



# THE TREE SHRINKER

**East Bay Bonsai Society Next Meeting: Feb. 12, 2025 Join us at our**

## 2025 EBBS Schedule

### Regular Meetings

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

**Feb 12** - Dylan Ferreria, Cedar Rose Nursery talking about growing bonsai material

**Mar 8** - Buying Trip to Lone Pine Gardens - Nursery for buying Bonsai materials, starter trees and pots

**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

## Have you paid your dues?

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](http://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

## Growing Bonsai Material with Dylan Ferreria of Cedar Rose Nursery

Join us on February 12th as we welcome Dylan Ferreria from Cedar Rose Nursery in Placerville. Dylan will share his expertise on growing and developing bonsai material, drawing from his extensive experience in both commercial production and personal cultivation.



Dylan's journey in bonsai began in high school in the mid-1990s, sparked by a beginner's bonsai book. Since then, he has built an impressive career in horticulture, earning a B.S. in agricultural biology and working across various fields including landscape horticulture, botanical gardens, and USDA research. His nursery in the Sierra Nevada Foothills, Cedar Rose Nursery, has evolved from a small hobbyist collection to

several acres of in-ground bonsai production.

This presentation will be particularly valuable for members interested in developing their own bonsai stock or understanding how to select quality pre-bonsai material. Dylan's background in both commercial growing and bonsai artistry offers unique insights into the early stages of bonsai development.

If you're interested in learning how to grow and develop better bonsai material, or simply want to understand what makes for good pre-bonsai stock, don't miss this meeting. Dylan's practical experience and scientific background promise to make this an informative evening for both beginners and experienced practitioners.

Also.... Join us at our February meeting to vote for EBBS's representative for the 2025 Joshua Roth Styling Competition. We will present a small portfolio of each nominees work and then everyone will be given a chance to vote

**Thanks in advance to Bryan Morgan, Ron Reid and Ed Smyth for volunteering to bring refreshments!**

# January Repotting Party

EBBS members rolled up our sleeves and kicked off a great year of bonsai! Enjoy these photos taken by Mike Szabo.



Join us at our February meeting to vote for EBBS's representative for the 2025 Joshua Roth Styling Competition. We will present a small portfolio of each nominee's work and then everyone will be given a chance to vote.



## Meet the Member: Mike Cullen

This month, I stopped by to visit the garden of Mike Cullen, a long-time member of the East Bay Bonsai Society. He's also a member of BABA, the Bay Area Bonsai Associates. Mike is down-sizing his vast collection of bonsai. So I swung by to see what I could find. Mike's love of bonsai is immediately evident when you step into his back yard! He has hundreds of plants of every size, shape and quality – from magnificent redwoods to propagated whips of shimpaku, from olive groves to ginkgo forests.

What stands out about Mike's garden is his patient approach to bonsai development. Unlike many enthusiasts who focus on quick refinement, Mike told me he loved to let his trees grow. This philosophy shows in his collection – each tree displays the strong growth that comes from years of good care. His backyard is a clear example of the benefits of taking time with bonsai development.

I was hoping to find a good project tree to work on, so this was perfect for me. There was a ton of great, bushy material, ripe for restyling! Walking through the garden, Mike shared bits of history about various trees. His knowledge came through as he pointed out interesting features – the bark development on his maples, the branch structure of his olives, and the progress of his younger trees.

**Call Mike at 916-248-6236 to arrange a time to come see his trees and pots for sale**

I wound up leaving with four trees, but I particularly enjoyed learning from such an experienced member of our bonsai community. A walk around the garden revealed Mike's decades as a bonsai enthusiast. When I stopped to admire the juniper in the picture above, Mike shared that it was the very first tree he ever bought – upwards of thirty years ago. That tree, like many in his collection, shows what's possible with consistent care over many years.

Mike was generous with both his trees and his experience, offering practical advice about the different species as we walked through the garden. While his collection may be getting smaller, his contribution to our club continues through the trees and knowledge he shares with fellow enthusiasts.



# Adam Toth Workshop

You may have heard about our bi-monthly bonsai workshops with Adam Toth. We wanted to give you little peek into what goes on during these sessions.

The most recent workshop took place on January 4th in Kensington at the home of our club VP. Michael Szabo. There were six participants (as usual) and everyone brought multiple trees in need of attention. The work mostly focused on repotting since it's that time of the year.

It was a chilly morning but everyone quickly warmed up once they got to chop-sticking. Adam went around the group and provided individual guidance on the work being done. Occasionally, Adam would gather everyone together when there was something worth sharing with the whole group. Everyone agreed, the session was a big success.

## SIGN UP FOR THE NEXT WORKSHOP

The next workshop session is March 15th.

- Full day: 9am - 5pm (\$100)
- Morning only: 9am - 1pm (\$50)
- Afternoon only: 1pm - 5pm (\$50)

**To register, email Michael Szabo ([michael@cheezywhiz.com](mailto:michael@cheezywhiz.com)) and specify which time slot you're interested in.**

The session is almost full, so don't delay!



*Bev repotted multiple trees.*



*Andy cleaned up roots and repotted his black pine*



*Jesse and Adam used power tools to reduce the roots for a redwood's first transition out of a growing container.*



*Michael repotted his cryptomeria into a larger oval container.*



*Jeffery got help repotting a pine he recently acquired.*



*More club members who were studying with Peter Tea until recently and look forward to working with Adam Toth in 2025! (Rick, Peter, Randall, Adam, Janet, Rick, Jeff)*



## 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 monthly 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! You don't want to overwater either because it can cause root rot.
- Watch for insects and fungus—immediately treat any problems.
- Check old wiring for biting.

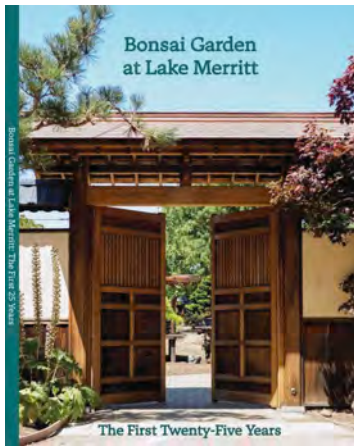
**Refer to the EBBS Bonsai Seasonal guide for more info on care.**



## Visiting Kokufu! From the East Bay to the Far East

Our club president, Addison, took a trip to Japan this month to attend, Kokufu-Ten, known as the best show in all of Japan (probably the world). Here are some amazing pictures from his trip (and some familiar faces along the way!)





## News from the Garden

**Docents needed** - The Bonsai Garden at Lake Merritt is looking for docents! If you'd like to volunteer, sign up at their website at <https://gardensatlakemerritt.org/bonsai-garden/> (click on the link for Volunteers)

**25th Anniversary Photo Album on Sale!**  
Purchase your own personal copy of the 25th Anniversary Photo Album now at the Bonsai Garden at Lake Merritt.

Soft Cover - \$35

## Join the conversation!

[facebook.com/groups/ebbs](https://facebook.com/groups/ebbs)

[facebook.com/groups/ebbsmembers](https://facebook.com/groups/ebbsmembers)

[instagram.com/eastbaybonsai/](https://instagram.com/eastbaybonsai/)

[twitter.com/EastBayBonsai](https://twitter.com/EastBayBonsai)

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

## Member Ads

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.

## Newsletter Contributors

**Editor:** Adam Kleinberg

**Contributors:** Adam Kleinberg, Mike Szabo, Claude.ai

**Photography:** Adam Kleinberg, Mike Szabo, Addison Galambos

## Upcoming Bonsai Events

**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



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 Jose Betsuin Bonsai Club 50th Annual Bonsai Exhibition** Mar 29-30, Saturday 11am to 5 pm, Sunday 12 noon to 4 pm. San Jose Buddhist Church Betsuin, 640 N 5th St, San Jose, CA. Demonstration at 1pm both days with David Nguy on Saturday and club member on Sunday. Benefit Drawings, Plant Sales, Vendors:

**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.

**65th Annual Bonsai Show Kusamura Bonsai Club of Palo Alto.** Apr 26-27, 10am-4pm, Addison School, 1045 Webster St, Palo Alto, CA Please join us for the 65th Annual Kusamura Bonsai Club Show and Sale featuring headliner Sam Tan. Daily demonstrations at 1.00 pm. View the 60+ bonsai on display. Sales include bonsai, pots and stands. Bonsai Doctor, Gordon Deeg will be available for consultation.

**Sei Boku Bonsai Kai Bonsai Show and Sale** Sat, Jun 7, 10am - Jun 8, 4pm, San Mateo Garden Center, 605 Parkside Way, San Mateo, CA, Join us for our annual bonsai show and sale featuring Chicago bonsai professional, Jennifer Price. She will be conducting demonstrations each day from 1:00 - 3:00 with raffle to follow. FREE ADMISSION, door prizes, Tree Clinic with Dr. Bonsai. Come see 60 of the best bonsai trees in the Bay Area.

## Join a Board Meeting

If interested in attending the EBBS Board Meetings; contact Addison Galambos at [Barcalod@gmail.com](mailto: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: March 3rd, March 31st, May 5th, June 2nd, June 30th, August 4th, August 25th, September 29th, November 3rd, December 1st.