



# THE TREE SHRINKER

**East Bay Bonsai Society**

Next Meeting: **Nov. 8, 2023 at 7:30pm**



## President's Message

Wow! What a great show!

The trees were fantastic and I only heard good things about the workshop and critiques. It was so good to have Jason Chan here and didn't he do a marvelous job on that demo tree? Congratulations Alise Offeman on winning the tree.



It is always so heartening to see our members pull together to produce an outstanding achievement. All of our members should be very proud of the show we put on. Give yourselves a big pat on the back!

But we're not done yet! We still have an election in November, a couple of workshops coming up and then it is time to get ready for our holiday dinner in December.

The first workshop is a continuation with Bill Castellon on Japanese black pines as bunjin on November 5th. This workshop was started several years ago before Covid brought our workshops to a halt. If you are interested in having your black pine reviewed by Bill then take a look at the article later in the Newsletter for more information and registration.

The second workshop just opened up on the 3rd Sunday in November. We will use it for members to bring their trees in to work on as we have in earlier months. Be sure to bring any supplies you will need if wiring or repotting.

Finally, a big thank you to everyone who came out on October 29th to work on the trees and ready them for the 25th anniversary book project photographs. The trees are looking their best now! It couldn't be done without your help. Take care and I'll see you at the next workshop!

– Bev

## November Meeting

### Elections!

Elections will take place at our November meeting! You will not be receiving an electronic ballot for voting this year as the number of candidates vying for a post does not warrant a balloted selection process. I would like to introduce you to the candidates though (on page 8). We will be voting at the November meeting on November 8th at 7:30 pm. And if you would like to nominate yourself or another member for a post, your nomination will be welcome.

Also, if you want to be more involved, but don't think you're ready to become a board member, you can still join a committee! We'll announce those opportunities to pitch in as well!

So come on down to show your support, be part of the voting process and then stick around to watch Bob Shimon's presentation on Pygmy Cypress.

– Bev Martinez



### Pygmy Cypress with Bob Shimon

Ask any bonsai aficionado in Northern California where they got their Redwood bonsai, and they are pretty likely to say Bill Shimon. As them where they got their pygmy

cypress, however, and 'pretty likely' soars to 'almost definitely!'

So, we're really lucky to have Bob join us this month to do a pygmy cypress demonstration! I bought one from Bob at the Pacific Bonsai Expo, and it's quickly become one of my favorite trees.

## 2023 EBBS Schedule

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Regular Meetings:

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

### 2023

**Nov 5** *Bunjin Black Pine Workshop*  
with Bill Castellon, 12-3pm\*

**Nov 8** - *Pygmy Cypress*  
with Bob Shimon, 7:30pm  
+ **Board of Directors elections**  
(Bob will be selling trees before the meeting and during the break).

**Nov 19** - *Member Workshop*,  
12-3pm\*

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

**Dec 13** - *Holiday Party*, at the Garden  
Center

### 2024

**Jan 10** - *Repotting Party* at the  
Garden. 7:30pm, Small bags of  
bonsai soil available for sale.

**Feb 14** - Peter Tea, 7:30pm

**Mar 13** - Eric Shrader, 7:30pm

**Apr 10** - Andrew Robson, 7:30pm

**May 8** - Jonas Dupuich, 7:30pm

**June** - 2024 EBBS Annual Auction

**Sep 11** - Val Monroe, 7:30pm

\* Located at the workshop in the Lake Merritt  
Bonsai Garden

Here's Bob's bio:

*I first became interested in bonsai in the mid-60s while in college and used the first Sunset book as my guide. I was drafted after college in 1968, and bonsai was forgotten for 17 years. In 1985 I saw a poster at a nursery advertising the Redwood Empire Bonsai Society in Santa Rosa. I joined and have been a member ever since. Mas Imazumi was the club sensei and my first teacher. Kathy Shaner followed Mas as the club sensei, and I took regular workshops with her. I have also taken workshops with Kathy's sensei, Mr Mitsuya. Mr Tokita and Mr Tanaka from Japan. In addition, I have taken workshops from Marco Invernizzi and Peter Tea. In 2010 I hooked up with Ryan Neil and have worked with him, mostly on my sierra junipers. Currently, I am part of a study group led by Adam Toth who has recently returned from Japan.*

*In 2012 one of my redwoods won "Finest North American Native Species Bonsai" award at the 3rd U.S. National Bonsai Exhibition in Rochester, N.Y. In 2015 another one of my redwoods was selected for the Artisans Cup exhibit in Portland, Or.*

*My son, Zack & I started Mendocino Coast Bonsai in 1997, and Zack left the business in 2018. I specialize in collected California natives, mostly redwoods. I also collect Mendocino pygmy cypress, shore pines, live oaks, and Sierra junipers. In addition to trees, I sell Sara Rayner and Vicki Chamberlain pots, burl slabs, stands, and tools.*

Bob will have trees to sell before the meeting and during the break, so bring your checkbook if you think you might want one of these cool trees! His website is [mcbonsai.com](http://mcbonsai.com).

- Adam

## Bunjin Black Pine Workshop

Our own Bill Castellon will be leading a Bring-Your-Own Bunjin Black Pine workshop this November 5 at the Bonsai Garden at Lake Merritt. Bill is an expert in Black Pines and has shown his work for many years. Bring your Black Pine at any stage of training. Tools will be available at the BGLM, but please bring your own wire. Cost is \$40.00, limited to 8 participants--there are only 3 spots left!

To sign up, email [lisaharper@me.com](mailto:lisaharper@me.com).

**When:** Sunday, November 5, 2023; 12-3 pm,

**Cost:** \$40, cash preferred, checks made payable to EBBS

**Where:** The Bonsai Garden at Lake Merritt workshop area





## Bonsai Calendar

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**To enjoy fall color, gradually move maples and other shaded trees into the sun.**

- Review exposure of trees to the movement of the sun.
- Rotate trees twice a month.
- Conifers and Broad Leaf Evergreens can be cut and wired.
- Deciduous can be cut and defoliated. Wiring them this time of year is OK, but be sure to watch for wire biting into branches when new growth starts in the Spring.
- Remove wisteria from the pan of water after foliage has yellowed.
- Insect and disease control - Remove dead plant material. Watch for and treat insect infestations.
- Last opportunity to sever air-layers having adequate rootage.
- Good time to collect conifers from the High Sierras with permits to do so.

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

## Now, on to the Show!

The annual EBBS bonsai show last month showcased the dedication and passion of our members. Behind every tree was a story, and the event's success was due in large part to the many volunteers who put in time and effort.

A big thank you to everyone who helped make the event what it was. The commitment of this community is evident, and as we delve into the tales of some of the trees, we see the depth of that dedication. Let's dive into the stories from the show and celebrate our shared enthusiasm for bonsai

- Adam Kleinberg

## 2023 EBBS Annual Show Stories Behind the Trees

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**Suzanne Muller** - Suzanne bought this tree from Lone Pine in 2016. It was part of the owner, Steve's, father-in-law's collection. She brought this tree to workshops with Jonas who helped her style it. The pot is by Sara Rainer.



**Bob Gould** - Many members of our club know Bob for his expertise in azaleas, but he stretched his wings and showed this exceptional specimen of a juniper from his collection!

## 2023 EBBS Annual Show Stories Behind the Trees

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**Jason Chan:** Our special guest this year was LA-based bonsai artist, Jason Chan. Jason did a great demonstration on how to style a tree with this extremely vigorous juniper.

**Antonio Saraceno:** Antonio's 30-year-old fig tree is a testament to the power of persistent care. For all these years, it has never produced a fig, thanks to Antonio's diligent pruning every three weeks. Initially rooted in his neighbor's yard, the tree was lovingly passed on to him a quarter-century ago, and since then, it has thrived under his watchful eye.



**Lou Cortez:** A newcomer to the EBBS, Lou brought a unique and fascinating addition to the exhibit. His Kelly's Prostate Bonsai, a type of mutant Redwood, is an unexpected marvel. This botanical oddity does not reach for the skies like its towering relatives; instead, it sprawls like a ground cover, a testament to nature's whims.

**Julie Holcomb:** Julie's Persian ironwood tree tells a poetic tale. Leaning gently to its side, its posture is reminiscent of a tree caressed by the ripples of a river. Julie's evocative Tokonoma display, dubbed "Water Dragon," tied this imagery together with a graceful Japanese scroll. In Japanese culture, the dragon is a symbol of spirit, and Julie's tree truly embodies this ethereal essence.



## 2023 EBBS Annual Show Stories Behind the Trees

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**Randall Lee:** *Randall's Lebanese cedar tree is a story of survival. Once part of a trio of trees he got from his mother, it has faced adversity, with one of its siblings succumbing to nature and the other toppling over. The cedar stands as a resilient sentinel, bearing the memories of its fallen companions—and mom.*



**Bev Martinez:** *Bev's manzanita bonsai defies the norm. While many consider manzanitas challenging to tame into bonsai form, Bev's tree stands as a beacon of health and beauty, a symbol of her skill and dedication to the art.*



**Tom Colby:** *Tom's Suzuki azalea was intricately styled. No surprise that the craftsmanship Tom brings to his bonsai is top notch!*



**Alise Lacosse-Offeman:** *Remember that demo juniper Jason was working on? Alise was the raffle winner! Alise's juniper is deeply intertwined with the history of EBBS. It was originally a raffle tree that was used in a demo by former Bonsai Garden curator, Kathy Shanor. It has seen highs and lows, including a bout with blight. Now, rejuvenated and reshaped by Jason, it has found a new guardian in Alise, promising a bright future.*

## 2023 EBBS Annual Show Stories Behind the Trees

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**Michael Cullen:** Michael's ginkgo forest planting stands as a testament to patience and innovation. Grown from mere seeds, this tree has never been cut back! Michael's unique method of using a styrofoam cooler filled with ice to simulate winter for the tree is both ingenious and a tribute to his dedication to understanding the intricate needs of his trees.

**Janet Nelson:** Janet's crepe myrtle bonsai is a story of resilience and rebirth. Its gnarled trunk might have led many to believe it was beyond saving, but under Janet's care, it defied all odds. Bursting with life and adorned with flowers, this tree is a living testament to the power of hope and perseverance.



**Rick Trumm:** Not to be outdone by his better half (that being Janet!), Rick's juniper carries with it centuries of history. Extracted from a heavy snow drift in the Sierras two decades ago, this tree, estimated to be around 250 years old, has withstood the test of time. Its first appearance, settled in an antique pot, is a harmonious fusion of age-old nature and human artistry.

**Jeff Behring:** Jeff's Japanese black pine is not just any tree; it stands as a majestic representative from his impressive collection of pines. Its magnificent trunk speaks of age, grace, and the meticulous care that Jeff has devoted to it over the years.

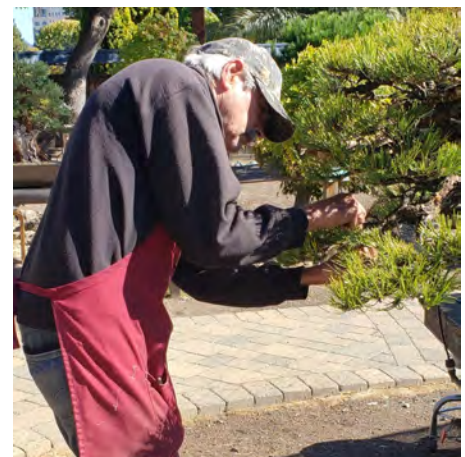


## Lake Merritt Bonsai Garden Clean-up 25th Anniversary Commemorative Book

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We had a great turnout we had to help clean up the trees at the Garden for their photo shoot next week. They will be in the commemorative book celebrating the 25th anniversary of the Bonsai Garden. Here are some club members pitching in!

- Mike Hylton



## Join the conversation!

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East Bay Bonsai Club is on Instagram! Follow our club at <https://www.instagram.com/eastbaybonsai/>



Join our Facebook group just for active members to at [www.facebook.com/groups/ebbsmembers](https://www.facebook.com/groups/ebbsmembers).

### Follow us!

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[www.eastbaybonsai.org](http://www.eastbaybonsai.org)

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### Member Ads

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Each member can run a free ad in the newsletter once a year. Email Adam at [adam@tractionco.com](mailto:adam@tractionco.com) to submit yours.

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### Newsletter Contributors

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**Editor:** Adam Kleinberg

**Contributors:** Adam Kleinberg, Bev Martinez, Mike Hylton

**Photography:** Adam Kleinberg, Mike Hylton, George Haas, Bev Martinez

## Meet your Candidates!

**President** – Beverly Martinez (incumbent)

**Vice President** – Addison Galambos

**Treasurer** – Pat Cahill (incumbent)

### Board Directors

Adam Kleinberg (incumbent)

Tom Fedor (incumbent)

Michael Jensen-Akula (incumbent)

Michael Szabo

Bryan Morgan

Freddie Winter

## Upcoming Bonsai Events

**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](mailto:shibalindsay@gmail.com) or check the website: [californiabonsaisociety.com](http://californiabonsaisociety.com)

**Conejo Valley Bonsai Society's Annual Exhibit** Nov 10-11, 9:30am - 3:30pm, Gardens of the World, 2001 Thousand Oaks Blvd, Thousand Oaks, CA, Demonstration on Saturday

### Fresno Bonsai Society Annual Bonsai Sale and Auction.

Nov 18, 9am - 2pm, Clovis, 945 Clovis Ave, Clovis, CA Shop for Pre-bonsai and bonsai, new and used pots, books, and supplies. Large silent auction of spectacular bonsai, some from the Clark Collection. Vendors of all things bonsai are welcome. Contact Genaro Cuan for more information. (+1) 559-3051720

**60th Winter Silhouettes Show** - Baikoen Bonsai Kenkyukai Jan 13-14, 10am - 4:30pm, 301 N Baldwin Ave, Arcadia, CA First bonsai show of the year, bonsai trees in their leafless glory. Bonsai, pre-bonsai, pots, and tools for sale. Giant raffle/ auction & entertainment. Demonstrations both days at 1pm.