



# THE TREE SHRINKER

East Bay Bonsai Society Next Meeting: **Apr. 9, 2025**

## 2025 EBBS Schedule

### Regular Meetings

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

**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



## Club Shirts!

Are you interested in an EBBS shirt? They are now available for purchase at <https://east-bay-bonsai-society.myspreadshop.com/>. If you have any questions or comments, please email Freddie at [fjwinter@yahoo.com](mailto:fjwinter@yahoo.com).



## April meeting: Shohin Development with Adam Toth

Adam Toth has been studying bonsai seriously for over seven years, beginning with Jonas Dupuich. He more recently studied for three years under Taiga Urushibata at the Taisho-en bonsai garden in Shizuoka. During his time in Japan, he spent a lot of time studying and thinking about growing and producing better shohin and small sized trees. He received an official shohin certificate from the Japanese Shohin Bonsai Association. He's also been leading a number of workshops for EBBS members, so his talent has been a growing influence on our club.

You can follow Adam online at AT Bonsai YouTube channel ([https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n\\_D6jfUi23g](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n_D6jfUi23g)) and Instagram (<https://www.instagram.com/adam.jp.bon/>)

**Thanks ahead for bringing snacks Pat Cahill, Mike Roberto and Randall Lee!**

# March Meeting Recap

## Featured Speaker:

**Jared Carrion of Bonsai Echo**

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Our March meeting featured special guest Jared Carrion (@bonsaiecho), who shared valuable insights from his experience growing a successful bonsai business and social media presence with 43,000 followers. Jared's presentation covered everything from marketing strategies to practical tips for selling and shipping bonsai.

Jared emphasized the importance of video content that features faces, quality bonsai material, and engaging music. For those looking to sell their trees, he recommended utilizing Facebook groups like Bonsai Auction and shared that trees in the \$200-300 range tend to sell well, particularly maples and other popular varieties.

One of Jared's key points was that "an awesome tree in a decent pot sells better than a decent tree in an awesome pot" - something to consider when preparing trees for sale. He also noted that with proper care and development, a \$20 tree can often be transformed into a \$200-300 specimen within just 2-3 years.

For those considering shipping bonsai, Jared offered this practical test: "Put it in a box, turn it upside down and shake. If nothing falls out, you're good." He recommended the Shipo service and stressed the importance of insuring all shipments.

Jared's wife Kandi also contributes to their bonsai business by creating pottery. Together, they've published over 100 instructional videos on their YouTube channel.



You can find their work at:

- Instagram: [@bonsai\\_echo](#)
- YouTube: [Bonsai Echo](#)
- Website: [Kandied Clay](#)

For members interested in starting their own bonsai business, Jared provided a helpful checklist that includes: obtaining business licenses, securing a reseller permit, setting up payment processing (like Square), implementing accounting software, creating a website, and acquiring a nursery license.

He also recommended using Anderson flats for developing stock, noting they're both effective and economical. Placing these flats on the ground allows roots to grow downward, and they can be easily lifted for root pruning when preparing trees for sale.

- Adam Kleinberg

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## Club Business

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Bryan Morgan presented the results from our recent club survey, which showed strong interest in organized field trips to collect yamadori, hunt for suiseki, or visit member gardens. Congratulations to Julie Holcomb who won the \$100 raffle prize for participating in the survey!

## Member Show and Tell

Several members brought in trees to share with the group:

- Jeremy presented a beautiful goldmound specimen
- Bryan shared his cherry trees in full blossom
- Bev brought in a stunning wisteria

Don't miss our April meeting where we'll continue exploring seasonal bonsai techniques and welcome guest speaker, Adam Toth!



## Protecting Your Bonsai: Essential Insecticides and Treatments

Maintaining healthy bonsai trees requires vigilance against pests and diseases. Here's a straightforward guide to the most effective treatments for common bonsai challenges.

### General Insecticides

**Safari (Dinotefuran)** A powerful systemic insecticide that works from within the plant. Particularly effective against scale and mealybugs that hide in crevices. Provides several weeks of protection but use carefully as it can affect beneficial insects and pollinators.

**Spinosad** Derived from soil bacteria, this natural option targets chewing and sucking insects while having minimal impact on many beneficial insects. Excellent for caterpillars and thrips. Breaks down in sunlight within days, requiring more frequent application but leaving less environmental impact.

**Merit (Imidacloprid)** A reliable systemic insecticide that excels at controlling aphids, whiteflies, and certain beetles. Can provide protection for up to 12 months. Like Safari, it's a neonicotinoid, so consider using it primarily on non-flowering specimens to protect pollinators.

### Spider Mite Control

**Bifenomite (Bifenazate)** A targeted treatment that specifically affects mites while sparing most beneficial insects. Works through contact rather than systemic action, so thorough coverage is essential, including leaf undersides. Gentler on sensitive species that might show damage with stronger chemicals.

**Pylon (Chlorfenapyr)** For severe or resistant infestations, Pylon disrupts mites' energy production. Effectively targets all life stages - eggs, nymphs, and adults - breaking the reproductive cycle completely. Consider this a stronger option for serious problems, and use appropriate personal protection when applying.



## Bonsai Calendar

- The first 2-3 weeks of April is generally a slow time for Bonsai.
- It's time for pinching! We tend to pinch the top of the tree to keep it dividing and slow whereas we tend to grow out lower branches for size. When the tree is well developed, Pinching can be done on the entire tree.
- Days are getting longer and warmer, so you'll need to pick up the frequency of your watering. Keep an eye on your soil so it doesn't get dry. Newly repotted trees drain faster, so don't worry about over-watering those.
- Continue to fertilize conifers in April, particularly junipers, depending on how aggressively you want to grow your trees. Wait until May 1 to start fertilizing deciduous trees. Too much fertilizer too early could produce long internodes!
- Check old wiring for biting as trees start pushing growth.
- Rotate trees regularly!

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

## Fungal Treatments

**Mancozeb** A broad-spectrum fungicide that prevents spore germination. Addresses leaf spots, rusts, and many common fungal issues. Works best as a preventative or at earliest signs of infection. Leaves visible residue, which ensures complete coverage.

**Cleary 3336F (Thiophanate-methyl)** Offers both preventative and curative properties with systemic action that protects new growth. Particularly effective against anthracnose, black spot, and root diseases. Liquid formulation absorbs quickly with minimal visible residue, making it suitable for display trees.

**Daconil (Chlorothalonil)** Features a multi-site mode of action that reduces the risk of fungi developing resistance. Exceptional rainfastness once dried, requiring fewer applications during challenging weather. Alternate with other fungicides in your routine to prevent resistance development.

## Dormant Season Protection

**Lime Sulfur (Diluted 16:1)** A traditional dormant-season treatment that serves as fungicide, insecticide, and miticide when trees are leafless. Despite its distinctive smell and temporary yellowing effect, it provides valuable protection against overwintering pests and fungal spores. For conifers, consider using at half-strength to prevent excessive yellowing.

**Copper Fungicides** Complementary to lime sulfur, offering additional protection against bacteria and fungi during the transition from dormancy to growth. Modern formulations have reduced phytotoxicity risks, but follow dilution guidelines precisely, especially for sensitive species like maples and azaleas.

## Integrated Approach

The most effective strategy combines chemical interventions with good cultural practices:

- Ensure proper air circulation
- Water appropriately
- Carefully inspect new additions
- Recognize beneficial insects as allies

Every collection faces different challenges based on climate, species, and growing conditions. Develop an observant eye to catch problems early, and respond with appropriate intervention—using stronger chemicals judiciously and gentler options whenever possible.

- Adam Kleinberg (with help from Claude.ai)



## Adam Toth workshop recap

It was a rainy and wet all week, so instead of meeting in our usual outdoor space, we chose to shelter in Bev's spacious garage. We started at 9AM and worked all the way until 5PM, taking a short break for cheesesteak lunch. Yum!

Here's a peek at what we worked on:

Adam helped Michael Szabo with detail wiring and pad definition on his itoigawa juniper over rock. After 6 hours, only three pads were done!



Bev Martinez worked on this oak and a pine. She also did Fall refinement on a couple Japanese maples.

Andy Chan worked on his procumbens juniper, a recent Mammoth auction acquisition.

First-timers, Christine Chen and Kai worked on wound healing and improving the trunks on a couple chunky trident maples.

Ron Sanchez, another first-time attendee, wired up his black pine. He also did some pruning on an impressive upright cork bark oak.

The next workshop is Saturday, May 3rd. A couple seats are open. The cost is \$100 for a full day, \$50 for a half day. Email Michael Szabo at [michael@cheezywhiz.com](mailto:michael@cheezywhiz.com) if interested in signing up.



## Final Chance Scholarship!

EBBS has the opportunity to nominate one club member devoted to improving at Bonsai to get a chance to receive a scholarship for \$500 through the Golden State Bonsai Federation. An applying member should have already taken some bonsai classes or workshops and have a drive to become better at bonsai. If you are interested, please fill out the [application form linked here](#) by April 15th. The board will review submissions and choose one member to submit to the GSBF. The GSBF will choose 4 awardees amongst their member clubs.

## Fun Volunteering Opportunity at the Garden!

The Bonsai Garden at Lake Merritt needs your help! Have fun and make an impact on this treasure of the bonsai community. Here is the list of what they need:

1. Marketing Manager:
2. Social media
3. Leads for some of the areas for the Mammoth Fundraiser
  - Sales
  - Set up for Auction
  - Kitchen and Food

Contact Suzanne Muller for more information at 925.787.1349 or [queueinteriors@comcast.net](mailto:queueinteriors@comcast.net).



## Get ready! It's Auction Time!

It's time to start preparing for the EBBS annual auction! The auction is a wonderful opportunity to acquire new trees to develop, and trees that have a head start to be in a future exhibit. This is also a good time to consider selling something in your yard that you would like to pass on to a new home. Like most bonsai artists you likely have more trees and pots, tools and books than you originally had planned for. The auction is a great way to pass on bonsai related equipment and trees to other bonsai enthusiasts.

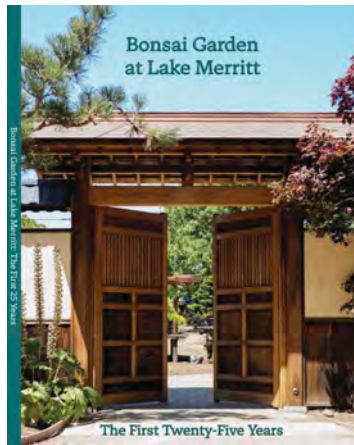
Consignment Sellers receive a percentage of the auction sale price, with sellers receiving 75% and EBBS receiving 25%. Or you can designate your auction items as a total donation to EBBS. Either way, EBBS benefits and you end up with more space to accommodate better items. Mark your calendar for Wednesday, June 11.

Auction items should be brought to the Lakeside Garden Center by 6:30 pm. Forms and sale tags will be distributed beforehand for sellers. Watch for the May newsletter email or come to the April meeting to access forms for selling. There will also be a Sign-up Genius out this week for volunteering for the various jobs at the auction. Suzanne Muller and Bev Martinez are coordinating the auction again this year and may call you to help prepare and produce this event. If you would like to offer your services, or have questions, feel free to contact them:

Suzanne at 925.787.1349 or [queueinteriors@comcast.net](mailto:queueinteriors@comcast.net)

Bev at 925.437.2347 or [Martinezbev8@gmail.com](mailto:Martinezbev8@gmail.com)





## 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

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# Upcoming Bonsai Events

**42nd Annual Modesto Bonsai Club Spring Show.** Apr 05, 2025, 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM, Stanislaus County Harvest Hall, 3800 Cornucopia Way, Modesto, CA, Demonstration by Club Sensei, Sam Adina. There will be exhibits with trees, accent plants, pots, tools, and more.

**San Diego Bonsai Club Annual Show and Sale** Apr 26-27, 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park Room 101, 1650 El Prado, San Diego, CA, The annual Spring Bonsai Show and Sale of the San Diego Bonsai Club will feature more than 50 beautiful bonsai of various species on display, along with demonstrations by bonsai experts and sales.

**American Bonsai Association, Sacramento's Annual Show** Apr 12-13, 10am - 4pm, Shepard Garden & Arts Center, 3330 McKinley Blvd., Sacramento, CA, Daily demonstrations at 1:30 pm by headliner, Carmen Leskoviansky, Curator, University of Michigan Bonsai Collection. Daily raffles, including demo trees at 3:30 pm

**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.

**Santa Cruz Bonsai Kai & Orchid Show and Sale,** May 3-4, 2025, 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM, Capitola Mall, 1855 41st Ave, Capitola, CA, Bonsai demonstrations from 1:30pm to 3pm both days. Robert Potts on Saturday and Gareth Shepherd on Sunday. Quality bonsai displays, raffles, vendor and member sales, free admission and parking.

**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.

**16th Annual Valley Bonsai Society Show,** Jun 21-22, 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM, Alden Lane Nursery, 981 Alden Ln, Livermore, CA, Daily demonstrations at 1PM . The finished demo tree will be raffled at the end of the demonstrations. Bonsai pots, soil, etc. available for purchase.

**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.