Conejo Valley Bonsai Society

A member of the Golden State Bonsai Federation

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CVBS on the Web

(Click on name to visit Web site.)

Conejo Valley Bonsai Society CVBS CaféPress Store CVBS Online Bonsai Gallery Other Bonsai Groups

(Click on name to visit Web site.) **Golden State Bonsal Federation American Bonsal Society Bonsal Club of Santa Barbara** California Alseki Kai **Descanso Bonsal Society** Dai Ichi Bonsai Kai **Shohin Bonsal Society of So. Cal.** Sansul-Kal of So. Cal. Santa Anita Bonsal Society **South Coast Bonsal Association** San Diego Bonsai Club

President's Message

The Way Ahead Is Full

By Marj Branson

or all of us who attended our January meeting, the Roy Nagatoshi demonstration on shimpaku grafting techniques was an eye opener. When nudging and developing a tree to ap-

pear mature and old, grafting appears to be one way to speed up the process—if speeding up is possible. Leaving this to natural development takes time-maybe even more than a lifetime. As Roy showed, however, grafting is an alternative.

Don't forget our Bonsai Basics classes, which start at 6:00 PM, preceding our regular meeting. This month we will have a Bonsai Basics workshop. Everyone at all levels is welcome to attend, but the advisors' time will be dedicated mainly to novices. As always there is a \$5.00 donation at the door. (The regular meeting is also a workshop; everyone please come and bring your trees.)

For Bosai Basics participants, we like to tie our workshops to our classes. Our January class was on Bonsai History and Styles, so keep styles in mind when choosing the tree you are bringing this month. We will be revisiting styles when viewing and styling your trees. Consider sketching your tree in the style you envision it.



President Marj Branson

Looking further out in the year, October will be our club's annual bonsai exhibition at the Gardens of the World in Thousand Oaks. We have available to us the first or second week-

> end. Please give some thought to your preference so we can finalize the date and program during this month's business meeting, which starts at 7:30 PM. We need to settle this so we can start arranging our publicity.

> Finally, don't forget the Bonsai-A-Thon the last weekend of February at the Huntington Gardens. This is the annual fundraiser that supports out Golden State Bonsai Federation's bonsai collection at the Huntington. Our newsletter on page 7 includes the entrance ticket. Please take this ticket with you when you go; it will smooth out the entry process. If you would like to see and hear more about the expansion plans for the Japanese Garden, I would suggest attending the guided tour by Jim Folsom. He will be giving the tour both Saturday and Sunday and I can assure you, you will enjoy it! See you Thursday night. 🛸

Conejo Valley Bonsai Society 盆栽

Could this be the new look for our club's logo? See details of our search on page 6.

DUES REMINDER: It's a new year, and club dues are now payable. Please remit your check payable to the Conejo Valley Bonsai Society for \$20 (single) or \$25 (couples) to Larry Kimmelman, CVBS Membership Chair, 2727 Autumn Ridge Drive, Thousand Oaks, CA 91362 or bring your check to our next monthly meeting. Thanks!

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(Click on E-mail)

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Conejo Valley Bonsai Society Meetings

Westlake Village City Hall

Community Room

31200 Oakcrest Drive Westlake Village, CA 91361

7:30 PM - 9:00 PM

3RD Thursday of every month

Note: Bonsai Basics Classes

& Workshops start at 6:00 PM

CVBS Programs

2011			
January 20 NOTE 1st Bonsai Basics Class!	6:00 PM Bonsai Basics Class: Bonsai History & Styles 7:30 PM Brief Meeting followed by DEMONSTRATION: ROY NAGATOSHI / Grafting		
February 17	6:00 PM Bonsai Basics Workshop 7:30 PM Brief Meeting followed by Workshop—BRING YOUR TREES		
March 17	6:00 PM Bonsai Basics Class: Basics of Design 7:30 PM Brief Meeting followed by DEMONSTRATION: Ted Matson / Repotting Boxwood		
April 21	6:00 PM Bonsai Basics Workshop 7:30 PM Brief Meeting followed by Workshop—BRING YOUR TREES		
May 19	6:00 PM Bonsai Basics Class: Shaping with Wire 7:30 PM Brief Meeting followed by DEMONSTRATION: Kathy Benson / TBD		
June 16	6:00 PM Bonsai Basics Workshop 7:30 PM Brief Meeting followed by Workshop—Bring Your Trees		
July 21	6:00 PM Bonsai Basics Workshop 7:30 PM Brief Meeting followed by Workshop—Bring Your Trees		
August 18	6:00 PM Bonsai Basics Class: Soils & Fertilizers 7:30 PM Brief Meeting followed by DEMONSTRATION: CESAREO PEREZ / Bonsai Displays		
September 15	6:00 PM – 9:30 PM: Workshop to Prepare Trees for Exhibition (Maximum 3 trees per person) BRING THE TREES YOU PLAN TO EXHIBIT		
October ????	8TH ANNUAL EXHIBITION Gardens of the World		
October 20	6:00 PM Bonsai Basics Class: Potting & Repotting 7:30 PM Brief Meeting followed by DEMONSTRATION: Jim Barrett /Proper Pot Selection		
November 17	6:00 PM Bonsai Basics Workshop 7:30 PM Brief Meeting followed by Workshop—BRING YOUR TREES		
December 15	HOLIDAY POTLUCK 7:30 PM		

Barrett's Bonsai Tips

Potting and Re-potting Guidelines

By Jim Barrett

ebruary and March are probably the best two months of the year for potting and repotting bonsai and training trees from nursery cans to bonsai pots. Deciding which bonsai needs re-potting will depend on how long since its last potting and whether the tree has become root bound.

If the pot does not have a major inside lip, you may want to inspect the root ball by lifting the tree out of the pot. Look for a firm root ball with roots visible all around the sides and bottom.

Another indication that the tree needs re-potting is the soil lifting above the edge of the pot. This shows that a mat of roots has formed on the bottom and is pushing the tree up. Trident maple bonsai are noted for this phenomenon

One important reason for re-potting is the tree has matured beyond its present container. Either it has grown larger or it deserves a more appropriate pot.

There are several things to consider when you decide to proceed: Decide which tree or trees you want to pot. Choose the pot. And it's a good idea to have a standby in case the first one doesn't work. Place the wire or heavy plastic screen over each drain hole. Mesh should be at least 1/8-inch holes. Make sure screens are held in place with wire clips.



Jim Barrett

If you are going to tie the tree in, now is the time to install the tie wires. Use a wire of sufficient size and strength to do the job. Make sure the pot is clean inside and out. Have your favorite mix handy.

Niche Displays Marj Branson

	2011 Niche Displays	
	Jan.	Marj Branson
	Feb.	Grace Sy
	March	Eric Schrader
	April	Open
	May	Open
	June	Open
	July	Open
	August	Ken Fuentes
	Sept.	Ken Martin
ď		

All of these preparations should be done before the root ball is disturbed. Many bonsai are lost or setback if the roots and soil are removed before everything is ready.

Some hobbyists take just enough soil and roots off to place the tree back in its original pot leaving room for an inch or so of new soil. Others are more aggressive in cleaning out old soil and prune the roots more severely. Both approaches are valid. It all depends on the condition of the tree, its root system, and the owner's goals for the tree.

This all sounds pretty involved or complicated—it isn't, if you use common sense and do not get too rough with the tree.

Aesthetic considerations are: Tree and pot harmony or appropriateness. Is the tree placed in the pot properly? Is the tree planted at the proper angle or attitude? Is the front of the tree facing the viewer?

After re-potting, place the tree in a shaded area to protect it from the wind. In a week to ten days, place it where you would normally. Wait about a month before fertilizing.

Speaking of fertilizers, you should have started fertilizing with organic fertilizer by now. Miracle Grow and fast-acting fertilizers are best applied at half strength. Time-release and slow-acting chemical fertilizers, such as Osmocote and Woodace, are safe if you follow printed instructions. Some people add these to their soil mix.

Refreshments Who's Who In Refreshments

Jill Peters

We are grateful to Tom Davis and Michael Mulhern for bringing January's delicious and bountiful refreshments.

For this February meeting, thanks to Grace Sy and Al Espinoza for volunteering to bring drinks and Larry Kimmelman for signing up for cookies. I will call this month's volunteers on Tuesday, Feb 15th, as a reminder. Tell me at that time if you have second thoughts so we can get a replacement.

A volunteer is needed to bring cold drinks in April, then we are set until July. Thanks for your generous response.

2011			
	Cold Drinks	Cookies/ Pastries	
Feb.	Grace Sy Al Espinoza	Larry Kimmelman	
Mar.	Jill Peters	Evans Thomas	
April	Volunteer Needed	Dave Williams	
May	Rick Midthun	Rick Midthun	
June	Ken Martin	Tony Castagna	

Club Library Larry Kimmelman

Did you know your club has a library of bonsai books? The library is brought to each meeting, and members are invited to borrow the books for a 30-day period. Please return books at the next meeting. Especially for Bonsai Basics students, there are beginner bonsai books available. Ask me at any meeting.

Club Program

Nagatoshi Grafting Technique 101

By Ken Martin

Conejo Valley Bonsai Society's January meeting, he discussed and a reasonably short time a bonsai that appears to be very old. illustrated his method and demonstrated it on a prostrata juniper that the club owns.

dad, Shig Nagatoshi, visited a well-known bonsai nurseryman in explained, but if you want an old-looking tree with green, dense Palo Alto who was a good friend. The friend had grafted shimpaku shimpaku foliage and don't want to wait a 100 years, grafting onto some Sierra junipers with spectacular results: the foliage was shimpaku onto another juniper with an established trunk is the soft, compact, and green.

shimpaku whips onto all types of junipers, a practice that Roy junipers once a year, from September to November.

lessons there.

(Second tree) He then showed us a kishu graft growing wild on a San Jose juniper. Early in his career, Roy would approach graft several shimpaku whips to several places on the host tree. As he has gotten more experienced, he normally just grafts one place.



(Third tree) This tree is a California juniper Roy bought at the Golden State Bonsai Federation convention in Riverside two years ago. The shimpaku approach graft with its roots in a 2-inch pot is still attached. He will cut the root ball off in March after it has been grafted about 14 months. He will leave about a 2-inch tail below the graft. He will cut off the California juniper foliage at the same time.

All photos Shig Hayashi except fifth tree (right), which is by Ken Martin continues today. Shig is the Roy is now the owner. In



(Fourth tree) On this tree, the graft has succeeded and Roy has cut off the shimpaku's roots and has put a piece of rubber hose wired around the graft on this tree. He will leave this on for another year.



(Fifth tree) This tree was grafted in December of 2006. Alex, Roy's assistant, initially styled it two weeks before the meeting.

R oy Nagatoshi is well-known in bonsai circles for his practice of The Nagatoshis adopted the shimpaku-grafting technique grafting shimpaku junipers to other juniper rootstocks. At the because it improves the appearance of the tree. It also produces in

This is especially important to people who do not live in Japan or do not have deep pockets. There are century-old shimpaku Historically, Roy started grafting shimpaku after he and his bonsai in Japan that have thick trunks and look very old, Roy way to go. He also said the shimpaku foliage has to be pinched After that visit, Shig Nagatoshi started approach grafting much less than other juniper varieties. He says he pinches back

> He emphasized that grafts only work when the tree genus is founder of Fuji Bonsai the same. For example, juniper to juniper works but juniper to Nursery in Sylmar, where pine or anything else would not.

> Shimpaku is Japanese for juniper. Juniperus chinensis sargentii addition to the nursery is the official scientific name for the juniper in Japan called operation, Roy gives shimpaku. There are three subspecies; itoigawa, kishu, and one other. Some bonsaists prefer the itoigawa, but Roy finds it hard to

pinch. He prefers the little less dense kishu.

Grafting of shimpaku should be done in December and January because the sap is not running, Roy warned. If the sap is running, the bark is easily separated from the cambium and the cambium layers may not bond.

First, Roy showed the group five shimpaku grafts in various stages of development. The first tree Roy showed the group was a California juniper with a kishu shimpaku grafted to it (no photo). He also showed a kishu on a San Jose juniper; a California juniper with the shimpaku's pot still attached; another graft that has taken and the pot removed; and finally a five-year-old graft that has been styled (see photos for more information on each graft).

Two years ago, Roy collected 25 California junipers from the wild; of them, 12 survived. He will graft them this month.

Roy said he has been buying his kishu whips in small pots from a supplier who recently retired. These whips were very healthily green and have grown to a foot or more tall with several long branches. Roy gave Alex the credit for figuring out how to grow these. "I hope so," Roy joked.

(CVBS Club tree) This tree is a prostrata juniper that the club bought about a year ago; since then, club member and Program Chair Debbie Irvin has been taking care of it.

In a bit of audience participation/ interactive teaching, Roy asked the attendees for suggestions on where to do the graft. After a lively discussion, all agreed that the

Continued on page 5)

(Continued from page 4)

best idea would be to create a shohin bonsai (shorter than 9 inches) by grafting very on the prostrata. But case that graft doesn't take, another

graft would be done higher up.

Following this decision, Roy grafted the shimpaku whips onto two small limbs, each not much larger than the kishu branches. He explained that grafting to relatively small branches has a greater chance of success than trying to graft to the larger, more mature trunk.

He cut all the branches off the shimpaku scion, except the two he used for the grafts. He also cut most of the foliage off the parent tree, leaving some above the higher graft so that foliage would cause

nutrients to flow up the tree to and past both grafts.

He and Alex secured the shimpaku pot very firmly to the trunk of the parent tree, using wires in two directions. Both grafts were made on the parent branches as close to the main trunk as possible. Roy used a very sharp grafting

knife to make the approximately 3/4 inch long cuts in the parent branch and the scion. He and Alex very carefully aligned the two exposed cambium layers on one side of the cuts.

He said it is of extreme importance the scion be secured firmly to the parent branch. He used three clips to do this for each graft. The clips consisted of 3/4- inch pieces of 1/4- inch plastic tube with 3-inch lengths of 2 1/2

or 3 mm aluminum wire through them. He then put a tree seal compound on the grafts to prevent dehydration of the wound.

He said the wires in the clips need to be cut in October so the graft area can expand. He said just cut the wire, do not remove it. He also said it is important to put a tag the tree saying when the tree has been grafted.

The root ball on the club tree and the remaining prostrata foliage can be removed in March 2012.

Roy uses a dormant spray on his junipers in January and fertilizes them fairly heavily during the growing season. 😤



plastic tubing around the wires to protect the scion's bark. Once the grafts were securely in place, Roy covers the whole area with a tree sealing compound (above left and right).









Help Wanted

New Logo for CVBS?

By Al Espinoza

5 ome changes are on the horizon for CVBS as we explore new logo concepts to be incorporated into our club newsletter, literature, and flyers. The idea to update the design of the newsletter was proposed by Editor David Whiteside at the final board meeting of 2010; the board approved the suggestion and appointed David committee chair.

David, Marj Branson, and I are working on new logo concepts with David Williams, who has graciously volunteered to help with the graphics. We still need a newsletter designer on the committee, so if you have expertise in this area, please volunteer. Our current idea is to incorporate some type of live oak into the CVBS logo (see sample photos of live oak bonsai below). Our first logo concept is above, right. We will show others in future newsletters. Any comments or feedback concerns.













January Niche Procumbens Juniper

Native to southern Japan, this tree is variously known as the Japanese garden juniper or creeping juniper. Its scientific name is *Juniperus procumbens*, so in bonsai circles, it is commonly referred to as a procumbens juniper. Marj Branson comments on the procumbens juniper she provided for our January meeting's niche display:

I repotted the tree approximately two years ago into its current pot.

I have been trying to keep the foliage open and airy so the tree's form can be seen. The bark texture has an old feel, so I also want to keep it visible along with the hollowing of the trunk, which was eaten by white ants.

—Marj Branson Photo by Shig Hayashi



Bonsai-A-Thon XV 2011

Fundraiser For THE GSBF COLLECTION AT THE HUNTINGTON Saturday, February 26th & Sunday, February 27th

The Huntington Library and Botanical Gardens - 1151 Oxford Road, San Marino

7:30 - 9:30	Early Bird Registration: Free pass to all of the Huntington Gardens;
	Pancake breakfast available

- 8:00 5:00 Bazaar and Bonsai Exhibits: Top-quality tools, pots and trees on sale; Masterpiece trees on display.
- 10:00 11:30 Guided Tour by Jim Folsom: Highlights of plans for future expansion of Japanese Garden.
- 10:00 Noon Demonstrations: Initial training and advanced techniques.
- 11:30 1:30 Lunch: Hotdogs and hamburgers available.
- 1:00 2:45 Demonstrations: Concluded.
- 2:00 3:00 (Only on Sunday) John Naka The Ultimate Artist: Larry Ragle PowerPoint lecture.
- 3:00 4:30 Raffle and Live Auction: Demonstration trees and donated trees, pots...

For more information, contact Marge Blasingame: 626 579-0420 or margeblasingame@att.net

HOW TO GET IN

Attending the Bonsai-A-Thon is free, but does require registration at the Botanic Center. You can speed the process by filling in the "ticket" to the right and showing it to the Bonsai-A-Thon registrar or the Huntington security guard.



Feb 26th – 27th 2011

Bonsai-A-Thon Participant

Name:

CVBS Memberships

We Are an Open Society—Come Join Us!

By Larry Kimmelman

If you are new to the Conejo Valley Bonsai Society—as a visitor to our Web site, reader of our newsletter, a guest at a meeting, or already decided to join the club—there are virtually no barriers to entry. Our annual dues are only \$20.00 for a single person, \$25.00 for couples.

We meet on the third Thursday of each month, starting at 7:30 PM, in the Westlake Village City Hall at 31200 Oakcrest

Drive, Westlake Village, CA 91361. We also have Novice Classes and Workshops starting at 6:00 PM each month (please see page 2 for details).

You can bring your check to the next meeting, or mail it to me, Larry Kimmelman, CVBS Membership Chair, 2727 Autumn Ridge Drive, Thousand Oaks, CA 91362. Please make the check payable to Conejo Valley Bonsai Society.

Coming Events (click on the hyperlinks to visit Web sites or send e-mails)

February

February 26 – 27 / San Marino, California

GSBF Bonsai-A-Thon XV, at the Huntington Library and Botanical Gardens, 1151 Oxford Road, San Marino. This is the annual fundraiser for the GSBF Collection at The Huntington. Admission to the event and to the Huntington Gardens is free with Bonsai-A-Thon Early Bird Registration. Hours are 7:30AM – 4:30PM both days. Pancake breakfast, tour hosted by Jim Folsom, Director of the Garden, demonstrations, lunch, bonsai exhibits, large sales area, raffle, and auction. For more information, contact Marge Blasingame, (626) 579-0420 or margeblasingame@att.net.

February 26 - 27 / Oakland, California

GSBF Bonsai Garden at Lake Merritt: Mammoth Fundraiser, 2011 at the Lakeside Garden Center, 666 Bellevue Avenue. Saturday (Feb 26), Auction of fabulous bonsai, 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM with preview at 12 Noon. Sunday (Feb 27), Mammoth Fundraiser and Bazaar, 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM. Round Robin Demonstrations at 1:30 PM by Collection Curator Kathy Shaner and team. Vendors, a large consignment sale of bonsai, and bonsai related items, and several raffle drawings throughout the day. For general information email: www.bonsailakemerritt@gmail.com, Web site: www.gsbf-bonsai.org/lake-merritt/NewHome.htm or phone: Randi Keppeler (650) 598-0127.

March

March 12-13 / Oakland, California

Bay Area Bonsai Associates: 29th Annual Show at the Lakeside Park Garden Center, 666 Bellevue Avenue. Show hours are Saturday: 5-9PM and Sunday: 10AM-4PM. There will be a 6:30PM, Saturday demonstration by Ryan Neil, who apprenticed with Masahiko Kimura and is noted for his teaching excellence, followed by a raffle of the demonstration tree and general prizes. A plant sale during exhibit hours both days will include pre-bonsai, bonsai, pots, tools, soils, wire, literature and other bonsai related materials. Admission is free, and parking is free after 5PM. For more information contact John Roehl at bjbluemoon@comcast.net or at 707-827-3206

March 19 - 20 / Palo Alto, California

Kusamura Bonsai Club: 51st Annual Show at the Lucie Stern Community Center, 1305 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto. Admission is free. Show hours are Saturday: 12 Noon to 5:00 PM, and Sunday: 10:00 AM – 5:00 PM. There will be demonstrations, raffles, and club member tree sales both days. Guest Demonstrator to be announced. For more information, contact Jerry Carpenter at (408) 557-0166; (408) 823-9525; or icramsunded-line in the contact Jerry Carpenter at (408) 557-0166; (408) 823-9525; or icramsunded-line in the contact Jerry Carpenter at (408) 557-0166; (408) 823-9525; or icramsunded-line in the contact Jerry Carpenter at (408) 557-0166; (408) 823-9525; or icramsunded-line in the contact Jerry Carpenter at (408) 557-0166; (408) 823-9525; or icramsunded-line in the contact Jerry Carpenter at (408) 557-0166; (408) 823-9525; or icramsunded-line in the contact Jerry Carpenter at (408) 557-0166; (408) 823-9525; or icramsunded-line in the contact Jerry Carpenter at (408) 557-0166; (408) 823-9525; or icramsunded-line in the contact Jerry Carpenter at (408) 557-0166; (408) 823-9525; or icramsunded-line in the contact Jerry Carpenter at (408) 557-0166; (408) 823-9525; or icramsunded-line in the contact Jerry Carpenter at (408) 557-0166; (408) 823-9525; or icramsunded-line in the contact Jerry Carpenter at (408) 557-0166; (408) 823-9525; or icramsunded-line in the contact Jerry Carpenter at (408) 557-0166; (408) 823-9525; or icramsunded-line in the contact Jerry Carpenter at (408) 557-0166; (408) 823-0166; (408) 823-0166; (408) 823-0166; (4

March 23, 24, 25, 26, 27 / San Mateo, California

Bonsai Society of San Francisco: Annual Bonsai Exhibit located in the San Francisco Flower and Garden Show at the San Mateo County Event Center, 1346 Saratoga Drive. General admission to the show is \$20.00. The hours are: Wednesday-Saturday 10AM-7PM and Sunday 10AM-6PM. For more information visit our website www.bssf.org. For general information on the Flower and Garden Show visit: www.sfgardenshow.com.

March 26, 27 / Visalia, California

GSBF Spring Board Meeting at the Lamp Liter Inn, 3300 Mineral King: Open to the general membership and all officers, Trustees, and Committee Members are encouraged to attend. Contact your District Trustee or any Board Member for input to the board.

March 26-27 / Fresno, California

The Fresno Bonsai Society: 38th Annual Spring Bonsai Exhibit in the Shinzen Gardens at Woodward Park, located at the corner of Friant and Audubon Roads. Hours are IOAM-4PM both days. The bonsai exhibit will be displayed in a beautiful outdoor setting. It is a part of the Spring Blossom Festival and Japanese cultural events, which will be on Saturday only. At IPM both days a demonstration of basic bonsai techniques will be provided by Ray Thieme and Richard Ramirez, and a bonsai raffle and large plant sale will also be available both days. There is a small entrance fee to the park. For more information contact Dwayne Berrett, 559 284 3549.

March 26-27 / Scotts Valley, California

Santa Cruz Bonsai Kai: 22 Annual Bonsai Exhibit and Show at the Scotts Valley Community Center, 360 Kings Village Road from 10:30AM-4:30PM both days. Demonstration by Mr. Katsumi Kinoshita will be at 2PM each day. Plant Sales, door prizes, raffle and much, much more. For more information call 831-469-0688 or e-mail edinbonnydoon@sbcglobal.net

April

April 2 / San Francisco, California

Bonsai Society of San Francisco Bonsai: Special Sales Event in the Recreation Room of the San Francisco County Fair Building, Ninth Avenue and Lincoln Way in Golden Gate Park. Bonsai and related items will be on sale by club members. Hours are 9AM-3PM. This sale is an addendum to the club's show of March 23-27 at the San Francisco Flower & Garden Show. Free admission; some parking available behind the building. For more information visit our website: www.bssf.org.

April 2-3 / Sacramento, California

Bonsai Sekiyu Kai of Sacramento: 34th Annual Bonsai Show at the Sacramento Betsuin Buddhist Church, 2401 Riverside Blvd. Hours are: Saturday, 12-Noon-5:00PM, and Sunday, 10AM-3:30PM. Demonstrations at 2PM, both days by Bonsai Master John Uchida. Amenities include refreshments, light snacks, door prizes, raffles, and a Silent Auction. Plant and bonsai tool sales will also available. For more information contact Ron Krause at 916-481-4792 or rkrause@surewest.net.