



REBS April 2022 Newsletter

President Message

Greetings! What a great and exhilarating REBS general meeting we had last night!

As with many of those attending, it felt so good to be amongst friends talking about bonsai, taking in a great demo by Bob Shimon and seeing the beautiful Show & Tell trees. We had 26 people attend our first meeting in over two years. With the help of many, REBS is off and running. We have a display in this weekend's Sonoma County Home & Garden Show, have talented demonstrators lined up for our meetings for the rest of the year, will participate in a members' sale with Marin Bonsai Club in August, will have our first workshop on April 7. Due to the hard work of many via phone call outreach, our club has more details on what our membership wants from REBS. I appreciate everyone's efforts in getting us up and running.

Now, I wish to share some solemn news.

Kathy Shaner has been our club sensei for many years. I won't detail her background since it would take many pages of worthy text. She has been absolutely incredible and tireless at being our sensei. She has led our advanced workshops in helping members take their trees to the next level. Her demos were entertaining, instructional and those winning her demo trees were always beaming with pride. Learning with someone like Kathy was a privilege. And our noteworthy and exemplary show was due to her contributions,

many hours of time and expert input.

Kathy has shared that her home in Alabama is calling for more of her time. She regrettably says that unfortunately, she will not be able to be our club sensei anymore. I was saddened when I heard this. But I understood that she is trying to do less travel and simplifying aspects of her life.

Naturally, we will miss her. She will be in California in August, and is open to doing some REBS advanced workshops. If interested, please contact me. (We also will be hosting a dinner in her honor at that time.) We will all miss Kathy's presence in REBS.

Arigato go zaimasu (with abundant thanks) Kathy!

REBS Covid Protocol – AN UPDATE

At the March 17 REBS meeting, the board, after hearing of updated info., low Covid numbers, and other information, voted to move to a mask option policy for all REBS events. (The vaccination requirement remains.) I received some feedback involving a concern that this change (from mandatory mask usage) was not fully promoting safety amongst REBS members. Then, yesterday (3/23) there were two involved newspaper articles detailing that the Covid Omicron BA2 strain was increasing in Europe and that the U.S. would probably see a surge in the next few weeks. (Though, if vaccinated, boosted and masked, you have a very good chance of not getting serious disease if in a social gathering.) I've consulted with several other REBS board members, and asked our board to consider returning to a mandatory mask policy at least for the next few months. The board voted to agree to return to this safety measure.

I apologize for this change. Like the rest of you, I will be so glad when all of the Covid precautions are behind us.

PS: At the next meeting, I will bring a few additional door prizes as a way to say thanks for your patience, understanding and cooperation.

Alan Murakami
REBS President

REBS Board Meeting

On March 17, 2022, from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m., a REBS board meeting was held at the Franklin Park Clubhouse. Here are some highlights of that board meeting:

A treasurer's report submitted by Paul Wycoff showed the club was in the black with a total of \$29,943.85.

Alan Murakami outlined the 2022 general meeting and demonstrator schedule as follows:

March 17 - Bob Shimon
April 28 - Eric Schrader
May 26 - Boon Manakitivipart
June 23 - Jonas Dupuich
July TBD Annual Picnic
August 25 - Randall Lee
September 22 - Juan Cruz
October 27 - Matthew Walker
November 17 - Mike Pistello
December TBD Annual Dinner

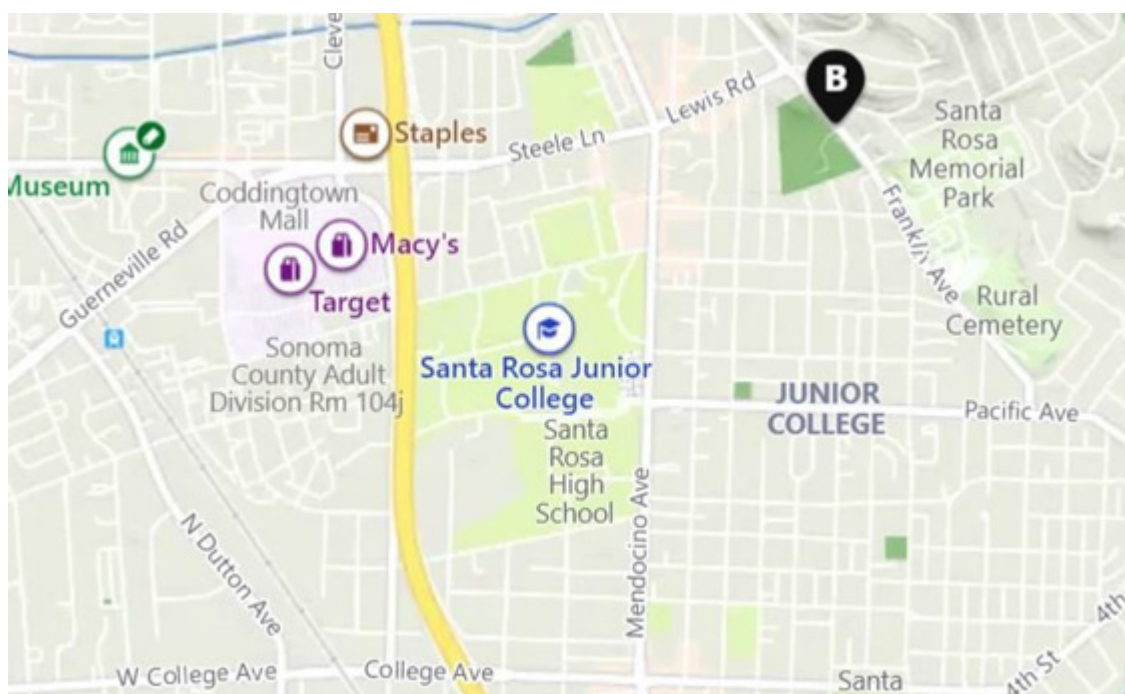
Michael Murtaugh gave a report on making telephone calls to the REBS membership in an effort to solicit feedback on various subjects and club activities. The effort is on-going. The subjects covered meeting days or evenings, desired activities such as demonstrations and workshops, online dues payment, and more.

George Haas reported on the proposal to join the Marin Bonsai Club for a joint sale in early August at the Terra Linda Community Center, San Rafael. The clubs and their members would have the opportunity to sell bonsai, pre-bonsai and related items. There would be a 80/20 split in profits, seller retains 80% whereas the clubs retain 20%. The proposal was approved by the board.

Art Kopecky reported on efforts to display bonsai at the Sonoma County Home & Garden Show for March 18, 19 and 20.

Club Scheduled Events

All REBS meetings and workshops will be held at the Franklin Park Clubhouse in 2022.



Franklin Park Clubhouse
2095 Franklin Avenue
Santa Rosa, CA 95404
707-543-3733

<https://www.srcity.org/2501/Franklin-Park-Clubhouse>

Bjorn Bjorholm

April 5 Tuesday from 7:00 to 9:30 p.m., special Zoom presentation by guest demonstrator Bjorn Bjorholm of Nashville, TN, hosted jointly by Marin Bonsai Club, Midori Bonsai and REBS.

Demo topics will be Juniper bending, and the maintenance schedules for pines, juniper, cypress, and spruce from spring through winter.

Bjorn spent nine years in Japan, six as an apprentice and three as a professional bonsai artist/instructor under Master Keiichi Fujikawa at Kouka-en bonsai nursery in Osaka, Japan. He received certification as a bonsai professional by the Nippon Bonsai Association. Bjorn is owner of Eisei-en, the premier bonsai garden, nursery and school of the Eastern US, tucked away in the outskirts of Nashville, TN. For more information about Bjorn, check out his website <https://bjornbjorholm.com/>.

Important Note: In order to join in the special Zoom presentation, all participating REBS members must be in good standing by paying their dues prior to March 30.

Invite notices will be forwarded via email on or about April 3.

Monthly Members' Workshops:

April 7 Thursday from 7:00 to 9:30 p.m. REBS is pleased to announce it will begin having members' workshops scheduled for the first Thursday of each month, starting April 7 from 7:00 to 9:30 p.m. The workshops will be held at the Franklin Park Clubhouse every first Thursday of the month.

Given we are just starting these activities, all levels of skill are invited. Ivan Lukrich and Michael Murtaugh have graciously offered to lend advice and input. Bring your own tree and materials. Cost: \$15.00 per workshop.

Please email Michael Murtaugh at mrmurtaugh@sbcglobal.net to RSVP and reserve a spot.

April 28 Thursday from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m., general meeting and demonstration. Guest demonstrator will be Eric Schrader of the Bonsai Society of San Francisco (BSSF). Eric will be working on a Trident maple. There will be a board meeting the same night, starting at 6:30 p.m.

Calendar Local Bonsai Events

April 9 and 10, 2022 Sacramento, CA

American Bonsai Association, Sacramento:

Annual Spring Show at the Shepard Garden and Arts Center, 3330 McKinley Blvd, Sacramento. Show hours are Saturday, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., and Sunday, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., with demonstrations each day by headliner Andrew Robson at 1:30 p.m.

There is a large vendor and member sales area, free admission and parking, and a beginner workshop Sunday morning from 10 a.m. — Noon (to register contact Renee Seely). The benefit drawings on both Saturday and Sunday will include each day's demonstration tree and many bonsai/bonsai related items. For additional information visit our website: American Bonsai Association of Sacramento, or contact Renee Seely, 916-929-2106, email breadcrust@comcast.net.

April 30 and May 1, 2022 Palo Alto, CA

Kusamura Bonsai Club 62nd Annual Show:

Annual Show at Addison School, 650 Addison Street, Palo Alto. Show hours are Saturday, Noon - 4 p.m., and Sunday, 11 a.m. - 4 p.m., with headliner Bob Shimon of Mendocino Coast Bonsai presenting at 1:30 p.m., Saturday.

Join us and see over 50 Bonsai Trees on display. There will be a Sale and Benefit drawing with over 100 bonsai and pots. Club members will put on a demonstration on Sunday at 1:30 p.m. For more information contact show co-chairs: Lynne O'Dell at lynnemo@gmail.com or Idris Anderson at idrisan@gmail.com. Details will also be posted at Kusamura Bonsai Club website.

June 4 and 5, 2022 San Mateo, CA

Sei Boku Bonsai Kai

Come celebrate Sei Boku Bonsai Kai's 37th Anniversary Bonsai Show, June 4 and 5, 2022, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the San Mateo Garden Center, 605 Parkside Way, San Mateo. Saturday demonstration by Steve Iwaki at 1 p.m. Sunday workshop by Jerry Carpenter and Valerie Monroe at 1 p.m. Raffles, door prizes, tree clinic, vendor sales, plant sales. Free admission.

November 12 and 13, 2022 Oakland, CA

Pacific Bonsai Expo

The Pacific Bonsai Expo is to be held November 12-13, 2022 in Oakland, CA, at the Bridge Yard. The Pacific Bonsai Expo is a juried exhibition featuring 70 outstanding bonsai displays and a selection of the community's top vendors. The Jurors, Bjorn Bjorholm, Ryan Neil, and William N. Valavanis will select the trees. For more information go to the homepage using the following link <https://www.pacificbonsaiexpo.com/>.

COVID Health Safety Statement

COVID protocols are necessary for everyone to be safe and feel comfortable. Please be sure you are fully vaccinated and wearing of face covering is required. If you feel ill or have COVID symptoms, please stay home. Take necessary precautions to protect yourself and others.

Noteworthy

Thank You Suzanne Waxman. Long time REBS member Suzanne Waxman generously donated many pots to the club which were sold at the Mammoth Sale. Through her donation (and the help of Donna Moriki & Michael Murtaugh), the club received a check of \$322.75.

REBS Thanks you!

REBS/Marin Members Bonsai Joint Sale. The REBS board voted to approve our participation in this sale event slated for Saturday on August 6.

George Haas has graciously agreed to be our chair on this. A REBS member who wishes to sell a tree, pot or other bonsai related item, completes a sales form. The member transports the item down to the sale in San Rafael location. 80% of the sale price goes to the member, and 20% to our club. A member can also donate items for sale (100%) club donation. More details are forthcoming.

Workshops. REBS is offering a members' workshop at 7:00 p.m., on the first Thursday of each month at the Franklin Park Clubhouse. All levels are welcome. Come work on a tree, get advice from one of our advanced members and have fun. (Thanks Michael Murtaugh for being our workshop chair.)

REBS Website Manager & Newsletter Editor. George Haas, who has done such an outstanding job in these roles announces he wishes to resign from this aspect of his REBS duties. Thus, REBS is seeking a replacement. If you, or you know of someone who is willing to keep this vital REBS role going, please contact Alan Murakami.

New Board Member. Thank you to Garth Hokanson, long time REBS member in accepting a board member nomination. Garth has a very interesting bonsai life. If you have a chance, ask him about this. It involves, the band, "The Grateful Dead."

Membership Dues

Reminder that membership dues are overdue at this time. Please complete the renewal member application and mail a check to Paul Wycoff, Treasurer, 6550 Stone Bridge Rd, Santa Rosa, CA 95409-5833.

<http://www.rebsbonsai.org/membership/>

Seasonal Advice for Bonsai Enthusiasts

April

The first 2-3 weeks of April is generally a slow time for Bonsai. Not much to do during this time except continual pinching or cut back of many of our deciduous trees. It's not till the end of April or beginning of May is when we start to focus on techniques such as Defoliation, Wiring, Cutting back and Thinning. I will cover more on those topics in the May write up.

Pinching

The concept of Pinching isn't much different than cutting back. You're removing the terminal end of a branch which weakens the area and causes the tree to branch out to the buds you pinch back/cut back to. The main difference is the time of year that you perform these techniques.

Pinching generally is done when the foliage is young and hasn't fully hardened off yet. When you pinch the foliage back at this time, it will do a couple of things:

1. Weaken the area
2. Create a division
3. Division is weaker

If you wait till the foliage has hardened off (about the beginning of May) similar things will happen except for one:

1. Weaken the area
2. Create a division
3. Division is stronger

The reason why the division on a, “cut back,” is stronger is because we’ve allowed the branch to continually grow throughout Spring which means it’s allowed to get stronger. Once cut back, the built up strength in the area will go to the division that is created from cutting back. When pinching (foliage was not allowed to gain strength) the area was never allowed to strengthen so the responding division tends to be slower.

In the case of deciduous trees that potentially have long internodes, you can see how pinching can give you an advantage in controlling the new growth. Just remember that Pinching is just another tool you can use in controlling the growth of your Bonsai.

There are times when you need to use this technique and times when you don’t, e.g. allowing a branch to run to gain strength and size. For the most part, we tend to pinch the top of the tree to keep it dividing and slow whereas we tend to grow out lower branches for size. At some point, when the tree is well developed, Pinching will be done on the entire tree.

Watering

Now that the temperatures are finally increasing, be sure to keep your trees hydrated. Though the humidity is higher in the Spring, they can still dry out on warm days and will need water. If a Bonsai has been repotted this year, water is even more important because new soil dries very fast. If you’re having a hard time keeping you Bonsai hydrated, try wetting some Sphagnum moss and lay a thin layer on top of the soil. This will help with evaporation of the soil and give you a little more time in between waterings.

Growing Towards the Light

Since our bonsai hasn’t gotten much sun this Winter,

when they start to grow in the Spring, you'll notice the new foliage will start to point towards the sunlight. Be sure to rotate your Bonsai every now and then so that it gets even light. If you can turn your Bonsai 180 degrees each month, you will be in great shape.

For additional information on monthly bonsai seasonal work, check out the Peter Tea website at <https://www.ptbonsai.com/march>.

Featured Bonsai of the Month



Fig (*Ficus carica*)
Displayed in 2019 REBS Annual Show by Craig Thompson.
Photographed by George Haas.

Want to feature your bonsai in the upcoming REBS newsletters? Just email an jpeg or png image, 300 ppi high resolution, to the Newsletter Editor prior to the end of the month.

Show & Tell Bonsai - March 2022



Sierra Juniper



Austrian Black Pine



Japanese Maple



Coast Redwood



Azalea



California Buckeye

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Comments & Feedback

If you want to add comments and feedback to the REBS monthly newsletters, contact me at gwhaas@comcast.net prior to the end of the month.

George Haas
REBS Newsletter Editor

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REBS Membership

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