

NEWSLETTER



Baikoen Bonsai Kenkyukai

**Heike van Gunst
CBS Artist**

**Next meeting May 15, 2025
Bamboo Room**

LA Arboretum
301 North Baldwin Avenue
Arcadia, CA 91007

Please bring something for the raffle

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May Demo - Heike van Gunst



Heike van Gunst was born in 1966 and lives near Hamburg, Germany. She kept growing bonsai trees as a hobby, learned from books, magazines, an internet forum and the comrades in a local club. In 2007 she founded a new local club, the Bonsai AK Hamburg & Umland, began to visit exhibitions and workshops and met many other bonsai people from different nations. Heike joined the team of the German BONSAI ART magazine in 2013 and became the chief editor in 2016. In 2017 she traveled to Japan for the World Bonsai Convention and was deeply impressed and influenced by what she saw there. In 2018, 2019 and 2023 Heike was invited to Chinese bonsai/penjing exhibitions in Rugao and Nanjing as a demonstrator and 2019 to Canberra, Australia, to teach workshops and perform on the demo stage. Since 2018 she has shown a tree or shohin display at every issue of Europe's most prestigious bonsai exhibition "The Trophy" in Belgium. In 2021 she took part in an online exhibition of Bonsai Kunst Hamburg and the demo, which she did together with Sandra Grlica, can still be found on YouTube.

Heikes private bonsai collection contains around 120 bonsai trees (most of them medium to and small size), around 80 accent plants and a varying number of young plants. She grows a great number of different species and has developed most of her trees herself over many years, aiming to master all the necessary techniques. With more than 40 years' experience, Heike especially likes to share her knowledge about long-term bonsai development and bonsai pot choice.

April Demo – Return of the Cork Bark Elms



Long term objective for all the elms. In August cut back branches to profile. You want uniform growth and to increase ramification. Evaluate the tree for strength and weakness. Use directional pruning, keep growth thin to allow light into interior of the tree. Fertilize with organic fertilizer for 6-8 weeks and Osmocote for 2-4 months, starting in February to October. Michael uses pellet chicken poop from Bob Shimon (\$11/40lb bag). Use what works for you. Soil is 1:1:1, organic layer on top to hold moisture. Sphagnum moss,

coco husk, coconut husk, a thin layer, on edge of root ball, particle size is 3/8, less Akadama and more pumice. Use a thin layer of sphagnum moss on top to keep surface roots alive. Use fish emulsion unless you have visiting critters.





Mitch's tree has no back budding in the center. He may need to do some thread grafting or perhaps approach grafting. Which technique is what ever the tree needs to improve the shape and style.



Nothing wasted. All long branches were collected by various people for use as cuttings.





Michael generously adding Osmocote fertilizer to all the pots.

The start of the three part series, January 2023



To briefly summarize Part 1 of this Cork Bark Elm series with Michael Roberts, here is Mike at the start of his demo last January 2023, three Cork Bark Elms in 5-gallon pots, generously donated by Ed and Linda Clark, Round Valley Bonsai Nursery in Lindsay California.

Here is what Michael says: "Shirley, here are three possibilities for our demos next year. As you can see, they are quite rough. One of these shows a three-trunk possibility

while the other two are single trunk informal uprights. One of those two could be a slant style. We will know better when we cut down the tops and clear away some of the crossing interior branches." These are rough nursery grown by Ed Clark. Approximately 7 - 10 years old. No training at all. Most likely we will have to make drastic cuts to begin our process. Any cuts Ed made were purely to make it easier for him to repot during his

handling of the trees. The trunks on the 3rd tree piece are about 1" each... the other two have trunks about 2 1/2" - 3". I have done no work on these trees at all so far.

Here are the trees in October 2023.



The first tree had three trunks, and Lindsay marked each of them with orange zip ties and then generously donated it to the raffle. Left, you can see the happy raffle prize winners, Mike Kelly, Mike Roberts, and Cedric Navarro.

Current April 2025



Here are the trees in April 2025. All are fine and healthy. Joe has the triple trunk tree now and has been working with Michael on styling. Mitch (middle) tree is growing vigorously and is working on ramification and back budding. Cedric (far right) lives in Altadena and couldn't water his trees for a month due

to the fires. But his tree is still healthy and growing. All three trees are in different micro-climates and their growth

reflects their environment, especially the weather. Not sure when the trees will come back for a review, but we will see them again.

Raffle prize juniper donated by Mike Kelly and won by Darren Rezowelli.



Announcements

Refreshments will be provided by Vic Skelton, Sue Cook and Steve Reiley.

May 3, 2025, World Bonsai Day Presented by Clark Bonsai Museum, 10am – 4pm. Clark Bonsai Museum in Shinzen Garden, 114 W Audubon Dr., Fresno, CA 93720. Join us on Saturday, May 3rd, 2025, at 10am for a day of appreciation, education, and community as we honor the art of bonsai. This special event will take place at the Clark Bonsai Museum, nestled within the Shinzen Garden at Woodward Park, Fresno, CA. Please see flyer.

May 1-31, 2025, Ben Oki Scholarship applications due. Please see flyer.

May 10 & 11, 2025, Serenity Through Bonsai, Dai Ichi Bonsai Kai, 38th Annual Bonsai Exhibit and Sale, Ken Nakaoka Community Center, 1670 W. 162nd St., Gardena, CA, novice to master exhibitors, daily demonstrations and drawings, bonsai plants, tools, and accessories on sale throughout the show. Free admission and parking. For more information bit.ly/DIBK-FB. Please see flyer.

May 17-18, 2025, Bonsai Club of Santa Barbara 48th Annual Show and Sale, Montecito Union School, 385 San Ysidro Rd, Santa Barbara, CA 93108, 10am to 4pm. Admission is free and open to all to explore the world of bonsai.

May 24, 25, 26, 2025, Santa Anita Bonsai Society Annual Bonsai Exhibit and Sale. LA Arboretum. Ayres Hall, LA Arboretum, 301 N. Baldwin Ave, Arcadia, CA 91007, 9am to 4:30pm. Displays, demonstrations and sales.

May 31 – June 1, 2025, Coastal Bonsai Club Annual Show, Sherman Library and Gardens, 10am to 4pm. There will be a demo on both days. The Fuchsia Society annual sale will also be there. For more information, www.coastalbonsaiclub.com

June 28-29, 2025, Orange County Bonsai Society Bonsai Show (OCBS), Cool Japan Center in Irvine, 4199 Campus Drive, Suite A, Irvine, CA 92612.

June 8, 2025, LA Bonsai Swap Meet, 10am to 12pm, Woodley Park, 6076 Woodley Ave, Van Nuys (south end of parking lot). Enjoy a day of shopping, swapping, or selling bonsai plants, tools, and pots. EVERYONE is welcome to this free event. For more information, email minguseyes@gmail.com or join us on Facebook at LA Community Bonsai Swap Meet Group. Please see flyer.

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. The Naka Memorial Exhibit is a juried exhibition where jurors will help select the best trees out of the submission pool. This means we need your help to make this show the best it can be! Our 4 jurors are Carmen Leskoviansky, Matthew Galacio, Ryan Pitts, and Julian Tsai. Please use this link for submission instructions: [Submissions](#). **Deadline for application submission has been extended to June 1, 2025.** Details can be found at <https://nakamemoralexhibit.com>.

October 24-26, 2025, GSBF Bonsai Rendezvous, 9:00 AM – 5pm, 9:00 AM – Oct 26, 2025, 1:00 PM, Mission del Oro Hotel, 13070 CA-33, Santa Nella, CA 95322, USA
Biennial GSBF event. Headliners, Suthin Sukosolvisit and Mauro Stemberger will host BYT workshops on Friday. Multiple workshops will be held Friday and Saturday. Vendors all three days. Free educational seminars and BYB hospitality hours. Live and silent auctions. Registration for the convention and workshops will open on June 6, 2025. For more information, 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

May 15, 2025

Heike van Gunst, CBS Artist

June 19, 2025

Debra Maury-Melitz, Kusamono talk & workshop

July 17, 2025	Cesar Ordonez, CBS Artist
August 2025	No Meeting
September 18, 2025	TBA
October 16, 2025	TBA
November 20, 2025	Seth Nelson, CBS Artist
December 2025	No Meeting