



conejo valley

BONSAI society

Volume 16 Number 1 January 2019

A member of the Golden State Bonsai Federation

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**President's Message**

**Off to a Great New Year!**

By Marj Branson

A Happy New Year and a prosperous bonsai 2019 to everyone.

The Conejo Valley Bonsai Society will kick off the new year with one of our most popular demonstrators: Roy Nagatoshi, owner of Fuji Bonsai Nursery in Sylmar. Roy will be our guest at the January meeting on the 17th. And Program Chair Nancy Smeets is hard at work filling out the rest of the year's calendar of demonstrations. (For more, see below and CVBS Programs 2019 on page 2 of this newsletter.)

We can afford these programs in part because of your annual dues (again, see details below and in the box on this page) and our annual Holiday Potluck, Raffle & Auction on December 20, 2018 was a huge success. Not only did attending members and guests enjoy a rich variety of fine food, great seasonal music, and fun conversation,



Marj Branson

**CVBS members and guests during the December 2018 Raffle and Auction (below). More photos on pages 4 – 5.**



they participated enthusiastically in the raffle and auction. Result: We raised a combined \$2,777 in the raffle and auction, a record.

I would like to thank all our members who participated and went home with new bonsai items. And a big thank you to all the people who donated finished bonsai, material in development, elegant display stands, tools, and other bonsai-related items. In particular, thanks for several beautiful display stands from late member Frank Greenway via his son Greg; Sophia Cormack for trees from her late

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**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)

**CVBS Membership**

**Membership Renewal Time**

Happy New Year—it's time to renew your Conejo Valley Bonsai Society membership. It's still a bargain at \$25 for one person, \$30 for two or more. That gets you a rich program of bonsai demonstrations, workshops, and activities as well as this award-winning newsletter.

Simply bring a check made payable to the Conejo Valley Bonsai Society to our next meeting on January 17th or mail it to me, CVBS Membership Chair, 2727 Autumn Ridge Drive, Thousand Oaks, CA 91362.

Thanks for your prompt attention and payment.

—Larry Kimmelman

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(Click on Email Address)

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# **CVBS Programs 2019**

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

January 17	7:30 PM: Brief Meeting with <b>Club Elections</b> followed by <b>DEMONSTRATION: Roy Nagatoshi</b> / Tree Critiques <b>BRING YOUR TREES</b>
February 21	7:30 PM: Brief Meeting followed by Workshop— <b>BRING YOUR TREES</b>
March 21	7:30 PM: Brief Meeting followed by <b>DEMONSTRATION: Frank Yee</b> / Cork Jade & Forest Planting
April 18	7:30 PM: Brief Meeting followed by <b>DEMONSTRATION: Jim Barrett</b> / Group Planting
May 16	7:30 PM: Brief Meeting followed by Workshop— <b>BRING YOUR TREES</b>
June 20	7:30 PM: Brief Meeting followed by <b>DEMONSTRATION: (TBA)</b>
July 18	7:30 PM: Brief Meeting followed by Workshop— <b>BRING YOUR TREES</b>
August 15	7:30 PM: Brief Meeting followed by Workshop and <b>Swap Meet</b> — <b>BRING YOUR TREES</b>
September 19	7:30 PM: Brief Meeting followed by <b>PEER CRITIQUES</b> — <b>BRING YOUR SHOW TREES</b>
October 5 – 6 <b>TENTATIVE</b>	<b>16TH ANNUAL CVBS EXHIBITION</b> Gardens of the World
October 17	7:30PM : Brief Meeting followed by <b>DEMONSTRATION: (TBA)</b>
November 21	7:30 PM: Brief Meeting with <b>Club Elections</b> followed by Workshop— <b>BRING YOUR TREES</b>
December 19	7:30 PM <b>HOLIDAY POTLUCK, RAFFLE &amp; AUCTION</b>

# Potting Season 2019 Opens

By Jim Barrett

Most hardy evergreen bonsai such as Japanese black pines and junipers may be repotted at this time. Wait until next month to pot for the first time (nursery can to bonsai pot).

Now is the time to clean and groom most bonsai. Black pine needles that are discolored because of age or disease may be removed. Leave more needles on weak and low branch terminals, fewer on middle branches, and fewer yet on upper growth. How many you leave depends on the age and health of the tree. All terminal buds should be fat, healthy, and beginning to grow this month.

Slow-release fertilizers such as one of the Osmocote® formulas, bone meal, blood meal, cottonseed meal, or any of the rapeseed pellets may be applied now. It takes a while for the organic fertilizers to break down and become available to the plant. Wait another month or so before you use liquid chemical fertilizers.

Blooming bonsai such as ume, apple, plum, and wisteria can be moved to show pots at this time, providing they are already in bonsai pots.

Prune all deciduous trees, removing heavy, overgrown branches and twigs—especially in the upper areas of the tree. Upper story branches tend to grow unnoticed during the year and now is a good time to trim or remove them. If you are into making cuttings, these older branches that are removed may take root. I use a rooting medium of 80% perlite (sponge rock) and 20% peat moss. Drench the rooting medium with a good fungicide such as benomyl.

Deciduous tree branches are fairly flexible now and can be wired. If you are using copper wire, make sure it has been annealed. Think about paper wrapping heavier wires before applying them to Japanese maples and other tender-bark trees.

When you are finished cleaning and pruning your trees, spray them with a good dormant oil spray such as Ortho®'s volck oil [discontinued—use another petroleum-based horticultural oil]. You may want to combine it with ... lime sulfur dormant spray. One is for bugs; the other is basically a fungicide. Follow directions on the labels and cover your soil and pot with plastic or a towel. Lime sulfur will stain the pot if not washed off.

Don't forget to choose your trees for this year's show [if you plan to enter the Descanso Bonsai Society's annual exhibition in June; for CVBS's show in October, this task may be postponed until the spring].

Detail wiring is a tedious and boring chore, but is a must if you want your trees ready to exhibit in June. You'll be glad you did it.

We are coming into prime potting and repotting time. From now until April, try to get all of your trees that need it repotted. If you need pots, ask around—supply seems to be good for both new and used pots.

[And plan to visit the vendors' area at the Bonsai-A-Thon February 23 – 24 (see details, page 8). There will be plenty of pots on sale there.—Editor]

If you haven't done so, get your soil mix prepared and stored. I use a trash can with a tight lid. 🌱



Jim Barrett

## Refreshments

# Happy New Year

Welcome to 2019!  
We begin the New Year with the month of January, named for the Roman God Janus, the protector of gates and doorways. Janus has two faces: one looks into the future; the other face looks at the past.

Using the face that looks into the future, Janus can see Marj Branson has signed up for treats for the January meeting and I will bring the cold beverages.

I don't need to have two faces to see that we could use a few more volunteers.

In the words of another great Italian, Tony Soprano, "Think about it." Think about signing up for refreshments!

If you haven't volunteered yet, now is the time. Call me at (818) 865-1034 or email me at refreshments@cvbs-bonsai.org and let me know what month you want.

See you at the January meeting.

—Denise Snavely

2019 Refreshments		
	Cold Drinks	Eats / Sweets
Jan.	Denise Snavely	Marj Branson
Feb.	<b>Volunteer Needed</b>	<b>Volunteer Needed</b>
Mar.	<b>Volunteer Needed</b>	<b>Volunteer Needed</b>

## 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

# Raffle & Auction Photos

The Conejo Valley Bonsai Society's December 20, 2018 Holiday Potluck, Raffle & Auction not only was a great party but also set a new fund-raising record for the club. Thanks to the generous donations of auction and raffle materials—and the enthusiastic participation of members and guests—the event raised \$2,777 to finance CVBS's activities. Perhaps most important, those funds support our schedule of demonstration programs.

—David Whiteside

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Attendees with some of their prizes (top, right).

Mike Blumenberg shows one of the pines offered at auction (middle right).

Some of the many raffle items (below).

Table filled with fine bonsai and pots for the auction (bottom).



Photos by Ann Lofquist





**Auctioneer Larry Kimmelman (left in photo above) with the generous assistance of Mike Blumenberg.**

**Larry encourages bids on a nice pot (below).**



## **Wanted: More Nominees, Volunteers**

**D**ue to the wildfires late last year, the Conejo Valley Bonsai Society was unable to hold elections for its 2019 officers at the usually scheduled November business meeting. Therefore, we will hold elections during the January 2019 business meeting—and officer nominations remain open.

If you wish to run for office, and you are a CVBS member in good standing, you may nominate yourself. Or you may nominate any other society member, also in good standing and willing to run. Please submit any officer nominations to either member of this year's Nominations Committee: David Whiteside ([editor@cvbs-bonsai.org](mailto:editor@cvbs-bonsai.org)) or Larry Kimmelman ([membership.chair@cvbs-bonsai.org](mailto:membership.chair@cvbs-bonsai.org)).

The officers to be elected are: President; Vice President; Treasurer; and Secretary. As of this writing, the only nominees are (more nominees are encouraged):

- President: Marj Branson
- Vice President: Mike Blumenberg
- Treasurer: Ken Fuentes
- Secretary: Ken Martin

One of the first things the newly elected officers will do is appoint the standing committee chairs. If you wish to serve on any of the standing committees (see page 2 of this newsletter for the full list), please also contact David or Larry. We will convey your wishes to the newly elected officers.

—David Whiteside

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

husband's bonsai collection; Sheila Galinsky for bonsai from her own collection; former member Evans Thomas for many tools; and departing Vice President Ann Lofquist for many trees in various stages of development. And thank you for our evening entertainment provided by Guy Ervin and his piano seasonal music. It set the atmosphere for a festive evening.

### **Back to the Future**

Nancy Smeets already has arranged four demonstrators during the year. In addition to Roy Nagatoshi in January, we will host Frank Yee in March, Jim Barrett in April, and Jason Chan at a date to be determined later in the year.

For his part, Roy will be critiquing club members' trees. So whether you have some raw material you're not sure how to style, finished bonsai that needs refinement, or problem trees about which you would like guidance, this is a great opportunity to get help from one of our area's foremost bonsai masters. So review your collection now to pick trees for Roy to critique. (See CVBS Programs 2019, page 2, for more.)

And speaking of the new year, annual membership dues are due starting this month. Check out Membership Chair Larry Kimmelman's notice on page 1 for renewal information. And see Larry at our January meeting should you have any questions.

### **Other Events**

- Winter Silhouettes at Arboretum of Los Angeles County. This is the 55th annual exhibition, sponsored by Baikoen Bonsai Kenkyukai (see pages 7 and 8 for time and location).

- Bonsai-A-Thon at the Huntington Gardens. Your CVBS is a member of the Golden State Bonsai Federation, which houses one of its bonsai collections at the Huntington. The Bonsai-A-Thon is the yearly fundraiser to support that collection. The GSBF has put out a call for member clubs to help. We will be circulating sign-up sheets at our January meeting. If you could help for half a day or a few hours, it would be very helpful. (See page 8 for details.) The entrance for the both days into the Huntington is free. I will have badges at our February meeting or the badges can be picked up at the entrance table. There is a raffle and auction of demonstration trees on both days. Your donation of bonsai material for the raffle would be appreciated and don't forget to get your raffle tickets. The Bonsai-A-Thon is held once a year and promises to have many bonsai activities you can participate in. In January, February, and March you will be starting your repotting program. The vendor section of the Bonsai-A-Thon is a perfect spot to pick up materials needed.
- Nursery Trips or Programs. We are open to suggestions for 2019. Let me know!
- If you have suggestions for other demonstrators, please let Nancy Smeets know.

Remember that at our January CVBS business meeting we will have our election of 2019 officers, which was held over due to our November meeting cancellation. See David Whiteside or Larry Kimmelman if you wish to volunteer for any of the offices (details in box above on this page).

See you Thursday, January 17, 2019. 🌳

## 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 2019 calendar and let us know when you would like to present your display.

—Marj Branson

2019 Niche Displays	
Jan.	Ken Fuentes
Feb.	Volunteer Needed
March	Volunteer Needed
April	Volunteer Needed

## 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](mailto:librarian@cvbs-bonsai.org).

### Book of the Month

*The Way of the Brush, Painting Techniques of China and Japan*, Fritz Van Briessen

Our next Book of the Month is *The Way of the Brush, Painting Techniques of China and Japan* by Fritz Van Briessen. In addition to our collection of books on the art of bonsai, the CVBS library also has several books on art forms often related to bonsai. The premise of this book is that Westerners are less familiar with, and therefore don't fully appreciate, "oriental art." The book strives to help the western layman appreciate the underlying perspectives in Chinese and Japanese art by providing a variety of sketches and associated discussions that explain the elements, techniques, and principles of traditional paintings. For example, the figure at right provides sketches of trees and branches which "remind the viewer of the magnificent wealth of forms to be found in nature."



I normally don't bring these art books to the monthly club meetings, but I would be happy to do so if anyone would like to look at them. Just let me know.

—Mike Blumenberg

## Matson Continues 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 continue in January and February and are listed at right. As previously reported, working hours have also been adjusted.

"Now that we're in [winter], our starting times for ... 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](mailto:president@cvbs-bonsai.org) or (805) 373-1330.

2019 Work Dates
January 5 – 6
January 26 – 27
February 9 – 10

—David Whiteside

Ken W. Teh

President of

# **Baikoen Bonsai Kenkyukai**

cordially invites your club to be a guest exhibitor at the

## **55th Annual Winter Silhouettes Show**

**January 19 – 20, 2019**

Founded by Frank Fusaji Nagata

Ayres Hall, Los Angeles Arboretum

301 North Baldwin Avenue, Arcadia, California 91007

**Reception Saturday, January 19, 6:30 to 9:00 PM**

You may bring your display anytime after 12:00 noon on Friday, January 18, 2019

You may pick up your display after 4:30 p.m. on Sunday, January 20, 2019

If you have any questions

Please call Lindsay Shiba, Show Chairman (909) 473-0099 (evenings)

As always, we would like to exemplify the true  
“feeling of winter,” preferably using a deciduous tree as your main display item

**2019**

**January**

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

Baikoen Bonsai Kenkyukai: “Winter Silhouettes” 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 2 – 3 2019 Corona Del Mar, California**

Orange Empire Bonsai Society (OEBS): First Annual Bonsai Exhibition at the Sherman Library & Gardens (www.slgardens.org), 2647 Pacific Coast Highway. Show hours are 10:30 AM - 4 PM both days. Trees on display, bonsai trees and items for sale. Bonsai Master Jason Chan workshop on Saturday at 11 AM with Prostrata Junipers. Workshop participants will be able to take home a styled and potted tree. OEBS member Debra Mauzy-Melitz will conduct a Saikei demonstration Sunday at 1 PM. Jason Chan will also be representing Eastern Leaf Bonsai at the exhibition. The workshop is limited to (10) people, no bonsai experience required. Tickets for workshop and fee paid to The Sherman Library & Gardens. Check their website for workshop availability, if interested. For more information visit www.slgardens.org or contact David Nadzam at (714) 474-5712 or tetsujinbb62@gmail.com.

**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.

**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.



**Bonsai-A-Thon**

Fundraiser for

**THE GOLDEN STATE BONSAI FEDERATION COLLECTION  
AT THE HUNTINGTON**

**February 23-24, 2019**

**March**

**March 23 – 24, 2019 Oakland, California**

Bay Area Bonsai Associates: 38th Annual Bonsai Exhibition at the Lakeside Park Garden Center, 666 Bellevue Avenue. Show hours are 5 – 9 PM Saturday and 10 AM – 4 PM Sunday. Light dinner at 5:30 PM Saturday followed by a bonsai demonstration by club members from 6:30 to 9 PM. Benefit drawing of demo tree(s). Winning ticket must be present to win. Sales of plants, bonsai, and other bonsai related items both days. Admission is free. Parking fee to the Lakeside Park entrance is required during the park hours. For more information, please contact Janice Dilbeck at janicedilbeck@comcast.net.