

NEWSLETTER



Baikoen Bonsai Kenkyukai

Seth Nelson
CBS Artist
November 20, 2025
Juniper Styling

Bamboo Room

LA Arboretum
301 North Baldwin Avenue
Arcadia, CA 91007

Please bring something for the raffle

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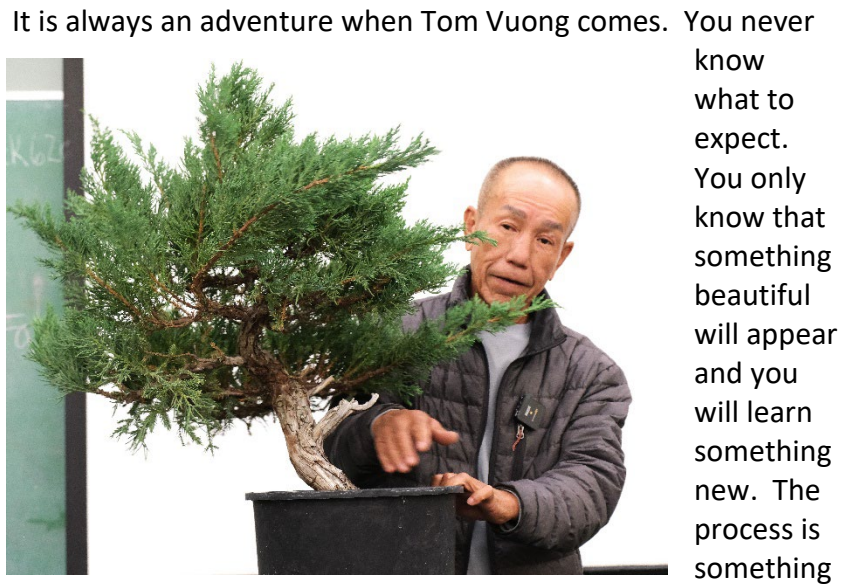
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October Demonstrator – Tom Vuong



It is always an adventure when Tom Vuong comes. You never know what to expect. You only know that something beautiful will appear and you will learn something new. The process is something

to see and experience. On the left is a tree that Joe got from Lindsay for Tom.

The first thing that Tom said was you need to identify the front. For this tree, the tree needs to be tilted up on one side so that the tree is more vertical (see photo bottom left). Always choose the front first. The tree is a Prostrata juniper. Clear out and shorten branches, wire in the direction of the bend. Do large branches first, then detail wiring. Try to open up the tree so that the interior gets some sun, cut ends to open up the tree to enable back budding for next year's growth. Do this every year. Trim so sunlight can reach the interior, you can reduce branch later. Style first, then graft because the graft location and direction depend on the design. You can graft between now through May. Tom's preference is to graft with Itoigawa on California and Utah juniper and with Kishu on Prostrata. The tree will not be finished today, just setting the style.







After care, put the tree in the sun and fertilize. More fertilizer in the summer. He uses any kind. He creates deadwood all by hand to look more natural. Pictures, far left, show some removal of the bark as a start of the shari. Just cleaning up the bark on the trunk made a big difference in this tree. He carves to increase movement in the tree. He power washes trees to remove insects and to clean the bark. Lime sulfur is applied about 6 months after tissue has dried out. He puts cut paste on the edge and in the middle, lime sulfur is applied. He would graft at the same time next year if it was his tree. You can compare the pictures of the trunk before and after cleaning up the bark, to see how much more interesting the trunk has become.



This tree was not raffled. It will be kept and put up for auction at our Winter Silhouettes show in January.

Radford won an olive that Ray Blasingame donated to the raffle. It is an old olive in a Jim Barrett pot.



November Demonstrator – CBS Seth Nelson



Seth recently earned his Bonsai Professional certification after nearly six years of apprenticeship at Aichi-en Bonsai in Nagoya, Japan. His approach to bonsai is rooted in a deep respect for the trees' health and longevity. He will not work on a tree in a way that jeopardizes its well-being, he sees this work as not having meaning. Seth was mentored by Jim Van Landingham, a specialist in tropical species, and was later accepted into an apprenticeship under Tanaka-San's guidance at Aichi-en.



During his apprenticeship, Seth honed his skills in traditional techniques while developing a keen understanding of bonsai design, focusing on balancing the strength of the trunk's flow with natural branch structures. He emphasizes minimal wiring to allow the tree's growth to evolve organically. This philosophy promotes refinement

through subtle, less invasive techniques, ensuring long-term health and gradual evolution of the tree. His experiences have inspired him to pursue being an educator, where he aims to contribute to the growth of bonsai culture in the U.S. by working with hobbyists and collectors and sharing his knowledge

The Rendezvous 2025

The Rendezvous was great fun and a lot of work. Many thanks to Dodie Newman, Michael Roberts, and

HEADLINERS

MAURO STENBERGER



Mauro began his bonsai journey at the age of 14. By his late teens he was studying with international bonsai masters: Hotsumi Terakawa, Marc Noelander, Horst Crekler, Edoardo Rossi and others. Today he owns and operates his nursery, Bonsai Dream, in Italy.

SUTHIN SUKOSOLVIT



Suthin has extensive experience with tropical bonsai. His expertise also includes Japanese maple, Juniper, Azalea, Black Pine and many other species. Suthin has twice won the National Award for the Finest Bonsai at the the US National Bonsai Exhibition.

BONSAI

RENDEZVOUS 2025

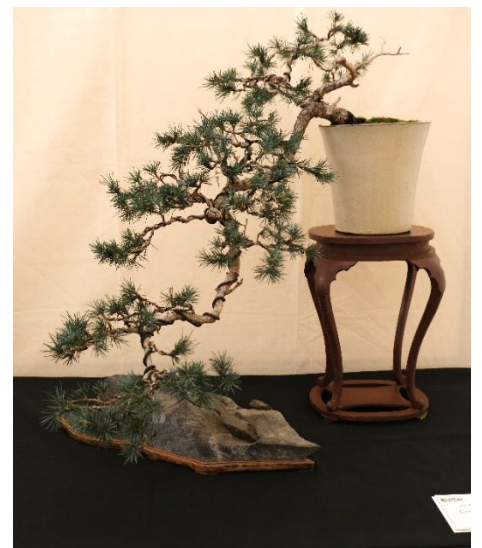
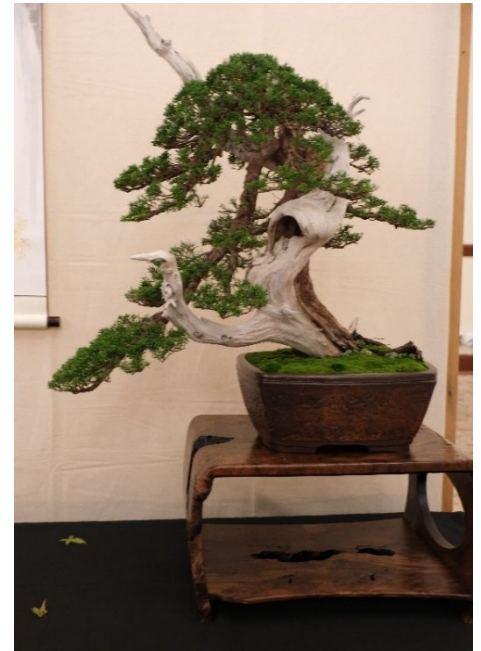


Marcus Janiel for all the work and organizing a great event. Special thanks to Joe Galgoul, Bill Ward and Mike Kelly, for doing all the heavy lifting of the trees, for recruiting volunteers and leading an army of volunteers. The Headliners, Mauro Stenberger and Suthin Sukosolvisit were amazing, funny, and instructional.











Joshua Roth Raising Star Competition



The winner of the Joshua Roth Scholarship was Daniel Martinez





Marcus Facetimeing with Michael Roberts, at home, since he was unable to come to the meeting. You can see us joining in sending our greetings to him at the dinner. We missed him.



Bob Simon was given the GSBF President's Gold Award (Northern Cal).





Doyle Saito (top left) received the GSBF President's Gold Award (SoCal) from Bob Pressler



Bob Hilvers was awarded the big award, the Circle of Sensei (left).



The evening ended with Bob Pressler auctioning off the demo trees from the Headliner demos and the Joshua Roth trees.

A big THANK YOU for all the planning and work to make this Rendezvous a great success!

Announcements

Refreshments will be provided by Joe Galgoul and Shirley Quan.

November 8, 2025, Conejo Valley Bonsai Society's 22nd Annual Exhibition at Gardens of the World. 9:30 AM – 3:30 PM. Gardens of the World, 2001 E Thousand Oaks Blvd, Thousand Oaks, CA 91362, USA. Join us for a day of beautiful bonsai, a chance to connect with local enthusiasts, and a live demo.

November 14-16, 2025, Kofu Bonsai Kai annual exhibit at the Bowers Museum in Santa Ana. Set up is on Thursday November 13 setup and the show is the 14 - 16. Contact Carol Upston to show a tree.

November 15, 2025, Fresno Bonsai Society Fall Sale and Auction, 10am – 4pm, the Clovis Senior Center, 735 3rd Street, Clovis, Ca, for more details search www.freshnobonsaisociety.com, please see flyer.

December 6, 2025, Christmas Party at the home of Debbie and Lindsay Shiba, 1pm start. Don't forget to RSVP to Debbie. Please see flyer.

January 17 & 18, 2025, 61st Winter Silhouettes Exhibition, 10am-4:30pm, Baikoen Bonsai Kenkyukai, LA Arboretum Ayres Hall, 301 North Baldwin Ave, Arcadia, CA 91007. First bonsai show of the year, trees in their leafless beauty. Pre-bonsai, pots, and tools for sale. Giant raffle/auction and entertainment. Demonstrations both days at 1:00 pm. Nagata-Komai Award Presentation to Cheryl Manning.

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=1Fgg0SeV9vFT5RaF5vf3pyeVUAIYoE.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

November 20, 2025

Seth Nelson, CBS Artist

December 2025

No Meeting