



The Tree Shrinker

Volume LXI, No.4

A MONTHLY BULLETIN

<http://www.eastbaybonsai.org>



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East Bay Bonsai Society
Monthly Meeting: April 13, 2022 7:30 PM
In Person at the Lake Merritt Garden Center

April Meeting

It's April, and Spring is in full swing! We are back to in person meetings and starting to feel normal again. This month we are welcoming back a former EBBS member, Mike Pistello, who will discuss the finer points of defoliation.



Mike began practicing bonsai twenty-eight years ago at just thirteen years old. His grandfather had begun cultivating bonsai in the early Seventies after attending the Fuji Bonsai Club's first-ever show, and he introduced Mike to the art. At fourteen, Mike joined the Fuji Bonsai Club, which was active at the time in Berkeley, CA. There he met Jimmy Inadomi, who would become his first teacher, schooling him on the basics and laying the foundation for future success. A year later, Mike joined the Yamato Bonsai Kai and met one of the founders, Yoneo Uchida, better known as Johnny. Mr. Uchida is the proprietor of Grove Way Bonsai Nursery in Hayward, CA, and has served as *sensei* (respected, masterful teacher) to the Yamato club for forty years. Mike and Johnny quickly

became life-long friends and as Mike's skills improved, Johnny allowed him to style many of his personal bonsai.

In the early 2000's, Mike met Boon Manakitivipart and Boon's friend and *senpai* (senior apprentice, mentor) Akio Kondo. Both men had apprenticed with Kihachiro Kamiya in Japan and practiced a style of bonsai for which Mike had great respect. Inspired by their work, Mike decided to join the Bay Island Bonsai Club and partake in Boon's famous Bonsai Intensive Series. In the ensuing years, Mike has also worked with internationally recognized artists Ryan Neil and Matt Reel.

Mike is a member of the Bay Area Bonsai Associates. He has conducted workshops at the Golden State Bonsai Federation in Sacramento and also volunteers at the GSBF Bonsai Garden at Lake Merritt. There, he has been entrusted as the custodian of a special juniper styled by the legendary Masahiko Kimura in 1987 during his first visit to the United States. Mike has performed demonstrations for many clubs throughout the Bay Area and enjoys teaching bonsai as often as his schedule allows.

Some of Mike's favorite species and specialties are: Japanese black pine, Japanese red pine, Sierra juniper, California juniper, and the Itoigawa and Kishu cultivars of shimpaku juniper.

Special event

Many of our bonsai species are showy this time of year. Bring your showiest bonsai for Show and Tell so we can all enjoy!

Into the future

During the April meeting we will be testing the ability to hold our in-person meetings on Google Meet. This way, members who can not make the meetings in person will still be able to participate and enjoy our presenters. So, if you are not able to make the meeting in-person, by all means, tune in at 7:30 April 13th. No promises that there won't be some bugs to work out, but we will do our best to keep the presentation streamlined for your viewing.

March Meeting

BY: Tom Fedor

We were visited at Lake Merritt this month by Sam Tan, president of the Bonsai Society of San Francisco. Sam has studied with local hero Jonas Dupuich, with Michael Hagedorn and most recently at Bosai Mirai with Ryan Neil. His work is on Instagram display at @samsbonsaiadventures.



Obviously presidential material, Sam was able to wire and talk at the same time this evening, addressing both a kishu juniper and our assembled aficionados. He commented that this particular tree was clearly well into refinement with all its major branches more or less already where they need to be (despite its unNaka-like proportions, as pointed out by an alert attendee (yay, Janet!)), needing only a minor rotation to its better front (someday) as well as, this evening, wiring its typically kishu pom-poms into proper bonsai foliage pads. Naturally it was nearly impossible to see, from two rows back, the detail of those adjustments. Fortunately, our resident technoninja (yay, Addison!) was able to focus a video camera on Sam's fingertips and project his work onto the big screen. So tonight, we had the best of both worlds: a sociable in-person format with all the visual delights of zooming up close.

And we heard once again the admonition "No pinching! until the new growth has hardened off". I never tire of it. Gives me a good excuse to leave the darned things alone until later in the year. I'm always looking for ways to do nothing yet.



Spotlight – Tom Colby

Tom is a long-time member of EBBS and a much-appreciated director and mentor to the EBBS board. He often encapsulates what the board is discussing and brings the subject to a group consensus decision. Tom has written multiple articles over the years for the Tree Shrinker newsletter and has been published on the Golden State Bonsai Federation website. The articles are always inspiring, educational with a bit of humor on the side. As the newsletter editor, I am delighted to see an email from Tom that says "Here's a little something you might want to use".

I recently sat in on one of Tom's *Bonsai for Beginners* class, and although I've been privy to see many of his classes, I still enjoy how he is able to capture his audience with comedy and imagination. And, he is so right! Taking care of bonsais is "like taking care of the family dog".

Thank you, Tom for all you do; for your wit and common sense, it's time for you to take a bow.



Tridents Are the Best Deciduous

Author unknown

Styles

Can be grown in many styles:

Informal upright

Informal broom

Root over rock

Semi-cascade

Forest

Clump/Group

Slab

Can be grown in a variety of sizes – from very small to very large:

One of the best trees for shohin

Propagation

Easy to grow from seeds

Will root from very large cuttings

Easy to air layer or ground layer

Roots

Transplants easily

Roots are very strong – can be cut back severely

Will form a large root base

Can graft roots

Trunk

Will fatten well in the ground or in a large pot

Can be cut back severely - will re-sprout easily

Can be grown into nice specimens with thin trunk or thick trunk

Callus is not overly large; callus is same color and texture as regular trunk

Trunks grown together will fuse

Older bark is flaky and exfoliates

Branches

Branches can be strong and powerful or delicate

Re-sprouts and re-grows branches easily

Grows twigs easily

Keeps twigs well, even if neglected or defoliated

Leaves

Two kinds – large and thick, or small and thin

Specimens with large, thick leaves are less desirable

Will reduce significantly in size

Pest-free and disease-free

Beautiful fall color – yellows, oranges, reds

Some special varieties (narrow lobes, wide lobes, ...)

Summary

Tridents reward beginners who use proper (though simple) techniques

Tridents can be used to produce masterpiece-quality trees using the same techniques for a longer period of time.

Welcome new members

Janet Nelson was quick with her camera at the last meeting and secured pictures of our newest members.

Be sure and say “Hi” at our next meeting:



Vidit Joy



Willem Van Dijk

Bonsai Calendar

- Rotate trees at least twice this month to promote symmetry as roots and branches start growing.
- Start regular watering schedule as temperature rises
- Place wisteria in a saucer of water 1/4 to 1/3 depth of pot
- Wire evergreens.
- Pinch junipers
- Graft only maples, hornbeam, redbud, beech, ginkgo, and wisteria.

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

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.



Wanting to Buy:

Used tools, pots, moss, Pre/bonsai/cutting: Royal Poinciana, Ficus Elastica, (rubber) w/aerial roots. Monkey Pod tree, other tropicals; a yamadori guide.

Contact: Vidit Joy (650) 666-7951

Stolen Bonsais

One of our club members, Michael Hylton, had 3 of his bonsai trees stolen from his Oakland home sometime between March 31st and April 1st. They were all in fairly large pots and included a 16" tall Chinese Quince (photo of brown pot it was in), 20" tall American Beech (photo) and 22" tall White Birch (photo). Please be on the lookout for them and please contact him at mhylton@rocketmail.com if you see them posted, etc.



Events by Others

April 9th & 10th, 2022 Sacramento, CA

American Bonsai Association, Sacramento: Annual Spring Show at the Shepard Garden and Arts Center, 3330 McKinley Blvd, Sacramento. Show hours are Saturday, 10am - 4pm, and Sunday, 10am - 4pm, with demonstrations each day by headliner Andrew Robson at 1:30pm.

There is a large vendor and member sales area, free admission and parking, and a beginner workshop Sunday morning from 10am —Noon (to register contact Renee Seely). The benefit drawings on both Saturday and Sunday will include each day's demonstration tree and many bonsai/bonsai related items. For additional information visit our website: [American Bonsai Association of Sacramento](http://AmericanBonsaiAssociationofSacramento.com), or contact Renee Seely, 916-929-2106, email breadcrust@comcast.net.

April 30th & May 1st, 2022 Palo Alto, CA

Kusamura Bonsai Club 62nd Annual Show: Annual Show at Addison School, 650 Addison Street, Palo Alto. Show hours are Saturday, Noon - 4pm, and Sunday, 11am - 4pm, with headliner Bob Shimon of Mendocino Coast Bonsai presenting at 1:30pm Saturday.

Join us and see over 50 Bonsai Trees on display. There will be a Sale and Benefit drawing with over 100 bonsai and pots. Club members will put on a demonstration on Sunday at 1:30pm. For more information contact show co-chairs: Lynne O'Dell at lynnemo@gmail.com or Idris Anderson at idrisan@gmail.com. Details will also be posted at [Kusamura Bonsai Club](http://KusamuraBonsaiClub.com) website.

May 21 & 22, 2022 Oakland, California

Bay Area Satsuki Aikokai (BASA) 25th Annual Satsuki Azalea Bonsai Show, featuring azalea bonsai in full bloom. Join us on May 21 & 22, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Sunday, at 666 Bellevue Ave., Lakeside Park Garden Center, Lake Merritt, for the display of beautiful flowering bonsai. Featuring large member sale and imported Satsuki azalea from Japan. Demonstration from 1 – 3 p.m., Saturday with raffle of the demo tree. Vendor area. Free admission. Public parking available. For information, contact Darren Wong at sohjuen@aol.com or visit our website at <http://satsukiazaleabonsai.org>.

June 18 - 19, 2022 Livermore, California

Valley Bonsai Society: 12th annual show at Alden Lane Nursery, [981 Alden Lane](#). Show hours are 10 AM to 4 PM with a demonstration at 1PM 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.

November 12th & 13th, 2022 Oakland, CA

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 70 outstanding bonsai displays and a selection of the community's top vendors. The Jurors, Bjorn Bjorholm, Ryan Neil, and William N. Valavanis will select the trees. For more information go to the homepage using the following link [Pacific Bonsai Expo](#).

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East Bay Bonsai Society—Schedule for 2022

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. Masks required.

<u>Meeting</u>	<u>Program</u>
Apr 6	Tree Shrinker delivered
April 13	Monthly Meeting - In Person – Mike Pistello - Defoliation
April 24	Bonsai for Beginners – Janet Nelson
May 2	EBBS Board Meeting
May 4	Tree Shrinker delivered
May 11	Monthly Meeting – In person – Jerry Carpenter – tropical bonsai
May 22	Bonsai for Beginners – Michael Jensen-Akula
May 31	EBBS Board Meeting
June 1	Tree Shrinker delivered
June 8	Monthly Meeting - In Person – Bill Castellon
June 26	Bonsai for Beginners – John Nackley/Bob Gould
July 5	EBBS Board Meeting
July 6	Tree Shrinker delivered
July 13	Annual Auction – no meeting
July 24	Bonsai for Beginners – Addison Galambos