



THE TREE SHRINKER

East Bay Bonsai Society

Next Meeting: **Wednesday, Sept 11, 2024 at 7:30pm**

2024 EBBS Schedule

Regular Meetings:

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

Sep 11 - Val Monroe, 7:30pm

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

Oct 5-6 2024, 10am-5pm
EBBS Annual Show

Oct 26 - Oct 27 - Pacific Bonsai Expo, Oct. 26, 11am - 5pm and Oct. 27, 11am - 4pm, Henry J. Kaiser Center

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!



September Meeting Val Munroe

One of the perplexing problems to the new member of a bonsai club is choosing the right pot for your tree. When they purchased the tree, it was in a pot, and

isn't that good enough? Maybe it is or maybe not. When the tree is displayed it is part of a composition which includes the tree, the pot and the stand.

For our September meeting our guest speaker, Valerie Munroe, will be teaching us about choosing the right pot for displaying our trees. Valerie has over 40 years of bonsai and is currently studying with Peter Tea and Adam Toth. She was introduced to bonsai in high school in a horticulture class and later studied using the Sunset book on bonsai. She initially joined the Hillsborough Bonsai Society and then the Sei Boku in which she is currently a member.

Valerie would like to make this a little more inter-active by having members bring in pots and trees and if you have a Pacific Bonsai Expo book from 2022, she will be referring to pages within it. So, whether you getting ready to display at our annual show or are gearing up for the Pacific Bonsai Expo, getting expert advice at this meeting will be well worth attending.

Thanks to _____ for volunteering to bring refreshments!

Bonsai Calendar



Sun

Gradually move shaded deciduous trees into sun to promote fall color.

Watering

Water regularly, but don't over-water..

Fertilizing

Use low or zero nitrogen fertilizers

Repotting

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

Styling/Pruning

Remove seed pods and dry fruit.

Do not wire deciduous trees until leaves drop.

Once Conifers are bushy, have runners and the foliage has hardened off, you can wire and style them, including cutting back. Renew pinching junipers and severely prune one last time this season.

Propagating/Collecting

Fall is a great time to perform side grafting on conifers, such as Junipers and Pines.

Last opportunity to take hardwood cuttings from deciduous trees.

Last opportunity to remove air-layers this year.

Insect and disease control

Maintain defensive treatments for fungus. Remove dead plant material. Watch for and treat insect infestations.

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



Smiling EBBS Members after seeing Peter's Garden

Peter Tea Garden Tour

On August 24, EBBS hosted a field trip to the garden and workshop of renowned bonsai artist, Peter Tea, in Auburn, CA. Overall, we had 17 members attend, with 13 traveling by an EBBS provided van. We even got in on a heavy rain on the trip back—

first of the season.



Peter's garden was started in 2015, when he moved to Auburn from San Jose in search of space for a large garden, cooler winters and warmer summers (the exceptional water quality of the area was a bonus!). Kathleen O'Donnell was the person that first told

him about the place, and he fell in love with the property at first sight. Since then, he has been slowly building the garden and expects to continue building for years to come.

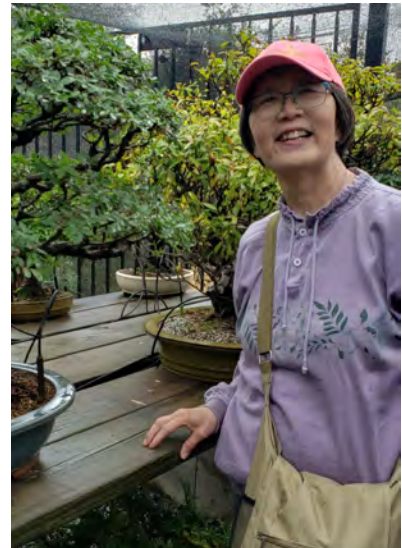
We saw his pot and garden collection, which lived up to their reputation, with some truly magnificent ones. Peter provides a number of services, including sales of refinement trees, pots, wire,



stabling & development of client trees, group & individual workshops, and online blogs.

Some trees and pots were just too hard to resist, were bought, and made the trip back with us. Typically, the garden is not open to the public, so it was special for EBBS member to have the opportunity to see it.

He has divided the garden into differing degrees of shade, 30%, 50%, 80%, and full sun -critical in the hot Auburn sun. The garden's bonsai are a combination of those owned by Peter and those stabled for his

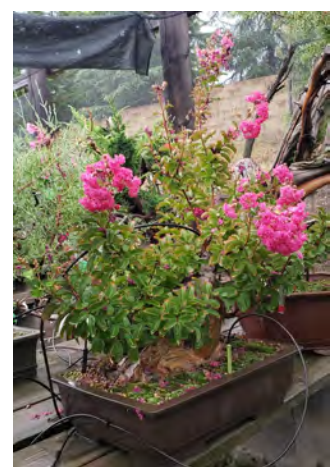
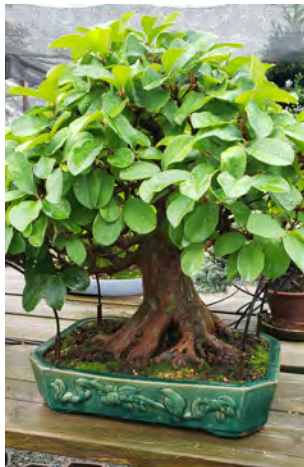


clients. Considering the high quality of Peter's work, it was not hard to be impressed.

Peter provided a demonstration/presentation of a few magnificent trees. He touched on a number of topics, including his soil blend, watering, shading, and grafting. We all learned something and had an incredible day!

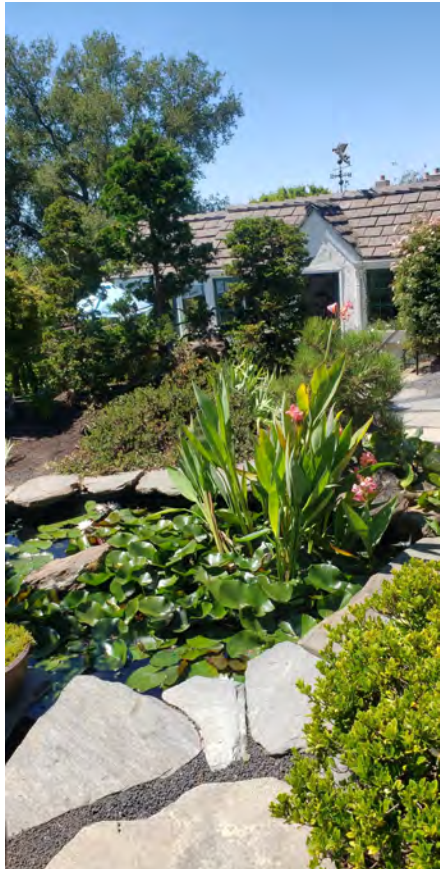
- Bryan Morgan

Check out more photos from Peter's Garden on the next page!



Photos from our annual picnic

Michael Jensen-Akula once again hosted our annual EBBS picnic. Thanks to Michael. Enjoy these pictures!



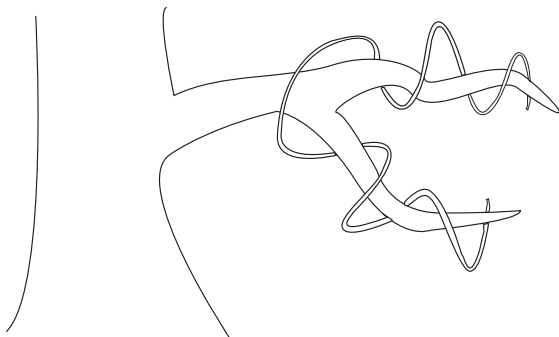
The secret ingredient in bonsai?

When we think of the important things that go into creating great bonsai, we tend to think of things we can see. Our mind conjures up images of soil, water and fertilizer. We might suggest good Nebari or a trunk with taper. But what many of us fail to think of is perhaps the most important ingredient of all: patience.

Over the past month or so, I've had the good fortune of participating in workshops with two Japanese-trained bonsai experts Adam Toth and Peter Tea. I learned a lot from both, but the common thread was to have the patience to slow down and think.

Adam started the workshop I was in by stating, "you're going to be better at wiring by the end of the day." I practiced pinching the wire to hold it steady at each turn. I got better at separating branches to make room for my wire. I came to see how there was a method to selecting which branches to wire first. But what I didn't expect to learn was that I needed to slow down and think before I wired.

He asked us, "Should you start at the top or the bottom when you wire two branches together?" I thought that there was a bonsai rule I was just supposed to memorize, but that wasn't it at all. The answer was it depends on which direction you want to wire the branches.



The wire is always supposed to always end beneath your branch, so you need to think about where you want your bend to end—outward or inward. If the answer is outward (or away from one another), you should start at the bottom so your last wrap pulls the tips outward as you wrap beneath them. If you

want the wiring to end inward, you should start at the top.

To get it right, you first need to stop and think before you act. You need to use patience.

In my workshop with Peter, he taught us how he evaluates bonsai. Most people think about what are all the things that need to be fixed because that's how we're taught. Peter suggests flipping that on its head and reviewing the tree for all of the things you DO like about it. Do you like the pot? Is the pot old? Is it free of chips and scratches? What is the branch placement? Do you like the trunk? Does it have healthy? Peter finds great trees for superior value by cataloging them this way to see the potential of a tree, not just its flaws. Another example of patience in bonsai.

Patience is also an important ingredient in the design of a tree. We often do what is expedient at the expense of what will deliver the best outcome in the long run. During my lesson with Adam Toth, we took a look at one of my junipers.

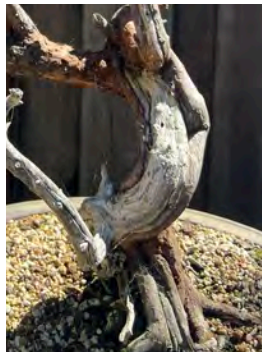


Some club members might possibly remember this tree from a demo Jonas did for the club several years ago on grafting. Unfortunately, the grafts didn't survive a 100°+ heat wave we had the next year. So, I decided to make do with what I had and have been trying to create a windswept bonsai with juvenile foliage growing at the end of the long, leggy branches I had to work with. I didn't have the patience to start over with a second attempt at grafting.

After looking at the tree for a minute, Adam asked me if I had any bonsai books around. I went and grabbed a few and we started paging through them looking for junipers. When we came across one, he'd ask me what I thought of it. Some were obviously magnificent specimens. Others? Not so much. I was surprised that there were trees that were "in a book" that I didn't think were all that great.

Adam pointed out that the good junipers all had one thing in common -- an area of interest framed by foliage.

When I looked back at my juniper, I saw that I did have an "area of interest"-- an gnarled and windy trunk with deadwood, but there was no foliage framing it.



My decision will ultimately be based on what I want to do with the tree -- and what I have patience for. If I want to build a high quality tree that I could proudly display in a show, that means I'm grafting, even though that will take me five or ten years more. If I don't want to invest in that, I might still enjoy the look of the tree in my backyard, but it will never fall into the category of those incredible trees I was enamored with in my bonsai books.

I'm leaning toward using patience to get the tree I really want.



These trees from the Pacific Bonsai Expo all have an "area of interest, framed by foliage."

EBBS Field Trips



Yamadori Collection

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

Group 2: October 9 thru 11 (**sold out**)

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.

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.

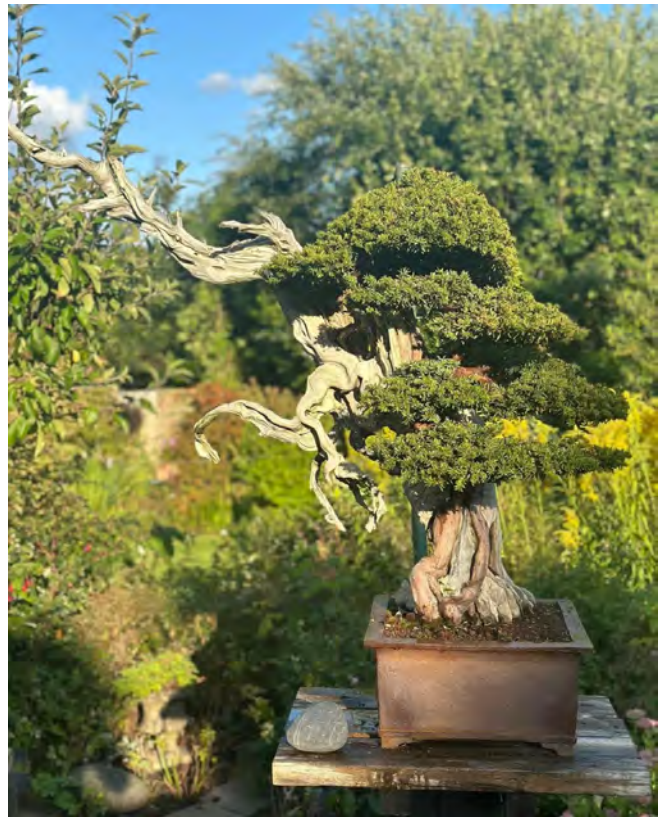
Day 3: Pine collection at Mammoth Lakes. Either travel back Day 3 night or Day 4 morning.

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!

August Meeting Recap:

Tony Tickle & a yew named George



Speaking of yamadori, what an incredible story we heard from renowned UK bonsai artist (and, apparently, adventurer), Tony Tickle.

Tony Tickle found George, an old yew tree, on a steep hillside. It had a difficult life, facing harsh weather and rocky conditions, which had shaped it into a gnarly, twisted tree with a lot of character. He rappelled down the side of a cliff and pried it from its rocky perch like he was Spiderman hanging from a web on the side of a building!

Over the years, Tony carefully pruned, wired, and styled George, respecting its natural form and enhancing its inherent beauty. George was transformed from a weather-beaten tree on a hillside into a magnificent bonsai that tells a story of resilience and transformation.

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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Bryan Morgan, Bev Martinez

Upcoming Bonsai Events

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.

GSBF Bonsai Garden at Lake Merritt Mammoth Auction & Sale

Mar 1 -2, 11am-3pm, Bonsai Garden at Lake Merritt, 666 Bellevue Ave, Oakland

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