



conejo valley BONSAI society

Volume 14 Number 7 July 2017

A member of the Golden State Bonsai Federation 

In This Issue

- President's Message:
Power Tools for Carving ... 1
- CVBS Programs:
The 2017 Schedule ... 2
- Barrett's Bonsai Tips:
Adjust to Summer Heat ... 3
- Refreshments ... 3
- CVBS Membership ... 3
- CVBS Event:
CVBS Summer Exhibition at the
Arts Center ... 4
- June Niche:
Small, Triple-Trunk Olive ... 7
- Bonsai Volunteers Needed at the
Huntington Gardens ... 7
- Coming Events ... 8
- CVBS Niche Displays ... 8
- Library ... 8

President's Message

Power Tools for Carving

By Marj Branson

Our July meeting will be a demonstration by Gary Nanson. His topic will be power tools for shaping deadwood of bonsai. He will talk about the best tools to use to carve a tree and how to use them. If members have trees they would like to carve, please bring them in. Gary will give his suggestions for how and what carving could be done on the tree.

Hope to see everyone Thursday, July 20th for Gary Nanson's power tool demonstration. He's coming all the way from San Diego, so let's all show up to make the trip worth his while.

Don't forget—our August meeting will include our annual Swap Meet, so have a look at your bonsai collection to see if you have any trees or other bonsai-related items you would like to trade or sell.

Summer Exhibit

Our June 2017 meeting was a workshop. Members brought their trees to work on and we prepared for our June 24 Summer Exhibition with the Arts Council of the Conejo Valley. Our show was simultaneous with the Council's "Serendipity" art show and artists' reception. The venue was a large presentation room at the Art Center in Thousand Oaks (see page 4).

We set up for the show Friday afternoon and held the exhibition and demonstrations on Saturday the 24th. The trees and the display were excellent. The room featured two floor-to-ceiling window walls, and the abundant natural light was a real plus. Although turnout was not what we had hoped for, it was very gratifying to receive many compliments from the arts community.

Ann Lofquist gave her "Bonsai 101" lecture. The Arts Center provided a large flat-screen TV set up so she was able to show many pictures to support her discussion.

We unfortunately did not have 9:00 AM visitors, so Ken Fuentes' demonstration was moved to 3:00 PM.

The CVBS's contribution to the food for the reception was organized by Marilyn Fuentes and donated by Patty Campbell of Merlin's Kitchen. A big "Thank You" to all members who participated by providing trees; helping to set up the exhibition; and working Saturday to meet and answer questions for our guests.

We would like to thank the Arts Council for inviting us to share in their Serendipity weekend.

I have received some member's comments about our weekend exhibition. We would like to discuss the show further at our August meeting—or e-mail me your thoughts.

GSBF Convention Coming Up

The Golden State Bonsai Federation (GSBF) will hold its convention October 25 – 29 this year in at the Riverside Convention Center (see page 8). Early bird registration is underway and runs through August 15th. To get details of the activities, to sign up for your preferred workshops, meals, etc., go to the GSBF website gsbfconvention.org.

(Continued on page 8)

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

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

Committees

Advisor

Ken Fuentes

Phone (805) 495-7480

advisor@cvbs-bonsai.org

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

Nancy Smeets

Phone (213) 810-4280

program.chair@cvbs-bonsai.org

Publicity Co-Chairs

Guy & Deborah Ervin

Phone (805) 495-8688

publicity@cvbs-bonsai.org

Refreshments Chair

Denise Snavely

Phone (562) 964-9284

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

2017

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

January 19	7:30 PM: Brief Meeting followed by DEMONSTRATION: Roy Nagatoshi / Grafting
February 16	7:30 PM: Brief Meeting followed by Workshop— BRING YOUR TREES
March 16	7:30 PM: Brief Meeting followed by Workshop— BRING YOUR TREES FOCUS: Fertilizers
April 20	7:30 PM: Brief Meeting followed by DEMONSTRATION: Bob Pressler / Repotting Silverberry
May 18	7:30 PM: Brief Meeting followed by DEMONSTRATION: Jim Barrett / Tree Critique BRING A TREE FOR JIM TO CRITIQUE
June 15	7:30 PM: Brief Meeting followed by Workshop— BRING YOUR TREES
June 24	9:00 AM - 6:00 PM SUMMER 2017 EXHIBITION & RECEPTION Arts Council of the Conejo Valley
July 20	7:30 PM: Brief Meeting followed by DEMONSTRATION: Gary Nanson / Power Tools
August 17	7:30 PM: Brief Meeting followed by Workshop and Swap Meet — BRING YOUR TREES
September 21	7:30 PM: Brief Meeting followed by DEMONSTRATION: Ann Lofquist / Revisiting Tanuki Grafts
October 7 & 8	13TH ANNUAL EXHIBITION Gardens of the World
October 19	7:30PM: Brief Meeting followed by Workshop— BRING YOUR TREES
November 16	7:30PM: Brief Meeting followed by DEMONSTRATION: Jason Chan / Junipers Start to Finish
December 21 Tentative	7:30 PM HOLIDAY POTLUCK, RAFFLE & AUCTION

Adjust to Summer Heat

By Jim Barrett

This month we can expect a slowing down of both roots and top growth.

Deciduous trees, especially Japanese maples, may need protection from direct sun and drying winds. Home Depot sells shade cloth in varying strengths, if you feel ambitious and want to build a shade frame over your more tender trees.

Make sure your watering program is not neglected. It may be that you will have to water more than once a day. Shohin [small] bonsai will need an extra amount of care in terms of water, shade, and maintaining a cool, humid atmosphere. ["Shohin" refers to trees that are 6 inches – 8 inches from base to apex. The smallest bonsai classification is called "mame," (which translates as "bean"). Mame measure 3 inches – 6 inches. —Editor]

It is becoming more and more common to see shohin collections imbedded in a tray of damp sand. This not only provides humidity and moisture, but also keeps the pot cool.

If your trees are placed against a wall or fence, be sure to rotate them every week or so. This evens out the tree's form by exposing all sides to the elements. Trees left against a fence or wall tend to develop flat areas, stunted branches, and even dead branches on the wall side.

Except for emergency potting, wait until early fall for this chore.

Crabapples and ume [*Prunus mume*, commonly called Chinese plum or Japanese apricot] should be left to grow wild until late September—the same with wisteria. Try stripping the first three to four sets (closest to the trunk), leaving only a few leaves at branch terminals. Try this on crabapple and ume. Do this also on the compound leaves on wisteria, but just strip the first few sets of leaflets on each leaf. This procedure should cause the tree to set more buds for next year's flowers.

Fertilizers high in phosphorous and potash, low in nitrogen, should be used this summer. Do not over fertilize. In fact, if you are using liquid or chemical fertilizers, cut the recommended dose in half. Over fertilizing during this semi-dormant period could cause root rot and other undesirable conditions.

If you are planning to add new plants to your collection or are just starting out, now is a good time to look for potentially good bonsai stock—especially deciduous material. You will find many bargains at the [Conejo Valley Bonsai Society's annual August Swap Meet].

**Jim Barrett****Refreshments**

We Need a Few Volunteers

Hello everyone.
I'd like to thank all of you who have provided snacks and beverages for our past meetings.

Looking over the coming schedule of meetings, we need someone to bring sweets to the August meeting.

Our October and November meetings need volunteers for both beverages and sweets.

You can either sign up at our meeting on July 20th or contact me directly at Ualspike@aol.com or (828) 865-1034.

See you at the meeting.

Thank you for your support.

—Denise Snavely

2017 Refreshments

	Cold Drinks	Eats / Sweets
July	Nancy Smeets	Denise Snavely
Aug.	Ken Fuentes	Volunteer Needed
Sep.	Denise Snavely	Ken Fuentes
Oct.	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed

CVBS Membership

Interested in CVBS?

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 91361). 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

CVBS Summer Exhibition at the Arts Center

By David Whiteside

The Conejo Valley Bonsai Society's one-day Summer Exhibition on June 24 was perhaps the best display of our trees and viewing stones we've ever had. Unfortunately, CVBS volunteers and attendees agree, the turnout was disappointing.

"There was a well-designed exhibition that displayed beautiful trees and viewing stones, a great deal of natural light, and a central area for a presentation and demonstration," said Larry Kimmelman.

"The trees in this show were by far the best of any of our previous shows in my opinion," agreed Ken Martin. "The venue was great; the room, its spaciousness, natural lighting, and parking availability all were superior to Gardens of the World."

As President Marj Branson says in her President's Message (see page 1), we need to discuss whether to return to this venue in the future. This will be on the agenda for our August meeting. If you were at the show, please come prepared for this important discussion. Meanwhile, enjoy the show photos. 

Photo below by Larry Kimmelman



Photo above by Larry Kimmelman

Photo below by David Williams



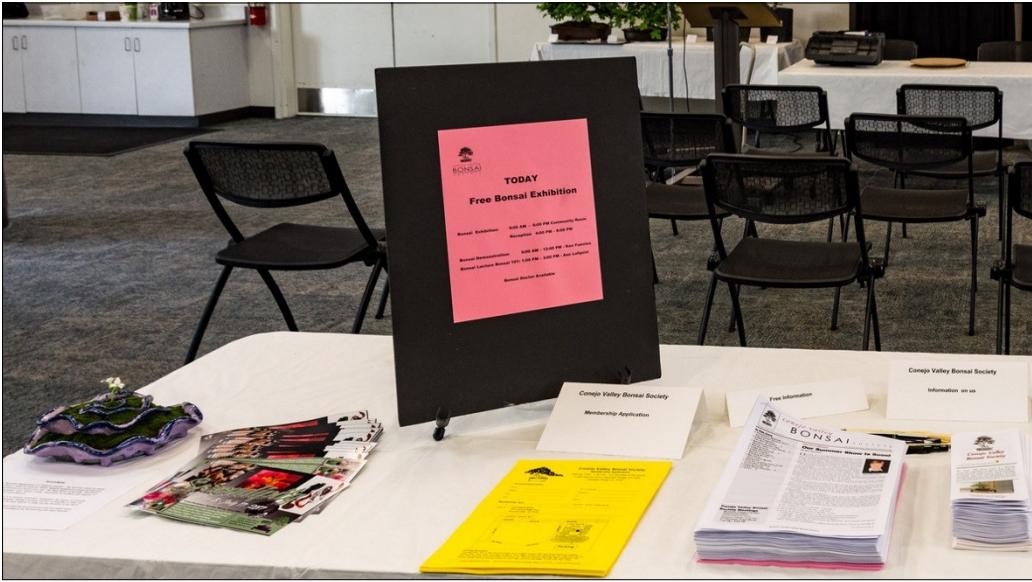


Photo above by Larry Kimmelman



Photos right and bottom right by David Williams



Photos above and below by Larry Kimmelman





Photos above and right by David Williams

Photos below by Ken Martin



June Niche

Small, Triple-Trunk Olive

Editor's note: Marj Branson provided the niche display at the CVBS June 2017 meeting. Here's what Marj had to say about this small, triple-trunk olive.

I purchased the olive from David Whiteside at one of our club swap meets. I have always liked this tree in part because of its triple trunk.

I took the tree to Jim Barrett's class and repotted it into the present very old pot, which I thought was in keeping. Old classic tree, old pot.

When we had Tom Vuong do a demonstration for us on olives at our November 2016 meeting [see the December 2016 issue of this newsletter, pages 4 – 6], he said he defoliates his olive trees. This is what I did with this tree about five months ago. This was very helpful in revealing the tree structure, which allowed me to better prune and style it. The tree has come back full of leaves—all of which are much smaller than the original.

—Marj Branson

Marj Branson's triple-trunk olive in the old, glazed pot she moved it to after purchasing it from David Whiteside. Note how small its leaves are after recovering from being defoliated.

Photo by Ken Martin



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.

—Marj Branson

August

August 30 - September 3, 2017 Santa Ana, California

Kofu Bonsai Kai: 2017 Bonsai Fest at the Bowers Museum - John M. Lee Court, 2002 N. Main St., Daily 10 AM - 4 PM, Featuring bonsai trees of the members of Kofu Bonsai Kai and special presentations by noted speakers. 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/>. Free to Bowers Museum members or with paid museum admission. Questions? Call the museum at (714) 567-3695 or email Michael Walsh at michaeljwalsh@outlook.com.

September

September 23 - 24, 2017 San Diego, California

San Diego Bonsai Club: Fall Bonsai Exhibition at the Casa Del Prado, Room 101, Balboa Park. Show hours are 10 AM – 5 PM both days with demonstrations at 11 AM and 1 PM. Free admission. Bonsai pots and trees for sale, as well as other bonsai-related items. For more information, visit www.sandiegobonsaiclub.com or contact Janice Hale.

October

October 25—29, 2017 Riverside, California

Golden State Bonsai Federation: Convention 40 at the Riverside Convention Center. Early registration through August 15, \$275; then full registration is \$295. Workshop, seminar, excursion, and critique registration in addition, first-come, first-served.

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

The convention includes many critiques of the three exhibitions (bonsai, judged bonsai, and viewing stones), all led by experts in their field. These show critiques are very informative about the do's and don'ts of a show display.

There also are seminars and workshops offered. These usually fill up quickly on a first-come basis, so it's worth registering early. The cost of a workshop includes a tree that you work on under the direction of an expert—and then take the tree home.

Finally, there are demonstrations by internationally known bonsai artists. And there is a large vendor section, raffles, and auctions so there is something for everyone! Hope we have a good turnout for the convention. 

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 her/his 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.

—Marj Branson

2017 Niche Displays

July	Ken Fuentes
August	Volunteer Needed
Sept.	David Whiteside
Oct.	Volunteer Needed
Nov.	Volunteer Needed

Library

Check Out the CVBS Library

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