



THE TREE SHRINKER

East Bay Bonsai Society

Next meeting (in-person and online): **May 10, 2023 at 7:30pm**

2023 EBBS Schedule

Regular Meetings:

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

May 10 - *Decandling Pines*
with Rick Trumm

May 21 - *Nursery Stock to Bonsai Workshop*
with Addison Galambos at the Bonsai Garden

May 28 - *Introduction to Bonsai*
with Janet Nelson at the Bonsai Garden

Jun 14 - **2023 EBBS Annual Auction**

Jun 25 - *Introduction to Bonsai*
with Tom Colby at the Bonsai Garden

Jul 12 - *Japanese Deciduous Development*
with Julian Tsai

Aug 9 - *Bonsai Stands*
with Tom Colby

Aug 12 - EBBS Summer Picnic

Sept 13 - *Accent Plants*
with Lucy Judd

Oct 14-15 - **Annual EBBS Club Show**
with show headliner Jason Chan

Nov 8 - *Pygmy Cypress*
with Bob Shimon

Dec 13 - Holiday Party



May meeting

We've got a great one coming up in May! Our very own, Rick Trumm, will be teaching us about *Decandling Pines*.

Rick Trumm became interested in bonsai during his teenage years while hiking among stunted junipers on the North peak of Mount Diablo. In the 1980s he and his wife Janet began attending bonsai workshops at Merritt College in Oakland with instructor Dennis Makishima. From there, they learned about the East Bay Bonsai Society and joined. They learned how to collect trees for bonsai on excursions to the White Mountains and Mammoth Mountain with Dolly and Fred Fasio, and to Jawbone Canyon with Harry Hirao.

Rick studied with Boon Manakitivipart for 18 years, with Peter Tea for the past five years, and with various other visiting bonsai

Bonsai Calendar



Water

Water regularly to keep root ball moist, not wet, and never dry.

Don't over-water repotted plants—especially azaleas because that over-watering can kill them!

Fertilizing

Start regular feeding of deciduous trees after first flush of growth is completed.

Continue regular feeding of conifers.

Styling/Pruning

Rotate trees every couple of weeks.

Watch for wire biting during this period of fast growth. You may want to remove old wire at this time.

Start defoliation.

Shorten branches on fruiting trees.

Pinch junipers, spruces and cedars.

Air Layering

Deciduous trees may be air layered if new growth has hardened.

Insect and disease control

Apply fungicide and pesticide once a month as a preventative. Immediately treat any fungus or pest problems you discover.

Safer Soap or liquid Sevin can be used to control aphids.

Enjoy watching your trees spring back to life! That's why we call it Spring after all.

professionals over the years including Marco Invernizzi, Daisaku Nomoto, Akio Kondo, Masahiro Kimura, Dave DeGroot, Ryan Neal, Michael Hagedorn, and Kathy Shaner. Rick's bonsai have been featured on the covers of several magazines including *Bonsai Today*, *Oakland Magazine*, *GSBF Golden Statements*, and *Journal of the American Bonsai Society*. The juniper on the EBBS postcard flyer is also one of Rick's trees. A mirror image of that tree was used several years ago to advertise a bonsai show in Puerto Rico (a sincere form of flattery?).



In addition to local club shows, Rick's bonsai have been displayed at the National Bonsai Exhibition in Rochester, NY, the Artisans Cup in Portland, Shohin Conventions in Santa Nella, and GSBF Conventions, including the 2014 convention in Sacramento where he won awards for the Best Conifer, People's Choice, and Best in Show. Rick also worked on the BGLM bonsai that was displayed at the Pacific Bonsai Exhibition in 2022.

Rick has served as a volunteer at the Bonsai Garden at Lake Merritt for over fifteen years and is now an Assistant Curator for native junipers and pines. He is currently preparing a BGLM tree for display at the GSBF Rendezvous in October 2023.

In addition to the East Bay Bonsai Society, Rick is a member of the Bay Area Bonsai Associates. He especially enjoys working on pines, junipers, and oaks.

It's an honor to have an artist of Rick's caliber in our club and decandling pines is tricky and only comes once a year, so be sure to come out for this one. He'll be donating some small pines for the raffle that he's grown from seed, so you won't wanna miss it!

Refreshments will be provided by Julie Holcomb, Tom Fedor and Polly Gould



President's Message

It's May and we are starting to warm up to summer. Time to check our trees every day for aphids, scale and other creatures that instantaneously appear. I was watering my trees just yesterday and found my Ume just covered in little black aphids. She got a good watering down and I will be paying close attention as the weather warms. May is also the time to start repotting your tropicals and completely finish the conifers.

This month we are excited to have our very own Rick Trumm, master bonsai artist, walk us through decandling our pine trees. This should be just in time as decandling season is about to start in June. He will demonstrate on two trees. As time allows, he will give advice on trees we bring in. So, pick out a pine you have questions on and bring it on in for an educational evening.

Also in May:

May 21 Addison will continue to present the 2nd meeting in the Nursey Stock to Bonsai workshop. This will be for those who were not able to attend the workshop in April. We will be learning the basics of styling and wiring our beginning bonsais.

May 28 Janet Nelson will instruct students in the Intro to Bonsai class. If you are new to bonsai or just want to get the basics down, this is a great class to attend.

– Bev



Dealing With Bugs On Your Bonsai

This article was originally published on the EBBS blog. Pests can be a problem this time of year, so hopefully this article helps!

Author is Unknown

We are fortunate that our bonsai are usually not heavily bothered by bugs. Generally, they are free of bugs, but what do we do when we find that our prized bonsai is covered with them?

It is important to examine your trees frequently. If you find that there is evidence of bugs, the first thing to do is to ask whether the bug was just passing through, or the bug has called in the whole family to set up housekeeping. If, for example, the problem was caused by a grasshopper who stopped by your place for lunch on his way to Hollywood to become a movie star, the best thing to do is nothing. Chalk up the couple of munched leaves up to the cost of growing your bonsai outdoors. Beyond encouraging them to leave, the occasional caterpillar or snail can be treated the same way.

If you find that the bugs have set permanent headquarters, then you need to act quickly because the insect infestation can grow rapidly, and the worse the infestation, the more difficult it will be to treat. The obvious solution to the bug problem is to make them go away, so the first choice is to simply hose them off. This approach works well for aphids.

When we do have bug problems, the frequent cause is not aphids but some species of scale, and these look like little white puffs of cotton. Unfortunately, hosing does not work because the little varmint sticks tightly to the foliage. This brings us to the use of insecticides.

We have our choice of two different types of insecticides based on how they work. The first group consists of various soaps and horticultural oils. This group works on the outside of the bug by clogging the pores the bug uses to breathe, and so the insect dies from lack of oxygen.

People, kids and pets do not breathe using this kind of pores, so this group of insecticides really doesn't affect us much unless we happen to fall into a vat of the product. While anything can be toxic when taken the wrong way, this group is labeled nontoxic and you are pretty much able to use them any way you wish.



The second group of insecticides is labeled as harsh chemicals by the Master Gardener program and consists of products which act inside the bug. Most in this group act by jamming the place where nerves join muscles, and since impulse transmission is blocked, the bug dies of paralysis. Unfortunately, we have the same kind of muscle-nerve junctions, and if we are not careful with the product, we can have problems, too. This kind of product, which is available over the counter at local nurseries, has modest toxicity and can be safely handled with a minimum of care. Rubber gloves and a cloth mask will see you safely through a spraying. Malathion is an example of this group.

So we now have a bonsai with bugs and two choices of insecticide types. Which should we use? Each has strengths and weaknesses. The nontoxic group is safe for kids and pets but works by directly contacting the bug. Many bugs, and particularly scale, hide under the foliage and are missed by only one spraying. Further, the bugs may have laid eggs that hatch after you spray. You may need to spray several times weekly to totally eradicate the bugs.

The harsh chemicals leave a residue on the foliage and any bugs you missed by directly contacting

them with the spray will be done in when they crawl across the leaf. Because of this, these products are more effective in dealing with a severely infested plant. The residue eventually gets washed off when you water your tree.

On the down side, the products must be used carefully because of their toxic

properties. It is frequently noted that the harsh chemicals cause a lot of collateral damage by also doing in the "good" bugs as well as the "bad" bugs, and this is a justified claim. "Bad" bugs eat your plants and "good" bugs eat the bad bugs. When there are enough hungry "good" bugs in your plants they will solve the problem of insect control for you. It should be noted that the nontoxic group will also do in the "good" bugs if they get contacted with spray. If you choose to use a harsh chemical, the most environmentally friendly way is to spray only infested trees.

The use of insecticides can be a very emotional subject, but with a bit of care in the use and a bit of understanding in how they work, they are effective products. Severe bug infestations can be life threatening for your tree, so insect control is an important part of the culture of bonsai.

Join the conversation!



East Bay Bonsai Club is on Instagram! Thanks to Mike Hylton for setting that up! Follow our

club at <https://www.instagram.com/eastbaybonsai/>



Join our Facebook group just for active members to at www.facebook.com/groups/ebbsmembers.

Just click on that link and request to join!

Follow us!

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www.eastbaybonsai.org

Member Ads

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

EBBS AUCTION IS JUST SIX WEEKS AWAY!



The East Bay Bonsai Society's yearly auction will be held in just four weeks - on Wednesday, June 14, 2023. Set-up will start at 6:00 pm, preview of auction items at 7:00 pm, and bidding will start at 7:30 pm. Here's what you can do to prepare for it.

- **Get your sale items ready.**

Clean up trees that you plan to sell, pull any weeds from the soil, remove dead leaves and needles, trim branches if needed, and clean the pot. For pots, clean off dirt, old screens and wire, perhaps apply a light film of oil to bring out the color or sheen.



Tools should be clean of dirt and rust. There is a limit of 10 items per Seller. Several items may be bundled together as a "Lot" to be auctioned as one item. Grouped items should be packaged together with shrink-wrap, tape or boxed.

- **Fill out sale forms:** Seller log sheets and tree tags are attached to this newsletter. A completed 3-part tag must be attached to each auction item, before it is placed on the preview tables.

Consignment sellers will receive 75% of the sale price, with 25% going to EBBS to help support its programs. Donation sellers authorize 100% of the sale price for EBBS.

- **Volunteer to help** with set-up and operation of the auction. If you have not already been contacted by the auction coordinators, plan to be at the Garden Center by 6:00 pm on Wednesday June 14 to help set up tables and chairs. WE NEED SOMEONE WITH A TRUCK AND SOME MUSCLE THE DAY OF THE AUCTION. PLEASE EMAIL JANET IF YOU CAN HELP!

- **Mark your calendar** and plan to bring your checkbook, cash or credit card to bid on any trees or bonsai items that may appear, and you could add to your collection.

We are excited to have our own Dennis Miu serve as auctioneer this year, and we look forward to an energetic evening of bidding activity. Questions may be directed to auction coordinators Suzanne Muller at 925-890-0506 or smuller@mbcf.com, or to Janet Nelson at 510-220-5303 or rjnn@pacbell.net.

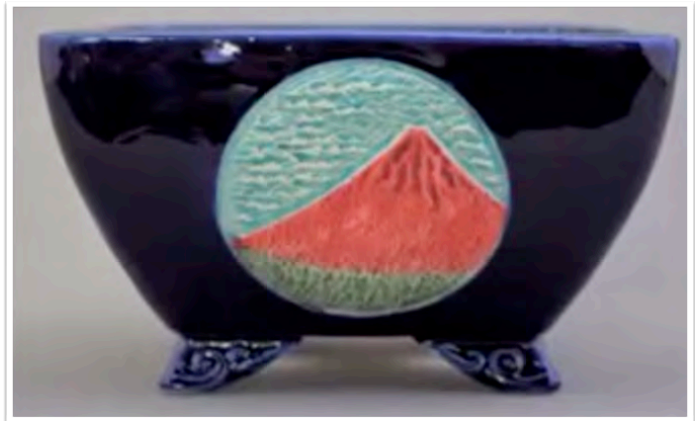
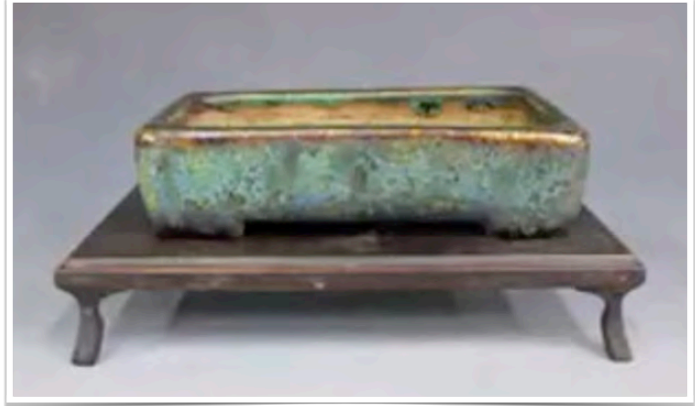
AUCTION FORMS AND TREE TAGS ARE INCLUDED IN THE EMAIL THAT WENT OUT WITH THIS NEWSLETTER!

April Meeting Recap

Shohin Bonsai Containers with Michael Ryan Bell

We had our first-ever live-stream bonsai presentation with one of the world's leading bonsai pottery experts, Michael Ryan Bell. Michael gave us a fascinating history lesson and connected the dots to Shohin pottery today. Below are some of pots he shared.

Michael usually includes identifications and appraisals of pots, but since he wasn't in person, he offered that members email him at gastrognome@aol.com if you'd like one!



Upcoming Bonsai Events

The Sacramento Bonsai Club's 77th Anniversary Show May 6, 11am - 4pm

2401 Riverside Blvd, Sacramento, CA 95818. One-Day Only! Free admission/donation, raffle drawings, large members' sale of bonsai-related materials. Demonstration at 1:30pm.

Dai Ichi Bonsai Kai's Annual Bonsai Exhibit & Sale, May 6, 10am - May 7, 1pm

Ken Nakaoka Community Center, 1670 W. 162nd St., Gardena, CA 90247, Novice to master exhibitors, daily demonstrations and drawings, bonsai plants, tools and accessories on sale throughout the show. Free admission and parking. Dennis Makishima bonsai presentation May 6 at 1pm.

Santa Cruz Bonsai Kai May 13, 10am - 4pm

2555 Mar Vista Dr, Aptos, CA 95003. Join us for the Show & Sale but stay for the Demonstration at 1pm.

www.santacruzbonsaikai.co

Bay Area Satsuki Aikokai & Yamato Bonsai Kai's Show May 20 - 21, 1pm - 3pm

Lakeside Park Garden Center, 666 Bellevue Ave, Oakland, CA 94610. These two clubs joint show offers Azalea in full bloom and fine bonsai in formal displays. BASA Demo: Sat, May 20th 1-3pm Yamato Demo: Sun, May 21st 1-3pm

Sei Boku Bonsai Kai Show June 3-4, 10am - 4pm

San Mateo Garden Center, 605 Parkside Way, San Mateo (at Beresford Park). Come celebrate Sei Boku Bonsai Kai's 38th anniversary. David De Root demo and open viewing workshop at 1pm each day. More at www.seibokubonsaikai.org.

East Bay Bonsai Society Annual Auction Jun 14, 7pm - 9pm

Lakeside Park Garden Center, 666 Bellevue Ave, Oakland, CA 94610. The East Bay Bonsai Society's in-person bonsai auction on will start at 7:30pm with a preview at 7:00pm. More? mhylton@rocketmail.com.

Valley Bonsai Society Show Jun 17 -18, 10am - 4pm

981 Alden Ln, Livermore, CA 94550, 14th annual show will include a bonsai demonstration at 1PM on both days. The finished tree will be raffled off at the end of the demonstrations. Bonsai pots, soil, etc. available for purchase. Admission is free.

REBS 37th Annual Bonsai Show Aug 26 - Aug 27, 2023, 10am - 4pm

5401 Snyder Ln, Rohnert Park, CA 94928. 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.

Sierra Bonsai Club Show Sept 23 - 24, 2023, 10am - 4pm

3192 Boyington Rd, Penryn, CA 95663. The Sierra Bonsai Club will display bonsai and suiseki in the temple as well as outdoors in conjunction with the Placer Buddhist Church Food & Cultural Festival Bazaar all weekend.

Yamato Bonsai Kai Show Oct 14, 11 AM - Oct 15, 5pm

32975 Alvarado-Niles Rd, Union City, CA 94587. Demonstration trees will be raffled off as grand prize each day. For more info and updates find us on Facebook by searching "Yamato Bonsai Kai" or irishfishboy@yahoo.com.

GSBF Rendezvous Oct 20 - Oct 22, 2023, 10am - 4pm

13070 CA-33, Santa Nella, CA 95322. Bonsai Sales • Auction • Workshops • Lectures • Community

Capital City Bonsai Show Oct 21 - Oct 22, 10am - 3pm

Sacramento, 3330 McKinley Blvd, Sacramento, CA 95816. This group show features tree and suiseki displays from participating area clubs

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

Newsletter Contributors

Editor: Adam Kleinberg

Contributors: Adam Kleinberg,
Janet Nelson, Bev Martinez

Photography: Adam Kleinberg,
Janet Nelson, Mistral Bonsai

Want to tell us about your bonsai adventures? Want to share your expertise with your friends in the club? Have an opinion you want to express about Bonsai? You can! Email Adam, our newsletter editor, at adam@tractionco.com to submit content!

In Memoriam

Remembering Joan Scroggs



Joan Scroggs passed away peacefully at Skyline Place Senior Living in Sonora on Thursday, April 20. She had requested no formal memorial service. Cremation will be done with her ashes scattered in the Carmel area where she and her brother spent many playful hours during their childhood.


Growing up in Salinas, she dreamed of visiting distant lands, which she only found in maps and picture books. During her 87 year life journey, she realized her

dreams of travel by working as a freelance photographer for National Geographic. Her assignments led her to Australia, Bahamas, China, Finland, France, Holland, India, Ireland, Israel, New Zealand, Slovakia, Pakistan, Switzerland and Venezuela, to name a few. Two of her photos were selected for use on the cover of National Geographic.

After attending San Jose State University and UC Berkeley, her working career spanned 50 full-time years of professional broadcast and film camera experience. She worked at KSBW TV (Channel 8) in Salinas/Monterey and retired at KTVU (Fox Channel 2) in San Francisco/Oakland. In her latter post, she worked as a technical engineer, camera operator and production master controller. For her camera work, she was awarded two Emmy Awards from the Television Academy.

In addition to her beekeeping and wine making hobbies, Joan Scroggs was best known for her deep interest in the Japanese art form of bonsai. She received formal bonsai training in Japan, which she shared through her memberships in the East Bay Bonsai Federation and later, Mother Lode Bonsai Club. Several of her notable creations are currently on display at the prestigious Golden State Bonsai Federation's Bonsai Garden at Lake Merritt in Oakland. Along with conducting numerous demonstrations for club members, she authored an instructional book for bonsai beginners, titled "Bonsai Basics."


These are some pages from *The Bonsai Book* by Dan Barton that illustrate various pine decandling techniques. Together with Rick's presentation, we should all be decandling geniuses this season!



Objective
A grooming technique to increase shoot density and improve the contours of the foliage clouds.

Technique
Pinch out two thirds of the candle before needles elongate. This is usually in late spring.


Comment
Feed and water normally. Next season's buds will be an average size. This technique is suitable for trees already well structured and with ample branches.



Objective
To increase the bud production on trees with normal growth.

Technique
Pinch out the candles when new needles are approximately 7/8 inch to 1 inch (10-12mm) long and not yet hardened. This is usually in the late spring or early summer.


Comment
The new buds are small to average and usually abundant. Adventitious buds often occur on older wood. Next year's growth will be tighter. Feed and water as normal. This is a useful way to increase twiginess.



Objective
To reduce needle length and increase bud production on very vigorously growing trees that were well fertilized the previous year.

Technique
Remove apical and lateral buds at their points of origin when the candles are one inch (25mm) long. This is usually early in the growing season.


Comment
Smaller adventitious buds soon form at the terminal end of the branch and sometimes in the leaf bases. A number of these buds will develop rapidly enough to produce tight growth with short needles in the same growing season. The remainder will grow the following year. Do not practice this technique for more than two consecutive years or weakening of the tree may result.



Objective
To improve root production and thicken the caliper on trunk and branches, to produce very small buds on young trees and also to extend branch length.

Technique
Feed and water well during the growing season allowing unchecked growth. Prune back new shoots in late summer/autumn leaving three to four pairs of needles on each shoot.


Comment
Very small buds will develop over the winter, producing short needles with next year's growth if minimal watering is given. A useful technique to employ every third or fourth year.



Objective
To increase the length of the branches and the girth of the trunk and to improve the root production.

Technique
Do not prune new shoots. Feed and water well in the growing season and provide ample sunlight. Best used in conjunction with field-grown Potensai.


Comment
Applied mostly with young potential Bonsai to promote maximum growth and also occasionally to extend branch length.



Objective
To maintain the tree's size and outline with minimal growth.

Technique
Remove the apical (tip) bud and all but two of the lateral buds before active growth begins. Half-pinch candles when they are approximately one inch (25mm) long.

Comment
This is an ideal technique for mature specimen trees. Feed and water very sparingly during the growing season to keep needle growth down to a minimum.




Objective
To make use of the current season's growth and the effects of photosynthesis and to produce small buds from those buds left in the residual shoots.

Technique
Allow candles to grow unchecked for the whole of the growing season; water and feed well.

Remove all the current season's needles very carefully by pulling them out, one at a time and not in pairs. A small percentage of eye buds will remain in some of the needle sheaths. Shorten the shoots to the desired length by 'finger pinching'. This technique should be executed immediately after the needles have ripened.


Comment
Timing is critical and the technique is best practised over one to three weeks to increase the chances of success. The results are unpredictable but good if timed correctly. Adventitious buds also form on older wood.



Objective
To improve root production and thicken trunk and branches but this time with minimal branch elongation. It will also increase foliage density.

Technique
Allow full seasonal growth with normal watering and feeding. Prune back shoots to their point of origin in the early autumn.


Comment
Small buds will appear in the following spring. Note, when this technique is employed, any long needles will also have been removed bringing the tree more or less back to its former state which makes it a useful 'containing' technique.



Objective
As above

Technique
With a pair of scissors, cut all the current season's needles just above the needle sheaths in late summer after the needles have fully ripened. Prune back residual shoots to the desired length.

Comment
A little more predictable than the last technique but it can leave unsightly brown tips where the needles have been trimmed. This technique is therefore more suited to younger trees at an early stage of training where the appearance of brown tips is unimportant.



Objective
To produce intermediary bud break between lengthy intermodal shoots.

Technique
With a very sharp scalpel cut through the bark and down to the sapwood immediately below each pair of needles in late summer after the needles have ripened.

Comment
This wounding action will inhibit the passage of auxins etc flowing down from the needles and result in a number of the eye buds developing at the base of each needle sheath. Rub out any unwanted buds. This is a painstaking exercise that is not recommended for the impatient. Removal of the apical and lateral buds at the time of 'surgery' will increase the chances of success and will improve the production of bud generating auxins.