

Redwood  
Empire

Bonsai Society



## REBS June 2022 Newsletter

### President Message

Hello!

Two quick notes: First, I had a wonderful time working on my trees in a group led by bonsai master Boon Manakitivipart. Just getting back into a workshop with friends doing bonsai was so rejuvenating for me. I'm glad REBS can offer such experiences to its members.

Also... recently, REBS bestowed an Honorary Lifetime Membership and certificate to much deserving REBS member, George Haas.

George's tireless involvement with REBS, GSBF and other clubs is incredible and noteworthy. He joined REBS after retiring in 2003. George then became our editor of our monthly newsletter, taking the position from his good friend Mac Barker.

Due to his outstanding editor work, George won the Best Newsletter Award (twice!) from GSBF, leading to him being recruited to be editor of GSBF Golden Statements Magazine. And, if that weren't enough, George has been a member of four bonsai clubs, served as a GSBF board member, and serves as marketing manager and docent for the Bonsai Garden at Lake Merritt. AND, George still finds time to work on his gorgeous bonsai trees!

Thank you George for all you give to REBS and the bonsai community!

Alan Murakami  
REBS President

## REBS Board Meeting

On May 26, 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 \$27,824.59.

Sale of donated books totaled so far: \$769 net to club.  
(Recent sales of books and trees from Barbara Bardella contributing significantly to our budget.)

## 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:

On June 23, Thursday from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m., there will be a general meeting and demonstration. Guest demonstrator will be Jonas Dupuich. Jonas will discuss bonsai display principles.

Jonas is the creator and author of the Bonsai Tonight blog <https://bonsaitonight.com/> a world renowned online blog and instructional guide. He is also the author of *The Little Book of Bonsai*. He is a professional bonsai artist, instructor and vendor.

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

## *Monthly Members' Workshops:*

On June 2, Thursday, from 7:00 to 9:30 p.m., there will be a members' workshop.

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.

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 at [mrmurtaugh@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mrmurtaugh@sbcglobal.net) to RSVP and reserve a spot.

## **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.

## Calendar Local Bonsai Events

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](mailto: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.

June 18 & 19, 2022 Livermore, CA

Valley Bonsai Society: 12th annual show at Alden Lane Nursery, 981 Alden Lane. Show hours are 10 AM to 4 PM with a demonstration at 1PM on both days. The finished tree will be raffled off at the end of the demonstrations. Bonsai pots, soil, etc. available for purchase. Admission is free.

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](mailto:gwhaas@comcast.net) or visit the BGLM website <https://bonsailakemerritt.com/>

July 30, 2022 Sebastopol, CA

REBS Annual Picnic and Potluck:



REBS will resume its tradition of our annual pot luck picnic on July 30 at the home of Barbara Bardella, located at 1434 Cunningham Road, Sebastopol, CA. The club will provide tri - tip and chicken as well as plates, cutlery, napkins, bottled water, etc. Club members are asked to bring a side dish, salad, or desert. Picnic will begin at noon with food to be served shortly after.

Potlucks have traditionally been a gathering were people bring their favorite or special dish to share. With that in mind, please do not bring chips or a veggi tray that you pick up at Costco. We all look forward to your culinary talents.

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](mailto:dcmatzen@gmail.com) or George Haas at [gwhaas@comcast.net](mailto:gwhaas@comcast.net).

October 8 and 9, 2022 Santa Nella, CA

GSBF Bonsai Rendezvous 2022, on Saturday and Sunday, at the Hotel Mission De Oro, Santa Nella, CA. Free and open to the public. Point of Contact Rich Guillen, richguillen@att.net or 831-348-5015.



## GSBF BONSAI RENDEZVOUS 2022

SATURDAY: OCTOBER 8TH THRU

SUNDAY: OCTOBER 9TH, 2022

HOTEL MISSION DE ORO • SANTA NELLA, CA

### *GSBF Bonsai Rendezvous 2022*

is a special GSBF event dedicated to the renewal and celebration of the art and people of bonsai.

### *It's Free and Open to the Public*

- Free daily bonsai demonstrations
- Do-It-Yourself Bonsai work area
- 30+ Northern / Southern California and out of state Vendors in one huge location with trees and supplies
- Silent auctions daily (silent auction consignment opportunities available)
- Mel Ikeda will be leading the Tomodachi group at the Rendezvous
- Donations of bonsai trees and related material for the silent auction are greatly appreciated.

### *For more information click*

"RENDEZVOUS" tab on the GSBF

website, [http:// www.gsbfbonsai.org/](http://www.gsbfbonsai.org/)

Or Contact Rich Guillen:

richguillen@att.net, cell: (831) 348-5015

*See you there!*



Jeff Stern - Ilex Serrata

GSBF Bonsai Rendezvous will include a sales area that is open to the public, offering plants, tools, pots, etc.

There will be an opportunity to observe bonsai masters at work, participate in silent auctions and connect with fellow bonsai enthusiasts.

Call Hotel Mission De Oro for a reservations for the Bonsai Rendezvous special rate of \$155 / night (2 night minimum room rate) (209) 826-4444

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 75 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/>.



Update: At the close of submissions on April 30, there were 160 bonsai submitted, of which the jurors will select 75 exhibits and 20 alternates. We will know the exhibitors in two to four weeks.

For the past 14 years, there has been the bi-annual US National Bonsai Exhibition in Rochester, New York. Pacific Bonsai Expo is bringing the like event to the west coast. There will be a trophy and \$10,000 in cash prizes, but also the bragging rights for best of show, large conifer, large deciduous, large broad leaf evergreen, medium display, and shohin.

## Noteworthy

### 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](mailto:amurakami6@yahoo.com).

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.

### Volunteers Wanted:

Volunteering to help out on various REBS and local bonsai events is a sure way to lend support and ensure success. But also you gain first hand knowledge and insight into behind the scenes of bonsai business, whether it might be a show, fundraiser, club officer, board member or appointment.

Here are some upcoming bonsai events to consider being a volunteer:

**Jul 9 Bonsai Garden at Lake Merritt Auction & Sale**  
**August 6 joint REBS and Marin Bonsai Club Sale**  
**October 8 & 9 GSBF Bonsai Rendezvous**  
**2023 REBS Annual Show**

### On Education, Workshops and Contribution – by Michael Murtaugh:

As we move forward after the COVID shut down let me suggest ways to encourage member participation.

Beginner Series –

Let’s develop a course of sessions to bring in new interested people. For a fee, which will cover all of our costs, we offer a

starter tree or two and a couple beginner sessions with experienced members to spark a person's interest in further learning the art of bonsai.

Small Group of Interest Sessions –

We encourage individuals in the club to host free sessions to other club members at someone's garden or garage. These can be a group of friends that get together on a regular basis to work on their trees. Or they could be single species gatherings, where all work on pines or maples at the same time.

Advanced workshops with Bonsai Professionals –

Schedule daytime workshops, either weekdays or on weekends with a professional bonsai artist/instructor. These would be more expensive and could be scheduled around our monthly demonstrator.

Members' (formerly Intermediate) series –

Continue our popular monthly workshops where experienced members work alongside newer practitioners for a small fee.

I welcome any comments and thoughts about how to make more educational options and more social gatherings available to ourselves. Talk among yourselves or talk with me and let's get going! Michael

## 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

### June

The May Write up is important for this month as well so please review it again before our next workshop together. If you feel you understand it and don't have to review it, then you definitely need to review it again. ;-)

#### Japanese Black Pine and De-candling:

For many of us in the Bay Area, June is the time to de-candle our Japanese Red/Black Pines. For others living in warmer climates such as Sacramento or Fresno, de-candling may start in July. So why the difference?

De-candling is one of very few techniques we perform solely based on the time of year. Depending on how long our growing season is, the time to de-candle will shift. Also, the size of our tree and age will determine if we de-candle early in the month or later in the month.

A few years ago, I wrote an extensive blog post about the concepts of de-candling. Instead of re-writing it all here, please visit that post to get a refresher in how and why we de-candle our Japanese Red/Black Pines. In the post, there are plenty of pictures of the process and what the tree does afterwards. If you still have questions, please feel free to email me.

<http://peterteabonsai.wordpress.com/2012/06/29/de-candling-and-stuff/>

**\*\*If you plan to de-candle your Japanese Red/Black Pine, you have the option to wire the tree at that time as well. If the de-candling is partial, you can still wire the tree but have to be extra careful not to break any sensitive candles or needles. The safest time to wire the tree is during the Winter.\*\***

#### Cutting Back Black Pines:

For those of us that decide to develop Japanese Black Pines to Bonsai, it's important to know what kind of cuts we can make. There are two types of cutting in Bonsai.

Complete removal of un-needed branches for the design of the tree.

Cutting back to promote back-budding/division or cutting back to a division.

The cutting itself is easy though the where, why and when is the difficult part to learn. Don't be intimidated though and go for it! That's part of the experience creating Bonsai. Gaining more experience cutting will fine tune your skills so that you know you're cutting enough and not over cutting at the same time.

Is that the only way we can cut the tree?

For de-candling, is the Summer the only time we can cut the candles?

Since you've all been taking my workshops, you know that the answer is, "It depends on the situation and what you're wanting the tree to do."

What if I cut into the middle of a currently growing candle?

What if I cut the new candles off at different times of the year?

...and can I only work with the new candles?

Needles Buds and Terminal Buds:

Don't forget about the needles bud! At each set of needles, there is ONE needle bud there. We don't normally see them unless they start to grow. If you cut into the needle bud area of the candle, the needle buds closest to the cut point will start to grow. Just know that they take longer to grow than the terminal buds. That's why when working on young or developing Black Pines, we don't focus on pulling needles.

Removing needles means we are reducing the potential of branch development on a larger percentage of the tree. Once the needles are gone, the needle bud goes with it.

The terminal bud is the big bud at the end of the branch. This area can have multiple buds depending on the strength of the tree and the individual branch. Normally when we de-candle, we are cutting back to the previous year's terminal end.

A problem that many of us have when develop Black Pines are that we're too focused on cutting back to an existing division in the branch or the technique of de-candling. Or we're too focused on Black Pine schedules that were meant for refined trees.

Typical Japanese Black Pine development model:

- Repot right before Spring

- De-candling in June or July

- Wire, cut, pull needles during Winter

The Standard Model is correct and useful, but incomplete in learning how to develop Japanese Black Pines from unrefined to refined Bonsai.

During the workshop, I will illustrate how we could and should deviate from the standard model (depending on the tree's situation) to develop Japanese Black Pines from unrefined to refined Bonsai. When we work on your trees, we can then apply those techniques together to further our understanding of the tree's reactions and the process of developing it into Bonsai.

High Mountain Pines:

High Mountain Pines are all pines that grow in high elevations such as Ponderosa, Japanese White Pines, Scots Pine, Lodgepole Pines, Pinion Pine, etc.

These high mountain Pines are not normally de-candled either because they have a tougher time coming back from

such a huge loss in foliage. Many times, the branches that are de-candled tend not to grow a second set of candles and the tree becomes weak.

I have met several people who say they de-candled every year with “good results,” on high mountain pines, but when I see the tree, they are always weak and not doing well.

There is a time though where we can potentially de-candle a high mountain pine but not for the same reasons that we do it for a Japanese Red/Black Pine. It’s mainly done to promote back budding. Due to the dangers of this technique, please ask me in person how this is done and if it can be applied to your tree.

Trees to Work on this Month:

If you don’t plan to work on or have any Japanese Red/Black Pines, then here are some other tree species to work on this month:

Any tree where the foliage has hardened off  
Working on Healthy and Stable Trees

Whatever tree you decided to bring to work on this month, be sure that it’s growing well. There is no point in working on a tree that is sick or weak. If the tree is sick or weak, then we have to first figure out why and what we can do to get the tree stronger before we continue its bonsai training. Also, if you plan on wiring (stress) a tree, make sure it’s firmly planted in the pot and not moving around too much. If the tree starts to rock back and forth during the work, it’s just extra stress on the tree.

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

## Something New – “Member Sales”

I wonder if REBS members would like something new added to the monthly newsletters called “Member Sales”? Members can submit an item they want to sell. A 20% fee goes to support REBS. I would like to introduce this addition to the June newsletter by submitting an item I would like to sell. What are your thoughts?

Two Variegated Junipers

Height 32 - 35 ins.

Large bonsai or landscape Juniperus, Chinese Juniper, Twisted Juniper, Variegated Hollywood Juniper 'Torulosa Variegata'

Large black ceramic pots 24 x 12 inches

\$400.00

Local delivery

Contact George Haas at [gwhaas@comcast.net](mailto:gwhaas@comcast.net) or 707-762-9154.



Those of you who been in the club awhile know that Frank Bardella had a large bonsai collection which was mostly sold after his passing six years ago. Barbara held back about 15 larger trees, as well as some smaller ones, that Kathy Shaner worked on when she came for workshops.

With Kathy moving out of state, there is no longer anyone to care for the trees, and Barbara wishes to sell them. I priced the larger trees, but not the smaller ones yet. If you are interested in seeing them, you can contact me at [shimon@mcn.org](mailto:shimon@mcn.org) or 707-884-4126.



## Featured Bonsai of the Month



Japanese False Cypress (*Chamaecyparis pisifera*)  
Displayed in 2019 REBS Annual Show by Peter Tea.  
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.

## Subscribe to Automatic Notifications

### SUBSCRIBE TO BLOG VIA EMAIL

Log on to the REBS website [www.rebsbonsai.org](http://www.rebsbonsai.org) and scroll down on the left to find SUBSCRIBE TO BLOG VIA EMAIL. You will receive automatic notifications whenever a new blog posting is made.



## Comments & Feedback

If you want to add comments and feedback to the REBS monthly newsletters, contact me at [gwhaas@comcast.net](mailto: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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