



The Tree Shrinker

Volume LXI, No.2

A MONTHLY BULLETIN

<http://www.eastbaybonsai.org>



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East Bay Bonsai Society
Monthly Meeting: February 9, 2022 7:30 PM
Online on Google Meet

February Meeting

Well, well, well...here we are, a new year and back to on-line meetings. For East Bay Bonsai that is not too bad as we can take advantage of international bonsai artists. For February we are doing just that. Our presenter will be Yannick Kiggen who hails from Belgium.

In 2011, Yannick founded Yama Bonsai Studio to promote Bonsai by sharing his knowledge and skills with both beginner and advanced enthusiasts who are passionate about these beautiful trees.

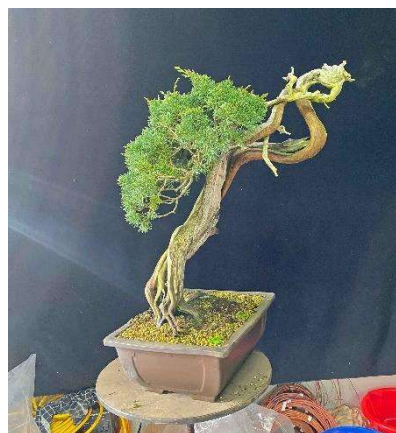
This is evident through his courses, workshops, demonstrations, lectures and sales.

One of his visions is that you can always learn from anyone. You can visit his website at www.yama-bonsai.be and <https://www.instagram.com/yamabonsaistudio/?hl=nl>

Yannick will be discussing the history of bonsai styles in Japan, including the development of Bonsais in styling. Because there are multiple design schools in Japan who do it or style it different, the subject should be educating and interesting. As he presents, he will be working on this tree.



Yannick began his journey in bonsai at the age of ten. By the time he was 12, he was studying various Bonsai masters including: Terakawa (Japan/Netherlands), Mario Komsta (Poland), Pius Notter and Francois Jeker. He has also participated in various exhibitions such as the Noelanders trophy, the Ginkgo award and the European Bonsai San Show. For a full list of the events Yannick has participated in, take a look at his website at: www.yama-bonsai.be.



January Meeting

By: Tom Fedor

“One step forward, two steps back. That won’t get you back to Buffalo, you know.”

- R. Hunter

Where it got us, instead, was back to our computer screens for a grafting demonstration by local bonsai artist, teacher and prolific blogger Jonas Dupuich. Playing the part of hapless victim was our own San Jose juniper, which was purchased by the club in happier times for an intended styling at our October show in 2020. Well, you know how that worked out.

It had been lovingly cared for by our own Suzanne Muller (Yay, Suzanne!) until we all got to see it when Jonas visited us last in October 2021. We had planned to have him style it on that occasion. In yet another course correction, however, we agreed instead with Jonas’s suggestion that what the tree really needed was not styling but grafting. It had gotten way too leggy (and indeed was rather so when we bought it), and the best solution was to graft new foliage much nearer the tree’s trunk with a view to produce, eventually, a smaller tree that could flaunt its best feature, i.e., the trunk itself.



First thing tonight, though, was a haircut that left just enough of the original foliage to keep the tree pumping juice through the Itoigawa scions that Jonas was about to install. He emphasized the importance of using a very sharp blade to make the cut, and had spent the afternoon sharpening his own. Haircut completed, he investigated the bark to locate the tree’s lifelines and distinguish the dead zones where no scion would grow. The actual grafting sites were chosen just where Jonas thought the tree transitioned from “interesting” to “boring”, and he stressed the importance of working on the innermost grafts first, since you can’t get to them if you do the outer ones first.



We learned how to prepare a scion, how to use our very sharp blade to make an incision in the host, and how to introduce the scion to its new home. We learned how to wrap the whole thing in plastic tape in order to maintain a moist environment in which host and scion could get to know each other. We also learned specifically how not to do those things, which some of us might think was even more useful. And we got to watch Jonas work on our tree for as long as we could hang out. Jonas, for his part, intended to stay way late after school to get it all done.



It is difficult for your humble correspondent to imagine how this evening might have worked out at all if we had been able to hold our meeting in person at the Garden Center, trying to get more than two sets of eyes on such an extensive amount of finely detailed craftsmanship. Thus are we encouraged to appreciate small silver linings.



Bonsai Sale at the BABA show

A Big Thank You to all of those members who brought sale items and participated in the EBBS sale at the BABA show.

The show was a great success and the sale brought in much needed revenue into our coffers. BABA consists of many EBBS members and it was amazing to see all of their great trees on display. In case you missed it, here are a few pictures from the show to enjoy.



Mammoth fundraiser

The annual Mammoth fundraiser is back this year at the Lakeside Garden Center. If you are not familiar, it is the highlight of the season and all proceeds will be going to the Lakeside Bonsai Garden. Saturday will kick off with a preview of auction items at 12:00PM, with bidding starting at 1:00 PM. Sunday will include a mammoth sale of bonsai related items starting at 9:00 AM and concluding at 3:00 PM. Details for the auction and sale including sign up and seller sheets are available at the following website:

[Mammoth Fundraiser – Bonsai Garden at Lake Merritt \(bonsailakemerritt.com\)](http://bonsailakemerritt.com)

The City of Oakland is requiring all attending the event to show proof of vaccination with picture ID and wear a mask.

Dues are due

We will be collecting dues through the end of March. If you became a member after October 1, 2021, then you are paid up for 2022. If not, you can pay your dues in a variety of ways. We will have a box at the next in person meeting where you can drop off either cash or check in a provided envelope. Please indicate your name and whether the dues are for single membership, family and if you would like to receive the newsletter via US postal service.

If you prefer to pay by credit card, you can use the link in the Eastbaybonsai.org website to pay, or you can pay at any meeting via Square (ask any board member who to contact). A 3% or 4% processing fee will be added to the cost to offset the charge from Square depending on the method chosen.

You can also mail your dues by check to:
East Bay Bonsai Society
c/o P. Cahill
4933 Cochrane Ave
Oakland, CA. 94618

If paying by check, make it out to EBBS.

Annual dues have not changed:

Single membership - \$30.

Family membership - \$40.

USPS delivered newsletter - \$10. (This is in lieu of the electronic copy provided in your membership)

From your Board of Directors

At this point we are anticipating the March and beyond meetings to be back at the Garden Center in person. If that should change, we will make every effort to contact members via email from EBBS_Distribution@Yahoo.com, or phone if an email address is not available in the roster. Please check your mail previous to any meeting during these very uncertain times.

From the Archives

Top 10 things to know about Princess Persimmons

BY: Dennis Vojtilla 11/8/2003

1. Princess persimmons are smaller in all respects than the standard fruiting persimmon. Fruit, leaves, and overall plant size is smaller; twigs are finer.

2. It (usually) takes two to tango, and both have to be ready to dance at the same time. Princess persimmons generally have male and female flowers on separate plants. Some plants do have both kinds of flowers, but they do not seem to fruit well - they may still need

another pollinator. Also, the plants must flower at the same time; there can be 4-6 weeks difference in flowering times between early and late flowering plants. Female flowers are distinguished by their "winged" sepals.

3 There is a wide variety of shapes, colors, sizes, textures, and spotting on fruit. Shapes can be round, cylindrical, pear-shaped, top-shaped or triangular. Colors range from yellow to orange to red. Size can range from about 3/8" to 1-1/2". Fruit can be clear (without spots), with very fine spots, or very large spots. Fruits may be thick- or thin-skinned.

4. Persimmon fruits are long-lasting. Fruits with heavy texture last the longest - up to 4 months. Fruits start turning color in Sept./Oct. and can last until Feb./Mar.
5. Princess persimmons need a lot of water and not too much sun to grow well. With too little water, princess persimmons will drop flower buds and immature fruit. With too much sun, leaves will burn (black spots on the leaves) and fall off early, leaving the fruit unprotected. Some will be sunburned (black shoulders). Plants need extra iron, particularly if they haven't been re-potted in a while, to handle full sun.

6. Trees grow vigorously when roots are not disturbed, slowly after roots are disturbed. New shoots can grow 3-5' in one season with really strong thorns, if unrestrained - good for healing pruning scars, bad for shaping branches. After transplanting (and severe root pruning), the plant will sulk and grow slowly for a year. Plants will re-sprout from the trunk readily if pruned back hard and roots are undisturbed.

7. Princess persimmons can be propagated easily from root cuttings, layers and seeds. A mature plant can or produce 30+ root cuttings. Air layers are possible, but less vigorous than root cuttings. Seeds are best sown while still wet; germination is not as strong if seeds are allowed to dry out (as occurs if seeds are imported). The pulp will stain your fingers orange - wear gloves.

8. Princess persimmons can be treated like most other deciduous trees. Except for the extra water, princess persimmons can be handled as you handle other fruiting or deciduous trees. When cutting back branches, cut back to an active bud. Princess persimmons branches tend to bolt if left unchecked, causing scars on wire-wrapped branches. Treat as you do other deciduous trees - let branches grow to -5 nodes, then shorten to 1-2 nodes or node distance < inch.

9. Styles for princess persimmons should highlight their fruit. Choose styles that work for thinner trunks (bunjin, semi-cascade, slanting), or crooked broom.

10. Princess persimmons have few enemies. Other than scale, most bugs don't bug princess persimmons. Use horticultural oil to control scale.

Our Treasurer

By: Tom Colby

Pat Cahill has been our treasurer for many years. The treasurer's job, managing the financial affairs of the club, involves more than you might think. It entails tracking and balancing our bank accounts, collecting dues, paying our demonstrators, refunding members for club-related expenditures and depositing money paid to the club. Pat does all this with meticulous attention to detail. But wait, there is more. In the past she is particularly active at our annual auction which requires organization of people to help her to keep financial track of bids and payments for items sold. For many years Pat has hosted board meetings. She maintains an inventory of cups, tablecloths and other necessary supplies in our storage cabinet at the garden. She interfaces with the city of Oakland on room reservations for both meetings and shows.

The only contact with most of the members have with Pat is when they pay their dues which is unfortunate because most of us don't see the many major contributions that Pat makes to the club. It is long past time for Pat step out of the shadows and take a deep bow. Thanks, Pat for all that you do for EBBS.

Bonsai Calendar

- Do heavy pruning and shaping especially in combination with repotting and root pruning.
- Rotate trees at least once a month.
- Continue reduced watering.
- Graft all species.
- Do not feed repotted trees for 2 to 3 weeks after transplanting.
- Watch for insects and fungi. Aphids can become active during warm periods.

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

Events by Others

February 4, 5 and 6, 2022 Santa Nella, California
Shohin Seminar - **CANCELED**

February 19 and 20, 2022 Oakland, California

Annual Bonsai Garden at Lake Merritt Mammoth Auction & Sale will be held on Saturday, February 19 and Sunday, February 20, 2022 at 666 Bellevue Ave., Lakeside Park Garden Center in Oakland. You are invited to the biggest auction and sale of bonsai, pre-bonsai, pots, books, stands, and related material. A Mammoth fundraiser with all proceeds going to support the Bonsai Garden at Lake Merritt. Saturday auction preview starts at 12:00 p.m. with auction starting at 1:00 p.m. Sunday sale from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., large showing of vendors, plant sales, and much more. Purchase your bonsai needs. Masks and proof of vaccination required. For further information, contact George Haas at gwhaas@comcast.net or stay tuned to [BGLM Website](#).

February 26th & 27th, 2022 San Marino, California

Bonsai-A-Thon at the Huntington Gardens is here again! Join us on February 26th & 27th and tour the extended Chinese Garden. Walk through the Bonsai Nursery and enjoy vendors, demonstrations, auctions, raffles, a huge sales area exhibits, food and of course friends. Event highlights include Suiseki, the Japanese Art of Stone Appreciation talk by Suiseki Master Tom Elias, and Foemina Grove creation by Huntington Bonsai Curator Ted Matson. For more details watch the [GSBF Collection at The Huntington](#) website.

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 breadcrumb@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.

June 18 - 19, 2022 Livermore, California

Valley Bonsai Society: 12th annual show at Alden Lane Nursery, [981 Alden Lane](http://981AldenLane.com). 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.

Newsletter Editor: Beverly Martinez

Contributors: Tom Fedor and Tom Colby

East Bay Bonsai Society—Schedule for 2022
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Regular Meetings: Second Wednesday, in person every month (except July, August and October) @ 7:30 pm. Place: Lakeside Garden Center, 666 Bellevue Avenue, Oakland. Visitor's welcome.

Meeting	Program
Feb 9	Monthly Meeting On line – Yannick Kiggen, Belgium – Bonsai styling
Feb19/20	Mammoth Sale
Feb 28	EBBS Board Meeting
Mar 9	Monthly Meeting - In Person – Sam Tan – wiring and styling demonstration
Mar 27	Bonsai for Beginners – Tom Colby
Apr 4	EBBS Board Meeting
April 13	Monthly Meeting - In Person – Mike Pistello - Defoliation
April 24	Bonsai for Beginners – Janet Nelson