



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

April 2024

Ivan will be traveling in Germany, Switzerland, and then on the Rhone to Croatia, where he has family. Have fun!

### \*\*\*\*FRONT PAGE NEWS-OLIVE YAMADORI ESCAPADE\*\*\*\*

Readers may recall that Ivan had relayed the message from a homeowner that if REBS Members were interested, he had several olive trees that needed to be removed. Accordingly, Ivan, Skylar, Alex, Jeff, and Josh grabbed their Implements of Destruction and ventured into battle. Ivan filed this report:

"Five of us showed up on Saturday [March 16] for the olive dig; Alex Koski, Josh Conway, Skylar Dewitte, Jeff Pisoni and me, The olives were in a small landscape strip between the driveway and residence. Each member took two trees which took about an hour to dig.

Attached is a picture of one olive. I will bring it to the Thursday meeting and have Juan do a critique, see what he would suggest for future development and offer it for raffle."

Photo- Ivan Lukrich

Roy Camarillo,  
winner of the  
raffle

## APRIL 2024 REBS EVENTS

**April 4 (Thurs): 6:00PM to 9:00 PM.**

**Note the time change**

**REBS INTERMEDIATE WORKSHOP**

**Rohnert Park Community Center**

**What is the topic?**

Please let Ivan know if you are attending- here's his contact info. Beginners are welcome as well.

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

707-529-3298

**April 25 (Thursday):**

**6:30PM to 7:15- Board Meeting**

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

**Rohnert Park Community Center**

Eric Shrader: *Topics regarding deciduous bonsai.* Eric, with his wife, founded "Bonsify", a shop that specializes in modern small scale bonsai. Check out his website- he is offering online classes regarding the development of Japanese Black Pines.

**April 26 (Friday): Adam Toth's**

**Advanced Workshop. Group 1.**

The workshops are full. Please contact Bob Shimon to be placed on the waiting list. [shimon@mcn.org](mailto:shimon@mcn.org)

## OLIVE YAMADORI ESCAPE, CONT.



In situ olives, unaware of their fate

Alex Koski, our man on the scene, described the nefarious doings-

“It was Saturday March 16th about 10am. It was a nice cool and sunny morning at a house located in Petaluma. We all met the homeowner Eric, who had offered us some extra tools if needed and thanked us for helping with the removal. (Mutual feelings for being a part of helping someone and receiving this in return.)”



Alex Koski's olive yamadori, beginning its new life in a spiff pot

Both photos by Alex Koski

“We all came equipped with our own versions of Little Ollie rescue tools. No persons were harmed during this event.

No cool cans, bottles, or unknown bones were excavated, unfortunately. A short while later, we all went our separate ways with one or two dwarf olives bagged up for travel. Time and patience will reveal how each specimen evolves.”

Thanks, Alex. Sounds like you all had a good time!

### March 7- Members' Workshop

Lots of members and lots of trees!



From the left, Alison Lane, Paula Gallegos, John Conway, Ivan Lukrich

### March 10- Sonoma Botanical Garden

Elizabeth and Gary visited the REBS display at the Garden. It was attractively laid out with educational signage. The Sonoma Botanical Garden was impressed by the REBS bonsai and wants REBS to mount a display new year.



### March 28- REBS Board Meeting and Demonstration

The Board Meeting was full of intrigue and wild speculation.[ I wish, but unfortunately, not true.] Please see page 5 for reality. A description of the March demonstration is on page 4

## MEETINGS AND DEMONSTRATIONS

The General Meeting and Demonstrations are held on the fourth Thursday of each month from 7:30PM to 9:30PM. The Meetings are primarily for REBS Members, although visitors are welcome.

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 Redwood, Sierra Juniper, 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. **Dates of REBS Show– August 31 and September 1**

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

## MARCH'S GENERAL MEETING AND DEMONSTRATION

Ivan Lukrich announced that members should choose to renew their dues by April 15th, or they will have chosen to be dropped from the members' list. Ivan welcomed several visitors present who wanted to know more about bonsai.

Juan Cruz was the demonstrator and gave a brief description of his bonsai background. He started with cactus and succulents, then graduated to bonsai. Along the way, Juan studied for two years in Japan. His early sensei in the United States was Kathy Shaner. He now has thirty years of bonsai experience.

Juan started his talk with an interesting exercise in evaluating the apparent worth of bonsai trees. He had a number of trees on the front table, and the members inspected each tree, jotting down both their perceived value of the bonsai and what would be the most that they would pay for the tree in an auction. The slips were collected, and members tallied the results. Juan read out the low and high bids for each tree, and in one case, the low bid was \$40.00 and the highest bid was \$1,000.

A discussion followed as to pricing factors. Juan mentioned that the quality of the pot was important to the value but all agreed that study is necessary to evaluate a good quality pot. As for the tree itself, the analysis should start at the base by looking at the roots. Hopefully they are in a radial pattern from the trunk. Next item to evaluate is the nebari and the part of the trunk just above the nebari. Trunk taper is important, but Juan pointed out that many important bonsai have reverse taper. The number of branches is important, but branches can be grafted in the desired locations.

So how are prices negotiated? Basically, the seller has a price that they want to get, and the buyer has a certain amount of money that they are willing to spend. Juan recommended to be respectful of the price, particularly if it appears that the bonsai is overpriced. You don't know the story behind the tree.

Juan next put up a photo of a bonsai in a colander. He asked the audience why using a colander as a grow is a good idea. There were a few suggestions from the audience, but the best answer was that using a colander gives the best control over root growth—wrapped roots will not be a thing. Other types of grow pots should be big, with good draining soil and a large drain hole.

Now that root growth has been dealt with [haha— would it were that easy], the next task is the development of the trunk. Juan mentioned sacrificial branches ie branches grown to thicken the trunk which are then pruned off. Virtuous branches can be pruned for taper, have their leaves pruned, and be partially or wholly defoliated. [I confess that, as a beginner, I was getting lost at this point.]

Juan then discussed various topics concerning yamadori, ie, the collection of bonsai material in the wild. First of all, there's precious little "wild" that's accessible. Bob Shimon mentioned Bureau of Land Management (BLM) lands and National Forests. Those areas allow collection, but only with permits. No collection is allowed in National or State Parks, as well as most other areas.

Juan instructed the audience that if you are collecting yamadori, be sure to get as many roots as possible. And as a larger consideration, if you don't know what you are doing and are trying to collect 500 year old trees, you are being disrespectful to the tree.

Ivan Lukrich then brought in his yamadori olive tree. Juan and the audience debated various scenarios for future development. Juan pointed out that when the trees are collected, they typically have a great deal of energy, and can withstand all sorts of work. He mentioned that the practice of bonsai is really the art of setting up the tree for someone else to continue.

At this point, Juan concluded his talk. There were two raffles, one for a bunjin that was won by Lucas Bibiana, and the other was Ivan's olive yamadori, won by Roy Camarillo.

Lucas and his new juniper bunjin



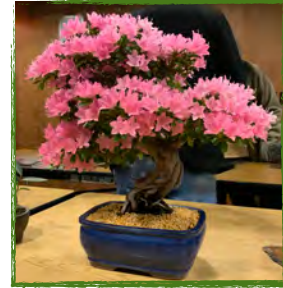
## MAY'S UPCOMING GENERAL MEETING AND DEMONSTRATION

Bob Shimon will give the next demonstration, the topic being Redwoods and all their nuances. Bob founded Mendocino Coast Bonsai in 1995 and has been the preeminent source for redwoods, Sierra junipers, Mendocino Pygmy Cypress, and Live Oaks.

## TREES FROM MARCH'S GENERAL MEETING'S SHOW AND TELL



Bruce Broyles–  
Kingsville Boxwood



Teo Loyola–  
Azalea

## FEBRUARY BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Present were Art Kopecky, Joyce Smith, Ivan Lukrich, Josh Conway, Ned Lycett, Diane Matzen, Elizabeth Herbert, Bob Shimon, and Alan Murakami.

Art reported on the progress of the Matsuri in May. The club doesn't earn any money at the event, so it was decided to have one tent for the REBS display rather than two.

Alan made a motion to approve the February Minutes, which was seconded and approved.

Joyce discussed various financial concerns, chief among them is the vexing issue of club insurance and the non-payment of member dues. It was proposed, seconded, and approved to drop members from the roll if they don't pay their 2024 dues by April 15. Elizabeth will send out an Alert and contact the non-paying members directly.

As of May 1, Joyce will be stepping down as treasurer. Ivan reported that nobody quite REBS appropriate has volunteered. Ivan then volunteered his wife (she's ok with it).

Alan reported that several groups have contacted REBS to give talks/demonstrations. Apparently a group of elderly sorts need some stimulation. A library has also requested some talks/demonstrations.

Bob mentioned that he has arranged for Bjorn Bjorholm to give some workshops before the fall Pacific Expo. (This is quite a feather in the cap for REBS. Thank you thank you Bob.)

Discussion followed regarding REBS summer show. The dates now are at **August 30th for Set-up, August 31st for Show First Day, and September 1st for the Show Second Day and Breakdown**. Concern was voiced regarding recruitment and distribution of volunteers. It appears that it's a sort of free-for-all, but first come, first served.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:15.

## UPCOMING REBS EVENTS

**April 4 (Thurs): 6:00PM to 9:00 PM. Note the time change**

### REBS INTERMEDIATE WORKSHOP

#### Rohnert Park Community Center

Repotting season is closing because trees are starting to push buds, despite or perhaps because of all the rain. If you need help repotting, bring your trees to this Thursday's Intermediate Workshop. This is also a good time to trim and restyle deciduous trees before leafing out. Beginners are welcome as well.

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

707-529-3298

**April 25 (Thursday):**

**6:30PM to 7:15-Board Meeting**

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

#### Rohnert Park Community Center

Bob Shimon- *Deciduous*

**April 26 (Friday):** Adam Toth's Advanced Workshop. The workshops are full. Please contact Bob Shimon to be placed on the waiting list. [shimon@mcn.org](mailto:shimon@mcn.org)

## Knock knock jokes

Knock, knock

*Howl.*

Howl.

*Howl who?*

How you know unless you open the door?

Knock, knock

*Who's there?*

Ice cream.

*Ice cream who?*

ICE CREAM because you can't hear me whisper.



## UPCOMING BONSAI EVENTS

**April 13 (Saturday): 10:00AM -4:00PM**

### Santa Cruz Bonsai Kai Show

#### Aptos Grange

More than 60 trees will be displayed.

Mike Pistello demonstration at 1:00PM, with live auction of the demo tree at 3:30.

Vendors and club members will have bonsai materials for sale. Raffles hourly.

Call 831-663-3243 for more info

**April 13 (Saturday) and 14 (Sunday):**

**10:00AM to 4:00PM both days**

### American Bonsai Assoc., Sacramento

#### Bonsai Show and Sale

#### Shepard Garden and Arts Center, Sac.

Featuring Bonsai and Suiseki Exhibits, vendors, and consignment sales.

Demonstrations both days at 1:30 by Headliner Tyler Sherrod. Tree to be

"raffled" immediately afterward

-Beginners' Workshop: Sunday 10:00AM

Incl. tree, pot, soil, and instruction \$15.

Email [abasbonsaiclubs@gmail.com](mailto:abasbonsaiclubs@gmail.com) to

reserve a space

**April 20 (Saturday): 10:00 to 4:00**

### Modesto Bonsai Club Spring Show-

#### Stanislaus County Harvest Hall

**April 20 (Saturday): 12:00 to 4:00PM**

**April 21 (Sunday): 11:00AM to 4:00PM.**

### Kusamura Bonsai Club Show

#### Addison Elementary School, Palo Alto

Mike Pistello demonstration at 1:30 on Saturday, and Club member

demonstration at 1:30 on Sunday. Benefit drawing each day at 3:00. Sales of pre-

bonsai, bonsai, books, pots, and stands.

Show tours both days. Show critique at

4 pm on Saturday. Educational guides of

bonsai terminology will be available, as

will as signups for beginner workshops.

Phone: (+1) 650-504-1518

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

Golden State Bonsai Federation Zoom

meeting featuring Yannick Kiggen. More

details later in month.

**April 28 (Sunday): 11:00 to 4:00**

### Watsonville Bonsai Club Show

#### 423 Bridge St., Watsonville

Call 831-247-9028 for more information

## SEASONAL TIPS FOR BONSAI CARE

Basically, if you aren't watering and fertilizing each bonsai according to its needs, you should be. If you haven't repotted your bonsai, you've missed the boat. The boat for collecting and propagating bonsai material hasn't left the dock yet, but final call has been announced. Ahoy Summer!

### MONTHLY MEMBERS' INTERMEDIATE WORKSHOPS

The Intermediate workshops are held on the first Thursday of each month, from 6:00PM until 9:00PM 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.

### ADDITIONAL LEARNING SOURCES

I found the Bonsai Today website recently. They have articles, available for the general public, as well as free trials. Check out the articles in the section "Basic". There are discussions about nebari, branches, apex, etc

<https://bonsaitoday.com/>

Bonsai Today is not the blog put out by Jonas Dupuich- that's Bonsai Tonight. Bonsai Today is based in the Netherlands and so has a much different emphasis than America's take on bonsai.

Another very useful site is the one associated with the Portland Bonsai Society, based in Portland, Oregon. POBS is a really big noise in the West Coast bonsai world.

<https://www.portlandbonsai.org>

### 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 relevant back in the dim past of January 2024 and are even more so now. Both current members and those wishing to join should print out the Membership Application available on the REBS website, fill it out, and mail it, with a check made out to “Redwood Empire Bonsai Society”, to

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

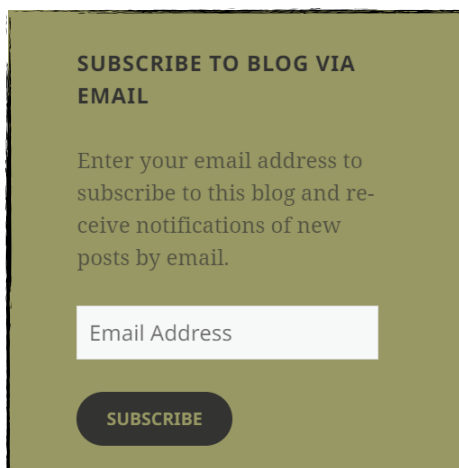
The 2024 dues are \$35 for individuals and \$55 for a family. In order to receive the “Nebari Network”– the REBS monthly newsletter, as well as various club notifications via email, the 2024 Membership Dues must be paid.

## SIGN-UP TO RECEIVE THE POSTINGS TO REBS WEBSITE

Are you subscribed to automatic email notifications whenever a posting to the REBS website blog occurs? These postings are not part of the “Nebari Network” newsletter, but do contain some similar information.

In order to subscribe, visit the REBS website and scroll down the left column until the box for “SUBSCRIBE TO BLOG VIA EMAIL” appears. Enter your email address in the box “Email Address” and click the button “SUBSCRIBE”. You will receive email notifications of any new postings the REBS website blog. Postings include discussions of past demonstrations, styling techniques, and special announcements, such as upcoming bonsai events.

Here’s what the Subscribe Box looks like.



The image shows a dark green rectangular box with a thin black border. At the top, the text "SUBSCRIBE TO BLOG VIA EMAIL" is written in white, all-caps. Below this, in a smaller white font, is the instruction: "Enter your email address to subscribe to this blog and receive notifications of new posts by email." Underneath the instruction is a white rectangular input field with the placeholder text "Email Address" in a light grey font. At the bottom of the box is a dark green rounded rectangular button with the word "SUBSCRIBE" in white, all-caps.

## MONTHLY MUSINGS

So now what? My heady first year in bonsai is now over. I’ve learned a great deal, and my trees don’t look like a sale at the Home Depot nursery anymore. So now what?

In talk after talk, in video after video, I keep hearing the fell phrase “in ten or fifteen years, you should have a really nice bonsai”, or, equally annoying “it’s the journey, not the result”. Fine for you to say, young whippersnapper, but some of us have shorter voyage time available. So that’s the whining from the grey-haired crew or at least me.

But what about the young whippersnappers? They have more journey time available (I hope so!) but it’s full of things to do and people to see. Why continue with bonsai after the first two REBS meetings if your trees won’t look good until 10 years down the line?

Another REBS member and I were mulling this point recently. He pointed out when your trees are at the sticks-in-pots stage, it’s like when you are learning to paint and are at the stick-people stage. Which have their own charm, but so much more awaits that you aren’t even aware of. Classes can teach you new techniques, broaden your viewpoint, and perhaps encourage you to reevaluate your bonsai philosophy. Cultivating your trees means cultivating your mind as well.

So yay. Your cultivated mind and bonsai are fine, but somehow pointless. And here’s the other main facet of bonsai or indeed, any club. Clubs have people in them. And they talk to each other about stuff that you like as well, and then maybe you all go and get some pizza after the meeting.

Community of like minds and cultivation of my own mind. That’s why I’ll continue with my 10 to 15 year journey and why I recommend to beginners to stick with the new hobby, even past the first tree fatality.

Elizabeth Herbert, REBS Newsletter Editor.

Bonsai parties! Touring someone’s garden, looking at their interesting pots, followed by nibbles and drinks. Prospecting for future yamadori expeditions, in conjunction with interesting cheese shops and milkshakes.



## 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/>

REBS Address:  
Redwood Empire Bonsai Society  
P.O Box 2872  
Santa Rosa, CA 95405-2872  
Copyright © 2023 Redwood Empire Bonsai  
Society (REBS).  
All rights reserved.

### 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.