



conejo valley BONSAI society

Volume 15 Number 11 November 2018

A member of the Golden State Bonsai Federation 

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President's Message

It's Holiday Potluck Time

By Marj Branson

The Conejo Valley Bonsai Society's annual Holiday Potluck, Raffle, and Auction will be Thursday December 20th, in place of our normal meeting. In addition to the delicious variety of food furnished by our members, we will continue our tradition of live seasonal music provided by Guy Evans on the piano. As always, dinner will be followed by our auction and raffle of bonsai, pre-bonsai material, and bonsai-related items. This is our annual fund raising event so please bring your checkbook!

We have a nice collection of donated trees and other bonsai materials for the raffle and auction. For example, we have some beautiful display stands donated by the family of our late member, Frank Greenway. Sophia Cormack of Port Hueneme has donated five of her late husband's juniper bonsai. And Ann Lofquist will be contributing pre-bonsai stock from her garden and some of her tanuki junipers. (People who want an advance look at what will be available from Sophia and Ann should attend the club's bonsai garden tour on Saturday, November 17! Watch your inbox this week for Ann's email with details.)

Combined with contributions from other club members, it adds up to a lot of good stuff to auction and raffle this year. So come prepared.

As a reminder, you can sign up at our November meeting for what type of dish you will bring for the potluck dinner. If you are *not* attending the November meeting, please email me at president@cvbs-bonsai.org or call me at (805) 373-1330.

An Important Meeting

At our November meeting, we will elect our officers for 2019. David Whiteside and Larry Kimmelman are the nominations committee, so please contact either of them if you are interested in any of the offices for yourself or wish to nominate another club member. David can be reached at editor@cvbs-bonsai.org or (805) 509-1830 while Larry is available at membership.chair@cvbs-bonsai.org or (805) 493-5103.

After the election, our November meeting will be a workshop, so bring your trees to work on.

In This Issue

Starting on page 4, you will find many pages of photographs from our 15th Annual Bonsai Exhibition at the Gardens of the World October 6 – 7, 2018.

Regarding the exhibition, once again I would like to thank everyone for their help and support. An analysis of our show trees reveals that our club members exhibited a total of 33 trees. Ten of these trees were junipers, of which seven were shimpaku. The remaining trees were a variety of 10 other species.

As we have discussed in the past, with the late summer hot weather, our deciduous trees take a beating and therefore more conifers such as junipers are in our exhibition. This raises the question: What is the best time of year for our exhibition? Any suggestions?

Bonsai-A-Thon Is Coming

The annual Bonsai-A-Thon is coming up at the Huntington Gardens February 23 – 24, 2019. This event is the main fundraiser to support the Golden State Bonsai

Continued on page 3



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)

Contact Us

(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.

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

Get Ready for Winter Months

By Jim Barrett

Boy! Last month was more like August than October.

Most of my deciduous bonsai took a real beating from the heat and their natural slowing down for the fall/winter dormancy. Consequently the leaves on the maples, hornbeam, and plum are pretty far gone. I do not expect new growth to replace them.

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 Safer's 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 pines and junipers may be getting too wet. Hold back on keeping the soil on the

Black pine and 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 easier with the foliage gone. Also, remove old wire that appears to have done its job. ☺

**No high nitrogen fertilizers
for the rest of this year.**



Jim Barrett

President's Message (Continued from page 1)

Federation's bonsai collection at the Huntington.

As always, there will be a large vendor section should you need tools, pots, bonsai, or pre-bonsai material. There also will be a raffle and an auction.

Organizers of the Bonsai-A-Thon will be looking for help, so please consider lending a hand on either the Saturday or Sunday of the event. We will work out the details at our January meeting. The GSBF is also looking for clubs and club members to donate items for the raffle. Remember to put the Bonsai-A-Thon on your calendar.

One more important item: Program Chair Nancy Smeets is working on our 2019 demonstrator program schedule. If you would like to suggest a demonstrator or topic you are interested in, please contact Nancy at program.chair@cvbs-bonsai.org or (213) 810-4280.

Happy Thanksgiving. ☺

Refreshments

Thanksgiving

It's a little known fact that the first Thanksgiving almost never happened. "Volunteers" were in short supply at Plymouth Colony in October of 1621. That's right, the first Turkey Day was celebrated in October.

90 Wampanoags and 53 Pilgrims got together and feasted on venison, water fowl, pheasant, lobster, clams, and mussels. They also munched on nuts, berries, squash, and pumpkin. Their feast was washed down with cider. No teetotalers at that Thanksgiving. Unfortunately, it would be decades before mashed potatoes, gravy, stuffing, and pies made their appearance.

Lucky for the CVBS we have lots of volunteers. Our November meeting will be catered by Damon DuBois bringing drinks and Nancy Smeets providing the sweets.

We will also have the 2019 refreshment signup sheet at the November meeting. Get a head start on the New Year and sign up for next year's meetings. Be the first on your block to sign up.

I wish you all a very Happy Thanksgiving and I hope to see you at the November meeting.

—Denise Snavely

2018 Refreshments

	Cold Drinks	Eats / Sweets
Nov.	Damon DuBois	Nancy Smeets
Dec.	HOLIDAY POTLUCK, RAFFLE & AUCTION	

2019 Refreshments

Jan.	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed
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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

Photos from 15th Annual Bonsai Exhibition

By David Whiteside

The Conejo Valley Bonsai Society's 15th Annual Bonsai Exhibition October 6 – 7, 2018, was a big success, reports club president Marj Branson. Based on the number of ballots cast by attendees for the People's Choice Award, she estimates that some 175 – 200 people viewed the 33 trees members showed.

As previously reported, Rick Naber's large elm forest on a rock garnered the most votes for favorite tree, making that composition the official People's Choice. Congratulations, Rick. For those keeping track, this is the second year running that one of Rick's large compositions has won: last year it was his foemina juniper forest that took first place in the annual vote.

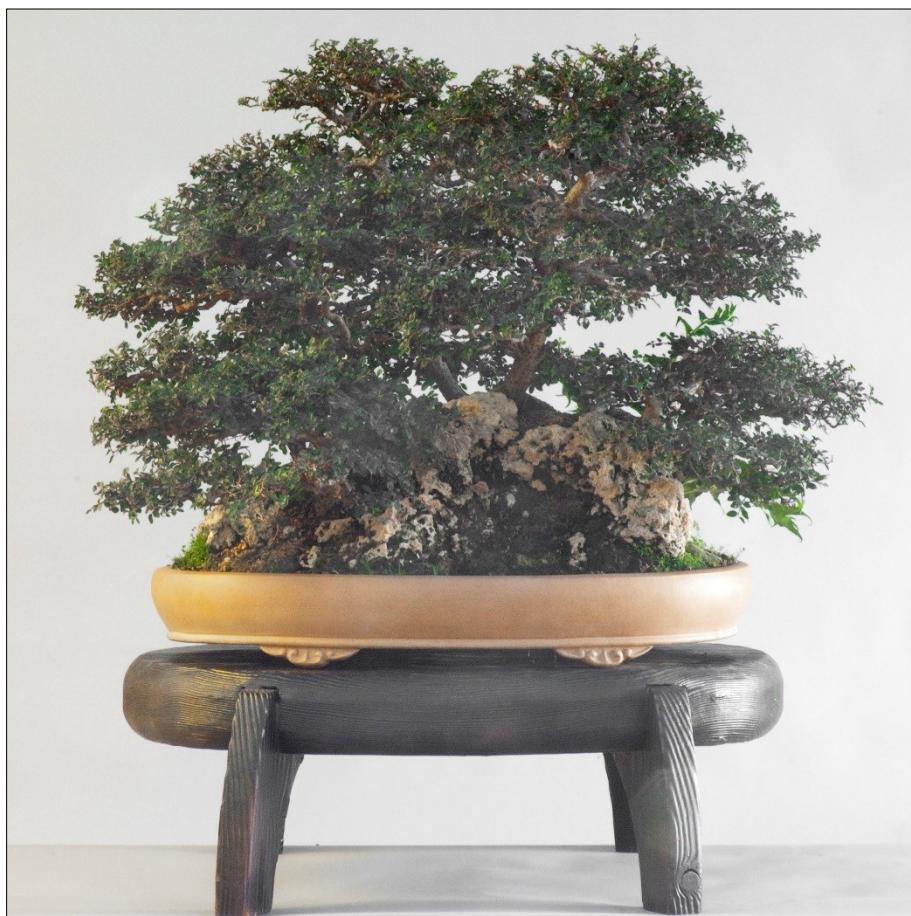
Both verbally during the show and in writing on their ballots, a number of visitors complained that it was too difficult to pick only one tree for the award. Nonetheless, 151 paper ballots were cast. Second place was David Whiteside's tall boxwood while Larry Kimelman's big olive with massive deadwood came in third.

There was quite a variety of trees on exhibit, but there were more junipers (10) in the show than any other single species. Seven of those were shimpaku junipers, making it the most popular variety. Other species with more than one entry included olive, ginkgo, bougainvillea, and boxwood as well as several varieties of ficus and elm. There was one each pomegranate, liquidambar, rosemary, and corky jade. Several trees were in bloom (bougainvillea, pomegranate, and rosemary). About two-thirds of the trees presented were medium to large in size, with the largest requiring two people to move. A dozen shohin (5 – 8 inches in height) and mame (2 – 6 inches tall) bonsai were shown on separate tables. Most of the bonsai were single trees, but there were four forests and one two-tree saikei (miniature landscape). Visitors were also treated to Ken Fuentes' suiseki (viewing stones) presented along with the smaller bonsai. ■



Mike Blumenberg and Marj Branson in the Resource Center exhibition hall at Gardens of the World in Thousand Oaks (above). Note the tables for small bonsai behind Mike.

Photo above by Ken Martin



**Elm Forest on a Rock (left),
Rick Naber
Winner of the People's Choice Award**

Photos by David Williams

Juniper (right), David Williams



Juniper Saikei (below, Mike Blumenberg



Willow Leaf Ficus (right), Ken Fuentes





Corky Jade (left), Ken Fuentes



Liquidambar Orientalis
(right), David Whiteside

Chinese Elm (right), Ken Martin



Juniper (left), Mike Blumenberg

**Bougainvillea (right),
Richard Winston**





**Burtt Davyi Ficus (left),
Ken Fuentes**

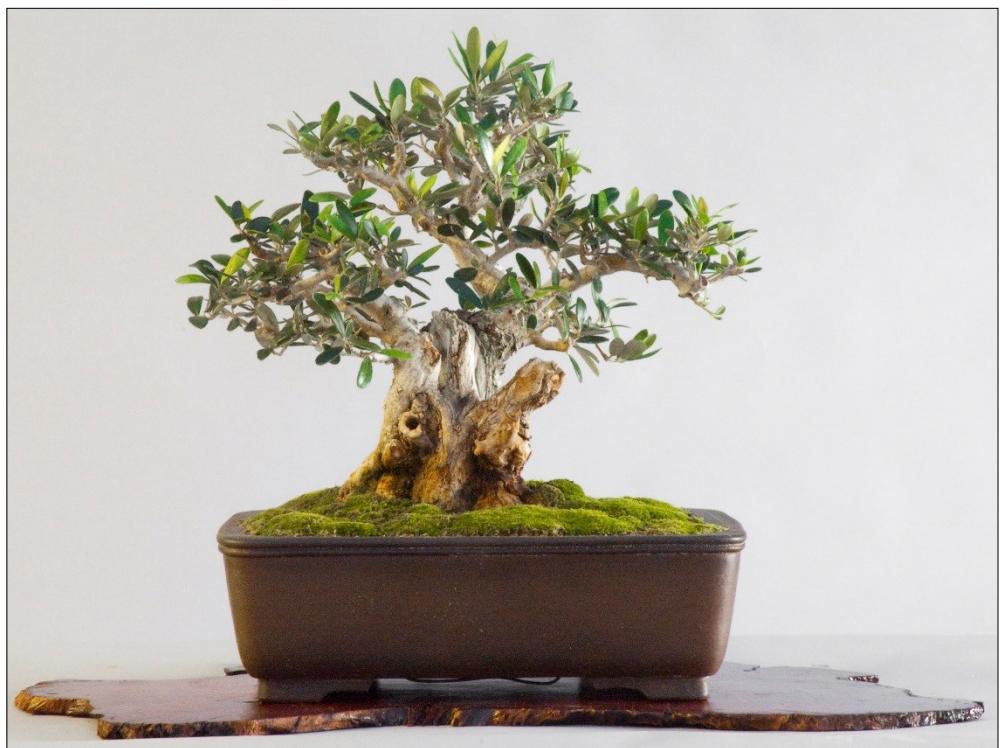


Boxwood (above), Ken Martin

Ginkgo Forest (right), Ken Martin



Olive (right), David Whiteside



Boxwood Forest (below), Rick Naber





**Shimpaku Juniper on a Rock (left),
Rick Naber**



**Boxwood (left), David Whiteside
Second Place in People's Choice Award**



Olive (above), Marj Branson

**Ginkgo Forest (right),
Marj Branson**



Pomegranate (below), Marj Branson

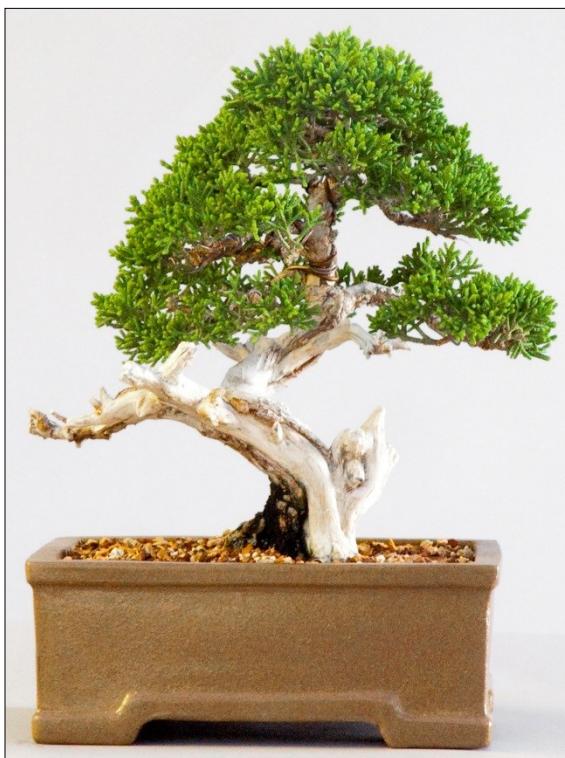


**Olive (right), Larry Kimmelman
Third Place in People's Choice Award**





Rosemary (left),
Larry Kimmelman



Shimpaku Juniper (above),
Ann Lofquist



Shimpaku Juniper Cascade (right), Mel Carrillo

Boxwood (right), Mel Carrillo



Shimpaku Juniper (left), Ann Lofquist



Shimpaku Juniper (right), Ken Martin



Ginkgo (left), Marj Branson



Bougainvillea (above), Marj Branson



Burtt Davyi Ficus (left), Ken Fuentes

Shimpaku Juniper (right), Ann Lofquist



Catlin Elm (left), Larry Kimmelman

Chinese Elm (right), Ken Martin



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

Nov.	David Williams
Dec.	No Niche: Holiday Potluck

2019 Niche Displays

Jan.	Volunteer Needed
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Library

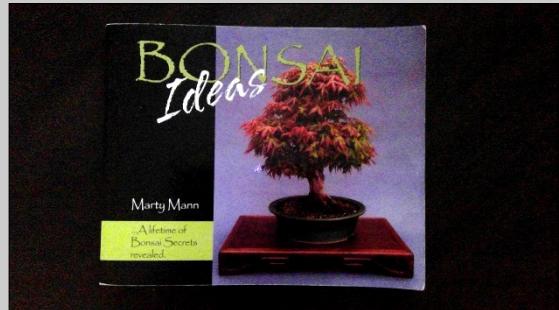
Check Out the CVBS Library

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

Bonsai Ideas, Marty Mann

Our next Book of the Month is *Bonsai Ideas* by the late Marty Mann, with a forward by Ted Matson, two names that are familiar to California's bonsai community. In Ted's introduction, he says that "Marty offers a unique compendium of the best articles selected from his trademark 'Bonsai Ideas' and 'Seasonal Suggestions' columns." The book is organized into logical chapters, including "Training Methods," "Maintaining Health," "Troubleshooting," and "Selected Species." I found the latter chapter especially helpful because I could get specific advice on the trees in my collection. The book also includes Marty's haikus, which invite the reader to pause and reflect on the beauty of our hobby. Check it out at a future club meeting.



—Mike Blumenberg

May we always be
With great beauty everywhere
Trees grow and pride swells

Matson Announces Winter Bonsai Volunteer Days

Ted Matson has announced the winter schedule of volunteer work weekends on the bonsai collections at the Huntington Gardens. Volunteer weekends resume in November and continue in December, January, and February. As previously reported, working hours have also been adjusted.

"Now that we're in [winter], 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."

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 Ted has mini teaching sessions, so no one feels overextended. CVBS members who have participated uniformly report very positive experiences. If you'd like to participate or carpool to one of the work sessions, please contact Marj Branson at president@cvbs-bonsai.org or (805) 373-1330.

—David Whiteside

2018 Work Dates

November 10 – 11
November 17 – 18
December 8 – 9
December 15 – 16

2019 Work Dates

January 5 – 6
January 26 – 27
February 9 – 10

Urban Yamadori Rosemary

Editor's Note: Larry Kimmelman provided this rosemary bonsai for the niche display at CVBS's October 2018 meeting. "Yamadori" is a Japanese term referring to trees collected in the wild. An "urban yamadori," then, is a tree collected from residential or commercial landscaping. (Larry also exhibited his rosemary in the club's October 6 – 7 bonsai exhibition, so there is another view of it on page 12 of this issue.)

The beginning for my rosemary bonsai was in 1996. The plant—in a one-gallon pot from a local commercial nursery—ended up planted in our back yard, just so we would have the herb handy for BBQ and cooking. Twenty years later, upon noticing the shape of its trunk, and the extent of its nebari, it appeared it would make for an interesting bonsai tree. After digging the rosemary up, it seemed like a perfect fit for a pot I'd been saving. Almost three years now in its new home, I'm glad I made the relocation decision.

—Larry Kimmelman



Coming Events (Click on the Addresses to visit Websites or send Emails)

2018

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.

2019

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 or Ken Teh: kenwteh6@gmail.com or visit our website: 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 and visit <http://BonsaiLakeMerritt.com>.



Bonsai-A-Thon
Fundraiser for
THE GOLDEN STATE BONSAI FEDERATION COLLECTION
AT THE HUNTINGTON

February 23-24, 2019

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.