



THE TREE SHRINKER

East Bay Bonsai Society Next Meeting: **Feb. 14, 2024 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, 2023, then you are paid up for 2024. 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/membership website to pay, or you can pay at any meeting via Square (ask any board member who to contact). 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



February Meeting: Peter Tea

This month's speaker is one of the top bonsai artists in the United States, Peter Tea. I've taken a dozen workshops with Peter, both here in Oakland, and up in his garden in Auburn, so I can attest that Peter is an incredible teacher! He'll be doing a presentation on **design principles and branch development**, Alise Offeman will also set up a tokonoma this month for Peter to critique!

Peter started learning about Bonsai in 2001. He was an Automotive Technician at a Ford dealership for almost 10 years and Bonsai was his hobby on the side. He joined the Midori Bonsai Club in 2002 and became the president in 2007 and 2008. Most of Peter's Bonsai training came in 2003 when he met Boon Manakitvitart. Peter signed up for his Bonsai Intensive program after seeing him do a

2023/2024 EBBS Schedule

Regular Meetings

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

Feb 14 - Peter Tea, 7:30pm

Mar 13 - Eric Shrader, 7:30pm

Mar 24 - *Intro to Bonsai at the Garden* with Janet Nelson*

Apr 10 - Andrew Robson, 7:30pm

Apr 28 - *Intro to Bonsai at the Garden* with Tom Colby*

May 8 - Jonas Dupuich, 7:30pm

May 26 - *Intro to Bonsai at the Garden* with Addison Galambos*

Jun 12 - 2024 EBBS Annual Auction, 7pm

Jun 23 - *Intro to Bonsai at the Garden* with Michael Jensen-Akula*

Jul 10 - TBD, 7:30pm

Jul 28 - *Intro to Bonsai at the Garden* with Janet Nelson*

Aug 13 - Online only with Tony Tickle - time TBD

Aug 25 - *Intro to Bonsai at the Garden* with Tom Colby*

Sep 10 - Val Munroe, 7:30pm

Sep 22 - *Intro to Bonsai at the Garden* with Addison Galambos*

Oct 4/5/6 - 2024 EBBS Annual Show

Oct 27 - *Intro to Bonsai at the Garden* with Michael Jensen-Akula*

Nov 13 - TBD, 7:30pm

Nov 24 - *Intro to Bonsai at the Garden* with Janet Nelson*

Dec 11 - Annual Holiday Party, 7:30pm

*at the Bonsai Garden workshop

demonstration at the Sei Boku Kai Bonsai club meeting in San Mateo, California. After finishing his three year intensive program, he graduated and in 2008, started his own Bonsai business called [Peter Tea Bonsai](#) to help educate the bonsai community, hone his teaching skills, and make some extra money to fund his Bonsai hobby.



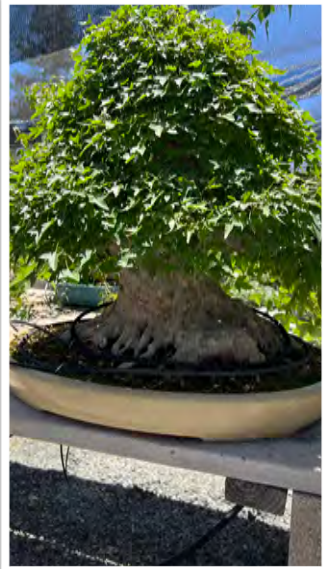
A California Juniper under Peter's care

In 2011, he decided to change career paths and traveled to Japan to study Bonsai full-time under Mr. Junichiro Tanaka at Aichien Bonsai Garden. He was an apprentice for over 2 years and was released in 2013 having completed a 5-year apprenticeship early—in only two years! With Mr. Tanaka's blessing, he returned to the United States in 2013 ready to continue his business and work.

[Peter's website](#) has some great information on bonsai care (I often cite his advice in this newsletter) and he also sells trees and wire by mail order, so be sure to check that out. You can also check out his [Instagram at @peterteabonsai](#). I've included a bunch of photos on the next page that I took the last time I did a workshop at his garden. You'll see why I'm so excited about this presentation and why you should be too!

- Adam

**Thanks to our February meeting refreshment volunteers:
Bev, Janet & Rick!**



Peter Tea's Garden



Bonsai Calendar

- Many trees are dormant or semi-dormant, so there's still time for re-potting.
- 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 not too much!
- Watch for insects and fungus—immediately treat any problems.
- Check old wiring for biting.

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

Join the EBBS Annual Survey 🌱 Shape the Future of Our Bonsai Club!

It's that exciting time of the year again - our Annual EBBS Member Survey is here, and your voice is crucial! 📢 Your feedback is the cornerstone of our club's growth and evolution. By participating in this survey, you're not just sharing your thoughts; you're actively shaping the future of EBBS.

What's In It For You?

- **Have Your Say:** This is your opportunity to voice what matters most to you as a member of EBBS.
- **Better Club Experiences:** Your feedback directly influences our events, workshops, and community activities.
- **A Chance to Win:** As a thank you, participants will be entered into a draw for a \$100 gift certificate at [BonsaiTonight.com](https://www.bonsaitonight.com)!

Just click on the link below and take a few minutes to complete the survey. Your responses are anonymous and will only be used to improve your club experience.

👉 [Take the Survey Now!](#) 👈

Survey Deadline: February 21, 2024

Bonsai Buddy Sign-Up!

East Bay Bonsai Society is testing out an informal program which connects new and learning club members with more experienced mentors to help improve their success and accelerate their growth. Buddies are encouraged to connect at least a couple times a month to share knowledge or do bonsai activities together. To sign-up, just fill out one of the forms linked below.

If you're relatively new to bonsai and interested in learning from a mentor, go here:

[I Want to Get a Mentor](#)

If you're somewhat experienced with bonsai and interested in being a mentor, go here:

[I Want to Be a Mentor](#)

We'll do our best to match a mentor with a mentee and check in over time to see how things are going. Join in!

MEMBER ADVERTISEMENT

VACATION
WATERING HELP
NEEDED!

April 10 through April 26, a half mile north of Hwy 13 and Moraga Ave in Oakland. Thirty steps from the curb to the front garden hose and a few more to get round the back, so you've been warned. Email thomas.fedor@att.net or phone Tom Fedor at 510 541-7683.

Meet the Member will be back next month! If there's someone you think our members should meet, email me at adam@tractionco.com.

Mammoth Auction & Sale

Check your calendar to be sure that you have circled February 17 and February 18! Those are the dates of the *Mammoth Auction & Sale* fundraiser which benefits the bonsai garden. You will have the opportunity to acquire some fine trees as well as bonsai accessories such as pots, stands and tools, and usually at very attractive prices. As usual there will be something for everybody.

The auction usually features a few superb bonsai at very high prices, but also features many affordable trees a little further away from being finished bonsai. There will be a sale which will feature a wide variety of trees, pots and stands, and usually at very favorable prices. There will also be a number of vendors selling a wide variety of merchandise.

With so much to see over the weekend and with so much to buy, you absolutely must put this event on your calendar. The auction starts on 1:00 Saturday, February 17 with a preview beginning at 12:00. The sales area opens at 10:00 Sunday, February 18, and the vender area begins sales on Sunday at 9:00. Further information can be found on the bonsai garden web site, bonsailakemerritt.com.



Adam Toth workshop

A few of our members also got to experience a workshop with Adam Toth. Adam recently returned from an apprentice with Taiga Urushibata at the Taisho-en bonsai garden in Shizuoka in Japan. It was another great opportunity for our club members to roll up our sleeves and get work done together!

Repotting Party!

January's chill was no match for the warmth and enthusiasm at the East Bay Bonsai Society's (EBBS) monthly meeting, where members gathered for a much-anticipated repotting party. This hands-on event was a lively and productive session, embodying the spirit and camaraderie of our bonsai community.



As members arrived, the room quickly filled with an array of bonsai trees, each awaiting its turn for a winter refresh. From seasoned practitioners to enthusiastic beginners, everyone rolled up their sleeves, ready to dive into the essential task of repotting.



The air buzzed with conversations and laughter as members shared tips and techniques, helping one another with their trees.

This event exemplified the essence of EBBS—a group of bonsai enthusiasts dedicated to not just nurturing their trees but also fostering a



sense of belonging and mutual support. As we packed up our tools and admired the day's work, there was a collective sense of accomplishment and anticipation for the growth and transformations the new year would bring to our bonsai.



Stay tuned for more exciting events at EBBS, where we continue to cultivate both bonsai and friendships!



Members should be excited to learn that the Pacific Bonsai Expo will be back this year!

The event will take place on Oct. 26-27 at a new venue– the [Henry J. Kaiser Center for the Arts](#) in Oakland. The venue is located next door to the Oakland Museum on the shores of Lake Merritt, across the lake from the Bonsai Garden at Lake Merritt.

Learn more at:
pacificbonsaiexpo.org

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Member Ads

Each member can run a free ad in the newsletter once a year. Email Adam at adam@tractionco.com to submit yours.

Newsletter Contributors

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Upcoming Bonsai Events

The Mammoth Auction & Sale -

Feb 17-18, 9am - 3pm, Lakeside Park Garden Center , 666 Bellevue Ave, Oakland, All proceeds support the GSBF Bonsai Garden at Lake Merritt. Live auction on Saturday with preview at 12pm and auction at 1pm Vendors on Sunday, February 9am - 3pm. Bargain sales 10am - 3pm.



San Marino Bonsai-A-Thon 2024 - Feb 24-25, 10am - 5pm, 1151 Oxford Rd, San Marino, CA 91108 – This is a fundraiser for the Golden State Bonsai Federation Collection at The Huntington Library, Art Collections and Botanical Gardens, Brody Botanical Center.

San Jose Betsuin Bonsai Club 49th Bonsai Exhibit

Mar 16-17, 11am - 4pm. 640 N 5th St, San Jose, CA, Demonstrations at 1:00 pm by David Nguy on Saturday and SJBBC member on Sunday.

American Bonsai Association, Sacramento's Annual Show

Apr 13-14, 10am - 4pm, Sacramento, 3330 McKinley Blvd, Sacramento, CA 95816 – Headliner, TYLER SHERROD, Professional Bonsai Artist/Teacher from Georgia, will conduct a live demonstration each day at 1:30PM.

Bay Area Satsuki Aikokai (BASA) and Yamato Bonsai Kai joint Bonsai Show

May 18-10, 10am - 3:45pm, Lakeside Park Garden Center, 666 Bellevue Ave, Oakland, CA, Featuring Azalea bonsai in full color and fine bonsai in formal display. Demonstrations at 1:00 on Saturday (BASA) and Sunday (Yamato). Member and outside vendor sales. Free admission and parking.

Sierra Bonsai Club, Sept. 28, 11am - 4pm, 3192 Boyington Rd, Penryn, CA

The Sierra Bonsai Club will display bonsai and suiseki in conjunction with the Placer Buddhist Church Food & Cultural Festival Bazaar all weekend. A bonsai demonstration will be in the program inside the temple. The bonsai will be auctioned at the completion of the demonstration. Enjoy Japanese foods, beverages, treats, cultural crafts, taiko drums performance and bingo. For more information call 916-300-8103.