



Conejo Valley Bonsai Society

A member of the Golden State Bonsai Federation 

Graphic by Paul Centeno © Conejo Valley Bonsai Society

VOLUME 10 NUMBER 3

MARCH 2013

In This Issue

- **President's Message:**
Thanks for Bonsai-A-Thon Help; Next Up: Nursery Field Trip ... 1
- **Dues Reminder ... 1**
- **CVBS Programs:**
The 2013 Schedule ... 2
- **Barrett's Bonsai Tips:**
Schedule for Fertilizing and Potting; Watch for Pests; and Show Prep ... 3
- **Refreshments ... 3**
- **CVBS Membership ... 3**
- **CVBS Program:**
Alex Martinez Transforms 'Prostrata' ... 4
- **Library Includes DVDs ... 5**
- **CVBS Niche Displays ... 5**
- **Coming Events ... 6**
- **Conifer Study Group ... 6**

CVBS on the Web

(Click on name to visit Web site.)

Conejo Valley Bonsai Society

CVBS CaféPress Store

CVBS Online Bonsai Gallery

Other Bonsai Groups

(Click on name to visit Web site.)

Golden State Bonsai Federation

American Bonsai Society

Bonsai Club of Santa Barbara

California Aiseki Kai

Descanso Bonsai Society

Dal Ichl Bonsai Kai

Shohin Bonsai Society of So. Cal.

Sansul-Kai of So. Cal.

Santa Anita Bonsai Society

South Coast Bonsai Association

San Diego Bonsai Club

President's Message

Thanks for Bonsai-A-Thon Help; Next Up: Nursery Field Trip

By Marj Branson

Our last Thursday meeting was a busy workshop evening. Everyone was deeply involved in working on their trees—even me. I would also like to remind everyone we have the mentoring program available; if you are interested contact Larry Kimmelman for details.


The Bonsai-A-Thon was a successful weekend. I would like to thank all our members who helped out through the weekend. Hopefully we all came away with new treasures and further knowledge and secrets picked up from watching the demonstrations.

Our first nursery trip is coming up on March 16th to Ribbit Tree and Plant Nursery. This will be an opportunity to pick up some new trees. I have not been to this nursery so it will be a new one for me, and I look forward to checking it out. The weather should be good so we can all enjoy the day out.

In March the Italian Bonsai Master Mauro Stemberger will be in the Los Angeles area. There are numerous activities planned and members are invited to sign up for. Please contact me for details or check the club websites. He will also be doing the March 19 demonstration for the Descanso Bonsai Society and for the California Bonsai Society's annual show March 23 and 24 at the Huntington Gardens.

Don't forget to take in the spring shows coming up. Check our newsletter for places and dates (see page 6).

Our March meeting is a special treat. Bob Pressler will be doing a demonstration. The evening will be spent on working on a long-term project tree, which eventually will become part of our Christmas auction.


See you Thursday night, March 21st. 



President Marj Branson

Last Call for 2013 Dues

Annual dues for 2013 were payable in January. This is the last issue of the newsletter that will be sent to non-payers. Single memberships are only \$25.00, and couples/family are \$30.00. Please bring your check payable to the Conejo Valley Bonsai Society to our February meeting, or send it to:

Larry Kimmelman, Membership Chair
2727 Autumn Ridge Drive
Thousand Oaks, CA 91362-4934 

Contact Us

(Click on E-mail)

Officers

PRESIDENT

Marj Branson
Phone (805) 373-1330
E-mail Marj

VICE PRESIDENT

Vacant

TREASURER

Ken Fuentes
Phone (805) 495-7480
E-mail Ken

SECRETARY

Ken Martin
Phone (805) 445-9221
E-mail Ken

ADVISOR

Ken Fuentes
Phone (805) 495-7480
E-mail Ken

Committees

MEMBERSHIP CHAIR

Larry Kimmelman
Phone: (805) 493-5103
E-mail Larry

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

David E. Whiteside
Phone (805) 647-8803
E-mail David

PROGRAM CHAIR

Al Espinoza
Phone (818) 284-1693
E-mail Al

PUBLICITY CO-CHAIRS

Guy & Deborah Ervin
Phone (805) 495-8688
E-mail Guy & Deborah

REFRESHMENTS CHAIR

Jill Peters
Phone: (805) 494-1868
E-mail Jill

LIBRARIAN

Larry Kimmelman
Phone: (805) 493-5103
E-mail Larry

WEBMASTER

Tom McGuire
E-mail Tom

Conejo Valley Bonsai Society Meetings

Westlake Village City Hall
Community Room
31200 Oakcrest Drive
Westlake Village, CA 91361
7:30 PM – 9:00 PM
3RD Thursday of every month

CVBS Programs

2013

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

January 17	7: 30 PM: Brief Meeting followed by DEMONSTRATION: ALEX MARTINEZ / Juniper
February 21	7: 30 PM: Brief Meeting followed by Workshop— BRING YOUR TREES
March 21	7: 30 PM: Brief Meeting followed by DEMONSTRATION: Bob Pressler / Boxwood. First of a series from raw material to finished bonsai.
April 18	7: 30 PM: Brief Meeting followed by Workshop— BRING YOUR TREES
May 16	7: 30 PM: Brief Meeting followed by DEMONSTRATION: Kathy Benson / Olive critique. Members bring one olive tree each for Kathy's review.
June 20	7: 30 PM: Brief Meeting followed by Workshop— BRING YOUR TREES
July 18	7: 30 PM: Brief Meeting followed by DEMONSTRATION: Ken Fuentes / Ficus nerifolia
August 15	7: 30 PM: Brief Meeting followed by Workshop— BRING YOUR TREES
September 19	7: 30 PM: Brief Meeting followed by DEMONSTRATION: Jim Barrett / Critique for Show BRING TREES YOU PLAN TO EXHIBIT
October TBA	10TH ANNUAL EXHIBITION Gardens of the World
October 17	7: 30PM : Brief Meeting followed by Workshop— BRING YOUR TREES
November 21	7: 30PM : Brief Meeting followed by DEMONSTRATION: Ted Matson / TBA
December TBA	HOLIDAY POTLUCK 7: 30 PM

Barrett's Bonsai Tips

Schedule for Fertilizing and Potting; Watch for Pests; and Show Prep

By Jim Barrett

If you plan to transplant wisteria after blooms are gone, don't fertilize for at least one month after repotting. If you have wisteria and do not plan to repot, fertilize right after the blooms are gone. It is said that wisteria require three to four times as much fertilizer as most bonsai. Just make sure the fertilizer you use is slow release.

Fertilize quince, ume, crabapple, and pomegranate this month. Do not fertilize satsuke azaleas until blooms are gone.

Repotting can still be done on black pine, junipers, pomegranate, and azaleas. If you plan to repot azaleas, you can still trim fairly severely.

Most deciduous trees should be in full leaf by now, so wait until the new growth has hardened if you plan to repot maples, elm, hornbeam, and zelkova.

We have had reports of wooly aphids appearing on apple, quince, and other plants attractive to aphids. Malathion with a little Volck Oil mixed in should do the trick. The oil allows the Malathion to stick and penetrate the white fuzz covering the critter. Spray again in about ten days. This treatment will also take care of regular aphids and spider mites.

Prepare for Show

Start fine-tuning [Descanso Bonsai Society] show trees. [Some CVBS members display trees in the Descanso show in June—see page 6 for dates.] Trees to be shown should not have large-gauge wire on trunks or visible on large branches.

It is, however, permissible to have wire on medium to small branches providing it is neatly applied. Annealed copper or anodized aluminum are preferred wire choices.

If you wish to darken bright copper wire, soak it overnight in purex



Jim Barrett

or diluted muratic acid (swimming pool acid.) Wash it with clear water before using.

Start getting rid of moss growing on trunks and base roots. Be careful not to damage rough bark trees such as black pine and cork bark elm.

Are you planning to change pots before the show? Do it now so the tree will look settled in its show container. This is a common practice in Japan. The show pot is then stored away after the show and the tree is returned to its everyday pot. 🌱

Refreshments

Volunteers Needed

Jill Peters

Thanks to Grace Sy and Evans Thomas for delicious refreshments in February! And we're grateful to Ken Martin and Ann Lofquist for volunteering this month. I'll call to remind you!

We will need generous souls to volunteer for summer when we really need cold drinks and refreshing fruit treats. Please sign up if you have not already this year! Thanks! 🌱

2013 Refreshments

	Cold Drinks	Eats / Sweets
March	Ken Martin	Ann Lofquist
April	Larry Kimmelman	Tony Castagna
May	Fr. Tom Davis	Mike Mulhern
June	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed
July	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed
August	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed

CVBS Membership

Come Join Us!

By Larry Kimmelman

Whether you are a visitor to our website, a reader of our newsletter, a guest at a monthly meeting, or have already decided to join our club, there are effectively no barriers to entry. Annual dues are \$25 for one, \$30 for couples.

Our monthly meetings are held on the third Thursday of every month, starting at 7:30 PM, in the Westlake Village City Hall (located at 31200 Oakcrest Drive, Westlake Village, CA 91361).

To join our club, please bring your check (made out payable to the Conejo Valley Bonsai Society) to our next monthly meeting, or mail it to: Larry Kimmelman, CVBS Membership Chair, 2727 Autumn Ridge Drive, Thousand Oaks, CA 91362. 🌱

Alex Martinez Transforms 'Prostrata'

By Ken Martin

Alex Martinez works at Fuji Bonsai Nursery owned by Roy Nagatoshi. Roy introduced Alex saying Alex has worked at Fuji for 17 years and has a considerable amount of experience in the creation, care, and maintenance of bonsai. This was to be Alex's first demonstration.

Alex chose Marj Branson's very nice

Juniperus chinensis 'prostrata' (sometimes called *Juniperus horizontalis*) to use as a subject of his demonstration. The 24 inch tall tree has an approximate 2 1/2 inch base.

First Alex cleaned up the tree by getting rid of the "garbage." He defines garbage as that material not suitable or required for the design: growth straight up, straight down, in branch crotches, etc.

After considerable foliage was removed, the movement of the trunk and branches could be viewed. Alex, in con-

sultation with Roy, decided not to dig down and look at the rootage to see if the tree were root bound. Roy said based on his experience it definitely was not.

Alex and Roy also felt looking at the roots near the surface would not help in deciding the front of the tree. Alex recommended the front of the tree should be the side with the shari (deadwood). This would allow the best right, left, and back branch placements. He consulted with Marj and she agreed.

Second, Alex wired the branches. He wired almost to the tips of the green foliage. He then positioned the branches

where he wanted them and then shortened some to better define the silhouette.

Alex holds the branch with his thumb and forefinger be-

Alex Martinez with raw material (left), pruning "garbage" and applying wire (below), consulting with Roy Nagatoshi (bottom left), and adjusting a branch (bottom right). Alex checks some details (opposite page) and poses with the finished tree and CVBS member Tony Castagna, who assisted him.

Photo at left by Ken Martin. All others by Shig Hayashi.





tween the wire coils when bending. He tilted the tree forward so the apex would be over the front of the nebari in this moyogi (with a small second tree) style bonsai. This is how Marj should pot it.

Alex recommended not potting until next year as the tree isn't near being root bound and the tree needs to recover from the stress of this initial styling. Alex, when asked, said the tree looks very healthy.

The upcoming tasks for Marj are to clean and carve the shari in front; trim the foliage when it gets dense (probably late summer); and repot next winter.

This was a win-win demonstration: Alex got some experience performing a demonstration and the audience had an informative and entertaining evening. 🌲

Library

Our Club Library Includes Books and Three New DVDs

Larry Kimmelman

We have three new DVDs for our Library. All three are from Boon Manakitivipart, and include (I) Styling & Maintenance Techniques for Junipers, (II) Cutting, Pruning, Styling, Repotting and Wiring Japanese Maples, and (III) Repotting Deciduous Trees. The DVD, "The Growing Art of Bonsai" by A. Skolnik (a bonsai artist and grower) is still available. It's great for beginners and intermediate skill levels.

Members are welcome to borrow club library materials for a month at a time, and we only ask that the borrowed materials be returned at the next club meeting. Please note we also have novice books that provide bonsai basics to help our newer members get off to a good start. 🌲

CVBS Niche Displays

Our Niche Display Program Is for Members of All Levels

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 his/her 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 the calendar and let us know when you would like to present your display. 🌲

—Marj Branson

2013 Niche Displays

March	Fr. Tom Davis
April	Volunteer Needed
May	Volunteer Needed
June	Larry Kimmelman
July	Volunteer Needed
August	Volunteer Needed

2013

March

March 19, 2013: La Cañada Flintridge, California

Descanso Bonsai Society: Mauro Stemberger at Descanso Gardens, 1418 Descanso Drive. Italian Bonsai Master Mauro will teach a two-session, all-day, bring your tree workshop. Hours: 10 AM – 1 PM and 2 PM – 5 PM, followed by a regular meeting/demonstration beginning at 7:30 PM; everyone is invited to attend the workshops and meeting/demonstration. Silent observers encouraged. For details contact Michael Jonas, 818-776-0813 or mjonas48@hotmail.com.

March 23 – 24, 2013: San Marino, California

California Bonsai Society: Annual Show at The Huntington Library, 1151 Oxford Road, Mauro Stemberger two-day workshop located in the Teaching Greenhouse. Bring your tree. Half-day and full-day sessions are available. Silent observers encouraged. For details contact Michael Jonas, 818-776-0813 or mjonas48@hotmail.com.

March 20 – 24, 2013: San Mateo, California

Bonsai Society of San Francisco: Annual Bonsai Exhibit at the San Francisco Flower and Garden Show, San Mateo County Event Center, 1346 Saratoga Drive. Hours: Wednesday – Saturday 10 AM – 7 PM, Sunday 10 AM – 6 PM. There will be demonstrations and trees for sale. General admission to the Flower and Garden Show is \$20.00. For general information about Flower and Garden show visit: www.sfgardenshow.com. For more information about club visit our website: www.bssf.org.

What: Conifer Study Group
Work on your bonsai independently
or with other participants

Study Subject:
Repotting your tree.

All species of trees welcome.

Cost: Attendance is free

Who: Shig Hayashi, Moderator

Contact: shayashi99@hotmail.com

When: 12:30 – 4:30 PM

3rd Sunday of the Month

(If rained out, 4th Sunday)

Date: March 17, 2012

Where: California Bonsai Studio

4015 N. Moorpark Rd.
Thousand Oaks, CA

April

April 6 & 7, 2013: Sacramento, California

Bonsai Sekiyu Kai: 36th Annual Bonsai Show at the Sacramento Betsuin Buddhist Church, 2401 Riverside Blvd. Hours are: Saturday Noon – 5 PM and Sunday 10 AM – 4 PM. Demonstration 2 PM both days by Bonsai Master Johnny Uchida. Amenities include refreshments, light snacks, door prizes, raffles, and a Silent Auction. Member and vendor sales of plants and bonsai-related items will also be available. For more information contact Chris Pfeifle at mesoey@aol.com.

April 25 – 28 2013: Costa Mesa, California

Orange Empire Bonsai Society: 24th Annual Spring Garden Show, South Coast Plaza, 3333 Bear St.; Orange Empire will display trees in traditional Japanese style, and Frank Goya will conduct a Saikei demonstration. The Spring Garden Show is a diverse and outstanding selection of unusual and exotic plants, garden tools, garden ornaments and art, competition gardens and children's programs, free admission and parking. For more information www.springgardenshow.com, David Nadzam (714) 345-6966 or dnadzam@socal.rr.com.

May

May 4 – 5, 2013: Gardena, California

Dai Ichi Bonsai Kai: Annual Exhibit "Serenity Through Bonsai" at the Ken Nakaoka Community Center, 1670 W. 162nd St. Hours are 10 AM – 4 PM, both days. Novice to master bonsai exhibits. Beginner's hands-on workshop at 10:30 AM Saturday, at 1 PM a round-robin demonstration featuring Peter Macasieb and Michael Sykes, and Sunday at 1 PM a saiikei demonstration by Frank Goya will be held. The demonstration items will be in the benefit drawing, which follows each demonstration. For more details about our club and show visit our website <http://daiichibonsaikai.wordpress.com>.

May 4 & 5, 2013: Sacramento, California

Sacramento Bonsai Club: 67th Annual Show at the Sacramento Buddhist Church, 2401 Riverside Blvd. Show hours are Saturday 12 – 5 PM and Sunday 10 AM – 4 PM. Demonstration both days at 2 PM by Boon Manaktivipart. Refreshments, benefit drawings, plant & tree sales. Free Admission. For more information, please contact Gary Judd at 916-622-8048 or visit our website at sacramentobonsaiclub.com.

May 18 & 19, 2013: Santa Barbara, California

Bonsai Club of Santa Barbara: Annual Bonsai Exhibition at the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden, 1212 Mission Canyon Road. Hours are Saturday 11 AM – 4 PM and Sunday 10 AM – 4 PM. Demonstrations at 1 PM on both days. Plant sales by the Club. Native plants suitable for bonsai in the Botanic Garden's nursery. Books and other gifts in the Garden Shop. For more information, contact Ann Erb 805-929-4972, email annerb@charter.net or visit www.santabarbarbonsai.org.

June

June 15 and 16, 2013: La Cañada Flintridge, California

Descanso Bonsai Society: Annual Show at Descanso Gardens, 1418 Descanso Drive. Hours are 9 AM – 5 PM, with Demonstrations 11 AM and 1 PM each day. Sales area open to the public. Admission to the exhibition is free with admission to Descanso Gardens. A Saturday night reception 6 PM – 9 PM includes light refreshments, auction and raffle. For more information contact Michael Jonas at (818) 775-0813