



conejo valley

BONSAI society

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A member of the Golden State Bonsai Federation 

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President's Message

Bring Trees to Bob Pressler's Demonstration

By Marj Branson

We had a busy night at our February meeting. It was a workshop and we were all working on our trees.

The Bonsai-A-Thon at the Huntington Library, Art Collections and Botanical Gardens was a successful weekend. The weather was perfect for a comfortable time taking in all of the activities. The fine weather was especially nice for Gardens Director Jim Folsom's guided tour (see photo this page and story, page 5).

A special attraction at this year's Bonsai-A-Thon was 900 stones from the Harry Hirao estate being sold along with many pots, trees, etc. Many bonsai enthusiasts were pleased to get a memory piece of Harry Hirao's bonsai material.

The Bonsai-A-Thon exhibition was handled a little differently this year. The demonstrators on Saturday and Sunday also brought a tree to put in the exhibition. It was good to see a representation of the demonstrator's work. Our own Ken Fuentes was one of the Saturday demonstrators—congratulations Ken!

Don't forget to take in the spring club

bonsai shows coming up. There is a list on page 8 of this newsletter.

For our March meeting we will be having Bob Pressler as our demonstrator. He is inviting our members to bring in one tree each for a critique and styling suggestions.

Bob will bring his tools and plans to offer to do work on some of the trees, if you agree and as time permits, so it should prove to be an interesting meeting. So bring the tree that has been giving you the most frustration deciding what to do with it!

Our Conejo Valley Bonsai Society annual exhibition has been confirmed at the Gardens of the World in Thousand Oaks for the first weekend of October—the 1st and 2nd. Please mark the dates on your calendars now and plan to show at least one tree—and set aside some time to help as a volunteer during the show!

We have had some warm weather and a bit of rain so keep an eye on your trees. You should be well on your way with your repotting projects and check your wires!

See you Thursday, March 17th. 



Marj Branson



Bonsai court during GSBF's Bonsai-A-Thon at the Huntington Gardens.

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

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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: Bob Pressler / Tree Critique BRING ONE TREE FOR BOB TO CRITIQUE!
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: Ann Lofquist / Create a Tanuki Graft
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 1 & 2	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

Fertilize, Pot, and Fine-Tune

By Jim Barrett

Editor's Note: Jim Barrett's new column was not available at press time so we are reprinting his advice from March 2015. We apologize for any issues that may arise.

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 satsuki azaleas until blooms are gone.

Repotting can still be done on black pines, junipers, pomegranates, 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 maple, 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 pene-

trate the white fuzz covering the critter. Spray again in about ten days. This treatment will also take care of regular aphids and spider mites.

Start fine-tuning show trees [for the Descanso Bonsai Society's June exhibition]. 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 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.



Jim Barrett

Refreshments

Spring Already?

Leap year madness? Early Spring thus far! Enjoy hot drinks now onwards!

To those who participated in last month's delicious eats/sweet, refreshing cold and soothing hot drinks thank you very much! This includes Larry Kimmelman and Al Espinoza. A special thanks to Marj Branson for providing the coffee maker for the club.

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

—Grace Sy

2016 Refreshments		
	Cold Drinks	Eats / Sweets
Mar.	Ken Martin	Grace Sy
April	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed
May	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed
June	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed
July	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed
Aug.	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed

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

February Niche

Sweetgum Silhouette

Editor's note: Ann Lofquist provided the niche display at our club's February 2016 meeting. Her tree is a sweetgum (*Liquidambar orientalis*) just breaking out from its winter silhouette. Here is what Ann says about this bonsai.

The niche tree was a sweetgum (*Liquidambar orientalis*). It was ground-layered (air-layered at soil level) from stock acquired in 2012 (I think) from Roy Nagatoshi's Fuji Bonsai Nursery in Sylmar, CA. I am attaching a photo of the original nebari before the layering. (Ugly!) [See inset below.] The tree is approximately 19 inches tall.

—Ann Lofquist



Photo by Ken Martin



Photo by Ann Lofquist

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	
March	Marj Branson
April	Larry Kimmelman
May	Volunteer Needed
June	Volunteer Needed

Event

Pictures from Bonsai-A-Thon 2016

By David Whiteside

Bonsai-A-Thon 2016 took place on Saturday and Sunday, February 27 – 28. As we have reported in the past, this is the primary fundraising event that supports the Golden State Bonsai Federation’s bonsai collection at the Huntington Gardens in San Marino, CA. The Conejo Valley Bonsai Society is a member of GSBF and we have actively supported and participated in the Bonsai-A-Thon for many years.

On Saturday, Larry Kimmelman and I arrived at the Huntington in plenty of time to browse through the vendors area before Jim Folsom, director of the Gardens, led his traditional tour of the Chinese garden, Japanese garden, and bonsai collection. We joined the tour, which included a visit to the bonsai nursery

as well as the usual other sites.

I don’t know how many club members attended the event on the two days, but Larry and I spotted Marj Branson, Al Espinoza, and Norm Nason in the morning. Later, we watched as Ken Fuentes worked on his ficus demonstration.

Back in the vendors area, Larry bought a nice display stand for cascade or semi-cascade bonsai. I acquired a large rectangular pot for a tall (48 inches) foemina juniper I planned to move from a nursery container this month.

We also enjoyed viewing the many stones and trees from Harry Hirao’s estate, which donated them to the GSBF for an auction to help raise funds. 🌳



The Chinese Garden of Flowing Fragrance lived up to its name with many of its flowering trees in full bloom (above).

Gardens Director Jim Folsom speaking in the original bonsai court (right).

A bridge in the Chinese garden and its reflection in the large pond (below).

Photos by Larry Kimmelman & David Whiteside





Ken Fuentes (above) focuses on his ficus during the Bonsai-A-Thon's round robin demonstration Saturday morning.

Two more scenes in the Huntington's Chinese garden (right and below)





The display of shohin (small) bonsai in one of the bonsai courts (above).

Shohin bonsai in the collection's nursery work area (left).

David Whiteside with a Japanese black pine in the bonsai court (below left).

Larry Kimmelman in the bonsai collection's nursery work area (below right).



2016

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 14 – 15, Gardena, California

Dai Ichi Bonsai Kai: Annual Exhibit “Serenity through Bonsai” at the Ken Nakaoka Community Center, 1670 W. 162nd St. Novice to master bonsai exhibited. Hours are 10 AM – 4 PM both days with a demonstration at 1 PM ((Saturday) a round-robin and (Sunday) a Saikei demonstration by Mr. Frank Goya will be held). The demonstration items will be in the benefit drawing, which follows each demonstration. On Saturday a beginner’s hands-on workshop at 10:30 AM will be held. For more details about our club and show visit our website <http://daiichibonsaikai.wordpress.com> or contact Doyle Saito at (310) 539-9265.

May 21 – 22, 2016, Van Nuys, California

Sansui Kai of Southern California: Annual Bonsai Show at the Japanese Garden at Tillman Water Reclamation Center, 6100 Woodley Ave. Show hours are 10 AM to 4 PM both days, with demonstration each day. Sale table of Bonsai trees and pots. For more information contact: (818) 756-8166 (Garden) or (760) 379-8292.

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 tompstart@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.

June 12, 2016, Seaside, California

Monterey Bonsai Club: 53rd Annual Exhibition at the Monterey Peninsula Buddhist Temple, 1150 Noche Buena Street. Show hours are from 11 AM – 4 PM with a demonstration at 1:30 PM by Katsumi Kinoshita. There will be a benefit drawing for bonsai trees. Silent auction area will include bonsai trees, pots and pre-bonsai material. For more information contact Rich Guillen at richguillen@sbcglobal.net or Dianne Woods at vinca27@comcast.net.

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.

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 suiseiki? 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