



## Feb 26 Juniper Styling

7:00PM—9:00 (Garden Center)

Steve Iwaki

Have you ever had raw material that you weren't quite sure what to do with?

For this month's meeting, with the help of our club senseis, you will apply your styling and wiring techniques to pre-bonsai juniper material you signed up for in January. We'll have workshop tables set-up, so bring your tools, wire and creativity. Our workshop teachers will assist you with decisions, but you will do the work.

If you didn't sign-up for material, a few still are available. Call me at 650 703 9234 or email me at [steve@iwakibonsai.com](mailto:steve@iwakibonsai.com)

You can also bring your own juniper, we'll have others to help you. If you plan to watch and learn, that's fine too.



## SBBK Calendar

### Feb 22 Potting Party

Gordon Deeg's garden 10am start  
*Bring a tree, a pot, soil, tools, and a smile.*

### Mar 4 First Tuesday Workshop

San Mateo Garden Center 7-9 pm

## Local Events Notice

### GSBF Bonsai Garden Mammoth Auction & Sale

March 1 - 2

Lakeside Garden Center, 666 Bellevue Ave, Oakland  
Sat 11:00 am - 3:00 PM Sun 9:00 am - 3:00 PM

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#/>



### San Jose Betsuin Bonsai Club 50th Bonsai Exhibition

Mar 29 - 30

San Jose Buddhist Church Betsuin, 640 N 5th St, San Jose  
Sat 11:00 AM - 5:00 PM Sun 12 noon - 4:00 PM

### Kusamura Bonsai Club of Palo Alto 65th Show

Apr 26 - 27

Addison School, 1045 Webster St, Palo Alto  
Sat 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM

### GSBF Bonsai Rendezvous 2025

Oct 24 - 26

Santa Nella, 13070 CA-33, Santa Nella  
Fri 9:00 AM - Sun 1:00 PM

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# President's Message

By Mike Rosenthal

Hi All,

First let me thank you all for reading my initial President's message and not complaining excessively about its length. This time I will do better.

What a great way to start off 2025. Valerie Monroe's wiring program was a tremendous success with a great turnout, much participation and a wonderful job by all of our mentors. This reinforced the Board's opinion that workshops taking advantage of the expertise of many of our senior members is a terrific program option that will be repeated several times in the coming year. This will be evident on February 26 when Steve Iwaki will be leading a program in styling junipers with some outstanding specimens that will be provided to members who choose to purchase at cost. I have seen these trees and am most excited about participating myself. Steve will present more of the specifics in an accompanying article in the Snippet.

Another exciting offering is also in the near future with the first SBBK member field trip of 2025. Getting together in exploring outside venues related to bonsai is something your Board felt should be a regular option for members. Thanks to the efforts of Gianne Souza, we will be heading north to Lake County on Saturday, March 29, to what appears to be a most interesting nursery with many specimens for purchase. Gianne will be providing more information included description of the venue and cost for van transportation which will be minimal. I will be soliciting interest at the February meeting so give this some thought and try to make plans to join.

At the February meeting you will notice Gordon Deeg, our sensei and consultant, seated at a welcoming table as you come in through the kitchen into the meeting room at the SMGC. I am so appreciative that Gordon has offered to assume the welcoming role to new members and guests at our regular monthly meetings. I remember so well Mike and Kathy Haley having that role at my first meeting. Greeting me and providing me with club information was a wonderful way to introduce me to SBBK. If you bring a guest or notice a new attendee, please refer them to Gordon who will provide much information about our club and its offerings. Bill McDonald, our Membership

Committee Chair will oversee and provide the material for distribution

This is the time of year when we are deep into repotting our trees. Each year Gordon Deeg and his wife Kamrin MacKnight so generously turn over their garden for our Annual Repotting Party. This year it is coming up soon on February 22 at their home in Atherton (address to be emailed to members). The program will begin at 10 AM with parking available across the street at Encinal School. All supplies are to be provided by members with their trees including pots, wire, mesh, tools and soil. For those desiring assistance there are always experienced members who will pitch in where needed. As weather can be unpredictable this time of year, if inclement conditions should arise, a general e-mail will be sent to all members IF cancellation is necessary. Hope all of you are appreciating the rains of February as am I and sure are our trees are as well. My water bill drops this time of year to about 1/5 of what it is in the summer (pool included) and my trees look so healthy.

Look forward to seeing many of you on the 22nd and again at our next meeting.

Happy Valentine's Day, Mike

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*FYI: Japanese translations of some Maple varieties:*

- *Hime* means "princess,"
- *Shishigasira* means "lion's head," and
- *Ukigumo* means "floating clouds."



Gordon Deeg—Trident

Repotting Reminder:  
Bonsai Tonight—Wire Tie Down,  
Bonsai Tonight—Trident Repotting



Golden State Bonsai Federation  
Golden Zoom: Mauro Stemberger  
*Bonsai Wiring Essentials*  
Italianbonsaidream.com



# Jan Meeting Recap: Wiring

Led by Valerie Monroe and club mentors

Thanks to Val and all of the seasoned coaching on the purpose and practice of wiring branches. After an introduction, members who brought in material to work were offered assistance and feedback. I was encouraged by the different wiring practice models and hands-on learning. It was a full house and lively interaction.

A few notes that I took away include:

- Select the right wire dia. (Copper~ 1/3 the branch dia. of the section to bend; Aluminum~ 1/2 the branch dia.).
- Use a wire at least 1/3 longer than the branch to bend.
- Anchor the wire: can be one end in the pot or between two branches. (Note: watch GSBF Wiring Essentials Golden Zoom).
- Suggest a wiring spiral between 45-60 degrees, noting that if too closely spiraled it will not apply as much force than a more open angle.
- When wrapping the wire around the branch do not leave any gaps. The spiral protects the branch from breaking where bending--must have a wire support the branch outside the point of bending. Especially between wire transitioning from trunk to branch. Do not leave any gap between the wire and branch across the shoulder (where the branch will bend away).
- While wrapping, support the branch with your non-dominant hand, and wind the wire with your dominant hand. Also hold the last spiral close to the branch as you continue to wrap the next spiral, then reposition your hands.



## Bonsai Garden of Lake Meritt

Sharing some memorable images from a recent drop into this wonderful garden in Oakland. Wonderful color, foliage, and dappling of light. Thanks to all the volunteers and sponsors.



Bonsai Empire: Tree v Bonsai  
"Nature as a source of inspiration"



## Refreshment Reminder

Thanks to club members who share in the hospitality of snacks at each month's meetings. This month we are posting the full year's assignments, and in future Snippets will return to listing only the next 3 months. If you are new or would be on stand-by to help out, please email Michael W.

Feb 26, 2025

- Virginia Kean
- Michael Luna

Mar 26, 2025

- SBBK Board
- Birthday Celebration

April 23, 2025

- Judy Karp
- Caroline Koss

May 28, 2025

- Randi Keppeler
- Linda Kuhl

June 25, 2025

- Norm Land
- Russell Leonard

July 23, 2025

- Michael Luna
- Ines Malardino

August 27, 2025

- Bill and MaryAnn McDonald
- Marsha and John Mekisich

September 24, 2025

- SBBK Board
- Green Elephant Sale

October 22, 2025

- Mike Mello
- Valerie Monroe

November 24, 2025 (a Monday)

- Richard and Jill Oakes
- Roy & Jeannette Murakami

January 28, 2026

- Lynn O'Dell
- Kit & Margaret Sakamoto

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

## 2025 Dues are Now Due

With all these programs and activities this year, comes a cost to the club, which in turn, at this time of year, we are asking for membership dues.

**Dues: \$45 (single member); \$55 (family member).**

If you've been a member for 10 years and are 72 or older, individual membership is \$25 and family is \$35.

# California Shohin Seminar

by Bill McDonald

The weekend of January 31, I attended the Shohin Seminar two hours south of San Mateo in Santa Nella. Many Sei Boku Bonsai Kai members attended the festivities with over 200 others from as far away as Connecticut and joined in workshops, seminars and shopped till we dropped.

The Shohin Seminar comes around every other year thanks to three of our esteemed members, Gordon as Director for 28 years, Randi as Registrar for 18 years and Marsha as treasure for 6 years. Without their dedication, for decades and that of all the other volunteers, this great bonsai event would not be the success it is. However this will be the last year Gordon, Randi and Marsha will organize the event and hopefully another group of dedicated bonsai enthusiasts will step forward.

An auction and raffle saw many fabulous bonsai related items that raised a considerable amount of money for the three GSBF collections in addition to the modest \$45 dollar entrance fee. For the past 15 years or so Mike Mello and Dennis Hawkins have handled the raffle/auction and this year Pam Gallego and Janice Dilbeck, a former SBBK member, stepped forward to administer the raffle and auction. Of course Gordon was the auctioneer!

During the weekend there were numerous bonsai demonstrations and 24 amazing hands-on workshops conducted by bonsai professionals, donating their time.

Valerie conducted an instructive workshop on Junipers. Roy, Jenn, and Jeremy were seen in various others as I wandered between workshops gathering information. Bree, Jerry, Joshua, Howard, Pam, Steve and Catherine looked in on workshops and took advantage of the 26 vendors selling all things bonsai.

The vibe of the weekend was one of friendship, comradery and fun. All and all a great weekend. Hopefully there will be a 2027 California Shohin Seminar.

Mark your calendar for the weekend of October 24<sup>th</sup> to attend the "Rendezvous", held in Santa Nella. It is a not to be missed gathering sponsored by the GSBF. We will keep you informed in the Snippet and you can find other local events on the Golden State Bonsai Federation web site: [gsbfbonsai.org](http://gsbfbonsai.org)



# Evergreen Gardenworks Visit

By Gianne Souza

Sei Boku is planning a field trip to **Evergreen Gardenworks** on **Saturday, March 29** for anyone interested in joining! Evergreen Gardenworks was started in 1989 by Brent Walston and focuses on the propagation of rare and unusual plants for bonsai and landscape use. You can check out his comprehensive Plant Catalog which features many cultivars and species that are uniquely suited to bonsai, many of which are flowering and dwarf plants taken from cuttings and low-grafted pines. Brent also has some special specimen trees (both deciduous and coniferous) that have been container grown (for decades in some cases!). His catalog also serves as a wonderful resource on its own, as most species and cultivars have a detailed description. Use the QR code below or [www.evergreengardenworks.com](http://www.evergreengardenworks.com).

Evergreen Gardenworks is located near Clear Lake in Kelseyville, CA. It is a 3.5 hour drive one-way from San Mateo, which makes for a long day of bonsai! If at least 8 people want to carpool, we can share a van for \$30 a person. Please reserve your spot with a check addressed to SBBK or bring cash to Randi at the February meeting. We will plan to leave 8am on Saturday morning and arrive back in San Mateo late that evening to maximize our time at the nursery. Hope to see you there!

If you have any questions, email [gianne00@gmail.com](mailto:gianne00@gmail.com).



Helped Brent repot some big container grown black pines in April 2024!



# More Shohin Reflections

by Roy Murakami

Shohin Seminar offered one-day and three-day passes. The three-day pass gave you access to the Exhibit, all of the demonstrations, the vendor areas, buffet lunch and dinner on Saturday, auction and raffle on Saturday evening, and breakfast on Sunday morning.



I have been attending the Seminar for many years as a one-day trip, but this year I purchased a three-day pass to fully experience the entire weekend event. I was fortunate to have attended two workshops on Saturday. Both were Olive workshops, the first with Cesar Ordonez of CenCalBonsai and the second with Vince Owyong from Sacramento. I thoroughly enjoyed both of the workshops.

As I roamed the vendor areas and the demos I ran into many fellow SBBK members and met new friends from around the country. I met people from Wisconsin, Oregon, Washington, and Vancouver BC.

Some of the vendors in attendance were Jonas & Lauren from Bonsai Tonight, Nancy from Carmen's Nursery, Cesar from CenCalBonsai, Scott and Bolet from Lotus Bonsai, Bob from Mendocino Bonsai, and David and June from West America Bonsai.

It was a fun and informative weekend and I highly encourage you to attend if a 2027 California Shohin Seminar happens. Check their website for updates. Website: California Shohin Seminar – [www.calshohin.org](http://www.calshohin.org)

# New SBBK Calendar of Events

## 2025

January	Val and Company Wiring Workshop
February	Steve Juniper Styling
March	Birthday Meeting - Jonas, Display Prep and Setup
April	Show Info, Accent Plant Workshop
May	Steve Collecting Redwoods, Bill Permitting Process, Nursery Material
June	Club Show (Sat & Sun)
June	Mike Lane Growing/Cutting Techniques
July	Josh Bonsai Challenge
August	Barbara, Making Pots
September	Green Elephant Sale and Auction
October	Yamaji White Pine
November	Steve Repot Junipers
December	Holiday Party, no meeting

## 2026

January	Scott Chadd Group/Forest Planting Extra workshop to follow
February	Tom Vuong Grafting
March	Birthday Meeting. Adam Toth Shohin
April	TBD
May	Multi Species Workshop
June	TBD



### Jan Show & Tell:

Valerie Monroe (Golden Atlas Cedar, in a Michael Hagedorn pot)

### 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).

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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Sei Boku Bonsai Kai Inc.  
Proud member of  
Golden State  
Bonsai Federation

