



Jan 22 Wiring Workshop

Val Monroe

7:00PM—9:00 (Garden Center)

December there is no meeting. Happy holidays to everyone. Wishing you good health, and connecting with family & friends. January's meeting will be a wiring workshop. Bring a tree, your tools and some wire, and work with some of Sei Boku's more experienced members to learn the basics of applying wire to your tree. Pick up a good wiring candidate from the box stores; lots of trees for holiday decor are on sale - some still at Black Friday prices. Alberta spruce, lemon cypress, blue spruce in various sizes are all good material.



Honoring Gordon Deeg

Gordon has been awarded the first lifetime membership certificate. This was approved by the Board of Directors in the last update of our by-laws. He will be exempt from paying dues. Gordon has given so much to the club over the years so we are proud to honor him with this award.



Local Events Notice

Bay Area Bonsai Associates 43rd Annual Exhibit January 18 - 19

Lakeside Garden Center, 666 Bellevue Ave, Oakland
Sat 5:00 pm - 9:00 pm. Sun 10:00 am - 4:45 pm.
Fine Bonsai displays, demonstration, plant sales, and raffle.

California Shohin Society Seminar

January 31 - Feb 2

Santa Nella, CA

Full registration \$150, Day Pass \$45

Workshops are extra, but paying for material/tree that is provided. Visit the website for more information.



GSBF Bonsai Garden Mammoth Auction & Sale

March 1 - 2

This is a call for event volunteers. Volunteers make the annual fundraiser a big success.

For Mammoth 2025, Sign-Up Genius will be used again to invite, register and assign event tasks. Use the link below to connect with the online app.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C094FAFA62BA5FCC25-bglm#/>





REPLAY

**Bonsai Mirai Beninner Series —
Structural Wiring**



SBBK Calendar

- Jan 7 **First Tuesday Workshop**
San Mateo Garden Center 7-9 pm
- Jan 22 **Club Meeting: Wiring Workshop**
San Mateo Garden Center 7-9 pm

Also In This Issue:

- President's Message
- Nov Business Meeting Elections
- Pot Selection & Collecting

President's Message

By Jerry Carpenter

As one of my favorite authors would say, "So long, and thanks for all the fish". Douglas Adams and I would have been kindred spirits. I say good by to 2024 and peek into 2025 that holds so many interesting challenges. My tree collection is getting smaller, and we are packing off two of the last big ones to the BGLM auction this month. David will have to cart them to the car and then off to the Garden. The rest of the collection is smaller and easier to handle. I am already planning repotting needs, wiring of pines, and new pot selections. Luckily, I purchased all the pre-mix bonsai soil earlier in the year and am sitting ready in the department.



I hope you are looking forward to all the new events of next year. I am eager to see where the club goes from here. I will help where I can. I cannot be at the January meeting that I planned due to medical procedures. I know the planning committee will be able to make it a success. It was designed to teach the newer members of the club some wiring skills and reinforce the long-time members. We all need to help each other learn.

Here is to a good new year with lots of fun and learning.



November Business Meeting

The slate of candidates, proposed by the Nominating Committee, chaired by Steve Iwaki, was approved by the membership at the November 25, 2024 meeting.

President:	Mike Rosenthal
Vice President:	Roy Murakami
Recording Secretary:	Catherine Tierney
Corresponding Secretary:	Michael Wei
Treasurer:	Randi Keppeler
Asst. Treasurer:	[open]
Board of Directors	Joshua Diaz
	Pam Gallego
	Bill McDonald
	Marsha Mekisich
	Gary Smith
	Gianne Souza

Our stage has been refurbished!

The SBBK Board of Directors would like to show our appreciation to Lori Wyzard, owner of **Bay Area Floors** in San Mateo, for the generous donation of the linoleum to refurbish our four portable stages. They turned out great and look brand new. Thank you, Lori!

We would like also to show our appreciation to the **San Mateo Garden Center** Board of Directors for authorizing \$450 for the labor to install the linoleum.

Thank you, Mike Drilling and crew. Just as a reminder to our members, that if you have a chance, please thank the businesses that sponsor our annual show.

When you patronize them, make sure you mention your appreciation of their support. We want them to feel the benefit of their continued support.

December Holiday Party

Thank you for all who participated in the holiday party, sharing in good food, stories, and gift exchange. Wishing you all a wonderful holiday season, and we look forward to seeing you in January.

Nov Mtg — Choosing a Container for Your Bonsai

Notes from Valerie Monroe

Start with examining your tree.

Describe it using contrasting ideas, such as: Strong - Delicate, Light - Heavy, Straight - Curvy.

What style is the tree? Formal Upright, Informal Upright, Slanting, Cascade. Other types of plantings may include Group or Raft styles, Bunjin, Root over Rock, etc.

Colors and textures can appear in the tree in its foliage, bark, flowers, and fruits.

Each component of the tree can be complemented by some aspect of the pot. Characteristics of the pot will include:

- Shape - round, square, rectangular, oval, and freeform.
- Details in the construction of the pot - type of lip, angle or curve of the sides, whether there are feet and how intricate they are, bands or incised details on the pot such as writing, scenes, and panels.
- Color and texture of the clay and/or glazing.
- Size and age of the pot.

Many combinations and choices are possible. Some helpful guidelines:

- The longest dimension (width) of the container may be 2/3 to 3/4 of the height of your tree.
- The depth of the container may be equal to the widest part of the trunk of your tree (usually at the soil line).
- Width and Depth can be made smaller or larger as long as



Collecting Quality Bonsai Pots

Notes from Joshua Diaz

Container Periods of Bonsai Pots

- Kowatari (Old-Crossing): Before 1816
- Nakawatari (Middle-Crossing): 1816-1911
- Shinwatari (New-Crossing): 1911-1940
- Shin-Shinwatari (New-New-Crossing): 1940-1989
- Shinto (Contemporary): 1989-Present

Notes on Container Use

- Kowatari and Nakawatari pots were not originally designed for bonsai. Many Kowatari pots were used as small fire pits or grills rather than for planting bonsai.
- These two periods, Kowatari and Nakawatari, are known for their high-quality craftsmanship and were not mass-produced, which is why they are considered valuable today.

Regions of Note in China

1. Yixing:

- Known for mostly unglazed pots made from red and purple clay.
- Considered to produce very high-quality pots, rivaling those of Tokoname in Japan, especially in present times.

2. Canton:

- Pots from this region are typically glazed, but the clay quality was poor.
- Many Canton pots feature glazing and decorative motifs to compensate for the rough clay.

3. Nanban:

- Referred to as a style of pottery, but also a region in China.
- The clay quality here was rough & often contained grog.
- Many pots from this region were repurposed items, such as container lids or feeding troughs, rather than specifically made for bonsai.

Regions of Note in Japan

1. Seto Ware:

- Known for producing porcelain and celadon pottery.

2. Tokoname:

- Famous for roof tiles and toilets, but also the most recognized region in Japan for bonsai pots.

3. Kyo-yaki:

- Famous for producing some of the best potters, including Heian Kozan, Heian Tokufuji, and Yusen—renowned as one of the greatest bonsai pot painters.

4. Taisho Era (1912-1926):

- This era marked the creation of the first pots in Japan specifically designed for bonsai.
- During this period, the shapes and quality of pots began to rival those from the Nakawatari period.

Collecting Quality Bonsai Pots

(Continued from p3)

What to Look for in Bonsai Pots

Patina:

- The build-up of dust, minerals, and solid fertilizer on a pot's surface over time creates patina, a feature that is highly valued by bonsai enthusiasts.
- Patina gives the pot a rich, aged appearance and is sought after in quality containers.

Caring for Pots:

- To help build patina, it is important to oil your pots, keep them outdoors, and use solid fertilizer. Over time, this will create a beautiful patina on the surface of your pots.

Recommended Resources for Bonsai Pot Information

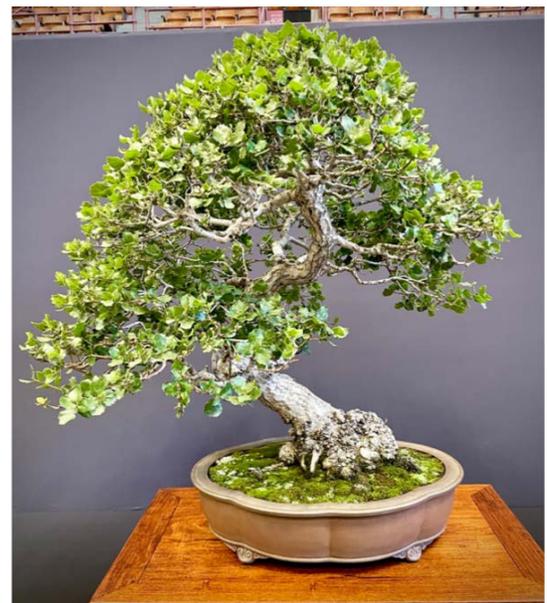
- Michael Ryan Bell Website
- Garrett Ryan
- American Bonsai Ceramics Website



Honored SBBK Member Displays at the Pacific Bonsai Expo 2024



Josh Diaz (Juniper, Shohin)



JT Thompson (Coast Live Oak)

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.

Jan Mtg

Ivan, Matt, Jason H
Michael W

Feb Mtg

Virginia K
Michael L

Mar Mtg

SBBK Board
(SBBK Anniversary)

Please find a replacement if you are unable to bring refreshments as scheduled. Refer to the SBBK roster.

November Show & Tell



George S,
Princess Persimmon



Bill McD (Yannick styled),
collected California Juniper



Barbara P,
Kusamono grouping

Suggestions for upcoming meeting Show & Tell:
January—winter silhouettes

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

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



Sei Boku Bonsai Kai

President:

Mike Rosenthal, mhr@stanford.edu

Vice President:

Roy Murakami, rmura221@yahoo.com

Treasurer:

Randi Keppeler, calshohin@yahoo.com

Recording Secretary:

Catherine Tierney, ctierney@stanford.edu

Corresponding Secretary:

Michael Wei, mwei2cre8@msn.com

Past President:

Jerry Carpenter, jcsf1090@comcast.net

Newsletter Editor:

Michael Wei, mwei2cre8@msn.com

Board of Directors:

Joshua Diaz, elieljoshuad@gmail.com

Pam Gallego, PamGallego4693@comcast.net

Bill McDonald, bill@walter-mcdonald.com

Marsha Mekisich, springhill.2@outlook.com

Gary Smith, gls94019@gmail.com

Gianne Souza, gianne00@gmail.com

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

Consultants:

Gordon Deeg, gdbonsai90@gmail.com

Valerie Monroe, mcsnail@aol.com

Steve Iwaki, siwaki@comcast.net



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