



# The Tree Shrinker

Volume LXI, No.7

A MONTHLY BULLETIN

<http://www.eastbaybonsai.org>



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**East Bay Bonsai Society**  
**Monthly Meeting July 13<sup>th</sup>, 7:30 PM**  
**In person and on-line**

## July Meeting

By: Lisa Harper

We are so fortunate to have within our membership, a bonsai artist who is well travelled and experienced in many different types of bonsai. Bill Castellon will be presenting on two topics: his trip to gardens in Japan and a look at the award-winning Japanese- inspired gardens he has created for home owners and institutions in the bay area and beyond.



Bill became interested in bonsai as a child when he attended a flower and garden show and was moved by the bonsai on display. Bill is a bonsai expert and gifted teacher, particularly adept in shohin black-pines, maples and more. In 1991, Bill had joined the East Bay Bonsai Society and served as its President in 1993-1994. Bill has led numerous workshops on Japanese Black Pines at GSBF conventions, California Shohin Seminars, and bonsai clubs throughout California.

Bill studied Aesthetic Pruning and Bonsai with Dennis Makishima in the 1980s. Through the East Bay Bonsai Society, Bill 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. 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. In 2001, Bill interned with head gardener Tokushirou Tamane at Kinkauji (the Golden Pavilion) in Kyoto, Japan. Bill is president of the Friends for the Japanese Garden at Lake Merritt, Oakland, and regularly volunteers at the Merritt Pruning Club, teaching classes and leading

groups at the Japanese Garden at Lake Merritt and at Hakone Gardens.

Along with Mas Imazumi, Bill helped construct the rock arrangements in the Bonsai Garden at Lake Merritt, where he is currently in charge of pruning the landscape trees. Bill has conducted workshops at Merritt College in Oakland, where he also teaches the "Introduction to Bonsai" course as part of the landscape pruning curriculum. Bill belongs to the East Bay Bonsai Society, Bay Area Bonsai Associates, Aesthetic Pruners Association in Oakland and the Merritt College Bonsai Club which he co-leads with Randall Lee.

**July meeting reminder!**

As Bill will be presenting on his trip to Japan and his work here in the bay area, there will not be a Benefit Drawing tree, the main Benefit Drawing prize will be a consultation with Bill on your garden. You get 2 tickets for every item you bring in to share in the drawing! So, bring in those items!

**June Auction**

By: Lisa Harper

We had a fantastic turnout for our annual Bonsai Auction- held on June 8, 2022, and it was great to see so many familiar and new faces! This event takes LOTS of volunteers to pull off, and the Board would particularly like to thank Suzanne Muller and Janet Nelson for their leadership and organizational skills in making this year's auction so successful. Also, a special Thank you to Gordon Deeg, who volunteered his time to be our auctioneer! And thank you to ALL the runners, tag-checkers, money trackers, cashiers, set up and take down crews and all the people who brought trees to sell! Because of all of you we both had fun, and raised over \$2,000.00 to fund our monthly programs and other club activities!

This community event is one of our two major fundraisers each year. I, for one, had lots of interest in getting a few new trees after we all had to miss the last two auction- another casualty of covid. Our club particularly appreciates all the buyers this year!

**Statistics**

# Of sellers	13
# Of bidders	51
# Of items sold	80
Highest bid	\$750.
Total gross sales	\$10,560.



Our auctioneer – Gordon Deeg





Let the auction begin!



Check in table - Janice Dilbeck and Bev Martinez



Workers – Michael Jensen-Akula, Julie Holcomb, John Doit, Randall Lee & Pat Cahill



President Lisa Harper & Director Addison Galambos



Refreshments – Brian Conway & Ernie Katler



**Bonsai Calendar - July**

- Watering – Water 2 to 3 times daily to if needed to keep trees moist.
- Fertilizing – stop feeding pines after decandling.
- Repotting – Not recommended at this time except for tropical and semi-tropical trees
- Styling/Pruning – Rotate trees. Watch for wire cutting during this period of fast growth.
- Reduce pruning as higher temps and longer days slow growth.
- Beware of heat build-up in pots – insulate on sunny side to protect roots. Unglazed pots have higher soil temp then glazed pots.
- Do not fertilize Satsuki Azaleas

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

**Articles or Services for Sale (or give-away)**

**Wanted to Buy (or for free)**

Each membership household, free of charge, may place a five-line ad related to bonsai in two newsletters each year. Send a copy of ads to your editor by the fourth Monday of the month to appear in the next publication. To place an add call (925) 458-3845.

## Pyracantha

By: Tom Colby

Pyracantha bonsai are not seen that often and they deserve more recognition as worthy candidates for bonsai trees. First, let's consider a bit about Pyracantha. There are seven members of the Pyracantha genus, and their range extends from southeastern Europe to Asia. The most common locally seen species is *P. coccinea* which hails from southeastern Europe.

Each spring these plants produce an abundance of small white flowers, followed by a heavy crop of red berries in the fall. The display of berries is what makes Pyracantha especially attractive as a candidate for bonsai.

Pyracantha has been in cultivation for a very long time, and as a result, there are many named selections available. Also *P. coccinea* has been hybridized with the other species and, again, many named varieties are available. The available varieties of Pyracantha differ in size of leaf, plant growth, and berry color. There are lots of varieties to choose from.



Another species in cultivation is *P. angustifolia*, native to western China. It differs from *P. coccinea* by having yellow berries and slightly fuzzy leaves. This form seems not to be readily available from local nurseries, perhaps because it is a bit sensitive to cold. It is hardy only to freezing, and not to below freezing temperatures. The yellow berries make it worth seeking out from nursery stocks.

The most obvious thing that you see (or feel) with Pyracantha is that they have formidable thorns. You can make life with Pyracantha more pleasant by cutting the tips of the thorns to remove the sharp points. Do not totally remove the thorns because at the base of each thorn is a flowering bud.



Pyracanthas are lush growers and as a result, can be aggressively pruned in the summer and fall by cutting branches back to one or two nodes. Some growers remove all flower buds every other year to allow the tree to direct energy only on the growth of the trunk and branches. Pyracanthas can be wired, but require care and a gentle hand. Young branches can be moved but are brittle, so care is required to prevent breakage. Older branches quickly become quite stiff and can be moved only with difficulty. Because of the lush growth of Pyracanthas, it is no surprise that they can be defoliated without fear in June to increase ramification. The trees respond well to high nitrogen fertilizer applied in the spring and summer. Cuttings taken in late spring or early summer root readily.

A major issue with Pyracanthas as bonsai is that they resent disturbance and should be repotted every other year, or better, every three or even four years. Trees show their sentiments about being repotted by usually having a sparse crop of berries in the year that they are repotted. The plants expend a huge amount of energy producing berries, and some growers remove the flowers on recently repotted plants to allow the tree to recover. The minimal crop of berries that the plant produces after repotting indicates that the tree can adjust to the trauma of repotting on its own.

As a side note, the literature on Pyracanthas allege that the berries are bitter when eaten out of hand, but when cooked can produce delicious jams and jetties. An additional culinary delight comes late in the season when the berries can become slightly fermented as they age. Birds, particularly robins, adore Pyracantha berries and, at this time, can show all the symptoms of being three sheets to the wind after eating them.

So, there you have it. Pyracanthas as bonsai are well worth your interest. Between flowers and berries, they produce a spectacular display through the year and, with a little care, are not that hard to grow.

## Events Calendar

### July 9, 2022 Oakland, California

**Bonsai Garden at Lake Merritt (BGLM):** BGLM will conduct a special one-day auction and sale of bonsai trees from the personal collection donated by Dennis and Joanne Makishima, on July 9, 2022, at the Lakeside Park Garden Center, 666 Bellevue Ave., Lake Merritt, Oakland, California. Preview of auction will start at 11:00 a.m. and live auction at 12:00 p.m. Sale follows immediately after auction. This event is predicated on the largest single donation ever made to BGLM. Bonsai trees include legacy pines, cedars, maples, and more, dating back to the early 1950s and 1960s. All proceeds go to support the newly created Dennis and Joanne Makishima BGLM curator fund. For further information, contact George Haas at [gwhaas@comcast.net](mailto:gwhaas@comcast.net) or visit the BGLM website <http://bonsailakemerritt.com>.

### 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).

### 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 [richquillen@att.net](mailto:richquillen@att.net) or [\(831\) 348-5015](tel:8313485015).

### 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](#).

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Newsletter Editor: Beverly Martinez

Contributors: Lisa Harper, Stephen Lysaght (photography)

<b>East Bay Bonsai Society—Schedule for 2022</b>
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<b>Meeting</b>	<b>Program</b>
July 6	Tree Shrinker delivered
July 13	Monthly Meeting - In Person/On line – Bill Castellon – Japanese gardens
July 24	Bonsai for Beginners – Addison Galambos
Aug 1	EBBS Board Meeting
Aug 3	Tree Shrinker delivered
Aug 10	No meeting
Aug 20	Annual picnic
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

**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.