



THE TREE SHRINKER

East Bay Bonsai Society

Next Meeting: **Wednesday, August 14, 2024 at 7:30pm**

2024 EBBS Schedule

Regular Meetings:

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

Aug 14 - Tony Tickle on the life of George the Yew - online via Google Meet or live-streaming on screen at the Garden Center

Aug 18 - Annual Club Picnic hosted by Michael & Marilyn Jensen-Akula

Aug 24 - Peter Tea Garden Visit and Workshop in Auburn CA

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

Sep 2 - Volunteer Appreciation Day at the Garden, 11:00am-2:30pm

Sep 11 - Val Monroe, 7:30pm

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

Oct 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

* located at the Bonsai Garden workshop

Club Member T-Shirts

Looking for a way to represent East Bay Bonsai Society at the next expo, show, or auction? Email Freddie at fjwinter@yahoo.com if you're interested in buying a shirt!



August Meeting

UK Bonsai Artist: Tony Tickle!

England-based Tony Tickle, our 2020 "virtual show" headliner, has been working with bonsai since 1983, specializing in native European trees, in particular; Hawthorn, Yew and Pine. UK winner and runner-up in the European New talent competition in 1995. Board of Director for Bonsai Clubs International 2003-2005 and Member of Association of British Bonsai Artists. Early training under Dan Barton then Takeo Kawabe.

Tony demonstrates at major conferences throughout the UK and Europe and around the world, including South Africa, China, Brazil, India and the USA. Nominated for a Noelanders award in 2009, He won his first Ginkgo awards in 1997, UK winner and runner-up in the European New Talent Competition in 1995. In 2017 Tony won "Best Deciduous Bonsai" at the prestigious Noelanders Trophy in Belgium. Tony writes a regular Column in Bonsai Focus, and has

Bonsai Calendar



Watering

Water 2 to 3 times daily to if needed to keep trees moist in the heat—9am is the best time to water

You can place small trees in a tray of gravel to keep moist.

If you've defoliated trees, water less because of reduced transpiration.

Fertilizing

Stop feeding pines after decandling!

Do not fertilize Satsuki Azaleas

Repotting

Not recommended at this time except for tropical and semi-tropical trees.

Styling/Pruning

You can work on almost any tree in August—as long as it's healthy. Make sure you meet this conditions before you wire and cut back:

1. Is it bushy?
2. Is it growing runners?
3. Has most of the foliage has hardened off?

Reduce pruning as higher temps and longer days slow growth.

Rotate trees. Watch for wire cutting during this period of fast growth.

Beware of heat build-up in pots - insulate on sunny side to protect roots. Unglazed pots have higher soil temp than glazed pots.

Insect and disease control

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



been published in Magazines including: Bonsai Esprit (France), Bonsai Art (Germany) China Penjing, and Scholars Rocks Magazine (China).

Tony will be presenting virtually a tree that he has been working for over 18 years. A Yew called 'George' (you will need to watch the presentation to know why George)—the tree has been widely exhibited. The presentation takes the viewer on a journey with the tree from collecting on the mountain to being exhibited at the prestigious Trophy in Belgium.

Members can join virtually via Google Meet or attend the session streaming from the Garden Center at Lake Merritt.

Tony's Tips for Yamadori

Since several members of our club are heading out on a Yamadori adventure this fall, I found some of his tips to do it successfully!

1. Preserve **as much root as you possibly can**
2. Clear mountain soil gently, but don't wash roots
3. Clean-cut major roots close to trunk (but don't ruin the nebari!)
4. Put it in the **smallest container** you possibly can
5. Pack tree securely, **wire it** in place



Annual Club Picnic

It's time for the Annual Potluck Picnic! Where we all get to show off our culinary talent! The East Bay Bonsai Annual picnic will be held at Michael & Marilyn Jensen-Akula's beautiful home (or should I say garden paradise) on **Sunday, August 18th**. The meal is potluck, and the food assignments are as follows:

Entrée - Last name A-C

Appetizer - Last name D-H

Side dish / salad - Last name J-P

Dessert - Last name Q-Z

Be sure to bring utensils required for serving your contribution. The club will provide wine, beer and soft drinks. Also, the Oakland hills can occasionally be a bit cool and breezy so dress in layers. Hats and sunscreen are also a good idea. This is also a great time to bring a bonsai to show as Michael has requested members to share their trees as part of the event. The event will begin at noon and last until 4:00 PM.

Michael's address is: **6143 Ocean View Dr. Oakland**

Michael lives just off highway 24. Take the Broadway exit South, then turn onto Ocean View Drive



6. Leave cut branches and surprisingly, **unsealed**
7. Saturate soil, top with **sphagnum moss**
8. Wrap in a very large black plastic bag
9. Place in sunny spot for heat—it needs to **get very hot!**
10. Maintain high humidity, **mist daily**
11. In a few weeks, new buds will appear—make sure they **don't touch the sides of the bag**.
12. Remove from bag when **new shoots reach 2 inches**
13. Protect from cold and wind, keep misting daily and avoid direct sun after removal
14. Begin feeding with a **diluted fertilizer after new growth hardens**
15. Avoid working on the tree for first 12 months

Tony's yamadori tips should come in very handy as members return from their adventure! Happy hunting!

If you're interested in attending, there's information on the October trip later in this newsletter.



Meet the Member Suzanne Muller

Suzanne's journey into the world of bonsai began in 2013 when she discovered the Bonsai Garden at Lake Merritt during a casual walk. Like many of us, she was drawn in by the artistry and decided to take the 4th Sunday Bonsai class for beginners. It was then that Suzanne realized a small tree she had nurtured from seed since 1992 was, in fact, a bonsai. This revelation sparked a passion that has grown into an impressive collection of over 80 trees.

Before her bonsai journey, Suzanne had a successful career as an interior designer and in furniture sales. This background in design is clearly reflected in the aesthetic choices she

makes with her bonsai, bringing an intuitive perspective to the art form.

Suzanne's collection is predominantly deciduous, reflecting her keen interest in the changing seasons and the artistry of bare winter silhouettes. However, she's not one to be pigeonholed. A recent addition to her collection is a stunning Hinoki cypress, which I'm sure we can look forward to seeing at a club show in the future!



A visit to Suzanne's home is a treat for any bonsai enthusiast or nature lover. Her seemingly ferocious chihuahua, Kahlo, is very protective of her mama, but was quickly wooed after I fed her a couple of blueberries!

Her porch, complete with comfortable rocking chairs, overlooks a garden that's a testament to her green thumb and love for



Volunteer Appreciation Day in the Bonsai Garden!

The Bonsai Garden at Lake Merritt is celebrating all volunteers who have donated their time to the garden.

Volunteer Appreciation Day in the Bonsai Garden at Lake Merritt is **September 2, 2024, Monday, Labor Day**. We will open the garden to all volunteers from 11:00am-2:30pm to celebrate you. We will provide food and drinks. Prizes will be awarded to those who have the most hours contributed to the garden.

The party will be catered by Ann's Catering from Rick and Ann's restaurant in Oakland. **There is a signup sheet located in the garden.** We are asking for you to sign your name and select the food type you are interested in eating. This is for a head count only in order to know how much food and drinks to order. If you no longer volunteer at the garden, but want to attend the celebration, please contact me in order to get your name and food preference added to the list.

We look forward to celebrating with you!

- Suzanne Muller

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email: queueinteriors@comcast.net



diverse plant life. Beyond her carefully tended bonsai, the garden boasts vibrant roses and fruit trees. Adding to this thriving ecosystem are two beehives, which Suzanne maintains as part of her beekeeping hobby. These industrious pollinators ensure her garden remains lush and productive year-round.

Suzanne's involvement in the bonsai community runs deep. She joined the East Bay Bonsai Society (EBBS) in 2013 and served on the Board of Directors from 2014 to 2020. Her dedication to the art form is evident in her decade-long volunteer work at the Bonsai Garden at Lake Merritt, where she's studied under renowned bonsai masters like Kathy Shaner and Gordon Deeg. This year, Suzanne took on the role of Assistant Director on the BGLM Steering Committee, overseeing docent activities, community engagement, and security.

When she's not tending to her trees or volunteering, Suzanne explores other creative outlets, including bronze sculpting. This artistic versatility is reflected in the thoughtful design of her bonsai and the overall aesthetic of her garden.

A charming addition to Suzanne's household is her Chihuahua, a small but mighty guardian. While initially wary of strangers, this little companion quickly warms up to visitors - especially if they come bearing blueberries.

We at EBBS are fortunate to have Suzanne as a member of our community! Her unique blend of design expertise, horticultural knowledge, and dedication to bonsai enriches our club meetings and events. Her journey from interior design to bonsai mastery serves as an inspiration, reminding us of the diverse backgrounds and perspectives that make our club so vibrant and engaging

- Adam

July Meeting

This month's meeting consisted of 3 'lightning talks' on bonsai topics. Tom Colby presented on Manzanita, Michael Szabo on a Dwarf Jade, and Bev Martinez, our club president, on making bonsai pots.



Show and Tell

We also had some great show and tell from EBBS members Jesse, Alex, Ed, Bill, Matt, and Janet! Thanks for sharing, everyone!



What have you been working on? We'd love to see it! Bring it in for Show and Tell at our August meeting!

EBBS Field Trips

Peter Tea Garden/Workshop



August 24 (1-day trip)

Join us for an unforgettable experience with renowned bonsai artist Peter Tea! This exclusive event includes a workshop, garden tour, and demonstration at Peter Tea's stunning garden in Auburn, CA.

Transportation: We'll be traveling in a comfortable 12-15 passenger commuter-style bus for a 2.5-hour journey to the garden.

Duration: The tour and workshop will last approximately 2-3 hours.

Fee: The estimated fee for the bus travel and demonstration is \$40 (final price TBD). Payment will be required upon registration.

Registration: Sign-ups will open in July. Don't miss this opportunity to learn from a bonsai master! Registration open until Aug 17.

Lunch: Please bring your own lunch or purchase it in Auburn. We will be stopping at a restaurant.

Get ready for a day filled with bonsai inspiration, learning, and camaraderie with fellow EBBS members!

Yamadori Collection



Group 1: October 7 thru 9 **(sold out)**

Group 2: October 9 thru 11 **(sold out)**
(3-day trip)

Guided trip starting from Bishop California, for field collection of Utah/Sierra Junipers, and of Lodgepole Pines. Fee is \$210 for guide and Cal Dept. of Forestry Service permits for estimated number of trees collected. There will be two groups of 6-8 people each—space is limited.

Information on registration to be emailed to EBBS members soon. Sign-ups will open in early July. All registration needs to be completed by July 21st

Day 1: Travel to Bishop for lodging, there are hotels/motels ranging from \$150-350/night. They also have RV/campgrounds for less.

Day 2: Juniper collection in White Mountains near Bristlecone Pine Forest and travel back to Bishop.

Day 3: Pine collection at Mammoth Lakes. Either travel back Day 3 night or Day 4 morning.

Please note: *This is a field collection at higher elevation, it will involve walking, digging, cutting thick roots and hauling trees back to your vehicle, it requires you to be in healthy condition.*

This is hard work—but worth it!

Join the conversation!

facebook.com/groups/ ebbsmembers

Our members-only Facebook group and a great place to share personal photos and get advice from fellow club members

facebook.com/ EastBayBonsaiSociety

Our public Facebook group with over 3,000 followers and a great spot to keep up with news and photos from our club

instagram.com/eastbaybonsai/

x.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

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Upcoming Bonsai Events

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.

East Bay Bonsai Society Annual Show

October 5-6, 10am - 5pm, Lakeside Park Garden Center, 666 Bellevue Avenue, Oakland CA

The show features an impressive exhibit of quality bonsai as well as workshops and demonstrations by world renowned artist Dan Robinson! There will be a sale as well as multiple workshops with Dan, stay tuned for more updates.

Fall In Love with Bonsai: Midori Bonsai Club Show

Oct. 19, 10am-5pm, Quinlan Community Center, 10185 N Stelling Rd, Cupertino, CA. Join us for a demonstration by John "JT" Thompson, beginner's workshop, Dr. Bonsai and a fine ikebana display in collaboration with a local club.

Pacific Bonsai Expo Oct. 26, 11am - 5pm and Oct. 27, 11am - 4pm, Henry J. Kaiser Center for the Arts, 10 10th St, Oakland, CA.

The Pacific Bonsai Expo is a juried exhibit featuring beautiful bonsai and top vendors from across the US. **Tickets are on sale now at the Expo Website at <https://pacificbonsaiexpo.org/>**

Chico Bonsai Society Bonsai Show and Sale Oct 26-27, 10am - 7am, Silver Dollar Fair Grounds, 2357 Fair St, Chico, CA, The Chico Bonsai Society show and sale is held at the annual Chico Home and Garden show. This event highlights how beautiful deciduous bonsai trees are at this time of year. It is truly a "do not miss" event. For more information call 530-864-2723.

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