



conejo valley BONSAI society

Volume 13 Number 5 May 2016

A member of the Golden State Bonsai Federation 

In This Issue

- **President's Message:**
It's Club Show Season! ... 1
- **CVBS Programs:**
The 2016 Schedule ... 2
- **Barrett's Bonsai Tips:**
Candle Pruning Black Pines ... 3
- **Refreshments ... 3**
- **CVBS Membership ... 3**
- **April Niche:**
Fast-Growing Bougainvillea ... 4
- **CVBS Niche Displays ... 4**
- **CVBS Workshop:**
Club Members Work
On Trees ... 5
- **Welcome Home:**
Demo Tree Returned ... 5
- **Coming Events ... 6**
- **Library ... 6**

Conejo Valley Bonsai Society Meetings

**Westlake Village City Hall
Community Room**
31200 Oakcrest Drive
Westlake Village, CA 91361
3rd Thursday of the Month
7:30 PM – 9:00 PM

President's Message

It's Club Show Season!

By Marj Branson

Our April meeting was a workshop and a very busy evening. We were all working on our trees with some major work going on (see photo, page 5). We also had guest visitors who had an opportunity to move around the room and watch members work on their trees and ask questions. It was a good way for the new members to meet and get to know our group.

CVBS member Bob Pressler's Kimura Bonsai and Landscape Nursery in Northridge is holding a special pot event at 9:00 AM on Saturday, May 21st. His guest will be Michael Ryan Bell, regarded by many as the foremost bonsai pot expert in the U.S. He will be doing a show and talk on quality bonsai pots. Guests are invited to bring in pots, which Michael will identify and appraise. There will be a special selection of Japanese pots available for sale. Bob promises prices will be reasonable and that you'll go home with a new appreciation for bonsai pots. It promises to be a very educational day! The nursery is located at 17230 Roscoe Blvd. Northridge, CA 91325 or call (818) 343-4090.

Don't forget our autumn show at the Gardens of the World in Thousand Oaks the first weekend of October—Saturday and Sunday October 1st and 2nd. Give your trees some thought for the show.

There are a number of spring bonsai shows coming up. Try to take in as many as possible. (The club list and dates are on page 6.) Of particular note, in May there are the Sansui-Kai of Southern


California and Bonsai Club of Santa Barbara shows. And in June there is the Descanso Bonsai Society show; some CVBS members display trees there, so mark it on your calendar and support both our members and Descanso. Some of these shows are judged and have vendor or club sales sections and some are an exhibition only, so there is a variety of activity to take in.

Don't forget our annual swap meet in August. If you have bonsai trees, pots, or related material, bring them in. If you have a tree you just don't know what to do with, here is a good place to have someone else pick it up and view it with fresh eyes.

We had a club board meeting May 12th. We discussed community activities we might become involved in. If you have attended community activities that you feel have potential synergy with our club, please let us know so we can look and plan for future programs we could get involved in.

The no-show El Nino this year is creating problems with a number of landscape trees here in the Conejo Valley and surrounding areas. The aquifer for the ground level water is very low, which is causing trees to die or become very weak and sickly.

Keep an eye on your trees because these sick trees in your yard or your neighbor's yard can bring critters and diseases onto your bonsai trees. Spider mites have given me headaches! Keep your trees fertilized, healthy, and strong—and watch your wiring!

See you Thursday, May 19th. 



Marj Branson

Contact Us

(Click on Email Address)

Officers

President

Marj Branson

Phone (805) 373-1330

president@cvbs-bonsai.org

Vice President

Ann Lofquist

Phone (805) 484-3140

vice.president@cvbs-bonsai.org

Treasurer

Ken Fuentes

Phone (805) 495-7480

treasurer@cvbs-bonsai.org

Secretary

Ken Martin

Phone (805) 445-9221

secretary@cvbs-bonsai.org

Advisor

Ken Fuentes

Phone (805) 495-7480

advisor@cvbs-bonsai.org

Committees

Membership Chair

Larry Kimmelman

Phone (805) 493-5103

membership.chair@cvbs-bonsai.org

Newsletter Editor

David E. Whiteside

Phone (805) 509-1830

editor@cvbs-bonsai.org

Program Chair

Al Espinoza

Phone (818) 284-1693

program.chair@cvbs-bonsai.org

Publicity Co-Chairs

Guy & Deborah Ervin

Phone (805) 495-8688

publicity@cvbs-bonsai.org

Refreshments Chair

Grace Sy

Phone (818) 915-8545

refreshments@cvbs-bonsai.org

Librarian

Larry Kimmelman

Phone (805) 493-5103

librarian@cvbs-bonsai.org

Field Trips & Activities

Rick Naber

Webmaster

Tom McGuire

website@cvbs-bonsai.org

CVBS Programs 2016

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

January 21	7:30 PM: Brief Meeting followed by Workshop— BRING YOUR TREES
February 18	7:30 PM: Brief Meeting followed by Workshop— BRING YOUR TREES
March 17	7:30 PM: Brief Meeting followed by DEMONSTRATION: Bob Pressler / Tree Critique BRING ONE TREE FOR BOB TO CRITIQUE!
April 21	7:30 PM: Brief Meeting followed by Workshop— BRING YOUR TREES
May 19	7:30 PM: Brief Meeting followed by Workshop— BRING YOUR TREES
June 16	7:30 PM: Brief Meeting followed by DEMONSTRATION: Ann Lofquist / Create a Tanuki Graft
July 21	7:30 PM: Brief Meeting followed by Workshop— BRING YOUR TREES
August 18	7:30 PM: Brief Meeting followed by Workshop and Swap Meet — BRING YOUR TREES
September 15	7:30 PM: Brief Meeting followed by DEMONSTRATION: TBA
October 1 & 2	13TH ANNUAL EXHIBITION Gardens of the World
October 20	7:30PM : Brief Meeting followed by Workshop— BRING YOUR TREES
November 17	7:30PM : Brief Meeting followed by Workshop— BRING YOUR TREES
December 15	HOLIDAY POTLUCK, RAFFLE & AUCTION 7:30 PM

Candle Pruning Black Pines

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.

Get your bonsai ready for the [Descanso Bonsai Society June 11 – 12] 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 to position. Pots should be clean and, if pos-

sible, free of hard water scale. "Old English" lemon oil works very well on pots and will help some scale to be less [visible]. Clean trunks and roots, removing dirt and moss from trunks, main roots (nebari), and any low branches. [Editor's Note: Many CVBS members also belong to the Descanso club and display trees in that show as well as our own.]

If your tree has deadwood 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

Green Spring

Enjoy the wonderful shades of green this spring!!

Thank you to the April snacky participants. Cold drinks provided by Sheila Galinsky, coffee compliments of CVBS (Marj Branson). Sweets provided by Marj Branson.

Please do not hesitate to contact me and join the Refreshments Corner! Contact me at wkhlady@yahoo.com or call (818) 915-8545. Thanks everyone!

—Grace Sy

2016 Refreshments

	Cold Drinks	Eats / Sweets
May	Denise Snavelly	Denise Snavelly
June	Volunteer Needed	Richard & Kazue Winston
July	Volunteer Needed	Mike Mulhern
Aug.	Sheila Galinsky	Ken Fuentes
Sept.	Nancy Smeets	Lynn Hauge
Oct.	Volunteer Needed	Jill Peters & Valentina
Nov.	Volunteer Needed	Norm Nason

CVBS Membership

Welcome New Members!

Please join me in welcoming Lynn Hauge of Fillmore to CVBS; Lynn joined at the April meeting. Also, a warm welcome to returning member David Williams of Santa Clarita.

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.

—Larry Kimmelman

April Niche

Fast-Growing Bougainvillea

Editor's note: Larry Kimmelman provided this bougainvillea for the niche display at our club's April 2016 meeting. Here is what Larry says about this bonsai.

This is a bougainvillea that I found at a nursery in Moorpark four or five years ago. Originally a one gallon plant purchased for a very reasonable price (think "cheap"), I moved it into this bonsai pot three years ago. Since repotting, it has tripled in size. I thought the plant had an angular growth potential, and would eventually be suitable for a windswept or semi-cascade style bonsai. I purchased the display stand at the Bonsai-A-Thon this past winter.

—Larry Kimmelman



Photo by Norm Nason

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	
May	Marj Branson
June	Volunteer Needed
July	Volunteer Needed
Aug.	Norm Nason
Sept.	Nancy Smeets
Oct.	Ken Martin

Club Members Work on Trees



Photo by Norm Nason

During the Conejo Valley Bonsai Society's April 2016 meeting, which was a workshop, Mike Mulhern observes as club advisor Ken Fuentes (in shorts) provides some expert help. Ken Martin (partially hidden behind Fuentes) works on the returned procumbens juniper (see below) while Sheila Galinsky works on her willow leaf ficus. Meanwhile, Ken's son Kyle Fuentes (far right in photo above) browses the club library.

Welcome Home: Demo Tree Returned

Bob Pressler used this procumbens juniper (photo at right) as his demonstration tree during the Conejo Valley Bonsai Society's Spring Show at the Camarillo Public Library on May 2, 2015. As a result of winning his guessing game, Bob awarded the tree to Joanne Packenham of Camarillo.

Joanne kept the tree for 11 months, doing a good job of watering, fertilizing, and keeping it healthy. In April this year, she decided she wanted to give the tree back to our club.

The tree is an initially styled semi-cascade tree with lots of potential. It will be a part of our auction at the CVBS Holiday Party in December. I did some work on the tree during our April 2016 workshop meeting.

—Ken Martin



Photo by Norm Nason

2016

May

May 14 – 15, Gardena, California

Dai Ichi Bonsai Kai: Annual Exhibit “Serenity through Bonsai” at the Ken Nakaoka Community Center, 1670 W. 162nd St. Novice to master bonsai exhibited. Hours are 10 AM – 4 PM both days with a demonstration at 1 PM ((Saturday) a round-robin and (Sunday) a Saikei demonstration by Mr. Frank Goya will be held). The demonstration items will be in the benefit drawing, which follows each demonstration. On Saturday a beginner’s hands-on workshop at 10:30 AM will be held. For more details about our club and show visit our website <http://daiichibonsaikai.wordpress.com> or contact Doyle Saito at (310) 539-9265.

May 21 – 22, 2016, Van Nuys, California

Sansui-Kai of Southern California: Annual Bonsai Show at the Japanese Garden at Tillman Water Reclamation Center, 6100 Woodley Ave. Show hours are 10 AM to 4 PM both days, with demonstration each day. Sale table of Bonsai trees and pots. For more information contact: (818) 756-8166 (Garden) or (760) 379-8292.

May 21 – 22, 2016, 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. 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 more information, contact Tom Post (805) 964-2717, email tompstart@yahoo.com or visit www.santabarbarbonsai.org.

June

June 4 – 5, 2016, San Mateo, California

Sei Boku Bonsai Kai: 33rd Annual Show at the San Mateo Garden Center. 605 Parkside Way (next to Beresford Park). Show hours are 10 AM to 4 PM both days, with demonstration by Dennis Makishima from Noon – 3 PM on Saturday (tree will be raffled off at the conclusion of demo). Sunday Dennis will lead an open view workshop from Noon – 3 PM. Large club member plant sale, vendors, door prizes and our always popular raffles. Admission is free. Dr. Bonsai will be available to offer styling and care tips. For more information contact Marsha Mekisich at eclectic.gardener@yahoo.com.

June 11 – 12, 2016, La Canada Flintridge, California

Descanso Bonsai Society: 47th Annual Exhibition at the Descanso Gardens, 1418 Descanso Drive, La Canada Flintridge (near the intersection of the 210 and 2 freeways). The indoor show will be in Van De Kamp Hall. Trees from novice to master exhibitors will be on display. Hours are 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM both days. There will be demonstrations at 11:00 AM and 1:30 PM on Saturday and Sunday. A large selection of trees, pots, plants, and bonsai-related items will be for sale. All events are free with Descanso Gardens admission. For more information, please visit our website www.descanso-bonsai.com.

June 12, 2016, Seaside, California

Monterey Bonsai Club: 53rd Annual Exhibition at the Monterey Peninsula Buddhist Temple, 1150 Noche Buena Street. Show hours are from 11 AM – 4 PM with a demonstration at 1:30 PM by Katsumi Kinoshita. There will be a benefit drawing for bonsai trees. Silent auction area will include bonsai trees, pots and pre-bonsai material. For more information contact Rich Guillen at richguillen@sbcglobal.net or Dianne Woods at vinca27@comcast.net.

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.

Library

Take Advantage of Our Library Offerings!

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 suiseiki? Take a look at *Suiseiki 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.

—Larry Kimmelman