



The Tree Shrinker

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A MONTHLY BULLETIN

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East Bay Bonsai Society No Monthly meeting *It's Showtime!*

Due to the proximity to the annual show, we will not be holding a monthly meeting in October and are producing the newsletter a week early to update you on the show and related happenings.

September meeting

By: Tom Fedor

Gordon Deeg is a well-known Bay Area bonsai artist, and he can be found almost any time at our own Lake Merritt Bonsai Garden, where he serves as Director and Garden Master. He recently reigned as auctioneer at our club's auction in June, reprising to rousing acclaim his past performances in the same role at BGLM's annual Mammoth fundraiser. Obviously, Gordon is a man who knows a tree or two.



His topic this evening, as timely as though by design, was "Preparing one's tree for a Show". Rule number one: no disease, no bugs allowed. Like Danny DeVito in the "Taxi" garage, Gordon never thought he'd have to make this rule but, he says, you'd be surprised. The next no-no, heavy wiring or other evidence of obviously recent major design work. Give that tree a year off to get over it. Thirdly, trim your tree. Take off any new

growth that disturbs the tree's silhouette. Branches growing cross-wise or pad elements growing downwards should also be removed.

If your tree has jin and/or shari, make sure it looks natural. If it looks like it was man-made, then it needs more work. And do consult with your local talent for advice; these people are generous and the rewards are well worth your going out the door for. It is important to remove all the bark and debris from your deadwood, especially within those pesky small crevices; your tree will be well served. (Cheerful audience interchange ensued at this point in the evening regarding dental and other types of picks, and where and how to obtain them.

As it turns out, you or your apprentice can sharpen bamboo chopsticks for the purpose.) Stabilizing your hard-won jin can be important to insure against some of the hazards of showing a tree (transportation, etc.), and several commercial wood-preserving products for preserving deadwood received honorable mention.

Remove any stubs that you may have left behind the last time you removed part of a branch, perhaps with a flat-bladed cutter this time to get close. And here's a tip: clean up those cuts, apply some cut paste, and affix some stray piece of bark for disguise! Gordon says no one will ever know (except you, me and the fencepost). Even respected professionals (shock! horror!) have been known to attach fake fruits (!) and foreign deadwood (see "tanuki" in your Japanese-English dictionary) to a tree that has none at an opportune time.

More things to remove: **Moss** should be removed from your bark, and not just for ShowTime. It'll eventually eat your bark if you let it. Vinegar works to kill moss, although too much of a good thing is a bad thing, per Gordon's own intrepid experimentations, so don't be

Show time!

soaking any root-balls in it. Tweezers work well at picking off moss from wetted rough-barked trunks, and smooth brushes can be used on smooth bark. It will also behoove you to get any dirt off the trunk. Your moss is growing in it, and that growth will be retarded by the dirt's absence. Take off **unsightly roots**; this is often easier to accomplish more thoroughly at re-potting time, so you should have thought of that before. Note that it can be done incrementally over a year or two for that large root that might be missed if it were taken all at once, by removing a slice from along the side of the root to weaken it (so, do plan ahead before the coup de grace). **Weeds**, seriously. It's not uncommon to see weeds at a show, says Gordon, but there's no excuse for it. Also, take off the **fertilizer** and dress with topsoil. Proper moss for top-dressing can be hard to come by at ShowTime, but in its place, Gordon likes fine brown lava mixed with small grained akadama and tamped down with a small trowel; the akadama gives a visual cue for the state of moisture at the surface and the tamping helps to interlock the surface soil particles so they don't swim around when you water.

Your tree's pot needs to be clean, meaning no mud and no dirt. Gordon recommends that a small amount of oil be applied to your unglazed pot a couple of days before the show because it makes them look good; oiling is not appropriate, however, for glazed pots because it makes them look oily. He also acknowledges that opinion is divided regarding exactly which oil; he prefers mineral oil, others like walnut oil, and maybe the purists prefer the camellia. Regular oiling of a pot helps to develop an appearance of age, which will help your tree appear older as well. A tree should be shown in an appropriate pot, which may not always be the pot in which your tree is currently growing. It is very common to re-pot a tree specifically for ShowTime in a special pot, and then return it to the original growing pot when the show is over.

And then you'll need a stand, either purchased, borrowed, or even rented like the pros do, and Gordon recounted a Kokufu-ten anecdote about driving all over creation looking for one. How does one choose a stand (besides driving around)? Gordon has no cookbook recipe for matching trees to stands. It's all about how it looks (feels? emotes?) and hence so many variables, but Gordon said (somewhat out of exasperation, perhaps) "Whatever you choose, please put the tree squarely on the stand." What could be simpler? Lastly, Gordon wants to see your name on your tree. It's his guarantee that you take some pride, so don't be bashful. Nothing bad will happen.

Gordon closed the evening by offering helpful and detailed comments to those aspiring owners of ShowTime entries who had brought their botanical beauties for scrutiny. They and the rest of us are most grateful to him for a timely education in "Preparing one's tree for a Show". And, really, shouldn't we have been doing that stuff all along?

Friday night: Yes, it's Showtime and everyone should be involved! We will start Friday night at 6:00 PM. If you are showing a tree or accent plants, bring them into the hall by 6:30 to be placed once the room has been set-up and arranged. Stick around and help out in setting up tables, chairs and coverings. You will even get fed around 7:30 when the pizza arrives.

As part of the setup, we will be receiving 65+ bags of soil that will need to be brought into the building. You can also bring any sales items on Friday night. Just be sure to have the paperwork and tags filled out. You can bring them in once the sales tables are set up. Items for the sale can continue to be brought in on Saturday and Sunday. Extra sales sheets and tags will be available if needed.

You can also bring in items for the silent auction on Friday night and Saturday morning before 10:00 AM. These items will be fully donated to the club if they sell in the auction. If not, they will be returned to the owner.

Saturday: Saturday will start off with a plant sale for volunteers only. If you worked set-up, during the show or will work during take down you can select one item from the Plant Sale area ahead of the crowd. This will last from 9:00 AM to 10:00 AM. At 10:00 AM the sale and show are open to the public. In addition to the normal sale, we will be having a silent auction until 3:00 PM on Saturday.



At 9:30 AM the workshop will begin. The workshop cost is \$40. It is not often we get a master to help us, so this is time and money very well spent (a \$150 value). You do not need to be experienced or have a full slate of tools. This is a workshop to learn about your tree and how best to maintain and shape it. I personally have attended two workshops in the past and would continue to go if I wasn't working during the show. The workshop will take place in the Ebell room (the room down the hall to the left). You will need to sign-up in advance however if you would like to attend. Then you can just show up

with your trees and any tools and equipment (wire, soil, etc.) you believe you will need. The monies will be collected at the workshop (cash or check preferred). The workshop will end at 12:30. We have limited space so if you would like to be in the workshop, please contact Lisa Harper at Lisaharper@me.com.

At 11:30 the hospitality room will open for lunch for the Saturday volunteers who brought a lunch or will receive a sandwich for volunteering.

The demonstration will begin at 1:30 PM in the Ebell room and will last until approximately 4:00 PM. The Benefit drawing will immediately follow the demonstration. The main prize will be the demo tree. Below is a picture of the tree Andrew will be working on and you can win. It is sure to have a positive transformation once he is done.



The silent auction will end at 3:00 PM so be sure and get your final bids in! At 5:00 PM the show and sale will end for the day.

Sunday: Sunday will kick off at 9:30 AM with a critique of the show trees. This is a member's only event and is always very informative. All members are welcome whether you have a tree in the show or not. Andrew will review many of the trees on display giving insights and observances not always obvious to the bonsai artist. It will last until 11:00 AM when the show will once again be open to the public.

The highlight of the day will be a lecture on deciduous trees, in which Andrew excels in. This is a "not to be missed" event which Andrew is noted for. It begins at 1:00 PM and will end at 3:00 PM.

In the meantime, sales of trees and supplies will continue to take place. Very often, members who were not able to make it on Saturday will bring in exceptional trees for sale on Sunday, so be sure to check back in as

the tree or pot you can't live without may be waiting for you.

At 4:00 PM the show and sale ends, and it is once again, all hands-on deck to remove the trees and safely put away all of the furniture and structures. The kitchen will be cleaned and all chairs and tables will be returned to their storage areas.

If you are showing a tree or had items in the plant sale, make sure you are there at 4:00 PM to pick up your items and take them to your vehicle before helping to tear down the tables, etc. Below are the schedule of events and the chair people to contact with questions or suggestions.

Friday, Sept 30 - 6:00 PM – 10:00 PM

6:00 PM Set-up begins
7:30 PM Pizza dinner served
10:00 PM Set-up complete

Saturday Oct 1 Show 10:00 AM – 5:00 PM

9:00 AM Volunteer only plant sale
9:30 AM Members workshop begins
10:00 AM Show and sale open to public
11:30 AM Hospitality room open for lunch
12:30 PM Workshop ends
1:30 PM Demonstration begins
2:00 PM Lunch room closed
3:00 PM Silent auction ends
4:00 PM Demonstration ends
4:00 PM Raffle begins
5:00 PM Show and sale ends

Sunday Oct 2 Show 11:00 AM – 4:00 PM

9:30 AM Show trees critique by Andrew
11:00 AM Show trees critique ends
11:00 AM Show and sale open to public
11:30 AM Hospitality room open for lunch
1:00 PM Deciduous lecture begins
2:00 PM Lunch room closed
3:00 PM Deciduous lecture ends
4:00 PM Plant sale ends
4:00 PM Show ends / teardown begins
5:00 PM Doors are locked

Are you ready for the show? Is your tree all spruced up and you have sent the tree information to Lisa for your label? If not, do it now!

Common Name

Botanical name (if known)

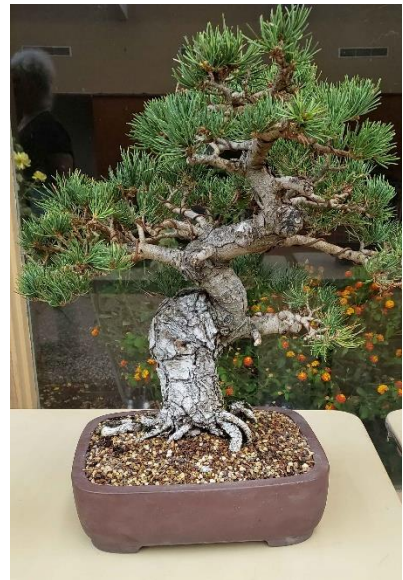
Age of tree and years of training

Your initials or name

Crabapple	
<i>Malus Floribunda</i>	
Age of Tree: 150 years	JIN
Years in Training: 12	

Please contact Michael Jensen-Akula (caseykja@aol.com) with any items to donate to the Benefit drawing. If you have any questions or need to contact someone regarding the show, please use the below list for reference:

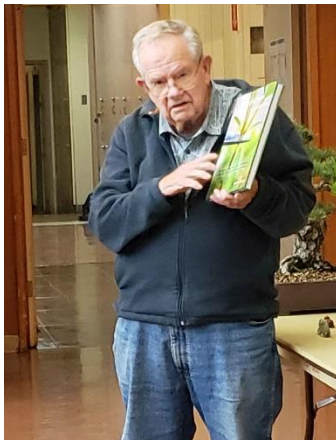
Show Coordinator – Tom Fedor (510) 541-7683
 Hospitality – Suzanne Muller - (925) 890-0506
 Reception – Alise Offeman - (925) 330-2991
 Plant Sales – Bev Martinez – (925) 437-2347
 Security – Rick Trumm – (510) 482-8428
 Workshop coordinator – Lisa Harper - (510) 220-3339
 Benefit drawing – Michael Jensen-Akula - (510) 821-0199
 Silent Auction – John Nackley – (510) 693-2420



Brian Conway - Pine

Show and tell

Bob Gould brought in a copy of Rick Garcia's new book on azaleas. Bob remarked that is it very good and even has a picture of himself in it.



Bob Gould – Azalea and viewing stone

Several folks brought in trees destined for the show. Gordon critiqued each with suggestions on cleanup and redesigning the tree to show better.



Mike Cullen – Olive grove

Bonsai Calendar

- Sun – gradually move shaded Sun – Continue to move shaded deciduous trees into sun to promote fall color.
- Watering – Adjust watering for fall, but don't under-water.
- Fertilizing – Use low or zero nitrogen fertilizers.
- Repotting – Repot when plants become dormant. Begin repotting flowering and fruiting varieties of prunus.
- Styling/Pruning – Shape both evergreens and deciduous trees.
- Insect and disease control –Remove dead plant material. Watch for and treat insect infestations.
- Propagating/Collecting – Begin root cuttings.

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

Events

October 1, 2022 Cupertino, California

Midori Bonsai Club: Come celebrate Midori Bonsai Club's 58th Annual Bonsai Show, October 1st, 2022, from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., at the Quinlan Community Center, 10185 N. Stelling Road, Cupertino, Saturday's demonstration by John Thompson at 1:00 p.m. Bring your trees in for Doctor Bonsai, plus beginner's bonsai school by purchasing a bonsai starter tree, vendors sales and door prizes. Free admission, with plenty of local parking. For more details contact POC Jack Christiansen, at Jackchristiansen@sbcglobal.net.

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 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. and Sunday 11:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. 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, Oregon, 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 <https://www.eastbaybonsai.org/>.

October 1 & 2, 2022 San Gabriel, California

Chino Bonsai Club 2nd Annual Bonsai Exhibit: This exhibit will be held on Saturday, October 1st and Sunday, October 2nd at 261 S. Junipero Serra Drive, San Gabriel, California. The exhibit will include bonsai styling demos, auctions, raffles, reception, and vendor and club sales. Admission is free. For any additional information contact David Nguy at (323) 842-6188 or Jerry Garcia at (909) 270-7776.

October 8 and 9, 2022 Santa Nella, CA

Golden State Bonsai Federation (GSBF):

GSBF Bonsai Rendezvous 2022, on Saturday and Sunday, October 8 and 9, at the Hotel Mission De Oro, Santa Nella, CA. Free and open to the public. Point of Contact Rich Guillen, richguillen@att.net or 831-348-5015.

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1z-hZ5bHpENBZYHS315TZ6YudprUZZy-Q/view?usp=sharing>

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 a.m. - 4 p.m., 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.

October 22 & 23, 2022 Union City, California

YAMATO BONSAI KAI 51st Annual Bonsai Exhibition: Saturday from 11:00 am until 5:00 pm. and Sunday from 10:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. at the Southern Alameda County Buddhist Church.

Location: 32975 Alvarado-Niles Rd., Union City, CA 94587

Exhibition of Bonsai trees, plant sales, and vendors. Free admission and free parking. Demonstrations on both days at 1:30 p.m., featuring David Nguy on Saturday and Yamato Bonsai Kai Club demonstrator Howard Correa on Sunday. Demonstration trees will be raffled off as grand prize each day. For more info and updates find us on Facebook by searching "Yamato Bonsai Kai".

Nov 05, 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM Clovis, California

14th Annual Fresno Yard Sale,

945 Clovis Ave, Clovis, CA 93611, USA

Bonsai, Pre-Bonsai, Pots, Books, Bonsai Supplies all at Central Valley prices. Vendors are welcome...Contact Fresnobonsaisociety.com to get a table

November 12 and 13, 2022 Oakland, CA

Pacific Bonsai Expo:

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 75 outstanding bonsai displays and a selection of the community's top vendors.

Jan 21, 2023, 10:00 AM – Jan 22, 2023, 4:30 PM Temple City Live Oak Park Community,

10144 Bogue St, Temple City, CA 91780, USA

59th Baikoen Bonsai Kenkyukai 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 or email Joe Galgoul, joegalgoul@yahoo.com.

Newsletter Editor: Beverly Martinez

Contributors: Tom Fedor

East Bay Bonsai Society—Schedule for 2022
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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.

<u>Meeting</u>	<u>Program</u>
Oct 1-2	Annual Show (Set up Sept 30)
Oct 12	No Meeting
Oct 23	Bonsai for Beginners – Michael Jensen-Akula
Nov 1	EBBS Board Meeting
Nov 2	Tree Shrinker delivered
Nov 9	Monthly Meeting– Addison Galambos – repotting workshop
Nov 27	Bonsai for Beginners – Addison Galambos
Dec 5	EBBS Board Meeting
Dec 7	Tree Shrinker delivered
Dec 14	Annual Holiday Dinner