



THE TREE SHRINKER

East Bay Bonsai Society Next Meeting: May 8, 2024 at 7:30pm

2024 EBBS Schedule

Regular Meetings

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

May 8 - Jonas Dupuich, 7:30pm

May 19 - *Tropical Repotting & Buddy Workshop**

May 26 - *Intro to Bonsai at the Garden* with Janet Nelson*

Jun 12 - 2024 EBBS Annual Auction, 7pm

Jun 23 - *Intro to Bonsai at the Garden* with Michael Jensen-Akula*

Jul 10 - TBD, 7:30pm

Jul 28 - *Intro to Bonsai at the Garden* with Janet Nelson*

Aug 13 - Online only with Tony Tickle
- time TBD

Aug 25 - *Intro to Bonsai at the Garden* with Tom Colby*

Sep 11 - Val Monroe, 7:30pm

Sep 22 - *Intro to Bonsai at the Garden* with Addison Galambos*

Oct 4/5/6 - 2024 EBBS Annual Show

Oct 27 - *Intro to Bonsai at the Garden* with Michael Jensen-Akula*

Nov 24 - *Intro to Bonsai at the Garden* with Janet Nelson*

Dec 11 - Holiday Party, 7:30pm

*at the Bonsai Garden workshop



May Meeting: Jonas Dupuich

We're fortunate to have a great friend of our club, Jonas Dupuich at our May meeting. Part of the program will be about long-term design of trees—the other will be Q&A, so bring your trees for advice on them!

For those who don't know Jonas, he's been doing bonsai for over 20 years, since he met Boon Manakitivipart while working at his family's nursery. After seeing a tree Boon had styled, Jonas was hooked.

Jonas is well-known in the bonsai world for Bonsai Tonight, which is one of the top bonsai blogs on the internet (and a great place to get your bonsai supplies). He's also the co-founder of the Pacific Bonsai Expo which will be having its second event this fall here in Oakland.

**Thanks to our May meeting refreshment volunteers:
Emily Gallivan, Ashley Pouiot & Randall Lee**



May 19th Members Workshop

May is a great time to repot tropicals and work on trees. For anyone interested in what to do with their trees or have tropicals to repot, we have reserved the Bonsai Garden workshop on May 19th from 12:00 noon until 3:00 PM for this effort. Tropicals are those trees that typically need higher temperatures and more humid conditions than normal trees. These are the ones that get brought in during the winter months; Ficus, bougainvillea, fig, etc. Bring your soil, a pot, mesh, wire and any tools you may need. We will have some soil available for sale if needed.

If you are a mentee and have not been assigned a mentor, this is a great time to get your trees reviewed for needed work. So, mark the date and get ready to roll up your sleeves and get to work. This is a members only free workshop, come at any time between 12:00 and 2:30.

April meeting with Andrew Robson

At our April meeting, we were treated to an informative presentation by Andrew Robson on the art of cultivating and developing Japanese maple bonsai. Andrew, a talented bonsai artist with over 15 years of experience, shared his expertise on



techniques for creating stunning maple specimens.

Here are some key tips Andrew shared for developing Japanese maples throughout the year:

Spring: Pinch new shoots and provide full sun while the leaf is forming to promote compact growth.

Summer: Implement partial defoliation (removing about 50% of leaves) and provide shade cloth to protect from scorching sun.

Fall: After leaves drop in autumn, perform cutback and structural editing while the tree is dormant. Provide full sun.

Winter: Repot maples during the winter bud break to reset the root system for the coming year.

Andrew also covered more advanced techniques like thread grafting for branch development, root grafting to improve nebari, and creative solutions like using fishnet stockings and superglue to help heal scars and wounds on maples.

The presentation was packed with actionable insights for maple enthusiasts of all levels. We thank Andrew for generously sharing his knowledge, and look forward to applying his tips to help our maples thrive this year.

April Show & Tell

The beginning of Spring brings out the best in bonsai—and inspired many of our members to bring trees for Show & Tell at our April meeting. Enjoy these great photos from our meeting!



Bonsai Calendar



Water

Water regularly to keep root ball moist, not wet, and never dry.

Don't over-water repotted plants—especially azaleas because that over-watering can kill them!

Fertilizing

Start regular feeding of deciduous trees after first flush of growth is completed—you can generally start around May 1.

Continue regular feeding of conifers.

Styling/Pruning

Rotate trees every couple of weeks.

Watch for wire biting during this period of fast growth. You may want to remove old wire at this time.

Start defoliation (but not on lower branches you want to grow and thicken!)

Shorten branches on fruiting trees.

Pinch junipers, spruces and cedars.

Air Layering

Deciduous trees may be air layered if new growth has hardened.

Insect and disease control


Apply fungicide and pesticide once a month as a preventative. Immediately treat any fungus or pest problems you discover.


Safer Soap or liquid Sevin can be used to control aphids.


Enjoy watching your trees spring back to life! That's why we call it Spring after all.


The Annual Auction is Almost Here!

The East Bay Bonsai Society's yearly auction will be held on Wednesday, June 12, 2024. Set-up will start at 6:00 pm, auction items can arrive at 6:30 and the preview of auction items begins at 7:00 pm. Bidding will start at 7:30 pm. Here's what you can do to prepare for it.

 **Get your sale items ready.** Clean up trees that you plan to sell, pull any weeds from the soil, remove dead leaves and needles, trim branches if needed, and clean the pot. For pots, clean off dirt, old screens and wire, perhaps apply a light film of oil to bring out the color or sheen. Tools should be clean of dirt and rust. There is a limit of 10 items per Seller and items should maintain a value of at least \$10. Several items may be bundled together as a "Lot" to be auctioned as one item. Grouped items should be packaged together with shrink-wrap, tape or boxed. You may set a reserve price if you wish the item to sell for at least a minimum value.

 **Fill out sale forms.** Seller log sheets and tree tags are attached to this newsletter. A completed 3-part tag must be attached to each auction item, before it is placed on the preview tables. When filling out the tags and sheet, use 3-letter initials followed by sequential numerical identification of each item (i.e.:SMM01). Be sure to repeat the information on all 3 sections of the tags. Tags should be clipped between sections for easy release, but not cut all the way through. Consignment sellers will receive 75% of the sale price, with 25% going to EBBS to help support its programs. Donation sellers authorize 100% of the sale price for EBBS.

 **Volunteer to help with set-up and operation of the auction.** If you have not already been contacted by the auction coordinators, plan to be at the Garden Center by 6:00 pm on Wednesday June 12 to help set up tables and chairs.

 **Mark your calendar** and plan to **bring your checkbook, cash or credit card** to bid on any trees or bonsai items that may appear, and you could add to your collection.

We are excited to have our own John Doig and Addison Galambos serve as auctioneers this year, and we look forward to an energetic evening of bidding activity. Questions may be directed to auction coordinators: Suzanne Muller at 925-787-1349 or queueinteriors@comcast.net, or Bev Martinez at 925-437-2347 or [Martinez_Bev@yahoo.com](mailto:Bev@yahoo.com).

AUCTION FORMS AND TREE TAGS ARE INCLUDED IN THE EMAIL THAT WENT OUT WITH THIS NEWSLETTER!

Do We Seal Both Conifer and Deciduous Cuts?

(This is reprinted from [Michael Hagedorn's blog](#))

My bonsai garden is a long-term experiment with tree technique. Often this is a conscious thing, sometimes it isn't.

For the most part over the last two decades I've sealed cuts on both conifer and deciduous. Occasionally I didn't seal, due to curiosity or forgetfulness or some other reason.

Here are a few observations.

The overall comment is that a sealant can be useful for both groups of plants, if your goal is to close the wound faster.

Then there's a divide. Disease is the big question mark.

Leaving jin and shari on junipers is unlikely to cause trouble with disease affecting the living tissue.

I've also yet to trace the life of a pine, or dead branch on it, to disease from an unsealed cut. It might happen, but I've not seen it. It's possible the pitch keeps most disease out.

If you're going to use sealant on a deciduous tree, sterilize the wound first, let it dry, then apply sealant. Arboriculturists talk about the possibility of locking in the pathogen. Isopropyl alcohol, hydrogen peroxide, or a 10% bleach solution are sterilizers.



A pine previously sealed with Kirikuchi, a liquid latex sealant. The wound is closing fast and well.



There's no evidence this cut was sealed. Non-sealed pine cuts do not seem to allow disease to enter, perhaps due to the pitch.



A beech pruning cut—a rough cut not carved out yet—sterilized and sealed due to concern a disease might come in. I've seen many instances with deciduous trees where disease enters through an unsealed cut. Pseudomonas on maple, fireblight and botrytis on quince, the list is long. If sterilized and sealed, losses of branches or the whole deciduous tree are minimized.

Meet the Member — Randall Lee



Step into Randall Lee's backyard and you'll find yourself in what he jokingly calls "the garden of benign neglect." But don't let the humble name fool you - this space is home to around 100 beautiful bonsai trees, a testament to Randall's skill and dedication to the art form he's practiced for over three decades.

Randall's love for bonsai began in his youth, sparked by a gift his sister gave to his mother. Together, they began attending bonsai shows nearly every weekend, marveling at the miniature masterpieces on display. This shared passion led them to start their own collection, which has since grown to the impressive garden Randall tends to this day, with half the trees residing at his mother's house.

As his interest in bonsai flourished, Randall sought out formal education, studying with renowned teachers like Dennis Makishima in the Merritt College bonsai program, as well as learning from masters such as Boon Manakitivipart, Kathy Shaner, and Peter Tea. These lessons laid the groundwork for Randall's skills,

teaching him the intricacies of techniques like wiring and seasonal care.

Bonsai wasn't just a hobby for Randall - it eventually led him to a career as a professional tree trimmer. His keen eye for shaping and pruning, honed through his bonsai practice, translated perfectly to his work in the field. Randall's expertise is evident in the stunning trees he's crafted over the years, from the towering cedars to the delicate shohin-sized specimens.

Randall particularly enjoys creating miniature landscapes with his bonsai, such as limestone formations with still water. To achieve these stunning scenes, he often uses clay-based soil gathered from gopher mounds. While he appreciates trees of all sizes, Randall prefers working with small to medium specimens, noting that larger trees can weigh up to 180 pounds, making them challenging to maneuver. For those just starting with bonsai, he suggests looking to nursery stock in 2-5 gallon containers as an affordable source of quality material. In fact, many of Randall's most impressive bonsai began as unassuming nursery finds.



Beyond his personal collection, Randall has been a dedicated member of the East Bay Bonsai Society for over 30 years. He's witnessed the club's growth firsthand, from a small group of passionate enthusiasts to the thriving community it is today. Randall appreciates the club's eclectic mix of members and the free exchange of ideas and techniques that happens at each meeting.

Randall's bonsai journey is one of dedication, skill, and continuous learning. His trees serve as a beautiful example of what's possible with commitment and a love for the craft. As he continues to shape and nurture his "garden of benign neglect," Randall inspires others in the East Bay Bonsai Society to cultivate their own passion for this ancient and fascinating art form.



The event will take place on Oct. 26-27 at a new venue– the Henry J. Kaiser Center for the Arts in Oakland.

More info:
www.pacificbonsaiexpo.org.

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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

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Upcoming Bonsai Events

Sacramento Bonsai Club 78th Annual Show May 04, 11am – 4pm, Buddhist Church of Sacramento, 2401 Riverside Blvd, Sacramento, CA, Demo by Sam Adina at 1:30 pm followed by raffle. Workshops (\$20 pre-register), www.sacbonsaiclub.com

Chino Bonsai Club 4th Annual Bonsai Exhibit May 4, 9am-5pm and May 5, 9am-3:30pm. 261 S Junipero Serra Dr, San Gabriel, CA. David Nguy a bonsai demonstration on Saturday at 1:30pm.

Bay Area Satsuki Aikokai (BASA) & Yamato Bonsai Kai joint Bonsai Show May 18-19, 10am - 3:45pm, Lakeside Park Garden Center, 666 Bellevue Ave, Oakland, CA, Demos at 1pm on Saturday (BASA) and Sunday (Yamato)

Santa Anita Bonsai Society 57th Annual Bonsai Exhibition May 25/26/27, 9am - 4:30pm, Ayres Hall at Los Angeles County Arboret, 301 N. Baldwin Ave, Arcadia, CA. Daily demos at 1pm. More info: 213-709-4171

Sei Boku Bonsai Kai Jun 1-2, 10am-3pm, San Mateo Garden Center (Beresford Park), 605 Parkside Way, San Mateo, CA, Bring your bonsai to "Dr. Bonsai" to get a free diagnosis and prescription for improvement.

East Bay Bonsai Society Annual Auction Jun 12, Bonsai Garden at Lake Merritt. Set-up will start at 6:00 pm, auction items can arrive at 6:30 and the preview of auction items begins at 7:00 pm. Bidding will start at 7:30 pm.

Valley Bonsai Society 15th Annual Bonsai Show, Jun 15-16, 10am-4pm, Alden Lane Nursery, 981 Alden Ln, Livermore, CA. Bonsai demonstration will be held at 1PM on both days with raffle.

Marin Bonsai Club Show, Jul 3-7, 11am-9pm, Marin County Fair, 10 Ave of the Flags, San Rafael, CA. The Marin Bonsai Club returns to the County Fair with our first show since 2020. Come check us out in the Exhibit Hall for a fantastic formal display.

REBS Annual Bonsai Show, Aug 31- Sep 1, 10am-4pm, Rohnert Park, 5401 Snyder Ln, Rohnert Park, CA. Demonstrations & Raffles at 1pm both days. Exciting silent auctions and food trucks. Phone: (+1) 707-762-9154 for more info.

Sierra Bonsai Club Sept. 28, 11am - 4pm, 3192 Boyington Rd, Penryn, CA , in conjunction with the Placer Buddhist Church Food & Cultural Festival Bazaar. Demo tree will be auctioned. More info: 916-300-8103.

For additional events, visit <https://www.gsbfbonsai.org/events>