



# The Tree Shrinker

Volume LXI, No.8

A MONTHLY BULLETIN

<http://www.eastbaybonsai.org>



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**East Bay Bonsai Society**  
**Monthly meeting cancelled**  
**Annual Picnic August 20<sup>th</sup>, 2022**

## Annual Picnic

It's time for the Annual Potluck Picnic! Where we all get to show off our culinary talent! The East Bay Bonsai Annual picnic will be held at Michael & Marilyn Jensen-Akula's beautiful home (or should I say garden paradise) in lieu of the monthly meeting.



The meal is potluck and the food assignments are as follows:

- Appetizer - Last name A-G
- Entrée - Last name H-L
- Side dish or salad - Last name M-R
- Dessert - Last name S-Z

Be sure to bring utensils required for serving your contribution. The club will provide wine, beer and soft drinks. Also, the Oakland hills can occasionally be a bit cool and breezy so dress in layers. Hats and sun screen are also a good idea. This is also a great time to bring a bonsai to show as Michael has requested members to

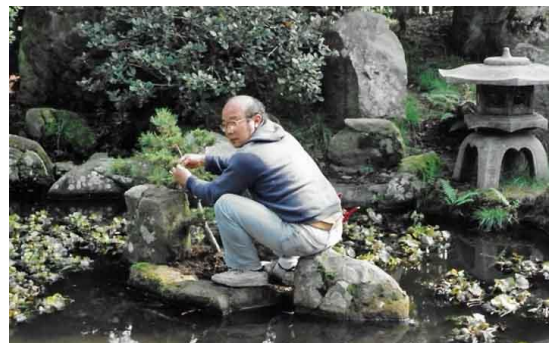
share their trees as part of the event. The event will begin at noon and last until 4:00 PM

Michael's address is:  
6143 Ocean View Dr. Oakland

Michael lives just off highway 24. Take the Broadway exit South, then turn onto Ocean View Drive.

## July Meeting

For a change of pace, we were entertained by our very own Bill Castellon on Japanese gardens. Bill opened with a picture of Dennis Makishima, who earlier this month donated his entire bonsai collection to the Bonsai Garden at Lake Merritt. Bill credits Dennis with "how he got to do what he does", which is build Japanese gardens. After seeing an ad on EBBS in a magazine, Bill went to a meeting and Dennis was the presenter that night talking about his recent trip to Japan. The meeting lasted until 11:00 PM and Bill was hooked. He followed up with taking classes from Dennis at Merritt college where he studied Aesthetic Pruning and Bonsai in the 1980s.



Bill eventually met master Japanese garden builder Mas Imazumi. For over eight years Mas mentored Bill, teaching him the art and mechanics of traditional Japanese rock placement and garden building



In 2001, Bill interned with head gardener Tokushirou Tamane at Kinkauji (the Golden Pavilion) in Kyoto, Japan.

Bill in Japan – chrysanthemum bonsai



Mas was also instrumental in building the Bonsai Garden at Lake Merritt. This picture is of setting stones in the garden to create the dry waterfall in the back.



Japanese bonsai (note the person for size reference)



Since the mid-1990s Bill has designed and built gardens with a Japanese aesthetic. Bill's landscaping talents were recognized with two gold medals and one silver medal for landscape design at the 2000 San Francisco Flower and Garden Show.



Other pictures of garden's that Bill has worked on:



Bringing a stone up to a placement in a garden. Mas invented the use of the roller for this operation.



We had several items to pick from in the benefit drawing; from oaks to a large wisteria. Finally, the winner of 1 hour of consultation with Bill was Brian Conway!



Raked gravel garden



Bill's current project - SF



We also had several guests attend the meeting. This is Javier Machado and Dani Nomura with the maple they procured at the auction.

## Members Corner

Congratulations to Jeremy Stevermer on several awards taken at the Bricks by the Bay LEGO competition.

This past June, Member Jeremy Stevermer presented his collection of living LEGO dioramas at the Bricks by the Bay LEGO competition in Santa Clara. Part arborsculpture and part LEGO sculpture, the display included living ficus benjamina and Ionicera bonsai combined with LEGO elements. There were also selections of LEGO bonsai, recreations of bonsai styles out of LEGO.

The “Root Over Rock Elf Treehouse” would take the award for “Mixed Media,” a category it inspired after its first exhibition in 2017.



The display also included pop culture creations of a living “Dagobah” swamp from Star Wars, Gilligan’s Island and Bag End from the Hobbit.



The treehouse, with its elves and dragons, is always a favorite with the kids.

Additionally, the “Fall Cascade Bonsai,” made entirely of LEGO, would win for “Best Medium Sized Art.”



More images are available here:  
<https://www.flickr.com/photos/139383105@N04/>

## In Memoria

By Janet Nelson

It is with deep sorrow that I inform you of the passing of Bet Neary Monday, July 25th (about 1:10 am) at the Lafayette Care Home. She had been in hospice at home until about a week before when she went into the Care Home. It is likely that the cancer she had been dealing with for the past decade or so finally overtook her.

Bet was a long-time member of EBBS and displayed her wonderful bonsai at many shows. She had an amazing eye for artistic display and enjoyed tending not only her bonsai but also a variety of bamboo species in her fabulous back yard. She actively participated in the Ornamental Pruning Club and she was proud they had her garden on their tour in 2019.

Bet travelled to Japan several years ago to visit bonsai exhibits and nurseries where she selected and brought back exquisite bonsai display pieces, including a dozen burl wood slabs. Bet shared with me tips on health and grooming when we both lost our hair due to chemo treatments for cancer. In addition to EBBS, Bet was an early member of Bay Island Bonsai and she attended bonsai workshops for as many years as she could. Now her bonsai have been sold to other bonsai enthusiasts who can care for them.

Bet has sisters in Hawaii and Nebraska. Dennis has been a devoted partner and companion since well before they were married a couple decades ago. Here's a photo I took of Bet and her bonsai display at the October 2018 EBBS show.



The memorial service and internment are tentatively planned as follows:  
Internment at the Mountain View Cemetery at 2:00 PM August 13<sup>th</sup>. Meet at the cemetery office and walk to the site together. The memorial will be at First Covenant Church on Redwood Road in Oakland at 4:00 PM. Watch your email for a validation of date and time.

## Bonsai Calendar - August

- Watering – Water regularly. Don't over-water defoliated trees.
- Rotate trees at least twice monthly to promote balanced growth.
- Fertilizing – Continue regular feeding, but stop fertilizing decandled pines.
- Repotting – Not recommended at this time except for tropical and semi-tropical trees.
- Styling/Pruning – Reduce pruning as higher temperatures and longer days reduce growth.
- Beware of heat build-up in pots; insulate sunny side of pots with aluminum foil, slat of bender board, etc.
- Insect and disease control – Maintain defensive treatments for fungus. Watch for and treat insect infestations

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

## Get ready for the Show

It's never too soon to be thinking about getting ready for our annual show. This year it will be a bit earlier on October 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>, with set up on September 30<sup>th</sup>. It takes a whole club to put on the show, so we will have signup sheets at the picnic and September meeting for volunteer positions at the show.

Also, be thinking about putting your tree in a tokonoma display. Our September meeting will focus on getting ready for the show, with Gordon Deeg giving us insight as to how to prepare your trees and displays.

So, start giving some thought to what you want to display and how you can help out to make this show a grand success.

## Survey

If you haven't filled out the survey sent to you by EBBS\_Distribution@Yahoo.com, then now is a great time to do it. Your board really wants to act on your ideas and needs. So, please give us your thoughts!

## Bugs

By: Tom Colby

We are fortunate that our bonsai are usually not heavily bothered by bugs. Generally, they are free of bugs, but what do we do when we find that our prized bonsai is covered with them?



It is important to examine your trees frequently. If you find that there is evidence of bugs, the first thing to do is to ask whether the bug was just passing through, or the bug has called in the whole family to set up housekeeping. If, for example, the problem was caused by a grasshopper who stopped by your place for lunch on his way to Hollywood to become a movie star, the best thing to do is nothing. Chalk up the couple of munched leaves up to the cost of growing your bonsai outdoors. Beyond encouraging them to leave, the occasional caterpillar or snail can be treated the same way.



If you find that the bugs have set permanent headquarters, then you need to act quickly because the insect infestation can grow rapidly, and the worse the infestation, the more difficult it will be to treat. The obvious solution to the bug problem is to make them go away, so the first choice is to simply hose them off. This approach works well for aphids.

When we do have bug problems, the frequent cause is not aphids but some species of scale, and these look like little white puffs of cotton. Unfortunately, hosing does not work because the little varmints stick tightly to the foliage. This brings us to the use of insecticides.

We have our choice of two different types of insecticides based on how they work. The first group consists of various soaps and horticultural oils. This group works on the outside of the bug by clogging the pores the bug uses to breathe, and so the insect dies from lack of



oxygen. People, kids and pets do not breathe using this kind of pores, so this group of insecticides really doesn't affect us much unless we happen to fall into a vat of the product. While anything can be toxic when taken the wrong way,

this group is labeled nontoxic and you are pretty much able to use them any way you wish.

The second group of insecticides is labeled as harsh chemicals by the Master Gardener program and consists of products which act inside the bug. Most in this group act by jamming the place where nerves join muscles, and since impulse transmission is blocked, the bug dies of paralysis. Unfortunately, we have the same kind of muscle-nerve junctions, and if we are not careful with the product, we can have problems, too. This kind of product, which is available over the counter at local nurseries, has modest toxicity and can be safely handled with a minimum of care. Rubber gloves and a cloth mask will see you safely through a spraying. Malathion is an example of this group.

So, we now have a bonsai with bugs and two choices of insecticide types. Which should we use? Each has strengths and weaknesses. The nontoxic group is safe for kids and pets but works by directly contacting the bug. Many bugs, and particularly scale, hide under the foliage and are missed by only one spraying. Further, the bugs may have laid eggs that hatch after you spray. You may need to spray several times weekly to totally eradicate the bugs.

The harsh chemicals leave a residue on the foliage and any bugs you missed by directly contacting them with



the spray will be done in when they crawl across the leaf. Because of this, these products are more effective in dealing with a severely infested plant. The residue eventually gets washed off when you water your tree.

On the down side, the products must be used carefully because of their toxic properties. It is frequently noted that the harsh chemicals cause a lot of collateral damage by also doing in the "good" bugs as well as the "bad" bugs, and this is a justified claim. "Bad" bugs eat your plants and "good" bugs eat the bad bugs. When there are enough hungry "good" bugs in your plants they will solve the problem of insect control for you. It should be noted that the nontoxic group will also do in the "good" bugs if they get contacted with spray. If you choose to use a harsh chemical, the most environmentally friendly way is to spray only infested trees.

The use of insecticides can be a very emotional subject, but with a bit of care in the use and a bit of understanding in how they work, they are effective products. Severe bug infestations can be life threatening for your tree, so insect control is an important part of the culture of bonsai.

## Events Calendar

### August 6, 2022 San Rafael, California

**Marin Bonsai Club (MBC) and Redwood Empire Bonsai Society (REBS):** Joint Bonsai Sale, hosted by MBC and REBS, on Saturday, August 6, 2022, from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., at the Terra Linda Community Center, 670 Del Ganado Rd, San Rafael. The sale will include established and starter bonsai trees, pots, tools, etc. Checks and cash accepted. Free admission. Parking available. For details, contact Diane Matzen at [dcmatzen@gmail.com](mailto:dcmatzen@gmail.com) or George Haas at [gwhaas@comcast.net](mailto:gwhaas@comcast.net).

### August 20-21, 2022 Los Angeles, California

**The second John Y. Naka Memorial Bonsai Exhibition** (formerly known as Nampu Kai) during Nisei Week, George J. Doizaki Gallery, JACCC, **244 So. San Pedro St., Los Angeles, CA 90012**, 10am to 5pm.

### 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 AM - 5 PM and Sunday 10 AM - 4 PM. 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, 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 website [www.eastbaybonsai.org](http://www.eastbaybonsai.org).

### October 8 & 9, 2022 Santa Nella, California

**GSBF Bonsai Rendezvous 2022:** Annual GSBF event held at Hotel Mission de Oro, 13070 S. Highway 33, Santa Nella, CA 95322. Free and open to the public. 30+ vendors from northern and southern California as well as several out of state vendors will be on hand both days. Admission is free, donations are appreciated. Free demonstrations throughout the days. Bring-your-own bonsai work area. Mel Ikeda and his tomodachi group will demonstrate the art of creating bonsai amongst friends. Silent auctions of bonsai trees and related material will be held both days. Consignment silent auction sells opportunities are available. Rendezvous hotel room rate \$155 two-night minimum. For more information contact Rich Guillen at [richguillen@att.net](mailto:richguillen@att.net) or **(831) 348-5015**.

### 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 am - 4 pm 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](mailto:pbholtzen@sbcglobal.net).

### 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](#).

### January 21 & 22, 2023 Temple City, CA

**59th Winter Silhouette Show and Sale**, Temple City Live Oak Park Community Center, Live Oak Room, 10144 Bogue St. Temple City, CA 91780, 10am to 4:30pm. Sales and demonstration at 1pm on both days. Deciduous bonsai are featured from club members and invited guests. The Nagata-Komai award will be presented, and there will be a demonstrator at 1pm on both days. There will be a sales area with club and vendor plants, pots, tools and more. For more information, please visit [baikoenbonsai.com](http://baikoenbonsai.com) or email Joe Galgoul, [joegalgoul@yahoo.com](mailto:joegalgoul@yahoo.com).

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Newsletter Editor: Beverly Martinez

Contributors: Jeremy Stevermer

<b>East Bay Bonsai Society—Schedule for 2022</b>
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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.

<b><u>Meeting</u></b>	<b><u>Program</u></b>
Aug 1	EBBS Board Meeting
Aug 10	No meeting
Aug 20	Annual picnic – Michael Jensen-Akula's home
Aug 28	Bonsai for Beginners – Tom Colby
Sep 6	EBBS Board Meeting
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
Nov 27	Bonsai for Beginners – Addison Galambos
Dec 5	EBBS Board Meeting
Dec 7	Tree Shrinker delivered
Dec 14	Annual Holiday Dinner