

GOLDEN NEWS



NEWS FROM AROUND THE WESTERN US BONSAI COMMUNITY

IN THIS EDITION

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UP COMING EVENTS

1st Annual Tulare County Bonsai Kai Show
MARCH 28-29 Visalia, CA

San Jose Betsuin Bonsai Club 51st Annual Bonsai
Exhibition MARCH 28-29 San Jose, CA

American Bonsai Association Sacramento Bonsai
Show- APRIL 11-12 Sacramento, CA

Phoenix Bonsai Society's Annual Bonsai Show
APRIL 18-19 Phoenix, AZ

Modesto Bonsai Club 43rd Annual Spring Show
APRIL 18 Modesto, CA

Kusamura Bonsai Club 66th Annual Show
APRIL 18-19 Palo Alto, CA

Santa Cruz Bonsai Kai and Monterey Bay Area
Cactus & Succulent Society Show and Sale APRIL
25-26 Capitola, CA

The San Diego Bonsai Club Spring Show & Sale
APRIL 25-26 San Diego, CA

GOLDEN ZOOM APRIL 27

Sacramento Bonsai Club. 80th Annual Show and
Sale MAY 2 Sacramento, CA

Watsonville Bonsai Club Show and Sale
MAY 3 Watsonville, CA

Bonsai Club of Santa Barbara Annual Show
May 15, 16 Montecito, Ca

Bay Area Satsuki Aikokai and Yamato Bonsai
Show MAY 30-31 Oakland, CA

Sei Boku Bonsai Kai Annual Show and Sale JUNE
13-14 San Mateo, CA

Valley Bonsai Society 17th Annual Show JUNE
20-21 Livermore, CA



WIN MONEY FOR YOUR CLUB!

Q2 Give Back Deadline May 15th

The Golden State Bonsai Federation (GSBF) is pleased to offer five (5) \$500 grants to support bonsai shows and exhibitions. These funds are intended to enhance public displays, expand educational opportunities, and promote the art of bonsai within local communities. Scoring will be based on: Enhancing public displays (40%); Educational opportunities (30%), and; Promotion of the art of Bonsai (30%).

Applying for the grant is as easy as clicking the link below and completing the electronic form. If you have questions please contact us at gsgbfgiveback@gmail.com.

Give Back Application:

<https://forms.gle/UHLbpe5teqwVkpLH7>



BAIKOEN REPORTS BACK



Developing a mentor program as a pathway for members to become skilled bonsai instructors.

The goal of the program is to support intermediate bonsai artists to become teachers and mentors. By growing this pool of mentors, we ensure that valuable skills and pool of knowledge will continue to be shared, keeping our club active and sustainable for the future. In this way we would develop a new generation of bonsai educators who are able to teach traditional and new bonsai information and ensure active club growth. We applied for and were awarded \$500 from GBF for this program.

We began by sending out a notice to all club members asking for applicants to apply who have had at least ten years of bonsai experience, have two show quality trees, and a short note on why they would make a good candidate for this program.



Each class was 2.5 hours and taught by Lindsay Shiba. There were 8 students. All but the first class was taped (there was an accidental goof). Each class covered the following subjects, but with the small class size, there was a lot of interaction between students and teacher, so each class became customized for each person

October 30, 2025 - Intro and Basic Bonsai Styles
 November 6, 2025 - Wiring Techniques
 November 20, 2025 - Pottery Selection
 December 4, 2025 - Fertilization, Soils, Problems/Diagnosis
 December 18, 2025 - Formal Display

On the last class, each person brought in a tree that they wanted to have help with either styling or for display. Below are a series of photos taken during the different classes..

At the end of the last class each person received a Certificate of Completion, but the real certificate was teaching new Baikoen members in a Beginner's workshop on February 21, 2026. New members were recruited during the Winter Silhouettes Exhibition on January 17 & 18, 2026. These students had to sign up as new Baikoen

members and pay a fee of \$25 for the workshop. Each student was paired with a mentor, person that successfully completed the Mentor program. They were provided with a Cotoneaster, wire and were given a pouch to hold their tools.

Q1 GIVE BACK WINNERS



The Golden State Bonsai Federation is pleased to announce the five winners of our Q1 Give Back Program! The following clubs have been selected after conducting a weighted random draw:

Bonsai Sekiyu Kai
Salinas Bonsai Club
Electric Termites Bonsai Club
Modesto Bonsai Club
Monterey Bonsai Club

Each of your clubs will receive \$400 to purchase material for demonstrations. We hope these funds will support engaging programs, inspire your members, and continue strengthening the bonsai community throughout our federation.

Please reply to gsbfgiveback@gmail.com to coordinate distribution of the funds

Congratulations again, and thank you for all you do to keep the art of bonsai growing in your communities!

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

GSBF Celebrates Winter into Spring with outstanding Events and Opportunities!

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The Golden State Bonsai Federation now represents and helps to support over 50 member bonsai clubs with an active total club memberships of over 2,704, throughout California, Arizona and Nevada. We also proudly include nearly 400 community legacy trees at three world class gardens, the Huntington Library and Botanical Gardens in San Marino, The Clark Bonsai Museum at the Shinzen Friendship Garden in Woodward Park, Fresno, and the Bonsai Gardens at Lake Merritt in Oakland.

Events in 2026 will provide bonsai enthusiasts, artists and professionals nearly weekly opportunities to be involved in community bonsai shows, demos, sales and legacy garden celebrations. Some of the larger up-coming spring events include: 'Friendship Through Bonsai' at the Shisei-En garden in Chino on April 18th, the 'World Bonsai Day' celebration at the Clark Bonsai Museum in Fresno (Please RSVP by the first week of April), Saturday May 3rd, and over a dozen public friendly club bonsai exhibits in the next few months, throughout the state, listed on page 1 and the GSBF website... <https://www.gsbfbonsai.org/events>. If your club show is not posted on the GSBF site, you are missing an opportunity to promote your event for free.



Next.. The GSBF 2026 'Give Back' Awards have started! Going forward, over the next 2 years, there are going to be many great quarterly opportunities for clubs and their members to benefit from the nearly \$40,000 of 'Give Back' funds raised at the Bonsai Rendezvous 2025. (please see the 'Give Back' details and application link on pg. 1 for details on this quarters 'Club Show' award).

Beginning in May, California Bonsai Society will be accepting applications for two, \$1,000 continuing education scholarships from bonsai enthusiasts throughout the U.S. Applications are due May 1st - May 30th, and awards will be June 15th. Please see the full article on pg. 5.....cont p.4

cont from P3...

Later this Spring, the Larry Ragel Foundation Scholarship fund, has 4, \$500 "Larry Ragel" scholarships for club members in the Southern California area. Visit: <https://www.californiabonsaisociety.com/post/larry-ragle-foundation-scholarship> for the details and application process.

Lastly... this fall all eyes will be on the upcoming Pacific Bonsai Expo, held on February 6-7, 2027, at the Alameda County Fairgrounds in Pleasanton, CA. Submissions begin Mid Oct.

For the latest news and updates on all of the important Bonsai Events in your area, and to stay current with GSBF news and community opportunities please follow us at the GSBF website <https://www.gsbfbonsai.org>, Facebook and Instagram.

Michael Roberts,
Chair, Golden State Bonsai Federation

California Bonsai Society is proud to announce:

THE BEN OKI SCHOLARSHIP FUND



The California Bonsai Society (CBS) has set up a scholarship fund to honor Ben Oki - a man who devoted most of his life to enjoying and sharing bonsai. Ben was happiest when he was sharing his knowledge or working on a tree. To honor that sharing spirit Ben had we will be making two \$1000.00 grants available to anyone in the bonsai community to be used to attend classes, workshops, study with a pro or other bonsai related educational activity. The winners will also need to do something to give back to the bonsai community- such as a club demo or on-line video showing what you learned, or some other method of giving back to the community. To apply, the applicant should send an email to:

californiabonsaisociety10@gmail.com

In that email they should explain what they intend to do with the money to improve their bonsai skills and what they intend to and will commit to doing to give back to the bonsai community. Be creative.

Applicants who receive scholarships agree that in return for these funds within 15 days of completing class etc. they will provide CBS photos and a short write up of what they did with the funds to improve their bonsai skills that will be published on our website and in our newsletter. They will also have to come up with and complete a way of giving back to the community and commit to doing this.

The application period will be from May 1st through May 30th annually with the scholarships awarded on June 15th. Applications will be accepted from anyone in the bonsai community that can deposit a check from a US bank. Awarding of the scholarships will be by decision of a committee of California Bonsai Society Board members after going through all applicants. All committee decisions are final.

Everyone in the bonsai community is encouraged to apply for this chance to expand your own bonsai knowledge and to help contribute to the bonsai community.

Anyone interested in contributing to the scholarship fund as a way to honor Ben and to help promote bonsai is more than welcome to contact Robert Pressler -President of The California Bonsai Society at the above email. We are a privately funded 501c3 corporation so any contributions may be tax deductible.

GOLDEN ZOOM

GSBF'S QUARTERLY SPONSORED LECTURE SERIES

The Joshua Roth Rising Stars Take Center Stage Golden Zoom, April 27th, 2026 @ 6:30pm

This past October, during the GSBF Convention, something special happened.

Six emerging bonsai artists stepped into the spotlight—not just to display their trees, but to share their vision, creativity, and passion for Bonsai. The Joshua Roth Rising Star Competition showcased the next generation of talent in our federation, and the results were nothing short of inspiring - Now, we're bringing that energy back.



The Joshua Roth Rising Stars Competitors

Join us for a special Golden Zoom event where these talented artists return to share more of their bonsai journey—offering insight into the Joshua Roth experience, their bonsai influences, and the stories behind their trees. This is a unique opportunity to:

- 🌱 Learn from emerging voices in bonsai
- 🌍 See fresh perspectives on styling and design
- 👥 Connect with the future of our bonsai community

Whether you attended the convention or are seeing these artists for the first time, this session promises to be engaging, educational, and full of inspiration.

At GSBF, we believe that the future of bonsai depends on cultivating not just great trees—but great artists. The Joshua Roth Rising Star Competition highlights individuals who are pushing boundaries, exploring new ideas, and helping evolve the art form while still honoring its traditions.

JOIN US!
APRIL 27th @ 6:30pm
zoom link provided that week

BONSAI-A-THON 2026



Ted Matson and crew calling the auction

The Bonsai-A-Thon made its debut as a one-day fundraiser at The Huntington in August, 1996, but we quickly found out that it was much more. This event not only brought the bonsai community together but also educated and inspired participants and visitors on the art of bonsai. Each year, thousands of visitors enjoy the festivities; many go on to take classes, join local clubs, and/or become volunteers at The Huntington.

Beautiful blue skies and mild weather greeted visitors to the 2026 Bonsai-A-Thon. Like the art of bonsai, our fundraiser continues to evolve, but there's always something for everyone. This year, all fourteen vendors sold their top-quality tools, pots, and plants under tents on the lawn in front of the Botanical Center. California Bonsai Society organized an exhibit of eighteen beautiful trees in the Ahmanson Classroom. What continues each year is the support from Joshua Roth for the visiting artist. Sergio Cuan filled the auditorium for his lectures on pine and deciduous trees. Eight amazing local artists conducted transformational demonstrations on trees that went to our live auction. The success of the live and silent auctions as well as the raffle was due in large part to the generosity of bonsai artist and ceramicist Kathy Boehme, who donated well over a hundred pots and her entire bonsai collection to GSBF. Ted Matson took the microphone to auction off more than forty of her trees over the weekend. The Huntington conducted a guided tour of the bonsai nursery (with Asst. Curator Daniel Deephouse) and the Penjing trees on the Chinese Courtyards (with Penjing artist Che Zhao Sheng).

This event would not be possible without the generosity of The Huntington for providing the event space, tables, and chairs supervised by Asian Garden Curator Aaron Hughes. The event is run by a talented group of volunteers beginning with the eighteen GSBF Huntington Collection Committee members who spent many months organizing the Bonsai-A-Thon. During the weekend, more volunteers from local bonsai clubs helped everything run smoothly. We are forever grateful to our community of dedicated enthusiasts who volunteer in the nursery throughout the year and come together on the last weekend each February to celebrate the art of bonsai.

-Cheryl Manning



Jason Chan and Kathy Benson

2026 MAMMOTH FUNDRAISER...



Auction bidders

...Celebrates A Huge Success!

On March 7 - 8, the Bonsai Garden at Lake Merritt celebrated its 33rd Mammoth Fundraiser and it was one for the record books! The Saturday live auction had 110 items, 101 of those items were very high-quality trees and a silent auction which included 4 trees donated by the BGLM. I'm happy to report that the auction exceeded all expectations! Additionally, the sale on Sunday was equally successful. We had a record number of donated and consigned items, all of which dramatically increased our bottom line.

Events like this don't happen without a lot of help. I would like to express my sincere gratitude to all the volunteers for their invaluable contribution to the 2026 Mammoth Fundraiser. It is truly inspiring to see our bonsai community come together with such enthusiasm and generosity. We are deeply appreciative of the time and effort each of you so willingly gave. Your dedication and hard work were instrumental in achieving such a remarkable success for this year's Mammoth Fundraising

Looking forward, we are excited to start working on the next Mammoth Fundraiser for January 23-24, 2027. We hope to see all of you there!

Suzanne Muller
Chairperson, Mammoth Fundraiser



Tyler Bailey-vendor, BENT



Long-time Volunteers