



conejo valley

BONSAI society

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A member of the Golden State Bonsai Federation 

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President's Message

Looking Forward to 2016

By Marj Branson

Happy New Year to everyone and best wishes for a successful bonsai year in 2016.

Looking back, 2015 was a busy year for us. Just to recap:

- We had two club exhibitions
- We had three field trips to local nurseries
- We had four demonstrations
- We had our annual summer swap meet
- We enjoyed our holiday potluck and the opportunity to get gather on a social basis and to listen to Guy Ervin's seasonal music

What do we have in store for the club for 2016? First off, we have a new logo. Many thanks to Ann Lofquist who provided both the bonsai tree graphic and invaluable advice on all the designs. Andrew Peebles designed the logo. And David Whiteside implemented the new logo in this issue of the newsletter. Thanks also to all the members who provided input throughout the process.

Again, there will be a mixture of workshops, demonstrations, field trips, and opportunities to socialize. Program Chair Al Espinoza is hard at work lining up demonstrators for the year and there will be announcements soon—watch the newsletter's calendar of CVBS Programs on page 2 for the latest information.

Our January meeting is a workshop, so please bring your trees.

I would like the evening to also be a planning meeting. Please come with your ideas. Give some thought to what you would like to see in club activities: field trips; mentoring program; demonstrators; library; exhibitions; education programs; or other suggestions.

Membership dues for 2016—don't forget that they are now due. Please bring your check to our next meeting or send it to Membership Chair Larry Kimmelman

(see the Membership item on page 3 for his address). Remember that you must be current on your dues to continue receiving our newsletter, so renew now so you won't miss a single issue.



Marj Branson

Don't forget the Bonsai-A-Thon coming up February 27 – 28 at the Huntington Gardens in San Marino. It is a two-day event so hopefully you can make it. There are two days of demonstrations; our own Ken Fuentes will be doing one. There will be the exhibition and a large vendor section, so it's a great opportunity to acquire new trees, tools, or supplies. The Bonsai-A-Thon is a fundraising event that supports the Golden State Bonsai Federation's collection at the Huntington, so please come out and support this world-class collection. See me if you would like to volunteer to help.

I would like to thank our committees for all their help throughout last year, as we could not function without their work.

See you Thursday, January 21st. 🌳

2016 Membership Dues Now Payable

It's time to pay your new year's CVBS membership dues. They remain unchanged: \$30 for couples, \$25 for individuals. Please pay at your earliest convenience. See page 3 for more information.

—Larry Kimmelman
Membership Chair

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**

Contact Us
(Click on Email Address)

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Field Trips & Activities

Rick Naber

Webmaster

Tom McGuire
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CVBS Programs 2016

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

January 21	7:30 PM: Brief Meeting followed by Workshop— BRING YOUR TREES
February 18	7:30 PM: Brief Meeting followed by Workshop— BRING YOUR TREES
March 17	7:30 PM: Brief Meeting followed by DEMONSTRATION: TBA
April 21	7:30 PM: Brief Meeting followed by Workshop— BRING YOUR TREES
May 19	7:30 PM: Brief Meeting followed by Workshop— BRING YOUR TREES
June 16	7:30 PM: Brief Meeting followed by DEMONSTRATION: TBA
July 21	7:30 PM: Brief Meeting followed by Workshop— BRING YOUR TREES
August 18	7:30 PM: Brief Meeting followed by Workshop and Swap Meet—BRING YOUR TREES
September 15	7:30 PM: Brief Meeting followed by DEMONSTRATION: TBA
October TBA	13TH ANNUAL EXHIBITION Gardens of the World
October 20	7:30PM : Brief Meeting followed by Workshop— BRING YOUR TREES
November 17	7:30PM : Brief Meeting followed by Workshop— BRING YOUR TREES
December 15	HOLIDAY POTLUCK, RAFFLE & AUCTION 7:30 PM

Barrett's Bonsai Tips

It Is Clean & Groom Time

By Jim Barrett

Most hardy evergreen bonsai such as Japanese black pine 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



Jim Barrett

using copper wire, make sure it has been annealed. Think about paper wrapping heavier wires before applying them to Japanese maple 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. You may want to combine it with Ortho's lime sulphur 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 sulphur will stain the pot if not washed off.

Don't forget to choose your show trees for this year's show [if you plan to exhibit in Descanso Bonsai Society's event in June]. Detail wiring is a tedious and boring chore, but is a must if you want

Refreshments

Happy New Year 2016!

We are all ready to winter 2016. For our first meeting of the year, hot coffee will be provided by CVBS while Al Espinoza and Grace Sy will provide the Eat/Sweets. We need a volunteer for cold drinks.

Please do not hesitate to contact Grace Sy and join the Refreshments Corner! Contact Grace at wkh lady@yahoo.com or call (818) 915-8545. Thanks everyone!

—Grace Sy

2016 Refreshments

	Cold Drinks	Eats / Sweets
Jan.	Volunteer Needed	Grace Sy Al Espinoza
Feb.	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed
Mar.	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed
April	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed
May	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed

your trees ready to exhibit in June. You'll be glad you did it.

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

CVBS Membership

Come Join Us!

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.

—Larry Kimmelman

November Niche

Prize-Winning Boxwood

Editor's note: Rick Naber provided the niche display at our club's November 2015 meeting. His tree is a boxwood. Here is what Rick says about this bonsai.

This is one of several boxwoods I rescued from a rubbish heap at a construction site. It won third place in last June's Descanso Bonsai Society Annual Exhibition in the advanced section of the show and first place in our club's People's Choice contest at our own October show. It's pretty shaggy right now as I have been letting it grow out following that show. I fertilize it with diluted Miracle Grow through a siphon in my watering system. I do foliar feeding each time I fertilize the tree.

—Rick Naber

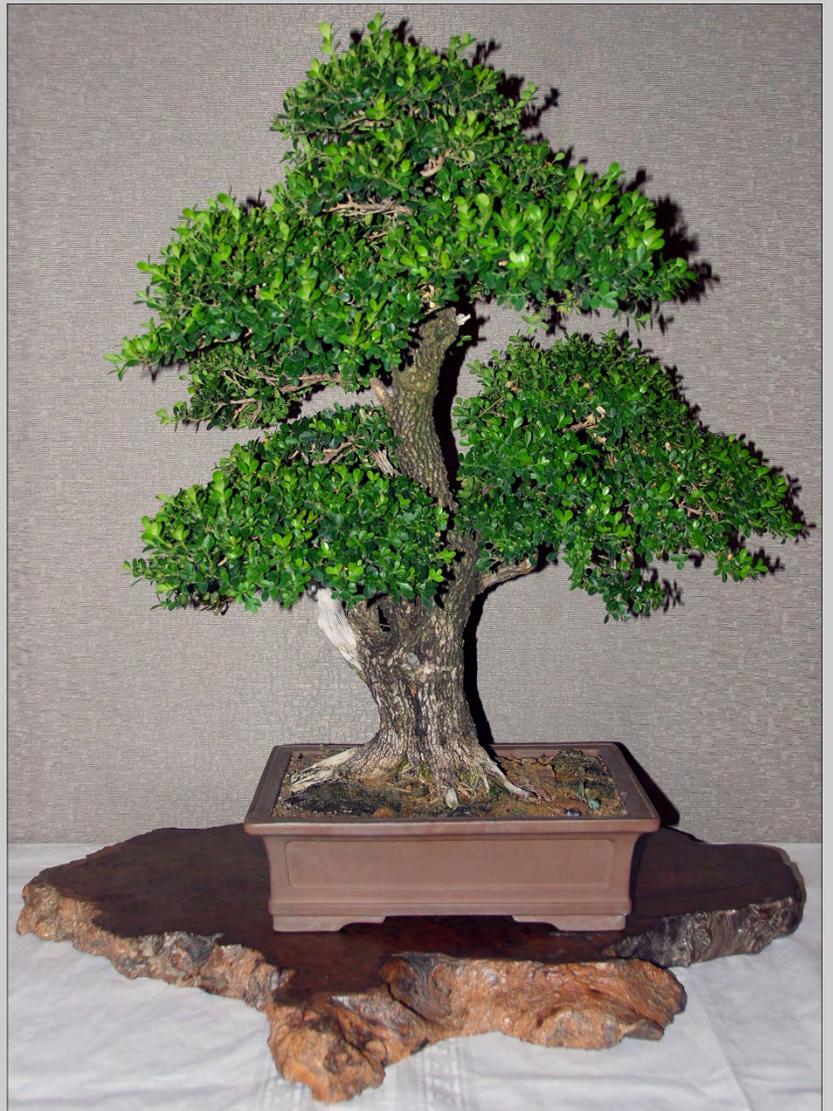


Photo by Norm Nason

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 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.

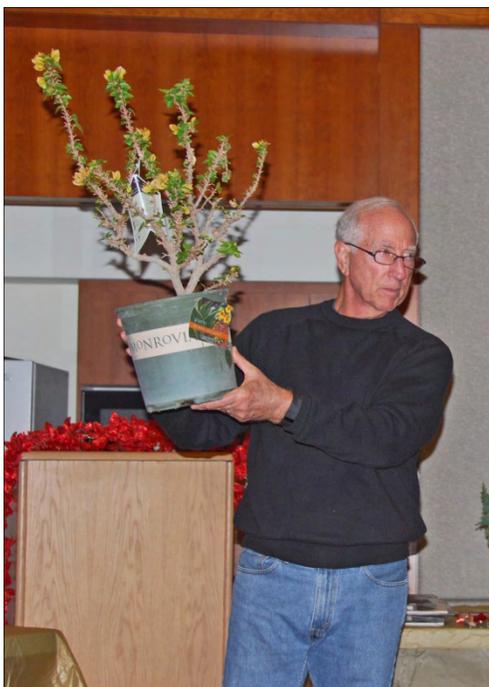
—Marj Branson

2016 Niche Displays	
Jan.	David Whiteside
Feb.	Volunteer Needed
March	Volunteer Needed
April	Volunteer Needed

Holiday Potluck Draws Lively Crowd



There was abundant delicious food provided by members, who filled their plates (okay, some more than once) before filling the tables (above).



Larry Kimmelman served as the auctioneer and rafflemaster (left).

Five women dressed in kimonos provided by Ann Lofquist and Jill Peters for the event (right, from left to right): Nancy Smeets, Ann Lofquist, Grace Sy, Debbie Ervin, and Marj Branson.



Library

Take Advantage of Our Library Offerings!

From John Naka's classic *Bonsai Techniques* to *Bonsai Boon's* DVDs on styling, pruning, and repotting, we offer a wide array of library materials to enhance and improve your understanding of the art of bonsai. We have *Bonsai International* magazines that date back to 1974 as well as Walter Pall's gallery of 8,000 bonsai tree images on DVD. Interested in *suiseki*? Take a look at *Suiseki Viewing Stones—An American Perspective* by Melba Tucker. And be sure to check out our novice bonsai books that help newcomers build a strong bonsai foundation.

Members can borrow our library materials for a month at a time. There is no charge and all we ask is that borrowed books and DVDs be returned at the next club meeting.

—Larry Kimmelman

2016

January

January 16 – 17, 2016, Los Angeles, California

Baikoen Bonsai Kenkyukai: Winter Silhouette Show, Location: Los Angeles Arboretum, 10:30am to 4:30pm Baikoen Bonsai Kenkyukai will be conducting its annual Winter Silhouette show where trees will be displayed in their leafless form during Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday Weekend at the Los Angeles Arboretum. There will be a benefit dinner and auction on Saturday January 16, 2016. It is one of the oldest show running in the Southern California region and has been a tradition for 50 plus years. For more information, contact Lindsay Shiba at (626) 806-0937.

February

February 5 – 7, 2016, Santa Nella, California

California Shohin Seminar at Hotel Mission de Oro Feb 5: Registration 10 AM – 5 PM with demonstrations from Noon – 6 PM, Exhibit and Vendor areasset-up 11 AM – 5 PM; everyone is invited to share their treasured Shohin Bonsai in the Exhibit. Feb 6: Exhibit opens for Registration, Viewing, Vendor Sales, Workshops, Raffle & Benefit Drawing 8 AM – 5 PM. Feb 7: Exhibit Open 9 AM– Noon with demonstrations, and business meeting. Registration Forms available on the website. Attendees who only want access to vendor and exhibit may purchase a day pass. For more information see our website: <http://www.calshohin.org/>, email: calshohin@yahoo.com, or phone: Randi Keppeler (650) 598-0127.

February 27 – 28, 2016, San Marino, California

Bonsai-A-Thon XX at The Huntington Library and Botanical Gardens, 1151 Oxford Road; annual fundraiser for the GSBF Collection at The Huntington. Admission to the event 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, a tour hosted by Jim Folsom (Director of the Garden), demonstrations, lunch, bonsai exhibits, large sales area, raffle and auction. Sunday only: a behind the scenes tour of The Huntington Bonsai Nursery with Ted Matson. For more information, contact Bill Wawrychuk at (818) 790-9415 or b_wawrychuk@yahoo.com.

February 27 – 28, 2016, Oakland, California

GSBF Bonsai Garden at Lake Merritt: The annual Mammoth Fund Raiser will be held at 666 Bellevue Ave. (Garden Center Building). Saturday: Auction preview at noon with Auction starting at 1 PM. Sunday: Vendor Sales start at 9 AM, Plant Sales start at 10 AM, and Demonstrations at 1 PM. The Bonsai Garden at Lake Merritt will celebrate the many bonsai clubs who have created and support the Garden by inviting Bonsai Clubs from all over Northern California to showcase their best bonsai display and promote their club activities. Attendees will be eligible to vote for their favorite display. Bonsai Garden will be open 10 AM to 4 PM on Saturday and Noon to 4 PM on Sunday. For more information or to sell trees, email bonsailakemerritt@gmail.com and visit www.gsbflakemerritt.org.

April

April 23 – 24, 2016, San Diego, California

San Diego Bonsai Club: Spring Bonsai Exhibition at the Casa Del Prado, Room 101, Balboa Park. Show hours are 10 AM – 5 PM both days with demonstrations at 11 AM and 1 PM. Free admission. Bonsai pots and trees for sale, as well as other bonsai-related items. For more information visit www.sandiegobonsai.com or contact Janice Hale.

May

May 21 – 22, 2016, 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 both days. Plant sale 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 Tom Post (805) 964-2717, email tompostart@yahoo.com or visit www.santabarbarbonsai.org.

June

June 4 – 5, 2016, San Mateo, California

Sei Boku Bonsai Kai: 33rd Annual Show at the San Mateo Garden Center. 605 Parkside Way (next to Beresford Park). Show hours are 10 AM to 4 PM both days, with demonstration by Dennis Makishima from Noon – 3 PM on Saturday (tree will be raffled off at the conclusion of demo). Sunday Dennis will lead an open view workshop from Noon – 3 PM. Large club member plant sale, vendors, door prizes and our always popular raffles. Admission is free. Dr. Bonsai will be available to offer styling and care tips. For more information contact Marsha Mekisich at eclectic.gardener@yahoo.com.

October

October 27 – 30, 2016, Sacramento, California

Golden State Bonsai Federation Convention 39: A Bonsai Convergence: Gather at the Rivers, Double Tree by Hilton, 2001 Point West Way, Sacramento. For more information, contact Scott Chad at scottchad@lotusbonsai.com.