



Aug Meeting — Adam Toth: Tool Sharpening & Maintenance

Adam Toth returns to the club to present a session on tool sharpening & maintenance and wiring technique. Adam apprenticed with Taiga Urushibata at the Taisho-en bonsai garden in Shizuoka, and has an official shohin certification from the JSB. We are looking forward to learning more about tool care. He was also asked to speak on wiring which he is passionate about. We hope to have some wiring trees and will have some wire available, from Gary Smith, to help members practice wiring.



Refreshment Rotation

Thanks to club members who share in the hospitality of snacks at each month's meetings. If you are new or would be on stand-by to help out, please email Michael W.

Aug Mtg	Sep Mtg	Oct Mtg	Nov Mtg
JT	Board 	Christine W	Matt S
Michael T.		Jimmy Y	Brian & Linda G

Please find a replacement if you are unable to bring refreshments as scheduled. Refer to the SBBK roster. Email mwei2cre8@msn.com if you need member contacts to swap dates or have questions.

Local Events Notice

REBS Annual Bonsai Show

Aug 31 – Sep 01, 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Rohnert Park, 5401 Snyder Ln, Rohnert Park

Free admission & parking. 707-762-9154 for more info.

East Bay Bonsai Society Annual Show & Sale:

Oct 5 Sat 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Oct 6 Sun 11:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Lakeside Garden Center,
666 Bellevue Ave, Oakland

Headliner: Dan Robinson



Midori 61st Annual Show: "Fall in Love with Bonsai"

Oct 19 Sat 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Quinlan Community Center,
10185 N Stelling Rd, Cupertino

2024 Pacific Bonsai Expo:

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

pacificbonsaiexpo.org for more details

SBBK Calendar

- Aug 28 Tool Sharpening & Maintenance
- Sep 3 First Tuesday Workshop: Val San Mateo Garden Center 7-9 pm
- Sep 21 SBBK BBQ
Gordon's: 4 PM – ends at dusk

Also In This Issue:

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President's Message

By Jerry Carpenter

The year has reached it's apex in many ways. Bonsai work quiets some unless you have tropical trees. Those need to be finished by the end of the month. You can still be wiring junipers and pines but we are in a pause with many of our trees. So, we turn our attention to tools, soils, and pots. We also take time to have some fun.

Gordon will be hosting the SBBK Summer BBQ:

- September 21, 2024, 4 PM – ends at dusk
- Clean-up needed after the event, so please clean-up after yourself
- Parking is still available at school/neighborhood
- Sign up with Val (mcsnail@aol.com) and RSVP for the BBQ

We are looking forward to the September Green Elephant. I am starting to pick out trees and material for the event.

On the business side, we are in search for Board of Director nominations. Please help your club thrive by taking on a leadership role. The duties are not that strenuous.

The club also needs a new member-greeter role to fill. We are searching for a few individuals who would like to be at the meetings to welcome new members and visitors to the club. If you are interested, please see me.

One other business note concerns refreshments. If you are slated for refreshment duties and cannot make the meeting, please confirm a replacement to cover for you. I hope to have a friendly roster ready this month at the meeting. If you still need help getting contact information for club members, contact Michael (mwei2cre8@msn.com).

We Need Your Input & Ideas

by Steve Iwaki

I have been a member of this club for over 25 years. I've been an officer and on the board for many of those years. Although we try to make our programs engaging and interesting for all, sometimes we need input.

Have you ever thought "Why doesn't the club do this or that?" Or, wish "Why don't they incorporate a program like this?"

If those questions have come to mind and you are willing to express them, I ask you to consider being on the board. Kevin Corrigan has agreed to assist me.

Please let him know if you are interested and he can answer further questions you may have. We value your membership and look forward to hearing your ideas and opinions.

July Meeting: Workshop

By Michael Wei

At last month's meeting, we opened up a number of tables with our experienced members to offer styling considerations or techniques to members who brought in material. Many of you had picked up some new material at the June Show Sale or brought in material needing direction, and others learned by listening in on the styling thought process and techniques. Thanks to those who made the rounds and offered sage advice: JT, Steve, Val, and others.



CARE AND SHARPENING OF TOOLS

by Jerry Carpenter

Pruning branches with dull blades will result in crushed rather than sheared plant cell walls. This will delay healing, inviting all sorts of problems for the tree.

The blades of our tools have either a single or double beveled cutting edge. The grafting knife has a single bevel which must be kept extremely sharp. Best to store these knives in a wooden case. To sharpen a single beveled edge, Gordon uses a 420 grit oil stone from Masakuni, a highly esteemed manufacturer of bonsai tools. He starts with a 420 grit coarse stone, proceeds to a 1000 grit stone, and finishes with a 6000 grit fine stone or a leather strop. Diamond stones come in 300 to 1000 and cost about \$100. American Bonsai sells diamond stones. A good diamond stone has the diamonds chemically bonded to the steel rather than glued. They can be used dry, with water or special oil. Water and oil help carry away the filings from the sharpening process, so the pores in your stone don't get clogged. Depending on the tool, you always pull or push away from the cutting edge -- not back and forth. For a pair of scissors, one side will be pulled toward you and the other pushed away. This sharpens one side, but leaves a burr on the back side of the blade. This burr must be knocked off by turning the blade over and sharpening a couple of passes.

After using the 1000 grit stone, he advises using a strop. A leather strop with polishing rouge will give a fine, sharp edge. Rouges come in different colors with differing chemical compositions. Each color has a different hardness.

The green rouge is recommended. Use a pulling action on a strop. If you push the blade, you risk cutting into the leather. Bypass type of cutters get sharpened on different sides of the blade. The blade that laps over the other gets sharpened on the outside edge. The blade that goes under the other one gets sharpened on the inside edge. Only sharpen the beveled edge as defined by the manufacturer. Always take the burr off at the end. To adjust bypass

cutters, don't grind off the stop pin. Grind off the opposite area of the handle. If they close too much, use a piece of metal to bend them out. If the scissor action is too loose, lightly hammer the rivet on an anvil. If the action is too tight, put the rivet over a washer placed on the anvil, then lightly tap.

One alternative to hand held stones is a powered grinding wheel and rouge (pink and green). Have the wheel spinning away from you. Be careful because these can be aggressive in the amount of metal they can remove. A Dremel tool with a carbide grinding bit can work, also. Gordon doesn't recommend using the orange handled sharpening bar on a regular basis. Use it only in an emergency.

Before using a sharpening stone, it must be flattened to work properly. Mark the stone with pencil marks along its length.

Using another flat stone, rub it all over in a figure 8 motion until all pencil marks go away. (The exception to a flat stone, is using a stone with a groove in it to sharpen your gouges.) Water stones should be kept wet unless it is a type of natural stone that dissolves. King stones can be left in water. Get stones wet for at least one hour before using.

Before sharpening any bonsai tool make sure it is clean. Use a wet rubber rust eraser to clean up rust and stains. Use Hexol or denatured alcohol to clean and disinfect tools, especially after working on a tree with a disease or bugs. It was recommended that we can use mayonnaise to remove sap from tools and hands. Clean and oil all tools before putting them away.

When you get a new tool, especially wire cutters, make some easy cuts for the first 15 cuts before cutting larger diameter wire. This helps to work harden the metal of the tool. Use the proper cutter for the size of wire or branch. There are 5 basic tools to start with: scissors, pliers, wire cutters, concave cutters, and a good pair of tweezers.

Back to Basics (repost link, 2017)

Bonsai Society of Portland (BSOP)

"Post-Growth Management"
presented by Ryan Neil of Bonsai Mirai.



Bonsai Wire Podcast

Eric chats with Jay & Greg McDonald

Bonsai brothers and enthusiastic spokespeople in Northern California on their adventures in bonsai.



Chat with John Thompson

JT share his story of how he was introduced to bonsai in Japan and how he developed a love for oaks.



2024 SBBK Calendar of Events

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

- 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



First Tuesday Workshop at the Garden Center, led by Val and others. Tree health and styling tips. Members are welcome to bring a tree, tools, questions, or if new you can learn by observation.

Remaining T-Shirts/Sweatshirts

- 4 Medium & 2 Large T-shirts \$15/ea
- 1 "2X" T-shirt \$20/ea
- 1 Large Sweatshirt \$20/ea

To purchase items or future orders, connect with Randi (calshohin@yahoo.com).

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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