

Publication Picks

PBS has a wide selection of books, magazines, and periodicals available at most meetings. The majority are available for checkout, offering a wonderful opportunity to expand your knowledge. Any chance you can get to read about bonsai will further your studies—there is no such thing as a “bad” bonsai book. Keep in mind, however, that some techniques may be outdated or no longer in use. It’s always fascinating to compare pictures and content from years past. Today’s beginners have far more learning options, especially online, but remember: just because someone posts a video doesn’t necessarily make them an expert.

Below is a list of standout books for beginners. Their clear explanations and helpful photos make them invaluable resources:

- **Bonsai Pocket Guide** — *Jason Chan*
Recommended as our first beginner book. Available through the club at most meetings. Jason Chan is the owner of Eastern Leaf and its website.
- **The Essential Bonsai Book** — *Jonas Dupuich*
Offers techniques for creating beautiful trees. Our second recommended beginner guide, also available through PBS at most meetings. Jonas Dupuich is the administrator of the *Bonsai Tonight* website.
- **The Little Book of Bonsai** — *Jonas Dupuich*
An easy-care guide to maintaining your bonsai.
- **Bonsai Basic Design** — *David DeGroot*
Considered a gold standard in bonsai basics. Though out of print, this spiral-bound book is indispensable for design, technique, and theory. If you find a copy, buy it!
- **Principles of Bonsai Design** — *David DeGroot*
A more in-depth, hardbound follow-up with extensive information.
- **Tropical Green Sheets I & II** — *Martha Goff*
A spiral-bound softcover reference for tropical and desert species. Includes care guides, tips, tricks, and photos. Available from Bonsaijack.com and occasionally Amazon.
- **The Bonsai Workshop** — *Herb Gustafson*
One of many books by Gustafson, offering clear explanations and photos that open the door to working with common materials and achieving impressive results.