



THE TREE SHRINKER

Next EBBS meeting: Annual Auction July 8, 2026

It's time for our annual Auction!



The East Bay Bonsai Society's yearly auction will be held on Wednesday, July 8, 2026. Set-up will start at 5:30 pm, seller check-in will begin as soon as tables are set up in the hallway. Preview of auction items begins at 6:00 pm, and bidding will start at 7:00 pm.

- 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. Forms will also be available at the seller check-in if you are unable to print them.

- 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 5:30 pm on Wednesday July 8th to help set up tables and chairs. We still have openings for security positions; your help would be greatly appreciated.

2026 EBBS Schedule

Regular meetings

2nd Wednesday every month at 7:30 except September and October which will occur on the 1st Wednesday of those months.

July 8 - EBBS Annual Auction

Trees and other auction items to arrive at 5:30. Viewing will begin at 6:00.

August 12 - Andrew Robson at 7:30pm + pre-meeting workshop at 6:30

Sept 2 – Sam Tan on Redwoods, 7:30pm + pre-meeting workshop

Oct 7 - Lucy Judd will once again delight us with accent plantings at 7:30 (no pre-meeting workshop)

Nov 11 - 7:30 workshop to get trees ready for the show. Nov 13-15 - Annual

Nov 13 Annual Show Setup at 6:00

Nov 14-15 Annual Show

Intro to Bonsai schedule 2026

July 26 - Michael Jensen-Akula
 August 23 - Janet Nelson
 September 27 - Nick Vila
 October 25 - Tom Colby
 November 22 - Addison Galambos

Bonsai Calendar - July

- **General**
Rotate trees at least twice this month to promote symmetry as canopy completes period of rapid growth.
- **Watering**
Monitor automatic watering systems during hot months. Mist leaves of Satsuki azaleas during hot spells.
- **Fertilizing**
Stop feeding pines after de-candling. Do not fertilize Satsuki azaleas.
- **Repotting**
Not recommended at this time except for tropical and semi-tropical trees (Olives, Ficus, bougainvillea, etc.)
- **Propagating**
Graft only Japanese maple, redbud and spruce
- **Styling/Pruning**
Rotate trees. Watch for wire cutting during this period of fast growth.

Reduce pruning as higher temps and longer days slow growth.

Beware of heat build-up in pots – insulate on sunny side to protect roots. Unglazed pots have higher soil temp than glazed pots.

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



Working with Weird Trees and Summer Care with Jerry Carpenter



In June, we had the wonderful Jerry Carpenter discussing a diverse array of species and the relevant early summer maintenance techniques. He shared his personal journey of transforming massive, recovered olive stumps into refined bonsai, detailing his aggressive approaches to trunk reduction and root mass management.

Beyond olives, Carpenter delved into the specific care requirements for a variety of other plants, including a hardy Ivy, fruiting grapevines, and tropical species like the Hawaiian Umbrella tree. He hammered home the point that you need to understand the nuance of each species' distinct seasonal rhythm if you want to cultivate many diverse species.

His demo offered several practical takeaways for everyday bonsai maintenance, structural pruning, and pest control. Jerry highlighted that olives demand significant heat to recover from root pruning and can be repotted during late spring or summer when temperatures are elevated. He emphasized that if temperatures are very high, you may need to be extra careful with your aftercare of repotted Olives. To safely eliminate black scale on these trees, he recommends manually cleaning the affected areas with alcohol swabs and treating the foliage with a natural rosemary oil spray, which avoids the leaf-suffocation risks associated with heavier horticultural oils.

Finally, he highlighted the importance of strategic pruning—such as cutting olive shoots back to specific leaf pairs and aggressively thinning dense canopies to allow light into the interior branches—to promote smaller foliage, better ramification, and overall tree health. Jerry asked us all to "get something weird", encouraging folks to get more non-traditional bonsai species and make them into beautiful trees.

Show and Tell



Amy Dean



Matt Borden



Ron Sanchez



Mike Cullen



Ron Reid



Ben Costello

Pyracanthas

By: Tom Colby

Pyracantha bonsai are not seen that often and they deserve more recognition as worthy candidates for bonsai trees. First, let's consider a bit about Pyracantha. There are seven members of the Pyracantha genus, and their range extends from southeastern Europe to Asia. The most common locally seen species is *P. coccinea* which hails from southeastern Europe.

Each spring these plants produce an abundance of small white flowers, followed by a heavy crop of red berries in the fall. The display of berries is what makes Pyracantha especially attractive as a candidate for bonsai.

Pyracantha has been in cultivation for a very long time, and as a result, there are many named selections available. Also *P. coccinea* has been hybridized with the other species and, again, many named varieties are available. The available varieties of Pyracantha differ in size of leaf, plant growth, and berry color. There are lots of varieties to choose from.

Another species in cultivation is *P. angustifolia*, native to western China. It differs from *P. coccinea* by having yellow berries and slightly fuzzy leaves. This form seems

not to be readily available from local nurseries, perhaps. Because it is a bit sensitive to cold, it is hardy only to freezing, and not to below freezing temperatures. The yellow berries make it worth seeking out from nursery stocks.

The most obvious thing that you see (or feel) with Pyracantha is that they have formidable thorns. You can make life with Pyracantha more pleasant by cutting the tips of the thorns to remove the sharp points. Do not totally remove the thorns because at the base of thorn is a flowering bud. Pyracanthas are lush growers and as a result, can be aggressively pruned in the summer and fall by cutting branches back to one or two nodes. Some growers remove all flower buds every other year to allow the tree to direct energy only on the growth of the trunk and branches.

Pyracanthas can be wired but require care and a gentle hand. Young branches can be moved but are brittle, so care is required to prevent breakage. Older branches quickly become quite stiff and can be moved only with difficulty. Because of the lush growth of Pyracanthas, it is no surprise that they can be defoliated without fear in



June to increase ramification. The trees respond well to high nitrogen fertilizer applied in the spring and summer. Cuttings taken in late spring or early summer root readily.

A major issue with Pyracanthas as bonsai is that they resent disturbance and should be repotted every other year, or better, every three or even four years. Trees show their sentiments about being repotted by usually having a sparse crop of berries in the year that they are repotted. The plants expend a huge amount of energy producing berries, and some growers remove the flowers on recently repotted plants to allow the tree to recover. The minimal crop of berries that the plant produces after repotting indicates that the tree can adjust to the trauma of repotting on its own.

As a side note, the literature on Pyracanthas allege that the berries are bitter when eaten out of hand, but when cooked can produce delicious jams and jetties. An additional culinary delight comes late in the season when the berries can become slightly fermented as they age. Birds, particularly robins, adore Pyracantha berries and, at this time, can show all the symptoms of being three sheets to the wind after eating them. So, there you have it. Pyracanthas as bonsai are well worth your interest. Between flowers and berries, they produce a spectacular display throughout the year and, with a little care, are not that hard to grow.

Save the date!
Mammoth Fundraiser January
23-24, 2027.

From the Bonsai Garden

The garden is looking for volunteers to help in the daily tasks that keep the garden running smoothly. If you are interested in helping, volunteers can sign up on website at <https://bonsailakemerritt.com/>.

For more information on the positions contact Suzanne Muller at queueinteriors@comcast.net.

Positions available:

- Docent coordinator and scheduler
- Bookkeeper
- Docents
- Instagram Manager
- Director Assistant
- Writers for Articles & Publications

Looking for something meaningful and fun to do? Look no further than your own club!
EBBS needs members that can apply their talents to many different tasks. From newsletter editor to monthly photographer to camera man at meetings. If interested in supporting your club and volunteering for these positions, send an email to Addison Galambos (Barcalod@gmail.com) or EBBS_Distribution@yahoo.com.

Open positions include:

- Newsletter editor – Publishes monthly Tree Shrinker; edits, adds articles and schedules in newsletter.
- Photographer – Takes pictures at meetings and functions to be used in the monthly newsletter, Instagram and Facebook.
- Cameraman – Manages the camera at meetings to ensure it is positioned correctly.
- Raffle coordinator/caller – Sells raffle tickets and calls out winning numbers
- Boom operators – Holds microphone for members to speak into so folks at home can hear questions from the audience. (need 2)

Join the conversation! Upcoming Bonsai Events

facebook.com/groups/ebbs

facebook.com/groups/ebbsmembers

instagram.com/eastbaybonsai/

twitter.com/EastBayBonsai

www.eastbaybonsai.org

Member Ads

Each member can run two free ads in the newsletter yearly. Email EBBS_Distribution@yahoo.com to submit your ad.

Contributors

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Tom Colby

Upcoming Bonsai Events

East Bay Bonsai Society Annual Auction - Wed, Jul 08

Lakeside Garden Center Join the East Bay Bonsai Society for our Annual Auction on Wed, July 8, at the Garden Center at Lake Merritt! Item preview begins at 6:00 PM, with live bidding kicking off at 7:00 PM. Cash, checks or credit card accepted. Plenty of parking and open to all bidders.

Redwood Empire Bonsai Society (REBS) Bonsai Show - Sat, Aug 22

Rohnert Park Community Center
Explore the living art form of Bonsai with headliner Sam Tan, studied under the renowned Ryan Neil of Mirai. Formal Displays, BYOT Workshop, Vendor and Member Sales, Benefit Drawings, Silent Auctions and Trees in Training. Free Admission and Parking. Hours: Saturday 10-5 and Sunday 10-4

Naka Memorial Exhibition - Sat, Aug 22

244 San Pedro St #505, Los Angeles, CA 90012, USA
The Naka Memorial Exhibition is a juried bonsai show. It is comprised of individual practitioners and hobbyists who desire to share their love of bonsai with the public. Submissions are open until June 15, 2026. Contact nakamemorialexhibit@gmail.com or nakamemorialexhibit.com for more info.

Chino Bonsai Club 6th Annual Bonsai Exhibit - Sat, Oct 03

Chùa Quan Thê Âm (Vietnamese Temple)
Don't miss our bonsai exhibit, daily afternoon demonstrations by David Nguy, Saturday evening live auction and consignment sales, Sunday morning kids workshop (limit 10). See flyer below for more details.