



June Meeting — multi-club Bonsai Challenge

June 26 at 7:00 - 9:00 PM (Garden Center)

This year we will see the return of the inter-club challenge as members of Midori, Kusamura, and SBBK gather for a style-off of interesting material provided by Gerry Fields. Come and support your favorite team and try to win the best tree.

Who knows what the material will be; we never know???????

Local Events Notice

2024 Pacific Bonsai Expo:

Oct 26-27, Henry J. Kaiser Center for the Arts, Oakland.

pacificbonsaiexpo.org for more details

PBE Tickets are on sale online now



Thank you to all the volunteers and leads for this year's show



Golden State Bonsai Federation



Golden Zoom
Yannick Kiggen



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President's Message

By Jerry Carpenter



WOW, what a fun weekend at the show. I want to thank each and every one of you for all the work you did; stepping in when others could not be there, being the cheerful muscle for so many tasks and especially for our show chair, Marsha M.

I am afraid to call out names because I am sure I will miss some. This event cannot happen without all of your help in every position from greeters, Dr Bonsai, security, hospitality, demonstrators, marketing team, set up and tear down crews. Thanks to our special guest, Adam Toth, for his workshop and critique.

You all worked so well together and pulled off a weekend that graced us with so many visitors. We met many new friends and encouraged our guests to enjoy the art of bonsai. We also missed those who could not make it to the show.



We have updated the website with the new 2024 Show Gallery. Be sure stop by and get a closer look at our show trees: <https://seibokubonsaikai.org/gallery/> (<https://seibokubonsaikai.org/gallery/>)



SBBK Calendar

- Jun 26 Bonsai Challenge
- Jul 2 First Tuesday Workshop: Val & Gordon
San Mateo Garden Center 7-9 pm
- Jul 24 TBD

Refreshment Rotation

Jun Mtg	Jul Mtg	Aug Mtg
George S.	Mike R.	JT
Gary S.	Ulrich S.	Michael T.

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

May Meeting Recap

“What do I do with this Material?”

Thank you to Gordon, Steve, JT, Val and Jerry for sharing experienced advice to those who brought material in for guidance.



Sei Boku 2024 Show—Is a Wrap!

By Marsha Mekisich

Congratulations to all for another successful and beautiful show. Made possible by each and every one of you contributing in so many ways.

Much goes into making our show a hopeful success. It begins well in advance with each of you and your trees. This year in addition to all the many things we normally do, it also started with finally purchasing tables to ease our setup. Then it was a massive storage clean up so tables could be accessed more easily. The clean-up was overdue for both the Garden Center and our own storage, so we as a club volunteered to take on the task. Many of you came out to help, and Bill McDonald and John Mekisich really came through between demolition and sorting to organizing dumpster and endless coordination of potential donations and sales of usable stuff through Craig's list. Bill is now our official Craig's list Guru. Thank you all who helped revitalize our storage areas. The Garden Center is also extremely appreciative. We are so lucky to have the Center available to us. Is a special place. This effort was a nice way to show our gratitude.

Thank you, Randi Keppeler, for making it possible for all of us to wear our own 40th SBBK anniversary swag in time for showtime. We received so many nice comments. Your design is beautiful. Well done and thank you again. I know we all appreciate the time as well as talent that you put into making these available.

Everyone rallied within the teams and made sure all was covered. It showed in each area by how smoothly everything went. We have some ideas for tweaking next year to make things even better, making adjustments is how we evolve. Have included a few ideas that came up below, please reach out to me if you have others, as I am happy to consider.

Marketing again was led by Bill McDonald and continued signage face lifts from Catherine Iwaki. Also, Catherine was our show signage designer. Thank you both. Between getting the word out, banners, flyers and flags our show was definitely noticed locally. We had over 325 visitors over the show weekend. I noticed the actual show room was really crowded with visitors Saturday morning after the initial sale frenzy. I don't think I recall seeing so many people all at once in attendance. More new faces while still missing some old friends. Think we picked up at least a few new members. Hope to see them in June meeting.

Speaking of friends, some long time members we had not seen for too long surprised us all with a visit on Saturday. Lori (member prior with husband Manny), Tim Kong, Jane Lancaster. Was a real treat.

Being our 40th anniversary, Jerry Carpenter was set up to take our group shot in front of the gazebo. We sadly were not able to get everyone as some could not make the evening or the show. They are all missed, but we still have a photo to look back on for many. Thanks, Jerry, for capturing a special moment in time.

This year we had a layout drawing thanks to Catherine and Steve for our inside tables. I have attempted something close but will tweak to improve for next year for outside and Rose Room. The addition of more tables made it possible to spread out our preset up as well, making it a little easier to present trees with stands and accents. Still some tweaking here, but each year is better.

Mike Rosenthal earned an apron this weekend. He stepped in from supporting role to star of Hospitality with a little guidance from Caroline Koss and Randi. In addition, many contributed yummy snacks and drinks. We were well sustained from setup to take down! Mike kept all set for anyone who wanted to enjoy throughout the day. Made for the perfect respite to sit and take a little break with old friends, laugh and share.

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2024 Show Is a Wrap!

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Show setup went smoother than ever, from table to full display. I must admit again, I was worried as signups were iffy, but you folks really came through, and some came early to get a jump start. I know who you are, and so appreciate all your efforts. Jerry Carpenter and Val orchestrated display. A complex and intricate task. Great job from all teams pulling the show display together.

Randi, thank you for getting our tree id cards for all of us. Know it had to be a bit of a crunch.

Roy took up lead on Welcome table greetings and counts. Coordinated and trained new folks. His team made sure John called door prizes on the hour. This was fun for our guests and kept John on his toes!

Raffle prizes were abundant and happily received by John Mekisich and Pam Gallegos our Raffle Master and Queen. The general Raffle was fun as always with lots of fun prizes thanks to all of you, our vendors, and our sponsors. All sponsors were notified, and donations picked up by many of you. Always fun to see how many of our local area community continue to support SBBK after all these years.

Our ever-committed sales team leads hardly left their posts the entire show weekend. Another reason for the padded chair perk. Randi Keppeler and Mike Mello were there making sure all was properly tagged and accounted for. All who helped folks decide on purchases as well as secure the sales area played an essential part as well. Thank you, Confident most did well who had items to sell. I made a bit more space on my own benches. Some of my trees will breathe a bit more easily as a result, always a good thing. Yeah!

Overall show security can be a challenge, especially on Saturday morning, but all did well. I still need to implement ideas for side gate coverage as well as work with our vendors to include some id to secure check out when guests are leaving to help reduce concerns. Really appreciate people helping on the fly, wherever needed. Was fun visiting with folks and hearing their feedback.

Thank you, Gordon Deeg, for donating such special material for our one of a kind Bonsai Demolition Derby, and all the accessories as well for MCing Saturday Demo. Thank you, Steve Iwaki who coordinated tree delivery and pulling, together your able assistants Bill Mc Donald and Gio Piril. I think I recall our own Kevin Corrigan won the special tree. Nice retirement win Kev.

Val Monroe led the demo spot in our Adam Toth workshop Sunday. Result was 2 precious little junipers, one was won by our own very excited, Cathy Coit.

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Seasonal Recommendations by Val Monroe

Being well into the growing season, remember to fertilize regularly until fall. I'm using a blend of Vigoro fertilizers this year that seem to be working well. The first is a chemical formula for evergreens, trees, and shrubs; I apply every 2-3 months. The second is an organic formula which I apply monthly. There are different ingredients in each formula, so the blend of the two should provide a more complete diet for my trees.

If you are already feeding and watering well, your tree will be growing strongly. If suddenly you notice a stop to the growth, there may be an insect or disease issue. After treatment, the growth will resume immediately.

When we were taking the Satsuki classes at El Dorado Bonsai, Mr Gondo would talk about the difference between our trees and their counterparts in nature. Our trees were completely dependent on us for water, food, location; they couldn't extend roots to search for more nutrients or moisture; it all had to be provided by us. We needed to become the best caretakers.

The most frequent questions we get at Dr Bonsai are about timing - "how often do I water?" - "when exactly will I prune, or take the wire off?" The frustrating answer is 'it depends.....'.

Paying close attention to your trees, and looking at the soil and branches will start to give you the answers you need. Recognizing the difference between wet and dry soil, between loose and tight wire, between weak and strong growth, between waiting and taking action.

The main seasonal tasks for mid summer are pruning whenever your tree is bushy, growing and hardened off; Azalea cleanup and after bloom care; Black and Red pine decandling and cutback.

Water well when there is high wind or heat and enjoy your beautiful trees.



Bonsai Tonight
Decandling Black Pine
Credit: Jonas Dupuich



PTBonsai.com
June Study Group Notes
Credit: Peter Tea



SBBK June Show

Thank you to all the volunteers and leads in making this a special time to show what Bonsai and SBBK is about. Below are just a few trees yjat were displayed, if you were unable to see them in person. Hope you were able to connect or reconnect with friends, learn from each other, and to get inspired.



2024 Show Is a Wrap!

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Adam provided a valuable critique early Sunday morning. Here are just a couple take aways to consider for next year is to try and create more of a display with tree, such as accents, stone or figurine that is appropriate. This can be difficult as we have space constraints, but we did do this more in the past. Next year let's keep this in mind as you prep your trees. Another is to vary height where can, attempting to create drama on long table as enter to the right. Always a challenge depending on trees submitted but something to think about. Again, back to displays consider supportive elements. To me this means does your accent, stone, figure and or scroll all fit with your bonsai to relay a story? Just something to consider as we each strive to put our best tree forward. Overall setup and trees very nice and varied.



Every year our vendors share the SBBK show is among their favorites. One reason is you! The other is of course our show and the intimate venue among the redwoods. Each of them donated nice gifts for raffle.

Oh, and did I mention the show displays? WOW! Everyone's tree was included in the show, and each was beautiful. Somewhere still in development, but regardless each presented in their best and wonderful to see. I could make some call outs but would be too hard to choose as each was special on its own. Going to let Jerry's pictures give everyone's trees their due honor on our website. Spectacular everyone!



Loved seeing how enthusiastic and helpful many of our newer members were throughout the show. Was really fun for me working and visiting with all. Thank you everyone, as well as some of you who could not be there but still played a part in making this show what it is as well as our club. Everyone's commitment and support continue to make our club "The club that cares".

Chatted with Adam more about our show. Similar feedback as our vendors, but especially called attention to how he was very impressed with the overall show energy. He noticed people engaged with our visitors. Many bonsai as well as potential bonsai people besides our club members. He saw that everyone took pride and was helpful. He noted some shows he has attended, where club members are the majority. Thankfully I have never seen that be the case with Sei Boku.

Yet another show with so much to be thankful for, so much to appreciate and especially so many fond memories tucked into another year....

Congratulations everyone, I am proud to be your show chair. Now we start preparing trees and display ideas for next year!

— Marsha

2024 SBBK Calendar of Events

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

- Jun 26 Bonsai Challenge – multi-club
- Jul 24 TBD
- Aug 28 Adam Toth -- Tool Sharpening & Maintenance
- 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



Welcoming New Members



- Bob Shatsky
- Divina del Rosario

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

President:

Jerry Carpenter, jcsf1090@comcast.net

Vice President:

Mike Rosenthal, mhr@stanford.edu

Treasurer:

Randi Keppeler, calshohin@yahoo.com

Assistant Treasurer:

(vacant)

Recording Secretary:

Cath Tierney, ctierney@stanford.edu

Corresponding Secretary:

(vacant)

Past President:

Steve Iwaki, siwaki@comcast.net

Newsletter Editor:

Michael Wei, mwei2cre8@msn.com

Board of Directors:

Roy Murakami, rmura221@yahoo.com

Gary Smith, gls94019@gmail.com

Joshua Diaz, elieljoshuad@gmail.com

Bill McDonald, bill@walter-mcdonald.com

Valerie Monroe, mcsnail@aol.com

Marsha Mekisich, springhill.2@outlook.com

Show Chair: Marsha Mekisich,
springhill.2@outlook.com

Consultant: Gordon Deeg,
gdbonsai90@gmail.com



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