



THE TREE SHRINKER

East Bay Bonsai Society

Next meeting (in-person and online): **February 8, 2023 at 7:30pm**

Paid your dues?

If you haven't yet paid your annual dues, please do! They allow our club to put on the great events that feed our love of bonsai!

Please make checks out to **EBBS**.

Please indicate your name and whether the dues are for single membership or family. If you prefer to pay by credit card, you can use [this link to the EBBS Membership Request form](#), or you can pay at any meeting via Square. A 3-4% processing fee will be added to the cost to offset fees from Square.

You can also mail your dues to:

East Bay Bonsai Society
c/o P. Cahill
4933 Cochrane Ave
Oakland, CA. 94618

Annual dues have not changed:

- Single membership - \$30*
- Family membership - \$40*
- Single/newsletter via USPS - \$40*
- Family/newsletter via USPS - \$50*

If you became a member after October 1, 2022, then you are paid up for 2023.

President's Message



Welcome to February everyone, still a little chilly out, but plenty of sun as well. I know everyone is probably busy repotting their trees, but if you have a little time, this month's presentation should be well worth attending in person or logging in! Eric Schrader is coming back to show us how to plant a mame bonsai and keep it healthy! It is a tall order for any bonsai artist.

I am looking forward to seeing everyone's silhouettes. This will be the last month we can show them off as Spring is just around the corner. As we continue to get back to normal monthly meetings (including refreshments!) and events, I look forward to seeing many of you that we haven't seen for a while as well as meeting our newer members at the meeting and the field trip to Lone Pine.



Happy repotting!

Sincerely,

Bev Martinez

2023 EBBS Upcoming Schedule

Regular Meetings:

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

Lakeside Garden Center
666 Bellevue Avenue, Oakland

Visitors Welcome!

Feb 8 - Eric Schrader - Mame presentation and sale
(In Person & Online)

Feb 25- Lone Pine Field Trip

Mar 8 - Addison Galambos/Alise Offeman - Kokofu Trip
Presentation (In Person & Online)

Mar 26 - Bonsai for Beginners -
Addison Galambos (In Person)

Apr 12 - Monthly program (TBD)

Apr 23 - Bonsai for Beginners -
Michael Jensen-Akula (In Person)

May 10 - Monthly program (TBD)

May 28 - Bonsai for Beginners -
Janet Nelson (In Person)

Jun 14 - EBBS Annual Auction

Jun 25 - Bonsai for Beginners -
Tom Colby (In Person)

Jul 12 - Monthly program (TBD)

Aug 9 - Tom Colby - Bonsai
Stands presentation (In Person &
Online)

Aug (TBD) - Summer BBQ

Sept 13 - Lucy Judd - Accent
Plant Workshop (In Person &
Online)

Nov 8 - Bob Shimon - Pygmy
Cypress presentation (In Person &
Online)

Dec 13 - Holiday Party

February meeting

Our next meeting will take place on February 8, 2023. We'll be treated to a presentation on the art of Mame Bonsai by Eric Schrader, the co-founder and Chief Bonsai Artist at Bonsaify (www.bonsaify.com) where you can buy Mame pots and other bonsai supplies!



Mame are miniature bonsai—often between 2” and 4” tall like this beautiful Acer Palmatum featured in a blog post on the Bonsaify website on “[Moving a Mame Maple Bonsai into a new Container](#)”.



Eric started bonsai in 2002 after attending a show from the Bonsai Society of San Francisco. Eric grew up in rural Mendocino County, and loved hiking among the oaks and redwoods. While studying with Boon Manakatipart for ten years, Eric developed a passion for starting trees from seed and cutting. In 2019, Eric and his wife Dory started Bonsaify to offer bonsai for everyone to experience and enjoy.

Bonsaify is focused on connecting people to nature through informational and fun content, and on selling bonsai trees, containers, supplies, and related products through an online store. To keep up-to-date on Eric's pursuits, please visit bonsaify.com and sign-up to receive the newsletter; follow Eric on Instagram (@ericsschraderbonsai); and watch videos and subscribe to his [YouTube channel](#)!

Refreshments will be provided by: Ed Smyth, Stephen Lysaght and Janet Nelson

For members only!

We've created a NEW Facebook group just for active members to connect at www.facebook.com/groups/ebbsmembers. Just click on that link and request to join!



Our current Facebook group at www.facebook.com/EastBayBonsaiSociety is a great resource for us to share photos and news about our events and has amassed over 3,400 followers! But because it's a public group, we haven't used it as much for networking amongst ourselves.

Only a dozen members have joined the group so far, but we've been helping one another with bonsai questions, posting photos of what we've been repotting, and talking about other things we are seeing in the bonsai world! Come join the conversation!

Follow us!

facebook.com/groups/ebbs

facebook.com/groups/ebbsmembers

twitter.com/EastBayBonsai

www.eastbaybonsai.org



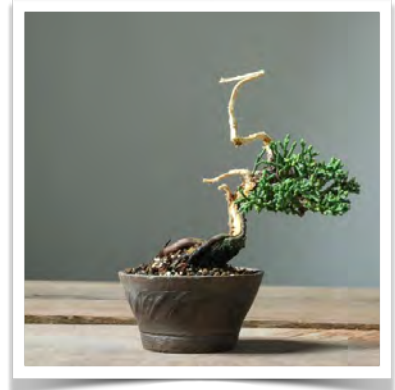
Mame Kishu Juniper Bonsai

Written by Eric Schrader on the [Bonsaify blog](#).

Time flies when you're having fun- I posted about Kishu cuttings back in December of 2014, and here we are in late 2019 and I've been doing a lot of work on these guys. So I can share a few tips and tricks that I've picked up to keep all you fabulous tree growers going in the right twisty direction.

Where we left off last time was a year after the cuttings were taken when I separated them, wired them, and put them in 2-inch pots. The initial twist that you apply to a cutting is actually incredibly important if you want to have twisting shari on your junipers. In the case of many of these trees I was not disappointed in my 2015 efforts; when I went to create shari I picked a piece of bark toward one of the larger tips and started peeling backward. I often do this in spring because the cambium separates so readily. As I pull, the bark strips follow the twist that was previously applied to the cutting leaving a spiral design in many cases.

After some shari were added in 2015 and 2016 I was largely allowing these to just grow out and blow out. At the time I had a lot of things to deal with, like remodeling a house, homeschooling a 6th grader, and spending 10 weeks in the Philippines (for my full-time gig) in one year.



I was just tickled with these guys all the time, so I spent a lot of time looking at them and analyzing how to make them better and more interesting. In each case, just some cutback, fine wiring, and additional shari work has created some really cool little trees. I've sold a few already, and I'm prepping a few more for sale in the near

Bonsai Calendar

- Many trees are dormant or semi-dormant, so there's still time for re-potting.
- Take advantage of dormancy to photograph deciduous trees without leaves.
- Rotate trees at least once a month to promote balanced growth.
- Improve overall design of trees: reduce or eliminate crisscross, inward branches, excessively heavy top branches, vertical twigs, unnecessary crotch branches, and long internodes.
- Many suggest a zero level of nitrogen during winter, especially for hard pines.
- Reduce watering because the sun is low, but not too much!
- Watch for insects and fungus—immediately treat any problems.
- Check old wiring for biting.

Refer to the EBBS Bonsai Seasonal Guide for more information on care! You can purchase one from Bev Martinez at in-person club meetings.

future. The feature image at the top of the article shows one potted (albeit in a bit oversized pot) and in the inaugural Shohin show this summer in Oakland.



Here are 5 key points to consider when making mame Kishu junipers:

1. At least in San Francisco, you have to keep them in full-full sun even if that means watering 2 or 3 times per day. The only time I move these into shade is during heat waves where temps get to 90F or above. If they are consistently in shade, the foliage will be leggy, and difficult to make into the super-compact shape you need.
2. The crown shape, and the styling you arrive at are ephemeral. Unlike larger trees where you can establish and then maintain a style, mame I believe are best adapted, restyled, retwisted, and restyled often - for fun and out of necessity.
3. Pay attention to the shape and length of the roots when you're potting them. I've re-potted all of these multiple times to establish a small, 1-inch disc of roots right at the base. Nevertheless, I've found that I ended up in some cases with unwanted height as a result of the roots that I exposed.
4. Step down gradually - I only ever went as large as a 2" (nominal) pot (actually 2.25" square by 3.25" deep) but when stepping down I still have to remove 80% of the roots to get into a slightly over-sized pot like those shown above. To go smaller, will take another repotting.
5. Once you reduce the rootball and put it into a ceramic container, it will slow down the growth, so do most of your growing in deeper or larger containers. However, be conscious that containers larger than 4" may prevent you from ever getting back into a real mame container!

January Meeting Recap

For our January club presentation, bonsai icon Jonas Dupuich discussed the technique of exposed root bonsai. Exposed root plantings are known for being fun and fast to create, in contrast to traditional bonsai with wide trunks which can take years to develop.



To create an exposed root planting, one should start by placing bonsai soil at the bottom of a tall cylinder and adding large particles, such as drainage rock, lava or pumice. You can try different materials for the large particles—Jonas even has plans to experiment using ping pong balls in an exposed root planting. The large particles are important as they allow the roots to reach for the soil on the bottom.

Next, (and by “next” we mean in a year or two) remove pieces of the cylinder and gently clean out the particles a little at a time starting at the top until the desired thickness of your roots is achieved. Then, wait until the following year and take off a little more.

To prevent the planting from becoming tippy, Jonas recommends using a chopsticks like in the picture to

to the right. He also suggests using trees that grow fast and planning for a smaller tree. Jonas has experimented with some larger ones, but don’t know how they’ll turn out. According to Jonas, “they may prove to be a disaster in the future and I’ll have wasted a decade,” but so it goes in bonsai, right?



Jonas was not the only one sharing non-traditional bonsai at January’s meeting! Two of our members brought trees from their collections that fall outside of the norm!

Stephen Lysaght shared a succulent bonsai that while not a “traditional” bonsai material, was quite beautiful.

Jeremy Stevermer has taken non-traditional to new levels of bonsai creativity, however, with his Star Wars Lego bonsai. Jeremy is working on recreating the planet of Dagoba, which if you’re not up on your Jedi lore, is the home of Yoda.

“You must unlearn what you have learned,” Yoda told Luke Skywalker.

Jeremy would certainly agree!





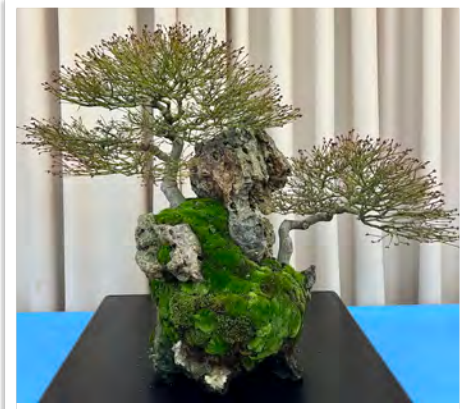
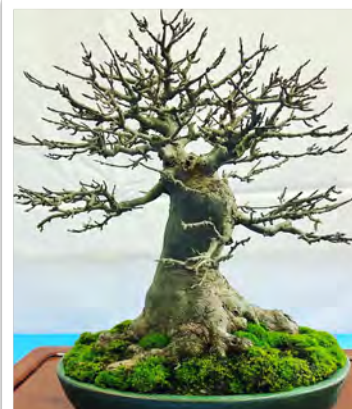
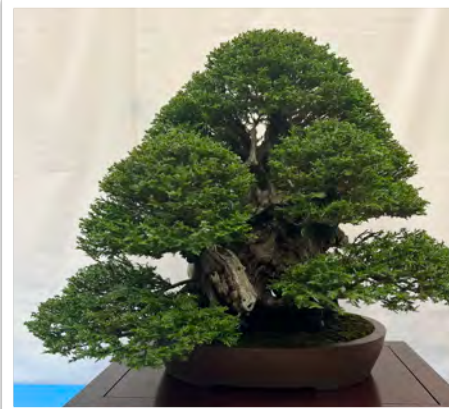
The BABA Show

The Garden Center at Lake Merritt was host to the annual Bay Area Bonsai Associates Show. Several of our members are also members of BABA, so it was great to see so many familiar faces. Jonas, once again, did a demo along with Daisaku Nomoto of Japan on how to grow shohin black pine.



There were some magnificent trees on display. This 500-year old California Juniper is from the collection of Seiji Shiba, who we wrote in last month's *Tree Shrinker*, passed away recently. It has been a bonsai for 35 years and was prepared for the show by bonsai master, Peter Tea.

Below and to the left are a few more specimens from the show.



Help Wanted!

Many of you told us that you'd like to find ways to be more involved in the club. Here are some upcoming opportunities to lend a hand.

Newsletter Contributors

Want to talk about a bonsai adventure you've been on? Want to share your expertise with your friends in the club? Have an opinion you want to express about Bonsai? Email newsletter editor, Adam Kleinberg, adam@tractionco.com to submit content to the newsletter!

Mammoth Auction Volunteers

Visit bonsailakemerritt.com to sign up. More details above!

Member Ads

Each membership household, may place a free five-line ad related to bonsai in two newsletters each year. Please submit your ad by the preceding Monday of the month to appear in the next publication. Send to EBBS_Distribution@yahoo.com.

Artificial Bonsai Intelligence

Have you heard the buzz about the ChatGPT artificial intelligence website? Since it's still repotting season, I asked it to give me 10 tips for repotting. Here's what it came back with. Not bad!

Here are 10 tips for a successful repotting season for bonsai enthusiasts:

- 1. Choose the right time for repotting. The best time is usually during the tree's dormant period, which for most deciduous trees is in late winter or early spring, before new growth appears.*
- 2. Make sure you have the right tools, including a sharp pair of scissors or shears, a concave cutter, and a root rake.*
- 3. Before repotting, trim away any damaged or diseased roots, and use the root rake to gently remove any old soil from the roots.*
- 4. Choose the appropriate soil mix for your tree. Bonsai trees prefer well-draining, nutrient-rich soil, such as a mixture of akadama, pumice, and lava rock.*
- 5. When repotting, be sure to use a pot that is only slightly larger than the current one, as bonsai trees should be root-bound to some extent.*
- 6. Make sure to position the tree in the center of the pot, and be sure to firmly pack in the soil around the roots.*
- 7. After repotting, water the tree thoroughly, but be careful not to over-water. Allow the soil to dry out slightly before watering again.*
- 8. Place the tree in a shaded area for a week or two to allow it to recover from the repotting process.*
- 9. As new growth begins, be sure to fertilize the tree regularly, using a balanced fertilizer.*
- 10. Keep an eye on the tree after repotting, looking out for any signs of stress or problems, and address them promptly if they arise.*

Beginner Learning Series

In 2023, the East Bay Bonsai Society will be piloting our first Nursery Stock to Bonsai Learning Series. In this set of four classes, we will pick out nursery stock together and develop it into a bonsai over the course of a year. You can expect to get insight and practice picking material, wiring and styling, repotting, and keeping your tree healthy!

The first class will include a trip to Lone Pine Nursery to look for material on February 25th. Subsequent class dates are TBD but should be the 3rd Sunday of the month in April, July and December. If you're interested in participating in the 2023 class please reach out to Addison by emailing EBBS_Distribution@yahoo.com. Classes will be \$10 / class and East Bay Bonsai Society members will have priority for slots within the class.

A visit to Grove Way Bonsai

We were saddened last month to learn of the passing of another important figure in the Bay Area bonsai community, Johnny

Uchida. Johnny was the bonsai master who ran the Grove Way Bonsai Nursery in Hayward, so I decided to take a drive to see if it was still open and check it out.

You'll be happy to learn that Johnny's son, Mike Uchida, has taken over at the nursery! There's some great bonsai material there and a wide selection of pots, so check it out sometime.



The address is 1239 Grove Way in Hayward. Mike would love to see members of our club stop by!



Lone Pines Field Trip

One survey respondent suggested we periodically have field trips for members. That spurred a great idea by Addison Galambos to plan a meetup at Lone Pine Gardens in Sebastopol, an excellent place to buy bonsai and bonsai starters.

Anyone who is interested can meet at **Lone Pine Gardens** at 11:00am on February 25th. The address is 6450 Lone Pine Rd, Sebastopol, CA 95472.

You'll be able to browse a variety of bonsai and pre-bonsai stock and also bounce ideas for material off other members. You can also bring a bag lunch and we can have a picnic at the nursery.

Editor: Adam Kleinberg

Contributors: Adam Kleinberg, Lisa Harper, Beverly Martinez, Addison Galambos, ChatGPT

Photos: Stephen Lysaght, Adam Kleinberg

Events by Others

18th Biennial Shohin Seminar Feb 3 - Feb 5, 2023
Santa Nella, 13070 CA-33, Santa Nella, CA 95322, USA
The Shohin Seminar is a popular event! Register and submit workshop requests now—getting in relies on a lottery system. For times and to pre-register visit <https://www.calshohin.org/>

Kokufu-ten Japanese National Bonsai Exhibition Feb 9 - Feb 12
Taito City, 8-36 Uenokōen, Taito City, Tokyo 110-0007, Japan
Kokufu-ten is the largest and most prestigious bonsai event held in Japan

Annual Mammoth Auction & Sale Feb 18, 12pm - 4pm & Feb 19, 9am - 3pm;
Oakland, Lakeside Park Garden Center, 666 Bellevue Ave, Oakland, CA 94610.
All proceeds support the GBSF Garden at Lake Merritt



Bonsai-a-Thon 2023, Feb 25 - Feb 26,
11am - 4pm
The Huntington, San Marino, 1151 Oxford Rd, San Marino, CA 91108, USA

American Bonsai Association, Sacramento Apr 8 - Apr 9, 10am - 4pm
Sacramento, 3330 McKinley Blvd, Sacramento, CA 95816, USA
The American Bonsai Association, Sacramento's (ABAS) 63rd Annual Spring Bonsai & Suiseki Show and Sale will feature headliner Todd Schlafer of First Branch Bonsai. Demonstrations will take place both Saturday and Sunday at 1:30 PM.

REBS 37th Annual Bonsai Show Aug 26 - Aug 27, 2023, 10am - 4pm
Rohnert Park, 5401 Snyder Ln, Rohnert Park, CA 94928, USA
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.

GSBF Rendezvous Oct 20 - Oct 22, 2023, 10am - 4pm
Santa Nella, 13070 CA-33, Santa Nella, CA 95322, USA
Bonsai Sales • Auction • Workshops • Lectures • Community

Capital City Bonsai Show Oct 21 - Oct 22, 10am - 3pm
Sacramento, 3330 McKinley Blvd, Sacramento, CA 95816, USA
This group show features tree and suiseki displays from participating area clubs

Get events invitations and updates at <https://www.gsbfbonsai.org/events>.