



THE TREE SHRINKER

Next EBBS Meeting (Pre-Show Workshop): **September 10, 2025**

2025 EBBS Schedule

Regular Meetings

2nd Wednesday, every mo, @7:30pm
with pre-meeting workshop @6:30pm

Sep 10 - Pre-Show Workshop 7:30pm

Sept 19 - Set-up for Show @6:00pm

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

We'll have an informal, pre-show workshop during the regular Sept. meeting time (9/10 at 7:30) to swap stands, accent plants, scrolls, and do any last minute tree work.

Volunteer for our Show!

Help out with the EBBS show!

[Click here to sign up!](#)



Get Ready for the Show! Special Preparation Meeting on Sept. 10th

Our annual show is just around the corner! To help everyone prepare, our next meeting will be a hands-on workshop dedicated to putting the finishing touches on your displays. **Join us on Wednesday, Sept. 10th, at our regular time of 7:30 PM.**

This is your chance to:

- Get advice on your display, from stands to accent plants.
- Borrow stands, moss, or accents from fellow members.
- Bring your extra supplies for others who may need them including moss/stands/accents.

We will also have final sign-up sheets and materials available, including:

- Volunteer and Tree Identification schedules.
- Sales tags and Consignment/Donation forms for anyone selling bonsai material. There is no limit on the number of items you can sell or donate.

PLEASE bring accent plants and stands to share if you have them!

Please Note: This will be an in-person, interactive workshop. We will not be broadcasting a live feed for this meeting.



Bonsai Calendar

Sun

Gradually move shaded deciduous trees into sun to promote fall color.

Watering

Water regularly, but don't over-water..

Fertilizing

Use low or zero nitrogen fertilizers

Repotting

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

Styling/Pruning

Remove seed pods and dry fruit.

Do not wire deciduous trees until leaves drop.

Once Conifers are bushy, have runners and the foliage has hardened off, you can wire and style them, including cutting back. Renew pinching junipers and severely prune one last time this season.

Propagating/Collecting

Fall is a great time to perform side grafting on conifers, such as Junipers and Pines. It's the last opportunity to take hardwood cuttings from deciduous trees. It's also the last opportunity to remove air-layers this year.

Insect and disease control

Maintain defensive treatments for fungus. Remove dead plant material. Watch for and treat insect infestations.

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



It's SHOWTIME!!!

It's the best time of the year - EBBS Showtime! The camaraderie of working together with other club members for the show is exhilarating. We encourage every single member to show a bonsai tree, even you very new members. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call or email Show Chair Michael Szabo.

Preparing Your Tree for Display

Every member is encouraged to bring a bonsai tree to display. Your tree doesn't have to be a show-stopper, but it must meet these basic requirements:

- **Clean bonsai pot** - not a nursery or training pot. Clean with a lightly oiled rag using walnut oil, mineral oil, or any odorless type.
- **Tree maintenance** - free of weeds, pests, and pesticide smell. Remove damaged leaves. Trees may be neatly wired.
- **Soil presentation** - prepare the top with live moss or new soil/small gravel in colors that work with the tree and pot.
- **Stand required** - all trees and accents should be on a stand or jita. Contact Lisa Harper to borrow one, and put felt pads on your pot's feet to prevent scratches.
- **Labeling** - put your name and contact info on the bottom of plants and stands.

For display ideas and Japanese aesthetic, see Kokofu-ten show photos and search "display" and "show" at <https://bonsaitonight.com/recent/>. For stand guidance: <https://bonsaitonight.com/2022/09/17/bonsai-stand-conventions/>

Show Labels: Bev Martinez will send out a request for your tree details.

Show Weekend Schedule

Friday Setup (Sept 19): All volunteers and tree



displayers arrive at the Garden Center. Volunteers set up tables and backdrops while others bring show trees to the hallway. Pizza dinner provided! People can bring in items Friday night, Saturday all day and Sunday all day.

Curators: Suzanne Muller and Tom Colby will place all general show trees. Jancie Dilbeck handles Tokonoma displays. John Doig, Bill Castellon, and Janet Nelson organize Shohin/Mame displays.

Saturday & Sunday: Lunch provided for all volunteers.

Sunday Breakdown (4pm): Show ends, doors close to public. We need everyone's help to clean up by 5pm:

- Remove your trees, accents & belongings first
- Help pack up table clothes and backdrops
- Put away tables and chairs
- Clean kitchen and remove leftover food
- Sweep debris

Sign-Ups & Participation

Volunteers: Sign up at [this link](#) or email Mike Szabo at michael@cheezywhiz.com. This is your show and will only be as good as we collectively make it.

Tokonoma: Contact Janice Dilbeck at (925) 698-0627 or janicedilbeck@comcast.net.

Workshops: Three workshops available for club members. Sign-up information coming soon.



Club Sale

The sale helps fund the show and introduces newcomers to bonsai. Items may be donated (100% to club) or consigned (20% to club, 80% to seller). Make items attractive by removing weeds, dead leaves, and trimming awkward branches.

Sale details: Complete inventory forms and tag each item with selling price or mark as donation. Bring items Friday evening, Saturday, or Sunday. EBBS volunteers get early access Saturday at 9am before public opening at 10am.

Inventory forms and tags are attached to the newsletter email and will be available at the meeting on Wednesday.

Photos featured in this issue are from last year's show! Enjoy more of them on the following page!



Show Schedule

Saturday September 20th

9:30 am - 12:30 pm - Intermediate bring-your-own-trees workshop with Michael Hagedorn

10:00 am - Show and sale opens to general public

10 am - 12 pm - Beginners workshop - Go home with a potted Juniper bonsai!

2:30 pm - 4 pm - Michael Hagedorn talks about "Conceptual Bonsai"

5:00 pm - Show closes for the day



Sunday September 21st

9:30 am - 11 am - Member-only show critique

11:00 am - Show and sale opens to the general public

11 am - 1 pm - Beginners workshop - Go home with a potted Juniper bonsai!

12:30 pm - 3:30 pm - Advanced bring-your-own-trees workshop with Michael Hagedorn

4:00 pm - Show closes





Meet Michael Hagedorn

Our headliner at this year's show is Michael Hagedorn! Michael's bonsai work bridges tradition and innovative design. He apprenticed with bonsai master Shinji Suzuki in Obuse, Japan from 2003-2006, and authored the apprenticeship memoir 'Post-Dated: The Schooling of an Irreverent Bonsai Monk' and the offbeat educational book *56 Myths Exposed Using Science & Tradition*.

Formerly a potter, Michael is the Bonsai Consultant for the Portland Japanese Garden, teaches classes to international students at his garden Crataegus Bonsai, and blogs weekly at crataegus.com.

a few other tidbits:

–Michael was a painter and sculptor for years, has an MFA from The New York State College of Ceramics at Alfred University, and made bonsai containers in the 1990's under the name 'Crataegus Bonsai Containers'

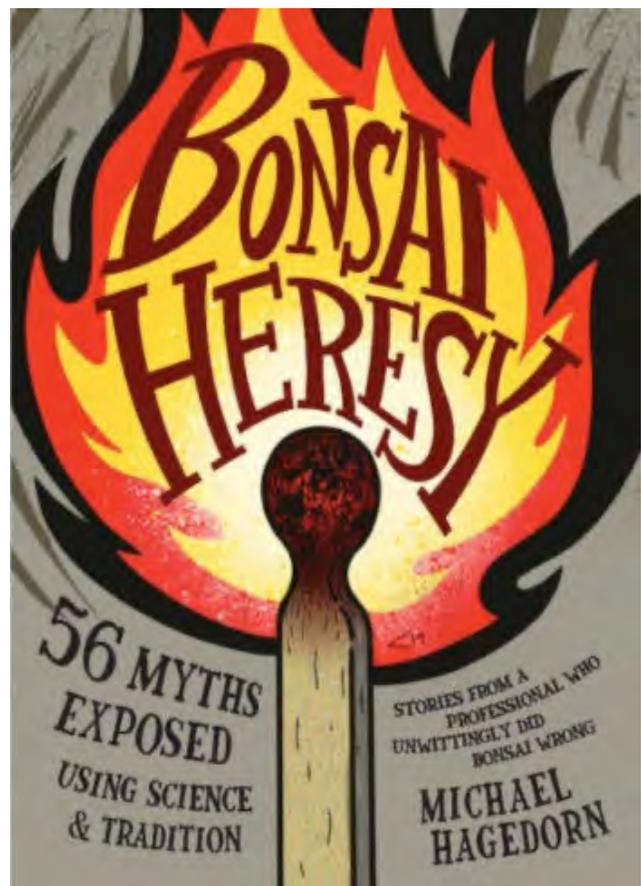
–prior to his apprenticeship in Japan with Mr. Shinji Suzuki, Michael studied with sensei Boon Manakitivipart from 2000-2003

–creative influences include the ideals and intentions behind the Unknown Craftsman, the

sculpture of Jean-Pierre Larocque, the bonsai of Shinji Suzuki, the writing of Thoreau, the mixed forests of the Northeastern and Northwestern USA, and certain rascally poets like Whitman, Hafiz and Billy Collins

–work as an apprentice in Japan earned master Shinji Suzuki several major awards (Kokufu and Prime Minister), as well as client awards in the Artisan's Cup and the National Show in the United States; privately a Mountain Hemlock was awarded "Best Evergreen" at the 2016 National Show, and a client's Cryptomeria won "Best In Show" at the 2024 Pacific Bonsai Expo

–Michael lives in a tiny home he designed and built; he also enjoys birding, Argentine tango, and fussing with fountain pens



Buy Michael's book. It's a great and accessible resource!

Club T-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.

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.

Newsletter Contributors

Editor: Adam Kleinberg

Contributors: Adam Kleinberg, Lisa Harper, Addison Galambos, Mike Szabo, Bev Martinez, Suzanne Muller, Wendy Quan, Janet Roth, Claude.ai,

Last month's article on "A Chemistry Lesson" was written by Tom Colby.

Photography: Adam Kleinberg,

Upcoming Bonsai Events

East Bay Bonsai Society Annual Show and Sale!, Sep 20, 2025, 10:00 AM - Sep 21, 2025, 4:00 PM, Lakeside Garden Center, 666 Bellevue Ave, Oakland, CA, We're excited to invite you to the East Bay Annual Show and Sale! We'll have a shot of vendors and club sales this year as well as an amazing headliner, Michael Hagedorn! Come join us in Oakland and see some amazing trees.

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

61st Annual Akebono Bonsai Club, Sep 20, 2025, 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM, Palo Alto, 2751 Louis Rd, Palo Alto, CA, Come join us for our 61st Annual Bonsai Show held in conjunction with the Palo Alto Buddhist Temple Car Show. Enjoy viewing bonsai in this unique outdoor setting. We will also have bonsai sales and a demonstration. Food available to purchase at the car show and admission is free.

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.