



Conejo Valley Bonsai Society

A member of the Golden State Bonsai Federation 

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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

President's Message

Our May Show in Camarillo Was a Huge Success

By Marj Branson

Our April meeting was a workshop. We were all busy working on our trees and we planned for our Camarillo Public Library show, which was the first weekend in May.

The show was a great success. Thank you everyone! Because of the large size of the room, we put the call out for many trees and especially for large trees. We had a good response with plenty of trees.

By the Library's count, we had over 250 visitors. With the full day of educational programs in addition to the exhibition, it was a busy day. Everyone seemed to enjoy themselves and there were many questions asked. We had some guests who stayed the full day taking in the lecture and all the demonstrations.

A special thanks goes out to Ann Lofquist, Bob Pressler, Ken Martin, and Ken Fuentes for providing the lecture and demonstrations for the day and to Frank Greenway for providing the great suiseki display and literature.

Critiques by Jim Barrett

At our May meeting, Jim Barrett will be our demonstrator. Jim will be doing a critique of members' trees. Please bring your tree in for him to review. The tree should be in a bonsai pot or training pot so he can give us help in improving our trees. This is not meant for designing new or raw stock, but rather improving our existing trees and to get advice on a specific problem area.


Our autumn show at the Gardens of the World has been confirmed for the first weekend of October—Saturday and Sunday, October 3rd and 4th. Set-up will be the Friday before, so please put these dates on your calendar.



President Marj Branson

Check Out Spring Shows

There are a number of club spring exhibitions coming up. In May there are the Bonsai Club of Santa Barbara and the Sansui-Kai Bonsai Club of Encino. An then in June there is the Descanso Bonsai Society annual show; several CVBS members also belong to Descanso and sometimes display trees there, so this show is always of special interest. These are just a couple of local shows—for details see page 8 of our newsletter. Later this year, the Golden State Bonsai Federation has its convention on October 29 – November 1 in Riverside. In July they start listing the sign-up information for the early bird registration, so plan to sign up for your preferred workshops early.

See you Thursday, May 21st. 

Contact Us

(Click on E-mail)

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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 / Zelkova
April 16	7:30 PM: Brief Meeting followed by Workshop— BRING YOUR TREES
May 2	10:00 AM — 5:00 PM Spring Show Camarillo Public Library
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 3 – 4	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

Black Pine Candle Pruning

By Jim Barrett

Don't forget to continue your fertilizing program, especially for black pine and juniper.

Candle pruning programs will vary for ordinary black pine. It all depends on the age and health of the tree, and what your goals are. Candle pruning nursery stock can be started earlier than black pine that has been in a bonsai container for some time. For instance, nursery stock may have their candles pruned this month from about mid-month on. The object is to produce shorter internodes and an abundance of branches.

Bonsai black pine, depending again on maturity and health, may have the candle pruning program start as early as late May or as late as mid-July. The later you prune, the shorter the internodes. Needle plucking is a personal choice and, if done, should not be done on a weak, unhealthy tree.

If you have questions regarding black pine maintenance, ask your instructor or a member of the club.

[For members who display trees in the Descanso Bonsai Society's annual show this June:]

Get your bonsai ready for the show, especially beginners. We always have great judges who make helpful comments, suggesting ways they see to improve each tree. This is a rare opportunity to get expert advice for your tree.

All trees should be groomed, trimmed and wayward branches wired and moved into position.

Pots should be clean and, if possible, free of hard water scale. "Old English" lemon oil works very well on pots and will help some scale to be less noticeable.

Clean trunks and roots, removing dirt and moss from trunks, main roots (nebari) and any low branches.

If your tree has dead wood and branches that have been treated with lime sulphur, give it another treatment at least two weeks before the show.

Juniper and pine color can be enhanced with an application of Volck oil. To mix, add 1 to 2 teaspoons of Volck oil to one quart of water and, using a spray bottle, spray this mixture on all foliage. Do this just before the show.

Accent plants and stands should also be groomed and clean.

Continue to watch for critters and fungus. Wait to fertilize azaleas until they are through blooming.

You should be able to repot ficus, pomegranate, and atlas cedar anytime now.

If you need to repot elm and maple, make sure the new growth has hardened somewhat and try not to remove too many fine roots. You may find trident maples have developed a thick pad of roots on the bottom of the root ball. Add soil as needed and return the tree to its place. Save any major root pruning for next January or February. 🌲



Jim Barrett

Refreshments

Almost Spring!

Are you ready for Summer? Take time to hydrate ... drinks here and there!

Thanks to Rick Naber for the refreshing drinks in April. Holy smoky! Delicious TOGO's sandwiches from Norm Nason. Thank you!

I will be passing around signup sheets to cover for July drinks and August sweets. September through November need kind hearted volunteers. So be prepared because I will be seeing you and begging you to be a part of it! Join the Refreshments Corner!

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

—Grace Sy

2015 Refreshments

	Cold Drinks	Eats / Sweets
May	Sorry, no cold drinks	Richard & Kazue Winston
June	Ken Martin	Ann Lofquist
July	Volunteer Needed	Grace Sy
Aug.	Lydia Su	Volunteer Needed
Sept.	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. 🌲

Camarillo Library Show a Big Success

By Ken Martin



On Saturday May 2, the Conejo Valley Bonsai Society held its first ever spring show, in the Camarillo Public Library. The show, educational displays, and demonstrations attracted hundreds of attendees.

Members brought their trees, suiseki, accent plants, tables, and stands to the Camarillo Library Friday evening and the displays were set up at that time. Besides an outstanding collection of bonsai, Frank Greenway brought a great collection of suiseki for display.

For the educational display, Bob Pressler brought five olive trees to demonstrate the progression of development from a barely-rooted cutting to a bonsai nearly ready to go into a bonsai pot. Ann Lofquist created a display illustrating various aspects of grafting techniques. And David Whiteside displayed two trees that originally were one, showing how air layering works.

Photos by Larry Kimmelman and Ken Martin

The Camarillo Library (top) with our bonsai show sign in front. Marj Branson (left) answers some of the many questions visitors asked. There were more than enough trees to fill the exhibit hall (opposite page, top). A zelkova forest greeted visitors at the entrance (opposite, middle). Some of the small (shohin) trees and viewing stones or suiseki (opposite, bottom).

(Continued on page 5)



Also, Ann Lofquist gave an excellent talk and slide presentation on what one needs to know regarding getting started in bonsai styling, collection, and care.

In the afternoon, Bob Pressler styled a Sierra juniper explaining the purpose for each step. The tree was given to a lucky person who won a guessing game. She was all smiles when she left the show after signing up for more information on the club.

Later Ken Fuentes worked on two ficus, talking about the merits, styling, and care of each. Simultaneously with Ken Fuentes' demonstration, Ken Martin and Rick Naber built a 13-tree boxwood forest in a large bonsai tray. The objective was to show the audi-





Ann Lofquist gave a talk about the basic concepts, techniques, and tools of the art of bonsai.

ence a nice-looking bonsai forest could be made from nursery stock at a reasonable price.

Mr. Gladstone Buchnor from the Camarillo Library did a great job facilitating the effort for the Library and made it easy for the club to have a successful show. There were approximately 25 – 30 people in the audience for each presentation and approximately 250 people viewed the displayed bonsai and suiseki, according to a count made by the Library. Eleven people signed asking for more information regarding our club. The Library collected comment sheets from the visitors and all comments were positive. 🐦

Bob Pressler demonstrated the steps in styling a Sierra juniper (right).

Ken Fuentes worked on two ficus (below).





An overview of the exhibit room from near the entrance (above) and a closer view of some of the smaller trees and viewing stones or suiseki (right).



Library

Check Out Our Collection of Bonsai Magazines, Books, and DVDs

Larry Kimmelman

In addition to our other excellent resource materials, we now have four large binders of *International Bonsai* magazines dating from 1979 to 1995. As announced in March, they were recently donated to our club by Mr. Ben Whitney (a non-member). They will be available for your perusal at club meetings.

Take advantage of our library's 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 kimmelmail@verizon.net.

2015

May

May 16 – 17, 2015 / Santa Barbara, California

Bonsai Club of Santa Barbara: Annual Bonsai Exhibition at the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden, 1212 Mission Canyon Road. Hours are Saturday 11 AM – 4 PM and Sunday 10 AM – 4 PM with demonstrations at 1 PM both days. Plant sale by the Club. Native plants suitable for bonsai in the Botanic Garden's nursery. Books and other gifts in the Garden Shop. For information, contact Tom Post (805) 964-2717, email tompstart@yahoo.com or visit www.santabarbarbonsai.org.

May 30 – 31 2015 / Van Nuys, California

Sansui-Kai Bonsai Club: Annual Show at the Japanese Garden, 6100 Woodley Avenue, Van Nuys. The show will be open 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM both days. For more information, please visit our website at www.sansui-kai.org.

June

June 13 – 14, 2015 / LaCanada, California

Descanso Bonsai Society: 46th Annual Bonsai Show will be held at Descanso Gardens, 1418 Descanso Drive. Hours are 9 AM to 4 PM with demonstrations at 11 AM and 1:30 PM both days. The indoor show will be held in Van De Kamp Hall. Trees from Novice to Master exhibitors will be on display. A large selection of bonsai trees, pots, bonsai stock, and accessories will be for sale. All events are free with garden admission. For more information visit our web site at www.descanso-bonsai.com.

June 13 -14, 2015 / Anaheim, CA.

Orange County Bonsai Society: 51st Annual Bonsai Exhibit at the Orange County Buddhist Church, 909 S. Dale Ave. Hours are 10 AM to 4 PM both days with demonstration at 1PM each day followed by a benefit raffle. Guest demonstrators are Saturday, Uyen Truong, and Sunday, Peter Macasieb. Demonstration trees will be auctioned or included in raffle each day. Bonsai pots, tools and accessories along with books, trees and plants will be on sale. All ages welcome. Free admission and parking. Contact ocbonsai@gmail.com or Ken Schlothman (714) 553-7516 for more information.

September

September 23 – 27, 2015 / Santa Ana, California

Kofu Bonsai Kai: 2015 Bonsai Fest at the Bowers Museum "The Bonsai Tradition: Cultural Arts of Japan" – John M. Lee Court, 2002 N. Main St., Hours are 10 AM – 4 PM daily. Featuring bonsai trees of the members of Kofu Bonsai Kai and special presentations by noted speakers (names, dates and times to be announced). Free to Bowers Museum members or with paid museum admission. Final speaker and presentation schedules will be posted on the Bowers Museum Website: <http://www.bowers.org/> and Kofu Bonsai Kai: <http://www.kofukai.org/>. Questions? Call the museum at (714) 567-3695 or email Michael Walsh at michaeljwalsh@outlook.com.

October

October 3 – 4, 2015 / Thousand Oaks, California

Conejo Valley Bonsai Society: 12th Annual Bonsai Exhibition at the Resource Center at the Gardens of the World, 2001 Thousand Oak Blvd. Hours are 9 AM – 4 PM both days with demonstrations at 11 AM (Saturday) and 2 PM (Sunday) in the Bandstand. Free Admission. For information, call Marj Branson at (805) 373-1330 or visit our web site at www.cvbs-bonsai.org.

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

May	David Whiteside
June	Al Espinoza
July	Volunteer Needed
August	Norm Nason
Sept.	Fr. Tom Davis