

GOLDEN NEWS

A quarterly GSBF newsletter with updates and events

Golden State Bonsai Federation by the Numbers

- **GSBF was founded in 1978**
- **GSBF Legacy Collections:**
 - ◆ *The GSBF Collection at the Huntington was founded in 1993*
 - ◆ *The GSBF Bonsai Garden at Lake Merritt was founded in 1999*
 - ◆ *The GSBF Clark Bonsai Collection was founded in 2015*
- **Number of GSBF Member Clubs: 50**
- **Total number of members in all GSBF Member Clubs: 2,535**
- **Number of cities / states represented: 36 / 3**

<https://www.gsbfbonsai.org>



April 22, 2024
6:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. (P.D.T.)

Golden State Bonsai Federation invites member clubs to our quarterly Golden Zoom series featuring Belgian bonsai professional, Yannick Kiggen.



Yannick, a highly regarded European professional, will discuss different global approaches to styling bonsai trees, exploring the unique aesthetics associated with each. His presentation will be followed by Q&A.

We will send the Zoom link to GSBF clubs, who are encouraged to share it with their membership.

See you there!

2024 Golden Zoom Schedule

July 22 - Caz Scott - (UK)

October 28 - Tyler Sherrod (North Carolina)

A Message from the Chair:

THE 2024 BONSAI CALENDAR IS FULL OF OPPORTUNITY

As the 2024 repotting season draws to a close, I want to highlight some of the exciting news from the first quarter of this year. And, looking forward, we are anticipating great activities that will be happening throughout the bonsai community this year. We are also beginning to concentrate on planning the 2025 Bonsai Rendezvous. Please watch this quarterly newsletter and our GSBF website for the upcoming 2024 events and any breaking Bonsai Rendezvous 2025 announcements.

First, the end of February saw two of the Golden State Bonsai Federation legacy collections, the Bonsai Garden at Lake Merritt and the Huntington Botanical Garden Collection, had outstanding fund-raising events. Congratulations to both collections on their success and a HUGE THANK YOU to the army of volunteers, donors and the generous bonsai enthusiasts that made these events so successful.

Second, a huge shout out to all the clubs and volunteers that have helped make tons of late winter and spring repotting and initial tree development workshops happen. All these hosted events have seen senior bonsai artists volunteer to help our newer generations of bonsai enthusiasts get started with repotting, grafting and initial tree styling. Studies show these events are the reason new enthusiasts join clubs. This is proving to be a very important factor of why our clubs and community are growing so rapidly, which is good for all of us.

And Third... following a wonderfully successful Bonsai Rendezvous last year, the GSBF board has voted unanimously to budget for a **'Give Back'** program for the remainder of 2024 and the first 3 quarters of 2025! To accomplish this, a special GSBF committee has come up with numerous possible **'Give Back'** ideas for GSBF member clubs to vote on. We believe that all these ideas have huge potential, but we are looking for input from each of our member clubs to select the 4 programs that they feel would most benefit their club and its members. During early in April, we will be sending an email to the primary contact at each club. The email will contain instructions and a link for the **'GSBF GIVE BACK PROGRAM SURVEY'**. It will be up to the individual clubs to vote for their favorite 4 programs. The GSBF board is very proud to be able to offer this **'GIVE BACK'** and we are all excited to see which programs the clubs will select.

Once again... To all our Member Clubs and their members, please follow us at the GSBF web-site <https://www.gsbfbonsai.org> and on Facebook and Instagram to stay current with GSBF news and the upcoming events in your area.

Michael Roberts,
Chair Golden State Bonsai Federation

<https://www.gsbfbonsai.org>



Upcoming
EVENTS

Monday April 22 at 6:30 pm
Golden Zoom with
Yannick Kiggen

Zoom link will be sent to club representatives for distribution.

Bonsai Garden at Lake Merritt Survey

BGLM seek input to better determine how many 25th Anniversary books to print. Please take the 4 question survey: [https://](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1z7jvDib9xwG9KTNPLFMu2kow-UKCeznv2J6rM1BaVlo/edit)

docs.google.com/forms/d/1z7jvDib9xwG9KTNPLFMu2kow-UKCeznv2J6rM1BaVlo/edit

Pacific Bonsai Expo
October 26 & 27

Henry J Kaiser Center
10 10th St, Oakland, CA
<https://pacificbonsaiexpo.org/>

GSBF Bonsai Rendezvous
October 24 - 26, 2025
Santa Nella, CA*

*The GSBF Bonsai Rendezvous will be held every other year, opposite of the Pacific Bonsai Expo and the California Shohin Society's Convention so that we can all fully support these great events.

Featured GSBF Board Member



Bob Hilvers discovered bonsai offered a pleasant diversion to the rigors of his job. His passion for the art soon turned into an avocation and finally it became a second career.

After thirty years in public safety, Bob accepted the position of Curator of Bonsai at the prestigious Clark Center for Japanese Art and Culture, which at the time did not have a bonsai collection nor any facility to house one. Bob, along with Bill Clark, the founder of the Clark Center for Japanese Art and Culture, established the origins of the Clark Bonsai Collection in Libby Clark's flower house. When the Clark Center ceased operations in 2014 Bob was instrumental in the transfer of the Collection to GSBF and the subsequent relocation of the Collection and construction of a new Bonsai Exhibit and Maintenance Facility in the iconic Shinzen Friendship Gardens in Fresno. All the while directing the relentless effort to build the Clark Bonsai Collection into what has become one of the finest public bonsai collections in North America.

In October of this year Bob will celebrate twenty-one years as Curator of the Clark Bonsai. He has been the Chair of the GSBF Clark Bonsai Collection Committee since 2014. Bob is a charter member of the North American Consortium of Bonsai Collection Curators, is a past-President of GSBF and has served on the GSBF Board of Trustees continuously since 2002. Bob has been awarded the GSBF President's Gold Medal twice and co-developed the current GSBF Rendezvous concept.

Bob makes his home in Visalia, California where he lives with his wife, Candy, a "Boston Terror" named Zoe and a Ragdoll cat named Molly.

Meet the April Golden Zoom Presenter: Yannick Kiggen



Belgian resident, **Yannick Kiggen** began his bonsai journey by the age of 10. At 14 years of age, he formalized his journey with lessons from various Bonsai masters, including Kunio Kobayashi (Japan), Takeo Kawabe (Japan), Hotsumi Terakawa (Japan/Netherlands), Mario Komsta (Poland), Bonsai Studio Momiji (Belgium), Pius Notter (Switzerland) and Francois Jeker (France).

He has also participated in various exhibitions such as the Noelanders trophy, the Ginkgo award and the European Bonsai San Show.

In 2011 he founded Yama Bonsai Studio to promote Bonsai, share his knowledge and skills with both beginners and advanced people who are passionate about these beautiful trees. He has participated or conducted workshops, demonstrations, courses and lectures both in Europe and the United States and sales at his website. Learn more about Yannick via his website, <https://www.yama-bonsai.be/> and his YouTube channel, [Yannick Kiggen](#).



Club Shows are a major fundraising event and opportunity to provide exposure and education to the public about the art of bonsai. Below are this quarter's club shows listed on the GSBF event page. Support your fellow club shows. <https://www.gsbfbonsai.org/events>

Santa Cruz Bonsai Kai Bonsai Show

April 13, 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM

American Bonsai Association, Sacramento's Annual Show

April 13 & 14, 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM

41st Annual Modesto Bonsai Club Spring Show

April 20, 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM

64th Annual Show of Kusamura Bonsai Club of Palo Alto

April 20 & 21, 12:00 PM – 4:00 PM

Watsonville Bonsai Club Show

April 28, 11:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Sacramento Bonsai Club 78th Annual Show

May 4, 2024, 11:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Bay Area Satsuki Aikokai and Yamato Bonsai Kai joint Bonsai Show

May 18 & 19, 10:00 AM – 3:45 PM

Santa Anita Bonsai Society 57th Annual Bonsai Exhibition

May 25 - 27, 9:00 AM – 4:30 PM

Sei Boku Bonsai Kai Bonsai Show

June 1 & 2, 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM

Valley Bonsai Society 15th Annual Bonsai Show

June 15 & 16, 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM

GSBF “Give Back” Program

Thanks to you, the GSBF Bonsai Rendezvous '23 was a highly successful event. GSBF wants to “give back” to our member clubs. It is our desire to offer programs that clubs and their members would benefit to strengthen and increase club membership. Over the next few weeks, each club representative will receive a survey. Clubs have the opportunity to vote for the four programs they believe will benefit their club and members the most. We are excited to see how the clubs respond so we can offer what the clubs want and need.

In Memory:

Ron Palmer was a long time member of San Diego Bonsai Club and volunteer at the San Diego Wild Animal Park bonsai Pavilion. Throughout his time with the Safari Park, Ron contributed over 500 hours of valuable service.

Shirley Kavenaugh, long time member of the San Diego Bonsai Club, passed away suddenly on January 7th. An active member of the Shohin Study Group, Shirley actively exhibited her trees and won blue ribbons at the Del Mar Fair for decades.

Frank Goya, Bonsai Master, passed away on January 5 at the age of 100. As a student of John Naka, Frank taught bonsai for decades. He received many awards, including the honor of displaying his work at the National Arboretum in Washington, D.C. A “Celebration of His Life”; will be held on Saturday, May 4 from 9 AM until 11 AM at the Gardena Valley Japanese Cultural Institute at 1964 W.162 St., Gardena, CA 90247.

PLEASE HELP US

Improve Security Measures Update!



Raised \$13,500 - Our Goal \$100,000



Scan me and donate now

Donation expenditures to include the following upgraded security systems:

- Harden the perimeter fencing
- Security lighting
- Security cameras
- Alarm system
- Video recording system
- Hire security company to provide 24/7 live security monitoring & police alert

On January 17, 2024, eight bonsai trees with an estimated value of \$20,000 were stolen from Bonsai Garden at Lake Merritt (BGLM). These thefts do not impact any one individual but rather our entire bonsai community. We are raising funds to upgrade our security measures.

Donations may be made via the QR code above. If preferred, mail checks payable to GSBF BGLM to GSBF Bonsai Garden at Lake Merritt, PO Box 16176, Oakland, CA 94610-6176. Write "Security Donation" on the memo line.

GSBF BGLM is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit charity and educational organization. All donations are tax deductible to the full extent of the law.

March 24, 2024