



September 2022

THE BENT TWIG

A monthly newsletter of the American Bonsai Association of Sacramento
<https://www.abasbonsai.org/>

Arboreal Abstractions

A Note from the Editor

As I write this, rain is falling in the valley for the first time in months. Fall is my favorite season. It is probably a result of growing up in the dryness of California, but I love storms: dark clouds looming in the distance, the patter of rain, the dead silence of snow falling. A bright sunny day makes me feel the way storm clouds and rain make others feel. My plants (and some people I know) might beg to differ on this matter. After a long, hot, and dry summer, I think many of us are ready for fall. The parched earth, drought-stressed landscapes, and perhaps most importantly, the fires raging in the Sierra are all eagerly taking on this moisture.

As summer work on our bonsais wraps up, it's time to start planning for the coming changes. I can't wait to watch my bonsai garden catch up to the changing season. After stunning displays of golden fall leaves, we will be gifted with stark winter silhouettes. And then the toil and reward of repotting!

As you are out making your fall fertilizer push, make sure to pay close attention to the changing water needs of your trees. Whether you hand water or especially if you run automatic irrigation, it's important to not leave autopilot in control. This is true all the time, but I admit I am guilty of not taking the extra time and effort to make sure everything is in the Goldilocks zone. While it takes much longer for disaster, too much water is as bad for our trees as too little.

I am excited to see the club grow and new ideas come to the table. The word "community" gets tossed around often, but it cannot be overstated how important community is for all of us and for ABAS. The magic happens when we connect with other people, when we get our hands dirty, and when we engage. The same goes for developing our bonsai skills – YouTube can get you a long way, but the best way to learn is to get involved. We have an exciting season ahead, with more great programs and events to look forward to - dig in!

Ian Baker
bonsai@ian.farm



The author with Heidi the hiking cat

Jonas Dupuich – A Year in the Life of a Conifer: Recap

On August 23rd, we welcomed bonsai educator Jonas Dupuich to present his program "A Year in the Life of a Conifer" and it was a pleasure to have him, as always. It was a well-rounded and informative presentation, explaining much of the context behind the timing of conifer work. Jonas' explanation of growth habits throughout the year gave much insight into the why and when of pruning, de-candling, potting, and fertilizing. He also covered pest and pathogen control scenarios typical to coniferous bonsais.



Jonas discussing seasonal conifer work

Jonas is committed to bonsai education and making the craft accessible to all through his online, print, and in-person work. He is also a co-founder of the Pacific Bonsai Expo, aimed at bringing a world class bonsai show to the west coast. We can't wait to see him at PBE in November!

This was the first presentation with our new audio system and the results speak for themselves; it was a success. Jonas' presentation is posted on our YouTube channel, available [here](#). Congratulations to Bill Dannevik, the winner of a lovely semi-cascade Juniper originating from the Makishima collection. Through the tremendous generosity of members, ABAS made a \$1,000 donation to the Pacific Bonsai Expo. ABAS is proud to support this endeavor.



Many folks came out for Jonas' presentation



Lucky raffle winner Bill Dannevik and Jonas

ABAS Annual Live Auction and Consignment Sale

— September 27th 6:00 PM

This coming Tuesday September 27th is the annual ABAS Auction, Bazaar, and Consignment Sale at the Shepard Garden and Arts Center. The schedule is as follows:

- 5:30 PM Set Up
- 6:00 PM Preview and Consignment Sale
- 6:30 PM Auction

When you arrive at the event be sure to sign up for a bidding number if you would like to participate in the auction. Beer, wine, water and Light refreshments will be provided.

For sellers: please arrive by 5:30 PM if you are selling in the auction or consignment sale with your completed sales forms and tags. Both auction and consignment forms are available on our events page [here](#).



Be sure to obtain a seller number from Sylvia Anderson sylviaandersonetc@gmail.com in advance .



New Member Liaisons

We'd like to remind our new members we have a Mentor Program available for you. The mentors are listed on our website under 'Member Resources, Club Liaisons', with contact information. We can help with specific and general bonsai related questions, setting up your display benches, watering options and anything else that comes to mind. This is a one-on-one opportunity for you to get off on the right foot with this fascinating endeavor. Please reach out.

Website Tour Video

Kathleen O'Donnell has generously put together an excellent YouTube video tour of our website to introduce members to all the resources and content we have available. It explains the layout of our site, the events & workshops calendar, the new member liaison program, and the wealth of bonsai & horticultural resources we have available. Take a moment to check it out today!

<https://youtu.be/od7zZWc-73A>

Dig In!

The first Dig In session was held September 17th. Thank you to Roger Steel for generously bringing this idea to life and helping to make bonsai accessible to our new members. Nine new members attended Day 1 of the first session this last Saturday, with a morning trip to Green Acres nursery and an afternoon spent styling. It's exciting to see the enthusiasm and the results of this group, so keep an eye out for future developments. If you would like to participate in a future Dig In session, contact Roger rogersteel@comcast.net for more information.

Each Dig In session consists of two days within a few weeks of each other; the first day is spent learning about material selection at a local garden center and the afternoon is spent styling and discussing bonsai principles, tools, and techniques. The second day involves a trip to a proper bonsai nursery or plant sale, with the afternoon spent going into more detail on styling. Roger has scouted local nurseries and has found good material for less than \$100 and naturally, material from a bonsai nursery can be pricier, so other trees will be available to work on if a participant decides not to purchase a tree. Tools and wire are provided by the club and each two day session is \$20. The Blue Spruce (below) styled on the 17th will be put into the October 25th raffle, so make sure to buy tickets!

The best way to learn bonsai is to get involved and get your hands dirty and Dig In is a brilliant way to do this. The aim is to actively engage new members, teach how to select material, bonsai basics, and to connect new members with the rest of the club.



Blue Spruces from the nursery before restyling



Blue Spruce after some minor pruning. From left to right: Mike and Linda Witherow, Mark, Tommy Mason, Sadie Brooks, T. Bert Owen, & Mary Mortensen.



Friday, September 23, 9 AM – 12 PM,
SGAAC Japanese Garden Cleanup &
Workday [In-person](#)

Tuesday, September 27, ABAS Annual
Auction-Bazaar & Consignment Sale,
[In-person](#)

Sat & Sun, October 1 & 2, Garden
Center Fall Sale [In-person](#)

Sat & Sun, October 8 & 9. GSBF
Bonsai Rendezvous, Hotel Mission del
Oro, Santa Nella, CA [In-person](#)

Tuesday, October 25, Paul Holzen &
Greg McDonald, Urban and Wild
Yamadori Collection Techniques [In-person + Zoom](#)

Sat-Sun, November 12-13, Pacific
Bonsai Expo, The Bridge Yard,
Oakland, CA [In-person](#)

Tuesday, November 22, Michael
Roberts Growing Techniques to
Maximize Ramification [In-person + Zoom](#)

Thursday, December 15, Auction &
Holiday Party 6:00 PM [In-person](#)

Tuesday, January 24, 2023 Phong
Nguyen, Bending Black Pine [In-person + Zoom](#)

Monday-Tuesday, February 27-28,
Tom Vuong Grafting & Bending
Workshop
[In-person](#)

Tuesday, February 28, 2023 Tom
Vuong, Grafting Collected Junipers
[In-person + Zoom](#)

Tuesday, March 27, 2023, Jonas
Dupuich, Shohin
[In-person + Zoom](#)

Tuesday, April 25, 2023, Open

Tuesday, May 23, 2023 Sam Tan, Post-
Spring-push Pruning and Wiring of
Pygmy and Monterey Cypress
[In-person + Zoom](#)

Interested in Writing?

If you are an avid writer and are interested in sharing bonsai ideas with the community, either one time or recurring, please reach out to me. I'd love to hear your ideas and discuss potentially adding them to the newsletter. bonsai@ian.farm



Tri County Home and Garden Show

Thank you to the club members, Timm Johnson, Renee Seely, Tony Henninger, Paul Newman, and Dodie Newman, who volunteered at the ABAS booth for the Tri County Home and Garden show August 20th. ABAS took the Saturday slot while other area clubs ran the booth on Friday and Sunday. The primary focus was to represent our club and introduce attendees to the world of bonsai. Members brought in developed trees to display, and they most certainly attracted the attention of passersby. Feedback on the event is that it was fun for the club members and it generated interest, with much talking and engagement, as well as bringing in some new members. Outreach and engagement is the lifeblood of clubs like ABAS, so it was effort well spent connecting with the community.



Left: Tony, Timm, Renee, Dodie, & Paul. Below: Some of the trees on display for the public.



Upcoming Events Ride and Room Sharing

There has been some interest in ride and room sharing for fall events. If you plan to attend the GSBF Rendezvous, Pacific Bonsai Expo, or any future events and you are interested in either giving or receiving a ride or sharing a hotel room please reach out to Dodie dodieneuman@gmail.com to coordinate. We want to work together to enable as many people as possible to attend these events and sharing a seat will help achieve that. Thank you!



Stone Lantern (Tōrō) at Shinzen Garden, Fresno

AMERICAN BONSAI ASSOCIATION, SACRAMENTO
2022 LIVE AUCTION
AND CONSIGNMENT SALES



Tuesday, September 27th
Preview items at 6pm - Auction starts at 6:30 pm
Shepard Garden & Art Center
3330 McKinley Blvd (in McKinley Park)
Sacramento, CA 95816
In-Person Only

Click on our Events page will take you to Seller forms

SIGN UP ON OUR EVENTS PAGE FOR A REMINDER
www.abasbonsai.org/events

SGAAC Japanese Garden Cleanup

This coming Friday September 23rd from 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM ABAS will be hosting a garden center cleanup. Please email Dodie dodieneuman@gmail.com if you would like to volunteer, so that we have a headcount. Bring your work gloves, kneeling pads, and anything else you might need to pull weeds and get the garden in good shape for the fall. Feel free to bring drinks or snacks to share.



Shohin and kusamono, ABAS Spring Show



*Here is the
event
schedule*

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*Want to
book
a room?*



**Call Hotel Mission De Oro
209-826-4444**

**to reserve a room at the special
Rendezvous Rate
\$155 per night
(2 night minimum stay)**

Friday, October 7:

10:00 a.m. 7:00 p.m. Vendor Set up [Coronado & Ponce de Leon Rooms]

Saturday, October 8:

8:00 a.m.	9:00 a.m.	Vendor Set up [Coronado & Ponce de Leon Rooms]
9:00 a.m.	5:00 p.m.	Vendor Market Open [Coronado & Ponce de Leon Rooms]
9:00 a.m.	11:00 a.m.	Silent Auction #1 Open [Isabella Room]
9:00 a.m.	12:00 p.m.	Demo #1 Juan Cruz [Pacheco Main Room (upstairs)]
9:00 a.m.	12:00 p.m.	Demo #2: Pauline Muth [Pacheco South Room (upstairs)]
9:00 a.m.	12:00 p.m.	Mel Ikeda's Tomodachi [Plaza]
10:00 a.m.	5:00 p.m.	Bonsai Exhibit by Modesto Bonsai Club [Pacheco Room]
12:00 p.m.	2:00 p.m.	Special Demonstration by David Nguy [Plaza]
12:30 p.m.	3:30 p.m.	Demo #3 Michael Roberts [Pacheco Main Room (upstairs)]
12:30 p.m.	3:30 p.m.	Demo #4 Sam Adina [Pacheco South Room (upstairs)]
12:30 p.m.	3:30 p.m.	DIY Bonsai Workshop [Plaza]
1:00 p.m.	4:00 p.m.	Silent Auction #2 Open [Isabella Room]
3:30 p.m.	6:00 p.m.	Special Demonstration by David Nguy [Plaza]
4:00 p.m.	6:00 p.m.	No Host Bar Social [Plaza]
6:00 p.m.	6:30 p.m.	Live Auction [Plaza]

Sunday, October 9:

8:00 a.m.	1:00 p.m.	Vendor Market Open [Coronado & Ponce de Leon Rooms]
8:00 a.m.	1:00 p.m.	Bonsai Exhibit by Modesto Bonsai Club [Pacheco Room]
8:30 a.m.	10:30 a.m.	Demo #5 Jonas Dupuich [Pacheco Main Room (upstairs)]
8:30 a.m.	10:30 a.m.	Demo #6 Lindsay Shiba [Pacheco South Room (upstairs)]
8:30 a.m.	11:00 a.m.	Mel Ikeda's Tomodachi [Plaza]
8:30 a.m.	11:30 a.m.	Silent Auction #3 Open [Isabella Room]

For more information, see www.gsbfbonsai.org

Questions?

Contact Bob Hilvers shohincbc@gmail.com
(559) 909-1051



GSBF BONSAI RENDEZVOUS 2022

SATURDAY OCTOBER 8TH 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

SUNDAY OCTOBER 9TH 8 a.m. - 1 p.m.

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