



THE TREE SHRINKER

East Bay Bonsai Society Next Meeting: **Jan. 8, 2024 at 7:30pm**

Dues are Due!

It's that time again! If you joined after October 1, 2024, you're paid for 2025. Otherwise, you can pay dues in cash, check, or credit card. Drop off cash or check at the next meeting, or use the link on eastbaybonsai.org/membership to pay by credit card. You can also pay at any meeting via Square. Mail your dues to **East Bay Bonsai Society, c/o P. Cahill, 4933 Cochrane Ave, Oakland, CA 94618**. Annual dues remain the same:

- Single membership: \$30
- Family membership: \$40

2025 EBBS Schedule

Regular Meetings

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

Jan 8 - Repotting Party, 7:30pm

Jan 26 - Intro to Bonsai *, Tom Colby

Feb 12 - Dylan Ferreria, Cedar Rose Nursery talking about growers

Mar 12 - Jarod Carrion - Northwest bonsai and pottery expert talking about bonsai as a side hustle

Jan 26 - Intro to Bonsai *, Addison Galambos

Apr 9 - Adam Toth, Shohin development

Apr 27 - Intro to Bonsai *, Michael Jensen-Akula

May 14 - Andrew Robson, deciduous

May 25 - Intro to Bonsai *, Janet Nelson

June 11 - EBBS Annual Auction

* at the Bonsai Garden workshop

It's Time to Repot!

Happy New Year and welcome back to the 64th year of the East Bay Bonsai society. What a fabulous year we had in 2024!

Many thanks to all who participated and made it a great year! We ended the year with 161 members--an all-time high for the second year in a row, and we are looking to add to that number this year.

And there is more to come!

January kicks off with a repotting session at our monthly meeting, and we hope everyone can make it. Our newer members learn by watching and doing, and there's no better group of experienced bonsai artists to teach them.

We'll have soil for sale by the pound and wire available for tying down roots. **So, bring a pot and tree, and plan to teach, learn or practice on January 8th.**

Pot swap & sale

Need a pot for your tree? Have an extra pot or two?

We're setting up a side table at the workshop for people to sell, donate & buy pots for repotting. Pots should be priced \$20 or less. Max 3 pots per seller.

Here's a [great tip](#) from Jonas Dupuich's Bonsai Tonight blog:

Be strategic about when you repot.



"My general approach is to chip away at groups of conifers, ideally right as the buds begin to swell, and then I drop whatever I'm doing to repot deciduous trees when I see the buds start to open.

The main benefit of repotting at the ideal time is that I can be more aggressive with the root work without stressing the tree as much as I would by doing the same work one month sooner (or later).

Meet the Member: Addison Galambos



Addison Galambos first got interested in bonsai in that iconic moment in *The Karate Kid 3* when Daniel-San and his girlfriend collect a tree from the side of a mountain.

That image stayed with him through childhood, but his real bonsai story started on a family vacation to California, where a roadside vendor and a simple

guidebook to bonsai sparked what would become a lifelong passion.

Now EBBS's incoming president, Addison's path to leadership in the Bay Area bonsai community has been anything but conventional. A Pittsburgh native who studied chemical engineering before landing in tech, he currently works as a sales engineer at Google, helping enterprise clients like DoorDash and Levi's navigate cloud solutions. But it's in his San Francisco garden where his real engineering happens - carefully crafting the future of trees.

His serious pursuit of bonsai began at the Bonsai Garden at Lake Merritt, where a chance encounter with Kathy Shaner set him on his path. "She was like, 'You want to do bonsai? Come back next weekend - we're doing repotting,'" Addison recalls.



2024 Holiday Party!

Lots of good food, good friends, Mike Hylton's annual year-in-review slide show and cute little bonsai trees dressed up for Christmas! Thanks to Janet Nelson for sharing these photos!



The 2025 EBBS Board

Front Row: *Beverly Martinez, Ashley Pouliot, Pat Cabill.*

Back Row: *Brian Morgan, Addison Gallambos, Michael Szabo, Freddie Winters, Michael Jensen-Akula.*

Absent: *Tom Fedor, Michal Hylton, Wendy Quan*



Michael Szabo & Addison Galambos



Randall Lee



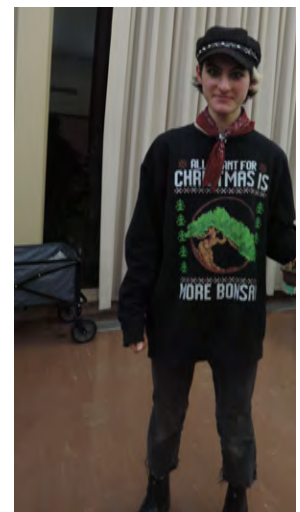
Nick Vargas



Bill Castellan & Bob Gould



Rick Trumm & Janet Nelson



Noah Hanna



Janice Dilbeck & John Doig

Those early days of volunteer work, especially during winter repotting seasons, laid the foundation for his technical skills and community involvement.

Evolution of a Collection

Like many enthusiasts, Addison started with modest material - the classic \$10 juniper that teaches basic wiring techniques. But his philosophy has evolved: "If I'm going to do six or eight hours of work on a tree, I want to be excited about what I did afterwards. The quality of the material impacts that."

His collection now includes several noteworthy specimens, including a remarkable redwood acquired from Bob Shimon. It's a tree that represents both his growing expertise and an interesting connection - he and fellow enthusiast Sam Tan each bought "brother trees" on the same collecting trip. It was Addison's first significant investment in yamadori (collected material), marking a turning point in his bonsai journey.



As the incoming president of EBBS, Addison brings a refreshing outlook. "I'm not coming in with some remit where I want to change everything," he explains. "When I first joined the club, we only had monthly meetings. Now we have all these extracurricular events, different kinds of training, field trips. It feels like it is what it should be."

His approach reflects a deeper understanding of what makes bonsai clubs thrive - letting people pursue their passions while maintaining the momentum that has made EBBS increasingly diverse and dynamic. Under his leadership, the focus will be on nurturing what works while staying open to organic growth.

Addison recognizes the unique challenges young people face in pursuing bonsai. "It's a very static hobby," he notes. "It impacts how you travel, where you can live - you need somewhere with sunlight and outdoor space." Despite these hurdles, he's optimistic about bonsai's trajectory in the US, particularly encouraged by the growing diversity in the club's membership.

His own approach to development combines careful species selection with practical cultivation techniques. He focuses on trees well-suited to the Bay Area climate, particularly Coast Redwood and Juniper, and maintains their health through daily micro-doses of fertilizer and consistent pest management.

As he settles into his new role, Addison continues to balance his technical approach with artistic vision. His current project involves developing a redwood with a unique style that breaks from convention - seeking density while maintaining dynamic structure rather than the traditional "shrub" appearance common in redwood bonsai.

He's also excited to be the auctioneer at the upcoming Mammoth Auction in February! He's been practicing, so expect a fun performance at the podium!

With one eye on tradition and another on innovation, Addison Galambos represents the evolving face of American bonsai. His leadership promises to honor EBBS's rich heritage while nurturing its growth into the future.

Just don't ask him about the contractor who accidentally pruned his collected trees. Some wounds take longer to heal than others.

- Adam Kleinberg



Bonsai Calendar

- During the winter most trees are dormant or semi-dormant. That means it's time to repot – just about any kind of trees except tropicals.
- You can also do air/ground layering this time of year.
- It's a good time to restyle conifers too.
- **Do one of these, not all three to any one tree!** It can be too stressful if you overdo it.
- On [Peter Tea's website](#), he points out, "Due to our mild Winters, it can make a difference repotting in December vs February. It all comes down to how fast you want the Bonsai to grow. Repotting in December generally yields a strong Spring push whereas repotting in February slows down the Spring push. The difference is not huge but can be enough to affect how refined trees continue to develop."

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

MEMBER ADVERTISEMENT

Mike Cullen's MEGA PLANT & POT SALE

Bonsai, starter material and pots of all sizes. **Come by Jan. 18 - 19 or call Mike at 916-248-6236 to arrange an appointment** (please leave a voicemail for a call back).
Address is: 2909 Wiswall Dr, Richmond, CA 94806.



Call for Volunteers:

Mammoth Auction & Sale



Volunteers are needed for **cleaning auction trees and sale items on Saturday, January 4**, starting at 9:00 am at the Bonsai Garden at Lake Merritt.

Volunteers are needed for **photographing auction trees and items on Saturday, January 11**, starting at 9:00 a.m., at the Bonsai Garden at Lake Merritt.

Please use the Sign Up Genius app for registering as a volunteer by [clicking on this link](#).

Rendezvous Juniper Styling Competition



As a part of the 2025 Bonsai Rendezvous there will be a Joshua Roth sponsored juniper styling competition! In the competition, a few club members from across California will compete to style juniper trees at the convention and then the trees will be auctioned off to support the event. If you're interested in being one of the stylists, we'd like you to apply by clicking [here](#).



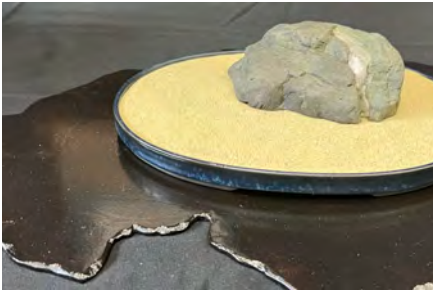
What makes a great accent?

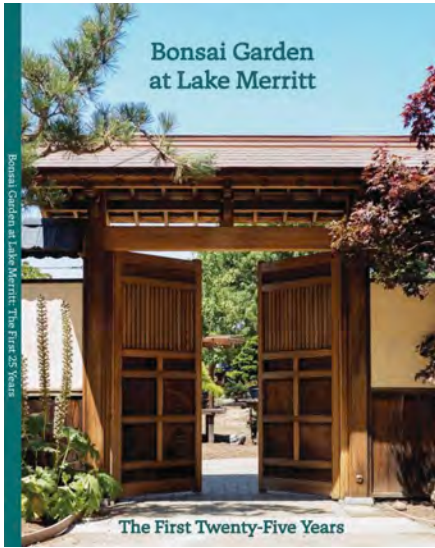
It was quite a treat to have the Pacific Bonsai Expo take place in our own backyard, just minutes from where EBBS has our monthly meetings. There were an incredible array of trees on display and I'm sure you remember many of your favorites. But do you remember the accents? Accent plants (known as shitakusa) are not merely decorative additions to tokonoma displays, but crucial supporting characters that ground the bonsai in its natural context, telling a more complete story of where our main tree might be found in nature. Coming off the heels of our own show and being part of some conversations about what makes great accents, I decided to create a little photo essay of the accents at the Expo on their own. They are truly beautiful. Enjoy, and I hope you'll reflect on the patterns you observe and lessons you learn!

- Adam Kleinberg









25th Anniversary Photo Album on Sale Now!

You can purchase your own personal copy of the 25th Anniversary Photo Album now at the Bonsai Garden at Lake Merritt. You will experience the 3-in-1 book covering the history of the bonsai garden, photos of great bonsai and suiseki and the tribute to hundreds of supporters and volunteers over the first 25 years as permanent home for the bonsai and suiseki collection.

Hard Cover - \$65 (limited availability)
Soft Cover - \$35

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www.eastbaybonsai.org

Newsletter Contributors

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Upcoming Bonsai Events

Baikoen Bonsai Kenkyukai 61st Annual Winter Silhouette Exhibition

Jan 18, 2025, 10am - Jan 19, 4:30pm, Arboretum of Los Angeles County, 301 N Baldwin Ave, Arcadia



Bay Area Bonsai Associates 43rd Annual Exhibit.

Jan 18, 2025, 5:00 PM - Jan 19, 2025, 4:45 PM, Lakeside Garden Center, 666 Bellevue Ave, Oakland, BABA's 43rd Annual Exhibit. Saturday from 5:00 pm to 9:00 pm. Sunday from 10:00 am to 4:45 pm. Displays of fine bonsai. Demonstration Saturday at 6:30 pm. Snacks, Plant Sales, Raffle. Free Admission.

Bonsai-A-Thon Feb 22-23, 10am-5pm, Brody Botanical Center, 1151 Oxford Rd, San Marino. This fundraiser is for the GSBF Collection at the Huntington. Join Visiting Artist, Jonas Dupuich, at this much anticipated annual event. Trees styled by bonsai masters will be auctioned daily. Demonstrations, live and silent auctions, raffles and vendor sales will be held daily.



GSBF Bonsai Garden at Lake Merritt Mammoth Auction & Sale

Mar 1 -2, 11am-3pm, Bonsai Garden at Lake Merritt, 666 Bellevue Ave, Oakland

The Mammoth fundraiser has moved from the month of February to its new annual dates on the first weekend of March. This was done so bonsai enthusiasts can attend the annual Kokufuten exhibition in Tokyo, Japan. There will be great bonsai trees for the Mammoth fundraiser auction. The limit of 100 auction items has been achieved, and so no more trees are being accepted at this time.

San Marino Bonsai-A-Thon 2024 - Feb 24-25, 10am - 5pm, 1151 Oxford Rd, San Marino, CA 91108 – This is a fundraiser for the Golden State Bonsai Federation Collection at The Huntington Library, Art Collections and Botanical Gardens, Brody Botanical Center.

American Bonsai Association, Sacramento's Annual Show Apr 12-13, 10am - 4pm, Sacramento, 3330 McKinley Blvd, Sacramento, CA 95816 – Headliner, TYLER SHERROD, Professional Bonsai Artist/Teacher from Georgia, will conduct a live demonstration each day at 1:30PM.

Member Ads

Each member can run a free ad in the newsletter once a year. Email Adam at adam@tractionco.com to submit yours.

Member Ads

If interested in attending the EBBS Board Meetings; contact Addison Galambos at Barcalod@Gmail.com for an official invitation. Note: The board meets monthly on the Monday prior to the first Wednesday of the month at 7:30 PM. Any member may attend a board meeting. Only board members are allowed to vote on a decision.

Board meeting 2025 dates: December 30th 2024, February 3rd, March 3rd, March 31st, May 5th, June 2nd, June 30th, August 4th, August 25th, September 29th, November 3rd, December 1st.