



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

Ring in New Year 2015!

By Marj Branson

2014 has finished on a high!
Our Holiday Potluck evening December 18th was a big success and enjoyed by all.

I have received many thank-yous from fellow members and received an e-mail from club Secretary Ken Martin, which I feel summed up the evening perfectly:

"Maxine and I really enjoyed ourselves last night. I really appreciated:

1. You doing all the organizing.
 2. You, Debbie, and Guy [Ervin] setting up.
 3. Guy playing the piano.
 4. Ann [Lofquist] bringing the kimonos and dressing the girls up. What a touch of class.
 5. Bob [Pressler] donating the fabulous boxwood, expensive pot, and other donations (trees and gift certificates).
 6. Larry [Kimmelman] selling tickets.
 7. Bob doing the auctioning and prize calling.
 8. Grace [Sy] for keeping track of the money.
 9. Who did I miss? The food and the company were great.
- "Ken – Secretary"

Thank you everyone for your help and participation in making it a big success!

2015 is starting out to be a busy bonsai year. I would like to highlight the various programs we are working on:

Demonstration Program CVBS

Al Espinoza has put our programs together. See page 2 for the details. Our first demonstrator in February will be Ryan Nichols with part two of his discussion. We all learned from his part one and now look forward to part two.

CVBS Workshop Nights/Mentoring Program

Our workshop nights will remain as a workshop for members to bring in their trees to work on their own or with either your mentoring partner or with Ken Fentues, our club adviser. If you are new to the club and would like more information regarding the mentoring program, please contact Larry Kimmelman.

Nursery Trips

With spring around the corner, consider a club nursery trip. Please see Rick Naber with your suggestions. We are

(Continued on page 4)



President Marj Branson

2015 Dues Are Due

The New Year has begun and it's time to pay your CVBS membership dues. They remain unchanged: \$30 for couples, \$25 for individuals. Please pay at your earliest convenience. See page 3 for more information.

—Larry Kimmelman

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

2015

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

January 15	7:30 PM: Brief Meeting followed by Workshop— BRING YOUR TREES
February 19	7:30 PM: Brief Meeting followed by DEMONSTRATION: Ryan Nichols / Back to the Roots Part II
March 19	7:30 PM: Brief Meeting followed by DEMONSTRATION: Ted Matson / TBD
April 16	7:30 PM: Brief Meeting followed by Workshop— BRING YOUR TREES
May 21	7:30 PM: Brief Meeting followed by DEMONSTRATION: Jim Barrett / Member Tree Critique
June 18	7:30 PM: Brief Meeting followed by Workshop— BRING YOUR TREES
July 16	7:30 PM: Brief Meeting followed by DEMONSTRATION: Kathy Benson / TBD
August 20	7:30 PM: Brief Meeting followed by Workshop and Swap Meet— BRING YOUR TREES
September 17	7:30 PM: Brief Meeting followed by TBA
October TBD	12TH ANNUAL EXHIBITION Gardens of the World
October 15	7:30PM : Brief Meeting followed by Workshop— BRING YOUR TREES
November 19	7:30PM : Brief Meeting followed by TBA
December 17	HOLIDAY POTLUCK 7:30 PM

Barrett's Bonsai Tips

Winter Is a Good Time for Pruning

By Jim Barrett

Most hardy evergreen bonsai such as Japanese black pine and junipers may be repotted at this time. Wait until next month to pot for the first time. (Nursery can to bonsai pot.)

Now is the time to clean and groom most bonsai. Black pine needles that are discolored because of age or disease may be removed. Leave more needles on weak and low branch terminals, fewer on middle branches, and fewer yet on upper growth. How many you leave depends on the age and health of the tree. All terminal buds should be fat, healthy, and beginning to grow this month.

Slow release fertilizers such as one of the Osmocote formulas, bone meal, blood meal, cottonseed meal, or any of the rapeseed pellets may be applied now. It takes awhile for the organic fertilizers to break down and become available to the plant. Wait another month or so before you use liquid chemical fertilizers.

Blooming bonsai, such as ume, apple, plum, and wisteria can be moved to show pots at this time, providing they are already in bonsai pots.

Prune all deciduous trees, removing heavy overgrown branches and twigs—especially in the upper areas of the tree.

Upper story branches tend to grow unnoticed during the year and now is a good time to trim or remove them.

If you are into making cuttings, these older branches that are removed may take root. I use a rooting medium of 80% perlite (sponge rock) and 20% peat moss. Drench the rooting medium with a good fungicide such as benomyl.

Deciduous tree branches are fairly flexible now and can be wired. If you are using copper wire, make sure it has been

annealed. Think about paper wrapping heavier wires before applying them to Japanese maple and other tender-bark trees.



Jim Barrett

When you are finished cleaning and pruning your trees, spray them with a good dormant oil spray such as Ortho's volck oil. You may want to combine it with Ortho's lime sulphur dormant spray.

One is for bugs; the other is basically a fungicide. Follow directions on the labels and cover your soil and pot with plastic or a towel. Lime sulphur will stain the pot if not washed off.

Don't forget to choose your show trees for this year's show [if you have a spring or summer show].

Detail wiring is a tedious and boring chore, but is a must if you want your trees ready to exhibit in June. You'll be glad you did it.

We are coming into prime potting and repotting time. From now until April, try to get all of your trees that need it repotted. If you need pots, ask around, supply seems good for both used and new ones.

If you haven't done so, get your soil mix prepared and stored. I use a trash can with a tight lid. 🗑️

Refreshments Volunteer for 2015

Hello New Year 2015! Goodbye last year!

A "Treatllion Thanks" to those who contributed last year's Eat/Sweets and Cold Drinks!

January 2015: Marj Branson for Eats/Sweets and Grace Sy (that's me) for Cold Drinks.

Sign up sheets will be passed around on the first meeting day of 2015 CBVS during the business meeting just before the club's workshop on January 15. So please be prepared because I am seeing you and begging you to be a part of it! Join the new year's refreshments corner!

See Yah! See Me! Ring Me!

Contact Grace Sy at wkh lady@yahoo.com or call (818) 915-8545. Thanks everyone!

—Grace Sy

2015 Refreshments

	Cold Drinks	Eats / Sweets
Jan.	Grace Sy	Marj Branson
Feb.	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed
Mar.	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed
Apr.	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed
May	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. 🏠

GSBF First Thursday Program at the Huntington

By Bill Wawrychuk

As many of you may know, The Huntington Gardens in San Marino, California, houses the Golden State Bonsai Federation Bonsai Collection. You may also know The Huntington has a free admission policy on the first Thursday of the month. What you may not know about is the GSBF First Thursday Program. The program has been around for some 15-plus years, but it is a fairly well kept secret within the bonsai community.

The GSBF First Thursday Program furnishes bonsai specialists for the two bonsai courts. As a bonsai specialist, you

answer the general public's bonsai questions. It is like working your club's show only at The Huntington.

The GSBF program is twofold. One, GSBF offers our expert knowledge of bonsai to The Huntington on one of the Garden's busiest days of the month. Two, it allows GSBF to reach out to the general public and expand knowledge of the art of bonsai. The program allows those interested in bonsai to get information and questions answered by an expert. It may also be an avenue to obtain new members for local Southern California clubs.

The Huntington is open from 10:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M. The program is open to everyone in the Southern California bonsai community. You can volunteer for several Thursdays in the year or all twelve. Parking for the bonsai specialists is inside the gardens right above the collection. Also, you wear a spiffy GSBF Huntington Collection apron and a really neat Huntington Garden's volunteer badge.

For information on the GSBF First Thursday Program, please contact Bill Wawrychuk, (818) 790-9415, b_wawrychuk@yahoo.com. 📧

Library

Check Out Our Library's Bonsai Resources!

Larry Kimmelman

Take advantage of our library's excellent resource materials: Books, magazines, and DVDs that cover every aspect of bonsai, and are available to all club members for a month at a time. We only ask that you return the borrowed book, magazine, or DVD at the next club meeting.

We're willing to invest in additional library materials, if club members simply let us know what they'd like to see in our Library. Let me know at the next club meeting, or email me at kimmelmil@verizon.net. 📧



Kimono clad models at CVBS's 2014 Holiday Potluck gave the party a very appropriate festive accent. They are (left to right): Ann Lofquist, Nancy Smeets, Grace Sy, Lydia Su, and Debbie Ervin.

(Continued from page 1)

open to suggestions for any of our programs, either for a new one or an improvement on an existing one—let us know. Our club activities are for our members.

Exhibitions and Shows

As spring starts, there will be many exhibitions and shows. We include other club activities in our newsletter (see page 5). Also see The Golden State Bonsai Federation web page (www.gsbf-bonsai.org). Take in as many as you can either on your own or let us know and we can organize a club trip.

The Bonsai-A-Thon is coming up February 28th and March 1st at the Huntington Gardens. Plan to attend, either as a visitor or as a volunteer—or both.

See you Thursday the 16th at 7:30 PM. 📧

January

January 14, 2015, Oakland, California

East Bay Bonsai Society: BREAK IN THE NEW YEAR WITH KATHY SHANER! Free demo at 7:30pm on Wednesday at Lakeside Garden Center, 666 Bellevue Ave. Kathy, the first non-Japanese citizen to be honored with the title of Bonsai Master by the Nippon Bonsai Kyodo Kumiai, will demonstrate the nuances of discovering and styling a multi-trunk Korean Hornbeam with superb nebari and age. The demo tree along with other items will be raffled following the demo. Don't miss this chance to see Kathy in action! To learn more about the East Bay Bonsai Society, please visit www.eastbaybonsai.org

January 17 – 18, 2015, Arcadia, California

Baikoen Bonsai Kenkyukai: 51st Annual Winter Silhouettes Show, Ayres Hall, Los Angeles Arboretum, 301 North Baldwin Avenue. 10:00 AM – 4:30 PM. Reception Saturday evening 5:30 – 8:30 PM. For more information, please contact Lindsay Shiba, Show Chairman (909) 473-0099 (evenings).

January 24 – 25 Oakland, California

Bay Island Bonsai Annual Bonsai Exhibit at the Lakeside Garden Center, 666 Bellevue Ave. Hours: 10AM-4PM, Saturday and Sunday. Auction on Saturday, preview at noon and auction at 1pm. Bonsai demonstration by Boon Manakitivipart on Sunday at 1 PM. Guided tours of the exhibit both Saturday and Sunday. Vendor sales, Club sales, Educational bonsai material for sale, A special pots sales this year. Entry to Exhibit is free, donations accepted. For more information (510) 919-5042 or go to <http://bayislandbonsai.com/bib-annual-exhibit/>

February

February 21 – 22, 2015 Oakland, CA

GSBF Bonsai Garden at Lake Merritt: The annual Mammoth Fund Raiser will be held at 666 Bellevue Ave. Saturday: Auction preview at noon with Auction at 1 PM. Sunday: Vendor Sales start at 9 AM, Plant Sales start at 10 AM, and Demonstrations at 1 PM. Also on Sunday help us celebrate our 15th Anniversary! The Bonsai Garden will celebrate the many bonsai clubs who have supported it by inviting clubs from all over Northern California to showcase their best trees. Bonsai Garden will be open 10 AM to 4 PM on Saturday and Noon to 4 PM on Sunday. For more information or to sell trees, email bonsailakemerritt@gmail.com and visit www.gsbflakemerritt.org.

February 28 – March 1, 2015 San Marino, California

Bonsai-A-Thon XIX 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 is free with Bonsai-A-Thon "early bird" registration between 8 AM – 9:30 AM. Event hours are 8 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. Sunday only: "Bring-Your-Own-Tree Bonsai Consulting Clinic." For more information, contact Marge Blasingame, (626) 579-0420 margeblasingame@att.net.

HELP WANTED!

The staff of Golden State Bonsai Federation (GSBF) publication Golden Statements Magazine is in need to fill the following positions:

- Treasurer
- Subscriptions Manager
- Part Time Assistants

For more details on duties and special perks, contact George Haas, Past Editor of Golden Statements, (707) 762-9154 or gwhaas@comcast.net.

CVBS Niche Displays

Our Niche Display Program

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 2015 calendar and let us know when you would like to present your display.

—Marj Branson

2015 Niche Displays

Jan.	Volunteer Needed
Feb.	Volunteer Needed
March	Volunteer Needed
April	Volunteer Needed