



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 Bonsai Federation

American Bonsai Society

Bonsai Club of Santa Barbara

California Aiseki Kai

Descanso Bonsai Society

Dai Ichi Bonsai Kai

Shohin Bonsai Society of So. Cal.

Sansui-Kai of So. Cal.

Santa Anita Bonsai Society

South Coast Bonsai Association

San Diego Bonsai Club

President's Message

Martinez Kicks Off 2013 Demos, Now It's Bonsai-A-Thon Time

By Marj Branson

We started January off with Alex Martinez doing our first demonstration for 2013. Fortunately for me the juniper Alex selected to work on for the evening was mine, so I have the start of an Alex Martinez designed tree. Thanks to all!


The Bonsai-A-Thon, which is at the end of February, still needs volunteers to help work the Saturday and/or Sunday. We have supported this activity in past years, so if anyone would like to volunteer please let me know. Plan a day for it—spend a few hours working and the balance of the day going through the vendor section or watching the demonstrations. The details of the program are on page 6 of this newsletter.

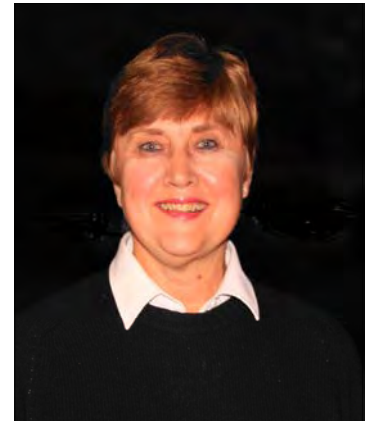
Springtime is the start of club shows. Try to attend as many as you can. It is a good opportunity to meet your mentor and make this part of the learning program.

Our nursery trip discussion got overlooked at our January meeting. Please bring your ideas and wishes to our February meeting and we can put a program in place.

Spring is around the corner so keep an eye on your trees. We have had a few cold nights (below freezing in some areas) so watch the ficus and other temperature-sensitive trees. Bring them in if you can or cover them. Don't forget to watch your watering program. With the cold days and nights, they need less water—but don't get caught and let them dry out.

Start thinking of your repotting program. You can start by identifying the trees that need to be repotted, get and prepare your soil, and look at your pot selection. Should you need to get supplies of either, the Bonsai-A-Thon would be a place to pick them up!


See you Thursday the 21st. 



President Marj Branson

2013 Dues Now Overdue

Annual dues for 2013 were payable in January. Single memberships are only \$25.00, and couples/family are \$30.00. Please bring your check payable to the Conejo Valley Bonsai Society to our February meeting, or send it to:

Larry Kimmelman, Membership Chair
2727 Autumn Ridge Drive
Thousand Oaks, CA 91362-4934 

Contact Us

(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

CVBS Programs

2013

If you are interested in the CVBS Mentoring Program, please see Larry Kimmelman or David Whiteside for more information & applications to participate.

January 17	7:30 PM: Brief Meeting followed by DEMONSTRATION: ALEX MARTINEZ / Juniper
February 21	7:30 PM: Brief Meeting followed by Workshop— BRING YOUR TREES
March 21	7:30 PM: Brief Meeting followed by DEMONSTRATION: Bob Pressler / Boxwood. First of a series from raw material to finished bonsai.
April 18	7:30 PM: Brief Meeting followed by Workshop— BRING YOUR TREES
May 16	7:30 PM: Brief Meeting followed by DEMONSTRATION: TBA
June 20	7:30 PM: Brief Meeting followed by Workshop— BRING YOUR TREES
July 18	7:30 PM: Brief Meeting followed by DEMONSTRATION: Ken Fuentes / Ficus nerifolia
August 15	7:30 PM: Brief Meeting followed by Workshop— BRING YOUR TREES
September 19	7:30 PM: Brief Meeting followed by DEMONSTRATION: Jim Barrett / Critique for Show BRING TREES YOU PLAN TO EXHIBIT
October TBA	10TH ANNUAL EXHIBITION Gardens of the World
October 17	7:30PM : Brief Meeting followed by Workshop— BRING YOUR TREES
November 21	7:30PM : Brief Meeting followed by DEMONSTRATION: Ted Matson / TBA
December TBA	HOLIDAY POTLUCK 7:30 PM

Time to Clean and Groom Trees, Prepare for Prime Potting Season

By Jim Barrett

February 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. 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.

One important reason for repotting is that a tree has matured beyond its present container. Either it has grown larger or is root bound or it deserves a more appropriate pot. Another indication that a tree needs repotting is the soil lifting above the edge of the pot, which means that a mat of roots has formed on the bottom and is pushing the tree up. Trident maple bonsai are noted for this phenomenon.

Once you have decided what you want to repot, choose the pot. And it's a good idea to have a standby in case the first one doesn't work. Make sure the pot is clean inside and out. Have your favorite mix handy.

Place 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 to keep them in place. 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.

All of these preparations should be done before the root ball is disturbed. Many bonsai are lost or set back 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.

And don't forget aesthetic considerations: 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 Gro and fast acting fertilizers are best applied at 1/2 strength. Time release and slow acting chemical fertilizers, such as Ozmocote and Woodace, are safe if you follow printed instructions. Some people add these to their soil mix.

Spray Japanese maples and other trees susceptible to powdery mildew with your favorite fungicide. Watch for aphids on apple, quince, and plum. Watch for spider mites on juniper, black pine, and azaleas. Repot wisteria after flowering. 🌿



Jim Barrett

Refreshments

Volunteers Needed

Jill Peters

Well, when the ground hog came out of his hole this month he saw beyond his shadow of a doubt scores of CVBS members volunteering to bring cold drinks to meetings this year. I hope this prediction is accurate as we need it.

This month Evans Thomas has volunteered to bring Eats/Sweets, and Grace Sy has graciously offered to bring cold drinks. I will call to remind you a few days before the Feb. 21st meeting. 🌿

2013 Refreshments

	Cold Drinks	Eats / Sweets
Feb	Grace Sy	Evans Thomas
March	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed
April	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed
May	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed
June	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed
July	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed

CVBS Membership

Come Join Us!

By Larry Kimmelman

Whether you are a visitor to our website, a reader of our newsletter, a guest at a monthly meeting, or have already decided to join our club, there are effectively no barriers to entry. Annual dues are \$25 for one, \$30 for couples.

Our monthly meetings are held on the third Thursday of every month, starting at 7:30 PM, in the Westlake Village City Hall (located at 31200 Oakcrest Drive, Westlake Village, CA 91361).

To join our club, please bring your check (made out payable to the Conejo Valley Bonsai Society) to our next monthly meeting, or mail it to: Larry Kimmelman, CVBS Membership Chair, 2727 Autumn Ridge Drive, Thousand Oaks, CA 91362. 🌿

From Tiny Acorns Mighty Oak Bonsai Grow

By Ken Martin

Al Nelson, our November 2012 demonstrator, is a specialist in oak bonsai. He normally propagates from acorns. When he does collect trees from the wild (yamadori), he wraps the roots with burlap strips soaked in water with vitamin B1 added, then he wraps that in plastic. He then sprays the leaves with a product called Cloud Cover™ (a moisture-loss inhibitor). He said Cloud Cover should be available in most nurseries. He then pots in a mixture of pumice and potting soil.

He repots oaks fairly frequently. Scrub oaks can go three years before potting. He said oaks are happier in a deeper pot than other bonsai. He puts a layer of larger material in the bottom of the pot for drainage. He talked about the Japanese small clay ball product called akadama. Two lines on the bag mean it is oven baked and harder; one line means sun baked.

He fertilizes his oak bonsai from April through October. He uses liquid fertilizers applied with a Siphonex™. He uses Miracle Gro Muracid™, seaweed extract, and fish emulsion. Every three months he adds ammonium phosphate 16-20-0 with 13% sulfur. Twice a year he uses Green King™ and Whitney Farms 5-5-5.

Oaks have a unique style of their own and many bonsai rules don't apply. Large upper branches and small lower branches can be okay. Some branches go straight down as oaks do in nature. Branches stop and change directions every year resulting in sharp bends. Try to get movement

close to the trunk. If a branch is too straight and long, cut back to the first or second leaf bud. Al suggests using directional pruning and staying away from wiring oaks. Marks caused by wire bite can last for 25 years or more.

Al likes to use Min-wax™ wood hardener mixed with lime sulfur to preserve jins. Even though oak is a hard wood, it rots easily. Leave a stub on branches when pruning to allow dieback. Use a sealer on any cuts bigger than 1/8 inch.

He defoliates his oaks two times a year. He says this gets rid of dead and yellowing leaves; allows access for accurate directional pruning; causes new shoots to sprout all over; and done six to ten weeks before a show results in fresh, smaller leaves.

Defoliation also works well with olives, bougainvillea, sycamore, grape, pomegranate, ginkgo, ficus, and liquidambar. He said to wait for growth spurt to halt before defoliating.

He uses Malathion or Bayer sprays with ultrafine oil for pest control in the spring.



Al Nelson holds up an acorn during his demo on oak bonsai.

Every two months he uses phosphite [now called phosphonate—Editor] on the soil. This is classified as a fungicide and prevents sudden oak death, which has become a problem in California. Al said sudden oak death has killed a million oaks since 1995. It is a pathogen mold known to cause plant diseases. Hosts can be coast live oak, Douglas fir, camellia, and other species. The disease is spread through infected plants, rain, water, contaminated potting mix, etc. Al said that phosphite [phosphonate] sprayed on the soil seems to prevent the problem.

[The University of California's Integrated Pest Management Website confirms that "sudden oak death is a disease of oak trees caused by an invasive plant pathogen, *Phytophthora ramorum*. It currently occurs in coastal California counties from Monterey to Humboldt and in a small portion of southwest Oregon. It is estimated to have killed more than 1 million oak and tanoak trees during the last decade." The website adds that "one phosphonate fungicide, Agri-Fos, is regis-

(Continued on page 5)

Library

Our Club Library Includes Books and Three New DVDs Larry Kimmelman

We have three new DVDs for our Library. All three are from Boon Manakitivipart, and include (I) Styling & Maintenance Techniques for Junipers, (II) Cutting, Pruning, Styling, Repotting and Wiring Japanese Maples, and (III) Repotting Deciduous Trees. The DVD, "The Growing Art of Bonsai" by A. Skolnik (a bonsai artist and grower) is still available. It's great for beginners and intermediate skill levels.

Members are welcome to borrow club library materials for a month at a time, and we only ask that the borrowed materials be returned at the next club meeting. Please note we also have novice books that provide bonsai basics to help our newer members get off to a good start. 🌱

January Niche

Twin Trunk Juniper Procumbens

Editor's Note: Larry Freedman provided the niche display at our January 2013 meeting. Here's what he says about his tree:

I bought this tree at the 2011 Bonsai-A-Thon from a vendor there. It is a juniper procumbens nana, age unknown. It was quite overgrown and you couldn't see the trunk. With Roy Nagatoshi and his assistant Alex Martinez's help, we thinned and transformed this tree into what you see today. I repotted it this winter and have some other refinements to make in the future, but for now I'm very happy with it.

—Larry Freedman



tered as a preventative treatment for *P. ramorum* for use on individual, high-value tanoak and oak trees. ... This treatment is not a cure, but it can help protect trees from infection and suppress disease progression in very early infections. The phosphonate compound can be injected or mixed with a surfactant and sprayed on the trunk for absorption through the bark.”]

Al collects moss from the north side

of buildings in the South Bay area where he lives. He keeps the moss in flats covered by shade cloth. He says moss thrives on worm castings.

Al kindly made two donations to the club. First, he brought two-year-old cork oaks grown from acorns planted in February 2011 and gave them to all at the meeting along with larger pots to repot them in now.

Second, while Al gave his talk, two

assistants produced a one-tree saikei. Al explained saikei is an art form where the landscape, not the tree, is dominant. The tree used was a boxwood that Al identified as a cross between a Japanese and Kingsville boxwood. According to Al, some other trees that do well in saikei are juniper procumbens nana (as the roots easily go around stones), pomegranite, Kingsville boxwood, ficus tinkerbelle, and juniper shimpaku. The boxwood saikei was

CVBS Niche Displays

Our Niche Display Program Is for Members of All Levels

In the Niche Program, club members set up a mini exhibition display. Such a display consists of:

- The tree in a nice bonsai pot
- An accent plant
- A stand

All these items are important to create the balance for a good display. We aspire to present the best display possible for everyone's pleasure and edification, so the niche is often assembled by one of the more experienced members. However, it is also our desire to give less experienced bonsai hobbyists an opportunity to learn by

doing. So if any less experienced member feels his/her trees are not ready for a finished display, it is worthwhile to create a display that is a work-in-progress. It will be up to the club member to determine which category his/her display falls into, and then the work-in-progress display can become the talking point of work done, work intended, and suggestions from the floor.

We encourage all members to sign up for the niche display! Please have a look at the calendar and let us know when you would like to present your display.

—Marj Branson

2013 Niche Displays

Feb	Marj Branson
March	Fr. Tom Davis
April	Volunteer Needed
May	Volunteer Needed
June	Larry Kimmelman
July	Volunteer Needed

2013

February

February 23 – 24, 2013 / San Marino, California

Bonsai-A-Thon XVII at The Huntington Library and Botanical Gardens, 1151 Oxford Road. 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 7:30 AM – 4:30 PM 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 23 & 24, 2013: Oakland, California

Mammoth Fundraiser 2013: at Lakeside Garden Center, 666 Bellevue Ave, Lake Merritt. This is the annual fundraiser for the GSBF Collection Bonsai Garden at Lake Merritt (BGLM). Auction of fabulous bonsai on Saturday. Preview items at 12 Noon; auction starts at 1 PM. RSVP Club Connection Event at BGLM 4 – 7 PM. Scheduled Sunday events: Vendor sales 9 AM – 4 PM. Bonsai and Pre-bonsai sales 10 AM – 4 PM. Demonstrations by Kathy Shaner and team 11:30 AM – 3 PM. Raffle drawings at 1 PM, 2 PM and 3 PM. BGLM Café open Saturday and Sunday. Contact Randi Keppeler 925-776-2342 or bonsailakemerritt@gmail.com.

March

March 19, 2013: La Cañada Flintridge, California

Descanso Bonsai Society: Mauro Stemberger at Descanso Gardens, 1418 Descanso Drive. Italian Bonsai Master Mauro will teach a two-session, all-day, bring your tree workshop. Hours: 10 AM – 1 PM and 2 PM – 5 PM, followed by a regular meeting/demonstration beginning at 7:30 PM; everyone is invited to attend the workshops and meeting/demonstration. Silent observers encouraged. For details contact Michael Jonas, 818-776-0813 or mjonas48@hotmail.com.

March 23 – 24, 2013: San Marino, California

California Bonsai Society: Annual Show at The Huntington Library, 1151 Oxford Road, Mauro Stemberger two-day workshop located in the Teaching Greenhouse. Bring your tree half-day and full-day sessions are available. Silent observers encouraged. For details contact Michael Jonas, 818-776-0813 or mjonas48@hotmail.com.

March 20 – 24, 2013: San Mateo, California

Bonsai Society of San Francisco: Annual Bonsai Exhibit at the San Francisco Flower and Garden Show, San Mateo County Event Center, 1346 Saratoga Drive. Hours: Wednesday – Saturday 10 AM – 7 PM, Sunday 10 AM – 6 PM. There will be demonstrations and trees for sale. General admission to the Flower and Garden Show is \$20.00. For general information about Flower and Garden show visit: www.sfgardenshow.com. For more information about club visit our website: www.bssf.org.

April

April 6 & 7, 2013: Sacramento, California

Bonsai Sekiyu Kai: 36th Annual Bonsai Show at the Sacramento Betsuin Buddhist Church, 2401 Riverside Blvd. Hours are: Saturday Noon – 5 PM and Sunday 10 AM – 4 PM. Demonstration 2 PM both days by Bonsai Master Johnny Uchida. Amenities include refreshments, light snacks, door prizes, raffles, and a Silent Auction. Member and vendor sales of plants and bonsai-related items will also be available. For more information contact Chris Pfeifle at mesoey@aol.com.

April 25 – 28 2013: Costa Mesa, California

Orange Empire Bonsai Society: 24th Annual Spring Garden Show, South Coast Plaza, 3333 Bear St.; Orange Empire will display trees in traditional Japanese style, and Frank Goya will conduct a Saikei demonstration. The Spring Garden Show is a diverse and outstanding selection of unusual and exotic plants, garden tools, garden ornaments and art, competition gardens and children's programs, free admission and parking. For more information www.springgardenshow.com, David Nadzam (714) 345-6966 or dnadzam@socal.rr.com.

May

May 4 – 5, 2013: Gardena, California

Dai Ichi Bonsai Kai: Annual Exhibit "Serenity Through Bonsai" at the Ken Nakaoka Community Center, 1670 W. 162nd St. Hours are 10 AM – 4 PM, both days. Novice to master bonsai exhibits. Beginner's hands-on workshop at 10:30 AM Saturday, at 1 PM a round-robin demonstration featuring Peter Macasieb and Michael Sykes, and Sunday at 1 PM a saiikei demonstration by Frank Goya will be held. The demonstration items will be in the benefit drawing, which follows each demonstration. For more details about our club and show visit our website <http://daiichibonsaikai.wordpress.com>.

What: Conifer Study Group

Work on your bonsai independently or with other participants

Study Subject:

Transplanting and repotting .
All species of trees welcome.

Cost: Attendance is free

Who: Shig Hayashi, Moderator

Contact: shayashi99@hotmail.com

When: 12:30 – 4:30 PM

3rd Sunday of the Month

(If rained out, 4th Sunday)

Date: February 17, 2012

Where: California Bonsai Studio

4015 N. Moorpark Rd.
Thousand Oaks, CA