

The Tree Shrinker

Next meeting: Jonas Dupuich, August 12, 2026

By Addison Galambos Aug 5, 2026



Thanks for a great 2026 auction!

Thank you to all volunteers who helped make the auction a success. Everything went extremely smoothly, with us completing auctioning all items before 9:30. A special thanks to Beverly Martinez who led the auction preparation committee and ensured a successful event via careful planning.



August Picnic Details

The East Bay Annual Picnic will be held at Michael and Marilyn Jensen-Akula's stunning home and garden on Sunday, August 16th, 2026. 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:

- Entree - Last names A-C
- Appertizer - 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.



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.

August 12 - Jonas Dupuich 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

Dec 9 - Annual Holiday Party, set up at 6:00.

August Meeting

Tree display and show prep with Jonas Dupuich

Have you wondered what it takes to get your bonsai trees “show ready”? We are delighted to feature Jonas Dupuich to our August 13th meeting to speak to us on display. Jonas has asked for member trees to be used in his lecture, and we hope to have many for him to choose from. **Bring a tree, a stand and an accent plant to the meeting and it may be chosen by Jonas during this demonstration.** See you then. Pre-Meeting Workshop at 6:30pm We'll be having another pre-meeting workshop at our August 13th meeting. The workshop is open to all and is free. It will be from 6:30-7:30 pm 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, August is a great time for second pruning on

deciduous or a good time to wire and style trees.

Thank you to the following folks for bringing refreshments to the August meeting:

Mike Cullen, John Schiffer & Emily Gallivan.

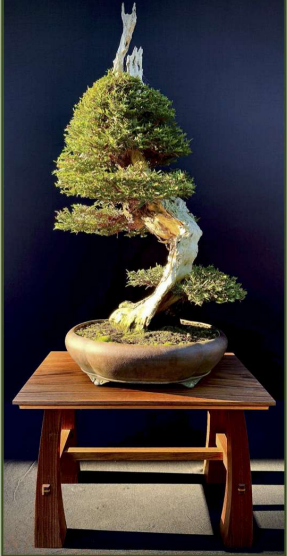
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Take a vacation from your Trees by Jesse Nichols

How to set up a misting and watering system for automated bonsai watering

Watering my bonsai is a ritual that I genuinely enjoy. It keeps me connected to my trees, even if only for a brief moment each day. That said, it's also a tether that makes it difficult to go on trips, large or small.

I've gone through at least 3 different iterations of "fully automated" watering systems, but each had some critical

flaw. Traditional sprinkler emitters won't stake into a 2" pot, and my soaker hose system required me to set up & break down a loop around *each tree* for *every trip* (I hated the messy look of the spaghetti tubes). Given that I travel 5-6 times per year, this was a huge burden, especially as my collection expanded!

Last summer, I went back to the drawing board. I've long envied the copper sprayer system at the Lake Merritt garden, but knew that would be out of my budget. Instead, I happened across a gooseneck adjustable misting system.

The unreasonably low price raised quality flags for me, but being so cheap, I could justify an investigation. After the initial setup, I decided it was visually subtle enough that I could leave it in place year-round if it worked well.



Once I had added a few expansion packs and monitored it in action for a week, I was ready to give it a trial run during a mild-weather weekend away. Sure enough, it performed like a champ!



That test was last September, and now (three week-long vacations and a handful of weekend trips later), I don't even think twice about turning it on and heading out.

Here's what I learned, in case you'd like to set one up for yourself.

- Most trees only need 1-2 nozzles, and my largest trees get 3-4.
- I only have to run it for 1 minute once a day; twice a day for my larger trees or during hotter weather.
- I have 15-30 nozzles on each of my three lines (grouping trees based on watering frequency), and there appears to be plenty of pressure for further expansion.
- The system uses 5/16" (8mm) tubing, not the standard 1/4" tubes or a "trunk line". You just go right from your drip irrigation timer into the tubing via a 3/4 to 5/16" connector (that one has a pressure regulator, but the simpler one from the starter kit works fine for me).
- The starter kit comes with 6" misting nozzles, which are too small for anything other than a shohin, but the price is actually not bad just for the full set of materials. 12"

adjustable nozzles are my go-to. The 8" tubes are fine, but not as versatile. The 20" nozzles are great for extra large/tall pots, but unwieldy & unappealing for most pots. Generally use the smallest size necessary.

- You'll also want extra 5/16" tubing, a few 4 way quick connectors, and perhaps some elbow connectors for the last nozzle on the line. You'll get plenty of 3 way connectors with your nozzles. The connectors have holes for nails, and I just use little 2" box nails to keep them in place.

This system has been a game changer for me. Here's a [quick video of my system in action](#).

Enjoy your vacation!

To Stop Sprinting and Sip Syrup by Nick Vila

Imagine a treadmill set to its maximum speed, with a person atop it sprinting at a near-insane pace. The belt hums at a pitch so high it would be heard across the room, if not for the runner's thundering footfalls drowning out the whine of the treadmill motor. Now imagine this treadmill (with its runner sprinting at a break-neck speed) is actually sitting on top of *another* treadmill, one that is miles long and moving at just one mile per hour. No matter how intensely fast the runner is galloping in place, the long journey to the end of the miles-long treadmill-under-the-treadmill cannot be completed any quicker and the end remains nowhere in sight.

This tableau is what best comes to mind when I reflect on my bonsai journey. I feel a dissonance between the slow progression of bonsai creation and the voracious pace of learning and information intake that my love of bonsai has compelled me toward. For the past two years I have tried to rapidly learn an art that, bound by the laws of nature, cannot be practiced at a faster pace than the centuries-long progression of a tree growing into its ancient form. I sometimes feel as if my dedication to inhaling bonsai information is like trying to chug maple syrup through a beer

funnel; no matter how hard I swallow the syrup decides how long the process takes.

Of course, all of this learning is part of the fun for me. I watch bonsai videos at 2x or 2.5x speed; it's a practical way to make it through the videos efficiently but it also compounds that feeling of sprinting on a treadmill-on-a-treadmill. The accelerated playback speed and hyper frequent absorption of bonsai education feels at odds with the crawling pace of growing miniature trees.

So when Michael Hagedorn released a two-part article on his blog recommending a number of books for bonsai enthusiasts I decided it was a good opportunity to lower the speed of my treadmill to a walking pace. To drink my maple syrup not through a beer funnel but with a teaspoon like a civilized person. To slow myself down even further, I decided to share my learnings, insights and inspirations from this reading journey with you all.

I invite everyone in the club that has a similar passion for reading and bonsai to join me in reading a new book every month. My goal is to contribute to our monthly newsletter with a write up of my thoughts and feelings about these books as I go through them, sharing what insights I find particularly relevant for all of us as bonsai artists. I would love for anyone who joins me on this journey to send your own insights from the selected book of the month with me so I can include as many perspectives as possible in our newsletter review (nick.vila@live.com). I hope that these readings will be a source of new ideas on design, horticulture, biology, and inspiration and, if nothing else, force me to slow down and take things one page at a time. This way we can all enjoy daintily sipping maple syrup together!

I plan to start off with a book that was not part of Michael's recommendations, but has come up often in discussions of books for bonsai enthusiasts: *The Hidden Life of Trees* by Peter Wohlleben. It's been on my reading list for a long while. If this first review is well received, I hope to continue on with the other books Michael has recommended below. Stay tuned for the September newsletter when I will hopefully have my first actual bonsai-focused review to share.

Suggested Books For Bonsai Enthusiasts: Part 1 | Michael Hagedorn

Suggested Books For Bonsai Enthusiasts: Part 2 | Michael Hagedorn

Call to Action - Read *The Hidden Life of Trees* by Peter Wohlleben and send your feedback and bonsai related insights to nick.vila@live.com by August 25th

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)

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://bonsailakemeritt.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

Upcoming Bonsai Events

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 nakamemoralexhibit@gmail.com or nakamemoralexhibit.com for more info.

Chino Bonsai Club 6th Annual Bonsai Exhibit - Sat, Oct 03
Chùa Quan Thế 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.

Intro to Bonsai schedule 2026

August 23 - Janet Nelson

September 27 - Nick Vila

October 25 - Tom Colby

November 22 - Addison Galambos

Join the conversation!

Upcoming Bonsai Events

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Member Ads

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