



*conejo valley*

# BONSAI society

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A member of the Golden State Bonsai Federation 

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## **President's Message**

# Start Plans for June Show

By Marj Branson

Our March meeting was a workshop—with a new twist: Ken Martin started the evening with a talk about fertilizers. This was the beginning of our plan to kick off workshops with short talks by experienced club members on bonsai-related topics. This first talk was well received, and it was decided to carry on with the program. Let us know if you have a bonsai topic to discuss in our future forums.

Looking ahead, our April meeting will be a demonstration by Bob Pressler. He will be demonstrating the art of repotting trees. Bring your questions for him.

In memory of late club member Frank Greenway, members agreed to place a memorial brick at the Gardens of the World in Thousand Oaks. At the last meeting, members donated the funds to purchase the brick. The memorial brick will be installed in October. Thank you for your support.

The Bonsai-A-Thon at the Huntington Library, Art Collections, and Botanical Gardens in San Marino was successful. I would like to thank CVBS members for helping out that weekend. Your efforts were very much appreciated.

In addition to providing a weekend of full-on bonsai activities, the purpose of the Bonsai-A-Thon is to raise funds to help maintain and improve the Golden State Bonsai Federation collection at the Huntington. As some members may know, there is a volunteer program to help maintain the collection, working with curator Ted Matson. If you would like to participate, please let me know.

Many bonsai clubs have exhibitions in the spring and summer—including our one-day event June 24 (see box, below). At our April meeting, we will discuss details of this upcoming show and reception with the Arts Council of the Conejo Valley. We want to put together a good exhibition, so please start looking at your bonsai collection to select trees to show.

Also, don't forget to check page 8 of this newsletter for other upcoming events.

For later this spring, let us know if you would like to participate in a nursery trip. Come with your suggestions—either for nurseries you would like to visit or for other activities or field trips—to our next meeting.

Hope to see everyone the evening of Thursday, April 20. 



**Marj Branson**

## **CVBS Event:**

# Summer Show & Reception

**June 24, 2017 Thousand Oaks, California**

The Conejo Valley Bonsai Society will hold a Bonsai exhibition at the Arts Council of the Conejo Valley, 403 W. Hillcrest Drive, Thousand Oaks, in the Community Room.

This will be a one-day exhibition on Saturday in conjunction with an Arts Council art exhibition and reception. The CVBS bonsai exhibition will be from 9:00 AM to 6:00 PM. The reception is from 4:00 PM to 6:00 PM. We will also have discussions and demonstrations.

*See more Coming Events on page 8*

## **Conejo Valley Bonsai Society Meetings**

**Westlake Village City Hall  
Community Room**  
31200 Oakcrest Drive  
Westlake Village, CA 91361  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the Month**  
**7:30 PM – 9:00 PM**

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(Click on Email Address)

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# **CVBS Programs 2017**

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

<del>January 19</del>	7:30 PM: Brief Meeting followed by <b>DEMONSTRATION: Roy Nagatoshi</b> / Grafting
<del>February 16</del>	7:30 PM: Brief Meeting followed by Workshop— <b>BRING YOUR TREES</b>
<del>March 16</del>	7:30 PM: Brief Meeting followed by Workshop— <b>BRING YOUR TREES</b> <b>FOCUS: Fertilizers</b>
April 20	7:30 PM: Brief Meeting followed by <b>DEMONSTRATION: Bob Pressler</b> / Repotting Silverberry
May 18	7:30 PM: Brief Meeting followed by <b>DEMONSTRATION: Jim Barrett</b> / Tree Critique <b>BRING A TREE FOR JIM TO CRITIQUE</b>
June 15	7:30 PM: Brief Meeting followed by Workshop— <b>BRING YOUR TREES</b>
June 24	<b>SUMMER 2017 EXHIBITION &amp; RECEPTION</b> Arts Council of the Conejo Valley
July 20	7:30 PM: Brief Meeting followed by <b>DEMONSTRATION: Gary Nanson</b> / Powertools
August 17	7:30 PM: Brief Meeting followed by Workshop and <b>Swap Meet—BRING YOUR TREES</b>
September 21	7:30 PM: Brief Meeting followed by <b>DEMONSTRATION: Ann Lofquist</b> / Revisiting Tanuki Grafts
October 7 & 8	<b>13TH ANNUAL EXHIBITION</b> Gardens of the World
October 19	7:30PM: Brief Meeting followed by Workshop— <b>BRING YOUR TREES</b>
November 16	7:30PM: Brief Meeting followed by <b>DEMONSTRATION: Jason Chan</b> / Junipers Start to Finish
December 21 Tentative	<b>HOLIDAY POTLUCK, RAFFLE &amp; AUCTION</b> 7:30 PM

March Niche

# India Hawthorn

**Editor's note: David Whiteside provided this India Hawthorn for the niche display at our club's March 2017 meeting. Here is what David said about his tree.**

I "collected" this India Hawthorn (*Rhaphiolepis indica*) from my landscaping about 12 years ago. Since then, I have shaped it with directional pruning and wiring, but did not move it into a bonsai pot until the week before the March 2017 CVBS meeting. Also known as an Indian or Hong Kong Hawthorn, this is an evergreen shrub popular in landscaping throughout Southern California. The species is native to southern China, Japan, Laos, Cambodia, Thailand, and Vietnam. It is grown for its decorative pink flowers, but is generally ignored as bonsai material in our region. My teacher, Ted Matson, thinks the species is underutilized as bonsai material and encouraged me to try this. Ted suggested a blue or green pot and David Nguy of West America Imports helped select this one, which I purchased from him and his wife, June, at this year's Bonsai A-Thon. It remains to be seen whether the first branch (on the lower left side of the trunk) will develop adequately to provide balance to the composition.

—David Whiteside



Photo by David Whiteside



Photo by David Williams

**David's India Hawthorn in its blue glazed pot (right). It has a strong nebari (above right).**

Refreshments

## New Chair

As the new Refreshment Chair, I would like to thank Nancy Smeets and Larry Kimmelman for providing the refreshments for our March meeting. Fr. Tom Davis and Richard Winston have graciously volunteered to supply the treats for our next meeting on April 20th.

We still need volunteers for both treats and drinks for our June meeting and a volunteer for beverages at the meeting in July.

If you would like to provide treats or drinks for either of these dates, please sign the refreshment board at our April meeting or you can contact me at (562) 964-9284 (cell) or ualspike@aol.com.

Thanks everyone!

—Denise Snavelly

2017 Refreshments		
	Cold Drinks	Eats / Sweets
April	Fr. Tom Davis	Richard Winston
May	Ken Martin	Mike Mulhern
June	<b>Volunteer Needed</b>	<b>Volunteer Needed</b>
July	<b>Volunteer Needed</b>	Leslie Rinchen-Wongmo

CVBS Membership

## Interested in CVBS?

Our newest member is Mike Blumenberg, who lives in Ventura. Please join me in welcoming Mike to our society. 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 91361). 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

# Nagatoshi Shows How He Grafts Junipers

By Ken Martin

Roy Nagatoshi, owner of Fuji Bonsai Nursery in Sylmar, presented a grafting demonstration at the Conejo Valley Bonsai Society's January 2017 meeting. He is a graduate of Cal Poly Pomona with a degree in ornamental horticulture and now runs the nursery his father, Shigeru, started in 1965. A rare second-generation bonsai master, Roy is a past president of the California Bonsai Society and has given demonstrations nearly everywhere. He brought Gary Nason and Alex Martinez with him.

Roy's subject for the evening was approach-grafting shimpaku juniper whips (*Juniperus chinensis* 'Sargentii') onto host junipers whose foliage is less attractive than the shimpaku. He and Alex are now producing their own shimpaku whips for use as scion material by planting cuttings from the fall pruning they do on the nursery junipers. Roy brought several host trees and whips.

The first tree Roy discussed was a large pfitzer juniper (*Juniperus x pfitzeriana* 'Glauca') that originally belonged to one of his students. Roy obtained the tree three years ago in a swap after he had grafted shimpaku scions onto it in two places.

Pfizers are a fast-growing landscape shrub with very dense blue-green foliage. Previously, Roy had bent this tree's very large left branch almost 180 degrees. He really likes the dramatic shape of this tree. He still has a little more work to do defining the deadwood/live wood interface with a Dremel™ tool.

Roy said he doesn't like to use lime sulfur on juniper deadwood because he feels it looks too artificial. The three-year old shimpaku grafts are filling out nicely.

The second tree Roy discussed was a California juniper (*Juniperus californica*) that he grafted in 2005 with just one small scion. The shimpaku graft is growing nicely.

The third tree was an old San Jose juniper (*Juniperus chinensis* 'San Jose') that he approach grafted the day before

Photos by David Williams



Roy Nagatoshi (above) displays various species of juniper rootstock onto which he has grafted shimpaku whips (scions).

Using a very sharp grafting knife, Roy removes the bark from both rootstock and scion (below). The exposed cambium on one side of the whip must be aligned precisely with the cambium on the rootstock.



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this demonstration. It will be 1 ½ years before the root ball of the scion can be removed.

The next tree was also a San Jose juniper. Roy said you can identify this species by the sharp ends of the foliage and the trunk's rugged bark. He cut one large branch leaving a 3-inch stub for a jin.

Roy said that mid-December through January is the time to graft because the tree is dormant. If sap were flowing, the graft probably wouldn't take.

In preparation for grafting he made three small "clamps" with medium-sized bonsai wire and plastic tubing. He positioned

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**Preparing the rootstock for a graft (above left) and attaching the scion (above right).**

**Alex Martinez helps Roy align the pealed areas of the shimpaku scion with the San Jose rootstock (below).**



the scion against the tree to make sure no branches would interfere. The scion previously had been firmly secured in its pot so there could be no movement of the root ball.

When all was ready, Roy made cuts 1 to 1 ½ inches long by ¼ inch wide in both the scion and the rootstock tree with a grafting knife. He then quickly aligned the cambium on one side of the scion precisely against the cambium on the host tree. This is essential.

The clamps were then put in place and tree seal applied to protect the wounds. The scion pot was also secured to the tree to prevent movement.

As far as aftercare, both the tree and scion need to be in pretty much full sun, watered, and fertilized regularly. In about 10 months (October 2017), the clamp wires can be cut but



Roy is applying a sealant to the graft to prevent the cambium tissue drying out (above). This is crucial to the success of a graft—if those tissues dry out they will not bond.

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## A Bonus Graft: Larry Kimmelman's San Jose Juniper

An extra treat at the CVBS January 2017 meeting came after Roy Nagatoshi finished working on the trees he brought for his demonstration. There was some time left, so Roy then tackled Larry Kimmelman's San Jose juniper (*Juniperus chinensis* 'San Jose'), which originally was donated to our club.

Another bonsai master, David Nguy, worked on this tree last year. Larry purchased it at auction at our December 2016 holiday party.

Although Roy thought the tree was "troubled" and needed repair, he said it was potentially an excellent tree with lots of movement. He jokingly offered Larry \$15 for it. Larry countered with a higher number and a deal was never consummated.

Joking aside, Roy selected an appropriate place for a graft. Larry concurred and it was done.

Roy estimated that this tree is anywhere from 30 to 40 years old. He felt the soil was quite old and needed to be changed.

Unfortunately, the grafting took priority over repotting, and everything should remain in place until October of 2017. The scion's base can then be removed, and the tree should be repotted.

The tree still needs to be styled, as there will be a new apex when the graft is completed. The tree, along with a minor jin near the middle, retains a graceful and aesthetic curvature in the trunk. The older bark has variegated coloring, which reflects its age.

—Ken Martin & Larry Kimmelman



Photo by David Williams



Photo by Ken Martin

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not removed; this will allow the clamps to open gradually as the scion trunk enlarges naturally. Assuming the scion looks healthy, the scion pot can be removed in May 2018.

Roy generously donated this tree to the club. It will be auctioned at our December 2017 holiday party.

After finishing his primary demonstration, Roy then tackled a San Jose juniper that CVBS member Larry Kimmelman volunteered (see box, page 6).

One tidbit from Roy was worth the price of admission alone: when asked why he put  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch sheet Styrofoam on the soil of his bonsais, he said it was to keep the pots cooler so the tree roots would grow to the edge of the pot without getting fried. He said he has modified the procedure slightly by just protecting the south side of the pot.

This was a topnotch demonstration with lots of great information and a tree donated to the club by a bonsai master. 🌲

**The San Jose juniper that Roy grafted during his demonstration with the shimpaku scion attached (left). Roy donated this tree to the club.**

**During a break, CVBS members gathered around Roy to observe him putting the finishing touches grafting the shimpaku scion to the San Jose juniper rootstock (below).**



**2017**

**April**

**April 29 – 30, 2017, 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.sandiegobonsaiclub.com](http://www.sandiegobonsaiclub.com) or contact Janice Hale.

**May**

**May 20-21, 2017 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 with 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 Joe Olson (805) 964-0869, email [joeyuccaseed@verizon.net](mailto:joeyuccaseed@verizon.net), or visit [www.santabarbarabonsai.org](http://www.santabarbarabonsai.org).

**June**

**June 3 - 4, 2017 San Mateo, California**

Sei Boku Bonsai Kai: 34th Annual Show at the San Mateo Garden Center, 605 Parkside Way (next to Beresford Park). Show hours are 10 AM – 4 PM both days, with demonstration by Matt Reel from 1 – 3 PM on Saturday (tree will be raffled off at the conclusion of his demo). On Sunday Matt will lead an open view workshop from Noon – 3 PM (one of the workshop trees raffled at conclusion). 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](mailto:eclectic.gardener@yahoo.com).

**June 3 - 4, 2017 Van Nuys, California**

Sansui Kai of Southern California: Annual Bonsai Show and Sale, Japanese Garden, Tillman Water Reclamation Center, 6100 Woodley Ave. Hours are 10 AM – 4 PM with demonstrations on both days. There will be bonsai trees for sale as well as bonsai related things (pots, stones, etc.). For more information contact Jack Reynolds, (805) 368-0110.

**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.

—Marj Branson

2017 Niche Displays	
April	Nancy Smeets
May	Larry Kimmelman
June	<b>Volunteer Needed</b>
July	<b>Volunteer Needed</b>
August	<b>Volunteer Needed</b>

**Library**

# Check Out the CVBS Library

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