



conejo valley

BONSAI society

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A member of the Golden State Bonsai Federation 

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President's Message

Why We Support GSBF

By Marj Branson

Our July meeting was a workshop and a club meeting. We discussed upcoming club activities and the Golden State Bonsai Federation's role in the larger California bonsai community and club participation in its many programs.

The GSBF is a valuable organization that offers student and teacher programs and hands-on working programs. It supports three collections of high-quality bonsai, including one at the Huntington Gardens just east of Los Angeles. This collection is supported in part by proceeds from the annual Bonsai-A-Thon at the Huntington each winter. Volunteers from our club, among many others, help execute this fundraising effort.

The GSBF also organizes an annual convention where professionals and hobbyists come together for an intense four or five days of workshops, seminars, and demonstrations. During the convention, there is always a large hall filled with vendors' booths; it's an annual opportunity to acquire fresh stock, tools, and just about any bonsai-related material. Visit their website at www.gsbf-bonsai.org. The Conejo Valley Bonsai Society is a member of GSBF.

Our August meeting will be a workshop plus our annual Swap Meet. We have found past summer meetings with a Swap Meet successful, so we will be repeating it again this year. Check your collection to see what you can contribute



Marj Branson

in the line of pots, trees, tools, or other bonsai-related items for sale or swap. A small portion of sales prices is contributed to the club, so bring your pocketbook and be prepared to open it to acquire material for your bonsai practice and at the same time support your club.

I would like to remind members of our mentoring program. If you would like to work with a mentor or could volunteer to be a mentor, please see Larry Kimmelman. New CVBS member Larry Garfinkel has just signed up for the program. Welcome aboard, Larry.

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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

CVBS Swap Meet

Got trees that no longer fit in your collection or that for whatever reason you are ready to let go? Spare tools? Extra pots? Bring them to our August meeting on the 18th and swap or sell them to other club members.

- Clean out your inventory
- Acquire new trees, tools, pots, or other bonsai-related items
- Support your club—a mere 10% donation requested

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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 and Pine
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

Barrett's Bonsai Tips

Time To Do Leaf Pruning, But Hold the Fertilizer

By Jim Barrett

Ahh! Good old summer. Between the heat and the not so good water, most maples (at least mine) look pretty tired.

If the maples are healthy, consider leaf pruning them towards the end of this month. Remove every leaf—large, small, healthy or shriveled. Leaving some or pruning in stages only makes the tree try to survive on what is left. I don't recommend leaf pruning red or lace leaf varieties, but mountain or trident maples may be defoliated. This will help create a tighter inner ramification and allow the tree to develop another set of fine twigs. Also, with the first cold snap, the leaves should turn color. Though such defoliation is done in the spring in Japan, for us here in southern California, leaf pruning then only leads to the new leaves browning out in summer. Always



Jim Barrett

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

These last weeks the hot weather has hit us in full force. Keep an eye on your trees so the roots don't cook in the small pots. You might find it necessary to set up some type of shade cloth or to move your trees under protection. I have recently lost several trees—from trying to get the right balance for the watering program. I have lost them due to their drying out from too little water or from root rot by too much watering. Getting the right balance and watching for the wires cutting in during the growing season are two of my problem areas.

See you all on Thursday the 18th. 🌳

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

Refreshments

Enjoy Summer

Freedom of summer is not yet over! Enjoy more of your cold drinks, ice cream, ice pop, and yogurt to satisfy your day.

Many thanks to our July volunteers, Mike Mulhern, who brought yummy Eats/Sweets, and Marj Branson, who brought Cold Drinks—and set up the coffee compliments of CVBS.

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
Aug.	Sheila Galinsky	Ken Fuentes
Sept.	Nancy Smeets	Volunteer Needed
Oct.	Volunteer Needed	Jill Peters & Valentina
Nov.	Ken Martin	Norm Nason
Dec.	Annual Holiday Potluck, Raffle & Auction	

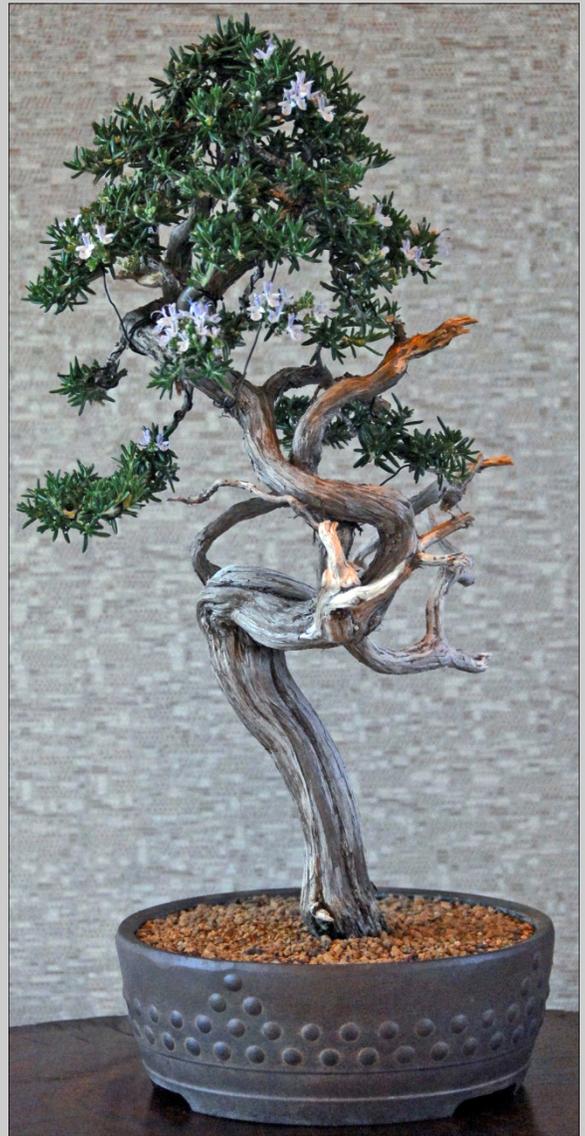
Air-Layered Rosemary

Editor’s note: Ann Lofquist provided this common rosemary for the niche display at our club’s July 2016 meeting. Here is what Ann says about this tree.

The tree is a prostrate form of common rosemary (*rosemarinus officinalis*). This tree is an air-layer from a branch of an old shrub which was growing in my mother’s garden. The shrub was at least thirty years old and was grown without irrigation (which meant it grew very slowly!). I had read that rosemary roots very easily and found this to be the case. I performed an air layer in the fall of 2015. The branch rooted after about two months and I planted it directly into a bonsai pot. I have found that the biggest challenge in styling rosemary is working with the tree’s complete disinclination to back-bud on old wood. The primary branch on the left is actually an in-progress inarch graft. [Editor: See detail photo, right.]

—Ann Lofquist

Photos by Norm Nason



Barrett’s Bonsai Tips

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remember that defoliation is stressful for the tree, and should only be done if the tree is totally healthy.

If you candle pruned your black pines in June or July, you should have many new shoots appearing at the base of the cut-off candles. Selectively remove those shoots that are growing vertically off horizontal branches, leaving one or two side shoots and one for the new terminal of each branch. What you want to promote is a fine network of twigs.

On vertical branches in the upper areas and the top of the tree, remove the center candles, leaving one, two, or three side shoots. On more mature trees and more intricate networks of twigs and branches, leave fewer new shoots.

In October or November, you will want to remove some of the new growth you left this summer. More about this next month.

If you candle pruned your black pines in June or July, you should have many new shoots appearing at the base of the cut-off candles.

Think about rotating your trees – especially if they are displayed against a wall or fence. Turning them periodically will even out the growth and may prevent die-back.

Some trees are entering a semi-

dormant period now and, for this reason, seem to need less water. Don’t think that something is wrong unless the tree shows signs of distress.

Heat buildup in soil above 80 or 90 degrees tends to slow growth. This is natural. Do not water if the soil is still wet. It takes practice and knowledge of your plants’ needs to keep them healthy and happy. Fortunately most plants survive most mistakes.

If you fertilize this month, do so sparingly. I recommend a very diluted liquid fertilizer low in nitrogen if you must fertilize.

Spraying fungicide to control powdery mildew or needle cast may also kill beneficial fungi present in soils. It’s not a bad idea to cover soil surfaces with plastic or a portable shield to keep drips and spray off of the soil. 🌱



Photo by Norm Nason

CVBS member Mike Mulhern (left in photo above) and club advisor Ken Fuentes (right) discuss the future of Mike’s tree during the July 2016 meeting, which was a workshop. CVBS alternates demonstrations with workshops throughout the year. At workshops, members bring trees to work on either alone, with our advisor, or with their mentors. Ken always makes himself available to as many members as need his advice.

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	
Aug.	Norm Nason
Sept.	Nancy Smeets
Oct.	Ken Martin
Nov.	Bob Pressler

2016

August

August 20 – 21, 2016, Santa Rosa, California

Redwood Empire Bonsai Society (REBS): 33rd Annual show at the Santa Rosa Veterans Memorial Building, 1351 Maple Avenue. Show hours are 10 AM to 5 PM on Saturday and 10 AM to 4 PM on Sunday with demonstration by Bonsai Master Artist Kathy Shaner from 1 to 3 PM both days. Demo trees will be raffled. See the largest bonsai exhibition. Large bonsai vendor and member sales. Exciting silent auctions or “buy it now”. Free refreshments by the Bonsai café. Free admission and parking. For more information visit our website www.rebsbonsai.org or contact Bob Shimon at (707) 884-4126 or shimon@mcn.org.

August 20 – 21, 2016 Los Angeles, California

Nan Pu Kai: 27th Annual Show during Nisei Week at Japanese American Community Cultural Center, 224 S. San Pedro Street (Little Tokyo). Show hours are 10 AM to 5 PM both days. The Nisei Week festival celebrates many Japanese Cultural Arts, including ceramics, dolls, Taiko, clothing, painting, calligraphy, Samurai arts, and Ikebana in addition to Bonsai. John Naka's club will host several special guest exhibitors from the Bay Area, Capitol Area and Central Coast of California at this year's show in addition to club members. Additional information about Nisei Week can be found at: www.niseiweek.org

September

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, CA

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 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.gsbconvention.org) on July 1, 2016.

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