Volume LXV, No 11 November, 2026

THE TREE SHRINKER

November 11th Club Meeting Cancelled due to The Veteran's holiday

The EBBS Annual Show is almost here! November 14-15th

There is still time to create your bonsai display for the show!
Our annual show is just 2 weeks away! Please review the list below to see how to prepare and where you can help out.

Prepare your Bonsai!
Stop by the Lake Merritt Bonsai Garden (not the Center) for a free club workshop to get your trees show-ready on Sunday the 8th from 1-3pm.

Bonsai Doctors needed!
The Bonsai Doc station is our way to show our guests the type of techniques that go into creating our beautiful trees. The table will be positioned near the show entrance so visitors can file by, stop and watch, maybe even ask some questions. Wiring, pruning, deadwood maintenance are all great activities to demonstrate. As a Bonsai Doc volunteer, you'll help educate the public and make some progress on your own trees instead of sitting around bored!

Use the Show Volunteers sign-up form to select your desired time slot.

General call for volunteers!
Volunteers are still needed for security, hospitality, and sales. Use the Show Volunteers sign-up form if you can help.

As a volunteer you will be able to purchase one item from the EBBS plant sale between 9:00 and 10:00 on Saturday before the doors open to the public.

Register your show tree!
Please let us know what trees you are bringing to the show so that we can prepare identification cards to go on the table in front of them.

Use this form to submit your trees.

2026 EBBS Schedule

Sun Nov 8 - 1-3pm: workshop to get trees ready for the show.

~~November 11th~~ (cancelled)

Nov 13: Annual Show Setup (5:30pm)

Nov 14-15: Annual Show

Dec 9: Annual Holiday Party (6pm), including the December meeting and the vote for the new board.

LAST CALL!
Register Mammoth Auction Items by Nov 6th!

The Mammoth Auction is accepting trees for the Auction only until Nov. 6

To coordinate, notify Suzanne:
cell: 925.787.1349
email: queueinteriors@comcast.net
A photo would be helpful but is not required.

Timeline below: More details at the Mammoth Auction website.

- Nov. 6: Last day to submit auction trees
- Sun, Nov. 7: prep day for auction trees
- Nov. 21: photo shoot day for the online catalog for all auction items
- Jan 23, 2027, 12am-4pm: Auction Day
- Jan 24, 2027, 9am-3pm Sale Day

Sale items can be brought to the Lakeside Garden Center on:
- Sat, Jan. 23, 9am-4pm (preferred)
- Sun, Jan. 24, 8am-9am

Reserve a tokonoma!
We still have unclaimed tokonoma spaces available. Tokonomas are the larger displays in the center of the show room. They take up a full 6' table and usually feature a main tree paired with an accent plant or stone and may feature a scroll. We will be using our brand-new charcoal backdrops with hooks to hang your scrolls We don't want these tables to go unused!

Email Janice Dilbeck (JaniceDilbeck@comcast.net) to reserve your spot!

Beginner workshops!
Addison will be leading two beginner workshops again this year. Tools, materials, and a small juniper starter plant will be provided. You'll learn what it takes to do an initial styling and get to go home with a new tree! Cost is $25, and includes your new tree!

Saturday 11:00 am – 1:00 pm
Sunday 12:00 pm – 2:00 pm

If interested, head to the sign-up form: Beginner's Workshop

Dave De Groot!
Our headliner workshops are full, but you can still join the free seminar of Sunday afternoon to learn from our featured teacher.

Bonsai Sale!!!
Bring in trees that are ready to find a new home! There is no limit on how many items a member may sell in the plant sale. As long as the item is bonsai related it can be sold. The club gets 20% of the sale amount and the member will receive 80% of the sale. The club will collect and pay all taxes. All items should belong to the member, no selling on behalf of non-members. Consignment sales sheet and tags required for the sales are in the EBBS email

---

Run of Show

Friday November 13th

- 5:30 pm Room set up begins
- 6:00 pm Members bring in trees
- 7:30 pm Pizza

Saturday November 14th

- 9:00 am – 10:00 pm – Volunteers may select and purchase a single item from the plant sales area
- 9:30 am – 12:30 pm Dave De Groot workshop (sold out!)
- 10:00 am – Show and sale opens to general public

Sign up to volunteer for the Mammoth Sale & get early access to sale items!

For all inquiries, contact Suzanne Muller, Mammoth at:

queueinteriors@comcast.net

Intro to Bonsai Schedule

November 22, 2026 - Addison Galambos
December 2026 - no class
January 2027- no class
February 28, 2027 - Michael Jensen-Akula
March 28, 2027 - Janet Nelson
April 25, 2027 - Nick Vila

Bonsai Calendar: November

General
Soak up the last of the sun in the growing season!

Watering
Adjust automatic watering systems as temperatures cool and the rains arrive, but don't neglect to water just because it's raining a little! Check under your pots to ensure they are still getting fully soaked.

Styling/Pruning
November is a great time for needle thinning & branch selection on pines. Wait for your leaves to start dropping on deciduous trees before doing any winter styling (and best to assist in the leaf drop before wiring rather than waiting until the last leaf has fallen on its own).

Fertilizing
Wrap up fall fertilization if you haven't already.

Repotting
Not recommended at this time.

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

- 11:00 am – 1:00 pm – Beginners workshop – Go home with a potted Juniper bonsai!
- 1:30 pm – 4:30 pm – **Dave De Groot seminar**
- 5:00 pm – Show closes for the day

Sunday November 15th

- 9:30 am – 11 am – Member-only show critique
- 11:00 am – Show and sale opens to the general public
- 12:00 pm – 2:00 pm – Beginners workshop: Go home with a potted Juniper bonsai!
- 12:00 pm – 3:30 pm – Dave De Groot workshop (sold out!)
- 4:00 pm – Show closes and tear-down begins

Show volunteers sign-up

Beginner's Workshop

Show Tree ID Card

From the Bonsai Garden

The garden is looking for volunteers to help in the daily tasks that keep the garden running smoothly. If you are interested in helping, volunteers can sign up on website at BonsaiLakeMerritt.com

For more information on the positions contact Suzanne Muller at queueinteriors@comcast.net

Positions available:

- Docent coordinator and scheduler
- Bookkeeper
- Docents
- Instagram Manager
- Director Assistant
- Writers for Articles & Publications

The EBBS Show's Featured Guest: Dave De Groot

We are honored to welcome David De Groot as the headliner for this year's EBBS Annual Show & Sale. Dave is one of the most respected figures in American bonsai, having served for nearly three decades as the curator of the Pacific Bonsai Museum (formerly the Pacific Rim Bonsai Collection) in Federal Way, Washington. Over that long tenure he cared for one of the finest public bonsai collections in the country and helped introduce countless visitors to the art.





Dave is also the author of Principles of Bonsai Design, a thoughtful and widely referenced guide that breaks down the aesthetics of bonsai into clear, teachable concepts, from movement and proportion to the art of display. His writing reflects decades of hands-on experience and a gift for making complex ideas approachable.

Don't miss his events on Saturday (1:30 pm – 4:30 pm & Sunday (9:30 am – 11am)

October Club Event: Accents for All

It was an evening of deep concentration when more than 47 members gathered to make accent plants for the Fall Show at our last meeting in October. There were grasses, ferns, Dianthus, ivy, geraniums, moss, Bellium, Isotoma and several succulents to choose from. By the end of the evening everyone had several accents to choose from for their displays.















Looking for something meaningful and fun to do? Look no further than your own club!

EBBS needs members that can apply their talents to many different tasks. From newsletter editor to monthly photographer to camera man at meetings. If interested in supporting your club and volunteering for these positions, send an email to Addison Galambos (barcalod@gmail.com or EBBS_Distribution@yahoo.com)

Open positions include:

- **Newsletter editor** – Publishes monthly Tree Shrinker; edits, adds articles and schedules in newsletter.
- **Cameraperson** – Manages the camera at meetings to ensure it is positioned correctly.
- **Raffle coordinator/caller** – Sells raffle tickets and calls out winning numbers
- **Boom operators** – Holds microphone for members to speak into so folks at home can hear questions from the audience. (need 2)

Upcoming Bonsai Events

EBBS Annual Show

If somehow you got all the way down here and missed the entire theme of this newsletter, then here's one final reminder: November 14-15th 😉

Pacific Bonsai Expo

Our region's showcase event (and one of the top Bonsai events in America) is back for its biennial: February 6th-7th 2027. Tickets are on sale now, and the call for entries is on! Don't be shy!

Call for Competitors - The Pruning Grounds

The next Pacific Bonsai Expo is being held February 6th-7th 2027 and will feature a special first of its kind bonsai competition.

One of our board members (Nick Vila) is organizing the competition. **All serious bonsai hobbyists are invited to apply.** Details about the competition and application process can be found here: The Pruning Grounds – Pacific Bonsai Expo.

Bay Area Bonsai Associates 43rd Annual Show

Sat, Jan 16 | Lakeside Garden Center

BGLM Mammoth Auction & Sale Fundraiser

Sat, Jan 23 | Lakeside Garden Center

Member Ads

Each member can run two free ads in the newsletter yearly. Email us to submit your ad: EBBS_Distribution@yahoo.com

---

Contributors

November Editor: Jesse Nichols

Contributors:

- Bev Martinez
- Addison Gambos
- Michael Szabo
- Michael Hylton

Join the conversation!

facebook.com/groups/ebbs

facebook.com/groups/ebbsmembers

instagram.com/eastbaybonsai

twitter.com/EastBayBonsai

www.eastbaybonsai.org