



THE TREE SHRINKER

East Bay Bonsai Society Auction: **July 9, 2025**

2025 EBBS Schedule

Regular Meetings

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

July 9 - Steve Iwaki, Carving & Styling
Redwoods

July 20 - Annual Club Picnic hosted
by Michael & Marilyn Jensen-Akula,
6143 Ocean View Dr., Oakland

July 21 - *Intro to Bonsai* at The
Garden with Addison Galambos

Aug 13 - Jonas Dupuich, Tree Display

Aug 17 - *Intro to Bonsai* at The
Garden with Michael Jensen-Akula

Sept 19 - Set-up for Annual Show
Sept 20 & 21 - EBBS Annual Show

**NOTE: the show is being held in
Sept instead of October this year.**

Sept 28 - *Intro to Bonsai* at The
Garden with Janet Nelson

Oct 8 - Bill Castellon, Pines

Oct 26 - *Intro to Bonsai* at The Garden
with Tom Colby

Nov 12 - Eric Schrader

Nov 23 - *Intro to Bonsai* at The
Garden with Addison Galambos

* at the Bonsai Garden workshop

**Thanks in advance to Ashley
Pouliot and Mike Cullen for
bringing refreshments to our
July meeting!**



July Meeting: Steve Iwaki Carving & Styling Redwoods

We're honored to welcome Steve Iwaki to our upcoming meeting, where he'll share his expertise on carving and styling redwoods. Steve grew up surrounded by bonsai in his father Ted (Takio) Iwaki's backyard, where early pioneers gathered to help establish the first bonsai movement in Southern California. Having inherited his father's trees, Steve carries forward a deep family tradition rooted in bonsai history. His approach will help us understand how these trees respond to carving techniques and styling methods.

Steve will demonstrate essential carving techniques specific to redwoods and give advice on managing redwoods'

vigorous growth while maintaining the refined silhouette that makes for compelling bonsai.

Whether you're considering your first redwood project or looking to refine existing trees, this session promises valuable insights. Steve's willingness to share his knowledge makes this an invaluable opportunity for our community.

This specialized knowledge strengthens our entire community. We're grateful to Steve for sharing his expertise and to all of you for making these gatherings meaningful learning experiences.



Steve will be working on this collected redwood from Bob Shimon. The tree will be raffled off at the end of the evening. This is a rare opportunity to win a sizable, professionally styled redwood for your collection!

You can learn more about Steve's fascinating story and deep connection to bonsai history at <http://www.iwakibonsai.com/history.html>.



Pre-Meeting Workshop

We'll be having another pre-meeting workshop at our July 9th meeting. The workshop is open to all and is free. It will be from 630-730 pm PST in the meeting room. Please bring material to work on together with everyone around you! Experienced members will be there to provide guidance. If you're wondering what to bring, July is a great time of year to wire and style conifers like junipers. It is also a good time to cut back your deciduous trees to get another flush of growth if you haven't already.

2025 Auction Results

Our annual auction was a great success this year! Thank you to everyone who participated whether in the managing or bidding! The monies the club makes on the auctions go a long way to securing prominent speakers and activities during the year. This is our second highest year in proceeds so all should be congratulated.

Here are a few statistics from the auction:

Total sales amount excluding taxes and fees - \$11,400.00. The club will receive approximately 25% of this number.



- Number of items sold - 120
- Highest value item sold - \$475.00
- Number of items sold greater than \$200. - 11
- Total amount of items donated - \$415.00
- Number of sellers - 23
- Number of bidders - 67
- Entrée - Last names A-C
- Appetizer - Last names D-H
- Side dish / salad - Last names J-P
- Dessert - Last names Q-Z

Please bring any utensils needed for serving your dish. The club will provide wine, beer, and soft drinks for everyone.

A friendly reminder about the Oakland hills weather—it can turn cool and breezy, so layering your clothing is wise. Don't forget hats and sunscreen for comfort throughout the afternoon.

Michael has invited members to bring a bonsai to share as part of the gathering. It's always inspiring to see what everyone has been working on, so we hope you'll participate in this informal show-and-tell.

Annual Club Picnic

The East Bay Bonsai Annual picnic will be held at Michael & Marilyn Jensen Akula's stunning home and garden on Sunday, July 20th, 2025. Their space truly is a garden paradise, making it the perfect backdrop for our community celebration.

We're organizing the meal as a potluck, with food assignments based on your last name:



Bonsai Calendar

Water

Keep an eye on the heat! Water 2 or even 3 times on hot days if needed to keep trees moist in the heat.

De-Candling

In the Bay area, June is the time to de-candle Japanese Black and Red Pines. In hotter climates, wait until July to de-candle!

Peter Tea has a great post on his blog about decandling. It's [worth a read](#).

Fertilizing

Continue regular feeding of deciduous trees and conifers. Stop feeding pines after decandling and do not fertilize Satsuki Azaleas

Styling/Pruning

Watch for wire biting and remove old wire at this time.

Defoliation your Japanese Maples except for lower branches that you are growing out to thicken.

This is an important time for cutting back and thinning your trees. Cutting back is used to create a division to ramify the tree or to weaken the tree in an area like at the top. Thinning is used when you have too many branches in one area or branches that are too thick in an area—removing them makes the remaining branches stronger.

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.

Event Details:

Time: Noon to 4:00 PM

Address: 6143 Ocean View Dr., Oakland

Directions: Take Highway 24 to the Broadway exit heading south, then turn onto Ocean View Drive.

We look forward to seeing you there for an afternoon of fellowship, food, and beautiful trees.



A Chemistry Lesson

This article was originally published in the February 2016 Tree Shrinker. The writer was not cited in the article, so if it was you, please let me know. It was a fascinating and informative piece, so I'm republishing it now!

When we buy fertilizer we are confronted by a series of numbers like 10-5-8. These are not, as you might expect, fancy football plays, but refer to the composition of the product. They are the percentage of nitrogen, phosphorous and potassium respectively. To understand why they are important for the health of your plant you have to understand what they do.

Let's do a mental experiment in which we plant an acorn. A few months later, if all goes well, a slender green shoot will appear. If we come back a few centuries later, the green shoot has grown into a mighty oak tree weighing many hundreds or a few thousands of pounds and containing many board feet of very hard lumber. This all comes about by the action of chlorophyll, the green pigment in the leaves. The roots of the tree supplied water to the leaves. The pores of the leaves supplied carbon dioxide from the air. Sunlight powered the chlorophyll to convert the carbon dioxide and water into products that eventually became the lumber in the tree. A detailed look at the process, which is called photosynthesis, reveals

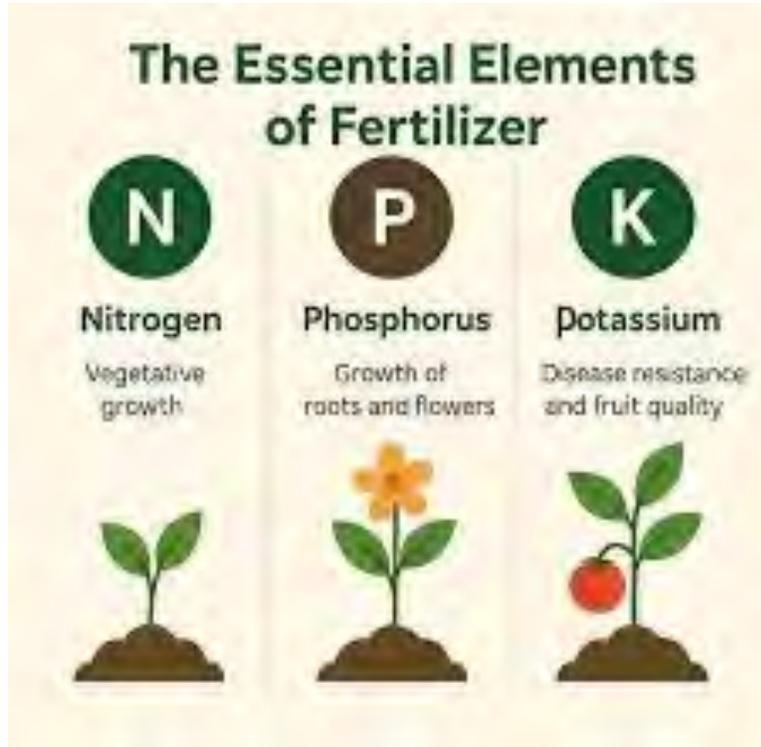
a large number of very complicated and interrelated chemical reactions to make this happen, but all we really need to know is the bottom line. Without the presence of chlorophyll this whole process grinds to a halt and your tree stops growing.

Each year deciduous trees lose all their leaves and the chlorophyll contained in the leaves. Each spring the tree needs to produce more chlorophyll in the new leaves. Trees we do not usually think of as deciduous, as for example pines, all push new growth each spring and the new

foliage needs chlorophyll. Further, pines slowly lose needles which contain chlorophyll which the tree must replace if it is to continue to grow. Chlorophyll is a very large and complicated molecule which is about six percent nitrogen. If all of these trees have no source of nitrogen they cannot make chlorophyll and that would bring growth to a halt. Here we have the simple explanation of why it is so important to fertilize our trees with products which contain nitrogen.

Urea and ammonium sulfate are compounds used in fertilizers to supply nitrogen and are 47 and 21 percent nitrogen respectively. Would it be enough to use only either of these to fertilize our trees? Here is where the other components of commercial fertilizers are important. Both phosphorous and potassium play important, though less obvious roles in the health of the tree.

Phosphorous is required for a number of vital activities of the tree including preparing the tree for slowing growth during the colder days of winter and preparing the tree for blooming and setting fruit in the next year. Potassium is an important component in the process where the tree manufactures chlorophyll.



Many people use fertilizer schedules where high nitrogen products are applied in the spring where the tree is actively needing more chlorophyll to grow and using a high phosphorous fertilizer in the fall when the tree is preparing for winter. Understanding the roles of the components of the fertilizer provides the reasoning behind a schedule like this.

Now that we know about what fertilizers do, what do we use for our trees? There are basically two choices. Inorganic products like Miracle Grow are made up of an assortment of chemicals. Organic products such as fish emulsion, on the other hand, are natural products. Each type of fertilizer has its passionate following, but your tree is just looking for nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium, and really doesn't care where it gets it. So you can expect superior results with either type of product.

A practical matter in your decision into which to use is that Miracle Grow can burn the roots of your tree if you make the concentration too strong, whereas it is hard to overfeed with fish emulsion. If you fall into the group that thinks that a little is OK then a lot should be much better, and to work best, your fertilizer solution should be really really strong, beware of Miracle Grow.

2026 Annual Mammoth Auction & Sale Fundraiser for the Bonsai Garden at Lake Merritt

It is that time of year to start thinking about the **Bonsai Garden at Lake Merritt's Annual Mammoth Auction & Sale Fundraiser!**

The fundraiser is located at Lakeside Park Garden Center, 666 Bellevue Ave., Oakland, CA 94610. Please save the date for March 7 & 8, 2026. On Saturday, March 7, the auction will be held in the Vista room. All high value bonsai, pots or stands for auction will need to be submitted starting November 1, 2025, through January 9, 2026. All auction items will be photographed on January 10, for viewing on the website. Auction preview starts at 12:00pm. The auction hours are from 1:00pm - 3:30pm. On March 8, 2026, the sale will be located in the Ebell room 9:00am - 3:00pm. We will start to accept sale items on March 7 from 9:00am - 4:00pm or on March 8 between the hours of 8:00am - 9:00 am.

In the Vista room, we will have a large number of vendors selling high end bonsai, tools, pots, stands, soil, etc. This is the largest fundraiser of the year for the BGLM.

Pots and Stands for Sale

The Garden has 4 bases for sale \$50 each. Some stands have tops, some do not. Also, they do not have wheels. We also have a huge selection of pots in the back reserve we are trying to sell. We are giving volunteers and club members the option to buy them now before the Mammoth.

If you want to preview the pots or have any questions about Mammoth, please contact Suzanne Muller, 925.787.1349, queueinteriors@comcast.net.

Thank you,

- Suzanne Muller





Our 2025 EBBS Show: Sneak Peek!

To get you excited for our upcoming club show, we want to share what we have planned.

Our club show will be held in September this year, NOT October as in prior years.

We're thrilled to announce our headliner will be bonsai virtuoso Michael Hagedorn. Michael trained in Japan under Shinji Suzuki and earlier in the US under Boon Manakitivipart. He's the author of two fantastic books on bonsai. *Post-Dated: The Schooling of an Irreverent Bonsai Monk* and *Bonsai Heresy: 56 Myths Exposed Using Science & Tradition*. His client's cryptomeria recently won Best in Show at the 2024 Pacific Bonsai Expo. Check out his work on Instagram or his site crataegus.com.

Planned activities include:

- Beginner workshop with material provided
- Intermediate BYOT workshop with Michael Hagedorn
- Advanced BYOT workshop with Michael Hagedorn
- Show walkthrough & critique with Michael Hagedorn
- Demo by Michael Hagedorn with raffle
- Member sale area
- 6+ vendors selling trees, pots, stands and more

This is shaping up to be an epic event!

- Mike Szabo



Adam Toth Workshop

July 12th

There are couple spots open for the upcoming bring-your-own-trees workshop with Adam Toth. Sign up now before they are gone!

- Full day: 9am - 5pm (\$100)
- Morning only: 9am - 1pm (\$50)
- Afternoon only: 1pm - 5pm (\$50)

The session will take place in Kensington.

To register, email Michael Szabo (michael@cheezywhiz.com) and specify which time slot you're interested in.

Join the conversation!

facebook.com/groups/ebbs

facebook.com/groups/ebbsmembers

instagram.com/eastbaybonsai/

twitter.com/EastBayBonsai

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.

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Upcoming Bonsai Events

Marin Bonsai Club 2025 Show: Tiny trees. Tiny Creatures. July 2-6, 11:00am - 11:00pm, Marin County Fair, 10 Ave of the Flags, San Rafael, CA. A show of beautiful bonsai. Explore their important relationship with the insect world. Come see the Formal Tree display, Bonsai Techniques exhibit, ongoing demonstrations, bonsai experts to answer questions, and more! More information at marinbonsai.org.

American Bonsai Assoc. Sacramento Live Auction & Consignment Sale, Sep 20, 2025, 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM, 3330 McKinley Blvd, Sacramento, CA, Whether you're a seasoned enthusiast or new to bonsai, our meeting space will be packed with incredible items for sale on Saturday, September 20. Don't miss your chance to find something special for your collection! Free entry - All are welcome! Preview 1:00; Live Auction 1:30

Redwood Empire Bonsai Society (REBS) Bonsai Show Aug 23- 24, 10am-4pm. Rohnert Park Community Center, 5401 Snyder Ln, Rohnert Park, CA. Featuring Mike Pistello, Bonsai artist and instructor, winner of the Joshua Roth Rising Stars Competition at GSBF Bonsai Rendezvous 2023

Midori Bonsai Club 62nd Annual Bonsai Show: Bonsai Style | Trees That Captivate The Eye. Sat, Oct 04, 2025, 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM, Quinlan Community Center, 10185 N Stelling Rd, Cupertino, CA . Beginner's Workshop, Free Admission, Live Demonstration, Ikebana and Dr. Bonsai.

GSBF Bonsai Rendezvous 2025 Oct 24-26, 9:00am - 1:00pm, Santa Nella, 13070 CA-33, Santa Nella, Biennial GSBF event. Headliners, Suthin Sukosolvisit and Mauro Stemberger will host BYT workshops on Friday. Multiple workshops will be held Friday and Saturday. Vendors all three days. Free educational seminars and BYB hospitality hours. Live and silent auctions.

Club Shirts!

Interested in an EBBS shirt? They are now available for purchase at <https://east-bay-bonsai-society.myspreadshop.com/>. Please email Freddie at fjwinter@yahoo.com with questions.

