

Redwood
Empire

Bonsai Society



REBS May 2022 Newsletter

President Message

Greetings!

It has been so exciting to see so many attend our March 24 meeting where Bob Shimon did an excellent demonstration on a Mendocino pygmy cypress. And then Eric Schrader did a very interesting demo on air layering a cork bark elm for our April 28 meeting.

And, I am also happy to report that we have about 59 paid REBS members to date! Thank you all!

I attended our first members' workshop (open to all levels) on April 7, and the energy and enthusiasm were incredible! We had eight or nine people working on their trees with the help of Ivan Lukrich, Michael Murtaugh and Garth Hokanson. Appreciations to you three for your time, expertise and support.

I think the next big item on the board's to-do list is helping our club in planning for our annual 2023 show. The board is working with show chairperson Bob Shimon (Thank you Bob), and we are approaching this activity with an open perspective. We are asking ourselves, "Should the show be at the same place or at a different venue? Should we have our show at a different time of the year or remain in August?" We are open to members' input for this is an opportunity to plan for our show given both current and future club needs.

Lastly, I personally have found myself spending more time

with my trees. I am always learning something new – and find myself more intrigued with the styling aspect of this art. I ask myself, “Which is the front of the tree, which is the directional branch, how do I emphasize the tree’s strengths and minimize its faults?” In my quest for information, I signed up for Bjorn Bjorholm’s Bonsai-U and realize more what I don’t know. He is a great teacher, and I encourage others to check out the many online bonsai learning websites. We are lucky to have such knowledge available to us.

Be well.....

Alan Murakami
REBS President

REBS Board Meeting

On April 28, 2022, from 6:30 to 7:30 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 \$27,431.63.

Art Kopecky reported on the display of bonsai by REBS members for the Home and Garden Show held at the Sonoma County Fairgrounds on March 18, 19 and 20. Discussion led to agreement for updating REBS tri-fold brochure information for public dissemination.

Alan Murakami obtained board approval to pay guest demonstrators an additional \$50 for gas due to increased gas prices. The standard payment for professional artist/instructor is \$300 per demonstration and up to \$200 for demo material.

A discussion was held on the need for a bonsai book and periodical library. REBS is in possession of numerous donated bonsai books of sum value. It was decided to sell these materials at the planned joint club sale on August 6. REBS will continue to subscribe to *Bonsai Focus* magazine.

An open discussion was held on outreach/advertising/membership recruitment. Social media (Facebook, Instagram) will be updated and used to advertise REBS activities. Joyce Smith agreed to look into updating the REBS tri-fold brochure.

An open discussion was held on conducting a 2023 REBS show. Bob Shimon agreed to chair the annual show. Bob identified three elements that make the annual show so successful in the past: (1) Quality trees on display, (2) Vendors and (3) Member sales. Bob will begin a search for an attractive new venue for the annual show.

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>

Monthly General Meeting/Demonstration:

May 26, Thursday from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m., there will be a general meeting and demonstration. Guest demonstrator will be Boon Manakitivipart, aka Bonsai Boon, Valley Springs, CA. Boon will demo an Olive bonsai.

Boon has extensive training in Japan. His bonsai have won many awards. He is a professional artist/instructor of bonsai and offers a variety of services. He founded the Bay Island Bonsai club in 1998. For more information, visit Boon's website www.bonsaiboon.com.

There will be a board meeting the same night, starting at 6:30 p.m. Members are welcome.

Monthly Members' Workshops:

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

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

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

Calendar Local Bonsai Events

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.

May 12, 2022 San Francisco, CA

Bonsai Society of San Francisco (BSSF) will be holding its annual club auction on Thursday, May 12, 2022 at the Recreation Room of the San Francisco County Fair Building from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. This auction is open to the public. Bonsai, pre-bonsai, ceramics, tools, print publications, and all other items bonsai-related will be up for auction. All proceeds for the auction will go to funding the club's operations.

If you would like to donate any items for the auction, please plan to arrive by 6.30PM on the day of the auction, and let us know ahead of time by sending an email to contact@bssf.org.

May 21, 2022 Modesto, CA

Modesto Bonsai Club:

39th Annual Spring Show, May 21st, Saturday, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Stanislaus County Harvest Hall, 3800 Cornucopia Way, Modesto. Free admission. Public welcome. Demonstration by club sensei Sam Adina at 1:30 p.m. Exhibits. Sales of pots, plants and tools. For more information: contact club president Peter Camarena at pete.camarena@sbcglobal.net.

May 21 and 22, 2022 Oakland, CA

Bay Area Satsuki Azalea Bonsai Club Show:

Bay Area Satsuki Azalea Bonsai Club (BASA) proudly presents their 25th annual show, Saturday, May 21, 2022, from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., and Sunday, May 22, 2022, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., featuring Satsuki Azalea bonsai in full bloom. Location: Lakeside Park Garden Center, 666 Bellevue Ave., Lake Merritt, Oakland. Large member sales and imported Japanese material. Demonstration Saturday, 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. with demo tree to be raffled. Vendor area. Free admission. Public parking available. For details, contact Darren Wong at Sohjuen@aol.com or visit website at <http://satsukiazaleabonsai.org>.

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 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the San Mateo Garden Center, 605 Parkside Way, San Mateo. Saturday demonstration by Steve Iwaki at 1:00 p.m. Sunday workshop by Jerry Carpenter and Valerie Monroe at 1:00 p.m. Raffles, door prizes, tree clinic, vendor sales, plant sales. Free admission. POC is Jeremy Foster at coastaqua@yahoo.com.

June 8, 2022 Oakland, CA

The East Bay Bonsai Society (EBBS) will be having an in-person bonsai auction on Wednesday, June 8, 2022, at 666 Bellevue Ave., Lakeside Park Garden Center (Lake Merritt) in Oakland. The auction will start at 7:30 p.m. with a preview at 7:00 p.m.

The auction will include established and starter bonsai trees, pots, tools, etc. Credit cards, checks, and cash accepted. Free admission. Parking available. Sales tax will be added to purchases. Masks are required.

July 9, 2022 Oakland, CA

Bonsai Garden at Lake Merritt (BGLM):

Special Bonsai Auction, July 9, 2022, Saturday 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., at the Lakeside Park Garden Center, Lake Merritt, 666 Bellevue Ave., Oakland.

Dennis and Joanne Makishima have donated their entire personal bonsai collection and related materials. Some 40 years of accumulation in bonsai history. This is the largest donation ever of bonsai trees and related materials to the Bonsai Garden at Lake Merritt, Oakland, California. This auction will feature legacy pines and more from the mid-1950's to early 1960's, significant to the Japanese American bonsai pioneers - Iseyama Furusawa, Mas Imazumi, Jimmy Inadomi, Toshio Saburomaru, Peter Sugawara, Johnny Uchida, and others. Most Japanese American hobbyists started their bonsai from seed in the 1950's after release from WWII imprisonment, making this an extraordinary, one of a kind auction.

Sale following immediately after auction.

For more information, contact George Haas at gwhaas@comcast.net or visit the BGLM website <https://bonsailakemerritt.com/>

August 6, 2022 San Rafael, CA

Marin Bonsai Club (MBC) and Redwood Empire Bonsai Society (REBS):

Joint Bonsai Sale, hosted by MBC and REBS, on Saturday, August 6, 2022, from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., at the Terra Linda Community Center, 670 Del Ganado Rd, San Rafael.

The sale will include established and starter bonsai trees, pots, tools, etc. Checks and cash accepted. Free admission. Parking available.

For details, contact Diane Matzen at dcmatzen@gmail.com or George Haas at gwhaas@comcast.net.

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

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. Forms and price tags must be completed prior to the event. More details are forthcoming.

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.

SAVE THE DATE: REBS will be hosting a "Thank You Dinner" for our departing club sensei, Kathy Shaner on Saturday, August 20. Location to be determined. Please RSVP to Alan Murakami at amurakami6@yahoo.com.

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

May

Now that May is here, it's time to get back to work on our deciduous and broad leaf evergreen Bonsai. Most of our Deciduous and Broadleaf Evergreen foliage have now hardened off which is one of the signs we look for before we wire, style and cut our Bonsai.

Do you remember the other two things we look for?

General overall growth of our bonsai (Bonsai getting bushy)

Runners of the terminal ends of branches

Foliage has hardened off

If you plan to wire/style and cut your Bonsai, be sure that they are showing the above three signs.

Getting Busy with Deciduous

From now till November is the busy season for Deciduous and Broadleaf Evergreens. These trees are not necessarily labor intensive but time sensitive. Deciduous or Broadleaf Evergreen Bonsai can grow fast, you may be working on them several times during the growing season. Fast growing Bonsai also thicken fast, so if wire is applied to the branch, keep an eye out or the branch will grow over the wire. Generally, I never keep wire on a Deciduous tree for more than a year and have removed wire as soon as within three weeks of application.

When is the right time you ask? If a branch needs thickening, then let it grow, if the branch is thick enough, then cut them back to create division.

Generally, Deciduous and Broadleaf Evergreens can be cut/thinned/styled this month. An exception can be Cork Bark Oak. They start to leaf out later in the spring and tend to be worked on more at the end of May or even June.

Fast vs. Slow Growing Bonsai

It's important to understand that working with Bonsai that grows fast, requires a lot more of our time, whereas Bonsai that grows slow requires less of our time. The benefits of a fast growing tree is that you can develop the tree quickly into Bonsai whereas slower growing trees take much longer to develop into Bonsai. For example, a Chinese Elm can be re-fined much faster than a Beech. Knowing how much time you have to spend on your Bonsai may cause you to select specific species to work with.

Defoliation and Some Misconceptions:

First off, not every deciduous tree needs to be defoliated. There are also species out there that will not take kindly to defoliation at all (e.g. hornbeam, beech, certain varieties of Japanese Maple), especially if the defoliation is complete. Defoliation isn't only done on deciduous trees either. There are other Broadleaf Evergreens that can take defoliation (Oaks, Silverberry and Ficus are a few examples).

So what is Defoliation and what does it do for us?

- Weakens the defoliated area

- New Leaves will be smaller

- Easier to wire branches

- Maintain (NOT Create) Ramification (We'll discuss this more at the workshop)

Those are the four main reasons why we choose to defoliate. If your current goals don't match up with any of the four reasons, then don't defoliate.

Example: We want a branch to grow out and get stronger. We don't defoliate that branch because it will slow the growth down.

Misconceptions: Cutting Back vs. Defoliation:

The biggest misconception to defoliation is that it will give you back budding. Back budding is not caused by defoliation, but by the cutting back of branches. We can cut the tree back without defoliating and back budding will occur. Keep defoliation and cutting back into two separate categories to help ease the understanding of defoliation.

Wiring:

If you plan on wiring your trees this month, be sure to bring the proper wire size ranges. Aluminum wire should be used for Deciduous and Broadleaf Evergreens, whereas copper should be used for Conifers. Ideally you should have a set of aluminum wire in the following sizes: 1mm, 1.5mm, 2.0mm, 2.5mm, 3mm, 3.5mm.

Watering:

As always, be aware of how wet or dry your trees are and water accordingly. Recognize which trees like water (Deciduous) and which trees don't like water (high mountain pines). Training your eyes and understanding your tree's water consumption rate will help you catch any problems that arises. You may notice that a tree that normally takes a lot of water isn't taking as much any more. Is there a problem developing or is it because the tree was recently cut back? If you see these things early, you can make adjustments that will help your tree continuing to growth healthy.

For additional information on monthly bonsai seasonal work, check out the Peter Tea website at [https:// https://www.ptbonsai.com](https://www.ptbonsai.com).

Featured Bonsai of the Month



Procumbens Nana Juniper
Displayed in 2019 REBS Annual Show by Bob Shimon.
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 - April 28, 2022



Hawthorn



Coast Live Oak



Cork Bark Oak



Black Pine in cone



Oak



Elm Root Over Rock



Coast Redwood



Shimpaku Juniper



Elm Raft



Cork Bark Oak

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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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