



THE TREE SHRINKER

East Bay Bonsai Society

Next meeting (in-person and online): **January 11, 2023 at 7:30pm**

Dues are Due!

With every new year comes our campaign to collect dues for the next year. If you became a member after October 1, 2022, then you are paid up for 2023. If not, you can pay your dues in a variety of ways. We will have a box at the next meeting where you can drop off either cash or check in a provided envelope. Please indicate your name and whether the dues are for single membership or family.

Please make checks out to EBBS.

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% or 4% processing fee will be added to the cost to offset the charge from Square.

You can also mail your dues 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
 Single/newsletter via USPS - \$40
 Family/newsletter via USPS - \$50

President's Message



Happy New Year everyone!

First of all, let me say Thank You to Lisa Harper for her leadership and dedication as president, and to Stephen Lysaght as secretary during the last four years. To highlight just a few of the achievements during this time; our membership has grown to 122 members, we weathered the

pandemic and established online programs and board meetings to keep our club alive, reinstated our non-profit standing with the Federal and State governments and updated and reissued the EBBS calendar as a Seasonal Care Guide for the SF Bay Area. Both Lisa and Stephen will become directors going forward with myself replacing Lisa as president and Alise Offeman becoming secretary. All other board members will retain their positions.

Going forward, the board is already planning workshops for beginners and more experienced artists as well as monthly programs on interesting subjects with some of the best bonsai artists around. Visits to EBBS members gardens and bonsai gardens for purchasing in 2023 are on the list as well. With 100+ members we will be very busy keeping everyone up to speed and on top of their bonsai. With a little luck, this year should play out to be one of the best ever. So, Happy New Year to the East Bay Bonsai Society!

I look forward to seeing everyone (and your trees) in the new year!

Sincerely,

Bev Martinez

2023 EBBS Schedule

Regular Meetings:

2nd Wednesday, every month
(except July, Aug & Oct) @ 7:30pm.

Lakeside Garden Center
666 Bellevue Avenue, Oakland

Visitors Welcome!

Jan 11 - Jonas Dupuich - Exposed Root presentation (In Person & Online)

Jan 22 - Bonsai for Beginners - Tom Colby

Feb 8 - Eric Schrader - Mame preso & sale (In Person & Online)

Feb 25 - Lone Pine Field Trip

Mar 8 - Addison Galambos/Alise Offeman - Kokofu Trip Presentation (In Person & Online)

Mar 26 - Bonsai for Beginners - Addison Galambos (In Person)

Apr 12 - Monthly program (TBD)

Apr 23 - Bonsai for Beginners - Michael Jensen-Akula (In Person)

May 10 - Monthly program (TBD)

May 28 - Bonsai for Beginners - Janet Nelson (In Person)

Jun 14 - EBBS Annual Auction

Jun 25 - Bonsai for Beginners - Tom Colby (In Person)

January meeting

Our next meeting will take place on January 11, 2023. Once again, we're fortunate to have local bonsai superstar, Jonas Dupuich, present for us on how to create exposed root plantings. We will be raffling off the demo tree!



Here's Jonas' bio from [Bonsai Tonight](#):

I got my start in bonsai over twenty years ago when I met Boon Manakitivipart while working at my family's nursery. After seeing a tree he had styled - a neglected black pine - I was hooked.

That experience kicked off more than two decades of study with Boon. During that time, I became a founding member of his club, Bay Island Bonsai, and I started this website - the Bonsai Tonight Blog.

In 2015, my hobby became my profession. I now teach classes, work on trees, and run a small bonsai business full-time.

My primary aim in bonsai is the same now as it was more than twenty years ago: to help as many people as possible appreciate beautiful bonsai.



As many of you know, Jonas was also one of the organizers of the incredible Pacific Bonsai Expo we were privileged to have here in the Bay Area in November. Here's a photo he recently shared on Instagram of a blue atlas cedar by Konnor Jensen that was displayed at the show. It is magnificent.

Annual Dinner

We were so happy this year to have a real Holiday Potluck Dinner Party, like we had every year before the pandemic! Although there were less attendees than in past years, it was a great success enjoyed by all who attended. The club provided ham, chicken and wine, and the food brought by the attendees was delicious. EBBS is fortunate to have many great cooks and we owe many thanks to all who brought goodies for the potluck and made the evening a special treat!

The high point of the evening was the presentation of the "EBBS Year in Review" show created and presented, as usual, by our own Michael Hylton. The presentation reminded us how much FUN we had this year because we got to be together in person for our monthly meetings! There was also a review of the results of the recent club survey and the Boards response—which are also presented in this newsletter.



More pics from our Annual Dinner!





Bonsai Calendar

- January is the ideal time for repotting as most trees are dormant or semi-dormant.
- Take advantage of dormancy to photograph deciduous trees without leaves.
- Rotate trees at least once a month to promote balanced growth.
- Improve overall design of trees: reduce or eliminate crisscross, inward branches, excessively heavy top branches, vertical twigs, unnecessary crotch branches, and long internodes.
- Many suggest a zero level of nitrogen during winter, especially for hard pines.
- Reduce watering because the sun is low, but do not water too little.
- Watch for insects and fungus—immediately treat any problems.
- Check old wiring for biting.

Refer to the EBBS Bonsai Seasonal Guide for more information on care! You can purchase one from Bev Martinez at in-person club meetings.

Mammoth Clean-up

Dozens of members of EBBS showed up at the GSBF Bonsai Garden at Lake Merritt one beautiful Saturday morning in December to help clean-up trees in advance of this year's Annual Mammoth Auction & Sale! It was a great chance to get an early look



at the trees, have an opportunity to help the garden, and spend time with our bonsai friends. We picked one heckuva lot of weeds! Next year, we're going to need to put in an order for more tweezers because we had so many weed pickers, we ran out. The trees are looking quite spiffy and are ready for auction brochure! And let's not forget the efforts of our pot stacker volunteers who stacked pots into lovely stacks. Go us!

The Mammoth Auction will be held on February 18 and 19 Saturday 12pm - 4pm, Sunday 9am - 3pm at the Lakeside Park Garden Center. Saturday will be the live auction and Sunday there will be a large vendor sale and bargain sale of bonsai, pots and related items. If you'd like to volunteer at the show, you can visit

<https://bonsailakemerritt.com/> to sign up! All proceeds from the auction will go to the Bonsai Garden.



Help Wanted!

Many of you told us that you'd like to find ways to be more involved in the club. We're going to start a help wanted section as opportunities arise to pitch in!

Web Programmer - In 2023, we are considering a redesign of our website. If you have Wordpress development experience and would like to help, please contact Adam Kleinberg at adam@tractionco.com.

Mammoth Auction Volunteers - Visit bonsailakemerritt.com to sign up. More details above!

Member Ads

WINTER CLEANOUT!!!

BONSAI POT-STARTER PLANTS- VARIOUS PLANT MATERIAL

Very flexible all reasonable offers considered.

**Pls contact Tony Saraceno -
asaraceno2011@gmail.com for
appointment.**

Each membership household, may place a free five-line ad related to bonsai in two newsletters each year. Please submit your ad by the preceding Monday of the month to appear in the next publication. Send to EBBS_Distribution@yahoo.com.

Survey Results

This summer, the EBBS board distributed a survey to our members to get your feedback on what you value most about the club, what you want to see more of, and what could be improved. Thank you to everyone who took a few minutes to fill out this survey! Your answers spurred some great ideas!

In reviewing responses, we immediately started to see some very clear patterns.

- 50% said they value learning, knowledge-sharing & mentorship
- 40% value friendships, support and community
- 30% value events and opportunities to purchase material

These questions were "fill in the blank," not multiple choice, so it is meaningful that people came up with consistent answers!

What should we do more of?

Over and over, we heard that you want more hands-on workshops and field trips. One member even suggested that we have "field trips such as caravans to nurseries or homes with valuable collections or to surrounding clubs' exhibitions." We are a group of gardeners after all, so it makes good sense that we're eager to get our hands dirty! We'll definitely be adding more of these kinds of opportunities to the 2023 calendar!

Several asked for mentoring and community support resources in between meetings. How can we leverage our collective knowledge to help one another between meetings? One great suggestion was that we could provide help "Managing trees when on vacation. Can we network?"

A few people mentioned that they liked having the opportunity to continue to supplement in-person meetings with remote options. A few people said they wanted to continue to have the choice to view our live demos online or even recorded at a later time. Another asked that we "Bring overseas experts via video for monthly meetings to broaden our education."

What should we do less of?

Overall, 80+% of you told us you like the things we do as a club and that the board was doing a great job. It's true, we do rock. But it's nice to feel the love.

Something new!

Our current Facebook group at www.facebook.com/EastBayBonsaiSociety has been a great resource for us to share photos and news about our events and has amassed over 3,400 followers! Not bad for a club with 125 members, but because it's a public group, we haven't used it as much for networking amongst ourselves.

With that in mind, we've created a second Facebook group just for active members at www.facebook.com/groups/ebbsmembers.



The goal of this group is to create a place for members to discuss their trees, ask for support and questions, find tree-sitters when traveling, and organize group activities and get together. We invite you to join!

Follow us!

facebook.com/groups/ebbs

facebook.com/groups/ebbsmembers

twitter.com/EastBayBonsai

www.eastbaybonsai.org

Bonsai Soil

The author of this fascinating post is unknown. Shared with minor edits.



As the repotting season is upon us, it's a good time to think about the soil we use for our bonsai. A popular soil for conifer bonsai is an equal mixture of akadama, pumice and lava. The amount of akadama is increased to as much as 50% for deciduous trees. According to Jonas Dupuich on his blog, [Bonsai Tonight](#), "akadama is effective as a potting medium for bonsai because it has good water retention properties and it drains well. Even better, akadama particles slowly break down over time. When bonsai are transplanted, cut roots need soil that drains well to stimulate the production of new roots."

But what about the pumice and the lava?

First of all, just what are lava and pumice? Both are formed in nature's most spectacular event, a volcano. Beneath the earth's crust is a sea of molten rock which contains dissolved gas under high pressure. The molten rock breaks through in a violent and spectacular way in the form of a volcano wherever there is a weak spot in the earth's crust.

In most cases, the dissolved gas bubbles out of the erupting goo leaving a spongy mass. This process is sort of like what happens when you suddenly open a freshly shaken can of soda on a hot day. The spongy mass is of course, lava.

Pumice is formed somewhat differently. The composition of the molten rock differs a bit from place to place and in some cases is less gooey and more solid. Here, the ejected material partially solidifies before the dissolved gas can bubble out. The trapped gas then blows up the ejected material much like popping popcorn. The net result of these two processes is that lava is

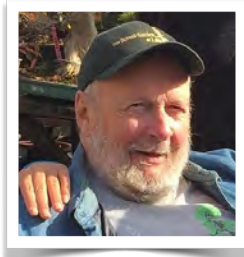
In Memoriam

Last month saw the EBBS community lose several friends and former members, including the passing of Seiji Shiba, along with David Martin and John Boyce, two familiar faces from the Bonsai Garden.

John Boyce was a long time volunteer at the bonsai garden and once presented at our club show on defoliation. John passed on November 28th.



David Martin, a long-time docent at the garden, can be remembered moving around in his electric wheelchair (he had Parkinson's). In 2016, David was an honorary member of EBBS.



Seiji Shiba, a longtime member of the San Jose Betsuin Bonsai Club passed away in December. He was an avid collector of bonsai in the Sierra Nevada Mountains and a generous host for numerous international visitors. Seiji and his wife Della raised their family in the South Bay where he was an oral surgeon before his retirement. Seiji and Carl Morimoto founded the Shibui Bonsai business, importing and selling a wide range of Japanese pots, tools etc. Seiji served as the first Chairman of the Bonsai Garden at Lake Merritt.



relatively hard and looks a lot like a sponge with relatively large pores. Pumice is somewhat softer and when looked at with a hand lens has relatively small pores.

All this is great but what does it have to do with bonsai soil? Adding these two materials to our bonsai soil mix has two obvious advantages. First is cost. Both of these products are about one-fifth the cost of akadama and their use significantly reduces the overall cost of the soil. Secondly both of these products are relatively light in weight. Older formulations of bonsai soil called for gravel or decomposed granite as a significant part of the formulation. This meant that large bonsai trees were so heavy due to the weight of the soil that moving them became a major event.

The horticultural advantages of lava and pumice are far less obvious due to lack of valid test results. It is possible to speculate that the relatively hard and rough surface of the lava helps prevent the soil from becoming compacted due to erosion of the akadama and, to a lesser extent, the pumice. The pumice should absorb a little water which should help to keep the soil moist. Sadly, there is no data to support either speculation.

One of the attributes of a good bonsai soil is that it remains moist but does not become waterlogged. Pure akadama retains more water than many bonsai would prefer. Neither pumice nor lava retains much water, so mixing akadama with pumice and lava gives a soil that retains a reasonable amount of water, but does not become waterlogged. Again, sadly, there is no firm data to support this speculation.

Water retention is only a part of the story. The other huge side of the equation is how frequently the tree is watered. Collected junipers can be not only established, but grow well in pure pumice, which dries out relatively quickly. They just get watered a bit more. So what is the bottom line?

The popular soil mix of equal parts lava, akadama and pumice works well. The use of lava and pumice reduces both the cost and weight of the mix. The most important criteria for success with your bonsai is to adjust the frequency of watering of whatever mix you use to your particular conditions so the soil is moist but not waterlogged.

Lone Pines Field Trip

One survey respondent suggested we periodically have field trips for members. That spurred a great idea by Addison Galambos to plan a meetup at Lone Pine Gardens in Sebastopol, an excellent place to buy bonsai and bonsai starters.

Anyone who is interested can meet at **Lone Pine Gardens** at 11:00am on February 25th. The address is 6450 Lone Pine Rd, Sebastopol, CA 95472.

You'll be able to browse a variety of bonsai and pre-bonsai stock and also bounce ideas for material off other members. You can also bring a bag lunch and we can have a picnic at the nursery.

Show your Shohin!

Do you want to SHOW your shohin and mame trees at the Shohin Seminar Show this year? John Doig is the Northern California coordinator of the actual show. Please let him know how many individual trees and/or box displays ASAP if you would like space! (415) 407-7984, [Lone Pines Field Trip](#).

Editor: Adam Kleinberg

Contributors: Adam Kleinberg, Lisa Harper, Beverly Martinez, unknown

Photos: Stephen Lysaght, Adam Kleinberg

Events by Others

Bay Area Bonsai Associates Show Jan 14, 4pm - 9pm & Jan 15, 11am - 4pm; Saturday, January 14th (open); 666 Bellevue, Lake Merritt, Oakland, CA, 94610; Special Presentation Saturday at 6:30pm with: Daisaku Nomoto (Japan) and Jonas Dupuich (USA); Sunday, January 15th 11am - 4pm, Free admission to 40+ high quality Bonsai

59th Baikoen Bonsai Kenkyukai Winter Silhouette Show & Sale Jan 21 - Jan 22, 10am - 4:30pm; Temple City Live Oak Park Community, 10144 Bogue St, Temple City, CA 91780, USA

Sergio Cuan - GSBF Golden Zoom Series January 23, 6:30pm
GSBF Clubs will get the Zoom link to share with their membership for an evening with Sergio Cuan

18th Biennial Shohin Seminar Feb 3 - Feb 5, 2023
Santa Nella, 13070 CA-33, Santa Nella, CA 95322, USA
The Shohin Seminar is a popular event! Register and submit workshop requests now—getting in relies on a lottery system. For times and to pre-register visit <https://www.calshohin.org/>

Kokufu-ten Japanese National Bonsai Exhibition Feb 9 - Feb 12
Taito City, 8-36 Uenokōen, Taito City, Tokyo 110-0007, Japan
Kokufu-ten is the largest and most prestigious bonsai event held in Japan

Annual Mammoth Auction & Sale Feb 18, 12pm - 4pm & Feb 19, 9am - 3pm; Oakland, Lakeside Park Garden Center, 666 Bellevue Ave, Oakland, CA 94610. All proceeds support the GSBF Garden at Lake Merritt

Bonsai-a-Thon 2023, Feb 25 - Feb 26, 11am - 4pm
The Huntington, San Marino, 1151 Oxford Rd, San Marino, CA 91108, USA

American Bonsai Association, Sacramento Apr 8 - Apr 9, 10am - 4pm
Sacramento, 3330 McKinley Blvd, Sacramento, CA 95816, USA
The American Bonsai Association, Sacramento's (ABAS) 63rd Annual Spring Bonsai & Suiseki Show and Sale will feature headliner Todd Schlafer of First Branch Bonsai. Demonstrations will take place both Saturday and Sunday at 1:30 PM.

REBS 37th Annual Bonsai Show Aug 26 - Aug 27, 2023, 10am - 4pm
Rohnert Park, 5401 Snyder Ln, Rohnert Park, CA 94928, USA
The return of the Redwood Empire Bonsai Society hosting its 37th Annual Bonsai Show. Featuring the international renowned bonsai artist Ryan Neil as guest demonstrator.

GSBF Rendezvous Oct 20 - Oct 22, 2023, 10am - 4pm
Santa Nella, 13070 CA-33, Santa Nella, CA 95322, USA
Bonsai Sales • Auction • Workshops • Lectures • Community

Capital City Bonsai Show Oct 21 - Oct 22, 10am - 3pm
Sacramento, 3330 McKinley Blvd, Sacramento, CA 95816, USA
This group show features tree and suiseki displays from participating area clubs

Get events invitations and updates at <https://www.gsbfbonsai.org/events>.