



The Tree Shrinker

Volume LXI, No.9

A MONTHLY BULLETIN

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East Bay Bonsai Society Monthly meeting September 14, 2022 7:30 PM In-Person and On-line

September Meeting

As we prepare for the annual East Bay Bonsai Society show, recognizing and understanding what a bonsai should look like is essential. We all know they need to be in a bonsai pot, not a clay or plastic garden pot; and they should be on some type of a stand, but beyond that it is good to have guidance on how to dress and present our bonsais in the best light. We are in luck in September as the Bonsai Garden at Lake Merritt's own Director, Gordon Deeg, has agreed to give us guidance so our show may be an outstanding one once more.



You may recall that Gordon presided as auctioneer over our recent auction in June. Gordon also has an extensive background in bonsai having been a former Chairman of the Bonsai Garden at Lake Merritt. Gordon is now its Garden Master and a teacher at its bonsai school. Gordon has also headlined at shows over the years and knows exactly what to look for in a fine bonsai presentation.

Gordon has graciously agreed to review members trees that they wish to show at the meeting. So, feel free to bring in your show trees for Gordons input.

Also, if you have any show related items that could be raffled off at the meeting, please bring them as well.

At the September meeting there will be sign-up sheets for show jobs, a sign-up sheet for the workshop and sheets to fill out for plant sales and tags for your plants, and other bonsai related items that you wish to sell. Plant sale sheets are also attached to the email this newsletter is attached to.

August Picnic

It was a fabulous warm day in Oakland! The food was delicious and the company even better. For those who couldn't make it out, you missed a grand party! We started the day with a visit with Michael's red eared turtle, who sits in a beautiful pond surrounded by trees and plants of all kinds.



Accommodations were perfect and the view was breathtaking. After consuming our meal each member that brought a bonsai to show was able to talk about their favorite tree.



Thank you, Michael and Marilyn, for hosting us again this year. It was fun to get together and enjoy an afternoon. Looking forward to next year!



It's Show time!

It's time to get ready for the annual show! The show we wait for all year long will finally be happening this year. It's been quite a while since we put on a show and there is a lot of work to do.



All members are encouraged to show their trees, participate in the Friday night set-up, weekend jobs, workshops and lectures and sell items at the plant sale. Just like the auction, the sale items will be on consignment with EBBS. EBBS will collect all taxes from the end customers and the fee for selling will be 25% of the sales price. All items sold must be bonsai related.

If you have not received a call from a show representative, expect to receive one shortly. It's "all hands-on deck" to have the show run smoothly and we look for all members to participate if they can. It is also a perfect time to socialize and get to know your other club members. In addition, you get two full days to enjoy bonsai.

This year Andrew Robson of Portland, Or. will be our headliner and will hold a member's only workshop on Saturday from 9:30 AM to 12:30 PM as well as a demonstration on Saturday afternoon, a critic of members trees on Sunday morning and finally a lecture on deciduous bonsai Sunday afternoon.



Also, at the show we will have a Bonsai doctor who can answer all of your bonsai questions

Although normally we have a potluck lunch for EBBS and other club members, this year we will be providing sandwiches for volunteers only.

There has been some concern over the announced schedule in the email that was sent out on September 4th. Following is the final show schedule.

Friday, Sept 30 - 6:00 PM – 10:00 PM
6:00 PM Set-up begins
7:30 PM Pizza dinner served
10:00 PM Set-up complete

Saturday Oct 1 Show 10:00 AM – 5:00 PM
9:00 AM Volunteer only plant sale
9:30 AM Members workshop begins
10:00 AM Show and sale open to public
11:30 AM Hospitality room open for lunch
12:30 PM Workshop ends
1:30 PM Demonstration begins
2:00 PM Lunch room closed
3:00 PM Silent auction ends
4:00 PM Demonstration ends
4:00 PM Raffle begins
5:00 PM Show and sale ends

Sunday Oct 2 Show 11:00 AM – 4:00 PM
9:30 AM Show trees critique by Andrew
11:00 AM Show trees critique ends
11:00 AM Show and sale open to public
11:30 AM Hospitality room open for lunch
1:00 PM Deciduous lecture begins
2:00 PM Lunch room closed
3:00 PM Deciduous lecture ends
4:00 PM Plant sale ends
4:00 PM Show ends / teardown begins
5:00 PM Doors are locked

Please contact Michael Jensen-Akula with any items to donate to the Benefit drawing. If you have any questions or need to contact someone regarding the show, please use the below list for reference:

Show Coordinator – Tom Fedor (510) 541-7683
Hospitality – Suzanne Muller - (925) 890-0506
Reception – Alise Offeman - (925) 330-2991
Plant Sales – Bev Martinez – (925) 437-2347
Security – Tom Fedor – (510) 541-7683
Workshop coordinator – Lisa Harper - (510) 220-3339
Benefit drawing – Michael Jensen-Akula - (510) 547-3415

Bonsai Styling

By: Tom Colby

Let's imagine that you have purchased a big bush and you want to make it into a bonsai. The first step is to look carefully at what features in the bush that you can work with and from these visualize what the finished bonsai would look like. The next step is to determine where the front of the bonsai will be. Finally, you do the necessary stuff to bring your vision into fruition such as removing any branches that are not needed and wiring the remaining branches so you can carefully arrange them to positions that best compliment the visualized composition of the tree. All this is well and good, but have you ever thought about just what you are trying to accomplish?

Long ago the Japanese developed a deep love of nature which stems from both Buddhism and Shinto religions. What better way to express this appreciation of nature that it is to have a potted plant which you could admire at your leisure. How does one do this? What exactly is nature? It is easier to discuss the attributes of nature than it is to define it in a way that is useful in creating a potted plant.

Think of a pine tree growing at very high elevation in the Sierras. Clearly, this tree is a product of the forces of nature and these forces should be reflected in our bonsai. The pine tree is obviously a very old tree. An immediate attribute of our bonsai tree is that it shows great age. We like bonsai with short, fat trunks and trees get these trunks only after many years of growth. The short fat trunks give the illusion of great age even though our tree may be less than 10 years old.



A second attribute of our pine tree is that it had survived for many years despite the worst that nature could throw at it. Many of our bonsai tree have areas of dead wood. When the bare wood is on a branch it is known by the Japanese term jin and when it is on the trunk as a shari. Both jins and sharis signify that, in spite of setbacks the tree is still growing. To be a first quality bonsai the new tree must show both great age and survivor of obstacles. The Japanese view their bonsai as a symbol of nature and not a scale model of a particular tree.

The careful placement of branches on our bonsai created an idealized tree. In keeping with the value of a symbol, it is more perfect that a tree that you will see growing in the wild. Tree in nature lose branches due to a myriad of causes, including lightening and heavy snow loads. The tree grows in the direction of the brightest light which can cause lopsided trees. If the bonsai created from our recent bush purchase is successful, the viewer will be reminded of a tree that he had seen in the recent past even though the "real trees" are usually far less than perfect

In California collected Sierra and California junipers are very popular and for good reason. Both trees grow in harsh environments that lead to very slow growth. Trunks grow at the rate of about one inch every seventy-five years or so. Many of the collected trees have trunks four inches or more in diameter, indicating that this tree could be several hundreds of years old. Also, many of these trees have extensive dead wood when they are collected. Knowing that age and survival is crucial to a quality bonsai tree, these trees don't have to be made to look old and that they are survived adversity---they are, in fact, old and they are survivors. They still need to be transformed into idealized trees, but the hard work has been done for you by nature.

Deciduous trees such as the maples show age and particularly survivorship in a different way. Rather than showing battle scars in the form of dead wood, they display just the opposite. Maples have lived an apparent long life without broken branches and scars in their trunks. When we remove a large branch on a maple, we encourage the healing over of the wound so where the branch was removed becomes invisible.

Next time you create a bonsai from a bush, the target of what it takes to create a top-quality bonsai tree is clear. Also, the next time you see a bonsai you have a yardstick to measure the value of the tree. Does it show age? Is it a survivor? Is it a symbol which reminds you of trees in the wild? If the answers to each of these questions is yes you are looking at a superb bonsai. You should admire the skill of the artist that created the bonsai.

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.
- 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.

Refer to the EBBS Bonsai Seasonal guide for more information on care

Events

September 27, 2022 Sacramento, California

The American Bonsai Association, Sacramento is hosting its Annual Bonsai Auction & Sale on Tuesday, September 27th. 6:00 p.m. Preview at 6:30 p.m. Auction at Shepard Garden and Arts Center at 3330 McKinley Blvd, Sacramento, California. Bonsai trees, pots, stands and other bonsai related items will be offered for auction and sale by our community's avid bonsai practitioners, some of whom have been practicing the art for decades. In addition to an opportunity to purchase these items, come and immerse yourself in the art and culture that is bonsai! Check out the event, our club and our website at www.abasbonsai.org.

October 1, 2022 Cupertino, California

Midori Bonsai Club: Come celebrate Midori Bonsai Club's 58th Annual Bonsai Show, October 1st, 2022, from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., at the Quinlan Community Center, 10185 N. Stelling Road, Cupertino, Saturdays demonstration by John Thompson at 1:00 p.m. Bring your trees in for Doctor Bonsai, plus beginners bonsai school by purchasing a bonsai starter tree, vendors sales and door prizes. Free admission, with plenty of local mediate parking. For more details contact POC Jack Christiansen, at Jackchristiansen@sbcglobal.net.

October 1 & 2, 2022 Oakland, California

East Bay Bonsai Society: Annual Show at the Lakeside Park Garden Center at Lake Merritt, located at 666 Bellevue Avenue, Oakland CA. Show hours are Saturday 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. and Sunday 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. The show features an impressive exhibit of quality bonsai as well as a demonstration by Andrew Robson, a deciduous artist in the American bonsai community and the President of the Bonsai Society of Portland, Oregon, the largest bonsai club in the United States. There will also be a benefit drawing and a sale of bonsai and related materials. For information, visit <https://www.eastbaybonsai.org/>.

October 1 & 2, 2022 San Gabriel, California

Chino Bonsai Club 2nd Annual Bonsai Exhibit: This exhibit will be held on Saturday, October 1st and Sunday, October 2nd at 261 S. Junipero Serra Drive, San Gabriel, California. The exhibit will include bonsai styling demos, auctions, raffles, reception, and vendor and club sales. Admission is free. For any additional information contact David Nguy at (323) 842-6188 or Jerry Garcia at (909) 270-7776.

October 8 and 9, 2022 Santa Nella, CA

Golden State Bonsai Federation (GSBF):

GSBF Bonsai Rendezvous 2022, on Saturday and Sunday, October 8 and 9, at the Hotel Mission De Oro, Santa Nella, CA. Free and open to the public. Point of Contact Rich Guillen, richguillen@att.net or 831-348-5015.

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1z-hZ5bHpENBZYHS315TZ6YudprUZZy-Q/view?usp=sharing>

October 15 & 16, 2022 Sacramento, California

The Capital City Bonsai Association Show will be held at The Shepard Garden and Arts Center (in McKinley Park), 3330 McKinley Blvd. Sacramento, CA 95816. Show hours are 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., both days. The show is a benefit to raise funds for the Bonsai Garden at Lake Merritt and will feature trees from:

American Bonsai Association, Sacramento • Bonsai Sekiyu Kai
Sacramento Bonsai Club • Satsuki Aikokai Association.

The sale will include established and starter bonsai, pots, tools etc. Admission is free. Contact Paul Holtzen for more information at pbholtzen@sbcglobal.net.

October 22 & 23, 2022 Union City, California

YAMATO BONSAI KAI 51st Annual Bonsai Exhibition: Saturday from 11:00 am until 5:00 pm. and Sunday from 10:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. at the Southern Alameda County Buddhist Church.

Location: 32975 Alvarado-Niles Rd., Union City, CA 94587

Exhibition of Bonsai trees, plant sales, and vendors. Free admission and free parking. Demonstrations on both days at 1:30 p.m., featuring David Nguy on Saturday and Yamato Bonsai Kai Club demonstrator Howard Correa on Sunday. Demonstration trees will be raffled off as grand prize each day. For more info and updates find us on Facebook by searching "Yamato Bonsai Kai".

November 12 and 13, 2022 Oakland, CA

Pacific Bonsai Expo:

The Pacific Bonsai Expo is to be held November 12-13, 2022 in Oakland, CA, at the Bridge Yard. The Pacific Bonsai Expo is a juried exhibition featuring 75 outstanding bonsai displays and a selection of the community's top vendors.

Newsletter Editor: Beverly Martinez

Contributors: Jeremy Stevermer (photography)

East Bay Bonsai Society—Schedule for 2022
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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. Visitor's welcome.

<u>Meeting</u>	<u>Program</u>
Sep 7	Tree Shrinker delivered
Sep 14	Monthly Meeting– Gordon Deeg – Show preparation
Sep 25	Bonsai for Beginners – Janet Nelson
Sept 26	EBBS Board Meeting
Oct 1-2	Annual Show (Set up Sept 30)
Oct 5	Tree Shrinker delivered
Oct 12	No Meeting
Oct 23	Bonsai for Beginners – Michael Jensen-Akula
Nov 2	Tree Shrinker delivered
Nov 7	EBBS Board Meeting
Nov 9	Monthly Meeting– TBD – repotting workshop
Nov 27	Bonsai for Beginners – Addison Galambos
Dec 5	EBBS Board Meeting
Dec 7	Tree Shrinker delivered
Dec 14	Annual Holiday Dinner