



Oct 22 Guest: Hiroyoshi Yamaji 7:00PM—9:00 (Garden Center)

This month we welcome traveling artist Hiroyoshi Yamaji. He is a second generation bonsai artist and professional grower from Takamatsu, Japan. His father, Hideo, started the nursery 65 years ago, back in 1960. At that time, most bonsai were collected from nature (yamadori). Since then, Yamaji-san has continued to develop the nursery and export business, cultivating field grown both Japanese black and white pines. He speaks both English and French, thus making a trip to the south of France and different parts of Europe every year, while demonstrating for bonsai clubs and leading workshops for bonsai practitioners and hobbyists.



For this meeting he will be talking about the life of running a bonsai nursery and perform a styling demonstrating on a pine. You may be the lucky winner as it will be raffled or auctioned off at the conclusion of the meeting.

Interested in taking a workshop with our guest, Yamaji-san from Takamatsu. He speaks excellent english and well versed in all species. Bring a few trees, wire and tools.

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Local Events Notice

Autumn Lights Festival

Oct 16-18
Bonsai Garden at Lake Merritt
650 Bellevue Ave, Oakland

GSBF Bonsai Rendezvous 2025

Oct 24 - 26
Headliners: Suthin Sukosolvisit & Mauro Stemberger
Hotel Mission De Oro, Santa Nella



SBBK Calendar

- Oct 22 **Club Meeting:**
San Mateo Garden Center 7-9 pm
- Nov 4 **First Tuesday Workshop**
San Mateo Garden Center 7-9 pm
- Nov 24 **Club Meeting** (Mon)
San Mateo Garden Center 7-9 pm
- Dec 7 **Holiday Party** (Sun)
La Lanterna Ristorante 1-4 pm
(RSVP by Sun, Nov 30)
- Dec 13 **Field Trip** (Sat)
Sacramento 7am departure

Refreshment Reminder

Oct Mtg	Nov Mtg
Jenn Tan	Roy & Jeannette M.
Lon Tran	Richard & Jill Oaks

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

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President's Message

By Mike Rosenthal

Hello Everyone,

Beautiful fall weather but cooler so we may be able to cut back watering a smidge. I am looking forward to several great bonsai activities over the remainder of the year. Our SBBK October meeting on the 22nd will feature **Yamaji San** from Japan. His presentation styling a black pine, with follow-up workshops organized by Steve Iwaki, will be a must for those who can participate. Yamaji San is well known to several of us who have had the opportunity to visit him in Japan and bring back his white pines. He can isolate them in Japan and therefore we can avoid the prolonged isolation here in the U.S. Most of the trees that he and his father before him cultivated are now about 60 years old and prize possessions for several of us. See Steve's workshops schedule with Yamaji San at his home in San Mateo. I strongly recommend taking advantage of that experience.

Also, at our October meeting Barbara Phillips will be bringing the pots that many of us made at her workshop in August. Caroline Koss has completed the firing, and she states that "They look great, and nothing exploded in the kiln!". Thank you, Barbara and Caroline, for all your effort.



Also in October will be the Autumn Lights Festival at the Bonsai Garden Lake Merritt. This annual event during the weekend of October 16-18 is an extraordinary experience for the whole family. Our own Randi Keppeler puts in a huge amount of time getting it all ready and she can always use as much help as she can get. I encourage our members to contact her and plan to get over to Lake Merritt on October 11, 12, 15 or 16 to assist. That in itself is a real fun event.

There is still more in October with the GSBF Rendezvous, October 24-26. Not only will you see some beautiful trees but also the workshops, demonstrations, critiques and vendors make this a very fulfilling weekend at Santa Nella. You will really immerse yourselves in Bonsai for frankly there is not much more to do or see in Santa Nella. That to me is a real incentive to be there.

In November, our meeting on MONDAY the 24th will feature Valerie Monroe leading us all in improving our own trees. We should all be picking out 1 or 2 specimens that we would like some guidance in refining under her expert tutelage. For those that have availed themselves to participate in her first Tuesday workshops, you all know how great her mentoring is, so take advantage of this at our November meeting.

As the year ends, December brings 2 more events. First on Sunday, the 7th will be our annual SBBK member Holiday Party. John Mekisich has prepared a super event at a first-class restaurant, La Lanterna, in San Mateo. We have used that location in the past and the food and environment is wonderful. We will have the restaurant to ourselves with full menu access. Your Board has made the decision to offer this at a most reasonable cost. Each member will pay only \$30 for themselves and another \$30 for their guest. SBBK will foot the remainder of the bill to include appetizers, corkage fees if you bring your own wine and gratuity. You order whatever you want without concern for the price. The only added cost for you all will be bar drinks. If you check the menu at the restaurant, you will see that you are getting quite a deal -

<https://lalanterasanmateo.com/>.

The second event in December will be on the 13th when Gianne Souza and Steve Iwaki lead us on a field trip to the Sacramento area including a stop at the Maruyama Nursery. A wide selection of trees and soil will be available. Should be a great day to acquire what you want (note I did not say need) with bonsai friends - <https://maruyamabonsainursery.wordpress.com/>.

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Sept. Recap: Green Elephant

by Michael Wei

We hope you all had a fun time at the Green Elephant fundraiser. Thank you to all who brought in trees and material. Jeremy & John were great auctioneers and entertainers, and the eventing was great fun. "What's \$10 more...?" I am still curious what were in some of the mystery boxes, but they may be back at next year's Green Elephant. Most everyone went home with a special treat, and will look forward to next September.



"The study of bonsai seems to never end. The more we advance the further the goal seems to be. A bud today becomes a branch tomorrow, and we must continue our determination to learn all that nature has to offer. It is like searching for the base of the rainbow, the fun and enjoyment is during the search."

Haiku: Base of the rainbow / the further it is pursued / the further it is

John Yoshio Naka (1981), [Bonsai Techniques II](#)

Holiday Party Plans

by John Mekisich

An early MERRY CHRISTMAS to Sei Boku from all of us at the North Pole working hard so all good girls and boys have a very enjoyable holiday season. You may be wondering why none other than Kris Kringle himself is contacting you? Well boys and girls, HO HO HO, a letter came to me from an anonymous source confident that you have all been good boys and girls this year (you have been, haven't you?) mentioning a very special event planned this holiday season asking me Kris Kringle to extend a special invitation to all Sei Boku members to attend.

Date is Sunday December 7th from 1 to 4 pm taking place at La Lanterna Ristorante, 180 West 25th Ave in San Mateo. Attending certainly sounds like a wonderful way to celebrate this year's holiday season, HO HO HO. Our location will be decorated very festively, and you will have it all to yourselves Sei Boku, how cool is that? Holiday festivities will include a raffle with a chance for everyone to win, please consider bringing an unwrapped bonsai-related raffle item of your choice. Also, Sei Boku there will be a gift exchange, for those of you that wish to partake, please bring these items wrapped. Those that bring a gift exchange item will have the opportunity to go home with a gift exchange package of their choice. Kris Kringle knows you know what gifts to bring better than I HO HO HO my job is package delivery in a sleigh led by reindeer oh my. Can you name all my reindeer Sei Boku HO HO HO.

Holiday party cost is ONLY \$30 per member. Each membership may bring a guest for \$30, and each additional guest is \$60. Reservations to be prepaid, checks made out to SBBK sent to Santa's Helper at 435 25th Avenue San Mateo, Ca. 94403. Your check is your RSVP, submit by Nov 30. Cost overage, corkage fee (BYOB) and appetizers paid for by the club, Merry Christmas HO HO HO. Members can choose from the entire lunch menu to include salad, entree dish, dessert, and non-alcoholic beverage. Appetizers will be calamari and bruschetta. Cash Bar for alcoholic beverages.

To make things even more festive, members please bring holiday-themed centerpieces for the tables and small holiday-themed bonsai trees for a show and tell. Kris Kringle has no idea what a show and tell is Sei Boku but knows that all of you do, sounds like fun though. In the spirit of Christmas those of you with vivid imaginations just may feel my presence at your holiday gathering HO HO HO.

Questions reach out to Santa's Helper at 650-477-8540 text preferred or call. Do have a Holly Jolly enjoyable time Sei Boku. Happy Holidays,

Kris Kringle.

SBBK Fashion

Sei Boku branded aprons are available for purchase and taking cap pre-orders. They are both one size fits all, Khaki color aprons with front pockets and a black cap with logo tree on the front and "Sei Boku" on the back.

Cost: \$15.00 apron and \$18.00 caps; cash or check made out to SBBK. See Steve Iwaki.



President's Letter (continued from p 2)



As I end this message, I want to share with you how I have expanded my collection without concern for watering, feeding or the demise of my specimens. With the help of my 10-year-old granddaughter these are her creations to be treasured for all time. Maddie's services could be available for a price.

Enjoy our beautiful autumn and have a fun Halloween.

Sacramento Nursery Field Trip

by **Gianne Souza**

Sei Boku is planning a field trip to Sacramento to visit Maruyama Bonsai Nursery and Lucy Judd's Garden on Saturday, December 13 for anyone interested in joining! [Maruyama Bonsai Nursery](#) is a retail nursery that carries a wonderful selection of bonsai, pre-bonsai, accent plants, and various bonsai supplies including tools, pots, soil components, and more. This is a great time to stock up materials for the upcoming repotting season! Lucy Judd is happy to invite Sei Boku bonsai members to view her wonderful garden and bonsai collection while we are in Sacramento.



Sacramento is roughly a 2 hour drive one-way from San Mateo (barring heavy traffic), which makes for a wonderful day of bonsai! Depending on the number of people that would like to join, we could potentially share a van rental. All interested members should let Gianne Souza or Steve Iwaki know at the next meeting (or email Gianne at gianne00@gmail.com). We will decide closer to the date if we want to rent a van as a group or arrange carpools. We plan to leave from the San Mateo Garden Center at 7:00 am on Saturday morning and arrive back in San Mateo in the afternoon.

Hope to see you there!

If you have any questions, please email Gianne at gianne00@gmail.com.



Yamaji-san Workshop (continued from p 1)

The following are workshop dates and times:

Wed	Oct 22	9am -12pm	(3 slots still available)
Sun	Oct 26	1 - 4 pm	(3 slots still available)
Mon	Oct 27	9am -12pm	(5 slots still available)
		1 - 4pm	(3 slots still available)

Location: Steve Iwaki's backyard

Workshop fee: \$75 per person provided we get 5 participant's.

Please contact Steve Iwaki @ steve@iwakibonsai.com to reserve your spot.

Yamaji Sanshoen's bonsai garden is described in this "Hometown" article (QR code). His website address is: <https://sanshoen-bonsai.jimdo.com/>



New SBBK Calendar of Events

2025

Nov Tree Improvement & Critique (bring in a tree)
Dec Holiday Party, no meeting

2026

Jan Scott Chadd Group/Forest Planting
Extra workshop to follow
Feb Young Choe Kusamono
Extra Workshop to follow
Mar Birthday Meeting. Adam Toth Shohin
Apr Kaya Mooney
May Multi Species Workshop
June Bonsai Challenge

Welcoming New Members



- Cindy Sholes
- Debby Diaz

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

Affordable Potting Suppliers

If potting/repotting for the first time this Spring, consider your local Daiso store for drainage mesh, sickles, and colanders. Should be going for \$2.25/ea.



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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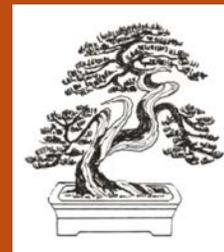
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