

GOLDEN NEWS

A quarterly GSBF newsletter with updates and events

GSBF Bonsai Rendezvous Round Up by the Numbers

- Number of attendees: 347
- Number of workshop participants: 162
- Number of cities represented: 136
- Attendees' home states:
 - Arizona
 - California
 - Idaho
 - Nevada
 - Ohio
 - Oregon
 - Tennessee
 - Texas
 - Utah
 - Washington
- Number of Post Event Survey Respondents: 86
(that's 25% of attendees)
- Rating of overall event experience (5 = excellent; 1 = poor):
 - 5 = 54 responses (63.5%)
 - 4 = 27 responses (31.8%)
 - 3 = 4 responses (4.7%)
 - 2 = 0 responses
 - 1 = 0 responses



Monday January 22, 2024
6:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. (PDT)



Golden State Bonsai Federation invites member clubs
to our 2024 first quarter Golden Zoom series
featuring Florida's Mike Lane.



Mike will discuss Clip and Grow theory and application: focusing on proportion and wound closure. Contrary to popular belief, clip and grow refers to the growing theory of allowing trunks and branches to attain desired diameter before being cut and has little to do with whether wire is used or not.

We will send the Zoom link to GSBF clubs, who are encouraged to share it with their membership.

See you there!

2024 Golden Zoom Schedule

April 22 - Yannick Kiggen - (Belgium)

July 22 - Caz Scott - (UK)

October 28 - Tyler Sherrod (North Carolina)

A Message from the Chair:

GSBF welcomes 2024 – but first...

We need to thank those in our bonsai community that helped to make 2023 a very successful year. In 2022, Dennis and Joanne Makishima donated their entire bonsai collection to the Bonsai Garden at Lake Merritt which ultimately led to several outstanding fund-raising events for the collection. In Southern California the community donated a huge amount of quality material to the Bonsai-A-Thon at the Huntington which led to a record funding event. And, as always, to all of the community volunteers that work hard at organizing and providing shows & fund-raising events for each of the communities' bonsai clubs, you folks are the reason that our clubs are seeing unprecedented growth over the last few years. Thank you.

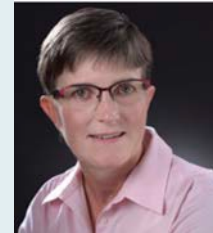
Also, with our very successful 2023 Bonsai Rendezvous in the rear-view mirror, we need to pause for a moment and recognize all that made this event so outstanding. First, Cheryl Manning and the Huntington collection team for their donation making the 'All Collections' show possible. A HUGE shout out to the small army of dedicated volunteers at each of the collections that worked endlessly preparing the trees for what became an amazing display of our communities Bonsai legacy; To all of the Workshop and Educational Seminar leaders that provided a dizzying array of workshops and seminars; To John Kim and Michele Hong for sponsoring the Joshua Roth Competition and to each of the amazing Joshua Roth Contestants; and finally to the folks that donated material and money... Peter Tea who provided all of the Copper Wire; Cheryl Manning for helping to purchase aprons for all of the volunteers; Shirley and Charlene Quan for their generous monetary donation; The Clarks for providing discounted workshop material; Tom Vuong for Bjorn's amazing demo Utah Juniper; Bob Pressler of Kimura Bonsai Garden for his gift of workshop material and finally the GSBF Rendezvous committee who met often, worked hard and delivered a totally knock out event... ALL OF YOU FOLKS ROCK! Thank You.

Looking forward... The Bonsai Garden at Lake Merritt will host its annual Mammoth Auction, February 17 & 18.. The Huntington collection will host its Bonsai-A-Thon on February 24 & 25. But this year's biggest event, the one we should all be planning for, is the 2nd PACIFIC BONSAI EXPO! It will be held on October 26 & 27, 2024 at the Henry J. Kaiser Center for the Arts in Oakland. That's just across the lake from the Bonsai Garden at Lake Merritt. If you are contemplating submitting a tree, the submission period will be open from February 1 through April 30.. Learn more about the event at the Expo website, <https://pacificbonsaiexpo.org/>

Michael Roberts,
Chair Golden State Bonsai Federation

<https://www.gsbfbonsai.org>

Featured GSBF Board Member



**Pam
Grassmidt**

Pam Grassmidt is a retired women's health nurse practitioner. She worked over 30 years in the Stanislaus county hospital and clinics. She also worked in a private Ob/Gyn office for her last several years of employment.

Her bonsai journey began in 1998 after wandering into the Modesto Bonsai Club's spring show. As a longtime member of Modesto Bonsai club, she has been a show chair on several occasions. She's also a member of American Bonsai Association Sacramento. Her bonsai education has been primarily from the Modesto club instructor, Sam Adina. Pam enjoys attending conventions, seminars and shows to learn more about the art of bonsai.

Her involvement with GSBF has been lengthy. She served on the GSBF 2008 Convention Committee and was workshop chair when the event was held in Modesto. She has assisted at the GSBF Rendezvous at the cashier table for the past two years. Also, she was the Volunteer Coordinator for the 2023 Bonsai Rendezvous. Pam looks forward to continuing to assist GSBF to meet its goals of bonsai awareness and education in the larger community.



Upcoming
EVENTS

**Monday January 22 at 6:30 pm
Golden Zoom with Mike Lane**

Zoom link will be sent to club representatives for distribution.

**Mammoth Auction and Sale
February 17 & 18**

Annual fundraiser for
Bonsai Garden at Lake Merritt
<https://bonsailakemerritt.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/Mammoth-2024-Flyer.pdf>

**Bonsai-A-Thon
February 24 & 25**

Annual fundraiser for
GSBF Collection at the Huntington
<http://www.gsbfhuntington.com/bonsai-a-thon.html>

**Pacific Bonsai Expo
October 26 & 27**

<https://pacificbonsaiexpo.org/>

**GSBF Bonsai Rendezvous
October 25 - 27, 2025**

Santa Nella, CA*

*The GSBF Bonsai Rendezvous will be held every other year, opposite of the Pacific Bonsai Expo and the California Shohin Society's convention so that we can all fully support these great events.

**Meet the January
Golden Zoom
Presenter: Mike
Lane**



Florida resident, Mike Lane's bonsai journey in began late in 2008, after receiving a small juniper as a gift. Following this tree's untimely demise caused by ignorance, he began looking for classes online and stumbled upon Wigert's Bonsai in North Fort Myers Florida. Shortly thereafter he began working under the tutelage of Erik Wigert assisting Erik in both traveling workshops, regular classes, and all aspects of the bonsai nursery.

In 2010, Mike was awarded a scholarship by the Bonsai Societies of Florida, by placing first in the state's annual styling competition. Using this scholarship, he traveled to Mexico for the 2010 FELAB convention where he met and learned from artists such as Mauro Stemberger, Min Lo, Robert Steven, Vlad Novak, and Enrique Castano. 2012 marked the year he began teaching, starting with several workshops and demonstrations throughout the state of Florida, as well as teaching a monthly help session aimed at providing continuing education for students finishing the beginner and intermediate classes.

Over the years Mike has dedicated himself to primarily shohin and tropical bonsai design and has been working toward spreading their appeal and understanding.

Over the last 5 years he has traveled all over the country giving lectures, demonstrations, and exhibit critiques. He has visited clubs in New York, Knoxville, San Antonio, Houston, Austin, and New Orleans as well as many other states and cities.

On numerous occasions his work has appeared in the popular publication Bonsai Focus. He has displayed at the state level several times as well as having his work accepted to the U.S. National Bonsai show on two occasions.

During the Pandemic, he expanded his services to include online and Zoom presentations. As a result, he has engaged with students all over the world. During this time, he continued traveling and did two, 15-day tours throughout Texas and Louisiana. 2022-2023 marked the launch of his website and education center, www.kitsunebonsai.com, an online resource for classes, programs, and merchandise. 2023 also marked his first international teaching experience, traveling to Hyderabad, India to lecture and share his knowledge. He finished 2023 with visits to several clubs in California, New England, Texas, and Louisiana.



How does a GSBF membership benefit my club or myself?

Your GSBF Board continues to work hard to improve communication and offer more educational outreach and opportunities for our member clubs, such as the **Golden Zooms, the Rendezvous, our website** and this **newsletter**.

Also, one of the major benefits of GSBF membership is our **insurance program**. If desired, clubs have the opportunity to purchase various insurance policies. Some venues require your club to obtain Additional Insured coverage in order for your club to meet at their facility. This type of coverage can be obtained via GSBF's insurance program.

Clubs are encouraged to renew or join GSBF early in 2024 since our insurance period is April 1 - March 30. Club representatives will soon be receiving renewal information via email.

The GSBF website, <https://www.gsbfbonsai.org/> offers a wealth of information:

- **Event Listings** - advertise your club's show to increase foot traffic, sales and membership
- **Club Directory** - network with other clubs to join forces to bring in outside speakers or discover other clubs that you may wish to attend
- **Bonsai Resources** - While it is not a complete list, this page offers information on bonsai nurseries / vendors
- **GSBF Collections** - we encourage you to visit all three GSBF Collections to view outstanding bonsai.
- **GSBF YouTube Chanel** - view prior Golden Zoom presentations to further our bonsai education.

Improve your Clubs' Exposure!

Advertise your club shows on the GSBF Website

Increased attendance at your club show will likely grow your club sales and membership as well as share our love of bonsai with the public.

To list your club show on the events page of the GSBF Website:

1. Submit information via the contact form at <https://www.gsbfbonsai.org/contact-us>
2. Also submit a photo for your event listing
3. Email us your show flyer so we can link it to your event listing.

In Memory:

Kanji Muranaka, passed away on November 8, 2023 at the age of 92.. Mr. Muranaka was the original owner of Muranaka Bonsai Nursery in Nipomo, CA. He came from humble beginnings and loved his family and bonsai.

Bob Bugay, died on November 27, 2023 following a brief battle with esophageal cancer. While living in San Jose, CA he was a member of Midori Bonsai Club and Sei Boku Bonsai Kai. Following his move to Auburn, CA in 2010, he became a member of American Bonsai Association Sacramento.

Bonsai Rendezvous 2023 Photo Album







