



THE TREE SHRINKER

East Bay Bonsai Society Next Meeting: Apr. 10, 2024 at 7:30pm

The EBBS annual auction is just TEN WEEKS AWAY!

The auction is a wonderful opportunity to acquire new trees to develop, and trees that have a head start to be in a future exhibit. This is also a good time to consider selling something in your yard that you would like to pass on to a new home. Look around and consider any trees, pots, stands, tools, books, or any other bonsai-related items that you may be willing to part with.

Consignment Sellers receive a percentage of the auction sale price, with sellers receiving 75% and EBBS receiving 25%. Or you can designate your auction items as a total donation to EBBS. Either way, EBBS benefits and you end up with more space to accommodate better items. Mark your calendar for Wednesday, June 12.

Auction items should be brought to the Lakeside Garden Center by 6:30 pm. Forms and sale tags will be distributed beforehand for sellers. Suzanne Muller and Bev Martinez are coordinating the auction this year and may call you to help prepare and produce this event. If you would like to offer your services, or have questions, feel free to contact them:

Suzanne at 925-890-0506 or smuller@mbcf.com

Bev at 925-437-2347 or martinez_bev@yahoo.com



April Meeting: Andrew Robson

Andrew Robson is an award winning deciduous artist in the American bonsai community. He completed a 3-year apprenticeship with Michael Hagedorn, after graduating from Yale University. Andrew also studied shohin bonsai display with Daisaku Nomoto, an award-winning Japanese shohin master and judge at Gafu-ten. Andrew is the President of the [Bonsai Society of Portland](#), the largest bonsai club in the United States. He regularly exhibits work at the Portland Japanese Garden and lectures at the garden's Japanese Arts Learning Center.

Andrew is a host of the [Bonsai Wire Podcast](#) and regularly creates new episodes with the other hosts and prominent figures in the bonsai community. Andrew resides at his deciduous garden [RAKUYO-en](#) with his golden retriever Bailey, where he teaches and shares the art of deciduous bonsai.

**Thanks to our April meeting refreshment volunteers:
Jason Coon, Ryan Taylor & Polly Gould**

2023/2024 EBBS Schedule

Regular Meetings

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

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 11 - Val Monroe, 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

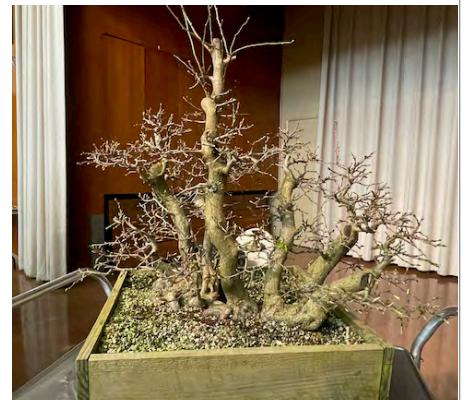


March meeting with Eric Schrader

At our March meeting, Eric Schrader set up a raft style bonsai with a young Korean Hornbeam. He provided an excellent presentation of the style, rationale and technique for this approach.

Trees may fall in the forest, due to wind, snow or other elements. The trunk can then form a ground layer with new roots along the underside of the fallen trunk. The original root ball provides ongoing support to the trunk as new ground layering roots gradually develop. Branches on the upper surface of the trunk can then grow vertically and form a series of new trees.

A benefit of a raft style forest planting is that all the trunks are of the same tree, and thus, unlike a seedling forest planting, leafing out, and color changes in the fall occur simultaneously. In addition, trees with suboptimal one-sided branching may be used, by laying down the side without branches.



Eric spent time looking at the tree to consider what 'sideways' position looked best. He then removed branches from the planned 'underside' of the falling trunk and wired the remaining branches so they would be the new trunks on the new 'upper' side.

Show & Tell

With Springtime in full effect, we some terrific participation in from club members. Enjoy these photos of the great work your bonsai friends have been up to!





Bonsai Calendar

- The first 2-3 weeks of April is generally a slow time for Bonsai.
- However, it is time for pinching! I've smooched together some info on pinching from [Peter Tea](#) and [Jonas Dupuich's](#) websites on the next page. Hope it helps!
- Days are getting longer and warmer, so you'll need to pick up the frequency of your watering. Keep an eye on your soil so it doesn't get dry. Newly repotted trees drain faster, so don't worry about over-watering those.
- You can continue to fertilize conifers in April, particularly junipers, depending on how aggressively you want to grow your trees. Wait until May 1 to start fertilizing deciduous trees. Too much fertilizer too early could produce long internodes, so be mindful about your goals for your trees.
- Check old wiring for biting as trees start pushing growth.
- Make sure you rotate trees regularly—180° over the course of a month is a great goal

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

He exposed the underside of the fallen trunk with numerous scattered oval divots, and put rooting hormone on the exposed cambium. This should induce callus formation, and then roots. He



then wired the trunk base in place to minimize movement. He left on as much of the original root ball as possible to support the tree until the new roots develop.

This is a long term project (like all bonsai!) and must start out in a larger grow pot or a wooden grow box to give plenty of room for the growth. Eric uses a soil of 80% perlite and 20% coco coir for this. Switch to bonsai soil when you move to a bonsai pot and focus on ramification and styling after a year or two.

In a year or so, you will need to take the tree out of the box to see what the roots look like. Transition the tree from relying on the old base to relying on the new nebari. Ultimately, the original base can be removed (unless it provides some visual benefit). Pay careful attention to the removal of wire upon the first transplanting as it may become entangled with the roots. You'll need to start growing the new roots out laterally for a 'nebari' along the fallen trunk, as you would do for any bonsai.

Design options are numerous. This can be a forest planting, perhaps windswept. Side branches can be layered laterally to provide some depth and perspective. As with any multi-trunk planting, the trunks should harmonize and have some variability.

Deciduous trees often form roots in months to a year or two. Junipers also work well. Many conifers are more difficult, (but if someone tells me it can't be done, I would try it). This is best performed in spring, although in our mild Bay Area climate, it can be performed in other seasons if attentive care is taken.

Bill Castellon was the lucky winner of the tree! We look forward to seeing its progress in the future.

The demonstration was exceptional, and Eric is a great local resource. Please take advantage of his website (<https://www.bonsaify.com>), where there are options for many things bonsai, including classes. He has often supported our club, and we should reciprocate by purchasing locally, and volunteering at the amazing Pacific Bonsai Expo this October that he and Jonas Dupuich have established!

– Michael Jensen-Akula

Spring Pinching

The concept of Pinching isn't much different than cutting back. You're removing the terminal end of a branch which weakens the area and causes the tree to branch out to the buds you pinch back/cut back to.

The main difference is the time of year that you perform these techniques.

Pinching generally is done when the foliage is young and hasn't fully hardened off yet. When you pinch the foliage back at this time, it will do a couple of things:

1. Weaken the area
2. Create a division

3. Division is weaker

If you wait till the foliage has hardened off (about the beginning of May) similar things will happen except for one:

1. Weaken the area
2. Create a division

3. Division is stronger

The reason why the division on a "cut back," is stronger is because we've allowed the branch to continually grow throughout Spring which means it's allowed to get stronger. Once cut back, the built up strength in the area will go to the division that is created from cutting back. When pinching (foliage was not allowed to gain strength) the area was never allowed to strengthen so the responding division tends to be slower.

In the case of deciduous trees that potentially have long internodes, you can see how pinching can give you an advantage in controlling the new growth.

Pinching is just another tool you can use in controlling the growth of your Bonsai. There are times when you need to use this technique and times when you don't, e.g. allowing a branch to run to gain strength and size. For the most part, we tend to pinch the top of the tree to keep it dividing and slow whereas we tend to grow out lower branches for size. At some point, when the tree is well developed, Pinching will be done on the entire tree.

- Peter Tea



Spring is a busy time for keeping after refined Japanese maples. In order to keep internodes short, I pinch new shoots as soon as they emerge.

Because the buds open at different times, I check this tree daily to see if there are new shoots to pinch.

I leave the first pair of leaves alone and pinch the next pair as soon as I can reach them. Here's what this looks like.



I use tweezers for this work as the interior shoots are too small for me to reach with my fingers. The tweezers are handy as they can be used to separate the outer pair of leaves and then grab the young shoot inside.

Most of the buds on the maple opened over a period of about one week, but as I have several Japanese maples that open at different times, it can be a month of careful monitoring before the trees are all open. At that point I can let the trees grow for a while and revisit them in May to see if cutback or wiring is necessary.

- Jonas Dupuich

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Member Ads

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The event will take place on Oct. 26-27 at a new venue– the Henry J. Kaiser Center for the Arts in Oakland.

More info:

www.pacificbonsaiexpo.org.

Upcoming Bonsai Events

Santa Cruz Bonsai Kai Show, Apr 13, 2024, 10am – 4pm, 2555 Mar Vista Dr, Aptos, CA Raffle every hour. Demo by Mike Pistello at 1pm. Demo tree auction at 3:30pm.

American Bonsai Association, Sacramento's Annual Show Apr 13-14, 10am – 4pm, 3330 McKinley Blvd, Sacramento, CA, Tyler Sherrod will conduct a demo each day at 1:30PM.

Modesto Bonsai Club Spring Show Apr 20, 10am – 4pm, Stanislaus County Harvest Hall, 3800 Cornucopia Way Suite E, Modesto, 1pm demo by Sam Adina.

Kusamura Bonsai Club of Palo Alto. Apr 20-21, 12-5pm Addison Elementary School, 1045 Webster St, Palo Alto, Demo Mike Pistello 1:30pm Saturday. Club Demo 1:30pm Sunday. Drawing daily at 3pm.

Watsonville Bonsai Club Show Apr 28, 11am – 4pm, 423 Bridge St, Watsonville, Demo by Gareth Shepherd at 1:30pm. Door prizes & raffle of bonsai material, including demo tree will be held. More info: 831-247-9028.

Sacramento Bonsai Club 78th Annual Show May 04, 11am – 4pm, Buddhist Church of Sacramento, 2401 Riverside Blvd, Sacramento, CA, Demo by Sam Adina at 1:30 pm followed by raffle. Workshops (\$20 pre-register), www.sacbonsaiclub.com

Bay Area Satsuki Aikokai (BASA) & Yamato Bonsai Kai joint Bonsai Show May 18-19, 10am - 3:45pm, Lakeside Park Garden Center, 666 Bellevue Ave, Oakland, CA, Demos at 1pm on Saturday (BASA) and Sunday (Yamato)

Santa Anita Bonsai Society 57th Annual Bonsai Exhibition May 25/26/27, 9am - 4:30pm, Ayres Hall at Los Angeles County Arboret, 301 N. Baldwin Ave, Arcadia, Daily demos at 1pm. More info: 213-709-4171

Sei Boku Bonsai Kai Jun 1-2, 10am-3pm, San Mateo Garden Center (Beresford Park), 605 Parkside Way, San Mateo, CA, Bring your bonsai to "Dr. Bonsai" to get a free diagnosis and prescription for improvement.

Sierra Bonsai Club Sept. 28, 11am - 4pm, 3192 Boyington Rd, Penryn, CA, in conjunction with the Placer Buddhist Church Food & Cultural Festival Bazaar. Demo tree will be auctioned. More info: 916-300-8103.

For additional events, visit <https://www.gsfbonsai.org/events>