



THE TREE SHRINKER

East Bay Bonsai Society Next Meeting: Mar. 12, 2025

2025 EBBS Schedule

Regular Meetings

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

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

Mar 23 - 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 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



Bonsai as a Side Hustle

with Jared Carrion - Northwest Bonsai & Pottery

This month, we're pleased to welcome Jared Carrion who visits us from the Seattle, WA area. Jared is a bonsai artist, potter, and social media personality. Under the name Bonsai Echo, he has amassed over 43k followers on Instagram (https://www.instagram.com/bonsai_echo/) and has published over 100 instructional videos to YouTube (<https://www.youtube.com/@BonsaiEcho>). Under the name Kandied Clay (<https://www.kandiedclay.com/>), he and his wife produce and sell bonsai pottery online.

Jared will be talking to us about "Bonsai as a Side Hustle." Having dumped his day job years ago to focus on bonsai full-time, he knows first hand what it takes to transition from hobbyist to a professional creator and vendor. Or as Jared calls it, "Living the dream!"

Jared will also be bringing a small selection of Kandied Clay pottery for members to view and purchase at the meeting.

Adam Toth Workshop opportunity

We have one afternoon spot open for the upcoming Adam Toth workshop on Sat March 15th. n. 1-5pm for \$50. Email michael@cheezywhiz.com if interested.

February Meeting Recap: Dylan Ferreria



incorporation of natural elements.

Specialized Care:

Ferreria provided insights into the specialized care required to maintain healthy and thriving bonsai, covering topics such as watering, pruning, and environmental conditions.

At our February meeting, Dylan Ferreria of Cedar Rose Nursery shared his expertise on the art of bonsai cultivation. As an East Bay native, Ferreria's passion for bonsai was sparked by his early experiences growing up surrounded by the natural beauty of the region.

Ferreria began by reminiscing about his childhood in Walnut Creek, where he was captivated by the open spaces, creeks, and abundant wildlife, particularly the majestic Valley oak trees. This exposure to the area's botanical diversity laid the foundation for his lifelong interest in horticulture.

During his presentation, he shared several valuable tips for aspiring bonsai enthusiasts:

Plant Selection: Ferreria emphasized the importance of carefully selecting the right plant species for bonsai, taking into account factors like growth habits, leaf structure, and aesthetic appeal.

Design Principles: He discussed the key design principles for creating visually striking bonsai compositions, including the use of asymmetry, negative space, and the

Of course, we also had an impressive show and tell from a few members showing some of the trees they've been working on.



2025 Member Survey Results

In February, the EBBS board distributed a survey to our members to gauge your experience with Bonsai

and gather feedback on the club's activities. We wanted to know what you'd like to see in the future and what areas could be improved. Thank you to everyone who took the time to participate - we appreciate your input! We're happy to report that nearly 45% of our members responded. The results reflect a strong enthusiasm for learning about Bonsai, and we're excited to welcome so many new faces to the club!

Here's an overview of our members' expertise:

- 22% are beginners (focused on keeping trees alive)
- 51% are intermediate (shaping and pruning trees)
- 4% are students (attending workshops),
- 15% are advanced (with show trees),
- 4% are experts (displaying trees and creating Tokonomas)
- 1% are masters (able to teach)

This breakdown is similar to last year, though the total number of members has increased. Regardless of your level, Bonsai Newbie (beginner and intermediate), or more experienced, the survey revealed some common themes:

Monthly Meetings:

There's a strong interest in starting meetings earlier, with a 1-hour workshop before the main meeting where members can work on their trees together. Bonsai Newbies also expressed interest in having the speaker evaluate member trees, even if it means shortening the speaker's presentation time.

Many members would prefer monthly meetings to focus on tree species demos and advanced topics, with less emphasis on basic Bonsai topics. The most requested species for demonstration are maple, juniper, oak, pine, redwood, and Japanese deciduous trees (in that order).

Bonsai design principles are the most requested advanced topic, followed by Nebari root shaping, air layering, Yamadori field collection, juniper development, and small trees.

As for basic Bonsai topics, the top areas of interest are pruning techniques, initial styling, and wiring and shaping.

Workshops:

Bonsai Newbies are particularly interested in beginner and individual workshops with guidance. More

experienced members want workshops focused on advanced topics. Workshops are an area where we see potential for growth. While participation last year could have been better, our interest in adding a pre-meeting workshop may be a good way to boost involvement.

Field Trips:

Field trips are a great way to extend Bonsai participation beyond local meetings. There is a broad interest in a member garden tour and a visit to a Bonsai artist's garden. Experienced members have a strong interest in a multi-day Yamadori collection trip. Other multi-day trips, such as those for Suiseki stone collection or a trip to Oregon, have less interest but still have the potential for enough participants to make them worthwhile.

Member Survey Comments:

We received many positive comments, with several members expressing enthusiasm for the club's direction. Suggestions for hands-on activities included:

- A workshop where members work on the initial styling of pine or juniper nursery stock with an instructor/coach.
- A clinic for trouble trees.
- Coaching on repotting, pruning, and shaping members' trees.
- Practice judging trees.
- Other suggestions include raffling demo trees, hosting Bonsai styling competitions during meetings, and collaborating with other clubs.

There is a clear interest in more hands-on meetings, workshops, and activities, and will work to integrate more of them into future events. We also encourage members to volunteer for club functions and the BGLM, as well as to sign up for workshops and field trips. Thank you for sharing your feedback - it helps us continue to grow and improve!

Raffle:

Overall, we received a lot of feedback and we greatly appreciate the feedback. It will help us to guide the direction of the club. For those of you who included your name with your response, we will conduct a random drawing at the March meeting for a \$100 gift certificate good at Bonsai Tonight (<https://bonsaitonight.com>). Attendance at the meeting is not required to win.

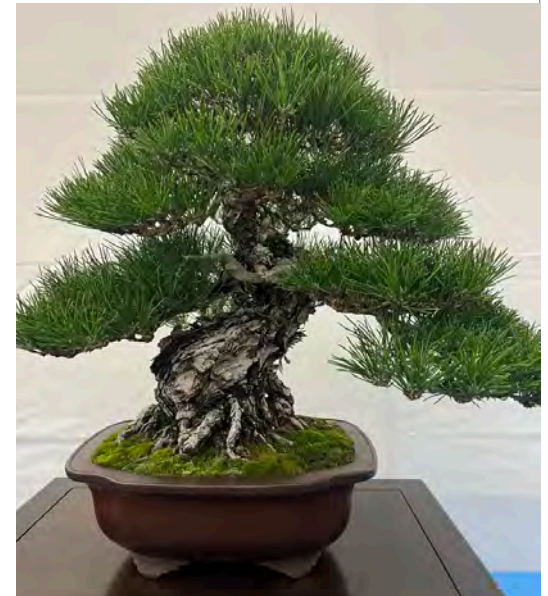
Josh Roth Competition

In an exhilarating vote this February organized by Freddie Winter, the club voted on which stylists would represent the club in the 2025 Bonsai Rendezvous Styling Competition. The number 1 and 2 stylists were Michael Szabo and Addison Galambos, clinching the applications slots. These two may now submit applications to the competition and may be chosen to represent the Bay Area in the competition. We're wishing our stylists the best of luck! Some of their work is pictured below. Congratulations, Addison and Mike!



The BABA show.

Bay Area Bonsai Associates – a club that several of our club members also belong to had it's annual show in January. Here are some pictures of the beautiful trees that were on display!





Bonsai Calendar

- We're very lucky in Northern California to see our trees start to show signs of waking up from the winter! Don't forget to rotate trees **2X** this month.
- This is the end of repotting season, so get any last repots you might have done.
- You can start to fertilize conifers in March! Too much fertilizer too early could produce long internodes on deciduous, Don't feed trees for at least 2-3 weeks after repotting!
- Deciduous trees may be air-layered if they have not yet pushed new growth. Otherwise, wait until the new growth hardens in late spring. It's also the ideal time for grafting
- Continue to reduce watering, but keep an eye on your trees because you'll need to water more often soon.
- Check old wiring for biting as trees start pushing growth.
- Trim branches on flowering trees before buds form so they have time to develop.

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

From the Archives



Black Pine Bonsai Wisdom

Looking back a decade from a Tree Shrinker in 2015, Gordon Deeg did a presentation for EBBS and shared invaluable insights on Japanese Black Pine care during a club presentation.

Here are the essential techniques he taught us:

Health Check: Gently press the needles - if they feel prickly, the tree is healthy and ready for work.

Needle Management:

- Remove old third-year needles which no longer benefit the tree
- Follow the 4-5-6 rule: leave 4 needle bundles at the top, 5 in the middle, and 6 on lower branches
- This balances growth and allows light to reach inner buds
- Best done November-December

Candle Cutting:

- Cut spring candles by early July to promote compact growth with smaller needles
- Use this opportunity to remove any overly strong branches

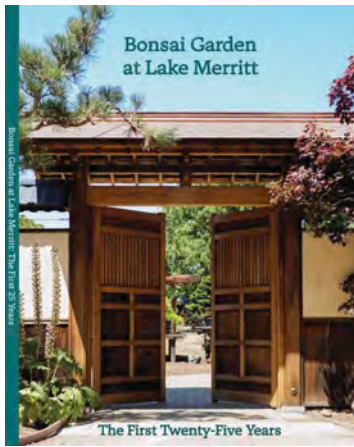
Structural Tips:

- Don't hesitate to remove significant portions of the tree to improve proportion
- When thinning multiple branches from one point, remove the largest ones to build taper
- Look for roots that radiate from the trunk, repositioning crossed roots during repotting

Gordon's Three Pearls:

- Work from top to bottom when pruning
- Wire from bottom to top for better access
- Never work on a dry tree

This wisdom remains as relevant today as it was ten years ago!



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

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

Editor: Adam Kleinberg

Contributors: Adam Kleinberg, Mike Szabo, Addison Galambos, Bryan Morgan, Claude.ai

Photography: Adam Kleinberg, Mike Szabo, Addison Galambos, Stephen Lysaght

Upcoming Bonsai Events

California Bonsai Society Presents the 67th Annual Exhibit Mar 8 & 9, 10am-5pm Huntington Brody Botanical Center, 1151 Oxford Rd, San Marino, CA, Demonstrations daily at 1PM. Free with General Admission but register at <https://tickets.huntington.org>

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.

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. Featuring headliner Sam Tan. Daily demonstrations at 1pm. Bonsai Doctor, Gordon Deeg will be available for consultation.

Sei Boku Bonsai Kai Bonsai Show and Sale Sat, Jun 7-8, 10am - 4pm, San Mateo Garden Center, 605 Parkside Way, San Mateo, CA. Featuring Chicago bonsai professional, Jennifer Price each day from 1-3pm with raffle to follow.

Bay Area Satsuki Aikokai and Yamato Bonsai Kai Clubs Show May 17-18, 10am - 5pm, Lakeside Garden Center, 666 Bellevue Ave, Oakland, CA. Special appearance by Circle of Sensei Awardee David Nguy. Saturday Satsuki azalea demo 1 -3 pm. Demo n Sunday 12-3 pm.

Redwood Empire Bonsai Society (REBS) Bonsai Show Aug 23- 24, 10am-4pm. Rohnert Park Community Center, 5401 Snyder Ln, Rohnert Park, CA. Featuring Mike Pistello, Bonsai artist and instructor, winner of the Joshua Roth Rising Stars Competition at GSBF Bonsai Rendezvous 2023

GSBF Bonsai Rendezvous 2025 Oct 24-26, 9am - 1pm, Santa Nella, 13070 CA-33, Santa Nella, Biennial GSBF event. Headliners, Suthin Sukosolvisit and Mauro Stemberger will host BYT workshops on Friday. Multiple workshops will be held Friday and Saturday. Vendors all three days. Free educational seminars and BYB hospitality hours. Live and silent auctions.

Join a Board Meeting

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: March 3rd, March 31st, May 5th, June 2nd, June 30th, August 4th, August 25th, September 29th, November 3rd, December 1st.