



April Meeting—Getting Ready for Show Time! 2024

Would you like to know if your tree is show ready? Do you have questions on what to consider when creating a display? Do you know what you need to do or how you can help make our 40th Anniversary show fun and successful? Marsha, your show chair will lead discussions for helpful feedback, share examples and guide us, from tree prep through display as well as discuss member show participation and readiness.

Everyone, please bring a potential tree display to show and tell for some constructive feedback. Display includes accent and stand options too. You will receive varied and helpful feedback and insight. This exercise is fun and educational.

Sei Boku as a club always strives to be our best as well as give everyone an opportunity to participate in our show. We'll have signups available and will answer all of your questions. Come join the fun as we all prepare to make this year's show our best show yet!

A sample of perfection at Koku Fu '24



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Golden State Bonsai Federation

ABAS replay of Jonas Dupuich
"How to Evaluate a Bonsai Exhibit"



Local Events Notice

Kusamura Bonsai Club 62nd Annual Show

Apr 20-21, Sat Noon - 4:00 PM, Sun 11:00 AM - 4:00 PM.
Addison School, 1045 Webster St., Palo Alto, CA.
Headliner: Mike Pistello. Over 60 Bonsai Trees, Bonsai & pre-Bonsai sale, Docent tour Sat 1:30 pm, Show critique Sat 4 pm. Show chair: Idris: idrisan@gmail.com.

kusamurabonsai.org for more details

Bay Area Satsuki Aikokai (BASA) & Yamato Bonsai Kai joint Bonsai Show

May 18, 10 AM - 5 PM, May 19, 10 AM - 3:45 PM
View Azalea bonsai in full color. There will be a large members' sales area and imported Japanese material as well as outside vendor sales. Club demonstrations will be held from 1:00 - 3:00 pm on Saturday (BASA) and Sunday (Yamato).

satsukiazaleabonsai.org for more details

2024 Pacific Bonsai Expo:

Oct 26-27, Henry J. Kaiser Center for the Arts, Oakland.
pacificbonsaiexpo.org for more details

Golden State Bonsai Federation

Golden Zoom with Yannick Kiggen

Apr 22, Mon 6:30PM Zoom link to be shared by email.
Yannick is a highly regarded European professional. He will discuss different global approaches to styling bonsai. SBBK had the pleasure of hosting Yannick last year for an in person styling & teaching.

More Information on GSBF: www.gsbfbonsai.org

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President's Message

By Jerry Carpenter



April is a month of great activity in our gardens. It is one of my favorite months, getting to see all the new growth sprouting on every tree species. We also have many exciting opportunities in the club. We have officially welcomed Cath to the board as Secretary. That leaves a position open for the regular board and I will be contacting few recent members to see if they will join us. We are also looking for a assistant show chair to shadow Marsha as she begins the work of setting up the show. One person cannot carry it all so we really need someone who can learn the ropes and learn from our most excellent show chair. We also have some changes coming to our 2024 program as Deadwood Presentation – Special guest Andres Bicocca cannot make it to the USA due to so many travel visa requirements.

Hopefully a larger organization such as GSBF can get him here as they have so many more resources to make that happen. That means that our board is actively considering a club event alternative for August.

I hope you can get out and enjoy the Spring. Here are a few images from my garden:



March Meeting Recap

Eric Schrader: Mame development

It was a full house, with even smaller trees than normal. Eric demonstrated the art of Mame sized trees—cultivation and development. His Bonsaify YouTube channel has more information to continue your interest in all things small.



A few notes to share that were discussed by Eric:

- Mame (up to about 3" tall).
- Use a large rectangular pot with drainage, and a bed of smaller lava or akadama fines. Allow escape roots to grow into the lower soil—don't let it get too dry and not too hot. Inspect once a month and trim escape roots.
- Can have moss in the tray but avoid letting it get out of control.
- Too many or more mature roots may block the drainage hole—may not last until repotting season.
- Tends to repot once a year—with the main goal to clear up the drainage hole.
- Pines are challenging because they don't like too much water, but a small pot does not supply much water.
- Normal Japanese Maples are challenging as mame. Dwarf varieties are best—e.g. koto hime.
- Soil: Typically 70% Perlite, 30% Coco Coir (but he is moving towards bark fines). Also uses Aoki Shohin soil (or Akadama).

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“Bonsai that have been kept well from the year before will bud vigorously, whereas those that have received improper care or repotting will bud poorly. Spring budding is like a report card on the care you have given your bonsai over the previous year.”

Masakuni Kawasumi II,
The Secret Techniques of Bonsai



- Propagation: let them root first, then add bends (which adds stress). Leave it for a year, then transplant and wire and root prune. Place in shade, bottom heat helps rooting (seedling heat mats). Juniper is generally propagated in Oct.
- Top growth mirrors root growth—if you see budding & growth, it is a good sign.
- Cotoneaster (spring cuttings): after pencil thick with movement, prunes hard and allows foliage to grow tighter. Shari or Jin deadwood. Cotoneaster behaves like junipers when wired. Healthy foliage.
- Cotoneaster may grow a coarse pruned tip — if you prune to the final silhouette it may look coarse. So cut back a tad shorter and let a new finer tip extend to the silhouette of the foliage.



@ericshraderbonsai

Golden State Bonsai Federation

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Yannick is a highly regarded European professional. He will discuss different global approaches to styling bonsai.

SBBK had the pleasure of hosting Yannick last year: for an in person styling & teaching.

More Information on GSBF: www.gsbfbonsai.org

Consider supporting a \$100k Goal

Improving Security at Bonsai Garden at Lake Merritt

Harden the perimeter fencing, security lighting & cameras, alarm system, video recording, and hired security 24/7.



SBBK Calendar

- Apr 24 Show Readiness – Marsha M.
- May 7 **First Tuesday Workshop:** Val & Gordon
San Mateo Garden Center 7-9 pm
- Jun 1 - 2 **SBBK Annual Club Show** (set up May 31)
San Mateo Garden Center 10 am - 4 pm

Refreshment Rotation

- | | | |
|----------------|----------------------|----------------|
| Apr Mtg | May Mtg | Jun Mtg |
| Dustin H. | Gerardo O. | George S. |
| Steve I. | Barbara & Richard P. | Gary S. |

Please find a replacement if you are unable to bring refreshments as scheduled.

Show & Tell — Share at the next meeting

Thank you to those who shared some of their tree projects.



Dennis Hawkins: Wisteria



Collected & developed over 34 yrs



Bill MacDonald: Juniper through granite



Jerry Carpenter: Japanese Black Pine

“The older the tree, the less rules can guide us.
Read the tree, not the book.
Balance over rules.”

Michael Hagedorn,
Bonsai Heresy

What makes a good bonsai?

Eisei-En/YouTube: Bjorn Bjorholm



Welcoming New Members



- Maija
- Tommy

If new members would like to be paired with a **SBBK Bonsai Buddy**, please reach out to Bill, bill@walter-mcdonald.com

Getting Ready for Show Time!

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Following is a heads-up and clarification of some of the show's needs and expectations. Lots of opportunities to participate and contribute to our show's success:

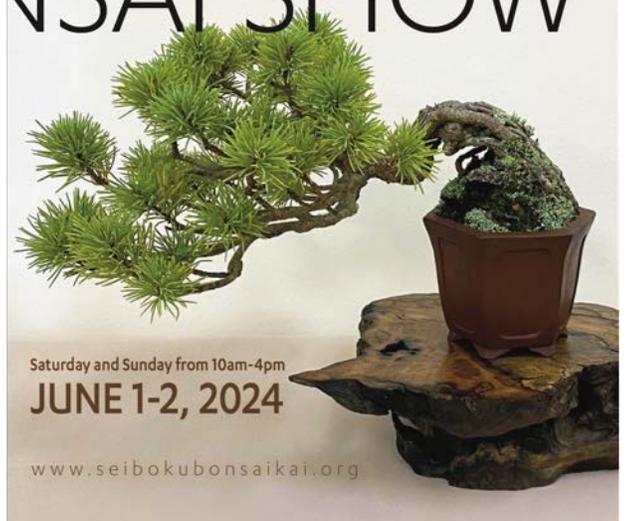
TREE(s) – Refer to the Tree Prep list from Jonas Dupuich (attached). When you select your show tree, please email me Species, Botanical (if known) and number of years in training.

Springhill.2@outlook.com. **The deadline will be May 10th**, but sooner is better. **STANDS** - Need a stand for your tree? Reach out to myself, Gordon, or a board member with a photo, size of your tree and its pot. **Do not wait until setup if you need a stand.** Put your name on any trees, stands, and accent plants you bring to the exhibit.

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— Come celebrate Sei Boku Bonsai Kai's 39th Anniversary —

BONSAI SHOW



Saturday and Sunday from 10am-4pm

JUNE 1-2, 2024

www.seibokubonsaikai.org



Getting Ready for Show Time! 2024

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SALE ITEMS – The show sale is a terrific opportunity to create bench space or room for your new purchase. Members can sell healthy groomed trees, plants, pots, or other bonsai items. The proceeds will be split between you, the seller and SBBK at 80%/20% split. The biggest sale opportunities are Saturday morning as soon as we open at 10. Bonsai sale items **MUST** have properly completed sale tags and form. Get forms and tags from Mike Mello in advance. Sales sheets and tags will be distributed at upcoming meetings. You must have both the sale sheet correctly completed and individual tags affixed **prior to bringing items into the sales area** Saturday morning by 9 a.m. PLEASE DO NOT bring your sale items prior to Saturday morning.

RAFFLE and Door prize Donations – All members are asked to bring two bonsai related items valued at \$25 or more. Items can be pots, healthy attractive trees, books, tools, scrolls, stands or garden center gift cards etc. If you have nothing for the raffle it is acceptable to write a check to SBBK and give it to Randi Keppler, our treasurer. Please bring donations Saturday morning prior to the show opening. Our raffles occur each day at 3pm with door prize drawings throughout the day.

SHOW Sign-Up sheets will be available at our April meeting. We ask everyone to sign up for 2 hours both Saturday and Sunday.

These duties include:

Welcome Table – greeting guests as they arrive, giving door prize ticket for 3:00 raffle and watching that folks leaving are not leaving with unpaid items.

Security – welcoming folks within the show room, monitoring displays and answering questions they may have. Guests should look but do not touch.

Sales – Be present, helpful, and watchful in the club sales area. Help guests find their perfect tree or pot, ensuring security measures are followed by subtly keeping an eye for price tag manipulations etc. Does not happen much but beware. Just paying attention should curb opportunity here.

Hospitality – Help monitor and supply lunch provisions for member and guest lunches 11-1:30 both days plus help with Set-Up dinner on Friday night. SBBK purchases pre-prepared food, no potluck. Same as last year so easier prep and clean up and more time for you to work on your tree prep and enjoy the show.

Raffle – Sell raffle tickets for demo trees and raffle prizes, receive, monitor, and display prizes for Sat/Sun raffles and door prize drawings.

Doctor Bonsai – Experienced members are available to advise, help and answer questions on all bonsai related topics including styling options.

Set-Up/Take-Down – Back drop team is up first setting up tables and chairs for use inside and out then bringing down tablecloths and back drops from Rose Room.

With back drops assembled and tables in place with lifts installed Tablecloth team can box fold tablecloths around the room. Once back drops are installed for Tokonomas apply black slip covers to those tables.

Sunday take down process is set-up process in reverse. Please, do not move other people's trees or items without permission, and be sure all items are safely removed from the show areas before any disassembly and putting away of items begins.

Display Staging – As tables are set on patio folks can bring their trees, accents, and stands for display staging. Please bring your show materials Friday night and place them on patio tables provided for this purpose. Selected senior members will be responsible for setting up the displays once room is ready. Be available once your tree is selected to help ensure the stand and tree are ready to go.

Display Setup – Receive and review trees, their stands and accents for show display set up. Set-up guided by Val, Jerry, with support of JT. Gordon will do Shohin displays and his Tokonoma. Tree name cards – place cards consistently and id who doesn't have card yet. Hopefully still time to make a few, but everyone should have provided already. Accents – Those trees needing accents should verify with Show Tree Placement monitor and handle as suggested. Those of you with Tokonoma displays may choose to incorporate scrolls.

Dinner will be provided on Friday night around 6:00. Bring something to drink for yourself and share if you like. We'll have a few coolers available. Please also bring what you would like to drink for Sat/Sun. During show hours you can eat in the Rose Room or downstairs on the Garden Shop Patio. Please clean up after yourself and help us adhere to Garden Center requirement to recycle responsibly.

Please be sure to keep track of your work assignments. Copies of signups will be in Rose Room and Redwood kitchen. If for some reason you can't work your shift(s) please find another member to cover and update the sign-up sheet. If you are unable to find someone to cover, please contact the lead for your assigned area for help. We need all hands to help and will have leads and seasoned folks to help coordinate.

Getting the word out - Bill McDonald is our marketing coordinator. He has prepared material for you to share online via social media such as Next Door, Facebook, etc. We also have flyers and postcards available to share with friends etc.

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2024 SBBK Calendar of Events

Please note updates in each Snippet edition as details, presenters or topics may change.

- May 22 Raw Material or What do I do with this? – Multi Table Workshop
- Jun 1 & 2 SBBK Show – Gordon Deeg (Sat), Adam Toth (Sun)
- Jun 26 Bonsai Challenge – multi-club
- Jul 24 Multi-Species Tables – various table hosts
- Aug 28 TBD
- Sep 21 SBBK BBQ
- Sep 25 Green Elephant (auction fund-raiser)
- Oct 23 Special guests Yannick Kiggen & Bjorn Bjorholm Style-off
- Nov 25 What Makes a Good Pot? – Val and Josh
- Dec 8 Holiday Event

Getting Ready for Show Time!

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Photographs – Jerry Carpenter has once again volunteered to photograph our trees. He will take photos in place. Some may include full display, while others the tree, depending. These will be uploaded to share. We won't include names on site to keep anonymity.

Be sure to wear your Happi Coat and or name badge so our guests can identify you as a club member. If you don't have one, please let me know asap.

If you have any questions, issues and/or ideas at any time before or during the show please reach out to me via Email, text or call. Springhill.2@outlook.com (650) 477-4761

With everyone's efforts and participation we will have another beautiful show to be proud of. The show displays, club camaraderie, tree sale opportunities, exciting raffle items, fun food and our vendors combine to bring club members from all over the bay area and beyond to exclaim our show is one of if not their very favorite shows of the year! Is all due to each of your efforts. Thank you in advance everyone.

Let's have fun.

Marsha Mekisich
SBBK Show Chairperson

Editors Special Note:

Consider sharing your projects or best seasonal trees with the club by submitting some photos and captions for the Snippet. Please send your entries to mwei2cre8@msn.com.

Visit us on the web at <http://seibokubonsai.org/>

or at <https://facebook.com/seibokubonsai>
or at <https://instagram.com/seibokubonsai>



Sei Boku Bonsai Kai

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(vacant)

Show Chair: Marsha Mekisich

Consultant: Gordon Deeg



Sei Boku Bonsai Kai Inc.
Proud member of
Golden State
Bonsai Federation



Preparing Bonsai for Exhibiting - Jonas Dupuich, bonsaitonight.com

- 1) Make sure the trunk looks great
 - Remove unwanted moss
 - Remove flaky bark from junipers, trident maples, quince
 - Use toothbrush and water to clean trunks of deciduous trees
- 2) Show deadwood at its best
 - Clean with toothbrush and water
 - Apply lime-sulfur to improve color
 - Use 100% solution for new deadwood
 - Add up to 50% water if deadwood is already white
 - Add drop of India ink to darken color if necessary
 - Prepare deadwood 2 weeks before exhibit
- 3) Limit the use of wire
 - Display deciduous trees with no wire
 - Conifers may be shown with wire
 - In general, use thinner gauge wire for show than for development
 - Use guy wires as alternative to heavy gauge wires for lowering branches
 - Avoid crossing the trunk with wire
- 4) Refine branch pads
 - Remove downward pointing leaves or needles
 - Keep underside of branch pads clean for good branch pad separation
 - For wired bonsai, reset branches to desired location
- 5) Prepare the surface of the soil
 - Remove weeds
 - If moss is available, cover the surface of the soil with moss (see <http://bonsaitonight.com/2010/02/16/moss-technique/>)
 - If moss is scarce, use patches near the base of the trunk
 - If no moss is available, use a top dressing consisting of natural colored soil particles (e.g. a2:1 mix of lava and akadama)
- 6) No dirty pots!
 - Transplant bonsai into show pot if desired
 - Use soft brush and water to remove dirt
 - Be careful to not remove patina
 - Lightly apply camelia or walnut oil with a rag a few days before the show
 - Oil nanban very lightly or not at all
 - Apply felt pads to pot feet to protect stands

Additional Bonsai Display Considerations - Marsha

- 1) Stand should be appropriate for your tree
 - Stand size, style, shape, height, and width can all make a difference
 - Stand must be clean and in good condition
 - If multi point display, try to be sure varied. Different colors, shapes, heights
 - Sometimes you have the stand you have
- 2) Accent plants must adhere to same quality standards at bonsai
 - Pots clean
 - No weeds, unless intentional
- 3) Water – Check your trees through weekend
 - If need water, don't let puddle on your stand or tablecloths