



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

Annual Holiday Potluck Coming

By Marj Branson

The end of 2015 is just around the corner and I find it has just flown by far too fast. I would like to thank everyone for making this year a successful bonsai year!

Our October meeting was a workshop and we all worked on our trees. We also had our election of officers for 2016. I would like to thank the outgoing board and committees for all their help and support through the 2015 year. We could not survive if it were not for your efforts and work making things happen. Thanks so much to the following:

Committees:

- Al Espinoza, for organizing the programs
- David Whiteside, for this newsletter
- Larry Kimmelman, who looks after the membership, the library, and the mentoring program
- Grace Sy, who organizes the refreshments
- Guy and Deborah Ervin, for our publicity
- Rick Naber, for field trips and activities
- Tom and Kiwi McGuire, for our website

Officers:

- Marj Branson, president
- Ann Lofquist, vice president

- Ken Martin, secretary
- Ken Fuentes, treasurer and advisor

The outgoing board has agreed to stay on for the 2016 year.

Our holiday potluck dinner is Thursday, December 17th at 7:30 PM. Guy Ervin will be providing us seasonal piano music. We will also have our raffle and auction. If anyone has bonsai items they would like to contribute to the raffle, please bring them. This is our main fundraiser for the club so your participation will be appreciated! If you have not yet signed up please contact the president.

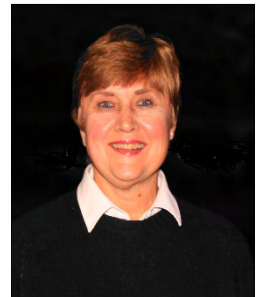
A Special Message for the Ladies

Jill Peters and Ann Lofquist will be bringing Japanese kimonos to the holiday party. Anyone who would like to wear one should come a few minutes early to get dressed. Ann recommends that they wear a tight, short-sleeved t-shirt with a scoop neck, and a dress slip or yoga pants to wear under the kimonos. Contact me or Ann and we will give you the details. (Our phone numbers are on page 2.)

Don't forget the Bonsai-A-Thon coming up at the end of February. We will be discussing the details at our January meeting—please put this on your calendar. The details are on page 10 of this newsletter.

Our niche display is an important part of our monthly meeting. We will be looking for support in 2016. Please sign up for the month suitable to you.

(Continued on page 10)



President Marj Branson

2016 Membership Dues Now Payable

It's time to pay your new year's 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
Membership Chair

Contact Us

(Click on E-mail)

Officers

PRESIDENT

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Phone (805) 373-1330
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Field Trips & Activities

Rick Naber

WEBMASTER

Tom McGuire
E-mail [Tom](#)

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 / Olive
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 Workshop— BRING YOUR TREES
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 Workshop— BRING YOUR TREES
December 17	HOLIDAY POTLUCK 7:30 PM

Holiday-Time Bonsai Projects

By Jim Barrett

Editor's note: Jim Barrett is off this month so we are reprinting his column from December 2014.

December and January are busy times, and because of holiday preparations, we tend to forget about bonsai. After all they are sleeping away the winter, right?

Now is a great time to clean them up, prune, and wire. Japanese and trident maples and Chinese elms (not Catlin elms, which are evergreen) can have all leaves removed, including those that are still green.

Prune all of the twiggy growth having more than two nodes and those twigs whose nodes are too far apart. Leave one or two nodes on each tertiary branch. Do this systematically from the lowest branches to the topmost branches.

When this is done, remove heavy thick top branches, paying attention to those with particularly large diameters. This occurs when fast-growing branches grow unnoticed and hidden by the foliage canopy. Strive for a multitude of fine secondary and tertiary branches in the top one third or one quarter of the tree.

Don't be worried if the tree has more than one primary branch leading to the apex. As long as one terminal remains slightly higher than the rest, the tree will be natural looking and aesthetically pleasing.

When you are through pruning the obvious problem branches, consider wiring those branches that are not positioned as you would like them to be.

Now is a very good time to pay attention to form and inner branch structure of trees in parks and on the streets.

Notice the natural transition from trunk to primary to secondary to tertiary branches—especially in the upper portion of the trees.

This time of the year is a good time to bend and manipulate maple, elm, liquidambar, and zelkova branches. Branches are generally more flexible at this time and because the tree is bare, much easier to wire. One exception will be the Japanese elm (Nire). Their heavier branches tend to be rather brittle.

Again, start your wiring with the lowest branches, proceed to the top, but only wire those branches that need to be repositioned. Strive for a delicate, graceful appearance with Japanese maples and a more rugged ramification on trident maples. Chinese elms whose habit is to lose leaves in the winter should be pruned to produce the finest network of twigs possible.

All of these species have a habit of producing heavy, thick branches in the uppermost portions of the tree. If they grow unnoticed during the year, it will be obvious when the leaves are gone which branches need surgery. Make the cuts on a slant, making sure they are concave. Seal all raw scars over 1/4 of an inch in diameter.

Now that the upper portion of the tree is taken care of, clean the trunk and main branches with a stiff toothbrush or a brass wire brush shaped like a large toothbrush. If the bark has a crusty rugged look and it is a desirable feature of the tree, do not brush it.

Refreshments

New Year Soon!

There was an abundance of treats at the November meeting thanks to David Whiteside, Richard and Kazue Winston, Marj Branson, and Grace Sy. Now we are looking for volunteers for all of 2016. Both Cold Drinks and Eats/Sweets are needed for all months.

Please contact Grace Sy and join the Refreshments Corner! Contact Grace at wkhady@yahoo.com or call (818) 915-8545. Thanks everyone!

2015 Refreshments		
	Cold Drinks	Eats / Sweets
Dec.	Annual Holiday Potluck	
2016 Refreshments		
Jan.	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed
Feb.	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed
Mar.	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed

Pull all moss off of the very base of the trunk and main roots and brush these also. After covering the soil with a cloth or plastic, spray the tree with a good dormant spray such as lime sulphur, Volck oil, or copper oil.

Set the bonsai in a sunny location where it will be admired for its winter look and enjoy it. 🌳

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. 🌳

Club Event

Trees at CVBS's 2015 Exhibition II

This month we are publishing the second half of the photos from the Conejo Valley Bonsai Society's 12th Annual Exhibition, which was held October 3 – 4 at the Gardens of the World in Thousand Oaks, CA. As reported last month, more than 30 trees plus suiseki (viewing stones) were on display over the two-day weekend event.

There is no order in the presentation of tree photos. Many thanks to Norm Nason and his crew—Ken Martin and Rick Naber—for the photographs of individual trees. Ann Lofquist and Ken Martin provided additional photos, and we thank them as well.

—David Whiteside



Photos by Ken Martin



Signage (above left) and the exhibition hall (above).

Ken Fuentes giving a demonstration (on the right in photo at right).



Photo by Ann Lofquist

Small-tree display (below):

Shimpaku, Ann Lofquist

Shimpaku, Marj Branson

Ficus, Ken Fuentes

Olive, Marj Branson

Shimpaku, Ann Lofquist

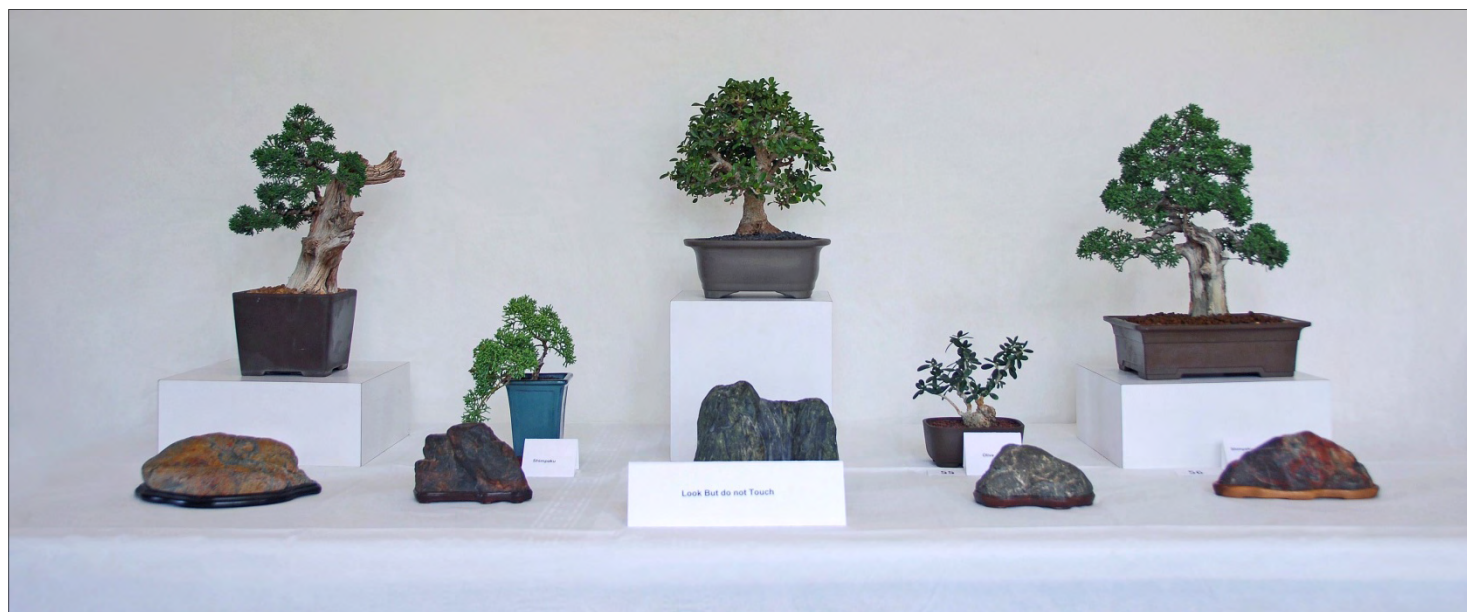


Photo by Norm Nason



Windswept Boxwood (top), Ken Martin

Liquidambar forest (right), Larry Kimmelman

Elms on rock (bottom), Nancy Smeets



Shimpaku (top right), Ann Lofquist

Boxwood (below), Nancy Smeets

Foemina Juniper (bottom right), Ann Lofquist



Procumbens Nana cascade (right), Richard Winston

Bougainvillea (below), Larry Kimmelman

Procumbens Nana (bottom), Richard Winston





Jade (above), Ken Fuentes

Bougainvillea (top right), Nancy Smeets

Juniper Prostrata (right), Marj Branson



October Niche

San Jose Juniper

Editor's note: Richard Winston provided the niche display at our club's October meeting. His tree is a San Jose juniper under development. Here is what Richard says about this bonsai-in-training.

Our president, Marj Branson, asked me to bring the October niche tree so new members could see a tree in the early stages of development. It is a San Jose juniper that I purchased from Bob Pressler's Kimura Bonsai Nursery during his late summer sale and is very much a work in progress. I took the tree to Bob's October Tuesday night class where he assisted me in the initial styling. One particular problem was a large branch sticking straight out over the side of the pot that was too rigid to bend, so we turned it into a jin (deadwood) and brought up a smaller adjacent branch as the new apex. I plan on repotting the tree into a training pot early next year and letting it grow out and develop.

—Richard Winston



Photo by Richard Winston

Library

Take Advantage of Our CVBS Library Offerings!

Larry Kimmelman

From John Naka's classic *Bonsai Techniques* to Bonsai Boon's DVDs on styling, pruning, and repotting, we offer a wide array of library materials to enhance and improve your understanding of the art of bonsai. We have *Bonsai International* magazines that date back to 1974 as well as Walter Pall's gallery of 8,000 bonsai tree images on DVD. Interested in suiseki? Take a look at *Suiseki Viewing Stones—An American Perspective* by Melba Tucker. And be sure to check out our novice bonsai books that help newcomers build a strong bonsai foundation.

Members can borrow our library materials for a month at a time. There is no charge and all we ask is that borrowed books and DVDs be returned at the next club meeting. 🏠

2015

December

Dec. 26, 2015 – January 3, 2016, San Marino, California.

California Aiseki Kai: 26th Anniversary Exhibition of Viewing Stones Show at the Botanical Center of the Huntington Library and Botanical Gardens, 1151 Oxford Road. Hours are 10:30 AM – 4:30 PM each day (Closed New Year's Day). Free parking. For more information see our website: www.aisekikai.com and/or contact sashaichris@gmail.com

2016

January

January 16 – 17, 2016, Los Angeles, California

Baikoen Bonsai Kenkyukai: Winter Silhouette Show, Location: Los Angeles Arboretum, 10:30am to 4:30pm Baikoen Bonsai Kenkyukai will be conducting its annual Winter Silhouette show where trees will be displayed in their leafless form during Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday Weekend at the Los Angeles Arboretum. There will be a benefit dinner and auction on Saturday January 16, 2016. It is one of the oldest show running in the Southern California region and has been a tradition for 50 plus years. For more information, contact Lindsay Shiba at (626) 806-0937.

February

February 27 – 28, 2016, San Marino, California

Bonsai-A-Thon XX at The Huntington Library and Botanical Gardens, 1151 Oxford Road; 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 AM. Event hours are 8 AM – 4:30 PM both days. Pancake breakfast, a tour hosted by Jim Folsom (Director of the Garden), demonstrations, lunch, bonsai exhibits, large sales area, raffle and auction. Sunday only: a behind the scenes tour of The Huntington Bonsai Nursery with Ted Matson. For more information, contact Bill Wawrychuk at (818)790-9415 or b_wawrychuk@yahoo.com.

February 27 – 28, 2016, Oakland, California

GSBF Bonsai Garden at Lake Merritt: The annual Mammoth Fund Raiser will be held at 666 Bellevue Ave. (Garden Center Building). Saturday: Auction preview at noon with Auction starting at 1 PM. Sunday: Vendor Sales start at 9 AM, Plant Sales start at 10 AM, and Demonstrations at 1 PM. The Bonsai Garden at Lake Merritt will celebrate the many bonsai clubs who have created and support the Garden by inviting Bonsai Clubs from all over Northern California to showcase their best bonsai display and promote their club activities. Attendees will be eligible to vote for their favorite display. 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 bonsailakemeritt@gmail.com and visit www.gsbflakemeritt.org.

October

October 27 – 30, 2016, Sacramento, California

Golden State Bonsai Federation Convention 39: A Bonsai Convergence: Gather at the Rivers, Double Tree by Hilton, 2001 Point West Way, Sacramento. For more information, contact Scott Chad at scottchad@lotusbonsai.com.

(Continued from page 1)

Our club members were well represented at CVBS's annual October bonsai exhibition at the Gardens of the World. The trees were photographed by Norm Nason and are being displayed in our newsletter. Thank you everyone for your support. The People's Award was good fun for our visitors. The winner was Rick Naber for his boxwood. Congratulations Rick!

I look forward to seeing everyone in 2016!

A very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all. 🌲

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

—Marj Branson

2016 Niche Displays

Jan.	David Whiteside
Feb.	Volunteer Needed
March	Volunteer Needed
April	Volunteer Needed