



THE TREE SHRINKER

East Bay Bonsai Society

Next Meeting: **Wednesday, August 9, 2023 at 7:30pm**

Annual Picnic

Our annual potluck picnic will be held at Lake Temescal Regional Park. The Streamside Picnic area on the South side of the park has been reserved for our festivities. It is located at 6500 Broadway Terrace, Oakland. Parking is limited so come early. Parking is \$5.00 per car. Parking is also available on Broadway Terrace.

Set-up will begin at 10:30 with the picnic starting at 11:00 AM on Saturday, August 12th.

What to bring: Lawn chairs, sunscreen, picnic blanket, lawn games, mesh food covers and a dish to share based on the list below.

Appetizers: Last name begins with A-C

Salads: Last name begins with D-I

Entrees: Last name begins with J-M

Desserts: Last name begins with N-Z

Your dish should be able to feed 6-8 people. Please bring your own serving utensils.

Beer and wine are allowed in the park. EBBS will be supplying water and non-alcoholic beverages, plates and eating utensils.

To insure we have enough beverages and utensils, please send an email with your confirmation of attendance and head count to EBBS_Distribution@yahoo.com. We will also have a sign-up sheet at the next meeting on August 9th.

August Meeting: Tom Colby

The August meeting will be a presentation about **stands** by Tom Colby. They are a very important part of your show display and, unfortunately, not much discussed. Tom has been a long-time



member of EBBS and is a student of Kathy Shaner. He operated a business making and selling stands for a dozen years and he will share his thoughts about stands which come from his years in business. If you attended the Pacific Bonsai Expo, you undoubtedly saw his work, as quite a few of the winning trees were on Tom Colby stands. He will also have items for the raffle. This will be a great time to hear what stands are all about.

Bev Martinez, Pat Cahill & Alise Lacosse-Offeman will provide refreshments.

2023 EBBS Schedule

Due to circumstances beyond our control, **we are changing the date of our 2023 annual show. It will now take place on October 7th and 8th, with set up the evening of the October 6th.** We are very sorry for any inconvenience this has caused.

Regular Meetings:

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

Aug 9 - *Bonsai Stands*
with Tom Colby, 7:30pm

Aug 12 - EBBS Annual Potluck Picnic,
Lake Temescal Regional Park

Aug 20 - *Members Only Workshop, Bring your trees to the Garden workshop and get your bonsai on with your fellow club members!*
12-3pm *

Aug 27 - *Introduction to Bonsai* with
Michael Jensen-Akula, 1-3pm *

Sept 13 - *Accent Plants Workshop*
with Lucy Judd

Sept 17 - *Bonsai Prep Workshop*

Sept 24 - *Introduction to Bonsai* with
Janet Nelson, 1-3pm *

Oct 6 - Annual Show set-up, 6pm

Oct 7-8 - **Annual EBBS Club Show**
with show headliner Jason Chan

Oct 22 - *Introduction to Bonsai* with
Tom Colby, 1-3pm *

Nov 8 - *Pygmy Cypress*
with Bob Shimon, 7:30pm

Nov 26 - *Introduction to Bonsai* with
Addison Galambos, 1-3pm *

Dec 13 - Holiday Party, at the Garden
Center

* Located at the workshop in the Lake Merritt
Bonsai Garden

It's Showtime!

It's time to start getting ready for the Annual Show! Tom Colby will be kicking off the preparations with his talk on bonsai stands on August 9th at the general meeting.

Next, Lucy Judd will be presenting and giving a workshop where you can build your own accent plants on September 13th at our September general meeting.

Finally, there will be a bring-your-own-tree bonsai prep workshop on the third Sunday in September (Sept. 17th) at the Bonsai Garden. A flyer will be sent out as well as a newsletter article so you will know what to bring for your trees.

On the evening of October 6, we will be setting up the rooms for the show and all participants must bring their trees, stands and accent plants that evening. Details will follow in a separate advisement.

A GREAT way to be involved in the club and make friends is to volunteer at the show. It takes many people to make the show work! Right now we need to start filling in the task sheets with volunteers for the show. The show jobs include but are not limited to:

Docent and Security - we need individuals to be present and alert in the show room during both of the days of the show to ensure the trees are kept safe and not touched during show times. They may also act as docents for visitor's questions.

Hospitality - individuals are needed to prep food and beverages on both Saturday and Sunday. This includes coffee, tea and pasties in the morning, organizing food during the lunch periods and cleaning up and storing food before closing for the day. Sign-ups are for different time periods each day.

Plant sale - The plant sale area needs at least 2 individuals to manage the cashier's table and sale area in 2-hour increments for both days. It also includes security at the front door to ensure all plants and bonsai related items are paid for before leaving the building.

Reception table - This table must be manned at all times to greet visitors and direct them to the show and demo, etc. Sign-ups are for 2-hour increments and 2 individuals are preferred.

Demonstration and raffle - This is managed on Saturday only. Individuals sell raffle tickets at a separate table from the reception table. The demo tree is stationed at that table until the demo begins. Once the demo begins, tickets are sold inside the demo room. At the end of the demonstration the raffle begins. Individuals run the raffle as well as sell the tickets.

So think about what jobs you'd like to volunteer for and be ready to sign-up at the meetings or picnic.

- Bev

Bonsai Calendar



Watering

9am is the best time to water, but water 2 to 3 times daily to if needed to keep trees moist in the heat.

Place small trees in a tray of gravel to keep moist.

If you've defoliated trees, water less because of reduced transpiration.

Fertilizing

Do not fertilize Satsuki Azaleas or decandled pines.

Most other trees are ok to continue feeding.

Repotting

Not recommended at this time except for tropical and semi-tropical trees.

Styling/Pruning

You can work on almost any tree in August—as long as it's healthy. Make sure you meet this conditions before you wire and cut back:

1. **Is it bushy?**
2. **Is it growing runners?**
3. **Has most of the foliage has hardened off?**

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.

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

Julian Tsai on Japanese Maples

Julian's July presentation on *Japanese Maple Deciduous Development* covered the fundamentals of deciduous bonsai and penjing creation. In the first half of the presentation, he used slides and diagrams to make the point that you need to start your branch divisions close to the trunk (who is also far from your intended silhouette) so that you can get a dense deciduous tree.



Because of the exponential growth of twigging with each division, one additional layer of branches within your intended silhouette can be the difference between 5,000 and 10,000 branches. Julian made the point that cutting your tree to silhouette when you start the branch creation will never lead to the same density as building your tree from the inside out.

After the slide portion, he did a demo on this trident maple from Lone Pine Nursery. The tree had never been styled before so a hard reset on the branching was required. He cleaned up many dead stumps on the tree and applied cut paste to start the healing process.



He also removed most branches, only leaving running shoots on the branches that he intends to thicken. The branches at the top were cut back more heavily than lower branches because the lower branches need to thicken more before development on the top branches can start taking place.

Larry Schmidt's Oak Bonsai

We have seen many fine oak trees as bonsai—and some of the most impressive trunk lines and spreading nebari are displayed on trees grown by Larry Schmidt. Larry was a longtime member of EBBS and passed away in 2020 from pancreatic cancer, so we cannot ask him how he achieved such amazing growth or what type of oaks they are - there are many varieties in his collection. But here's what we do know.

Larry served on the EBBS Board of Directors 1997-1999. I picked him up at his house and drove him to monthly meetings. He was always quiet and reserved, never drove a



car and usually got around by bus. I'm not sure how he got bonsai to club meetings, but he once brought scores of items to sell at the auction, including a bucket of

"muck". That led the Board to place a limit of ten items per seller.

He lived in a house in the Glenview district of Oakland with his long-time partner Carl Linkhart who is an artist and published writer. Larry developed an amazing garden in his backyard filled with wildflowers and some trees. Some of his bonsai were grown in containers on the front patio, which was also the roof top of his garage below. But the best trees were kept on the pitched roof of the two-story house.

One day, Larry phoned and said he'd like to show us his trees, so we went. After viewing the backyard and front patio, Larry led us around to the side of the house, climbed up on the side fence, and scaled the side of the house to the roof. With his long legs and wiry build, it was easy for Larry. I was more nimble than too.



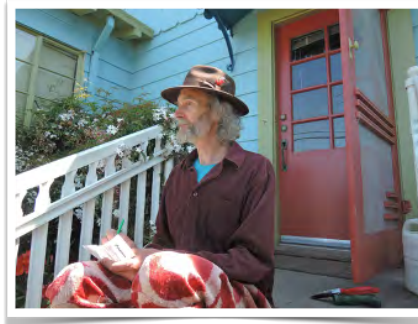
There, we saw the Oak collection. Scores of trees, all with mature bark, gnarly branch structure, wide root bases, and

lush foliage. Most were growing in colanders or plastic wash tubs. The sun exposure and air flow on the roof were great! Larry explained that he climbed up daily to water his trees.

Larry told us that he grew them all from seeds that he sent away for from Europe. He had no problem getting them through Customs inspection by having them labelled as biological specimens. Larry worked a bit with Boon Manakitivipart when Boon was in Alameda. Also, Sam Adina came to help re-pot trees on Larry's roof top.

Larry left no records or documentation of the species or exact source of his trees, nor how he grew them with such wide bases. We can surmise that the colander containers allowed rapid root growth, and he probably watered them generously. I don't recall any discussion of soil or fertilizer. When we began repotting

the trees that we had acquired, the trees had fine root balls, no tap roots or large roots. The soil was similar to the bonsai mix we



generally use, but with more DG (decomposed granite), and was pretty compacted, suggesting a longer re-potting interval. There was no evidence of wiring or cut scars on any of the trees. Branch structure was very free-form and twisting, with not much ramification. Branches had been left to grow freely in all directions.

After Larry died, Carl contacted me about disposing of Larry's trees. Carl sold us four of what he described as Larry's best trees, that he wanted us to have. Then, Stephen Lysaght and Gary Anderson learned about the Schmidt collection and acquired them all. Fortunately, Steve and Gary have the space and muscle!

I displayed a bonsai from Larry's collection at the EBBS show in October 2022. At that time, it was labelled as an English Oak. My online search suggests it may be a *Quercus cerrus*, or *lobata*, or *macrocarpa*, or *robur*. I enjoy pruning and wiring the branches to suit my vision of this magnificent tree, and I may never be sure of its exact species.

- Janet Nelson

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!

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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.

Newsletter Contributors

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Upcoming Bonsai Events

Marin Bonsai Club August Sale Aug 05, 10am-4pm
San Rafael, 670 Del Ganado Rd, San Rafael, CA 94903 All bonsai fans are invited. Sale will have pre-bonsai plants, bonsai, pots, tools, companion plants, and more.

Akebono Bonsai Club 59th Exhibition Aug 8, 7pm - Aug 9, 7pm
Palo Alto, 2751 Louis Rd, Palo Alto, CA 94303. Akebono Bonsai Club annual show featuring bonsai display, planting demonstration, and bonsai plant sales. Club members will be on hand to provide information on the art of bonsai. This show is held in conjunction with the Palo Alto Buddhist Temple Car Show. For more information Call: 408-781-5937.

San Francisco Bonsai Society Aug 10, 7-9pm
Recreation Room of the San Francisco County Fair Building.
Styling Demonstration with Adam Toth. The elm will be raffled at the end of the demonstration—this could be your newest tree!

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.

East Bay Bonsai Society Annual Show. Oct 7-8, 10am-4pm
Lakeside Park Garden Center, 666 Bellevue Ave, Oakland, CA 94610. The show features an impressive exhibit of quality bonsai as well as a demonstration by Jason Chan, owner of Eastern Leaf Bonsai Nursery, past board member of GSBF and author of a bonsai book dedicated to helping beginners and new bonsai enthusiasts. There will also be a raffle, silent auction and a sale of bonsai and related materials.

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

California Bonsai Society Annual Exhibit Nov 4-5, 10am - 5pm
1151 Oxford Rd, San Marino, CA 91108. Three demonstrations each day at 1pm. For more information, please contact Lindsay Shiba: shibalindsay@gmail.com or check the website: californiabonsaisociety.com

60th Winter Silhouettes Show - Baikoen Bonsai Kenkyukai
Sat, Jan 13-14, 10am - 4:30pm, 301 N Baldwin Ave, Arcadia, CA 91007