



THE TREE SHRINKER

East Bay Bonsai Society

Next Meeting: **Wednesday, Sept. 13, 2023 at 7:30pm**

President's Message

Hello everyone! I hope this finds you busily getting your trees ready for the show this October!



Thanks to everyone who came out to the annual picnic and brought that delicious food and fun games! It was a beautiful day with perfect weather and lots of fun playing corn hole and Scrabble. For those who missed it, we'll be doing it again next year as everyone agreed it was the right choice for a picnic!

I'm delighted to see that Lucy Judd will be teaching us how to make accent plants in September. It is well timed for the upcoming show and a fun activity. Be sure to bring a small pot or be prepared to buy one at the event for your plants.

One last note before I go...Board elections are coming up in November. We are looking for individuals who would like to work as either directors or officers. It can be fun and very satisfying to help our club grow and have activities we can all enjoy. Give it some thought! You likely have some great ideas we can use!

See you in September,

– Bev

Sept. Meeting: Lucy Sakaishi-Judd

Accent Plants Workshop

This month, we're excited to have Lucy Sakaishi-Judd as our guest. She'll be doing a workshop where we'll make our own accent plants—just in time for the show!

Lucy shared her bio below!

As a high school home economics and aerobic fitness teacher, had coached volleyball, track & field (also disco dance by night,) and was the talent for a cable tv aerobics show. My late husband Gary Judd and I had a nutrition & fitness education consultation business as well as coached together his last year of teaching college. I've presented fitness and nutrition classes at state education conferences.



Together with Gary, we created a large collection of bonsai and way too many plants in Rocklin. I have been involved with bonsai and kusamono plantings since the early 90's. My mother (Mary Sakaishi) was my mentor for creating accent plantings. Gary and I were involved in 5 clubs and gained two more bay area clubs for a few years. I am currently president of the Sacramento and Sierra Bonsai Clubs. I have taught at the Shohin Seminar as well as co-chaired with Gary and have also taught kusamono plantings at the GSBF conventions as well as for club workshops and my home studio workshop.

Lucy would like folks to bring moss and 2 pots for planting their accents. If you don't have pots, Lucy will be selling them for \$2.00, \$5.00 and \$10.00.

Tom Fedor and Polly Gould will provide refreshments.

2023 EBBS Schedule

Regular Meetings:

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

Sept 13 - *Accent Plants Workshop*
with Lucy Sakaishi-Judd
**(for those interested, we'll try again for
Bonsai & Beer after the meeting at a bar
called Room 389 close to the Garden
and see if we can start a new tradition)**

Sept 17 - *Bonsai Prep Workshop*,
12-3pm *

Sept 24 - *Introduction to Bonsai* with
Janet Nelson, 1-3pm *

Oct 6 - Annual Show set-up, 6pm

Oct 7-8 - **Annual EBBS Club Show**
with show headliner Jason Chan

Oct 22 - *Introduction to Bonsai* with
Tom Colby, 1-3pm *

Nov 8 - *Pygmy Cypress*
with Bob Shimon, 7:30pm
+ Board of Directors elections

Nov 26 - *Introduction to Bonsai* with
Addison Galambos, 1-3pm *

Dec 13 - Holiday Party, at the Garden
Center

* Located at the workshop in the Lake Merritt
Bonsai Garden

EBBS 2023 Annual Show

It's time to get ready for our annual show!

All members are encouraged to show their trees, participate in the Friday night set-up, weekend jobs, workshops and lectures and sell items at the plant sale. Just like the auction, the sale items will be on consignment with EBBS. EBBS will collect all sales taxes from the end customers and the fee for selling will be 25% of the sales price. All items sold must be bonsai related. Sale sheets and tags will be available at the general meeting on Sept. 13th. A consignment form is attached to this newsletter email and tags will be available at the September meeting and during the show and set up.

If you have not received a call from a show representative, expect to receive one shortly.

It's "all hands-on deck" to have the show run smoothly and we look for all members to participate if they can. It is also a perfect time to socialize and get to know your other club members. In addition, you get two full days to enjoy bonsai.



This year, Jason Chan of Eastern Leaf will be our headliner and will hold a member's only workshop on Saturday from 9:30 AM to 12:30 PM, as well as a demonstration on Saturday afternoon. On Sunday Jason will critique members displayed show trees in the morning and critique and provide advice on members non-show-displayed trees Sunday afternoon. So if you would like some free advice on trees, plan on utilizing this time with Jason.

The Bonsai doctor will be back this year as well to answer all of your bonsai questions.

Our lunch will be back to normal with a potluck on both Saturday and Sunday for members and their guests.

On Sunday, September 17th we will hold a tree preparation workshop at the workshop in the Bonsai Garden. It will start at 12:00 and end at 3:00. Bring your tree, top soil, moss, mineral oil for cleaning non-glazed pots and any accent plants and stands, etc. you anticipate using for your display. Janet Nelson and Rick Trumm have graciously agreed to review our displays and give advice on what more we can do to ready our trees.

Bonsai Calendar



This month, I attended a two-day workshop with bonsai expert, Peter Tea (www.ptbonsai.com). This is a great time of year to work on almost any type of tree as long as it is strong and bushy! Peter shared two techniques to consider at this time of year—thinning and cutting back.

Use **thinning** for lower branches that you want to thicken and make stronger. You can remove the first one or two sets of leaves closest to the trunk and let the branch continue to grow out.

For areas where you want to develop more branches, you'll **cut back** to foliage where you want to see more branches spread into two.

- Adam

More tips for September

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.

Styling/Pruning – Remove seed pods and dry fruit. Do not wire deciduous trees until leaves drop. Renew pinching junipers and severely prune (cut back) one last time this season.

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

If you are planning on creating a Tokonoma display, please contact Janice Dilbeck at JaniceDilbeck@comcast.net.

Tree identification: All trees that will be displayed should have a card with them indicating:

- **Common Name**
- **Botanical name (if known)**
- **Age of tree and years of training**
- **Your initials or name**

Send your information to Bev Martinez at Martinez_Bev@yahoo.com no later than September 30th to create your card. Please contact Freddie Winter at FJWinter@yahoo.com with any items to donate to the Raffle. If you have any questions or need to contact someone regarding the show, please use the below list for reference:

Show Coordinator – Tom Fedor – (510) 541-7683

Hospitality – Tom Fedor – (510) 541-7683 or thomas.fedor@att.net

Reception – Michael Jensen-Akula – (510) 821-0199 or caseykja@aol.com

Plant Sales – Bev Martinez – (925) 437-2347 or Martinez_Bev@yahoo.com

Security – Rick Trumm – (510) 482-8428 or jjn@pacbell.net

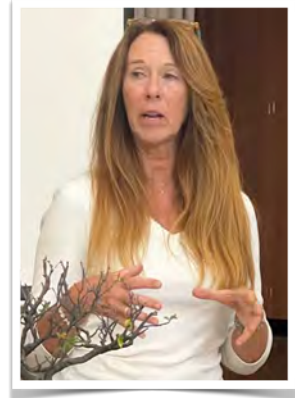
Workshop Coordinator – Bev Martinez (925) 437-2347

Raffle – Freddie Winter (503) 877-7847 or FJWinter@yahoo.com

Show tips from Suzanne Muller

Suzanne gave club members some great tips to prepare for the show.

1. Many of us will move trees from a grow pot to a show pot. If you do, make sure to wire it in, use a pot at least as big as the one your tree is currently in, and be careful not to damage roots!
2. Clean your pot, and use a coat of mineral oil to make it shine.
3. Water in the morning, not right before the show. Bring a mister if you need to keep it moist!
4. Be mindful of soil—scrape off weeds & topsoil, add new akadama, and moss if you have it. Also, scrape moss off the trunk. No bugs!
5. Trees in progress are ok—we're a club, not Kokufu! Be proud, and label your tree. Wire is ok (but make it neat!).

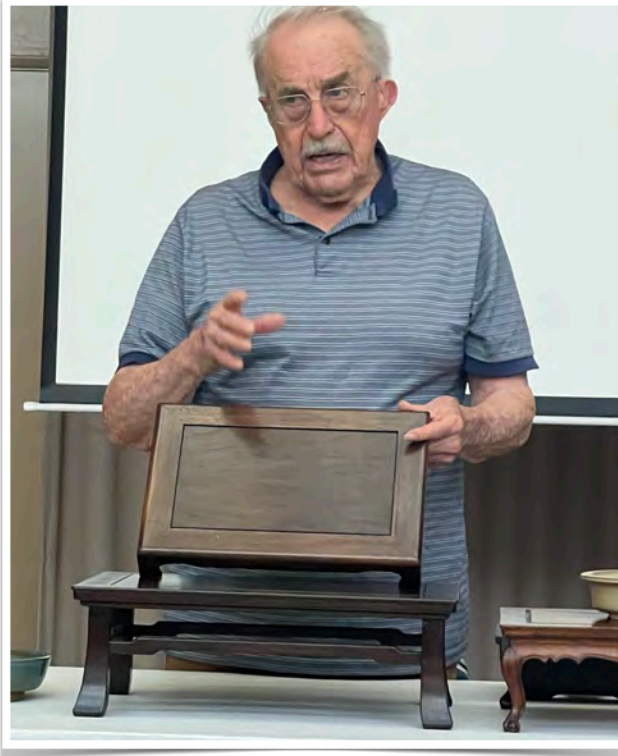


Tom Colby and Suzanne will curate accents if you don't have one. If you don't have a stand, don't let that stop you. Members bring extras and we make it work!

A Masterclass in Bonsai Presentation.

Insights from Tom Colby's Talk on Bonsai Stands

Kicking off his presentation with the wisdom of Aristotle to "begin at the beginning," Tom Colby shared how the inception of his former business in selling Bonsai stands was deeply influenced by the esteemed Kokufu show. By closely studying photographs of stands showcased at Kokufu, Tom refined his understanding of the finest stand characteristics, which became foundational elements in his own business.



The Importance of Pots

Tom didn't mince words when discussing the role of pots in Bonsai presentation. Choosing the right pot, he said, is like trying to "put lipstick on a pig" if not executed carefully. Pots should be in harmony with the tree's formality and age. Older, robust trees demand sturdy, dark-colored, triangular pots, while lighter, informal trees like junipers should be coupled with light glazed pots that have soft, rounded angles. Beyond the shape and weight, the color of the pot should also complement the tree to make it visually arresting.

Stands: Not Just for Show

Delving into the core function of Bonsai stands, Tom explained that they are meant to alter our perspective, enabling us to look into the tree rather than merely looking down on it. The stand should act as a visual anchor and embody an "elegant and understated" quality, exemplified by the Bev Martinez pot he presented.

Achieving Balance

Tom emphasized the need to strike a balance in visual weight between the pot and the stand. For chunky stands, a deep, substantial pot is needed, while longer pots should be placed on stands that are about 1/3 longer than the pot itself.

Shape and Symmetry

The form of the stand should harmonize with that of the pot. Stands with curly legs are best suited for round pots, while rectangular pots look better with stands that have straight legs.

Masculine vs. Feminine Characteristics

Design elements can express masculine or feminine traits. Masculine stands usually feature straight legs and simpler designs, while feminine stands can be more ornate or curly. Pots, too, can possess these characteristics.

DIY and Affordable Alternatives

Drawing from his business experience, Tom shared cost-effective stand alternatives, from bamboo shelves available in Chinatown to a simple, sanded, and shellacked piece of wood. However, he advised against choosing scratched stands, as they are challenging to repair.

Final Tips

Closing on a practical note, Tom recommended using adhesive felt on the bottom of your pots to keep your Bonsai from scratching your stand.

Tom's insights remind us that every element, from the pot to the stand, contributes to the overall experience, elevating your Bonsai from a mere potted plant to a captivating work of art.



Join the conversation!



East Bay Bonsai Club is on Instagram! Follow our club at <https://www.instagram.com/eastbaybonsai/>



Join our Facebook group just for active members to at www.facebook.com/groups/ebbsmembers.

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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

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Upcoming Bonsai Events

US National Exhibition Sept 9 - 10, 9am - 4pm
435 W Commercial St, East Rochester, NY 14445. Demonstrations from Koji Hiramatsu, Gerald Rainville, Corin Tomlinson, and Sean Smith.

San Mateo Bonsai Club Display and Clinic Sept 17, 10am - 4pm
ACC Gardener's Hall, 503 East Fifth Avenue San Mateo, CA (corner of 5th and Claremont). Bonsai display, bonsai pots and soil for sale, bonsai clinic. For more information: sanmateobonsaiclub@earthlink.net.

Kofu Bonsai Kai Exhibit Sep 22 - 24, 10am - 4pm
Bowers Museum, John M Lee Court, 2002 N Main St, Santa Ana, CA 92706. Bonsai Demonstration, Saturday 1pm by Jason Chan

Sierra Bonsai Club Show Sep 23 - 24, 10am - 4pm
3192 Boyington Rd, Penryn, CA 95663. The Sierra Bonsai Club will display bonsai and suiseki in the temple as well as outdoors in conjunction with the Placer Buddhist Church Food & Cultural Festival Bazaar all weekend.

American Bonsai Association Sep 26, 5:30pm - 9pm
3330 McKinley Blvd, Sacramento, CA 95816. Live Auction 6:30 pm

Midori Bonsai Club's Bonsai Exhibit Sat, Sep 30, 10am - 5pm
10185 N Stelling Rd, Cupertino, CA 95014. Bonsai demonstration by Jonas Dupuich at 1pm. Demonstration tree to be raffled off.

East Bay Bonsai Society Annual Show Oct 7-8, 10am-4pm
Lakeside Park Garden Center, 666 Bellevue Ave, Oakland, CA 94610. An impressive exhibit of quality bonsai, as well as a demonstration by Jason Chan. There will also be a raffle, silent auction and sale.

Yamato Bonsai Kai Show Oct 14, 11 AM - Oct 15, 5pm
32975 Alvarado-Niles Rd, Union City, CA 94587. Demonstration trees will be raffled off as grand prize each day. For more info and updates find us on Facebook by searching "Yamato Bonsai Kai" or irishfishboy@yahoo.com.

GSBF Rendezvous Oct 20 - Oct 22, 2023, 10am - 4pm
13070 CA-33, Santa Nella, CA 95322. Bonsai Sales • Auction • Workshops • Lectures • Community

Golden Zoom: Jonas Dupuich on Pot Selection Oct 30, 6:30pm - 9pm
Jonas Dupuich, co-founder of the esteemed Pacific Bonsai Expo and longtime bonsai instructor will share his insights on making excellent pot-to-tree selections. Live Zoom open to GSBF club members only.

Capital City Bonsai Show Oct 21 - Oct 22, 10am - 3pm
3330 McKinley Blvd, Sacramento, CA 95816. This group show features tree and suiseki displays from participating area clubs

California Bonsai Society Annual Exhibit Nov 4-5, 10am - 5pm
1151 Oxford Rd, San Marino, CA 91108. Three demonstrations each day at 1pm. For more information, please contact Lindsay Shiba: shibalindsay@gmail.com or check the website: californiabonsaisociety.com

60th Winter Silhouettes Show - Baikoen Bonsai Kenkyukai
Sat, Jan 13-14, 10am - 4:30pm, 301 N Baldwin Ave, Arcadia, CA 91007