



conejo valley

BONSAI society

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A member of the Golden State Bonsai Federation 

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President's Message

Let's Plan Our Fall Show

By Marj Branson

Our August meeting was a workshop and swap meet. It was a busy night—we were all working on our trees (see photo story, page 4). Members also took advantage of the swap meet.

Our September meeting will be a demonstration by David Nguy, owner of West America Import & Export in Los Angeles. Many members will remember David from past demonstrations; he is a well-known bonsai expert. Please see our CVBS Programs on page 2 for details. He will be working on one of the trees that were donated to our club. He will be preparing the tree for our Christmas raffle. The trees have beautiful bases, which, combined with David's talent, promise to result in a beautiful finished tree.

Our bonsai exhibition this year will be on the first weekend in October—Saturday and Sunday the 1st and 2nd. As in the past, it will be at the Gardens of the World in Thousand Oaks. This is our 13th annual show.

The exhibition itself is held in the Resource Center at the Gardens of the World while we also conduct demonstrations in the bandstand inside the Gardens. We set up the exhibition hall Friday afternoon. The show is open to the public both Saturday and Sunday and we breakdown the display Sunday afternoon.

I would like to briefly outline the planning and preparations necessary for holding our exhibition. Please read the following to see where you can help.

- First of all, of course, we need a strong display of a diversity of bonsai. All

members are asked to bring at least one and up to three trees for the exhibition.

• Second, we plan to do four demonstrations—one each in the morning and afternoon on both Saturday and Sunday. We need experienced members to volunteer to do these demonstrations.



Marj Branson

• Third, for the exhibition we need portable tables. If you have sturdy folding tables that we can use or can help transport tables, please let me know.

• Fourth, during the show we will need volunteers. If you can work a morning or afternoon on Saturday or Sunday please sign up. Your assistance is needed to welcome our show visitors and assist them in

viewing our trees. They always have questions about the art and practice of bonsai and about our club. This is our best opportunity to recruit new members, so we need plenty of help during the exhibition.

• Fifth, in addition to members who display trees, we need volunteers to help set up on Friday afternoon and then breakdown the exhibition Sunday afternoon.

At our September meeting we will be going through these details and the planning for the program, so we would appreciate your input and thoughts. There will be volunteer sheets—please plan to sign up and let us know where you can help.

Meanwhile, Don't forget the Golden State Bonsai Federation Convention in Sacramento October 27 – 30. See details on page 6.

See you Thursday, September 15. 

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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(Click on Email Address)

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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: David Nguy / Juniper
October 1 & 2	13TH ANNUAL EXHIBITION Gardens of the World
October 20	7:30PM : Brief Meeting followed by DEMONSTRATION: Tom Vuong / Olive
November 17	7:30PM : Brief Meeting followed by Workshop— BRING YOUR TREES
December 15	HOLIDAY POTLUCK, RAFFLE & AUCTION 7:30 PM

Book Review

Never So Clearly Explained

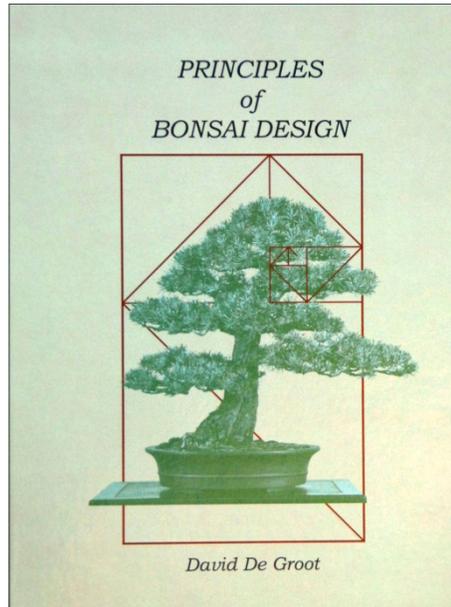
By David Whiteside

In the realm of bonsai publishing, many experts have attempted to explain the essence of the art form—with mixed results. Some stand out for excellence, such as the late John Naka's seminal volumes, *Bonsai Techniques I & II*. Others have created more confusion than clarity.

Among the most successful that I have studied, count David De Groot's 1995 classic, *Basic Bonsai Design*, a spiral-bound little book (5 1/2 by 8 1/12 inches, 102 pages). Published by the American Bonsai Society, this treasure has long been out of print. Originally sold to ABS members for a mere \$10.75, a recent search of Amazon.com produced one used copy offered for \$44.95. I'd suggest spending the extra dollars—but in 2015 ABS published what it rightly calls a vastly expanded successor, *Principles of Bonsai Design*. I recently acquired *Principles* and highly recommend it for bonsai practitioners of all levels.

De Groot starts at the most basic level. After a very brief summary of the history of bonsai, he explains general concepts of art before showing how these principles apply to bonsai. He devotes the first five chapters to this task, covering topics including visual elements such as line, mass, texture, and color. Proportion, balance, and harmony each are allotted a full chapter.

He consistently discusses bonsai in the context of larger concepts and principles that apply to art in general. In the chapter on proportion, for example, he describes the Fibonacci sequence and then shows how it is the basis for the "rule of thirds" that is more familiar to bonsai artists. (In a Fibonacci sequence, each number equals the sum of the previ-



Principles of Bonsai Design
By David De Groot
260 pp. More than 500 illustrations
American Bonsai Society \$34.95

ous two numbers. The rule of thirds suggests that a pot's length equal 2/3 of the tree's height and that the first branch be about 1/3 of the way up the tree, etc.)

With this basis in general artistic principles established, De Groot turns his attention to bonsai-specific matters such as styles, branch structure, plant material, containers, and refinement. His chapter on display is particularly illuminating. Throughout, the writing is clear and concise and the illustrations—a combination of drawings and photographs—are well-chosen to clarify pertinent points. Photographs are generally excellent. This book is packed with useful information about, and analysis of the art of bonsai. 🌳

Refreshments

Autumn Nears

Summer is almost over. The fall season brings our Annual Exhibition October 1 – 2 and our Holiday Potluck December 15. We just need help with cold drinks for our regular October meeting.

Many thanks to our August volunteers, Sheila Galinsky, who brought cold drinks, and Marj Branson, who set up the coffee compliments of CVBS.

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

Thanks everyone!

—David Whiteside

2016 Refreshments

	Cold Drinks	Eats / Sweets
Sept.	Nancy Smeets	Ken Fuentes
Oct.	Volunteer Needed	Jill Peters & Valentina
Nov.	Ken Martin	Norm Nason
Dec.	Annual Holiday Potluck, Raffle & Auction	

CVBS Membership

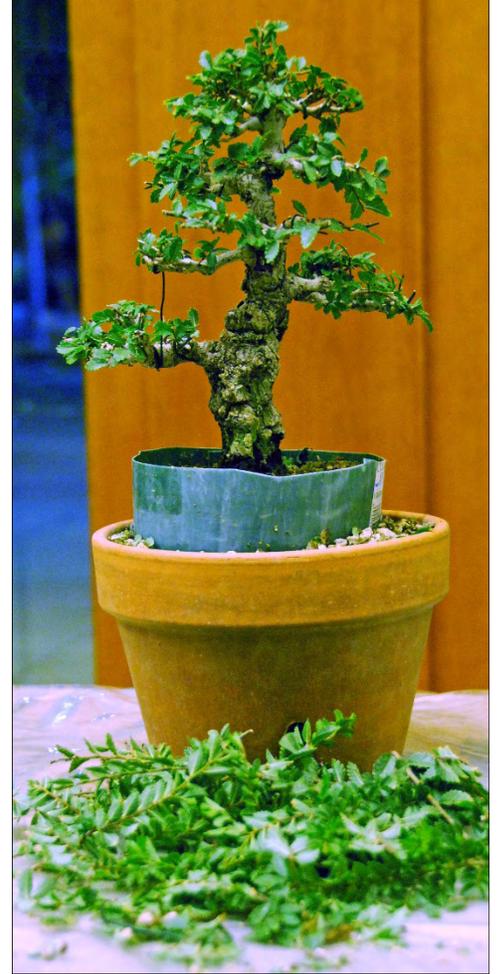
Interested in CVBS?

Consider becoming a member. We meet monthly on the third Thursday of every month at the Westlake Village City Hall (31200 Oakcrest Drive, Westlake Village, CA 91362). 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 it to: Larry Kimmelman, CVBS Membership Chair, 2727 Autumn Ridge Drive, Thousand Oaks, CA 91362.

—Larry Kimmelman

Workshop & Swap Meet Active in August



CVBS members chat before getting down to serious work on their trees at the August 2016 meeting (top).

Ann Lofquist, Larry Garfinkel, Ken Fuentes, David Whiteside and others displayed trees, pots, deadwood branches, and other items on the swap meet table (above).

Ann Lofquist did some serious pruning on her cork-bark Chinese elm (right). She is in the process of air-layering just an inch above the old roots to get a better nebari.

Ken Fuentes (on left in photo below left) discusses a large bald cypress with owner Mike Mulhern (right, partly hidden by his tree).

Richard Winston (on left in photo below right, mostly hidden by the tree) discusses styling of his cork-bark elm with Ken Martin. Richard got the tree from Ken Fuentes at last year's swap meet.



Photos by Norm Nason



August Niche

Boxwood with a French Accent

Editor’s note: Norm Nason provided this boxwood for the niche display at our club’s August 2016 meeting. Here is what Norm says about this tree.

My boxwood was a gift from a longtime French friend of mine named Ariane, who lives in Paris. She wanted to give me something special for my 60th birthday earlier this year, and thought a bonsai tree would make a perfect gift. It sure did!

Ariane knew that I often visit a nearby bonsai nursery, but since she didn’t know which one, she searched on Google Maps until she located the nursery closest to my home. She noted the website and phone number, then called the owner on the phone—Travis Goldstein—who verified that he knows me and that we are indeed

friends. After that Ariane worked with Travis to settle on a tree for me. He took photographs of various specimens he thought would be appropriate and within Ariane’s price range, and emailed them to her. Once she selected a tree, Travis surprised me with it on my birthday when I happened to visit his nursery [California Bonsai Studio in Thousand Oaks]. I will always appreciate the effort both Ariane and Travis put into this very special gift!

The boxwood is 20 inches tall (including pot) and 17 inches wide. In the six months I have owned it, I have worked to better balance the tree while maintaining its health and vigor.

—Norm Nason



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 your 2017 calendar and let us know when you would like to present your display next year.

—Marj Branson

2016 Niche Displays	
Sept.	Nancy Smeets
Oct.	Ken Martin
Nov.	Bob Pressler

2016

September

September 24 – 25, 2016 San Diego California

San Diego Bonsai Club: Fall 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.sandiegobonsaiclub.com or contact Janice Hale.

September 29 - October. 2, 2016 Santa Ana, California

Kofu Bonsai Kai: 2016 Bonsai Fest at the Bowers Museum “The Bonsai Tradition: Cultural Arts of Japan” - John M. Lee Court, 2002 N. Main St., Daily 10 AM - 4 PM, Featuring bonsai trees of the members of Kofu Bonsai Kai and demonstration by Takuo Nakamura on Saturday, October 1 from 1 to 3 PM. Free to Bowers Museum members or with paid museum admission. Further details will be posted on the Bowers Museum Website: <http://www.bowers.org/and> Kofu Bonsai Kai: www.KofuKai.org

October

October 1 – 2, 2016, Thousand Oaks, California

Conejo Valley Bonsai Society: 13th Annual Bonsai Exhibition at the Resource Center at the Gardens of the World, 2001 Thousand Oak Blvd; Hours are 9 AM – 4 PM both days with demonstrations in the Bandstand at 11 AM and 2 PM. Free Admission. No sale of bonsai related items. For information, call Marj Branson at 805-373-1330 or visit our web site at www.cvbs-bonsai.org.

October 8 – 9 & 15 – 16, San Marino, California

Bonsai Academy, The Huntington, 1151 Oxford Road, San Marino. 10 AM – 4 PM all four days. Bonsai master Ted Matson leads an intensive four-session *gakko*, or school, in the art of bonsai. Geared to beginners, the sessions explore the history of bonsai, basic tree botany and horticultural challenges, design concepts and training techniques, and bonsai display. All supplies and tools are provided, including demonstration trees for classroom practice. Huntington Members: \$120, Non-Members: \$135. Register online at www.huntington.org, go to the calendar and click on Bonsai Academy.

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 (916) 924-4900—ask for GSBF Group Code. There will be workshops, lectures, seminars, exhibits, and a vendors section. Headliners: Ryan Neil and Bjorn Bjornholm. More Workshops and Seminars from: Kathy Shaner, David Nguy, Peter Tea, and others. For more information, contact Scott Chad at scottchad@lotusbonsai.com or (530) 622-9681. Online registration begins on the GSBF website (www.gsbfconvention.org) on July 1, 2016.

December

December 26-30, 2016 San Marino, California

27th Anniversary Exhibition of Viewing Stones Show at the Botanical Center of The Huntington Library & Botanical Gardens, 1151 Oxford Road, San Marino, CA Hours are 10:30-4:30 each day. Free parking. For more information see our website aisekikai.com and or contact sashaichris@gmail.com

2017

February

Feb. 25 – 26, 2017 San Marino, California

Bonsai-A-Thon XXI 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 www.gsbfhuntington.com

Library

From Books to Magazines to DVDs . . .

We provide educational and instructional materials for all levels of bonsai artistry. Considering honing your skills with styling, pruning, or repotting? Interested in learning more about fertilizing or wiring? We have lots of information available, and at no charge to our members. Any of our resource materials may be borrowed for a month at a time. We only ask that books, magazines, or DVDs be returned at the next meeting. I'm always happy to answer questions about our library, and to help you select appropriate materials for your bonsai knowledge.

—Larry Kimmelman