



## Nov 25 Business Meeting and Pot Selection

7:00PM—9:00 (Garden Center) by Val Monroe

Our annual business meeting is this month, with the election of the club officers for next year.

Joshua & Valerie will present a few ideas and guidelines on using pots for your bonsai. “What makes a good pot?” is a common question. We will talk about identifying pots, choosing appropriate sizes, and shapes. Much of the art form is personal choice and preference, so the discussion will be fun and engaging.

If you're inclined to share, bring something for show and tell; some fall color, a new purchase, an unusual pot.



Images from Pacific Bonsai Expo

## Local Events Notice

**Kusamura Bonsai Club: Jerry Braswell - Viewing Stones**

Nov 15 Fri 7:00 PM – 9:30 PM

Parish Hall of St. Mark's Episcopal Church  
600 Colorado, Ave, Palo Alto



**California Shohin Society Seminar**

January 31 - Feb 2, 2025

Santa Nella, CA



## SBBK Calendar

**Dec 1 Holiday Party: Congressional Church of the Peninsula** (Potluck sign-up) 2-5 pm

751 Alameda De Las Pulgas in Belmont

RSVP to Val Monroe [mcsnail@aol.com](mailto:mcsnail@aol.com)

**Dec 3 First Tuesday Workshop:** Val

San Mateo Garden Center 7-9 pm

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Golden State Bonsai Federation—  
Jonas Dupuich  
“Bonsai Pot Selection”



# President's Message

By Jerry Carpenter



Ah the blessed cool air has arrived. My trees are finally at apex fall color. This time of year I always remind folks to watch out for falling leaves in the soil and on branches. The leaves from neighboring trees can bring bugs and fungus to your collection. I have already started daily clean up of the top soil and leaves from outside trees. Many of my trees have passed peak fall color and have already lost nearly all of their foliage. Mingled in the midst of the deciduous trees are the extraordinary green of olives, pines and tropical trees. Nice to see them more clearly now.

Along with the impending winter chill comes prep for repotting, soil preparation, pot cleaning and pot selection for trees needing larger or smaller containers. It is, therefore, perfect timing for our pot lecture with Val and Josh. I always look forward to new insights in containers to improve the aesthetics and value of my trees.

Quick on the heels of our November meeting will be our holiday event held this year at the UCC – Belmont Congregational Church, Sunday, December 1. It is early this year due to conflicting dates within the space. The event will be a potluck where you can bring a dish to share with our bonsai family. We will be sending separate emails about the event soon.

My Daimyo Oak is always fun to watch this time of year. Fall begins to tinge the leaves with yellow before the orange and red hues develop. This tree has grown a lot this year

and I hope to show it one more time in SBBK next year before I make the choice to move it to a new owner for the future.



As some of you may know I have not been feeling well, plagued with back pain. Our larger trees will go to auction this winter and some of my special trees will find select homes. These special trees are legacy items that need to have their history protected.

Along with scaling down trees, I will also step out of the club presidency in December. It has been a joy to work with the club and try to provide some leadership. We have tried to develop more hands on programming along with some exceptional special guests. I hope you have had fun, learned something, and enjoyed our programs. I will still be around for while I hope. I just need to make some changes for the better of my health.

## Seasonal Tips

- This time of year we are normally starting to repot flowering fruit trees that have gone dormant.
- The last thinning of Black Pines along with some wiring can be done this month.
- Be sure to clean up falling leaves and moss before the rains come in strong.
- JT has recommended using the holidays as a guide for lime sulfur dormant spraying. There are three times while dormant: Thanksgiving (e.g. deciduous dropping leaves), Christmas, and Valentine's Day (approximately). See your instructions for the dilution ratio, if a concentrate.

Peter Tea has offered seasonal recommendations to his study group, shared at: <https://www.ptbonsai.com/november>



Oct Demonstration with a full house



# October Meeting: Bjorn & Yannick Style Off

by Michael Wei

We hope you were able to join this event and enjoyed our special guests on styling some Japanese Black Pines. Thanks to Steve for picking the trees from Ed Clark at Round Valley nursery, material that was ground grown. Sei Boku Bonsai Kai welcomed Kusamura Bonsai Club, and it was a full house. One tree was raffled off and the other auctioned off.



## Notes:

- Formal Bonsai trunk wraps around its axis.
- For a front, Bjorn might find it undesirable to start the trunk moving towards the front, with a “pigeon breasted” trunk, but consider all factors—strengths or weaknesses: base, nebari, movement, primary branches, and apex.
- Cut branches that are too straight (80% of the original) and hope that back budding will drive smaller branches internally.
- Cut back any heavy branches that are not intended in the final style. May choose to Jin or prune off; may choose to leave a longer branch to back-bud, later cut to the bud.
- Leave smaller branches that can move with wiring.
- If a lower branch is desired to grow bigger over time, leaving a sacrifice branch—and thin old needles off and let the candle extend.
- Moyogi style for balance: trunk slants and the next section moves away at ½ the prior section length, and repeat up to the apex.
- Being younger plants, when you prune and bend branches it will stimulate back budding—and allowing light inside will feed the solar panels (foliage).
- Can fertilize lightly this fall, but fully fertilize next spring.
- Late spring, early summer will result in adventitious buds—will become candles the next year.
- Terminal shoots (ends) that are too strong may be decandled. Or let weaker branches grow longer to bulk up.
- Or after a strong spring growth may prune off all terminal buds and will drive back buds everywhere. Can cut way back on outer growth (even below needles) and force back budding. 98% confident.
- Decandling yields 4-5 buds, later select down to 2.
- Recommend to pot in a colander in akadama & pumice. Put into a transition or final pot after the next 5 years.

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# Pacific Bonsai Expo 2024 — Reflections

by Michael Wei

The Pacific Bonsai Expo once again demonstrated the expertise and artistry of bonsai development, styling, and presentation. Special thanks to Jonas Dupuich, Eric Schrader, Andrew Robson, the PBE Board and all the volunteers contributing to a memorable experience. This year's venue allowed more space, more vendors, demonstrations, and seminars.



These images are just a few examples of the creative and detailed styling, a result of years of work. Exhibitors, vendors, and presenters came from across the West Coast, and across the country. I had the pleasure of the company of SBBK club-mates to evaluate and discuss each tree displayed. PBE will return in 2026, and hope you get the chance to attend or volunteer.

**SBBK Lottery “Sunday Pass” for the Pacific Bonsai Expo — to Gerardo Ortiz**

Extending our thanks to the Golden State Bonsai Federation for offering this pass to share with our club.

## Bjorn & Yannick

continued from page 3

- Japanese Black Pines naturally grow in humid climate in Japan, so larger particle size soil needs more water and fertilizing.
- Leave copper wires until bites in.
- Bjorn starts to work on pines in Sept, when it starts to cool. Can still style in late Oct, but less likely to back bud this fall.
- Recommends 18 to 8 gauge copper wire.
- Yannick suggests to remediate inverse taper—a vertical cut on the trunk can stimulate cambium thickening—but the knife line would show. He suggest using an awl point repeatedly along a line to hide but stimulate thickening.



Image from Pacific Bonsai Expo

**Kouyou** — *Leaves Changing Color*

**Rakuyou** — *Fallen or Shedded Leaves*

Appreciating the beauty of Japanese simplicity

## What Causes a Tree to Enter and Exit Dormancy?”

**Katie Garver, Penn State University (excerpt)**

Unlike evergreen tree species which can retain their foliage on account of adaptations, deciduous trees enter into dormancy to prevent the loss of water, nutrients, and avoid the damage cold temperatures produce.

Abscisic acid (ABA) is a plant hormone produced in the root regions of a tree and is an important contributor to controlling many of the systems which allow a tree to live, specifically to survive. When ABA is produced it is typically a response to the plant becoming stressed. In the case of dormancy as mentioned above, it reacts to the amount of infra-red light that is being received, recognizing that the optimal window in which the plant may produce sugars is shortening. With this changing of seasons, ABA works to slow and reduces the daily processes a tree goes through. This is most easily recognizable through the color change that takes place within the leaves. As leaves change color the tree is working to reabsorb many of the important nutrients found within their structures that aided in the processes of photosynthesis during the summer but are no longer necessary as this season's growth has come to an end. The reabsorption process along with two others, the formation of a protective layer and abscission, are controlled by two other hormones, auxin and ethylene.

Auxin is the driving hormone for the growth of a plant through the warm months, working in the meristem regions (the roots and shoots of a plant). ABA signals for the plant to stop using energy to grow which leads to the reduced production of auxins. As auxin levels decrease the hormone ethylene begins the process of recycling the leaf. Ethylene performs many important tasks for trees including the ripening of fruits and buds as well as the preparation required for the cold season. As a tree is entering dormancy, ethylene works to detach the leaves from the rest of the tree. After reabsorption has occurred ethylene creates a hard coating between the leaf and its attachment point to the twig. This acts as a scab of sorts for the tree to prevent the loss of water and nutrients and to resist the infection of pathogens.

As water and nutrients are drawn back into the central regions of the tree, the buds present become dehydrated and form a hard shell-like coating around the outside. This will protect the living tissue underneath as it waits for longer days to encourage its reemergence. Lastly the leaf detaches from the tree and takes a swirling journey towards the earth. As time passes these leaves will decompose and be recycled back into soil organic matter which is full of essential nutrients for the tree to reuse (carbon, nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium).

## 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.

### 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.



"JT" Thompson with his Coast Live Oak, at the 2024 PBE  
Photo by Peter Tea



Oct: Show & Tell: Juniper & Bougainvillea

### Suggestions for upcoming meeting Show & Tell:

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](mailto: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>



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