



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

### JANUARY 2024

As a new year starts and as the old year ends, I want to thank Alan Murakami for his two years as President. The club was mostly dormant during Covid years, without meetings or workshops but he took on the challenge to reactivate the club. A new meeting facility was selected, new and senior members volunteered for Board positions, and workshops were started again. With his efforts, the club currently has 120 paid and honorary members. He deserves much credit for his efforts and leadership.

I volunteered to be the new president and I encourage the new members to volunteer for positions as they come up. I have been a member for 30 plus years and have been in various positions for most of those years, serving on committees, board member, vice president, and president couple time. Several positions still need to be filled including: vice president, a membership chair, and a greeter at the front desk managing name tags.

The agenda for the year has been set and demonstrators selected for the General Meetings. Advanced Workshops with Adam Toth are continuing with two groups, intermediate workshops will continue (note the time change from 6-9 pm), and a beginner class is anticipated for March.

Happy New Year- Ivan Lukrich

## January 2024 REBS EVENTS

**January 4 (Thursday): 6:00PM to 9:00 PM.** **Note the time change**

**REBS INTERMEDIATE WORKSHOP  
Rohnert Park Community Center**

It's time to work on trimming and styling deciduous trees, but work can be done on most trees.

Please let Ivan know if you are attending- here's his contact info

[lukrich@sonic.net](mailto:lukrich@sonic.net)

707-529-3298

**January 25 (Thursday):**

**6:15PM-Board Meeting**

**7:30PM to 9:00PM or so- General Meeting**

**Rohnert Park Community Center**

Samuel "Sam" Tan will repot a Japanese Black Pine.

A reminder to the participants of Adam Toth's Advanced Workshops. They will be held on January 26 and 27. The workshops are a continuation of the ones held in 2023 and are full.

## RECENT REBS ACTIVITIES

### December 16- REBS Annual Holiday Celebration

Members and guests enjoyed the bountiful offerings fixed especially for REBS. Impressively, some tables managed to chat for at least fifteen minutes on general topics before launching to discussions of bonsai minutia. Alan Murakami presented Art Kopecky with an award for his long time service on behalf on REBS. Alan was thanked for his efforts in resurrecting the club from the clutches of COVID.

Left to right- Ninette Chicca, Debbie Lelek, Mike Tracy, Chong Haas, George Haas, Gary Pischke. Elizabeth Herbert is implied.



Art Kopecky's seasonal cheer.



"In Recognition of Outstanding Services, the Redwood Empire Bonsai Society bestows lifetime Honorary Member status to:  
Art Kopecky  
December 16, 2023"

## GENERAL MAYHEM FROM 2023



Jo Timmsen with her tree from the Make Your Own Bonsai class



Matsuri! REBS had a booth



Mascot at Lone Pine

## MEETINGS AND DEMONSTRATIONS

The General Meetings and Demonstrations are held on the fourth Thursday of each month from 7:30 to 9:30 pm. Before the meetings, a table will be set out with items that are free and the REBS Library will have some books/magazines available for members to check out. Another area will have items for sale by silent auction. The items need not be bonsai related; gift certificates for bottles of wine are encouraged. A fee is collected by REBS to facilitate the sale of the members' items.

Free tickets are handed out to win a choice of door prizes, usually bonsai tools. Members also can buy raffle tickets for the door prize, usually the demo tree.

## DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM SCHEDULE FOR 2024

The 2024 Demonstrations are now set up. The presenters are well-known experts in their fields and REBS is proud to offer the demonstrations to both members and the general public.

January 25– Samuel Tan: *Repotting a Japanese Black Pine*. Sam studied bonsai under Ryan Neil at Bonsai Mirai in 2019. Sam has also attended classes given by Jonas Dupuich and Michael Hagedorn.

February 22– Adam Toth: *Juniper*. Adam apprenticed in Japan under Mr. Taiga Urushibata

March 28– Juan Cruz: *Purchase criteria for new bonsai with demonstration*. Juan is a thermochemical engineer who has been a bonsai devotee for at least 30 years. He studied under Kathy Shaner.

April 25– Eric Schrader: *Deciduous*. Eric and his wife Dory founded Bonsify. Eric has been growing and developing Bonsai trees for over fifteen years– his specialty is producing modern mini-bonsai.

May 23– Bob Shimon: *Redwoods*. Bob founded Mendocino Coast Bonsai in 1995 and specializes in Redwoods, Sierra Junipers, Mendocino Pygmy Cypress and Live Oak yamadori.

June 27– Bill Castellon: *Japanese Black Pine*. Bill studied under Mas Imazumi and interned with Head Gardener Tokushirou Tamane in Kyoto in 2001.

July 20 (Saturday) REBS Annual Picnic

July 25– Lucy Sakaishi–Judd: *Kusamono workshop*. Fascinating woman! Check out <https://insidesacramento.com/branching-out/>. She and her late husband have had a long career in bonsai.

August– no meeting. (August 31– tentative show date.)

September 26– Jonas Dupuich: *Show critique*. Jonas is a noted Bonsai artist and instructor. He and Eric Schrader found the Pacific Coast Expo. Eric is the author and creator of the blog [bonsaitonight.com](https://bonsaitonight.com)

October– to be determined

November 21– Boon Manakitivipart: *to be determined*. Boon has won numerous national and international awards for his work on bonsai. He is known for his innovative techniques, unique bonsai styling, and creative teaching methods.

December 21 (Saturday) REBS Annual Holiday Celebration.

## UPCOMING REBS EVENTS

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Kusamono from Kusamono Gardens

## UPCOMING BONSAI EVENTS

January 7 (Sunday): **10:00AM to 3:00 PM**

### LOTUS BONSAI WORKSHOP- BOXWOOD ON STONE

Lotus Bonsai Nursery, Placerville, \$195. To sign up, email at [mail@lotusbonsai.com](mailto:mail@lotusbonsai.com)

January 13 (Saturday): **10:00AM to 3:00PM**

### BETTER BONSAI WORKSHOP

Lotus Bonsai Nursery, Placerville \$90

To sign up, email us at [mail@lotusbonsai.com](mailto:mail@lotusbonsai.com)

January 13 (Saturday): **5:00PM to 9:00PM and January 14 (Sunday) 10:00AM to 4:00PM**

### BABA (BAY AREA BONSAI ASSOCIATES)- 42TH ANNUAL BONSAI EXHIBIT

Lakeside Park Garden Center at Lake Merritt, Oakland

There will be exhibit displays, snacks, a presentation, plant sales, and a raffle.

- Sat, Jan 13, from 5:00 pm to 9:00 pm  
Exhibit and Plant Sale area open  
Presentation on Japanese Black Pine by Bill Castellon at 6:30 pm
- Sun, Jan 14, from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm  
Exhibit and Plant Sale open  
Admission Is Free.

Parking fee to the Lakeside Park entrance is required during park hours

January 22 (Monday): **6:30PM to 9:00PM (PDT)**

### GOLDEN ZOOM SERIES- GOLDEN STATE BONSAI FEDERATION. (GSBF)

The 2024 first quarter Zoom meeting will feature Mike Lane discussing Clip and Grow theory and application, focusing on proportion and wound closure. The Zoom link will be sent out later in the month.

February 17 (Sat 12 to 4) and 18 (Sun 12 to 3) **Annual Mammoth Auction and Sale Fundraiser.** Lake Merritt, Oakland

## THIS MONTH'S (JANUARY) GENERAL MEETING AND DEMONSTRATION

Samuel "Sam" Tan will be our guest demonstrator for the January 25, 2024 General Meeting. Sam will repot a Japanese Black Pine. He and Addison Galambos were recently on the podcast, "Bonsai Wire", given by Jonas Dupuich. They discussed how Sam and Addison were able to progress so quickly in bonsai and at such a high level. Sam and Addison were both beginners not that long ago, so they have a great deal of advice for other impatient bonsai beginners. I've attached the link.

<https://www.bonsaiwirepodcast.com/1276571/12963743>

### SEASONAL TIPS FOR BONSAI CARE

Gleaned from the "Bonsai Season Care Guide for the San Francisco Bay Area", as published by the East Bay Bonsai Society (snarky comments are my own and meant for humor only)

#### General care for Winter, with a slight focus on January concerns

Most trees are dormant or semi-dormant, so take advantage of the dormancy to improve the overall tree design by eliminating crisscross and inward facing branches, as well as removing excessively heavy top branches, unsightly vertical twigs, and unnecessary crotch branches. Reduce long internodes. (When I can tell the difference between an unsightly twig and a promising small branch, I shall feel excessively pleased with myself.)

Study trunk taper and placement of equally balanced branches; remove excessive branching.

Study radial effect of rootage; (ooh ooh I know that word it's "nebari". I can't seem to pick a tree with good nebari, but that's another story.)

Look for an apex or a soft rounded top for each tree.

Move all trees into full sun.

#### And now squelching briskly into....watering:

Reduce water because the sun is low and is not hot or drying. Deciduous trees transpire very little at this time of year. On the other hand- do not water too little. Satsuki azaleas and evergreens, especially junipers, may be growing slowly during the warmer days. (If I had a nickel for all apparently contradictory advice regarding watering! And don't even get me going on fertilizing! But I digress.)

#### Onward to Fertilizing:

Many suggest no nitrogen fertilizer during winter, especially for Japanese Black and other hard pines. (Apparently others do suggest nitrogen fertilizing. Fertilizing! \*Runs around in small circles.)

### NEW MEMBERS

The Redwood Empire Bonsai Society welcomes its newest member- Marc Fero. He "got interested in the Japanese Horticulture Arts, way back when at Cal Poly SLO, majoring in ornamental horticulture. I took a Bonsai class and it was truly inspirational". Marc, we look forward to seeing you at the meetings.

## MONTHLY MEMBERS'

### INTERMEDIATE WORKSHOPS

The Intermediate workshops are held on the first Thursday of each month, from 6:00 until 9:00 PM at the Rohnert Park Community Center. Senior members will provide assistance to members with beginner and intermediate levels of experience. Observers are welcome. Cost is \$15.00 per workshop, payable by check OR CASH at the door.

Ivan Lukrich is the workshop leader and a long time devotee of the art. He joined REBS in 1985 and is a certified bonsai instructor. Please contact him if you are planning to join a class. He needs to know what club supplies, such as wire, to bring.- [lukrich@sonic.net](mailto:lukrich@sonic.net).

Have fun and learn stuff- sounds like a plan.



Ivan needs a bigger boat

Root cutters!



### 2024 ADVANCED WORKSHOP SCHEDULE WITH ADAM TOTH

Adam Toth is a Bay Area resident and has just completed an apprenticeship in Japan. He brings a wealth of bonsai knowledge and is eager to assist us in elevating both our skills and the quality of our trees.

Jan 26 (Friday) – Group 1

Jan 27 (Saturday) – Group 2

Feb 23 (Friday) – Group 1

Feb 24 (Saturday) – Group 2

Mar 29 (Friday) – Group 1

April 26 (Friday) – Group 1

May 24 (Friday) – Group 1

June 28 (Friday) – Group 1

July 26 (Friday) – Group 1

July 27 (Saturday) – Group 2

**August – No Workshops**

Sept 27 (Friday) – Group 1

Sept 28 (Saturday) – Group 2

**Oct – No Workshops**

Nov – 22 (Friday) – Group 1

Nov 23 (Saturday) – Group 2

**Dec – No Workshops**

Please contact Bob Shimon to be placed on the waiting/substitute list  
[shimon@mcn.org](mailto:shimon@mcn.org)

## MEMBERSHIP DUES 2024

REBS membership dues became due in January 2024. Both current members and those wishing to join should complete the Membership Application available on the website and mail it, with a check, to

Joyce Smith, REBS Treasurer  
2309 Dancing Penny Way  
Santa Rosa, CA 95403

The 2024 dues are \$35 for individuals and \$55 for family.

In order to receive the “Nebari Network”—the REBS monthly newsletter, as well as various notifications via email, the 2024 Membership Dues must be paid.

## NOTEWORTHY

Are you subscribed to automatic email notifications whenever a posting to the REBS website blog occurs?

Visit the REBS website and scroll down the left column until “SUBSCRIBE TO BLOG VIA EMAIL”. Enter your email address where it says “Email Address” and click the button “SUBSCRIBE”. That’s it! You will receive an email notification of any new postings to the REBS website blog. Blog postings occur for post demonstration write ups and special announcements, such as recent club activities.

### SUBSCRIBE TO BLOG VIA EMAIL

Enter your email address to subscribe to this blog and receive notifications of new posts by email.

SUBSCRIBE

## MONTHLY MUSINGS

January is starting off quietly around the Herbert–Pischke household: the bonsai are sulking dormant and Santa brought the humans Covid. We are fine now, and the bonsai seem ok. (Although, for all I can tell, the deciduous trees are dead.)

But what’s all that have to do with the price of eggs? Well, Dear Readers, I was able to finally read over some of my bonsai references, with special emphasis on the book by John Naka.

And I was blown away by the John Naka book. I’ve heard rumblings that his methods are “old fashioned” and “dated”, but as a beginner, I find that his descriptions of techniques are clear and well illustrated. The inclusion of his inspirational real–life trees is particularly helpful.

In particular, I like that his instruction HOLDS STILL. When I first started bonsai about 1 1/2 years ago, I watched every You–Tube that I could find, especially the ones pitched to beginners. The series put out by Ryan Neil at Bonsai Mirai and Bjorn Bjorholm at Eisei–En have amazing content and I took copious notes. But...

I suspect I’ve encountered a generational divide. My mode of learning is rooted (hur) in classrooms and textbooks, i.e. stuff that is static. Do younger people learn from videos and power point presentations, stuff that is moving? In particular, do they learn more through remote instruction such as Zoom meetings?

A major function of a club is to circulate the knowledge of its members to other members, as well as to the general public. Our demonstrations are quite useful, but are limited to the people who show up. Perhaps REBS should count online views as being as important as bums in chairs. Of course, REBS will need to venture into the wilds of Youtube channels. The Golden State Bonsai Federation has its Golden Zoom Series– if they can do it, so can REBS in 2024.

Elizabeth Herbert, Newsletter Editor

## REBS SHOW VENDORS

Art of the Daiza- Jerry Braswell- Custom Suiseki and Bonsai Stands. <https://artofthedaiza.com/>

Bonchi Bonsai- Matthew Walker- Copper Wire, Muck, Fertilizer, and Bonsai Services. <https://www.bonchibonsai.com/>.

Bonsai Tonight- Jonas Dupich- Everything You Need to Make Beautiful Bonsai. <https://bonsaitonight.com/>

Bonsify- Eric Schrader- Bonsai Trees, Supplies, and Instruction. <https://www.bonsaify.com/>

Carman's Nursery- Nancy Schramm- Bonsai Starters, Dwarf, Rare, and Unusual Plants. [Carman's Nursery:](#)

Drew Tucker Enterprise- Drew Tucker. [Midori Bonsai Club](#)

Danny Powell- "Stumbling my way through the art of bonsai in the SF Bay Area"

<https://www.instagram.com/dpowellphoto/?hl=en>

Hokum Bonsai- Geoff Campbell. [hokumenbonsai@gmail.com](mailto:hokumenbonsai@gmail.com)

Janelley's Bonsai- Jannette Bautista. [jannetteavid2@yahoo.com](mailto:jannetteavid2@yahoo.com)

Lotus Bonsai- Scott Chad- Bonsai trees, Supplies, and Instruction. [lotusbonsai.com](http://lotusbonsai.com)

Mendocino Coast Bonsai- Bob Shimon- Trees, Display Stands, Slabs, and Joshua Roth Tools. <https://mcbonsai.com/>

Moonshine Ranch Bonsai- Phil Richardson. [moonshineranchbonsai@gmail.com](mailto:moonshineranchbonsai@gmail.com)

Pagodas, Lanterns, & Temples- Rick Saval. [pagodas@sonic.net](mailto:pagodas@sonic.net)

Peter Tea Bonsai- Peter Tea- Bonsai Creation, Collection Management, and Instruction. <https://www.ptbonsai.com/>

Rizeup Bonsai- Mikel Edwards- Pottery. <https://www.facebook.com/rizeupbonsai/>

Soh-Ju-En Satsuki Bonsai- Darren Wong. <http://www.sohjuensatsukibonsai.com/>

Suiseki Stones- Ken McLeod- Beautiful Viewing Stones From All Over. <https://suisekistones.com/>

### COMMENTS AND FEEDBACK

If you want to contribute articles, advertise items you wish to sell, buy, or donate, or to ask questions, please contact the Newsletter Editor, Elizabeth Herbert, at [eherb1954@gmail.com](mailto:eherb1954@gmail.com) (way) prior to the end of the month.

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