



# conejo valley BONSAI society

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A member of the Golden State Bonsai Federation 

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## President's Message

# Congrats David Whiteside!

By Marj Branson

The big news this month is that Conejo Valley Bonsai Society Editor David Whiteside won first place in the newsletter competition at the Golden State Bonsai Federation's 39th annual convention in Sacramento last month. As you all know, David launched a redesigned version of the newsletter in January this year, a project that he initiated several years ago. First prize in the large newsletter category included \$50 worth of raffle tickets, with which he won two beautiful bonsai pots. He will be bringing them to our November meeting so we can all see them.

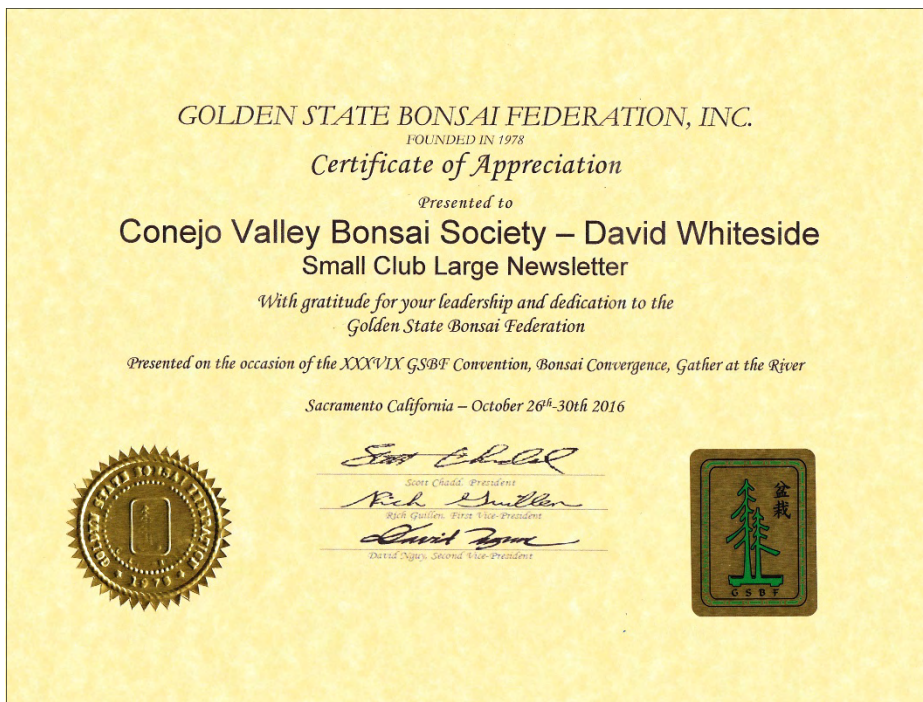
Thank you David for your years of effort!

We had a change to our October program. Ken Fuentes did a demonstration/workshop, which became an audience participation event in designing Ken's olive tree. This was done differently than usual, as there were open discussions at all points of the tree's development. Every clipped or wired branch position was understood and agreed upon by

(Continued on page 8)



Marj Branson



## Conejo Valley Bonsai Society Meetings

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

The Golden State Bonsai Federation awarded David Whiteside first place in its large newsletter category in this year's statewide bonsai club newsletter contest for the CVBS newsletter.

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(Click on Email Address)

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# CVBS Programs 2016

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

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

# Defoliate Deciduous Trees With Damaged Leaves

By Jim Barrett

Although it seems early, I'm recommending that you defoliate Japanese maples and any deciduous tree whose leaves are shriveled and damaged from the hot dry weather we've had recently. Remove old leaves from the soil; scrub the bark on smooth bark trees with a mild detergent or Safers insecticide soap. An early dormant spray treatment would then be a prudent thing to do.

I wouldn't defoliate elms, pomegranate or other deciduous trees if their foliage is still healthy and strong.

Repotting quince this month is recommended by many of our Japanese experts. Waiting until spring tends to cause heavy thick roots and to stunt the tree's growth. Quince should be given as much sun as you can provide.

No high nitrogen fertilizers for the rest of this year.

Plants are not taking up water as fast now, so modify your watering schedule accordingly. Pale green or chartreuse foliage on pines and junipers may indi-

**Plants are not taking up water as fast now, so modify your watering schedule accordingly.**

cate their soil is staying too wet. Hold easier with the foliage gone. Also, re-back on the water and try keeping the soil move old wire that appears to have done its job. 🌳



Jim Barrett

Black pine and most juniper bonsai can still be repotted now. The trees that have dropped their leaves and the ones you have defoliated can be pruned and wired for detail. It's

## Refreshments

### Fallback!

It is time to relax on fallback time, sometimes cooler and crazy warmer.

Thanks to all those who participated in last month's snackie eats/sweets and cold drinks: Marj Branson and Jill Peters. Also to Marj for setting up the coffee compliments of CVBS.

Please do not hesitate to contact me and join the Refreshments Corner! It's easy—just contact me at graesym@yahoo.com or call (818) 915-8545.

Thanks everyone!

—Grace Sy

#### 2016 Refreshments

	Cold Drinks	Eats / Sweets
Nov.	Ken Martin	Norm Nason
Dec.	Annual Holiday Potluck, Raffle & Auction	

#### 2017 Refreshments

Jan.	Nancy Smeets	Ann Lofquist
Feb.	Volunteer Needed	Jill Peters

## CVBS Membership

### Interested in CVBS?

Please join me in welcoming new member Leslie Rinchen-Wongmo of Oxnard to our club. A newcomer to bonsai, Leslie joined during the October meeting.

Consider becoming a member. We meet monthly on the third Thursday of every month at the Westlake Village City Hall (31200 Oakcrest Drive, Westlake Village, CA 91362). Meetings start at 7:30 PM, and include occasional demonstrations by bonsai experts, workshops, critiques, and member swap meets.

It's inexpensive and easy to join. Annual dues are \$25 for one, or \$30 for couples. Simply bring cash or a check (made payable to the Conejo Valley Bonsai Society) to our next monthly meeting. You may also mail it to: Larry Kimmelman, CVBS Membership Chair, 2727 Autumn Ridge Drive, Thousand Oaks, CA 91362.

—Larry Kimmelman



# Fuentes 'Cuts In' Olive Grown from Branch

By Ken Martin

**Editor's Note:** Due to a family emergency, Tom Vuong could not do his demonstration scheduled for our October 20 meeting. Club advisor Ken Fuentes demonstrated instead. Tom will do his demonstration at our November meeting—see the schedule on page 2.

For the Conejo Valley Bonsai Society's October meeting, Ken Fuentes worked on an olive that originally was a branch cut off from a tree. Appropriately enough, Ken said he obtained the olive a year ago from Tom Vuong, who was originally scheduled for this meeting (see note, above).

The tree was approximately 12 – 14 inches tall with a nebari of 1¼ to 1½ inches. Before Ken started work, there were three main trunks, all splitting off at or above the nebari.

First, Ken said he was going to "cut in" the tree as he has done once already since he's had the tree. By "cutting in," Ken explained, he meant going in and removing material that was not going to be useful in accelerating growth of the main features or be a part of the initial composition.

While removing unwanted material, Ken talked about bar branches. Olives naturally produce barred branches as they grow. Out near the tip of a branch, he suggested cutting off one of the barred branches and the leader, leaving the branch turning 90 degrees angled down.

Ken downplayed the concept of finding the front of a tree first and then building the design around that. Moreover, when determining the front of a tree, Ken doesn't always agree with others. In fact, he said he avoids the obvious choice. "If you find the obvious front, that's not the front for me," he said. "The front is the mysterious one that gives the tree depth."

In addition, Ken said he prefers a tree that looks good from any angle. He pointed out that this tree had several potential fronts. In his approach, the final decision doesn't have to be made now.

After removing many small branches, the trunks of the tree were much easier to see. The thickest of the trunks had a reverse taper; another had a long straight section with no taper. After some discussion with the audience, Ken sawed one off. After more discussion, he cut off the second of these less attractive trunks. He cut these trunks off at their base, as jin are not usual on olives. That left one short trunk with some nice movement and taper.

Several small, but long branches were left as sacrifice branches to fatten up the remaining trunk and nebari. Ken said he was not going to trim the large root ball but keep the tree in its nursery container with a little fresh soil.

Ken said Tom Vuong uses straight play sand as his soil for his olive bonsai. It should be noted all of Mr. Vuong's olive bonsai are quite large. Ken also described how Mr. Vuong uses New Zealand moss mixed with play sand several inches thick on top of the container soil on his olives. This results in a healthier tree as the fine feeder roots grow closer to the soil surface and therefore use more of the soil volume.

The club really appreciates Ken jumping in and doing this informative demonstration at the literal last minute. It was a very entertaining and worthwhile evening. 🌿



Photos by David Whiteside

**CVBS Advisor Ken Fuentes discusses his olive at the beginning of his demo at the October Conejo Valley Bonsai Society meeting—note the full and bushy tree (above).**

**The demo tree after Ken Fuentes finished "cutting in" (below).**





# Notes and Photos from Sacramento

By David Whiteside

Four members of the Conejo Valley Bonsai Society attended the Golden State Bonsai Federation's annual convention in Sacramento October 27 – 30: Ken Fuentes, Marj Branson, Larry Kimmelman, and me, David Whiteside. Among us, we participated in several events: workshops, seminars, and critiques of the two bonsai exhibits. We also opened our wallets in the large vendor hall.

I started my activities with a seminar taught by renown bonsai expert Kathy Shaner. She discussed and demonstrated many techniques for spiffing up trees for exhibition, even at the last minute. (Several of the trees she used for the seminar later appeared in the main bonsai exhibition.) On later days, I attended critiques of the main exhibit (led by Kathy Shaner), a show of bonsai that were judged (led by Ryan Neil—see photos this page and next), and suiseki, or viewing stones (led by suiseki collector, author, and expert Tom Elias). Marj also joined Shaner's critique of the main bonsai exhibit.

On Friday, Larry Kimmelman participated in an olive workshop. The tree he was assigned has a huge block of deadwood that needs carving—lots of carving! (See photo, right.)

On Friday evening, they announced the winners of GSBF's annual newsletter competition—and I won in the "large" newsletter category (see page 1). The prize was \$50 worth of raffle tickets; two proved lucky as I won two lovely pots in the raffle at the Saturday banquet. A lot of credit belongs to Ann Lofquist, who created the tree in our club logo. That allowed me to redesign the

whole newsletter in a more contemporary format.

**Larry Kimmelman (left in photo below) works on his olive with one of the workshop instructors, Vince Owyong. Note the large block of deadwood.**



Photos by David Whiteside



**Best Shohin (above): Shimpaku Juniper by Gary Judd.**

**Best of Show & Best Native Species (left: Sierra Juniper by Mike Pistello.**

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**Best Conifer (top left): San Jose Juniper by Bob Shimon.**

**Best Broadleaf Evergreen (top right): Cork Oak by Michael Roberts.**



**People's Choice (above): Procumbens Juniper by Larry White.**



**Best Deciduous (left): Trident Maple by Lucy Sakaishi-Judd.**



# Chinese Elm Field Grown in China

**Editor's note: Ken Martin provided this Chinese elm (*Ulmus parvifolia*) for the niche display at our club's October 2016 meeting. Here is what Ken says about his tree.**

This Chinese elm was imported from Gwanzo, China by David DeGroot in 2011. It was field grown in China wired to a steel stake to produce its twisted shape, as were literally millions of others at the same time, all for export. I styled it in a David DeGroot class at a Golden State Bonsai Federation Shohin Seminar in February 2012. The tree at 12½ inches is a little tall to be called a shohin. There's still a little work to be done to get some secondary branching and twiggyiness developed on the number one (lowest) branch. I brought in a pictorial history of this tree with comments to show the club the technique I use to keep a history of my trees. I find it useful to look at a picture of a tree to see where branches could be better placed, apex could be adjusted, etc. It is easier for me to spot a possible correction from a photo than just physically looking at the tree. The accent plant is a collection of several succulents I put in a small pot last year. I tried to make the accent plant lean toward the elm and vice versa.



—Ken Martin

Photo by David Whiteside

## 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 your 2017 calendar and let us know when you would like to present your display next year.

—Marj Branson

2016 Niche Displays	
Nov.	Bob Pressler
Dec.	<b>Holiday Potluck No Niche</b>
2017 Niche Displays	
Jan.	Ann Lofquist
Feb.	Jill Peters

2016

December

**December 26-30, 2016 San Marino, California**

27th Anniversary Exhibition of Viewing Stones Show at the Botanical Center of The Huntington Library & Botanical Gardens, 1151 Oxford Road, San Marino, CA Hours are 10:30-4:30 each day. Free parking. For more information see our website [aisekikai.com](http://aisekikai.com) and or contact [sashaichris@gmail.com](mailto:sashaichris@gmail.com)

2017

February

**February 19 - 20, 2017 Oakland, California**

GSBF Bonsai Garden at Lake Merritt: The annual Mammoth Auction and Sale 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 date for this year's event is a week earlier than in the past to let attendees and vendors participate in both the Mammoth and the Bonsai-a-Thon. The Bonsai Garden will be open 10 AM to 4 PM on Saturday and Noon to 4 PM on Sunday, so you can check out the many changes that have been made this year. For more information or to sell trees, email [bonsailakemerritt@gmail.com](mailto:bonsailakemerritt@gmail.com) and visit [www.gsbflakemerritt.org](http://www.gsbflakemerritt.org).

**Feb. 25 - 26, 2017 San Marino, California**

Bonsai-A-Thon XXI at the Huntington Library and Botanical Gardens, 1151 Oxford Road. This is the annual fundraiser for the GSBF Collection at The Huntington. Event admission 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, demonstrations, lunch, bonsai exhibits, large sales area, raffle, and auction. For more information visit [www.gsbfhuntington.com](http://www.gsbfhuntington.com)

## Bonsai Volunteers Needed at the Huntington Gardens

Ted Matson has been busy at the Huntington Gardens organizing the work on and upgrading the bonsai trees in both the Golden State Bonsai Federation's collection and the Huntington's own collection. This is an ongoing task—so anyone who would like to volunteer, there are opportunities and your help would be appreciated. There are no restrictions as to your level of bonsai

knowledge—all levels are welcome. Ted has many tasks that need to be done. In some instances, he has mini teaching sessions, so no one feels overextended.

If you are interested please let me know or contact Ted at [tmatson@earthlink.net](mailto:tmatson@earthlink.net).

—Marj Branson

### President's Message (Continued from page 1)

all. Thanks Ken—the evening was informative and fun for all.

Tom Vuong's demonstration, originally scheduled for October, has been changed to November. Tom will be working on an olive. He has many large ones in his collection so it will be good to hear his secrets. It should be a great night.

The election of CVBS officers for 2017 will be held at our November meeting.

Membership Chair Larry Kimmelman is heading up the election and has sent an email to all calling for nominations. Please pass your selection(s) to Larry via email at [membership.chair@cvbs-bonsai.org](mailto:membership.chair@cvbs-bonsai.org).

The holiday potluck dinner is coming up. It will be on our regular meeting date, Thursday, December 15th. Don't forget to

sign up for your dinner contribution. The list will be going around during the November meeting. This is our annual get-together and includes our annual raffle and auction. Have a look at your bonsai material to see what you can contribute to our raffle. We have some very good trees becoming available for the raffle and auction, so bring your checkbook. Guy Evans will be providing the festive spirit for the evening with his holiday piano music. Last year all enjoyed it.

The Bonsai-A-Thon is coming up at the Huntington Gardens February 25 - 26, 2017. As always, there will be excellent bonsai on exhibit, a large vendor's hall, educational demonstrations, and a tour of the Japanese and Chinese gardens as well as the bonsai collections.

See you at our monthly meeting, Thursday, November 17th. 🌳

### Library

## From Books to Magazines to DVDs . . .

We provide educational and instructional materials for all levels of bonsai artistry. Considering honing your skills with styling, pruning, or repotting? Interested in learning more about fertilizing or wiring? We have lots of information available, and at no charge to our members. Any of our resource materials may be borrowed for a month at a time. We only ask that books, magazines, or DVDs be returned at the next meeting. I'm always happy to answer questions about our library, and to help you select appropriate materials for your bonsai knowledge.

—Larry Kimmelman