



*conejo valley*

# BONSAI society

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A member of the Golden State Bonsai Federation 

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## **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**

**Visit Our Website**  
[www.cvbs-bonsai.org](http://www.cvbs-bonsai.org)

**Follow Us on Facebook**  
[www.facebook.com/conejovalleybonsaisociety](http://www.facebook.com/conejovalleybonsaisociety)

## **President's Message**

# **Tanuki Grafts Revisited**

By Marj Branson

**T**ired of waiting for years to develop the look of age in a new bonsai? Don't miss the Conejo Valley Bonsai Society's September meeting: It will be a demonstration of ways to create ancient-appearing bonsai out of young stock virtually overnight.

The presenter will be our own Ann Lofquist. Members may recall that she addressed this subject at our June 2016 meeting when she showed us how to make so-called tanuki grafts out of a piece of deadwood and a juniper whip. This time she will follow up on that demo plus demonstrate how to add deadwood to an existing bonsai.

Last year, many members purchased the materials needed to make their own tanuki. If you are one of these—or have tanuki-making materials of your own—plan to bring your material and tools to this meeting. Ann will help you with the next steps in developing your tanuki.

If you have not cut in the channel for placing the whip and would like Ann to do it—give her your deadwood and whip at least a few days prior to the meeting and she will do it for you. Please contact Ann or me so you can organize the materials to be given to Ann. (If you don't recall how to make a tanuki graft and don't have a copy of the July 2016 issue, let me or David Whiteside know and we'll email you a copy.)

In addition to helping us make progress on our tanuki-graft projects, Ann will show us how to select and attach pieces of deadwood to living bonsai, creating the appearance of great age without carving parts of the parent tree.

### **Important reminder**

CVBS's 14th Annual Bonsai Exhibition will be on Saturday and Sunday, October 7 – 8. As in past years, our exhibition will be in the Resource Center at the Gardens of the World in Thousand Oaks. The free show will be open to the public 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM both days.

We will have a demonstration each day for the public at 1:00 PM in the bandstand. We are also offering the services of the "Bonsai Doctor" for visitors who bring their own trees for advice.

At our September meeting we will go over the details and the planning for the program. We will set up the show Friday afternoon and breakdown Sunday afternoon. For both days of the show we need trees, tables, and volunteers.

Members are asked to exhibit up to three trees. If you have tables we can use, please let us know. And if you can work a morning or afternoon on Saturday or Sunday, please sign up. Your assistance is needed to welcome visitors and answer any questions they have about bonsai, the trees on exhibition, and our club.

Please check your bonsai collections and calendars and let us know where you can help.

Meanwhile, also remember the Golden State Bonsai Federation Convention in Riverside October 25 – 29 (see page 6 for details).

See you Thursday the 21st. 



**Marj Branson**

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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>
<del>April 20</del>	7:30 PM: Brief Meeting followed by <b>DEMONSTRATION: Bob Pressler</b> / Repotting Silverberry
<del>May 18</del>	7:30 PM: Brief Meeting followed by <b>DEMONSTRATION: Jim Barrett</b> / Tree Critique <b>BRING A TREE FOR JIM TO CRITIQUE</b>
<del>June 15</del>	7:30 PM: Brief Meeting followed by Workshop— <b>BRING YOUR TREES</b>
<del>June 24</del>	9:00 AM - 6:00 PM <b>SUMMER 2017 EXHIBITION &amp; RECEPTION</b> Arts Council of the Conejo Valley
<del>July 20</del>	7:30 PM: Brief Meeting followed by <b>DEMONSTRATION: Gary Nanson</b> / Power Tools
<del>August 17</del>	7:30 PM: Brief Meeting followed by Workshop and <b>Swap Meet</b> — <b>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>14TH 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	7:30 PM <b>HOLIDAY POTLUCK, RAFFLE &amp; AUCTION</b>

Barrett's Bonsai Tips

# Early Fall Bonsai Procedures To Consider Doing This Month

By Jim Barrett

Fall is approaching and as the temperature and weather become more moderate, several bonsai procedures might be considered.

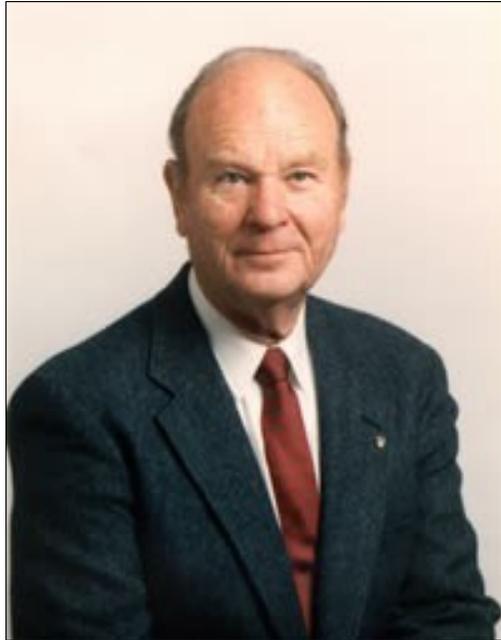
If you have not already done so, remove unwanted new growth and candles from Japanese black pines. Leave one, two, or three new candles on each branch and twig terminal. How many you leave depends on your design goals for each tree. Next month will be cleanup and detailing time.

Quince and crabapple bonsai can be moved to their winter show pots later this month and next. This practice is common in Japan and might be something to consider for some of your trees that are growing most of the year in ordinary bonsai containers.

Juniper bonsai, especially foemina junipers, can be pruned drastically and wired for detail now and next month. This procedure can be done now to get the tree ready to show next spring. Try not to prune California and shimpaku junipers drastically because this may produce juvenile growth, which can take a year or more to revert to adult corded growth.

Wisteria, ume, crabapple, and quince should have set their buds by now. Do not prune or shape until next month or November after leaves drop. Fertilize these trees with a low nitrogen fertilizer, high in phosphorous and potash, now and again next month.

Try to control heavy top growth in zelkova, elms, and maples. Allowing heavy growth in the upper story of your trees to go unchecked can cause loss of taper and unsightly knobs and scars. 🌲



Jim Barrett

Refreshments

## Time Is Running Out to Volunteer

Hello club members. Our September meeting has been covered for both drinks and treats.

Mike Mulhern will be bringing treats to the October meeting, but we still don't have a volunteer to bring cold drinks.

Our November meeting needs volunteers for both cold drinks and sweet treats. You can contact me at (562) 964-9284 to volunteer or save the phone call and sign up at the next meeting. See you at the September meeting.

Thanks for your support.

—Denise Snavelly

2017 Refreshments		
	Cold Drinks	Eats / Sweets
Sep.	Denise Snavelly	Ken Fuentes
Oct.	Volunteer Needed	Mike Muller
Nov.	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed
Dec.	HOLIDAY POTLUCK, RAFFLE & AUCTION	

CVBS Membership

## Interested in CVBS?

CVBS extends a warm welcome to our newest member, Ben Conway from Moorpark.

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

# Viewing Bonsai: Get Down and Look Through

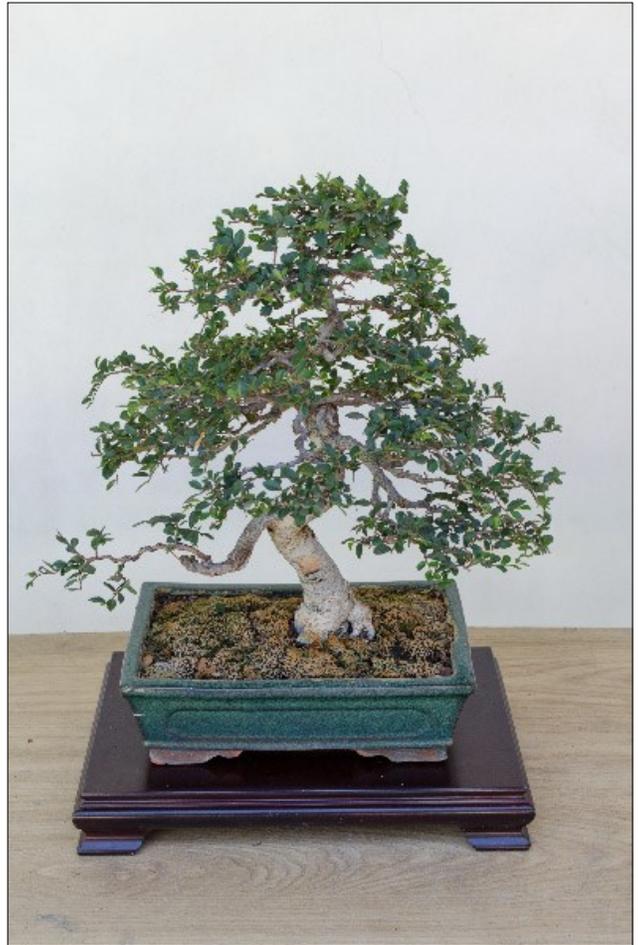
By Ken Martin

When I go to a bonsai show or a display such as at the Huntington Gardens, the trees are usually on low tables or stands. I frequently see people looking down on the trees and also taking pictures of them from the same perspective. The result, in my mind, is a less than adequate perception of the bonsai as a representation of a tree in nature.

When people look at a mature tree in nature, they look up into the tree as it is much taller than they are. Since we've always seen trees from this viewpoint, it is ingrained in our brains that this is how a tree should look.

When you look at a bonsai, your eye level should be about  $\frac{1}{3}$  of the way up the tree or lower. This will bring up that implanted vision of a tree in your brain. The bonsai will now look more "natural." It will be more recognizable as an image of an established, mature tree in nature. Try it!

Also when viewing bonsai look at the base of the tree (nebari). The surface roots should spread evenly and the base should be the widest part of the tree. The trunk should taper evenly up into the tree. Ideally, the trunk should show signs of age. This last feature may be dependent on the species. These are the things you have



Photos by Ken Martin

seen in old, well-established trees in nature and again these attributes are fixed in your brain from a lifetime of looking at trees. So when you see them in a bonsai you say, "I know that tree is old and well established in that setting because of the root spread, trunk taper, and gnarly characteristics." This is why the trunk should be visible from the front  $\frac{2}{3}$  of the way up into the tree as these features are generally the most important indicators of age to the viewer.

Here are two views of a Chinese elm 12.5 inches tall. The photo above is from 5 feet away and at about the eye position a person would have standing at a bonsai display. Note you can only see the trunk about  $\frac{1}{3}$  the way up the tree so the taper isn't obvious and you miss seeing a couple of bends. You can't see the spaces between the pads where the birds could fly through. The photo at left is at eye level about  $\frac{1}{3}$  of the way up the tree. You can see the trunk with its continuous taper and all its bends well up into the top of the tree. The spaces between the branches are clearly visible. The second view lets you see in your mind a tree at the top of the hill. Soon, you can rest and have a picnic in the shade of its branches.



# Siberian Elm from a Lancaster Seedling

Editor's Note: Ken Martin provided this Siberian elm for the niche display at CVBS's August 2017 meeting. See below for what Ken said about his bonsai.



Photos by Ken Martin

Siberian elm (*Ulmus pumila*) was used in the high desert (Palmdale, Lancaster) as a street tree for many years. It is one of the few trees that reliably survive in that climate. I pulled this tree as a seedling from next to a faucet in my yard in Lancaster about 21 years ago. It's appearance today (large photo, above) is dramatically changed from 2008 (small photo inset, above).

Three years ago I started getting serious about styling this tree. A year and a half ago, at club member Shig Hayashi's suggestion, I rotated the front 90 degrees and added another Siberian elm to the composition. This spring I noticed the root system of the added tree was weak so I pulled it out and buried it deeper in a gallon pot to better develop a stronger root system. Hopefully I will be able to put it back in the composition next spring. A bonsai is always a work in progress.

I am pleased with the development of many small twigs (ramification) in this tree. I attribute this to regular fertilization and the fact that for the past couple of summers, when a shoot grows to five leaves, I have been cutting it back to two. This can happen once a week or more. This ramification really can be seen in the winter when all the leaves have fallen.

—Ken Martin

## Bonsai Volunteers Needed at the Huntington Gardens

Ted Matson has been busy at the Huntington Gardens organizing the work on and upgrading the bonsai trees in both the Golden State Bonsai Federation's collection and the Huntington's own collection. This is an ongoing task—so anyone who would like to volunteer, there are opportunities and your help would be appreciated. There are no restrictions as to your level of bonsai

knowledge—all levels are welcome. Ted has many tasks that need to be done. In some instances, he has mini teaching sessions, so no one feels overextended.

If you are interested please let me know or contact Ted at [tmatson@earthlink.net](mailto:tmatson@earthlink.net).

—Marj Branson

**2017**

**September**

**September 23 — 24, 2017 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](http://www.sandiegobonsaiclub.com) or contact Janice Hale.

**October**

**October 7 — 8, 2017 Thousand Oaks, California**

Conejo Valley Bonsai Society: 14th 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 1 PM. Free Admission. No sales of bonsai related items. For information, call Marj Branson at (805) 373-1330 or visit our website at [www.cvbs-bonsai.org](http://www.cvbs-bonsai.org).

**October 25 — 29, 2017 Riverside, California**

Golden State Bonsai Federation (GSBF): 2017 Convention 40 “Bonsai New Horizon” at the Riverside Convention Center, 3637 Fifth Street near Main. Headliners: Kunio Kobayashi, David Nguy, Boon Manakitivipart. Guest Artists: Ted Matson, Tak Shimazu, and more. Demonstrations, seminars, critiques, workshops, benefit drawings, vendors, etc. Full registration is \$295. Workshop, seminar, excursion, and critique registration in addition, first-come, first-served. For more information, please visit [gsbfconvention.org](http://gsbfconvention.org).

**2018**

**February**

**Feb. 24 — 25, 2018 San Marino, California**

Bonsai-A-Thon XXII 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 7:30 AM – 9 AM. Event hours are 8 AM – 5 PM both days. Pancake breakfast, demonstrations, lunch, bonsai exhibits, large sales area, raffle, and auction. For more information visit [www.gsbfhuntington.com](http://www.gsbfhuntington.com).

**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 her/his 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	
Sept.	David Whiteside
Oct.	People’s Choice Winner
Nov.	Nancy Smeets
Dec.	<b>Holiday Potluck No Niche</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