

# NEWSLETTER



## Baikoen Bonsai Kenkyukai

### Bill Ward

Thursday, April 18, 2024  
7:00pm, Bamboo Room

LA Arboretum  
301 North Baldwin Avenue  
Arcadia, CA 91007

**Please bring something for the raffle**

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## March Demonstrator – Tom Vuong



Tom Vuong is one of our favorite demonstrators and teachers. He has magical fingers that are nimble and quick and from his background as an auto mechanic, he thinks outside of the box (bonsai world), when working on his trees. He is widely regarded as the master of bending big thick branches on junipers, which he has demonstrated for us in the past. Tom is famous for working on BIG trees, many taller and heavier than himself.

At this demo, he demonstrated his technique for grafting junipers. But why do you want to graft? Usually there is a design reason. You

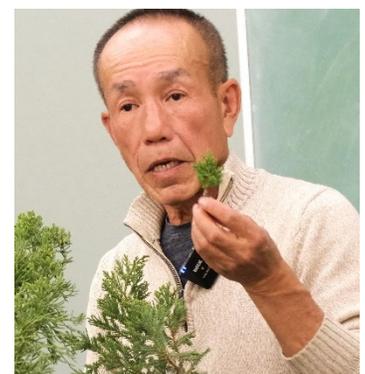
may want a different foliage, i.e. change to Kishu or Itoigawa because their foliage is more compact than Prostrata or California. Perhaps the tree is too tall, or you need to add a branch on the trunk to occupy

empty space. It all depends on what you want the tree to look like.



Now is a good time to graft junipers but not necessarily all different types of trees. Pines are usually grafted early in the year and deciduous flowering trees are usually done in the spring, after flowering, when the sap is starting to run. In general, the best time to graft is between March to May. Aftercare is very important and is easier if plants are grafted now. If grafted earlier in the year, aftercare is much more critical and essential.

On the left are several branches that Tom had that could be used as a scion (a young shoot or twig of a plant, especially one cut for grafting or rooting). The far left one he said is the best, while the other two that he holds in his other hand can also be used. He trims the bottom of the stem so that it is clean and clear of any leaves.





Here Tom is demonstrating how to hold the grafting knife so that you are safe (don't cut yourself) and you are in control of the knife and how far to cut. Only one hand moves, and the knife moves away from your body so there is less chance of cutting yourself.



**The right hand never moves, and the left hand only moves a short distance.** The scion is cut so that one side is longer than the other (see below picture #7). Both sides equal, and the longer side

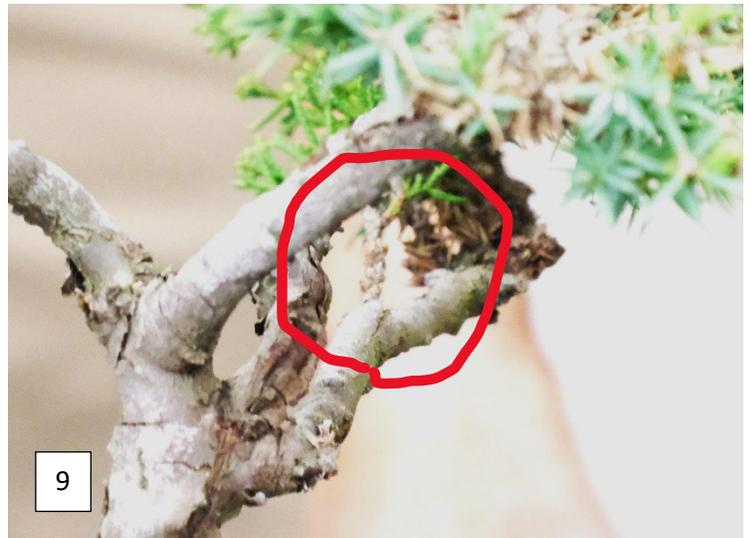


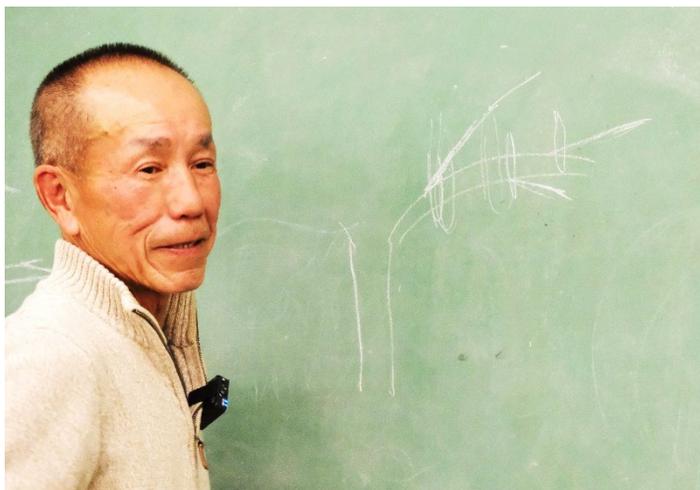
slides into the stem that you want to graft (8). A single cut, about 1/3 into the branch with about an angle of 30 degrees, and the scion slides, long side toward the branch, short side outside

(#8). The scion inserted (circled in red) into the branch is shown in #9, try to match the cambium of the scion and branch. Next black electrical tape is stretched and wound around the branch over the scion. Make sure the scion is facing up. Two zip ties are applied at either side of the cut where the scion has been inserted. The zip ties are applied at opposite directions and tighten so that nothing can move (#11). If the zip ties are both applied in the same direction, there is a chance that the scion can move. That's why it's important to fasten the zip ties in different directions. You can see the electrical tape and the zip ties position in picture #12. The black tape is ordinary electrical tape from Home Depot. It can stretch, is waterproof and sticks to itself and

cheap and easily obtained. No need to remove after the scion starts growing. The entire tree is covered with a clear plastic bag and put in the shade. Proof that the scion has grown should be apparent in about 3 months when you can see new growth and swelling of the scion.

Place the tree in the shade, still covered with a plastic bag, 2-5mm thick. Water about once a month. No sun for about 2-3 months. You can open the bag after about 3 months to check growth. Depending on the amount of growth, you can start opening the bag a little at a time to acclimate the tree.





Placement of the scion on the branch is important. From the drawing on the left, you can see the first scion is placed on the top, nearest to the trunk, the second scion is toward the bottom toward the edge, and the third one is on the top. When grafting, you need to graft the first one nearest to the trunk, then toward the outside. This way, you would not disturb scion that were just grafted.



Tom Lau brought in a juniper that he had purchased at the CBS sale. **But** instead of grafting, Tom styled the tree. Below was the bushy top.





Trimming the extra branches off and then wiring the branches followed. He gave us a lesson on wiring. Use your left hand to hold the branch at the point you want to start the bend, with the other hand, bend or twist the branch.





The finished tree in the Bunjin style. It was beautiful. Tom said this is a true Bunjin style because it was all natural, created by mother nature, and not with wire or cuts.





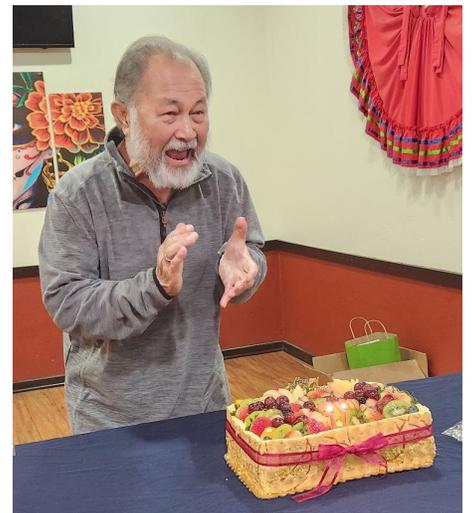
We need our friends especially at repotting time. Mike Kelly, Gab Gonzalez, Big Joe all helped Michael Roberts repot his Olive tree.



### **The April Demonstrator will be Bill Ward**

### **Announcements**

Thank you lunch for people that helped with the show was held on March 9, 2024, at Villa Catrina Restaurant. It was fun with lots of delicious food. We also celebrated Alex Marien's 80<sup>th</sup> birthday. Happy Birthday Alex.



### **Cookie / Snack sign-up for the February meeting.**

Refreshments by Peter Macasieb and Victor Skelton. Thank you for signing up.

**April 13 & 14, 2024, American Bonsai Association, Sacramento's Annual Show**, 10am to 4pm, 3330 McKinley Blvd, Sacramento, CA 95816. Headliner, TYLER SHERROD, Professional Bonsai Artist/Teacher from Georgia, will conduct a live demonstration each day at 1:30PM • A large EXHIBIT of beautiful bonsai developed by our members • Northern California VENDORS selling all things bonsai. For more information, [www.abasbonsai.org](http://www.abasbonsai.org) or phone: (+1) 916-799-9575

**April 20, 2024, Friendship Through Bonsai**, 4207 Walnut Ave, Chino, CA 91710, 9am-5pm, lunch 11:30am to 2:30pm. Demo by David Nguy 12:30-3pm. Raffle and silent auction.

**April 27 & 28, 2024. San Diego Spring Show**, 2024 Spring Show, Saturday and Sunday, 10am to 5pm on Saturday, and 10am to 4pm on Sunday. Casa del Prado, Room 101, tree display and sales. Banquet, raffle and auction 5:30-8pm. Baikoen will hire a bus or van depending on the number of people that sign up to go. The cost is \$20 plus \$3 tip for the driver. Leaving the Arboretum South parking lot at 2pm and returning about 11pm. Please bring a dessert for the banquet. Please sign up for

the trip at the March and April meeting so we can plan for transportation. Full payment is due at the April meeting. Sorry, no refunds.

**May 4 & 5, 2024, Chino Bonsai Club, 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Bonsai Exhibit**, 261 S. Junipero Serra Dr., San Gabriel, CA. Open May 4<sup>th</sup> 9am to 5pm, May 5<sup>th</sup> 9am to 3:30pm. Round Robin demonstration at 10:15am, 1pm Demonstration by David Nguy, auction and raffle. Please see the flyer.

**May 25, 26 & 27, 2024, Santa Anita Bonsai Society, 57<sup>th</sup> Annual Bonsai Exhibition**, LA Arboretum, Ayres Hall, 301 North Baldwin Ave, Arcadia, CA, 9am to 4:30pm, large vendor and sales area. Demonstration daily at 1pm, For more information contact 213-709-4171.

**June 9, 2024, LA Bonsai Swap Meet, 10am to 12pm**, Woodley Park, 6076 Woodley Avenue, Van Nuys (South end of parking lot). Enjoy a day of shopping, swapping, or selling bonsai, tools, and pots. Everyone is welcome to this free event. We welcome newcomers. For more information, email [minguseyes@gmail.com](mailto:minguseyes@gmail.com) or join us on Facebook at LA Community Bonsai Swap Meet Group.

**October 26-27, 2024, An Exhibition of Extraordinary Bonsai, Pacific Bonsai Expo**, [Henry J. Kaiser](#)

If you are planning to submit one or more of your trees for consideration, the submission period will run from February 1st through April 30th. The members of the jury will determine which trees will be accepted for display at the exhibit. For more information, please visit <https://pacificbonsaiexpo.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 anybody. However, it is not interactive, as 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](https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=baikoen+bonsai+club)

## **Baikoen Demo Schedule – 2024**

|                    |                                 |
|--------------------|---------------------------------|
| April 18, 2024     | Bill Ward                       |
| May 16, 2024       | Kaya Mooney, CBS Artist         |
| June 20, 2024      | Mitch Matsey                    |
| July 18, 2024      | CBS Artist[Type here]           |
| August, 2024       | No Meeting                      |
| September 19, 2024 | Robert Hoogeveen                |
| October 17, 2024   | Debra Mauzy-Melitz – Kusamomo   |
| November 21, 2024  | Elle Nieto-Brodnick, CBS Artist |
| December, 2024     | No Meeting, Happy Holidays      |