

NEWSLETTER



Baikoen Bonsai Kenkyukai

Kris Springer
CBS Artist

Next meeting February 20, 2025
Bamboo Room

LA Arboretum
301 North Baldwin Avenue
Arcadia, CA 91007

Please bring something for the raffle

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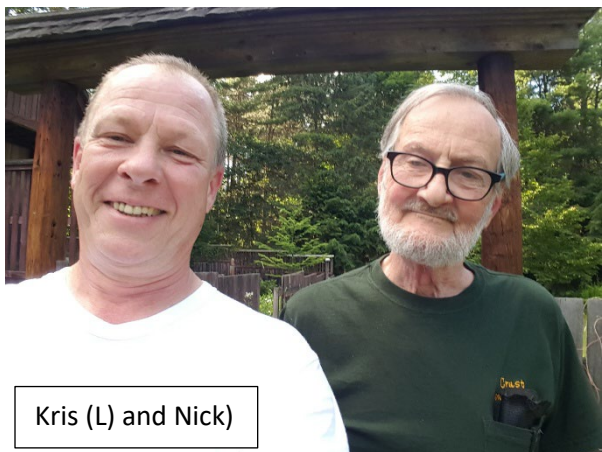
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February 2025 Demonstrator – Kris Springer

Kris Springer a.k.a Black Dodge Bonsai

As with a lot of people, Bonsai came to me as a gifted plant in a pot with rocks glued to the surface. I loved it to death, if it wasn't already dead... I was living in Seattle at the time, and I found many good Bonsai nurseries around even back in the early '90's. When I moved back to the east coast, I carried 60 plus trees back to Massachusetts, this was 1996 and my Bonsai "hobby" was about to change forever.



I met, at a workshop, who was described to me as a reclusive hermit, an Ogre and it was he who was teaching the workshop. For some reason Nick latched on to me and I to him and for 26-ish years until his passing the Ogre was my teacher, surrogate father, and my friend.

Nicks style of Bonsai was mostly self-taught and unencumbered by rules. Nature was his guide along with a bit of whimsy, but it was the wildness that he cherished, the motion and emotion created. So to is my style and beliefs, as a nut doesn't fall far from the tree.

I have studied with others and to name them all would be boring, but Pauline Muth instilled proper wiring, Martin Schmalenburg gave me more design and inspiration. Classical Bonsai in a three year study group with a crazed Italian. Many people have formed my



Bonsai aesthetic, I steal bits and pieces where I find them valuable, but I always return and yield to my Ogre.

Awards and show trees...??

yeah, a few but big deal. The joy for me is working on trees with people and with the tree. It's health being the most important factor in all choices of work.



What is this "Black Dodge Bonsai" bit.....? another of Nicks machinations when he dared me long ago to go and find wild trees that were really cool. This led me to become one of the best sources for Yamamori in the northeast. Collecting trees is almost as amazing as taking raw stock and creating cool, wild looking trees with motion, emotion and maybe a bit of whimsy. If you Google Kris Springer, and from the photos above, you can see that we are in for a real treat when Kris comes to demonstrate.

January 2025

What a month. With the terrible winds came fires. Los Angeles area was surrounded by fires with horrible aftermaths. Our hearts go out to everyone that was affected by the fires and all the First Responders, were and are amazing, and cannot be thanked enough for all their efforts. The fires are still not out but people are resilient and efforts for rebuilding homes and property are underway.

Nuccio's Nursery did not burn down. The old family home and most of the outbuildings were burned but the plants survived. They were finally able to water the plants this week and will open when possible. They



would appreciate your business. Please check before visiting. They sell Azalea for \$12 and \$35, and Camelia for \$15 and \$50, for one- or five-gallon pots.

In a December 2024, photo, Jim, left, and Tom Nuccio stand in front of one of the nursery's ramshackle wood storage buildings and a profusely blooming deep pink camellia known as Dazzler, a variety developed by the Nuccio family. Neither the building nor the plant survived the fire.

(Jeanette Marantos / Los Angeles Times)

[Good news and bad for Nuccio's Nurseries, Altadena's camellia breeders - Los Angeles Times](#)

www.nucciosnurseries.com

Nuccio's Nurseries

3555 Chaney Trail, Altadena, CA 91001
(626) 794-3383

61st Winter Silhouette Exhibition on January 18 & 19, 2025 was Canceled

As a result of the fires, the 61st Winter Silhouettes Exhibition was canceled. The Arboretum was closed, the air was terrible, and evacuations were still underway. The show will return next year. Many thanks to everyone that helped and offered to help with the show. It could never be possible without the efforts of so many people, especially Lindsay and Joe.

We had planned to have a Kusamono workshop at the show but couldn't, so will combine it with a Baikoen member workshop, already scheduled, for February 15, 2025, 9am to 1pm at the Arboretum, please see flier. Both workshops will be offered on the same day, but you will only be able attend one. Please let me (shirley_quan@sbcglobal.net) know which workshop you plan to attend. Please pre-register so that enough supplies will be available, there is a limit of 20 total people. Deadline to apply is February 7. Please see flier.

Announcements

January 31-February 2, 2025, 19th Biennial Shohin Seminar, California Shohin Society, Santa Nella, CA., 8am-5pm, <https://www.calshohin.org>.

February 1, 2025, Shoya house 12-4pm, Mauro Stemberger will do a demo at the Huntington with a juniper (I think).

February 1 & 2, 2025, Penjing and Viewing Stone Display, Southern Breeze Tree and Stone Society, The Rose Hills Foundation Garden Court, The Huntington Library and Gardens,
10am – 5pm. Lunar New Year Festival, Educational Tree Styling 11am-2:30pm. Welcome the Year of the Snake at The Huntington. This family-friendly event features lion dancers, a mask-changing artist, martial arts demonstrations, contemporary dance, floral arts, music, and more. Reservations required.

February 1 & 2, 2025, Vietnamese Bonsai Society, The 26th Annual Bonsai and Nonbo Exhibition, 9am to 5:00pm, Vietnamese American Buddhist Association in Orange County, 12292 Magnolia Street, Garden Grove, CA 92841. Demonstration at 1pm on both days. Sale, plants, pots, wire, soils and more. Free admission and parking. For more information, please call 949-331-4050.

February 15, 2025, Baikoen New Member Workshop, LA Arboretum, Bamboo Room, 9am to 1pm. New Member Workshop on how to style a bonsai from a garden pot, styled into a bonsai, and repotted into a bonsai pot or workshop to make a Kusamono. Pre-registration required. **Deadline to register is February 7.** Please see flier.

March 1 & 2, 2025, GSBF Bonsai Garden at Lake Merritt Mammoth Auction & Sale, Join us on Saturday for our live auction and vendor sales. On Sunday morning, consignment sales will occur along with our vendor sales. Saturday's events begin at 11:00 am and Sunday's events begin at 9:00 am. For more information call 707-762-9154.

March 8 & 9, 2025, California Bonsai Society Exhibition, at The Huntington.

March 15, 2025, Bonsai Friends Sale, First Presbyterian Church, 11832 Euclid St., Garden Grove, CA 92840, 9am-2pm. Lots of bonsai trees, pots, and more bonsai related items for sale. Please see flier.

April 25-27, 2025, April Spring Show, San Diego Bonsai Club show.

June ?, 2025, Orange County Bonsai Society Bonsai Show (OCBS), Cool Japan Center in Irvine.

August 16 & 17, 2025, John Y. Naka Memorial Exhibit Bonsai Show, George J. Doizaki Gallery at the Japanese American Community Cultural Center (JACCC), 244 So. San Pedro St. in Little Tokyo, 10am to 4pm. **A juried exhibition, deadline for application submission is May 1, 2025.** Details can be found at <https://nakamemoralexhibit.com>.

October 24-26, 2025, GSBF Bonsai Rendezvous, Santa Nella, CA <https://www.gsbfbonsai.org/>

New ZOOM Link. Baikoen meetings will continue to be recorded live and zoomed by Tom.

Here is a new link. We will be streaming our meetings live to everyone. However, it is not interactive. We encourage people to either watch the recording on YouTube or join us in person.

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/8328571089?pwd=1Fqg0SeV9vFT5RaF5vf3pyeVUAIYoE.1>

Tom's videos: If you have missed any of the videos that Tom has produced, here is the link to view all of them. https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=baikoen+bonsai+club

Baikoen Demo Schedule – 2025

February 15, 2025	Baikoen Workshop for Bonsai or Kusamono
February 20, 2025	Kris Springer, CBS Artist
March 20, 2025	Will Baddeley, carver extraordinaire
April 17, 2025	Michael Roberts, return of the cork bark elms
May 15, 2025	CBS Artist
June 19, 2025	Debra Maury-Melitz, Kusamono workshop
July 17, 2025	CBS Artist
August 2025	No Meeting
September 18, 2025	TBA
October 16, 2025	TBA
November 20, 2025	CBS Artist
December 2025	No Meeting