



June 25 Guest: Mike Lane Development Techniques & Styling 7:00PM—9:00 (Garden Center)

For this Month's meeting, we will have an out of town guest from Florida, Mike Lane. Mike specialties include tropical, subtropical, broadleaf evergreen and Shohin. He's studied under various bonsai professionals and has won numerous awards. For our meeting, he will discuss tree development techniques, wiring vs. clip & grow, when is the appropriate time to do each or a combination there of. He will then style an olive to demonstrate his techniques, which will be raffled off at the conclusion of our meeting.



Mike Lane (photo credit Among The Jungle)

Local Events Notice

Marin Bonsai Club Show

July 2 - July 6

Marin County Fair

10 Ave of the Flags, San Rafael

Wed - 11:00 AM - 11:00 PM

Redwood Empire Bonsai Society (REBS) Show

Aug 23 - Aug 24

Rohnert Park Community Center

5401 Snyder Lane, Rohnert Park

Sat - Sun 10:00 AM - 8:00 PM

GSBF Bonsai Rendezvous 2025

Oct 24 - 26

Headliners: Suthin Sukosolvisit & Mauro Stemberger

Hotel Mission De Oro

Santa Nella

Registration opens Jun 9 at 7:00 AM



SBBK Calendar

- | | | |
|--------|---|--------|
| Jun 25 | Club Meeting:
San Mateo Garden Center | 7-9 pm |
| Jul 1 | First Tuesday Workshop
San Mateo Garden Center | 7-9 pm |

Golden State Bonsai Federation:
Mike Lane "Clip & Grow"



Thanks to Bill and friends for representing SBBK at local fairs.

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President's Message

By Mike Rosenthal

Hello All My SBBK Friends and Colleagues,

As I write this President's message, I, as I am sure all of you, are looking forward to our upcoming SBBK Annual Show. Marsha Mekisich is working her usual magic as she guides us all in planning and preparing for our prime event. Trees are ready, vendors are on their way, items to be sold are collected, raffle items are in hand, and above all life savings are ready to be spent. Those of you who are planning on selling at the show should have carefully and thoroughly filled out your tags and sheets. The wrath of Randi will be your "reward" if not done correctly. Hope to see as many of you as are available Friday beginning at 4 for set-up and show tree placement. Pizza and salad will be on hand – bring your beverage of choice.

Steve Iwaki and I just spent 2 great days in and around Ashland, Oregon. We visited Vickie Chamberlain who many of you know from her magnificent pottery. Unfortunately, she is taking a break from production but we all hope we may see her wonderful artistry again soon. We also spent several hours at a large nursery in Williams, Oregon (just outside Medford) - Forest Farm at Pacifica. Here we found a large selection of prime pre-bonsai material of all types at most reasonable prices. If you are ever in the area or even just driving up the 5 it is worth looking in. They are most hospitable and will help you find your future show tree.

Thanks to Bill McDonald and Steve Iwaki for a great program educating us on the logistics and rigor of harvesting trees in the wild. Perhaps a field trip for those up to the challenge might be in the offing. It is not for the faint of heart but I do love to watch.

Summer is almost here – water, water, water.

Mike



Muck Recipe

by Barbara Philips

This is for anytime you need extra holding strength, like mucking in a rock, or a piece of wood, or to build a wall. And yes, for bonsai trees too, such as slab planting where you need a wall. Not to be used as overall soil, only when you need holding strength.

At Val's workshop on making accent plants, the gang asked for the muck recipe I like, and sharing with the club.

Recipe:

- One part calcium bentonite (Amazon: 10 lbs. \$41. Do NOT get sodium bentonite)
- One part cut up sphagnum moss (can get lots of places, but Amazon will deliver)
- Five parts soil. Any good potting mix, even cactus soil.
- Mix water in slowly so as not to get too wet. Wear gloves. Cover tightly, will keep.

Steve Iwaki will be hosting a half day workshop with Mike Lane

Wednesday morning, June 25th from 9 -12 noon at his house. This is not a club sponsored event. Workshop fee is \$75.00, provided we have 5 participants. Bring a few trees, tools and wire. Please contact Steve via email: steve@iwakibonsai.com or cell @ 650 703 9234.

Refreshment Reminder

Jun Mtg

Norm Land

Marsha & John M.

July Mtg

Michael Luna

Ines Malardino

Aug Mtg

Bill McDonald

Russell Leonard

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

May Recap: Collecting

by Michael Wei

Bill and Steve shared their experiences and recommendations with collecting trees as bonsai material. Sharing about proper tools to permissions, aftercare and considering which species are more hardy or sensitive to collection. It was an entertaining presentation, which included a chainsaw and generous raffle trees.

Bill shared about collecting from two areas he had collected from which required permits: the National Forests (National Parks prohibits collecting) and the Bureau of Land Management. All other areas you need permission of the land owner. Research and persistence is needed to finding the right forms and the approvers before you can collect in those protected spaces. Once granted permission, the cost to collect can be affordable. Permits can range from \$20 for 20 trees in Shasta, Klamath and Siskiyou National Forest. Inyo National Forest charged Bill \$7.50 to collect in the White Mountains near Bishop.

Bill's explorations had identified the opportunity to collect along CalTrans roads. The word is that CalTrans doesn't seem to care if you gather along their roads as long as you are

safe and not impeding traffic. Bill has collected in the redwoods along the roads, east of Highway 1 south of Half Moon Bay without incident as long as you are away from dwellings and people. Permission was not asked, and this does not imply that you are free to collect, so be respectful and discreet.

Bill's aftercare advice includes:

- 50% pumice or full pumice
- Leave it alone for 3 yrs
- Harvest late fall or early spring (dormant)
- Junipers get nutrients from foliage—don't reduce. Have more foliage than roots
- Place in shade
- Collects local soil for mycorrhizal and add to soil mix

Steve's Redwood collecting experience recognized that trees growing on flat surfaces do not have as much character in the base as those growing on a 45 degree slope. Steve generally uses old, used, sifted bonsai soil for transplanted redwoods.

Happy collecting, and please be mindful of rules & advice.



Showing Our Best — 2025

by Michael Wei

We hope you all had a splendid experience this June Club Show. Thanks to club member volunteers who showed their best trees to the public, and to all the volunteers setting up, helping in a smoothly run event, and welcoming the community into learning more of the culture and care for bonsai. We hope to some of them in our monthly meetings and be potential members.

Jennifer Price was our headliner and styled junipers with Steve Iwaki on Saturday. She hosted a docent critique of some trees on Sunday morning, and held a workshop for members who registered.

Thanks to all members who sold trees, pots, and wares—as there were some gems, bargains, and many smiles. Special thanks to those who donated proceeds to SBBK.



Dr. Bonsai—Val (L)
Headliner, Jennifer Price and
Steve Iwaki (R)



Korean Hornbeam — Steve Jang



Japanese Black Pine — Michael Fernandez



Shohin: Japanese White Pine, Juniper — Gordon Deeg



Sei Boku Bonsai Kai



Trident — Milton Chang



Coast Redwood—
Mike Rosenthal (L)



Prostrata Juniper—
Kevin Corrigan (R)



Sierra Juniper—
Richard Oakes (L)

Blue Atlas Cedar—
George Shoptawl (R)



Michael Fernandez &
Gianne Souza (L)

Kingsville Boxwood—
Lynne O'Dell (R)

My Shiba Inu Led Me to SBBK

By Kevin Corrigan

Fran and I have been members of the Shiba Fanciers of Northern California dog club for the past 26 years. We were volunteering with our dogs at our clubs' booth during the Cupertino Cherry Blossom Festival back in 2003. Gordon and Kamrin were also members of the dog club at that time and this is where I met them both.

At the Cupertino Cherry Blossom Festival, Gordon and I got to talking and I shared with him my love of gardening. Of course this led to a further conversation of his love of Bonsai. Gordon told me of his experiences training in Japan and his involvement in our local clubs. There was a Bonsai show going on at the Cherry Blossom Festival so Gordon gave me a guided tour and explained the different styles and techniques used to train those trees. I was hooked and wanted to learn more and join SBBK. But at the time, I was working the 1-9 pm shift at work. Even though Fran and I were not members of the club yet Gordon invited us to the yearly BBQ at their house in San Mateo. We enjoyed meeting the members there. After everyone left we stuck around and while Kamrin and Fan talked dogs I was out smoking cigar and sipping Germain Robin Alambic brandy with Gordon and Rich Oaks.

In 2007 I finally received a day shift so now I could attend our monthly meeting and soon after became a member. Once I won enough trees off the raffle table at our club meetings and from local shows, I started attending the first Tuesday workshops. I would also sign up for any monthly meetings where we could purchase the tree to work on that evening. I still have one that is a split trunk Juniper that you might see in our show next year.

Around 2009 Steve Iwaki took me under his wing and helped me with some of my trees. He then started a monthly workshop with 4 other club members. Steve moved away for a while and before he left, he downsized his collection a bit. This is where I purchased a tree that his dad started and is one of my most prized trees. When Steve and Catherine returned to San Mateo he started up his monthly workshops and I have been attending ever since.

SBBK is the only Bonsai club I have joined and throughly enjoy being a member, also a past board member and past president. This is such a great club with so many experienced members who share their knowledge with all of us. I'm so thankful our Shiba led us to that dog club event where I met Gordon, joined the club and have met new friends and started my Bonsai journey.



Kevin Corrigan and Bob Shatsky



Gordon with his Shohin display

Pot prep at Gordon's

by Valerie Monroe

Thanks to all the volunteers who came to Gordon's house to price pots for the show. It was a fun time working with a bunch of great people.

Gordon generously offered many pots which he wouldn't be using in the future, as a donation to the annual SBBK show; the only catch - the members needed to come and get them ready.

Brushing out, pricing each one, making and attaching tags, and logging them onto the sales sheets.

Many thanks for all the help from Virginia, Gianne, Ernesto, Josh, Christine, Richard, and Val. It wouldn't have happened without your work. Thank you!

At the end of the day, we had filled out over nine (!) inventory sheets worth of pots to benefit Sei Boku. Thanks Gordon, for the generous gift and making this possible.

New SBBK Calendar of Events

2025

July Bonsai Challenge
August Making Pots — Barbara & her posse
September Green Elephant Sale and Auction
October White Pine — Hiroyoshi Yamaji
November Tree Improvement & Critique (bring in a tree)
December Holiday Party, no meeting

2026

January Scott Chadd Group/Forest Planting
Extra workshop to follow
February Tom Vuong Grafting

Welcoming New Members



HELLO
MY NAME IS

- Renata Pearson
- Yana Fox

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

May Show & Tell: Collected Trees



Pam G —
Lodgepole



Jerry C —
Grape



Irene —
Cork Elm

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

