



*conejo valley*

**BONSAI** society

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A member of the Golden State Bonsai Federation 

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### **President's Message**

## **Celebrate CVBS's Birthday!**

By Marj Branson

**H**appy Birthday Conejo Valley Bonsai Society—15 years old and our 15th Annual Bonsai Exhibition at the Gardens of the World in Thousand Oaks.

We had a successful exhibition and demonstrations October 6 – 7. Both Saturday and Sunday were very busy with many guests. The weather was perfect for a walk in the garden and a visit to our exhibition and demonstrations.

Thank you everyone for contributing your trees for the exhibition and otherwise pitching in to make it a successful weekend. Our visitors gave us many compliments on the trees with only one complaint—that it was too hard to select only one tree for the Peoples' Choice Award.

The winners are:

- 1st Choice: Rick Naber's Elm Forest on a Rock
- 2nd Choice: David Whiteside's Boxwood
- 3rd Choice: Larry Kimmelman's Olive

There was a total of 151 votes cast, and not all visitors voted, so I think it's safe to estimate that we had close to 175 – 200 visitors over the two days.

A special thank you to our advisor, Ken Fuentes, who provided the demonstrations on both Saturday and Sunday. The two trees he worked on will be auction trees at our Holiday Potluck, Raffle & Auction (see details below).

On Sunday afternoon, David Williams photographed each tree in the show. The pictures will be in our next newsletter. David was helped by Ken Martin, David Whiteside, and Rick Naber. Thank you all.

### **Big Year-End Events**

As we approach the end of the year, there are several events fast coming up.

- Perhaps most important, our annual Conejo Valley Bonsai Society Holiday Potluck, Raffle & Auction is scheduled for Thursday, December 20th. This is our biggest social gathering and main fundraiser, so mark it on your calendar if you haven't already. Make plans now to attend and bring your checkbook.
- The election of CVBS officers is scheduled for our November meeting. As a reminder, all members in good standing are eligible to vote for our four officers—president, vice president, treasurer, and secretary. Newly elected officers are automatically installed at the end of the business meeting in November. The president, in consultation with the other officers then appoints committee chairs. The four officers are our executive committee; the officers and committee chairs



**Marj Branson**



**The 2018 CVBS Exhibition, Gardens of the World Resource Center.**

## **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**

**Visit Our Website**  
[www.cvbs-bonsai.org](http://www.cvbs-bonsai.org)

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

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(Click on Email Address)

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# **CVBS Programs 2018**

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

<del>January 18</del>	7:30 PM: Brief Meeting followed by Workshop— <b>BRING YOUR TREES</b>
<del>February 15</del>	7:30 PM: Brief Meeting followed by Workshop— <b>BRING YOUR TREES</b>
<del>March 15</del>	7:30 PM: Brief Meeting followed by <b>DEMONSTRATION: Ted Matson</b> / Group Planting
<del>April 19</del>	7:30 PM: Brief Meeting followed by <b>DEMONSTRATION: Bob Pressler</b> / Styling a Cedar
<del>April 21</del>	<b>ACTIVITY / FIELD TRIP:</b> Nursery Crawl Fuji Bonsai Nursery / Kimura Bonsai Nursery Members Only. See President's Message for details.
<del>May 17</del>	7:30 PM: Brief Meeting followed by Workshop and <b>PEER CRITIQUES—BRING YOUR TREES</b>
<del>June 21</del>	7:30 PM: Brief Meeting followed by <b>DEMONSTRATION: Ann Erb</b> / Pine Candling
<del>July 19</del>	7:30 PM: Brief Meeting followed by Workshop— <b>BRING YOUR TREES</b>
<del>August 16</del>	7:30 PM: Brief Meeting followed by Workshop and <b>Swap Meet—BRING YOUR TREES</b>
<del>September 20</del>	7:30 PM: Brief Meeting followed by <b>PEER CRITIQUES—BRING YOUR SHOW TREES</b>
<del>October 6 - 7</del>	<b>15TH ANNUAL CVBS EXHIBITION</b> Gardens of the World
October 18	7:30PM : Brief Meeting followed by <b>DEMONSTRATION: Cesareo Perez</b> / TBD
November 15	7:30 PM: Brief Meeting followed by Workshop— <b>BRING YOUR TREES</b>
December 20	7:30 PM <b>HOLIDAY POTLUCK, RAFFLE &amp; AUCTION</b>

# Black Pine, Juniper Clean Up

By Jim Barrett

October is a very good month to clean up Japanese black pines and junipers. If you have a black pine bonsai, finish pruning the unwanted new growth leaving one, two, or three new candles on the tips of each branch or twig that was pruned earlier this summer.

How many candles you leave is determined by your design goals for the tree [and] whether the new growth is on the outer limits of the tree or in the interior. Old needles (discolored) should be removed. New or fresh needles should remain until December or January. Leaving these new healthy needles on through the fall should keep the tree at its best. Cutting long needles shorter will allow sunlight to penetrate into the interior of the tree, and help to build stronger growth on the weak and stunted interior candles and twigs.

Junipers may be cleaned of all dead or discolored foliage. Prune the "hanger downers" and the "pointer uppers" unless you plan to wire them into a more horizontal position.

October is also a good time to remove old wire and rewire for detail.

You should be able to prune quince, apple, and ume for shape now and place them into their show pot, if this is a practice you follow. Fertilize azaleas and most flowering and fruiting bonsai with a low nitrogen, high phosphorous fertilizer. A 0-10-10 should work well.

Repotting and potting (from nursery container to bonsai pot) can be safely done at this time for black pine and most junipers. Repotting flowering and fruiting bonsai from bonsai pot to bonsai pot can be done, provided the root ball is not drastically disturbed and the tree is reasonably healthy.

Pay attention to watering schedules this month and next. Keeping plants too wet may promote root rot, especially if the tree is not actively growing. Watch for fungus, spider mites, and scale.

Remember to start choosing ... show trees for next spring [if you plan to exhibit in one of the area's shows such as the Descanso Bonsai Society's in June 2019]. Keep your eyes open for quality pots you may wish to use for these trees. 🌳



Jim Barrett

## Refreshments

# Tricks & Treats?

Halloween is right around the corner and thanks to good marketing, Halloween is the second highest grossing Holiday after Christmas. The celebration of Halloween is over 6000 years old.

The Celtics (the pagans, not the basketball team) gave us the tradition of wearing costumes on All Saints Eve aka Halloween. If you don't suffer from samhainophobia, you will enjoy Halloween.

Our next Bonsai meeting will be held on October 18th. There will be no tricks at this meeting because Marj Branson and Mike Blumenberg will be providing the drinks and treats. The open slots have also been filled for the month of November. I want to thank all of those who stepped up and volunteered this year.

If you don't want to dress up and go begging for treats, you can also celebrate Columbus Day. Chris arrived in 1492. If you are Norwegian, Lief Erickson Day would be your cup of aquavit. He arrived on the shores of North America in the year 1000. If you are a purest you'll want to celebrate Native American Day (they were the fellows standing in the wood when Chris and Lief landed on the shore). See you all at the October meeting!

—Denise Snively

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

are our board.

Nominations are open. You can nominate any member—or yourself—for any of the officer positions. Or, if interested in serving on a committee, now is a good time to make that known. Please contact David Whiteside at editor@cvbs-bonsai.org if you have any questions or would like to make a nomination or volunteer. Or please discuss with David at our October meeting.

- The Golden State Bonsai Federation Convention is coming up October 24 – 28. See page 7 of this newsletter or the GSBF website at www.gsbfbonsai.org for details and sign-up.
- Finally, Cesareo Perez will be the demonstrator at our upcoming monthly meeting. He always makes a great presentation, so don't miss it. See you Thursday, October 18th. 🌳

2018 Refreshments		
	Cold Drinks	Eats / Sweets
Oct.	Marj Branson	Mike Blumenberg
Nov.	Damon DuBois	Nancy Smeets
Dec.	HOLIDAY POTLUCK, RAFFLE & AUCTION	

## CVBS Membership

# Interested in CVBS?

CVBS is open to anyone interested in the horticultural art of bonsai. If you are not a member, consider joining now. We meet 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 a check to: Larry Kimmelman, CVBS Membership Chair, 2727 Autumn Ridge Drive, Thousand Oaks, CA 91362.

—Larry Kimmelman

# Peer Critiques Help Get Ready for Show

By David Whiteside

Members at the Conejo Valley Bonsai Society's September 20, 2018, meeting reviewed more than a half-dozen trees presented by their colleagues. Most of the critiqued trees were being prepared for the club's 15th Annual Bonsai Exhibition scheduled for October 6 – 7. (Studio-quality photographs of those trees that were shown will be published in the next issue of this newsletter.)

Although turnout for this meeting was small, this allowed plenty of time for the group to review all of the trees in some detail. Most of the presenters had specific questions for their peers; some came with extensive suggestions of their own and asked for input on those. All seemed to appreciate the positive, constructive feedback they received.

This was CVBS's second peer critique program. (The first was at the club's May 17, 2018, meeting.) Both events were successful as far as the quality and tone of comments that were offered. Some suggestions were accepted and implemented on-the-spot. 🌳

Photos by David Williams



**Hackberry (Ann Lofquist)**  
—Ann was considering reducing the foliage to reveal branching, ramification (above).



**Twisted Pomegranate (Wendy Rector & Damon DuBois)**—It was suggested that they reposition the tree in its pot for different front (above).



**Bougainvillea (Richard Winston)**—Several members suggested that Richard rotate the front at his next repotting to better reveal the nice deadwood carving (left).



**Olive (Marj Branson)**—Presented as a problem tree: what to do? Suggestions included letting suckers grow and later selecting the best to use in a new clump. Or thread-graft a new trunk through the nebari (above).



**Juniper (David Williams)**—For the show, it would be better to have little or no wire showing, or only fine wiring. Apex needs development (above).



**Ficus Burtt-davyi (Ken Fuentes)**—There was discussion whether the tree needs a different pot—perhaps smaller and oval in shape. Also, it was suggested to remove some leaves to open it up (below).

**Portulacaria (Ken Fuentes)**—Ken asked the group’s opinion which side should be the front? He also suggested removing more foliage to reveal the corky bark and asked whether he should add soil to hide reverse taper. One possibility: switch front and remove one branch to reveal the trunk (above).



# 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

2018 Niche Displays	
Oct.	Larry Kimmelman
Nov.	Volunteer Needed
Dec.	No Niche: Holiday Potluck

## Library

# Check Out the CVBS Library

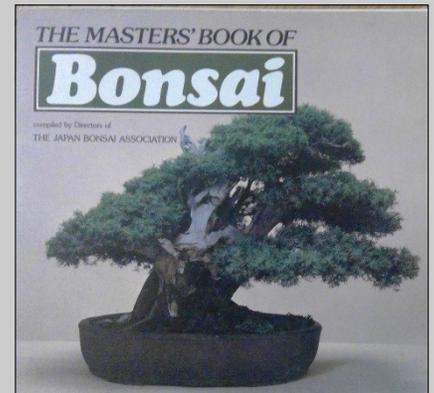
The Conejo Valley Bonsai Society has an extensive library of books, magazines, and DVDs available for members to borrow at no charge. The collection is available for your review at each monthly meeting. Material may be borrowed for a month at a time, so take home a book or DVD from our next meeting and return it at the following meeting. If you have any questions regarding the CVBS Library, please contact me at librarian@cvbs-bonsai.org.

### Book of the Month

*The Master's Book of Bonsai*, Japan Bonsai Association

The next Book of the Month is *The Master's Book of Bonsai* compiled by directors of the Japan Bonsai Association. This book starts with 20 pages filled with color photographs of "bonsai masterpieces," such as the Momiji maple shown in the picture at right. It then dedicates five chapters to various methods to create bonsai, including growing from seed, collecting from nature, growing cuttings, grafting, layering, and dividing. It also has chapters discussing group plantings and rock-grown bonsai. Each chapter includes step-by-step instructions and several photographs illustrating the process. Check it out at a future club meeting!

—Mike Blumenberg



## Winter Bonsai Volunteer Hours at the Huntington To Be Announced Later

Ted Matson has announced that there will be no volunteer work weekends at the Huntington Gardens during the month of October 2018. Volunteer weekends will resume in November; the schedule will be announced later.

"Now that we're in October, our starting times for both Wednesdays and our work weekends will be 9 AM," Matson said in an email. "It's so dark early that it's difficult for me to get my watering in before coming in."

"Also, due to schedule conflicts, we won't have any work weekends in October," he said, adding: "I'll get out winter dates in coming weeks."

Work is on bonsai trees in both the Golden State Bonsai Federation's collection and the Huntington's own collection. All levels of bonsai knowledge are welcome and sometimes he has mini teaching sessions, so no one feels overextended.

Watch this space for the new work schedule in the next issue of this newsletter.

—David Whiteside

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**2018**

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**October**

**October 13 – 14, 2018 Oakland, California**

East Bay Bonsai Society: 57th Annual Show will be held at the Lakeside Garden Center, 666 Bellevue Ave. Show hours are 10 AM – 5 PM on Saturday and 11 AM – 4 PM on Sunday. The show will feature over 50 tree varieties and will also feature a plant sale and raffle. Additional event information can be found at [info@eastbaybonsai.org](mailto:info@eastbaybonsai.org). Jonas Dupuich will perform demonstrations from 1 – 3:30 PM on both Saturday and Sunday of a 35-year-old Shimpaku Juniper and a Hornbeam.

**October 24 – 28, 2018 Sacramento, California**

Golden State Bonsai Federation: Convention 41 “Creativity taking Flight” held at the McClellan Conference Center. Registration begins July 1st online at <http://www.gsbfcconvention.org/> for Convention, Workshops, Seminars, Excursions, etc. GSBF recommended lodging is Lion’s Gate Hotel at McClellan Park. This year’s headliners are Yasuo Mitsuya, Suthin Sukosolvisit, and Bjorn Bjorholm. Please join GSBF and Yasuo Mitsuya’s esteemed students in honoring Mitsuya-san for his influence on bonsai in the modern era. Hosting Yasuo Mitsuya’s visit are: Kathy Shaner, Hideko Metaxas, Boon Manakitivipart, Kenji Miyata, Cheryl Manning, David DeGroot, Gordon Deeg.

**November**

**November 9, 2018 San Francisco, California**

Bonsai Society of San Francisco (BSSF): BSSF invites you to join in this demonstration 7 – 10 PM by (Japan trained) Bjorn Bjorholm at the Hall of Flowers (A.K.A: Strybing Arboretum, the County Fair Building or San Francisco Botanical Garden Society), 10th Avenue and Lincoln Way, on the edge of Golden Gate Park. Enter through the parking lot off Lincoln and walk along the south side of the building. Demo tree will be raffled.

**December**

**December 1, 2018 Clovis, California**

Fresno Bonsai Society and GSBF Clark Bonsai Collection: 10th Annual Bonsai Yard Sale at the Clovis Botanical Garden, 945 North Clovis Avenue, from 8 AM until 2 PM. Free parking and bargains galore on bonsai, pre-bonsai, pots, books, stands, accent plants, and all things bonsai. Everyone is welcome to buy, sell or trade. Come early for the best selection. Contact Dave Soho for more information at (530) 722-7132 or Mike Saul at [tinytreeme@sbcglobal.net](mailto:tinytreeme@sbcglobal.net).

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**2019**

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**January**

**January 19 – 20, 2019 Arcadia, California**

Baikoen Bonsai Kenkyukai: “Winter Silhouette” the 55th Annual Exhibition, founded by Frank Fusaji Nagata, at Ayres Hall of Environmental Education, Arboretum of Los Angeles County, 301 North Baldwin Avenue. Show hours are from 10 AM to 4:30 PM with a demonstration at 1 PM, both days. The reception is open to friends of Baikoen Bonsai Kenkyukai, Saturday night (6:30 – 9 PM), when the Nagata-Komai Award will be presented to Ted Matson, followed by a giant raffle/auction. Sales area: club and vendor plants, pots, tools and more. For more information contact Lindsay Shiba: [shibalindsay@gmail.com](mailto:shibalindsay@gmail.com) or Ken Teh: [kenwteh6@gmail.com](mailto:kenwteh6@gmail.com) or visit our website: [www.baikoenbonsai.com](http://www.baikoenbonsai.com).

**February**

**February 16 – 17, 2019 Oakland, California**

GSBF Bonsai Garden at Lake Merritt: The Annual Mammoth Auction and Sale Fundraiser 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; Demonstration 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. “Private collections to be featured.” The Bonsai Garden at Lake Merritt will be open that weekend 10 AM – 3 PM on Saturday, and Noon – 3 PM on Sunday. Please find time to visit the Bonsai Garden and observe the many installments under the Garden Revitalization Opportunity (GRO) Project. For more information or to sell bonsai, email [bonsailakemerritt@gmail.com](mailto:bonsailakemerritt@gmail.com) and visit <http://BonsaiLakeMerritt.com>.

**Feb. 23 – 24, 2019 San Marino, California**

Bonsai-A-Thon XXIII 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 The GSBF Collection at The Huntington.