



# The Tree Shrinker

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A MONTHLY BULLETIN

<http://www.eastbaybonsai.org>



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## East Bay Bonsai Society

**Next Meeting:** January 9, 2019 7:30 PM

### January Meeting

The January meeting will feature Sam Adina the sensei instructor of the Modesto Bonsai Club. Sam will be working on an olive, a tree we have not seen in the East Bay Bonsai Society programs for some time, so it should be a real treat and inspiring to those who have olives in their collections. Sam comes from a varied background. He was born in the Philippines and graduated from BSMT. After spending 5 years traveling by ship throughout the world, Sam settled in Newark, California. He was employed on grape farms in Delano California for 4 years, and spent 22 years working for the electronics company; Seagate Tech. Sam worked for several companies over the years until he finally decided to become a full time bonsai artist.

Sam started in bonsai in the year 2000 when he joined the Yamato Bonsai club in Hayward. Studying under Johnny Uchida and Boon Manikitinipart He eventually became more confident in bonsai and joined the Modesto Bonsai Club. He was mentored under George Fujita who passed his position of club instructor to Sam.

Sam has instructed various workshops and client collections. Some collections have even been displayed in the Golden Statements magazine. Sam continues to visit the Philippines where he teaches bonsai artistry twice a year. Although Sam has a wide range of tree knowledge including black pine, olives, California junipers to name a few, he will be speaking on olives for our January meeting.

Thanks in advance to Don Meeker, Tom



Colby and Tony Saraceno for offering to provide refreshments at the meeting.

### February meeting

David DeGroot will be coming down from Seattle to speak at our February meeting. He will be presenting a compare and contrast of Chinese and Japanese bonsai principles and standards highlighted using a PowerPoint presentation. Members are encouraged to bring in trees for critiquing. Earlier in the day David will hold a workshop in the garden center. It is a "Bring your own tree" workshop, cost \$50. Consideration will be given to EBBS members first, but offered to other club members if the workshop is not filled. There are only 8 slots, and Lisa Harper will have a sign-up sheet at the January meeting.

### Holiday Dinner

This year's pot luck dinner was by far one of the best we have ever enjoyed. The board decided that the chicken was so good last year; we opted to serve it again this year and we were not disappointed. The chicken and ham complimented the plethora of side dishes, salads, hors d'oeuvres and deserts brought by the attendees.

The high point of the event was a video program created by Michael Hylton. Beginning with excerpts of bonsai artistry and music from The Karate Kid, we walked through the big events of the year. Thanks to Michael for presenting entertaining memories.



Our new board for 2019 was also introduced including 3 new board members. The new board will consist of Lisa Harper (President), Pat Cahill (Treasurer),

and Steve Lysaght (new) (Secretary); with directors: Roger Brady (Past President), Michael Hylton, Suzanne Muller, Beverly Martinez, Tom Colby, Julie Holcomb, Michael Jensen-Akula, and new members; Tom Fedor and Brian Brandley. President Roger brady reminded us that our board meetings are open to members. If you would like to attend any of the meetings, just contact any board member for the location and time of the meeting.

The meeting schedule for 2019 is:

January 1/7	February 2/4	March 3/4
April 4/1	May 4/29	June 6/3
July 7/1	August 8/5	September 9/9
October 9/30	November 11/4	December 12/2



Several awards were also given out at the dinner: First of all, our now past President, Roger Brady was thanked for his hard work during his 2 years of service. Janice Dilbeck and Tom Colby are retiring from the Tree Shrinker Newsletter after 8 delightful years. We will certainly miss their dedication, professionalism and humor in producing an award winning newsletter all of these years. Finally, Rick and Janet Trumm were presented with an honorary lifetime reward for their many contributions over the years.



### Dues

If you weren't able to drop off your dues in the box at the Christmas dinner, you still have an opportunity to be a member in 2019. The yearly dues are \$30 for single memberships and \$40 for couples. Membership includes a subscription to our always entertaining and informative newsletter, **The Tree Shrinker**, by email. If you would like to have a hard copy sent to you by snail mail, there is an additional charge of \$5 to cover the cost of postage. The dues box will be available at the January meeting or our treasurer, Pat Cahill, will be delighted to receive your check by mail. Send to: EBBS Treasurer, 4933 Cochrane, Oakland, CA, 94618-2701. Checks should be "Paid To" EBBS.

### Collecting Bonsai Stock

By: Brian Brandley

Collecting bonsai stock can be a fun activity for those of you who like the outdoors. It's also a great way to obtain material that you might not be able to find, or afford to buy. One can often find trees with an aged appearance, weathered deadwood, or contorted by its difficult life. Sometimes you can find species that generally aren't available commercially. But just as bonsai is always an ongoing process, the most fun in collecting is the hunt. Collected trees are not "free". It takes an investment in time, gas, hotel rooms, tools and supplies. Sometimes you don't find any collectable trees. At worst these trips are a walk in the woods - perhaps slightly spoiled by hauling tools along. Most of my collecting experience is in the Rocky Mountains, but the terrain and many of the species are similar to that in the Sierras. Hopefully this article can provide you with some of the basics. Collecting season is right around the corner.

### When to Collect?

Prime collecting time is early spring, after soils have thawed and before buds start to move. In our region we are probably talking about February to April, depending on the altitude. Collecting can be done successfully in the fall as well, but survival rates might be lower. At times you must collect when you can. If a bulldozer is coming through an area, you don't get to choose the time. The rest of the year is devoted to scouting out your collecting opportunities, getting permission, and marking your trees. Deciduous trees are always easier for me to identify when they have leaves, so I mark these in the summer or fall.



### Where to Collect?

The first rule is only collect where you have permission. Yes, I'd wager that almost all of us who collect regularly have at least been tempted to violate this rule at one time or another, collecting a tree at the side of a lonely road or along a railroad track. But doing this risks fines or worse, and can give the bonsai community a bad reputation. Always obey "No



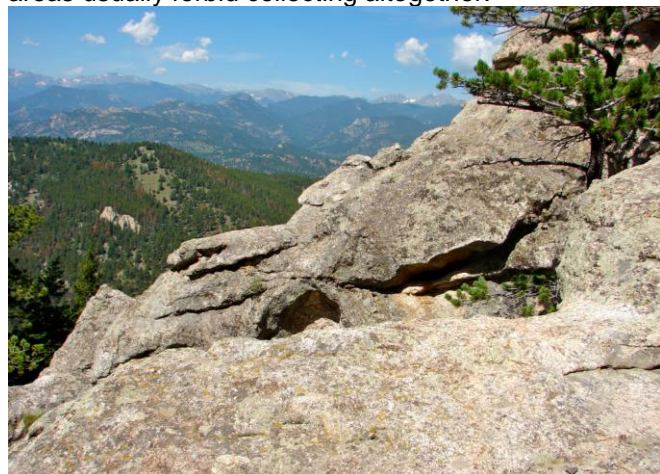
Trespassing” signs. In some parts of the country failing to do so can get you shot at.

### Private Land

If you know someone with suitable wooded land, they will often be willing to let you or the club collect if asked. If it's an income property they may want a small fee for the trees collected. Generally people don't understand what we're looking for and assume we want seedlings. They should be educated about what we're really after, but assured that most of the characteristics we look for are the antithesis of commercially desirable traits for landscaping or timber. Some people are happy to have us dig up invasive species from their fence lines or ditches. Others may be considering changes to their landscaping, buildings or driveways and would welcome removal of material. I'm often told “no”, but it never hurts to politely ask.

### Public Land

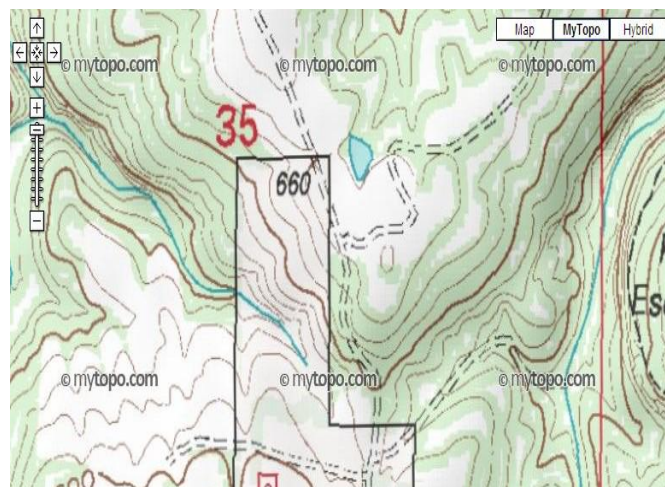
In many areas national forests allow collecting of live trees with permits (often called transplant permits). These are usually readily obtained from the local forest office for a small fee (\$10 - \$15 per tree). They will often dictate where and what you can collect, but the rules are usually pretty accommodating to our needs. I haven't tried getting permits in California national forests, but I'm told it can be more challenging than most. National parks, state parks and wilderness areas usually forbid collecting altogether.



It's a Big Forest. Where do I Go?

When I'm scouting for new collecting sites I start on line. These days it's easy to go on Google Maps and get satellite images of potential areas to collect. I look for specific characteristics to make my on-the-ground search and collect missions easier. Collecting from the middle of a forest is very hard. The trees are often tall and straight, and the root systems are intertwined and confused. Forest edges, however, have many advantages. There are often more species represented at the edges, they are more influenced by the environment (so may be more interesting), and they are often easier to get to on foot. I often start by looking for exposed rocky ridges, streams, or power line

easements. After finding appropriate looking areas on satellite images, I confirm with topographical maps. I'm getting old enough that I don't want to be surprised by a steep 300 foot climb, or a cliff face. Many websites offer cheap topographical maps that cover most areas. I particularly like Mytopo.com.



Once the sites are selected, the real hunt begins, and nothing can substitute for getting boots on the ground. Local knowledge helps in good site selection. I'm new to this area, so I expect some of my initial choices may not pan out – again, at least a nice walk in the woods. Always make sure you know your physical limits. No tree is worth risking your life. Decide how far away from your vehicle you can get and still carry a tree back. How steep can the terrain be for you to handle with tools and a tree? If you're not an experienced rock climber with proper safety gear, don't try to take trees from a cliff side. Take clothing for the worst possible conditions expected. Take these trips with one or more companions. It's more fun with company, and it's safer. Take water, maps and a compass if you're hiking out of view of your vehicle, and tell someone where you'll be and when to expect you back. And remember the usual woody companions – ticks, poison oak, snakes, etc. If you're not experienced with standard risks in the woods, go with someone who is.

(To Be Continued in the February issue of the Tree Shrinker)

### **HELP WANTED!**

The Tree Shrinker is in need of writers. Did you ever want to be published? We will give you a by-line in the Tree Shrinker. We are in need of writers to capture the essence of the monthly programs and announce upcoming events in the bonsai arena of the Bay Area.

Submit your article to [Martinez\\_Bev@yahoo.com](mailto:Martinez_Bev@yahoo.com) for inclusion in the Tree Shrinker.

*Disclaimer: no article guaranteed to be published. Publication is subject to approval of the EBBS Board.*

### **Bonsai Calendar**

- Sun – Move all trees into full sun.
- Watering – Adjust watering for winter.
- Fertilizing – Use low or zero nitrogen fertilizers.
- Repotting – Generally, not the time for repotting.
- Styling/Pruning – Trimming should be minimal. OK to wire, but be careful of brittle foliage.
- Insect and disease control – Remove dead plant material. Apply dormant spray. Watch for and treat insect infestations.

*Refer to the EBBS Bonsai Calendar for more details on seasonal care.*

### **Bonsai Instruction at Merritt College**

Instruction is in the form of workshops and presents a splendid opportunity to learn how to develop your trees into first class bonsai. You work on your own tree under the guidance of experienced bonsai artists. The workshops are open to all experience levels and are free. Workshops start at 7:00 pm on the fourth Monday of each month when the college is in session, and are held in the Landscape Horticulture Building at Merritt College which is located in the Oakland hills off Redwood Road. There is a gate across the road leading to the parking lot that will automatically open when you pull up close to it. Leading the workshops are two members of EBBS, Bill Castellon and Randall Lee. You can contact Bill at 510-569-8003 or Randall at 510-846-0841 for further information.

### **Events by Others**

GSBF's Bonsai and Suiseki Garden: open Tues. - Fri. 11:00 am – 3:00 pm, Sat. 10:00 am – 4:00 pm, Sun. 12:00 noon – 4:00 pm Enter at gate across from Boat House

January, 19 - 20, 2019 Arcadia, California

Baikoen Bonsai Kenkyukai: "Winter Silhouette" the 55th Annual Exhibition, founded by Frank Fusaji Nagata, at Ayres Hall of Environmental Education, Arboretum of Los Angeles County. 301 North Baldwin Avenue. Show hours are from 10 AM to 4:30 PM with a demonstration at 1 PM, both days. The reception is open to friends of Baikoen Bonsai Kenkyukai, Saturday night (6:30-9pm), when the Nagata-Komai Award will be presented to Ted Matson, followed by a giant raffle/auction. Sales area: club and vendor plants, pots, tools and more. For more information contact Lindsay Shiba: shibalindsay@gmail.com or Ken Teh: kenwteh6@gmail.com or visit our website: [www.baikoenbonsai.com](http://www.baikoenbonsai.com)

February 2 - 3 2019 Corona Del Mar, California Orange Empire Bonsai Society (OESB): First Annual Bonsai Exhibition at the Sherman Library & Gardens ([www.slgardens.org](http://www.slgardens.org)), 2647 Pacific Coast Highway. Show hours are 10:30 AM - 4 PM both days. Trees on display, bonsai trees and items for sale. Bonsai Master Jason Chan workshop on Saturday at 11 AM with Prostrata Junipers. Workshop participants will be able to take home a styled and potted tree. OESB member Debra Mauzy- Melitz will conduct a Saikei demonstration Sunday at 1 PM. Jason Chan will also be representing Eastern Leaf Bonsai at the exhibition. The workshop is limited to (10) people, no bonsai experience required. Tickets for workshop and fee paid to The Sherman Library & Gardens. Check their website for workshop availability, if interested. For more information visit [www.slgardens.org](http://www.slgardens.org) or contact David Nadzam at also, (714) 474-5712 or [tetsujinbb62@gmail.com](mailto:tetsujinbb62@gmail.com)

### **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.

## **East Bay Bonsai Society—Schedule for 2019**

**Regular Meetings:** Second Wednesday, every month (except August and October) @ 7:30 pm

Place: Lakeside Garden Center, 666 Bellevue Avenue, Oakland.

Visitors welcome.

Website for Bonsai Garden Lake Merritt: [www.gsbflakemerritt.org/](http://www.gsbflakemerritt.org/)

### **Meeting Program**

Jan	9	Olives – Sam Adina
Jan	27	Introduction to Bonsai at BGLM – Tom Colby
Feb	13	Daytime workshop/Evening program; China and Japan compare/contrast – David Degroot
Mar	13	TBD
Mar	24	Introduction to Bonsai at BGLM – Michael Jensen-Akula

### **Special Events**