



Sep Meeting — Green Elephant

7:00PM—9:00 (Garden Center)

At our next Sei Boku Bonsai Kai meeting we will be holding our Annual Green Elephant Fundraiser. Proceeds will benefit the San Mateo Garden Center and the Bonsai Garden at Lake Merritt. The evening starts with a Silent Auction, followed by a brief period of Libation & Conversation, and ends with a Live Auction. Special thanks to our auctioneers: John & Jeremy.

Please arrive around 6:45 PM for Setup. Silent auction will begin at 7:00 PM – 7:30 PM.

Members are encouraged to bring auction-able items. For the Live Auction, all items are donated 100% to the club. For the Silent Auction 20% of the final price for each item goes to the fundraiser and 80% of the final price is paid to the item's donor.

There are several key things to know:

1. Each participant needs to have a bidder number.
2. Payment for your items will happen after the close of the Live Auction.
3. The tally table is busy tracking item winners and how much each member owes. Please do not ask us to add up how much you owe and check you out early as the only way to safely do that is to halt the Auction, making everyone else wait.
4. We are looking for volunteers to be assistants to the Auctioneer. The tasks include helping with identification of mystery plant material and in carrying the items up to the Auction platform and then to the winning bidder.
5. The Auctioneer will be wearing Tie Die attire. Board Members can be identified by their green hats. Sartorial choices that enhance the festive occasion are encouraged.

Special Slideshow Presentation by Conan Grames on the recovery from the tsunami with money SBBK donated to an affected Bonsai Gardener (15 min). "Great Sendai Earthquake or Great Tōhoku Earthquake Date: March 11, 2011."

The verbal auction will be after the presentation. Each member needs a bidder number before we begin the auction. No cashing out until the event over. Members are encouraged to bring auctionable items.

Local Events Notice

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,
10th St, Oakland.

pacificbonsaiexpo.org for more details



SBBK Calendar

Sep 21 SBBK BBQ

Gordon's: 3 PM – ends at dusk

Parking is available at school/neighborhood, clean up after yourself, and clean up needed after the event.

The club will provide protein. Sides, appetizers, and desserts welcome. Special proteins need to be supplied by the member if you need them. SBBK will provide some water, some beer, and soda. Wine is an option, if you like. The event is open to members and guests.

Signup/RSVP for the BBQ: Please send a message to Val: Valerie Monroe (mcsnail@aol.com)

Sep 25 Green Elephant (Club Meeting)

San Mateo Garden Center 7-9pm

Oct 1 First Tuesday Workshop: Val

San Mateo Garden Center 7-9 pm

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Aug Meeting Recap: Tool Sharpening/Wiring

Autumn Lights Festival—call for volunteers

September Seasonal Guidance

President's Message

By Jerry Carpenter



Welcome to Fall. To kick off the season, we begin with our Green Elephant event. I hope to see you there with great material to offer our members and perhaps some money to buy some great trees. I know I will be donating some rare material as I begin to clear out my bonsai collection.

I want to take this time to say thank you for all your support this year. I will not be able to continue the role of President next year as there are many events in play for the coming year. I want to encourage you to consider taking a role on the board of directors or an officer position. It is a great opportunity to support our wonderful club. If you are interested in a position, please see Steve Iwaki to express your interest.

For those of you who would like to attend the Pacific Bonsai Expo on Sunday October 27, there will be a free raffle for a Sunday admission pass to the Expo. Must be present at our meeting on September 25 to participate:

GSBF is pleased to offer each club one complimentary entry ticket to the 2024 Pacific Bonsai Expo will be held at the Henry J. Kaiser Center in Oakland. The show will be held Saturday, October 26 and Sunday, October 27. The attached ticket is good for one full entry on Sunday, October 26. Each club may elect to distribute this ticket to one of your club members in whatever fashion desired. It would be a good item to raffle off or award to a hard-working club volunteer. Allocate the ticket however you wish.

The Pacific Bonsai Expo is now one of the best shows in the nation. It is a wonderful opportunity to see some of the highest quality juried trees in the U.S., enjoy great deals from 50+ vendors from throughout the U.S., all in a beautiful setting.

There will be a free shuttle running from BGLM at gate 4 (boat house - gate on Sunday) pay parking at the Lake Merritt garden via credit card only.



Pacific Bonsai Expo 2022

Aug 2024 Meeting Recap SHARPENING BONSAI TOOLS & WIRING BASICS

By Michael Wei from Adam Toth's presentation

Special thanks to Adam for presenting and educating on these topics. Consider attending one of Adam's workshops.

Principle:

- Only sharpen the beveled edge, not the flat face.
- Quality blades have a single-bevel edge—lay it flat on the stone. Maintain pressure evenly across the blade—and use a lot of pressure. Firm pressure.
- Push or pull across the stone.
- Keep a consistent angle, do not let it rock, and use the full stone.
- Should feel the burr created on the backside, verify—should feel the burr across the length of the blade. Apply some blade to blade pressure, and merely closing the scissors will remove the burr on both sides.
- Testing if sharp enough, test against one's fingernail and it should bite in—if it glides then dull.
- If the face is polished and cannot see where the stone is making contact, can use a Sharpie to darken the edge and then sharpen and verify that the edge is sharpened.

What is needed:

- Sandpaper ~ 400 grit ceramic is the cheapest option, but only lasts a few uses. Should say "for metal use". Good place to start. Should be water proof but does not really need to use water like a wet stone.
- Wet stone—not his recommendation, unless you are using it also for knives and chisels.
- Two types: soaking or splash. Old type is to soak all bubbles out (30 min); newer type is a "Splash and Go"—requiring no soaking.
- Up to 1000 grit, and don't go above that. Typically scissors sharpened to 400 grit. (e.g. cutting meat or a clean cut > 1000 grit). For bonsai you want some bite, so it does not slide on the leaf or branch.
- But for grafting, a fine grit will make a cleaner scion cut.
- Adam prefers diamond stone, with different grit on each side. e.g. Amazon ~\$40, lasts a life time.
- Diamond plate card (business card size) can be a useful size to use anywhere.
- Use rubbing alcohol or a little water to reduce the grit or dust.
- Stropping for grafting knives only—30k grit.
- Does not recommend using rust erasers—only for

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Adam Toth: Sharpening Bonsai Tools

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getting sap off, but don't use it against or touching the edge. It will dull a sharp tool. Don't use on the flat part of the scissors.

- Don't worry if the hinge is loose or feels loose—don't mess with it, if the blades are sharp it will cut.
- Depending on frequency of use, but reasonably once a month.
- Uses petroleum jelly (opposed to oil being messy) to prevent rust.
- Concave or Knob—same theory, sharpen the beveled edge (inside)—maintain the outside edge metal.
- Refrain from sharpening the outside edge—or to maintain the curvature of the outside profile.
- Put stone on the edge of the table and short motions on the inside edge—or sandpaper.
- Knob cutters and such do not need to be as sharp as scissors—cutting wood.
- Or use Dremel grinding tips spinning—does not require the same pressure as it rotates quickly (pink).
- Start slow speed, once confident then use less pressure with higher speed.
- Can sharpen saws with a feather file.



Adam Toth on Shohin Development

If you liked Adam's presentation in August, check out his **ABAS talk** on Shohin Development on YouTube. We hope to have him back at SBBK.



Adam Toth: Wiring Basics

- Where to start wiring—first branch. Set the balance, most important. Start from the bottom and work your way up.
- Look and examine around for the branch—where it can move, imagine first.
- If you want to move a branch down you need to press on the shoulder, you need to have the wire on the outside of the bend. It holds the branch in place and supports the bend. The shoulder is wired closest to the trunk.
- The wire needs to touch the branch.
- Using the wire-test to deflect the branch is a fallacy for conifers as the growing season may overcome the wire strength.
- Depending on the direction to the movement of the bend—have the wire end under the branch and point in the direction you want to move it—so the bend will tighten and hold.
- If you want to torque or twist the branch in the direction of twist after wiring—or apply some twist to the branch as you wire it.
- 95% of the time avoid crossing wires—if so, have it under the branch (less visible) and in the same direction and not opposite direction.

CONIFERS

- Roughly use $\frac{1}{3}$ of the widest part of the branch.
- Take the wire and line it up next to the branch—if you can picture the same wire above and one below—it is $\frac{1}{3}$ the branch (for copper).
- For conifers, you want the wire to bite in, the bend will never hold. Adam would prefer the divot as much as $\frac{2}{3}$ depth of the wire. Especially during the growing season that fights the original wire. Will heal over time (1-2 yrs).
- Big branches grow slower, but the shoulder or fork will bite in the earliest.
- Copper ages over time and with weather—lasts roughly 3-4 years, but the wire gets weaker. May add wire on to strengthen instead of removing then replacing.

DECIDUOUS

- Deciduous using aluminum may use up to $\frac{1}{2}$ diameter of the branch and applies less pressure with aluminum.



Autumn Lights Festival desperately needs Volunteers!

The Autumn Lights Festival will take place in the Gardens at Lake Merritt the 3rd weekend in October. The Bonsai Garden at Lake Merritt benefits monetarily from this fundraising event put on by the City of Oakland. We will need all the volunteers we can get to make this happen smoothly.

We especially need people to help keep the bonsai safe during the Festival nights. We expect between 1000 and 3000 people each night so having enough people standing guard ensures none of the bonsai go missing. If you are a volunteer, your admission is covered!

The Autumn Lights Festival takes place the weekend before the Pacific Bonsai Expo, so we also need as many people as possible on Sunday October 20th to take down the lights and bring the garden back to pristine beauty to be ready for tour groups during the Expo!

If you can help us out for any part of the following time windows it will be greatly appreciated. Even a couple of hours will help.

SETUP:

- Saturday October 12th, 9am to 3pm
- Saturday October 13th, noon to 3pm
- Thursday October 17th, 9am to 5pm

FESTIVAL GUARD & DOCENT

- Thursday October 17th, 6pm to 11pm
- Friday October 18th, 6pm to 11pm
- Saturday October 19th, 6pm to 11pm

TAKE DOWN/CLEAN UP:

- Sunday October 20th, 9am to 3pm

Please contact Randi Keppeler (calshohin@yahoo.com or 650-773-5119) if you can help or if you have any questions.

“The Japanese have such wonderful words for their feelings about nature. [e.g. a young bonsai may have an odd movement may gain interest with age] The Japanese may then say *aji ga ii* - it has good savor. It has a flaw that it overcame, and now that changed flaw distinguishes it with honor. This is beautiful.”

Post-Dated: Irreverent Bonsai Monk, Michael Hagedorn

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).

September Seasonal Guidance

Shared from the PTBonsai.com site

Please find some sound seasonal guidance for your garden this month as we head into the fall season. Peter Tea shares with his study groups on his website.

Topics: Conifers, Japanese Black Pines, and High Mountain Pines..



Bonsai Mirai
Fall Deciduous

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 (650-255-9551) 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.

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.

Sep Mtg

Board 

Oct Mtg

Christine W
Jimmy Y

Nov Mtg

Matt S
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.

Golden State Bonsai Federation



Caz Scott
Pine Styling & Esthetics



2024 SBBK Calendar of Events

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

- Sep 21 SBBK BBQ
- Sep 25 Green Elephant (auction fundraiser)
- Oct 23 Special guests Yannick Kiggen & Bjorn Bjorholm Style-off
- Nov 25 What Makes a Good Pot? – Val and Josh
- Dec 8 Holiday Event

August Meeting Show & Tell

Japanese Black Pines (Val & Adam), Juniper (Val), Redwood (Gary)



Suggestions for upcoming meeting Show & Tell:

October/November—Autumn Colors

November—Unique or beautiful pots, collected or self-made

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.

Accept my apology for any delayed or missed Snippet distributions to members as we update our roster and distribution list.

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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