

# NEWSLETTER



Baikoen Bonsai Kenkyukai

Christopher A. Sambolín Perez  
CBS visiting Artist Program

**We're BACK**

Thursday, July 17, 2021, 7:00pm

Bamboo Room

Los Angeles County Arboretum

301 Baldwin Ave, Arcadia CA.

Please bring something for the raffle

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## Workshop for June 17, 2021 meeting – Chris Sambolin

Chris Sambolin from Puerto Rico is well trained in both classical bonsai materials from studying extensively with Mauro Stemberger as well as highly skilled with tropical bonsai so there will be something for everyone. This presentation is part of the California Bonsai Society visiting artist program

Christopher A. Sambolín Perez was born in Mayaguez, Puerto Rico, in 1996. He was born and raised in Sabana Grande, Puerto Rico and has been living there for 22 years. He is the eldest brother of three and aspires to be a role model to them. He received his bachelors degree in Microbiology from the Interamerican University of Puerto Rico, San German campus in 2019. Christopher is currently working to obtain a master's degree in plants biotechnology in the Interamerican University of Puerto Rico, Barranquitas campus.

In June of 2010, he started working with bonsai because of his aunt who inspired him from a young age. His journey with bonsai began when his aunt took him to visit Futago Bonsai, Pedro J Morales' garden, and it was there when the passion for bonsai came to life as he was given the opportunity to work on his first bonsai. Since then, he first joined the Bonsai Club of Puerto Rico, Mayaguez chapter where he currently has the presidential position. Christopher then started to take a plethora of workshops around the island and took every chance he had to meet different bonsai master to learn more through workshops and seminars. Shortly after Christopher began his bonsai passion he became a student of William Acosta and Pedro J Morales. Through the years he started going to seminars, lectures and workshops with several international artists from all around the world (Japan, Italy, Indonesia, China, USA, Spain, Mexico). Christopher also participated in the Felab 2016 new talent contest where he finishes second out of 6 countries. He also has performed demonstrations at the National Bonsai Show of Puerto Rico and has assisted in demonstrations of bonsai artist like Hugo Zamora from Mexico and with his mentor and teacher from P.R, Pedro J Morales and William Acosta. In 2015, Christopher met his idol Mauro Stemberger in a workshop in Futago, since that day he has been networking with Mauro. Finally, After three years he became a student of Mauro Stemberger and started traveling to the Italian Bonsai Dream School in Feltre, Italy. Currently Christopher Sambolín is working on improving his skills and knowledge about bonsai but also in the science field, specifically in the microbiology and plant biotechnology area. He has been studying the microorganisms related to plants and hopes that knowing more about the biology of the plant will help him have a better relationship with his bonsai. At the moment his focus is studying and doing bonsai, for Christopher bonsai is a life style that he has decided to pursue for the rest of his life. He develops a perspective of taking care of nature and spreading the passion of loving nature through bonsai. Sambolín is extremely grateful for all of the support he has received from his mom, family, and friends throughout the years of his bonsai journey. Without their continued to support he wouldn't have had the same success in his academics or bonsai.

We will have a workshop with Chris Sambolin. Please bring your tropical and sub-tropical trees to this workshop to get help or suggestions on what to do from each other or Chris. Tropical trees are the biggest group of trees. It includes crape myrtle, bougainvillea, bald cypress, Japanese Privet, Brazilian Pepper tree, citrus, and figs.

Tom Lau, Demonstrator, June 17, 2021, deciduous late spring/early summer maintenance



We had a good turnout at our last meeting at Tom Lau's house. Our first in-person meeting in more than a year in a nice balmy evening in Tom's backyard watching him work and talk about his Trident maples and



later his princess persimmon trees. So great to see old and new friends and to meet

Isabel (right in blue), Gus new fiancée. Top left to right: Hedy and Alex, Gus/Jeo, Joe, Lindsay, Mel, Caroline, Dick, Hedy, Alex, Debbie and Isabel.





Jonathan Jee



David Serrano



More pictures from the Zoom meeting, Jonathan, Nathan, Abby, Ken, new member David Serrano, Gus/Jeo and Michael. Below Joe giving the introduction, Lindsay, Isabel behind him, Mel, Greg and Shirley



audio



This is a Trident maple, 5 year old field grown tree that Tom got from Steve DeSilva in Fowler California. The base is about 12 inches, grown freely for the last 6 months, fertilized every 3 months with Grow Power (888 or 999?). This tree's strength is in it's apical growth. This tree was originally about 30 feet tall in a 15 gallon pot for 2 years, then 3 years in the present container. It was cut down to about 2'x2' (LxW). One of the goals that Tom is trying to do, today, is to see what is

growing underneath all the leaves. So he is directional pruning, cutting off big canes, eliminating canes that are growing straight up or down and crossing each other. He is leaving the bottom branches and only working on the top half of the tree today.

The tree was dug from a field with rough cuts, a year later rough styling with main branch and apex selection (see series of pictures below). This demo was the third styling. One of the things that Tom emphasized was that the tridents are very tough. They can be grown in full sunlight and resist sun burn, he calls them bullet proof plants. His trees are watered twice a day in full sun. If there is leaf burn back off fertilizer (the



salt in the fertilizer causes

leaf (Tridents resist leaf burn too) burn or brown edges) and to try acidifying the water. Tom suggests using Miracle-Gro® Water Soluble Miracid® Acid-Loving Plant Food to acidify the water.

If you see brown edges on your plant leaves, Ryan Neal suggests stopping fertilizer or change to organic fertilizers.

You may ask why doesn't he cut off the tall long branches on the top? These are sacrifice branches



that are grown to help heal the scars where branches have been cut off (see above and the next page). They will be removed when the wound has callused over. One of the other things that is done during this time



is to defoliate the tree. This promotes ramification and



smaller leaves. But one of the most important things to remember regarding the size of the leaves is genetics. Above right, look at the leaf that Tom is holding in his fingers, versus the size of the leaves in the plant on the left. Both plants are tridents, but the plant on the left just has smaller sized leaves.



These are views of the tree after Tom had finished pruning. The picture on the left is a closeup of the top half of the tree and you can see the apex emerging and why he still has a sacrificial

branch growing.



Here is a pictorial history of the tree. Tom had the foresight to take pictures during different stages of development, from the field grown tree (topmost pictures), to various later stages of selectively pruning/shaping the tree. If you can compare the first picture of the newsletter to the one at the left, you can see how much the tree has developed.



The second tree that Tom worked on was a Princess Persimmon (top left). The picture on the right show how he is selectively pruning the tree. Each branch is trimmed back to leave between 2 to 4 leaves. Below left is the same tree at our last Winter Silhouettes show earlier this year with fruit and leafless. And below right is the same tree after trimming.



## Announcements

Jim Barrett is at home and about the same.

**July 10, 2021**, will be Christmas in July to make up for last December's meeting. You and your family are invited to come to a potluck party.

At the Lau's House, 221 W. Buffington St., Upland, CA 91784

3:00pm pool party

4:30pm potluck dinner (club will provide the main dish)

5:30pm white elephant exchange and club updates

Please RSVP to me ([Shirley\\_quan@sbcglobal.net](mailto:Shirley_quan@sbcglobal.net) or 323-828-2162) by Monday July 5 if you can come and how many people are coming.

2021 GSBF Bonsai Rendezvous, Saturday, October 2 - Sunday, October 3, 2021. Hotel Mission de Oro, Santa Nella, California

*Get ready and plan for attending the 2021 GSBF Bonsai Rendezvous. The event theme is "Bonsai Rendezvous." A two-day event for renewal and celebration for the love of bonsai. No registration fee. Open to the public. Free bonsai demonstrations both days. Free professional bonsai critiques, Bring Your Own Bonsai and Do It Yourself Bonsai settings. Vendors from Northern and Southern California in one huge location. There will be silent auctions for quality bonsai and related items. There will be no banquet dinners. Additional information and schedule of activities forthcoming shortly. Stay tuned to GSBF website ["Convention" section of the GSBF website](#).*

October 10, 2021, 10am, 7<sup>th</sup> Annual LA Community Bonsai Swap meet, Jesse Owens Park, 7100 White Oak Ave., Van Nuys.

January 22 & 23, 2022, Baikoen Bonsai Kenkyukai 58<sup>th</sup> Winter Silhouettes Show, Los Angeles Arboretum and Botanical Garden, Ayres Hall, 10am to 4pm.

If you have missed any of the weekly videos that Tom has produced, here is the link to view all of them.

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC7fXUS6h9DwoBFhagik-wA>

### 2021 Important Dates

July 10	Christmas in July Pool Party
July 15	Christopher Sambolin, CBS Artist
August	No meeting
September 16	Mel Ikeda
October 21	Tom Vuong

November 18  
December  
January 22 & 23 2022

Nik Rozman, CBS Artist  
Happy Holidays  
58<sup>th</sup> Winter Silhouette Show

Shirley Quan  
Baikoen Bonsai Kenkyukai  
10300 Key West St.  
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