrance and Resilience". Having received his MA in Museum Studies from The George Washington University, he succeeded David DeGroot as Curator in 2014 (who, remember, visited EBBS at Lake Merritt live and in person in days of yore).



Aarin first showed us the very moving short video that introduces the exhibition, featuring personal reminiscences of West Coast life for Japanese-Americans during the war-time Internment. He then traced the origin of Bay Area bonsai to Mr. Kanetaro Domoto and his brothers, who started a nursery in Oakland in 1892 and may have been the first Japanese immigrants to own land in the US. The Domotos were active in recruiting talent from Japan, and to them we owe a thriving community of Japanese nurseries on the West Coast.

Aarin showed some fascinating photos of Japan's exhibit at the 1915 Panama-Pacific International Exposition held in San Francisco, which featured a "Formosa Tea House" displaying bonsai trees imported from Japan for the occasion. Mr. Domoto acquired a maple tree when the Expo closed, only to be forced to abandon it years later during the war. Nine feet tall and nearly hollow now, some of this hardy survivor's tale can be found here: <https://50objects.org/object/the-domoto-maple-bonsai-part-i/>



Needless to say, Pearl Harbor shut it all down. Aarin illustrated the injustice of the Internment orders with graphic exhibits from the time that also displayed the

perseverance and resourcefulness of internees, who created art as well as irrigation in the arid areas assigned to them.



In the third half ;-) of Aarin's presentation, he narrated the post-war development of Bay Area bonsai by recounting a series of almost biblical begats that connected historical persons to their local students (Johnnie Uchida and Mas Imazumi among them). His "bible" was beautifully illuminated by a parade of trees donated by their artists to the Museum, including Mr. Imazumi's first and last collected junipers. Aarin closed by expressing his gratitude for his turn to care for the Museum's trees and to keep the art alive. We attendees are grateful in our turn for a masterfully guided tour of the Pacific Bonsai Museum that unforgettably connected us to Bay Area bonsai history.



EBBS Membership Dues are Due!!

Dues are rolling in and 2021 looks to be a very exciting year at East Bay Bonsai. Your board is working hard to get programs that will keep us entertained and educated on the art of bonsai. **Remember! March 31st is the last day to pay and continue to receive your monthly newsletter!**

Dues costs for 2021 are the same as 2020 and we now have two ways to pay!

Single person/newsletter delivered via e-mail	\$30.
Single person/newsletter delivered via USPS	\$40.
Family/newsletter delivered via e-mail	\$40.
Family/newsletter delivered via USPS	\$50.

Checks or money orders should be made out to **EBBS**.

Please send them to:
East Bay Bonsai Society
Attn: Pat Cahill
4933 Cochrane Ave.
Oakland, CA. 94618

If you prefer to pay by credit/debit card there is a link in the Membership portion of the EBBS website, or, you can access it here. [Online pay.](#)

Bonsai Seasonal Care Guide

The new and improved bonsai calendar, the Bonsai Seasonal Guide for the San Francisco Bay Area, is now available! Order your copy today! You can order to receive by US mail using this [link](#) or contact Pat Cahill at cahi2lpat@gmail.com to pick up a copy.

Bonsai Calendar

- Watering – Continue reduced watering, but ensure plants receive sufficient water
- Fertilizing – Do not feed deciduous trees. Begin fertilizing black pines. Delay feeding repotted plants for 2-6 weeks.
- Repotting – Repot deciduous trees, pines, satsuki and junipers
- Styling/Pruning – Prune maples if not pruned in Nov or Dec. Pinch leafing deciduous trees unless trying to redirect growth pattern.
- Graft – All species
- Air Layering – Deciduous trees may be air layered if they have not yet pushed new growth.

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

The End of an Era

East Bay bonsai Society held the annual election last fall. You may have noticed that two familiar faces were missing from the slate of candidates. Roger Brady was one of the missing. Roger has had a big impact on the society. He was instrumental in an outreach program to make new members welcome and to be part of the club. Roger provided skilled leadership during the years he served as club president and actively led managed security at annual events to protect our precious bonsais. Recently he was one of the guiding lights in the new updated seasonal guide that was recently published.

The other missing face was Suzanne Muller, a multiyear member of the board of directors. In addition to providing wise counsel to the board, she has been very active in the club. She was the photographer who was responsible for many of the club pictures posted in the newsletter and has been the coordinator of the annual auctions. She could always be counted on for help in our annual shows.

Both Roger and Suzanne are no longer board members but both serve as stellar examples for all of us as how to be active in the affairs of the club. We owe them both a very big thank you for all that they have done to make the club a better place.

Repotting By: Tom Colby

In past years demonstrations frequently were somewhat more dramatic than they are now. The demonstrator approached an innocent bush, typically in a five gallon can container, and working quickly, pruned large branches, reduced the root ball so it would fit into a bonsai pot, wired the remaining branches and made jins and sharis as needed. When the job was completed the demonstrator said that the tree should then be placed in the sun and fertilized, and the lucky winner of the raffled tree would then be the proud possessor of a fine bonsai tree. All this in front of our amazed and delighted eyes. Bush to bonsai in less than two hours. It was truly high drama, but most of the audience did not see the grand finale a couple of months later when more often than not, the tree died a lingering death that would do justice to the scene where the fat lady dies at the end of a grand opera.

What went wrong? Each of the operations in the demonstration performed on the tree stressed the tree. Most importantly the severe root pruning required to squish the root ball into a bonsai pot deprived the tree of many of the feeder roots which are the very fine roots that supply the tree with water and nutrients. The loss of

some of the feeder roots can occur even when the tree is gently repotted. A normal part of the repotting process is to trim the outer roots, and this is where the feeder roots are located. The feeder roots will be replaced fairly quickly, but while they are being replaced, the tree is not able to easily recover from the added stress of heavy pruning and wiring. More recent demonstrations now involve pruning and wiring but repotting is deferred to a later date when the tree has recovered.

If the tree is placed in the hot sun after repotting, the leaves lose more water than can be replaced by the remaining feeder roots, so the tree becomes dehydrated. Fertilizer induces growth that cannot be supported by the remaining feeder roots so the new growth withers. These factors tell us why trees are normally repotted in late winter months when the weather is cool, growth has slowed, and the trees are not usually fertilized. These conditions allow the tree time to rebuild a healthy feeder root system before the onrush of spring growth. Heavy wiring and pruning the tree are stressful to the tree but in addition, performing these operations on a tree a short time after repotting can wriggle the tree in the pot if it is not securely fastened into the pot. This can physically destroy the very delicate newly emerging feeder roots. These operations should be deferred for a few weeks after repotting to allow the tree time to rebuild the root system.

So how in the world do we repot, wire and prune our trees without killing them? First is to recognize that each operation on our trees is stressful and the tree needs time to recover from each operation before the next one is performed.

When properly managed, healthy trees survive repotting, pruning and wiring just fine. If your tree is not healthy to begin with, postpone whatever you have in mind until it is healthy. The only exception to this is the unlikely case where emergency repotting is needed as, for example, the potting medium no longer drains well and root rot is in the near horizon.

Repotting always involves at least some of the feeder roots so treat your tree kindly after repotting. Place the tree in the shade for a couple of weeks. After you water the tree, part of the water remaining in the pot simply evaporates and part is taken up by the tree. Since some of the feeder roots have been lost the tree will take up less water indicating that you should check carefully to see that the soil is not excessively wet. Defer the use of fertilizer for a month after repotting. Remember that your tree really wants to grow for you and just needs a bit of wise help and encouragement.

Mark your calendar!

The April meeting will be at 10:00 AM, Saturday, April 17th. Peter Chan will be broadcasting from the UK which is 8 hours ahead of us. You won't want to miss this one!

Member 'for sale' items

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

Newsletter Editor: Beverly Martinez
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East Bay Bonsai Society—Schedule for 2021

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/

<u>Meeting</u>	<u>Program</u>
Mar 1	EBBS Board Meeting
Mar 10	Mugo Pine – Mauro Stemberger
Apr 5	EBBS Board Meeting
Apr 17	Maples – Peter Chan 10:00 AM