



EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP

[Tyler Niday](#)

Co-Founder & CEO

Tyler Niday is the Co-Founder and CEO of Bonsai Robotics. Before founding Bonsai Robotics, Tyler spent seven years at Blue River Technology and John Deere in engineering leadership, where he played a key role in pioneering "See & Spray" technology and was the founding engineer of the autonomy team. His work in autonomous systems and precision agriculture helped shape industry-leading innovations. Prior to Blue River, Tyler designed agricultural equipment for the tree nut industry at Orchard Machinery Corporation (OMC), focusing on mechanical, electrical, hydraulic, and drive-by-wire systems. Tyler holds a B.S. in Mechanical Engineering from Cal Poly and a Master's degree in Design and Management from MIT.

[Ugur Oezdemir](#)

Co-Founder & CTO

Ugur Oezdemir is the Co-Founder and CTO of Bonsai Robotics, where he leads the company's technological vision and innovation in agricultural autonomy. He brings over a decade of robotics and computer vision expertise to the development of autonomous systems. Ugur was pivotal in building the vision-based autonomy stack at John Deere and Blue River Technology, driving breakthroughs in agricultural robotics. Before founding Bonsai Robotics, he was a key contributor to Airbus's Vahana project at A³, a self-piloted eVTOL aircraft. His earlier career includes several senior autonomy roles at Volkswagen and Toyota, as well as research and development positions at Mercedes-Benz and the Fraunhofer Institute.

[Gary Bradski](#)

Chief Science Officer

Gary Bradski (PhD) is Chief Science Officer at Bonsai Robotics. He is founder & Chairman of OpenCV.org (400M downloads in 2025), was a consulting Professor at Stanford CS (2006-2012). He led the vision team for Stanley (the robot car that won the DARPA Grand Challenge, now in the Smithsonian Museum – Stanley became Waymo). He was on the founding team at 5 Startups with exits to Google, Microsoft, Matterport and Stryker. He sits on several boards and advisorships and is an active angel investor, most recent exit (Lambda Labs 2025 2nd market in \$2.5B D round, where he was the first investor). Gary was first investor and is on the board of Space-ng that did the nav system for Blue Ghost, the first successful commercial lunar lander (Gary's name is on its team plaque on the moon). He has won 2014 IEEE PAMI prize for contributions to the field of computer vision and won in 2021



the ICCV Helmholtz Prize Test of Time Award for his “ORB” paper. 77 Publications, 138 Patents.

Brendan Dowdle

Chief Financial Officer

Brendan Dowdle is the Chief Financial Officer of Bonsai Robotics, bringing over 10 years of experience building computer vision, AI and robotics companies. Brendan was the Co-Founder and COO of Arraiy, a startup focused on automating high-end video production, which was acquired by Matterport. At Matterport, he led the services business driving enterprise adoption of digital twin technology and helped scale the business through its IPO and beyond. Most recently, Brendan served as CEO of farm-ng, a robotics platform company making autonomy accessible to small and mid-sized farms, which was acquired by Bonsai Robotics in 2025. Brendan grew up in an agricultural family across Southeast Asia, where he saw firsthand how technology and entrepreneurship could empower farming communities and improve livelihoods. He holds an MBA from Stanford Graduate School of Business and a B.A. in Economics and Political Science from the University of Michigan.

Arlen Frew

Chief Revenue Officer

Arlen Frew is the Chief Revenue Officer at Bonsai Robotics. With over two decades in cloud security, SaaS, and enterprise technology experience, he has repeatedly steered early-stage companies to market-defining success and successful exits. His leadership roles at innovators such as Akamai and Zscaler honed his ability to spot emerging market opportunities, craft winning go-to-market strategies, and build high-performing teams that consistently deliver outsized growth. Arlen holds a B.A. in Economics from UC Berkeley and has completed executive education at the MIT Sloan School of Business.

Ben Poutre

Chief Operating Officer

Benoit (Ben) Poutré is the Chief Operating Officer at Bonsai Robotics. Ben spent 26 years at John Deere, where he led teams worldwide in research, design, and manufacturing engineering. He played key roles in new product development, program management, and scaling acquisitions such as Blue River Technology and Hagie Manufacturing, ensuring their successful integration into Deere’s broader mission. Most recently, Ben contributed to Deere’s SaaS initiatives and advanced the company’s automation and autonomy strategies. Rooted in his upbringing on a family farm in southern Québec, Ben brings a customer-first mindset, perseverance, and ingenuity to leadership. Ben holds a degree in Agricultural



Engineering from Université Laval and an MBA from the Gies College of Business from the University of Illinois.

OPERATIONAL LEADERSHIP

John Macdonald

Head of AI

John Macdonald is the Head of AI at Bonsai Robotics. Convinced of the potential of robotics from a young age, he started in competitive robotics in grade school and hasn't looked back. Previously, he worked on deep learning-based obstacle avoidance and 3D reconstruction at Skydio. Before that, he worked on autonomous organic crop navigation and monitoring at Carnegie Mellon University. John holds an M.S. in Robotic Systems Development from Carnegie Mellon University and a B.S. in Computer Science from Cornell University.

Lingjian Kong

Head of Robotics AI Platforms

Lingjian Kong is the Head of Robotics AI Platforms at Bonsai Robotics, where he leads the autonomy platform and AI infrastructure powering physical AI for off-road autonomy at scale. His experience spans the full stack of autonomous systems development, from high-performance embedded software to cloud-native distributed platforms. Previously at Apple, he built large-scale computer vision and data infrastructure to accelerate AI development on Apple hardware. Before that, he was a founding software engineer on John Deere's first fully autonomous tractor at Blue River Technology, unveiled at CES 2022. Lingjian holds a B.S. in Mechanical Engineering with a minor in Mathematics from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, an M.S. in Mechanical En

Andrew MacDonell

VP of Product Strategy & Customer Success at Bonsai Robotics

Andrew MacDonell is VP of Product Strategy & Customer Success at Bonsai Robotics, where he leads product strategy and execution end-to-end, from roadmap and hardware/software delivery through partnerships and customer adoption. Andrew joined Bonsai from Topcon Agriculture, where he led the digital business segment, scaling precision machine control and automation products across one of the world's largest precision-ag platforms. Before Topcon, he co-founded Optama, an orchard robotics startup focused on cutting chemical and water inputs in high-value specialty crops. Earlier in his career, Andrew led product and engineering teams at Abbott, where he shipped patented hardware/software systems into life-critical, FDA-regulated patient care. His product philosophy starts with customer needs, driving the focus and innovation required to deliver meaningful value at scale. Andrew holds



B.S. and M.S. degrees in Mechanical Engineering from Loyola Marymount University and an MBA from U.C. Berkeley Haas.

[Chris Pitzer](#)

VP of Hardware Engineering

Chuck Pitzer is currently serving as Vice President of Hardware Engineering at Bonsai Robotics. Before joining Bonsai, Chuck served as Senior Engineer, Staff Engineer, Principal Engineer, Director of Product Development, and Director of Hardware Engineering at two successfully acquired robotics startups (Neato Robotics and Fetch Robotics) in Silicon Valley. In addition to the fast-paced startup culture, Chuck has experienced product development with the rigor of Japanese (Panasonic Avionics), German (Vorwerk International), and American aerospace (Boeing, Raytheon) engineering. Chuck holds a B.S. in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Florida and a Masters in Materials Science from UCLA - along with a Professional Engineering license in Mechanical Engineering Machine Design in the state of California.

[Jeet Mehta](#)

VP of Hardware Product Development & Operations

Jeet Mehta is the VP of Hardware Product Development and Operations at Bonsai Robotics. He brings over 12+ years of leadership experience in product & strategy, engineering design, new product development, and program execution across vehicle and agricultural technologies. Prior to Bonsai, Jeet served as Head of Product Development and Operations at Farm-ng and spent four years at Monarch Tractor, where he played a pivotal role in shaping the company's product vision and roadmap for its fully electric, driver-optional tractors as Head of Product. Earlier in his career, he led Program Management and Product Engineering at Mahindra GenZe, a pioneer in electric scooters and e-bikes products. Jeet holds an M.S. in Mechanical Engineering from RIT and a Bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Mumbai.

[Elise Sudlow](#)

Chief of Staff

Elise Sudlow is the Chief of Staff at Bonsai Robotics. She earned a Master's in Public Administration with Highest Honors from the University of San Francisco's School of Management, graduating in 2018. Shortly after, Elise joined Matternet, a pioneer in autonomous drone delivery systems, where she spent the next five years leading BizOps and various functions for the company. With a broad range of experience in scaling and leading startup operations and teams, she brings invaluable expertise to Bonsai.



[Linda McNair](#)

VP of Marketing

Linda McNair is Vice President of Marketing at Bonsai. She has a proven track record at startups and Fortune 500 companies including Adobe, Cisco, and Oracle. She has led communications, product marketing, and content marketing teams, partnering with executives, driving cross-functional initiatives, and guiding organizations through pivotal moments. Most recently at Adobe, she built a global network of higher education institutions equipping students with creative and AI-driven skills. At Matterport — a spatial data company that uses computer vision to capture digital twins — she prepared the company for a successful IPO. She also supported farm-ng, acquired by Bonsai in 2025, with its Series A, securing national, technology, and trade media coverage. Rooted in Santa Cruz County's agricultural community, Linda co-owned an organic nursery, now turned lavender farm. She holds a bachelor's degree in Marketing with a minor in Journalism from Santa Clara University.

[Deborah Tellez](#)

Head of People

Deborah Tellez is the Head of People at Bonsai Robotics. Before joining Bonsai, Deborah spent three years as Head of People and Head of Revenue Operations at Fieldin, a smart farming company serving specialty crop growers, where she built out the company's people function while also leading the revenue operations behind deal management and compensation design. As a member of Fieldin's leadership team, she shaped both people and revenue strategy, modernizing core systems, strengthening compliance, and building the compensation and operational programs that scaled with the business.

Earlier, Deborah held People Operations and Revenue Operations leadership roles at Totango and Landit, high-growth technology companies where she developed the rare combination of people and revenue expertise that defines her work today. In 2021 she was recognized as a Top 100 Revenue Operations Leader by The Modern Sale. Deborah is a certified Predictive Index Practitioner.

[Kevin Ross](#)

Head of Business Development

Kevin Ross is the Head of Business Development at Bonsai. With over two decades of experience in the software industry, Kevin is a seasoned sales and business development leader. A graduate of the University of Southern California, his diverse background spans international sales, strategic partnerships, sales management, and channel development. Kevin has built his reputation as an expert in the agriculture software sector, holding



leadership roles at CamoAg, where he led institutional sales, and at Fieldin, where he spearheaded the business development team.