



THE TREE SHRINKER

Next EBBS Meeting: **Nov 12, 2025**

2025 EBBS Schedule

Regular Meetings

2nd Wednesday, every month

Nov 12 - Eric Schrader cedrus (cedar) bonsai management, 7:30pm

Nov 23 - *Intro to Bonsai* at The Garden* with Addison Galambos

Dec 10 - Holiday Party, 6:30pm

Jan 14 - Annual Repotting Party, 6:30pm

Feb 11 - Club meeting, Leslie Buck, 6:30pm

* *at the Bonsai Garden workshop*

Annual Holiday Party & Potluck

Mark your calendars for our annual holiday celebration! This year's party will be held on Wednesday, **Dec. 10th at 6:30pm** (note the earlier start time). This is always one of the most enjoyable gatherings of the year—relax with fellow club members, share good food, and celebrate a great year of bonsai.

Members should bring their own place mats, utensils, cups and plates and a dish to share.. The club will provide chicken and ham!

There will be no formal program, just good conversation and camaraderie. Hope to see everyone there!

November Meeting



Eric Schrader from Bonsaify

We're excited to welcome Eric Schrader to our November meeting! Eric, known for his popular YouTube channel "Bonsaify," will be joining us to share his expertise and unique perspective on modern bonsai techniques. His engaging teaching style and innovative approaches have made him a favorite among bonsai enthusiasts worldwide.

Eric will be demonstrating his styling techniques and discussing how to develop cedrus bonsai with strong visual impact. This promises to be an educational and entertaining evening you won't want to miss!

We'll also be raffling off the \$200 demo cedar tree he'll be working on, so bring your wallets!

November refreshments: Tom Colby, Michael Jensen-Akula, Matthew Borden

GSBF Rendezvous Roundup

Many of our members attended The 2025 bi-annual GSBF Rendezvous weekend October 24-26. It was a lot of fun! The headliners Mauro Stemberger and Suthin Sukosolvisit gave demonstrations, workshops, and exhibition critiques. There were 26 different workshops over Friday and Saturday, lots of fabulous vendors and 6 different seminars. There were also several silent auctions and raffles, so plenty of opportunities to support this GSBF fundraiser.

About 30 clubs submitted a display for the exhibition, which was fantastic! Winners were announced in several categories. **Our own Rick Trumm, representing EBBS, won BEST CONIFER with his beautiful Shore Juniper three-point display**, with Pyracantha and a small



grass accent. Congratulations Rick! He also won \$500 for our club! Thanks, Rick!

A really special event was the Joshua Roth Rising Stars Competition. Six young men (that's right—no women) were selected from 6 clubs to compete. Each started with a similar beautiful large juniper and 8 whole hours to style it on Saturday. **Our club was proud to have Addison Galambos representing EBBS in this prestigious competition!**

In the evening, after the delicious banquet, all the trees were first critiqued by both Suthin and Mauro, then auctioned off with other spectacular Demonstration and Tomodachi trees. Yours truly (Lisa Harper) was very lucky to win Addison's tree, and I will bring it to the November meeting for all to admire!

The workshops were diverse and educational, covering everything from beginner techniques to advanced styling. The vendor area was bustling with activity all weekend, offering everything from pre-bonsai material to high-end pots and tools. Several club members came home with new treasures for their collections.

For those who missed this year's Rendezvous, mark your calendars for 2027—you won't want to miss the next one!

By Lisa Harper



Some of the incredible work on display at the Golden State Bonsai Federation Rendezvous.





News from The Bonsai Garden at Lake Merritt

Volunteer at the Garden!

The Bonsai Garden at Lake Merritt is seeking new volunteer docents. It's a chance to deepen your bonsai knowledge, share your passion, and spend time in a peaceful, inspiring setting.

Some reasons to volunteer or become a docent

- Learn from seasoned bonsai experts and fellow club members.
- Gain hands-on experience in bonsai care and garden upkeep.
- Work among one of the most historic bonsai collections in the U.S.
- Introduce newcomers to this "hidden gem" of Oakland.
- Support the garden's mission to teach the art and science of bonsai.
- Join a fully volunteer-run organization.
- Help preserve a beloved community treasure for future generations.



To volunteer or learn more, visit the [Bonsai Garden at Lake Merritt website](#) or speak with a current docent.

Mammoth Fundraiser - Trees Needed!

The Bonsai Garden at Lake Merritt will start accepting trees beginning November 4, 2025, for the Mammoth Fundraiser auction scheduled for March 7, 2026.

This is a great opportunity to support the garden while finding new homes for trees that no longer fit your collection. All proceeds benefit the Bonsai Garden's maintenance and educational programs.

Please make an appointment with Suzanne Muller to discuss a time to meet, review your trees, and fill out paperwork. Contact Suzanne by text at 925-787-1349 or send her an email at queueinteriors@comcast.net

Seiji Shiba Memorial Lantern Unveiling

Please join us in celebrating the memory of Seiji Shiba on **Saturday, November 8, 2025, from 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM** for the unveiling of a stone lantern outside the garden entrance. Seiji was one of the founding members of the garden. This donation was made possible by the Shiba family.

25th Anniversary Book Sale

The 25th year anniversary book will go on sale starting November 1 through December 31, 2025, at special discounted prices:

- **Hardcover: \$65 Now \$55**
- **Softcover: \$35 Now \$30**

This beautiful commemorative book chronicles the history and development of the Bonsai Garden—a **perfect holiday gift** for the bonsai enthusiast in your life!

Pine Care Through the Seasons with Bill Castellon

On Oct. 8, 2025, Bill Castellon gave an excellent talk about the annual care of pines. He covered both Black and Red Pines (which can be decandled), and White and Mugo pines (which cannot be decandled). Bill brought in about 5 of his Japanese Black pines to show different styles and then styled two that were raffled off and won by Mike Cullen and Michael Jensen-Akula. Congratulations! Here is a general summary of Bill's yearly maintenance of pine bonsai:

Before Late February, All Pines:

Repot pines before candles start to grow.

Late February, All Pines:

Candles start to elongate at this time. Candles are the new buds that grow at the end of each branch, where the needles for the year's growth arise from. Start fertilizing with a high nitrogen fertilizer at suggested frequency and dilution.

Mid June, Black and Red Pines:

If the tree is very healthy and in the refinement stage, you can decandle—which simply means cut off the candles. The purpose of decandling is to remove the strong growth at the apex of each branch and force the tree to develop new smaller candles from axillary buds. These will be smaller than the candle removed in June and will contain shorter needles for the whole year's growth.

If you are a beginner, a good rule of thumb is to decandle on June 15. Generally, remove all the candles on the tree. As you get more experienced, you will learn to balance new growth by decandling weak branches earlier and strong branches later during the period of late May to July 4. The later you decandle, the smaller the new needles will be in fall. For example, shohin pines can be decandled on the late end of the date range. If you decandle too late, it will weaken the tree. In the SF Bay Area, plan to be completely done by July 4 at the latest.



As you get more experienced, you can pull some of last year's needles at the base of removed candles. Leave 6-8 pairs, depending on the tree. If you have less, leave all the needles. Alternatively, you can remove old needles in fall. On trees where candles were cut, stop fertilizing for 4-6 weeks. Then start using a general fertilizer (balanced, not high nitrogen).

Mid June, White Pines, Mugo Pines:

Do NOT decandle. If your White Pines have super strong candles, you can pinch them back a little to slow their growth, but only do this if you are confident the tree is very healthy.

July 4 to October: If you notice you forgot to decandle a black or red pine—remove all the needles on the candle, but don't remove the candle itself. Then in Oct./., cut the rogue candle and all its buds back to the next bud down the branch.

October/November, Black and Red Pines:

In places where you removed a candle, new candle buds will have grown out around the base of the removed candle. Thin these back to two buds—one to be a side branch, and one to continue extending the branch. Select these two buds far apart; do not keep 2 buds right next to each other. Also, remove old needles (all can be removed now), and do major wiring.

October/November, White Pines:

At each growing tip on healthy trees, thin candles back to two, removing the strongest and keeping the smallest. If you have good strong growth, pull (or cut) out all old needles, and do major wiring.

A note on deadwood in pines: Black and Red pines do not really have deadwood in the wild. Making shari can be harmful to these pines. However, White pines can live with shari for thousands of years.

For much more detail and extensive photos, visit:

- <https://bonsaitonight.com/2016/07/22/decandling-black-pine-bonsai-overview/>
- <https://bonsaitonight.com/2009/05/05/of-candles-and-cones/>
- <https://peterteabonsai.wordpress.com/2012/06/29/decandling-and->

- by Lisa Harper



Bonsai Calendar

To Enjoy Fall Color

Gradually move maples and other shaded trees into the sun to enhance autumn colors.

General Maintenance

- **Rotate trees** twice a month for even sun exposure
- **Review placement** considering the lower angle of winter sun
- **Wire removal:** Check all wired branches—remove before damage occurs

Pruning & Styling

- Conifers and Broad Leaf Evergreens can be cut and wired
- **Deciduous trees** can be cut and defoliated. Watch for wire biting when spring growth begins
- **Last opportunity** to sever air-layers with adequate rootage

Winter Prep

- **Remove wisteria** from water pans after foliage yellows
- **Insect and disease control:** Remove all dead plant material
- **Clean up:** Remove weeds, fallen leaves, and debris from pots and benches

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

In Memoriam: Carl Lyndon Osterholm

January 19, 1951 - July 24, 2025

It is with heavy hearts that we share the passing of Carl Osterholm, a long-time member of EBBS and dedicated volunteer at the Bonsai Garden at Lake Merritt. Carl's passion for bonsai and his generous spirit touched many lives in our community.



Remembrance and Farewell Service

Saturday, November 15, 2025
2:00 - 5:00 PM

Lake Merritt Garden Center
Vista Room
666 Bellevue Avenue, Oakland,
CA 94610

For those unable to attend in person, you may join remotely via Zoom (opening at 1:00 PM, service begins at 2:00 PM):
[https://berkeley.zoom.us/j/92821612338?](https://berkeley.zoom.us/j/92821612338?pwd=cZube6GLw0aQ9FpetTaeXdXnfy2VJ.1)

[pwd=cZube6GLw0aQ9FpetTaeXdXnfy2VJ.1](https://berkeley.zoom.us/j/92821612338?pwd=cZube6GLw0aQ9FpetTaeXdXnfy2VJ.1)

Meeting ID: 928 2161 2338

Passcode: CLO1951

Carl will be remembered for his enthusiasm, knowledge, and the countless hours he devoted to sharing the art of bonsai with others. His presence will be deeply missed at our meetings and at the Garden.

Annual EBBS board election

Our annual election will take place at the club meeting on November 12. **Do you want to be more involved in leading club activities?** Being on the Board of Directors is a great way to get to know fellow club members and bring ideas to life that make our club better.

Please contact Tom Fedor (thomas.fedor@att.net), Laurien Fiddes (laurienfiddes@gmail.com) or Bev Martinez (martinez_bev@yahoo.com) to nominate yourself or your other favorite candidates..

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

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Upcoming Bonsai Events

Fresno Bonsai Society 48th Annual Show

November 15-16, 2025, 10am-5pm (Sat), 10am-4pm (Sun)
Fresno Fairgrounds, 1121 S Chance Ave, Fresno, CA

San Francisco Suiseki Kai Annual Show

December 6-7, 2025
County Fair Building, Golden Gate Park, San Francisco

Baikoen Bonsai Kenkyukai 62nd Annual Winter Silhouette Exhibition

January 17-18, 2026, 10am-4:30pm
Arboretum of Los Angeles County, 301 N Baldwin Ave, Arcadia, CA

Bay Area Bonsai Associates 44th Annual Exhibit

January 17-18, 2026
Lakeside Garden Center, 666 Bellevue Ave, Oakland, CA
Saturday 5-9pm, Sunday 10am-4:45pm. Demonstration Saturday at 6:30pm. Free admission.

GSBF Bonsai Garden at Lake Merritt Mammoth Auction & Sale

March 7-8, 2026, 11am-3pm
Bonsai Garden at Lake Merritt, 666 Bellevue Ave, Oakland