



Mar 26 Show Readiness

7:00PM—9:00 (Garden Center)

Guest: Jonas Dupuich (Bonsai Tonight)

Come celebrate Sei Boku's 42nd year at our annual birthday meeting. Jonas Dupuich will be our guest and will speak on the subject of bonsai display.

It's always a treat to have Jonas at our meetings; friendly and approachable, he makes learning about bonsai fun. He is the author of two books on bonsai, and the blog Bonsai Tonight. He is the co-founder of the Pacific Bonsai Expo, which had its second wonderful exhibit last fall.

Please participate by bringing in your near show ready trees with a stand and an accent. The meeting will be an exercise for members to mix and match the different elements, and come up with some pleasing displays for a show.

Getting Ready for Show Time!

by Marsha Mekisich, Show Chairperson

Mark your calendars, as our annual 2025 SBBK show will be here before you know it. This year our club will be **42** years old. Our show is one of the ways we celebrate by sharing and demonstrating what our club is all about. By now hopefully you have identified tree(s) and or accents you want to show off in their best, **Sat & Sun, Jun 7 & 8. Show set up starting at 3:00 Fri, Jun 6.**

Request all hands help with setup and take takedown.

You won't want to miss Jonas Dupuich in March as he will discuss show prep & display. Very timely and Jonas is always very informative and fun, too.

To refresh or learn key points regarding show tree prep, please refer to article in our [May '22 Snippet](#), and more to come on this topic next month.

Bill McDonald is our marketing lead. We have flyers and PDFs you can use to help get news out to family, friends etc.

On Saturday, Jennifer Price will give a demonstration, and tree will be either raffled or auctioned.

Sunday, Jennifer will start the day providing a critique of our show, starting at 8:30 a.m. sharp. Critiques are always very insightful and great learning experiences and perspectives.

continued on page 7

Local Events Notice

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

California Native Plant Tour - Bonsai & Kusumono
Apr 13

Palo Alto, private address to be shared by email
Sun 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

Bay Area Satsuki Aikokai and Yamato Bonsai Kai Club Show

May 17 - 18

Lakeside Garden Center
666 Bellevue Ave, Oakland
Sat & Sun 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM

SBBK Calendar

Mar 26 Club Meeting: Show Readiness - Jonas Dupuich
San Mateo Garden Center 7-9 pm

Mar 29 Field Trip to Evergreen Gardenworks
Depart San Mateo Garden Center 8am (RSVP)

Apr 1 First Tuesday Workshop
San Mateo Garden Center 7-9 pm

Also In This Issue:

President's Message

Feb Mtg Recap: Juniper Styling

Refreshment Reminder

Repotting Party

Jonas' New Book "Essential Bonsai Book"

Kokufu-Ten Bonsai Show

California Native Plant Tour

President's Message

By Mike Rosenthal

Hi SBBK Bonsai Colleagues and Friends,

What a wonderful start to 2025 with two magnificent SBBK meeting programs in January and February, led by Valerie Monroe with a primer on wiring and Steve Iwaki with juniper styling. Both were very well attended and exhibited the enthusiasm and support that is so special with our membership. The involvement in having these as workshop formats with member participation has certainly impressed our Planning Committee with how well it is received by our members and we look forward to more of the same.

Most of us are familiar with Jonas Dupuich, a first rate bonsai artist and nurseryman from Alameda, who will be our guest at our monthly meeting on March 26, providing his expertise in displaying your bonsai creations. This will be an excellent opportunity to prepare for our Annual Meeting in June. It is my hope that he will provide you with information regarding the role of mud men in your displays



We also want to express our deepest appreciation to Gordon Deeg and Kamrin McKnight for hosting another potting party at their home on February 22. Those of us who attended had a most enjoyable time both in accomplishing our bonsai tasks and just being together.

The Mammoth auction and sale at the Bonsai Garden at Lake Merritt was another rousing success. Great trees, aggressive bidding and much camaraderie made the weekend very enjoyable and rewarding. It was great to see several of our members volunteering in support of the Garden.

An exciting piece of news is our nomination of one of our members to participate in the "Joshua Roth Rising Stars" Competition at the Golden State Bonsai Federation 2025 Bonsai Rendezvous in Santa Nella, California in October, 2025. Joshua Diaz is our SBBK nominee for this most prestigious event. He will be submitting his application very soon to be considered to represent the Bay Area Bonsai Region. If selected Josh will enter a 6-hour juniper bonsai styling competition with a grand prize of \$1000. Good luck Josh.

Our members should be aware that your Board voted unanimously to send a contribution from SBBK to Nathan Simmons, a bonsai professional who hosts an auction site for bonsai related items on the web and who lost his home and much of his bonsai related material in the Los Angeles area fires. A few of us have individually contributed to his Go-Fund-Me site but we thought it appropriate for our club to also be represented in supporting his recovery.

Spring has arrived. Although with rain still making an occasional appearance, watering has been less time consuming, opportunity for repotting, styling and considering your fertilizer preferences still provides so much to do. Reminder to get your selections ready for showtime in June. Like me, many of you are still learning about what is necessary, especially with the nutritional demands of our trees, so do not hesitate to contact any of our more senior members who have extensive expertise for help. They are always most willing to provide advice.

Stay healthy and enjoy life,

Mike

Peter Warren emphasizes the significance of bonsai display, stating: "Displaying a bonsai is done to honor and respect the tree, it's history and what it represents to both the exhibitor and viewer."

Bonsai Empire highlights the role of the stand in presentation: "The stand is like a 'frame' for the tree as a frame is for a picture."

Refreshment Reminder

Mar Mtg	Apr Mtg	May Mtg
SBBK Board	Judy Karp	Randi Keppeler
(SBBK Anniversary)	Caroline Koss	Linda Kuhli

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

Dues are 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.

Repotting Party

Special thanks to Gordon and Kamrin for hosting a repotting party for club members. Thanks to all of the mentors offering guidance or advice, and thanks to Ivan for sharing the photos below. We hope those who attended had a good time and setting their trees off to a healthy growing season. Special thanks to Ivan Ho for sharing these fun pictures.



The Essential Bonsai Book

by Jonas Dupuich (see the flier at the end of this Snippet)

My first book was aimed at people who are new to bonsai. It's an introductory guide for helping people learn what the bonsai hobby looks like with basic tips for keeping trees healthy. The new book aims to help people recognize, create, and maintain quality bonsai. It provides tips for building a collection and designing bonsai to look the way you want them to look. It introduces basic techniques like pruning, wiring, pinching, decandling, and defoliating. In-depth chapters cover summer and winter care, watering, and fertilizing, and the book wraps up with two chapters of case studies to help readers understand how and when to apply given techniques.

When asked about stumbling blocks that beginners often face, most can be overcome without too much effort. There's a lot to learn upfront and learners with great enthusiasm tend to figure out whatever gets in the way. I essentially wrote both books to help people with the very first steps (in the first book) and the next steps (in the

second book) precisely to offer help with the most basic stumbling blocks. The one tip related to this, and the answer to just about anything that comes up with beginners and intermediate bonsai learners is to find and work with a good teacher.

The entire first chapter of the new book focuses on how to build a collection that can help one reach their goals for growing bonsai. I'd recommend different ways, and amounts, to spend depending on one's goals. For example, if they enjoy propagation and aren't looking to fill the garden with show pieces, they can start from scratch. If they want to learn wiring they can purchase trees with trunks and branches that are mature enough for styling. If they want great trees, they can buy trees that already look great, or acquire great trunks and work on the branches themselves over time. Investing in education at any stage can help people achieve their goals and get more fun out of the hobby.

[Link to order](#)



Feb Recap: Juniper Styling

It was great to see so many of you circled around with your trees, learning from each other. Thanks to Steve for providing great material from Round Valley Nursery, and thanks to Randi for the great images.



Kokufu-Ten Bonsai Show

by Michael Fernandez

This February I was lucky enough to attend the 99th annual Kokufu-Ten Bonsai show at the Tokyo Metropolitan Art Museum. The show is broken up into 2 separate weeks of different trees. I attended the second week. I will have to tell you that the show definitely did not disappoint.

The show is separated into 3 exhibit halls, with approximately 50 spectacular trees in each room. The first hall you enter has the larger trees, followed by the medium size trees, then finishing with the smaller or Shohin trees. The variety of trees was very good, with numerous deciduous styled trees along with stunning Yamadori Junipers and Pines.

If you ever get the chance to attend this or other Japanese shows including the Taikan-Ten Bonsai show in Kyoto or the Gafu-Ten (Shohin) Bonsai show, don't hesitate. The quality of the trees is spectacular and you will not be disappointed.

The sales area for trees, in my opinion is the only thing that was kind of a hassle. There was nothing really stating where the sales area is or how to get there. But once you arrive you will not be disappointed other than the fact we can't import 90% of the trees for sale. There is a shuttle bus that will take you to and return you back to the Museum area. It leaves about every 20 minutes. The sales area is held at the Ueno Green Bonsai Clubs property which is about a 10 minute bus ride. Most of the trees I saw for sale were also show quality, from starter trees to 100 of hundreds of year old trees. There were hundreds and hundreds of trees and pots for sale. Following are several photographs of the trees that I hope you will enjoy.



Juniperus Chinensis var. Sargentii



Prunus Mume



Pinus Thunbergii



Juniperus Chinensis var. Sargentii



Shohin Display

This now eight-day February national exhibit of bonsai is the largest and most prestigious of all bonsai shows worldwide. Displayed in the Tokyo Metropolitan Art Museum in Ueno Park, Tokyo.



California Native Plant Tour

by Barbara Phillips

Bonsai displayed on old tree stumps with poppies all around? Bonsai trees displayed alongside kusamono? Bonsai trees paired with its seedlings that are sprouting? And the best of all, trees from both Sei Boku and Kusamura in the same show? What's going on?

I had contacted the Santa Clara Valley Native Plant Society to apply to have native bonsai and kusamono displayed, to be a stop on their annual tour, and after a visit from the tour directors, was accepted. They are advertising showcasing bonsai as a first for them, a tour which, in the past, has had good attendance. Their introduction states bonsai and kusamono as a good hobby for folks living in smaller spaces; the small arrangements are a good way to enjoy native species without having to have a yard.

This became an open pallet for me, I could do what ever I felt the public would find beautiful, interesting, and I could invite folks from both clubs to participate. **I have rounded up 12 native species, and with the kusamono and Saikei, have 26 displays.** I thought that people would like seeing how a bonsai is developed, the iterations if you will, and will have a table showing one way to develop a redwood, from seedling, thru raw tree, in process tree, and finally a show tree. I have sprouted seeds from a buckeye and will show them next to the buckeyes that are bonsai. I will have a table showing both traditional bonsai pots and organic ones made by the Clay Guild that meet at my house, with the different types of firing labeled, Raku, Obvara, saggar, wood.



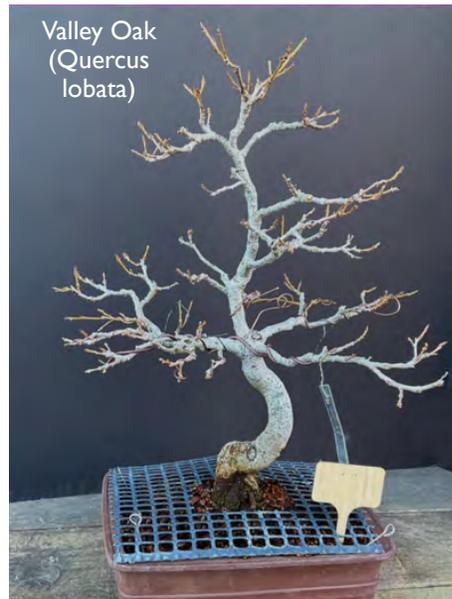
I especially wanted active involvement from newer folks, and have invited them to do two demos (with help) on how to make a kusamono arrangement. I have made a booklet describing each native bonsai tree and its history correlated with numbers in the garden.

I could not have done this with the help of the following folks: Steve Iwaki, Michael Greenstein, Lynne Odell, Jenn Tan, Patricia Lee, Molly Gibion, Manchu Verma, JC Chang, and Richard Phillips.

The tour is for members of the Native Plant Society only or those volunteering, and has to be signed up for ahead of time. I honestly have no idea what will sprout from this connection, but just the collaboration between members of our two clubs is worthwhile. **The tour is on Sun April 13, and I am inviting any bonsai club members to come at 4:00 to see what we have created.** The address will be shared by email to members prior to the event (Palo Alto).



Lodgepole Pine
(Pinus contorta)



Valley Oak
(Quercus lobata)



"Fremontia" Journal of the California Native Plant Society (Conifer Issue) or visit www.cnps.org

Getting Ready for Show Time!

continued from page 1

Starting at 10-10:30, she will lead 5 club members as they work on their own trees. In addition, she will guide a styling of the club raffle tree. Workshop will continue till raffle time of 3:00. Signups will be available on first come first serve basis. Cost will be \$50.00 each. You won't want to pass up opportunity to work with Jennifer. Notify me directly and please pay up front to hold your spot.

Photos of your show trees will be taken on Sunday morning by a professional photographer. Very exciting. Steve Iwaki is coordinating this and will certainly need some careful and gentle handlers to move each of our trees into the dedicated photo room set up in the Redwood storage room.

Below a heads up and layout on some of the show's needs and expectations. Lots of opportunities to participate and contribute to our show's success.

SHOW TREE(s) – Refer show tree prep article in our [May '22 Snippet](#). When you select your show tree, please email me Species, Botanical if know and number of years in training. This year, please also provide the tree size and its direction, right or left leaning, to Springhill.2@outlook.com. Deadline will be Friday, May 30, but sooner is better.

STANDS - Need a stand for your tree? Reach out to myself, Gordon, or a board member with photo, size of your tree and its pot. Do not wait until set up if you need a stand. Put your name on any trees, stands, and accent plants you bring to the exhibit to ensure who to return to if accidentally left at end of show.

SALE ITEMS – The show sale is a great opportunity to open bench space or create room for your new purchase. Members can sell healthy groomed trees, plants, pots, or other bonsai items. The proceeds will be split between you the seller and SBBK at a whopping 80%/20% split. Sales sheets and tags will be distributed at upcoming meetings. **You must have both sale sheet correctly completed and individual tags affixed prior to bringing them into sales area Saturday morning no later than 9:30 a.m. Do NOT bring it prior to Saturday.**

RAFFLE Prize Donations – All members will bring and donate two bonsai related raffle items to be raffled off on Saturday and Sunday valued at \$25 or more. This can be pots, trees, books, tools, scrolls, stands or garden center gift cards etc. Please bring Raffle Prize Donations Sat/Sun by 9:30 a.m. at the latest. Fine to bring all donations on Saturday. Just let Raffle folks know.

SHOW Sign-Up sheets will become available at our March meeting. Ask everyone to sign up for 2 hours both Saturday and Sunday. These duties include:

- Welcome table – greeting guests as they arrive, giving door prize ticket for 3:00 raffle and watching that folks leaving are not leaving with unpaid for items.

- Security – welcoming folks within the show room, monitoring displays and answering questions they may have. Guests should look but don't touch.
- Sales – Be present, helpful, and watchful in the club sales area. Helping folks sift through, find their perfect tree or pot, ensuring security measures are followed by subtly keeping an eye for price tag manipulations etc. Doesn't happen much but beware. Just paying attention should curb opportunities here.
- Hospitality- Help monitor and supply lunch provisions for members and invited guest lunch 11-1:30. Also help with Set-Up dinner on Friday night.
- SBBK purchases prepared food, no potluck. Same as last year so it is easier to prep and clean up and more time for you to work on your tree prep.
- Raffle - ticket sales– Sell raffle tickets for demo trees and raffle prizes and receive and monitor raffle prizes for Sat/Sun 3:00 raffle and door prize.
- Doctor Bonsai – Available to offer expert advice, help or answer questions on any and all bonsai related topics including possible styling.

Set-up/Take-Down sign-up sheets will also be available starting March meeting. We need all hands to help and will have leads and seasoned folks to help coordinate.

- Tables and Chair setup – both in and outside as instructed.
- Backdrop setup- Our backdrops for Tokonomas are in Rose Room and need to be brought carefully down and then installed.
- Table lifts – Install pvc lifts to perimeter showroom tables.
- Tablecloth draping. Box fold table clothes to all perimeter tables, and once back drops are installed for Tokonomas, apply black slipcovers to those tables.
- Show Tree Placement- Receive and review trees, their stands and accents for show display set up. Set-up likely guided by Val, JT or Jerry. Not sure who yet.
- Tree name cards – place cards consistently and id who doesn't have card yet. Hopefully still time to make a few, but everyone should have provided already. Don't stress us out....please.
- Accents – Those trees needing accents should verify with Show Tree Placement monitor and handle as suggested.
- Scrolls – Folks with Tokonoma displays may choose to incorporate scrolls.

Each and every Sei Boku Club member makes this show specialevery year. Please reach out to me as you have any questions, ideas or issues along the way. Thank you in advance for helping to make our show special and a great success every year.

New SBBK Calendar of Events

2025

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



Feb Show & Tell: Juniper (Steve I)

If you enjoyed the prior article on "Tree Progression" and have another example of tree progression to share, please send that to mwei2cre8@msn.com. Thank you in advance.

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, ctierney32@gmail.com

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

Adjunct Board Members:

Valerie Monroe, mcsnail@aol.com

Steve Iwaki, siwaki@comcast.net

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

Consultants:

Gordon Deeg, gdbonsai90@gmail.com



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



BONSAI SHOW

JUNE 7-8, 2025

SATURDAY

Demonstration by Jennifer Price

Time: 1:00pm – 3:00pm
“Demo Trees” for Raffle!

SUNDAY

Open public viewing workshop led by Jennifer Price

Time: 1:00pm – 3:00pm
“Workshop Tree” for Raffle!

We welcome Chicago-based bonsai artist, Jennifer Price. She aims to make bonsai accessible to all, as she travels extensively around the world leading workshops and demonstrations and representing the US at international conventions.

As one of the younger generation of bonsai artists, Jennifer describes bonsai as “a way for me to express the grace and power of nature...”. As a former professional ballet dancer, Jennifer has the eye for the natural flow and movement in trees. She specializes in carving and loves nothing more than working with challenging material.



Door Prizes — Raffle Prizes
Tree Clinic — Vendor Sales — Plant Sales

— FREE ADMISSION —

LOCATION

San Mateo Garden Center
605 Parkside Way
San Mateo, CA 94403
(at Beresford Park)



SEI BOKU
B O N S A I K A I

seibokubonsaikai.org



About The Essential Bonsai Book

A beautifully photographed, in-depth guide to the fundamental techniques used to create exquisite bonsai, from the author of *The Little Book of Bonsai* and the *Bonsai Tonight* blog.

“Anyone working and living with these little trees will find essential guidance for making beautiful bonsai!”

—Tyler Sherrod, bonsai artist and teacher

In *The Essential Bonsai Book*, trusted educator Jonas Dupuich provides a framework for building a bonsai collection you can take pride in. This accessible guide teaches you fundamental bonsai techniques such as pruning, wiring, and repotting, as well as more advanced skills like decandling and defoliating. Learn how to work with the seasons and discover design tips and tricks for bringing out the beauty in your trees. Featuring case studies demonstrating how to use the various techniques, and insights from other bonsai experts, *The Essential Bonsai Book* will help you grow beautiful bonsai in your own home or garden.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Jonas Dupuich runs a Northern California bonsai nursery where he teaches and writes about bonsai. He is the author of *The Little Book of Bonsai* and the *Bonsai Tonight* blog, and is cofounder of the Pacific Bonsai Expo. Jonas grows a variety of species and specializes in developing Japanese black pine from seed. His trees have been selected for display in local and regional exhibits, including the U.S. National Bonsai Exhibition. Learn more at BonsaiTonight.com.

TO PLACE AN ORDER:

BY EMAIL: CustomerService@PRH.com

BY PHONE: 1-800-733-3000 (press 2 for a representative)

