



May Meeting — Raw Material or “What do I do with this?”

Our meeting format in May will include 5 tables with various leaders around the room. We had a meeting similar to this format last year but later in the season. Bring a tree, various species, something you may need to find direction on and visit the tables for advice or assistance.

Our table leaders will be:

1. Jerry – multi species, tropical, sub-tropical, deciduous
2. Val – Junipers, Pines
3. Steve – Junipers, redwoods
4. JT - Oaks and more
5. Gordon – Redwoods and more

We all have our specialties but work on almost all tree species in the area. Raw material is great fun and seeking a path on making the bonsai is always a challenge.



SBBK 40th Anniversary Shirts

A sign up was shared at the April meeting to order T-Shirts and Sweatshirts. The order had arrived, and extra T-shirts are available, while they last. Contact Randi. Costs:

- T-shirt (S, M, L, XL) \$15
- T-shirt (2X, 3X, 4X) \$20
- Sweatshirts (S, M, L) \$35



Local Events Notice

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

San Mateo Bonsai Club Show

May 19 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Come and enjoy our bonsai displays. Bonsai pots and soil will be available for purchase. Bring your tree to our bonsai clinic where we will evaluate your tree and provide feedback.

San Mateo JACC Gardener's Hall,
503 E 5th Ave, San Mateo

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 Belgian professional, Yannick Kiggen

Rescheduled: May 27. 6:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. (P.D.T.)

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President's Message

By Jerry Carpenter



The show is coming up and we are getting excited about seeing all the wonderful trees on display. I know I have been working for months on mine and I know you have too. Thanks to Marsha for leading our show efforts again this year. We need everyone to help where ever possible and if you have signed up for duties, please be sure to assist. If you are floating among duties, we always need more help in the show room itself with "security" and question and answer inquiries.

I want to thank Roy M., Mike R., Gary S., Bill O., for staffing the wonderful San Mateo Garden table with me during the May 5 event. We ran out of show cards and fliers with over 1100 people visiting the vent. We managed to speak to so many who will hopefully be able to visit our show and possibly come to a meeting. Thanks Steve I for making the membership pages. We have out some of those as well.

Keep working those show tress!



Bonsai Tonight — Enjoying a Bonsai Show

Blog by Jonas Dupuich, Dec 27, 2011



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

April Meeting Recap

Marsha Mekisich: Show Readiness



Review April's notes on Show Readiness.

Here are some additional recommendations:

- Clean pot feet and bottoms as they will sit on a stand.
- Mineral oil pots a few weeks before (avoid any scented).
- Just prior to the show put felt tabs under the feet to protect the tables.
- If using moss and not enough for full coverage, then place from the trunk and cover outwards, as if under shade
- If using top soil, we suggest removing white pumice that stands out. Can be all akadama, all black lava or a neutral color top soil.
- Suggestion for pairing a pot and stand with enough extra space on each side, roughly the same as the pot height.
- Two point or three point displays. Two point Tokonoma can include a scroll.
- If a three point display, one would typically not pair two conifers together.
- Consider harmony or contrast of pot & stand shapes and colors.



Member Spotlight:

Dennis Hawkins (by Michael Wei)

I am grateful for Dennis sharing his wisteria in April, and for sharing his bonsai journey. May we all learn and be inspired by each other's progress and projects.

Dennis was first introduced to Bonsai nearly 40 years ago. Passing through Hayward one Saturday, he saw a Yamato Bonsai show poster. That's when Dennis first met Johnny Uchia, who sparked interest in growing bonsais. Dennis liked the junipers and maple forest compositions the most.

It was 1990 when Dennis started growing bonsai trees. He had around 12 trees—mostly junipers, maples and black pines. But in 1992, while at work someone had stolen 7 trees from his yard. Fortunately, he still has 4 of those first trees: 2 junipers and 2 black pines.

Dennis has been a member of the SBBK club for around 30 years; and has also been a member in 4 other local clubs. Yamato was the first club that he joined. Back then most of the clubs members were of Asian descent.

At one point he had over 300 different trees: 50 satsuki, 30 different types of junipers, 20 maples, etc.. Satsuki (Azalea) trees were his favorite bonsai tree for years. Until the water company increase the alkaline level about 10 years ago. Most of the trees started dying. Only a couple remain. After a couple of years you'll know what bonsai trees grow best in your in your area and what trees won't.

The best way to learn bonsai is to do hands on workshops. If you want to find good videos try: Eric Schrader, Jonas Dupuich, or Bjorn Bjorholm.



One of the older members in East Bay Bonsai [club] once told Dennis, "YOU should only own NO MORE than 20 trees Max!!" Dennis confesses that he is still working on that.

On the same note he learned that there is "no way in hell you can work on 75 plus trees year round, without spending your whole day in the backyard." Different trees means you have to trim, prune, wire them, unwire them, repot, defoliate, pull needles, fertilize and what ever at different times of the year.

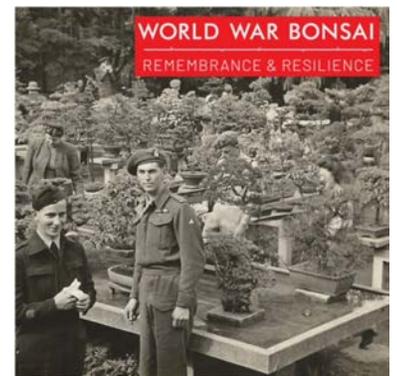
He cautions to avoid falling into the habit of buying a lot of young starter trees. Because by the time you purchased 2, 3 or 4 starter trees. You've spent maybe \$60 up to \$150. Alternatively, consider saving to purchase one developed show tree.

These days, Dennis' favorite tree is the Japanese Black Pines.

Pacific Bonsai Museum's special exhibition for 2020 and 2021



World War Bonsai: Remembrance & Resilience, traced the cultural practice of bonsai in location and time—in Japan and in the United States, from the pre-war WWII period, through wartime, amid incarceration, and at peace. With bonsai, artifacts, documents, and photographs, the exhibition shared the little-known stories of the people who ingeniously and courageously cared for bonsai, shared their art, and spurred a flourishing, global practice despite overwhelming hardships.



SBBK Calendar

- May 22** Raw Material Advice (bring in your own mat'l)
Jun 1 - 2 SBBK Annual Club Show (set up May 31)
San Mateo Garden Center 10 am - 4 pm
Jun 4 First Tuesday Workshop: Val & Gordon
San Mateo Garden Center 7-9 pm
Jun 26 Bonsai Challenge – multi-club

Refreshment Rotation

May Mtg

Gerardo O.
Barbara & Richard P.

Jun Mtg

George S.
Gary S.

Jul Mtg

Zake S.
Ulrich 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.



Val M., Redwood with shaped stone



Bill M., Juniper on Rock



Marsha & Kat Diederich, Juniper



Jerry C, Japanese Black Pine



Caleb, collected Mountain Hemlock

Master Cabinet/Stand maker – Ole Laustsen

Need a stand for the show? You are always welcome to borrow, but in case you may want to buy prior to show, we have a special guest this May, Ole Laustsen. He will bring stands for sale to our May meeting. Check them out and chat with Ole. If not the size or style you need, perhaps bring a photo and dimensions to him as he also does custom work. Some of his stands were displayed in the Kusamura show a few weeks ago. Being an accomplished Master Cabinet maker, he can do just about anything you need.

If you want to contact him in advance of meeting, he will be happy to hear from you. Ole.Laustsen@gmail.com

Show Time: Last Minute Check List

1. Any questions or issues regarding show, please reach out to me, your show chair: Marsha Mekisich @ springhill.2@outlook.com or call/text me at (650)477-4761.
2. Please refresh your memory by reviewing last month's Snippet around show. Lots of expanded info there.
3. Did you submit your tree(s) name, botanical name, and years as bonsai? Deadline passed, but if hurry may be able to slip in.
4. Do you have stand for your tree(s)?
5. Is your tree styled and tidy, top dressed, pot clean and wire discreet and neat if needed?
6. Do you have companion or accent for your display? Even if you don't have a tree, accents are welcome. What we don't use in actual show we'll decorate our hospitality in the Rose Room.
7. Label everything you bring so can easily find its way back to you just in case.
8. You must wear your name badge during show. If you don't have, I will give you a name sticker. :) Hope you will also wear your Hapi coat and or new 40th anniversary club T-shirt proudly.
9. All hands for setup and take down please. Setup begins at 4:00 Friday 5/31, take down 4:00 on Sunday. Dinner is supplied on Friday night near 6.
10. Not to miss, Adam Toth, Club show critique Sunday morning starting 8:15 -9:45 latest. If little late can join in progress, but really try not to miss. These are for everyone.
11. Get your sale tags and sale sheets completed for anything you are going to sell. You keep 80% of all items sold. Bring sale items Saturday Morning. Do not bring in without tags and completed forms. Do not bring Friday night. Friday is show set up only. Thank you.
12. Sunday take-down, be sure you pick up any unsold items and notify Sale team leaders so they can mark them on your sale sheet. Sale teams need to account for unsold vs missing items.
13. Don't mark your sale items down without coordination with Sales team. Sale sheet needs to match. Any adjustments need to be made in advance of gates opening. Please be mindful of timing.
14. Sunday take-down, do not move other people's trees without permission. Be thoughtful and careful. Know all tired by this time. No backdrops removed until trees are cleared.
15. Raffle item value near \$25 each for Saturday and Sunday. Bring Saturday to John and Pam manning Raffle table.
16. Sale and raffle trees must be clean, no bugs, no weeds and respectable. Should be something you would like to win. Please be generous and make room on your benches for upgrade opportunities.
17. Being our 40th anniversary, we will attempt to gather everyone for a group photo in the Rose Garden at some optimum point during show weekend. I'll try to get word out once firmed up. Last time we did this was our 25th! Help make this special by being included.
18. Please note what you signed up for. Can't cover? Please attempt to find replacement and let me know so I can update assignment sheet. Sheets will be posted in Rose Room and Redwood Kitchen case you need to check. If you can't find replacement, notify me asap. Thank you.
19. Every one of you plays a big part in making our show a beautiful success so let's have fun and celebrate!



Some trees displayed at the 2023 Show

2024 SBBK Calendar of Events

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

- 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



BONSAI SHOW

FREE

Saturday and Sunday from 10am-4pm
JUNE 1-2, 2024
www.seibokubonsaikai.org

Door Prizes • Raffle Prizes • Tree Clinic • Plant Sales • Vendor Sales

San Mateo Garden Center
605 Parkside Way, San Mateo
(at Beresford Park)



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>



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