



# The Snippet

Sei Boku Bonsai Kai Inc.

February 2021

## This Month's Meeting

Wednesday, February 24: 7 PM ZOOM

Jim Doyle will give a 5 part presentation on Literati or Bunjin style bonsai. We'll get educated on creating this style thru explaining Keido, the art of display using Literati/Bunjin as a focal point. We may even get a tour of his nursery.

With a B.S in horticulture from Delaware Valley University, Jim started Nature's Way Nursery in 1973 and soon acquired an interest for bonsai, now passionately involved for over 40 years. He was one of founding members of the Susquehanna Bonsai Club, creating a membership of over 100 participants. He has been involved with many east coast conventions and symposiums and has written many bonsai articles for publication. He teaches/demonstrates throughout the US, Canada and abroad.



*Bunjin Pine from 2019 SBBK Show*

### Golden Statements Magazine Winter Issue 2021

New issue of Golden Statements Magazine Winter Issue 2021 publication has been published.

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## 2021 Membership Dues

Memberships for 2021 can be purchased now. Individual memberships are \$45, family memberships are \$55. If you have been a member for ten years and are 72 or older (72 and 10), an individual membership is \$25, and a family is \$35.

Members, as you probably know, although we are not currently meeting at the garden center, Sei Boku has still been paying rent. We want to ensure if we can, that we will have a meeting place when we can finally safely gather again. Your dues help with rental costs, and outside speaker costs. Please consider renewing your membership for next year, and thank you.

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# President's Message

By Steve Iwaki

Contrary to what's happening in other parts of the country, winter is turning to be mild for us this season and if you haven't started your repotting by now, you will soon be. I've got new buds on my Chinese Elms, however still waiting for signs of life with my deciduous. How about you?

With new buds, it's the start of a new year. As vaccines get administered, we will soon start thinking about in person meetings (hopefully), bonsai sales and maybe even a show. The board will regroup on this topic in March, as we all are dying for normalcy to come back.

For those of you that haven't joined us for our monthly zoom meetings, here are some links to self educate, in no particular order:

<https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/360034967471-Getting-started-guide-for-new-users>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QOUwumKCW7M>

<https://www.seniorsguide.com/technology/a-step-by-step-guide-to-a-zoom-meeting/>

<https://www.perkinselearning.org/technology/blog/zoom-101-basic-steps-using-zoom>

For this month's meeting, we are excited to be joined by a bonsai artist from Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, Jim Doyle. He owns Nature's Way nursery, google him at [www.natureswaybonsai.com](http://www.natureswaybonsai.com)

He's been associated with bonsai for over 45 years, starting the nursery in 1973. This month's topic: Bunjin or Literati style. Please join us.

## January Recap: Three Types of Grafts by Gordon Deeg

By Jane Lancaster

Why graft? Gordon had a good example to show us of a pine tree that had not had its candles cut to maintain the short branches necessary for bonsai. Its branches were long and lanky, and would probably take 20 years to bring the branch foliage back close to the trunk. This is a good candidate for grafting. Plus its basic trunk shape made it a worthy tree to work on. A scion graft requires a scion (short twig with minimal foliage) generally taken from the same tree, but not always. When Gordon worked with Mr. Mitsuya in Japan, they had a client tree that had only been partially grafted with scions with different foliage. While Mr. Mitsuya got a



good giggle out of this, the tree would never be showable with two different types of foliage. If you want to change the foliage on a tree, do a complete changeover.

Gordon's scion had

## 2021 Calendar

(Subject to change)

**February**- Bunjin Session (Jim Doyle)

**March**-Redwood Repot (Valerie Monroe)

**April**-Birthday Party, Dave DeGroot, Special Guest

**May**- Olives (Jerry Carpenter)

**June**- Post Bloom Care on Azaleas (Jonas Dupuich)

**July**-Guest Speaker

**August**-TBA

**September**-TBA

**October**-TBA

**November**-TBA

**December**-TBA

**January**-TBA

As the calendar firms up, date changes may occur. Please check accordingly.

### Editors Special Note:

Many of us are learning the new ways to stay connected. Consider sharing your projects with the club by submitting some photos and captions for the Snippet. Or a short video of your trees for a Zoom meeting. Always happy to share your interests with the membership. Please send your entries to [jcsf1090@comcast.net](mailto:jcsf1090@comcast.net)

## Zoom Meeting Schedule

The general meeting will most always be on the fourth Wednesday of the month. As long as we are doing the Zoom meetings, the starting time will be at seven o'clock in the evening.

## Sei Boku Bonsai Kai

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Steve Iwaki

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Adviser: Gordon Deeg

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## January Recap—Continued

about 10 to 12 pairs of needles which shouldn't require too much water, but are enough to produce food for the scion. In order to protect the scion from dry-



ing, he used Parafilm to wrap it from the foliage down to about an inch from the end. Don't wrap the foliage too tightly. Parafilm is a waxy material that seals against itself like grafting tape. It can be found online and is reasonably priced compared to grafting or budding tape's price.

The previously used technique of protecting a graft union was to wrap



it in wet sphagnum moss and cover with a little bag.

This Parafilm technique should give you a 75% success

rate. Using a grafting knife that he maintains with a honing strap, slice the end of the scion on two sides, first cut longer than the second. He uses a magnifying head loop (2X or 3X) to better see what he is doing. It is important to match the cambium layers of the scion and branch or trunk. When dealing with thick bark on the branch or trunk, you may have to chisel a small area of bark away, then make a slice into it. Place the longer cut side of the scion against the cambium of the branch or trunk. Wrap another length of Parafilm around the graft.

Gordon had another example to show us of a cork bark oak seedling with nice small leaves which he grafted onto another cork oak that has larger leaves. He grafted the scion low onto the larger leaf cork oak to make a future shohin. Since this is a common, commercially important species (wine corks!), he is hoping to have better success (than cuttings or air-layering) by trying different methods of grafting to get the tree with the best attributes. Since both scion and stock are cork oaks, the barks should be close enough in appearance. Steve I. added that when he was in Japan last, he saw that the bonsai men are now grafting white pine onto black pine stock quite low on the trunks. They previously grafted 6 inches or so up on the trunks, and the difference in barks is very obvious. Jeremy is air-layering the top of a tree, but he wants to save the base and graft new material onto it. He'll report back later.



Next, Gordon decided to try an approach graft for the first time for our viewing pleasure. An approach graft involves fusing a branch (that is still attached to the donor plant) to a tree. Pine trees have flexible branches which make them good candidates for this technique. He makes a groove in the bark of the trunk where he wants to attach the branch. He then removes roughly the same

## January Recap—Continued

amount of bark on the branch to be attached. He wired the branch to the trunk with aluminum wire to hold it while he nailed it to the trunk with a small nail. (Steve I. wondered if a screw would work better. Drilling it in would probably be easier on both the trunk and branch. J.T. has used a staple gun to staple the branch to the trunk.) Whatever it takes, it is most important to get good contact right through the middle of the bared cambiums to join them. He'll use Parafilm to seal the graft. You'll know if it has taken when the branch past the graft grows thicker than the branch before the graft.

Our last demonstration was of a thread graft using a Trident Maple Gordon had purchased from Rose Kato in the latter part of the 1900's. Rose was the wife of Bob Kato, our club's founding sensei. This technique is best used on deciduous trees because you need to thread a branch through a tunnel drilled in your tree. The smaller the tunnel the better, but it needs to be at least as wide as the branch plus buds. Last year, Gordon let a branch grow out long enough to use as a "thread". Start drilling from the side where you want the thread to enter. Clean up the exit hole. Insert thread using a plastic straw to protect the threaded branch so you don't scrape the buds off. Try to direct the first buds on the exiting thread to be going to the sides, not up and down. The next step is to cut below the bark down to the cambium on the thread as close as possible to where the cambium of the trunk is. Then wedge the thread at the top of the hole with a sharp pointed skewer. Go in about an inch or so to make it hold firm. Seal both ends with the clay-like cut paste. Don't use the liquid cut paste which might get in between the two cambiums. When the exiting part of the thread branch gets bigger than the entering part, you can separate it. Bob Callahan's book on azaleas has



a very good description of how to do thread grafts.

Mike M. wanted to know if you can graft a female to a male Princess Persimmon. Mr. Mitsuya thinks the male Princess Persimmon has a better look than the female, but no fruit. Gordon couldn't think why this wouldn't work, and fruiting trees are usually easy to graft, so go for it.

If anyone has any questions about grafting, just email Gordon at [gdbonsai90@gmail.com](mailto:gdbonsai90@gmail.com).



## Mike Rosenthal - Cypress Development



This is a Cypress that was purchased by me (Mike Rosenthal) at our Sei Boku Bonsai Kai Annual Show 6 years ago when I first joined the club. I had not remembered to whom the tree belonged. Steve Iwaki was at my house in December and noticed it and identified it as having been in his dad's collection. Mr. Iwaki-san was one of the pioneers in bonsai in southern California beginning shortly after WW II. Apparently Steve had it and sold it at the show back in 2015. Recently he found the picture that he took in 2005 so we can now compare. Please do not be too harsh about my efforts, although through the years of SBBK I have developed thicker skin and can tolerate criticism better now. Also with age induced senility, I will not remember it anyway.

### Special Request from Carman's Nursery

Nancy Schramm (Carman's Nursery) reached out to us asking if we could canvas some of our "old timers" for some special information:

One of Nancy's nursery customers, Eric Hsu, is working on a profile of Toichi Domoto. He is looking for any anecdotes or recollections of meeting him. Toichi's camellias are still in the nursery trade, but his flowering quince appear to be lost to cultivation. If you have any information to help Eric, please contact him at [eric.hsu03@gmail.com](mailto:eric.hsu03@gmail.com).

## International Bonsai Magazine by William N. Valavanis

In order to advance classical bonsai art to a broader and world-wide audience, I have decided that after publishing International BONSAI for 42 years and producing 164 issues, to suspend the printed edition.

Instead I will expand my educational offerings with the introduction of International BONSAI OnLine which is a FREE digital bi-monthly magazine, it will continue with the high standards of quality we have introduced to English language bonsai magazines. It continues to be the first and only professional bonsai magazine published in the United States.

With the introduction of the Free bi-monthly magazine in a digital edition, I feel we can reach more people and International BONSAI OnLine has the potential of having the largest circulation making it ideal for advertisers to offer their products and services; as well as to promote bonsai exhibitions, conventions and other gatherings. You can easily subscribe FREE at: [www.internationalbonsaionline.com](http://www.internationalbonsaionline.com)

You can order printed Back Issues which can be selected by topic here: [www.internationalbonsai.com/page/497153594](http://www.internationalbonsai.com/page/497153594) Our very much anticipated 2021 Seedling & Pre-Bonsai Catalog is now available in our main website which also has other items such as books and albums. Order early to avoid disappointment. [www.internationalbonsai.com/seedling%20list](http://www.internationalbonsai.com/seedling%20list)

My blog, full of beautiful photos, introduces exhibits, events and other interesting topics from around the world: [www.valavanisbonsaiblog.com](http://www.valavanisbonsaiblog.com)

### Sei Boku Bonsai Kai Inc.

#### Club Meetings

Our club meetings are currently being held online. The meeting is scheduled for the 4th Wednesday of each month, except for December. The meeting starts at 7:00 pm and ends before 10:00 pm. Each month we cover different Bonsai topics and techniques. The San Francisco Bay Area is home to a wealth of Bonsai knowledge both resident and visiting.

When we can meet in person our location is at the San Mateo Garden Center is at 605 Parkside Way, San Mateo, CA right off the Alameda de las Pulgas near Hillsdale Mall.

**3rd Saturday Virtual Open Workshop 2-4 PM**  
**Zoom Workshop is available this month.**

### GSBF Golden Statements Magazine—Digital Edition

The GSBF Golden Statements Magazine is digital and free online for Fall 2020. Take a moment to sign up for a free subscription notice. A direct link to the [GSBF Golden Statements Magazine](#)

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