



conejo valley

BONSAI society

Volume 14 Number 11 November 2017

A member of the Golden State Bonsai Federation 

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President's Message

Junipers & Elections Coming

By Marj Branson

For our November 16th meeting, our demonstrator will be Jason Chan telling us all about junipers. He will work on a juniper, starting with styling and carrying it through until finished. This should be a fun evening—hope to see everyone there.

The election of the Conejo Valley Bonsai Society's officers for 2018 will be held during our November business meeting. Larry Kimmelman has sent an e-mail to all calling for committed volunteers. We will fill four positions: President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary. Please pass your suggestions/nominations on to Larry.

Those elected will become our new officers as of the end of the November meeting. They then will be empowered to name committee chairs for 2018.

Our fellow newsletter contributor, Jim Barrett, is having an inventory reduction sale at his nursery Saturday and Sunday, November 25th and 26th. He has extended a welcome to our club members. (See the box this page for details.)

The CVBS holiday potluck dinner, raffle, and auction is coming up on our regular December meeting date, Thursday the 21st. Don't forget to sign up for your dinner contribution. We will circulate the list at the November meeting.

This is our annual get together with our once-a-year raffle and auction. Have a look at your bonsai material to see what you can contribute to our raffle or auction. And don't forget to bring your checkbook to the dinner so you can pick up some bonsai treats. Remember, your dues are not enough to support CVBS's programs. The holiday raffle and auction is our only fundraiser and without your generous contributions and participation (read: buying raffle tickets and bidding in the auction), we would not be able to bring in demonstrators for our meetings.

For the holiday party, as in past years Guy Evans will be providing the festive spirit for the evening with his seasonal piano music. Every

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Marj Branson

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

Visit Our Website
www.cvbs-bonsai.org

Follow Us on Facebook
[www.facebook.com/
conejovalleybonsaisociety](http://www.facebook.com/conejovalleybonsaisociety)

Barrett's Bonsai Sale

- What:** Inventory Reduction Sale
20% off Bonsai Stock
20% off Used Tools
New tools available (no discount)
- When:** November 25th & 26th
(Saturday & Sunday)
9 AM – 4 PM each day
- Where:** 480 Oxford Drive
Arcadia, CA 91007

For more information, contact Jim Barrett
(626) 445-4529

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	14TH ANNUAL EXHIBITION Gardens of the World
October 19	7:30 PM: Brief Meeting followed by Workshop— BRING YOUR TREES
November 16	7:30 PM: Brief Meeting followed by DEMONSTRATION: Jason Chan / Junipers Start to Finish
December 21	7:30 PM HOLIDAY POTLUCK, RAFFLE & AUCTION

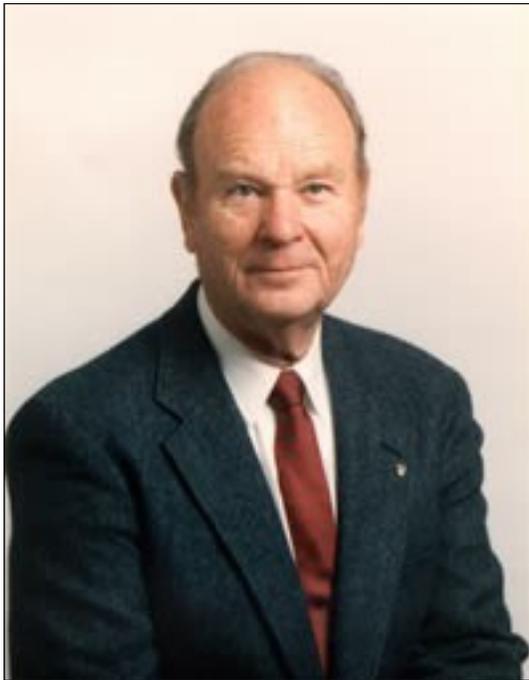
What To Do for November's Hobbyist Frustrations

By Jim Barrett

November can be a frustrating month for hobbyists as well as for our trees. Most trees will continue to grow as long as the weather stays balmy with warm nights (above 45 degrees F).

So what to do? If the weather stays warm, we can still repot (pot-to-pot) black pines and most junipers. It would be better to wait until spring, but if you can't and have been waiting for cooler weather, it can be done now using common sense with regard to soil and root removal.

If your maple leaves are still relatively fresh, they might give you some fall color. If the leaves are tired and worn out, think about removing them. Make sure they are destroyed and not left on branches or soil surfaces of the bonsai. If you are planning to remove the leaves, then



Jim Barrett

spend some time pruning your unwanted twigs, branches, and deadwood.

Check all wire on your trees this month and remove it if it was applied last spring or if it is beginning to scar the bark.

Black pines should have had their fall candle and branch pruning by now, but if it was not done last month go ahead and do it this month. Watch for pests, especially red spider mites on junipers. If the weather stays warm, you may find aphids on your crabapples, quince, and other fruiting bonsai. Check for scale on elms.

This month is a good time to restyle junipers and black pines. They will develop their foliage mass quicker in the spring and be ready for the June [Descanso Bonsai Society] show.

Refreshments

Looking Ahead

Hello everyone. As the year comes to a close I would like to thank all of you who volunteered to bring refreshments to the 2017 meetings. Your donations were greatly appreciated.

As 2018 draws near, once again I am looking for volunteers to provide refreshments for next year's meetings. Avoid the rush and sign up now!

Be the first in your neighborhood to be on the list. It's easy—just pick a month or two and sign up. You can email me at refreshments@cvbs-bonsai.org, text me at (562) 964-9284, or see me at the next meeting. Let me know your preference and I'll do the rest.

It's easy peasy! Looking forward to hearing from you.

—Denise Snavelly

2017 Refreshments		
	Cold Drinks	Eats / Sweets
Nov.	Marj Branson	Denise Snavelly
Dec.	HOLIDAY POTLUCK, RAFFLE & AUCTION	
2018 Refreshments		
Jan.	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed
Feb.	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

For Better Deadwood, Tanuki Reprise and Beyond

By Ken Martin

At the Conejo Valley Bonsai Society's September 2017 meeting, club vice president Ann Lofquist returned to a topic she introduced in a demonstration a year earlier: tanuki bonsai, also known as Phoenix grafts. This refers to the practice of "grafting" a living tree onto a piece of deadwood to produce the illusion of a tree that has had a difficult, stressful existence.

As reported in our July 2016 issue, Ann said that in Japan "the name 'tanuki' refers to a native badger-like small mammal that also resides in Japanese folklore as a mischievous and 'not what he seems to be' critter. Ann feels this is an apt name for [this practice, which creates] a bonsai in a fairly short period of time that has an old, well established look."

The purpose of this year's demonstration was twofold:

- To assist members who had purchased deadwood and shimpaku whips at the June 2016 meeting to make a tanuki
- To discuss some techniques to attach deadwood to improve bonsai that have uninteresting deadwood of their own

Ann showed some pictures of junipers styled in Europe where the deadwood was extensively carved but didn't look very natural. She is experimenting with ways other than just carving to make trees look old. She's starting to think we should combine techniques of carving, tearing, and adding deadwood to get the most natural effect.

Nancy Smeets (foreground in photo at right) and Marj Branson (in back) working on their tanuki compositions.

Ann Lofquist showing attendees how to bond pieces of deadwood together (below).



Photos by David Williams



(Continued from page 4)

To illustrate this concept Ann brought in the niche tree (see page 7). This was a shimpaku juniper grafted onto California juniper rootstock with plentiful but uninteresting deadwood. On the upper left portion of the deadwood, she had attached a long sinuous deadwood branch with a lot of detailed stubs to a flat-cut cylindrical branch stub with no interesting features (see photos, this page).

Ann drilled holes in both the resident deadwood and the extension and inserted a broken drill bit for added structural integrity. The surfaces joined were not flat but jagged to increase the bonding surface area and to disguise the bond. Carving was also involved in making the stump compatible with the piece added. It is almost impossible to see where this very natural-looking piece was attached.

Ann demonstrated adding a small piece of deadwood to a larger piece using KwikWood epoxy putty. After bonding, she used an X-Acto knife to put natural-looking cracks in the putty.

A second technique discussed was making an artificial add-on to a rock. She brought in a trident maple root-over-rock. When she placed the roots over a rock several years ago she wrapped them with part of a panty hose before planting the combination in the ground. The vertical roots adhered nicely to the rock, but

Continued page 6



To enhance her niche tree (see page 7), Ann added a branch to the California juniper's existing deadwood. It's hard to find the joint from either the back (above) or the front (below).





When Ann first dug up this root-over-rock maple (above left) there was a noticeable gap between one of the roots and the rock itself. She built up the rock with KwikWood and painted it (above right).

Photos by Ann Lofquist

(Continued from page 5)

one horizontal root on the left side did not. There was a $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ " gap between the root and the rock. She used KwikWood epoxy putty to fill in the gap. After the putty was applied, she used a real rock to make the texture of the putty look natural. After the putty hardened she used oil paint to blend the putty in with the rest of the rock. The result is a completely natural-looking rock with the horizontal root now in contact with the rock.

Four club members brought in their tanuki "kits" (deadwood and shimpaku whips). Ann and others helped them join the whips to the deadwood thus creating their own tanuki. 🌳

Tanuki and Beyond Materials



1. KWIKWOOD is a versatile epoxy wood putty made by JB Weld. It has a working time of about 15 minutes before hardening and can be modeled with fingers and tools. After curing, KwikWood can be carved and sanded. I use this product to infill the carved channels for the whips on tanuki, and to camouflage the areas of juncture when I attach deadwood. I have discovered that hardened KwikWood is not waterproof. When sanded it blends well with naturally weathered deadwood.

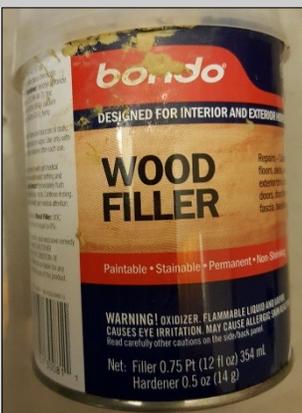
2. STEELSTICK is another JB Weld product which is intended to bond to metal. Working time is less than 5 minutes. I have found it adheres well to stone and have used this product when modifying rocks. It is not intended for use with wood. Gray color.

3. BONDO WOOD FILLER can function much like KwikWood but it is waterproof. Thus it is very useful if you want to create a new base on a piece of driftwood below the soil line or fill in an area that has rotted out. However, it can not be modeled with fingers and is generally messy to work with. Before hardening, the product is the consistency of runny frosting. Sands down to a pale tan color.

4. "DEATH" is BONDO LIQUID WOOD HARDENER, which is meant to be used with the bondo filler. It claims to help the filler adhere to wood that is not structurally sound. If you have rotted deadwood, you can carve out the rot, treat the surface with "Death," and then rebuild the area with Bondo Wood Filler. I called it

"Death" because I couldn't open the can, had to puncture it with a can opener, and poured the contents into a lemonade jar. I just didn't want to drink it by mistake.

—Ann Lofquist



Shimpaku Graft with Added Deadwood

Editor's Note: Ann Lofquist provided this Shimpaku juniper graft for the niche display at CVBS's September 2017 meeting. See below for what Ann said about her bonsai.

This tree is just a normal collected California juniper with a Nagatoshi (shimpaku) approach graft. However, the dead branch on the left side is an example of "added deadwood" that was attached to a featureless stump in lieu of carving. The branch is California juniper wood, but came from a different tree.

—Ann Lofquist

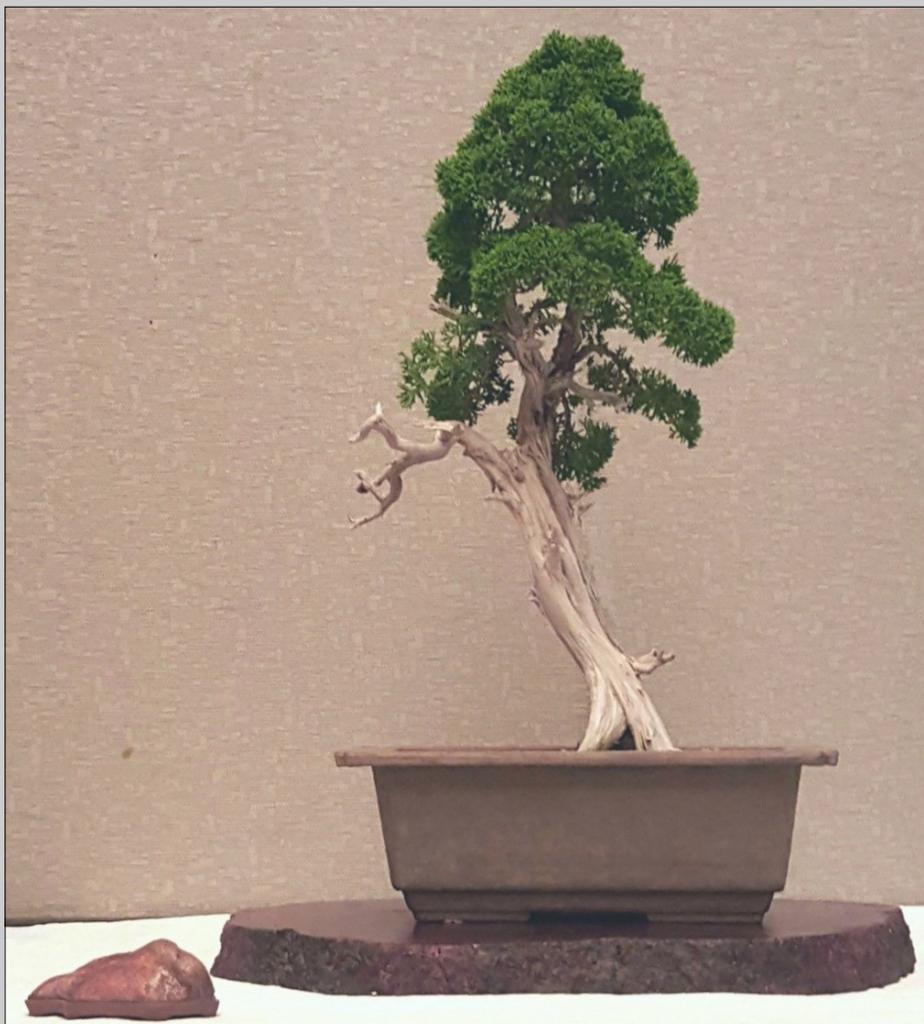


Photo by David Williams

Bonsai Volunteers Needed at the Huntington Gardens

Ted Matson is 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.

"This year, we can start allowing people to park up at the Ikebana House lot as there are no conflicts up there and it also frees up the public parking for other events/activities," Ted said. "Also, since we're getting into shorter days, we'll start at 9 AM rather than 8."

If you are interested please let me know or contact Ted at tmatson@earthlink.net.

—Marj Branson

2017
Work Dates
November 11 – 12
November 25 – 26
December 9 – 10
2018
Work Dates
January 20 – 21
February 17 – 18
March 10 – 11
April 14 – 15
May 19 – 20

2018

February

February 17 – 18, 2018 Oakland, California

GSBF Bonsai Garden at Lake Merritt: The Annual Mammoth Auction and Sale Fund Raiser will be held at the Lakeside Park Garden Center, 666 Bellevue Ave., Lake Merritt. Saturday: Auction preview at Noon with Auction starting at 1 PM. Sunday: Vendor Sales start at 9 AM; Plant Sales start at 10 AM; Demonstrations start at 1 PM. Everyone is encouraged to submit their bonsai and bonsai related items for consideration to be included in the Mammoth Auction at the earliest date possible. The Bonsai Garden at Lake Merritt will be open that weekend 10 AM to 4 PM on Saturday, and Noon to 4 PM on Sunday. Please visit the Garden and observe the many installments under the Garden Revitalization Opportunity (GRO) project. For more information or to sell bonsai, email bonsailakemerritt@gmail.com and visit <http://gsbf-lakemerritt.org>.

Feb. 24 — 25, 2018 San Marino, California

Bonsai-A-Thon XXII 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 7:30 AM – 9 AM. Event hours are 8 AM – 5 PM both days. Pancake breakfast, demonstrations, lunch, bonsai exhibits, large sales area, raffle, and auction. For more information visit www.gsbfhuntington.com.

President’s Message (continued from page 1)

year it has been enjoyed by all.

The Bonsai-A-Thon is coming up at the Huntington Library and Botanical Gardens in San Marino the weekend of February 24th – 25th, 2018 (for details, see Coming Events, this page). This event is the annual fundraiser to support the Golden State Bonsai Federation’s bonsai collection at the Huntington. Put it on your calendar.

Our October meeting was a workshop night. Members brought in their trees to work on with their mentors or our club advisor Ken Fuentes. There was a good exchange of ideas and suggestions.

The GSBF Convention was the last weekend of October. A number of our club members attended. There was a variety of activities—workshops, demonstrations, exhibitions of both bonsai and viewing stones, and a large vendors’ section—which we all enjoyed. There will be more about this event in our December newsletter.

See you at our next meeting, Thursday, November 16th. 🌳

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 2018 calendar and let us know when you would like to present your display.

—Marj Branson

2017 Niche Displays	
Nov.	Nancy Smeets
Dec.	Holiday Potluck No Niche
2018 Niche Displays	
Jan.	Volunteer Needed
Feb.	Volunteer Needed
March	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