



# The Tree Shrinker

Volume LXI, No.3

A MONTHLY BULLETIN

<http://www.eastbaybonsai.org>



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**East Bay Bonsai Society**  
**Monthly Meeting: March 9, 2022 7:30 PM**  
**In Person at the Lake Merritt Garden Center**

## March Meeting

It's March and spring is almost here. The deciduous trees are budding, repotting is coming to an end and it is time to enjoy the fruits of your labors and start planning what your trees will look like in the future.

Our meeting will take place in person at the garden center this month. Sam Tan from the Bonsai Society of San Francisco (BSSF) will be our guest speaker. Sam is the current president of the BSSF. He is a passionate enthusiast who enjoys creating bonsai from native North American species. Sam studied bonsai under Ryan Neil at Bonsai Mirai in 2019. Prior to that, Sam attended classes from Jonas Dupuich and Michael Hagedorn. Sam will be discussing the nuances of design refinement on junipers while he rewires the tree. You can find Sam's work on Instagram at @samsbonsaiadventures.

At this point the city ordinance is still in effect and all attendees must show proof of vaccination and a picture id. Masks are also required inside the building.

Some of Sam's trees



Demo tree



## February Meeting

We broke out our passports again for another trip abroad this evening. This time we beamed up to Belgium where, in the middle of the night there, we were schooled in his Yama Bonsai Studio workshop by bonsai artist Yannick Kiggen. He's been a student of bonsai since the tender age of ten and, since founding his studio in 2011, has been sharing his knowledge and skills with our fellow bonsai enthusiasts around the globe. [www.yama-bonsai.be](http://www.yama-bonsai.be)

He began with a potted (sorry) history of bonsai development in Japan, with special reference to style and the progression of various schools of design. This discussion brought new (to at least one of us, I'm sure) Japanese terms and ideas that then informed his styling of a large old kishu juniper, undertaken concurrently with his lecture throughout the evening (er, morning).



Tree prior to wiring and trimming

Yannick's interlocutory teaching style, as it turned out, needed a foil from amongst our normally taciturn audience and Director Addison elected to stand at the virtual chalkboard (Yay, Addison!) virtually alone until other members of the class eventually warmed up.

When, having posed some question or other, Yannick chanced to fall silent in the thoughtful course of pruning and wiring the kishu, other participants would arise, leading the discussion to wander in weird and wonderful ways. All the while, Yannick kept up his ministrations to the tree while participating in and refocusing the lesson. As well as refocusing his camera, which gave astonishing views of his hands on the tree.



Even unto a further almost hour after our Minister for Technology had to logoff and leave the zoom machine on autopilot. At the end of the lesson Yannick brought forward his wonderful rock planting that had taken a back seat during the presentation. For this humble correspondent, the continuing education seminar was well worth its tuition.



Showing the pot selected for the final tree



Rock planting

## Mammoth fundraiser

The Mammoth 2-day fundraiser was a huge success! Thank you to everyone who participated and gave of their own time in the many tasks that are needed to help the fundraiser run smoothly. EBBS should be proud of the participation including: cleaning up trees last December, food prep in the kitchen, set up/tear down, carrying trees from the garden, loading trees for customers, cashiering and participating in the auction. It was a well-coordinated effort by all.

## Dues are due

The time has come! If you want to continue receiving the monthly newsletter, notifications of upcoming member only events, and the ability to participate in EBBS events, dues must be submitted by the end of March. The April newsletter will be accompanied with the official roster for 2022.

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 a check (made out to EBBS) in a provided envelope. Please indicate your name and whether the dues are for single membership or family. If you prefer to receive the newsletter via US postal service, please indicate and add \$10 to the amount.

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% (if paying in person) or 4% (if paying online) processing fee will be added to the cost to offset the charge from Square.

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

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)

## Special notice

The monthly Tree Shrinker will now be sent on the first Wednesday each month. This ensures the board meeting will always be before the delivery of the newsletter and 1 week before the next meeting.

## From the Archives

### Pearls of (Deciduous) Bonsai Wisdom

Author unknown

#### 1. Apples are not oranges; maples are not beeches

All deciduous trees cannot be handled the same, nor can the same type of tree at different ages. Therefore, know your trees. If you are not sure how trees will react, ask someone or go by the book. Keep in mind the goal you want to accomplish for the tree at the stage it is in.

#### 2. Small pot ~ small trunk

You can't create a large trunk in a small pot. Therefore, plant the tree in an extra-large pot or in the ground until the desired trunk size is achieved. If you admire a small plant because of its nice branches, don't expect to grow it into a large plant. Buy trunks, or trunks and superb roots - everything else is easy.

#### 3. Branches feed roots; roots feed branches

**Corollary: the best bonsai are living bonsai; the best branches are living branches.**

A tree needs either roots or branches to survive transplanting. Therefore, don't do major surgery on both roots and branches at the same time; don't stack cuts too close together on branches or trunk, or the tree may connect the dots.

#### 4. Bad when young - bad when old

Trees usually don't grow out of their major flaws, and they certainly won't without help. Therefore, remove large flaws (bulges, bar branches, coarse branches) early. Trunks can't easily be changed - choose your trunk carefully. Roots can be grafted or layered; branches and twigs can be re-grown. Bad trunks last forever.

#### 5. Summer friendly ~ winter not

Leaves hide or distract from flaws during the summer. Winter reveals everything. Therefore, if you don't want to correct the tree's flaws, show the tree in full leaf.

#### 6. Long straight -- cannot wait -- doesn't rate - don't imitate Straight is the enemy of quality in deciduous bonsai.

Long and straight branches show your impatience — or that you haven't mastered the concept of scale in bonsai. Therefore, let new shoots grow to 3-5 nodes (depending upon the thickening desired) to build strength in the shoots; then, shorten to one node. Change direction with each node for best refinement. Rule of thumb: no node greater than 3/4" in length; for shohin, no node greater than 1/4-3/8" in length.

## 7. Many twigs - small leaves

Leaf size takes care of itself when the number of twigs is sufficient. Therefore, don't worry about the size of leaves. Create more twigs and the size of leaves will shrink. Defoliation can also be used to reduce the size of leaves, when needed for a show.

## 8. Bonsai imitates nature, not other bonsai

Use nature as your guide for tree and branch shape. Deciduous trees should not look like pines. Therefore, don't remove all flaws; some are features. Don't remove all up or down twigs - they add three dimensions to the branches and help to keep the branches from looking too stilted. Foliage "pads" don't always exist on deciduous trees. Twigs and texture are an acceptable substitute.

## 9. Best trees better Not all your trees are equal.

Concentrate your efforts on the best ones to make them better. Therefore, if you have more trees than you can get to each year, give your attention to the best trees to ensure that become even better. Remember, though, that some trees won't be better than good.

## 10. Inch time, foot gem; not twice this day

### Bonsai Calendar

- Rotate trees at least twice this month to promote symmetry as roots and branches start growing.
- Continue reduced watering.
- Check for old wire that may start cutting in.
- Do not feed repotted trees for 2 to 3 weeks after transplanting.
- Watch for insects and fungi. Aphids can become active during warm periods.
- Trim branches on flowering and fruiting trees before flower buds form so they have time to develop.

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

### 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](mailto: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](mailto:lynnemo@gmail.com) or Idris Anderson at [idrisan@gmail.com](mailto: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.

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Newsletter Editor: Beverly Martinez

Contributors: Tom Fedor

<b>East Bay Bonsai Society—Schedule for 2022</b>
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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. Masks and proof of vaccination required.

<u>Meeting</u>	<u>Program</u>
Mar 9	Monthly Meeting - In Person – Sam Tan – wiring and styling demonstration
Mar 27	Bonsai for Beginners – Tom Colby
Apr 4	EBBS Board Meeting
Apr 6	Tree Shrinker sent
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 sent
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 sent
June 8	Monthly Meeting - In Person – Bill Castellon
June 26	Bonsai for Beginners – Addison Galambos
July 5	EBBS Board Meeting
July 6	Tree Shrinker sent
July 13	Annual Auction – no meeting
July 24	Bonsai for Beginners – John Nackley