



conejo valley

BONSAI society

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A member of the Golden State Bonsai Federation 

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President's Message

Exhibition: Huge Success

By Marj Branson

The Conejo Valley Bonsai Society's 14th Annual Exhibition the weekend of October 7 – 8 was the most successful we have ever put on. Most of both days, a virtually constant stream of visitors through the Resource Center of the Gardens of the World in Thousand Oaks kept our volunteers busy answering questions, explaining bonsai, and promoting our club.

On Saturday, visitors started arriving right at the 9:00 AM opening and continued all day. Sunday morning started off a little slower, but by 11:00 AM we were all busy answering questions until the end of the day.

Two specific measures of success should be mentioned. First, 14 people signed up for more information about the club. Several of these expressed a strong interest in joining. Some of these already are bonsai enthusiasts with their own collections.

Second, we had one demonstration in the afternoon of each day and both demonstrations were well attended. We thought Saturday's was successful with about eight visitors in the audience, but that was blown away by Sunday's crowd of 35 in a standing-room-only demonstration. Some visitors that went to the demo came back to the exhibition and had more questions.

Ken Fuentes did both demos on small junipers. Thank you, Ken! The two trees that Ken worked on will be auctioned off at our annual Holiday Potluck, Raffle & Auction that we will have in December.

The quality of the exhibition itself was excellent. I know many members were having difficulty with their trees due to the hot weather, but you could not tell by looking at the exhibition trees—as you can see by the photographs in this issue. It was a show that every participant can be proud of. Thank you all!

We conducted the ever-popular People's Choice competition as we have for some years. It's amazing how enthusiastic most visitors are about having the opportunity to vote for their favorite tree. The People's Choice award this year goes to Rick Naber for his forest of foemina junipers.

On Sunday afternoon David Williams photographed all of the member trees. Ken Martin, Larry Kimmelman, and David Whiteside provided the necessary support. Thank you all.

At our October 19 meeting, we will have a brief after-exhibition critique followed by a workshop. I would like to thank everyone for providing your trees for our exhibition and your help in working throughout the weekend. And a special thanks to Ann Lofquist and Ken Fuentes for providing an excellent display of suiseki (viewing stones)—it added interest and variety to our exhibition.

Meanwhile, some reminders:

First, don't forget the Golden State Bonsai Federation Convention coming up October 25 – 29 in Riverside. See the GSBF convention website at <http://www.gsbfconvention.org> for details and sign-up. Several of us already plan to go

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Marj Branson

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

Visit Our Website
www.cvbs-bonsai.org

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

Contact Us

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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.

January 19	7:30 PM: Brief Meeting followed by DEMONSTRATION: Roy Nagatoshi / Grafting
February 16	7:30 PM: Brief Meeting followed by Workshop— BRING YOUR TREES
March 16	7:30 PM: Brief Meeting followed by Workshop— BRING YOUR TREES FOCUS: Fertilizers
April 20	7:30 PM: Brief Meeting followed by DEMONSTRATION: Bob Pressler / Repotting Silverberry
May 18	7:30 PM: Brief Meeting followed by DEMONSTRATION: Jim Barrett / Tree Critique BRING A TREE FOR JIM TO CRITIQUE
June 15	7:30 PM: Brief Meeting followed by Workshop— BRING YOUR TREES
June 24	9:00 AM - 6:00 PM SUMMER 2017 EXHIBITION & RECEPTION Arts Council of the Conejo Valley
July 20	7:30 PM: Brief Meeting followed by DEMONSTRATION: Gary Nanson / Power Tools
August 17	7:30 PM: Brief Meeting followed by Workshop and Swap Meet — BRING YOUR TREES
September 21	7:30 PM: Brief Meeting followed by DEMONSTRATION: Ann Lofquist / Revisiting Tanuki Grafts
October 7 & 8	14TH ANNUAL EXHIBITION Gardens of the World
October 19	7:30 PM: Brief Meeting followed by Workshop— BRING YOUR TREES
November 16	7:30 PM: Brief Meeting followed by DEMONSTRATION: Jason Chan / Junipers Start to Finish
December 21 Tentative	7:30 PM HOLIDAY POTLUCK, RAFFLE & AUCTION

Black Pines and Junipers Should Be Cleaned Up Now

By Jim Barrett

October is a very good month to clean up Japanese black pines and junipers. If you have a black pine bonsai, finish pruning the unwanted new growth leaving one, two, or three new candles on the tips of each branch or twig that was pruned earlier this summer.

How many candles you leave is determined by your design goals for the tree [and] whether the new growth is on the outer limits of the tree or in the interior. Old needles (discolored) should be removed. New or fresh needles should remain until December or January. Leaving these new healthy needles on through the fall should keep the tree at its best. Cutting long needles shorter will allow sunlight to penetrate into the interior of the tree, and help to build stronger growth on the weak and stunted interior candles and twigs.

Junipers may be cleaned of all dead or discolored foliage. Prune the “hanger downers” and the “pointer uppers” unless you plan to wire them into a more horizontal position.

October is also a good time to remove old wire and rewire for detail.

You should be able to prune quince, apple, and ume for shape now and place them into their show pot, if this is a practice you follow. Fertilize azaleas and most flowering and fruiting bonsai with a low nitrogen, high phosphorous fertilizer. A 0-10-10 should work well.

Repotting and potting (from nursery container to bonsai pot) can be safely done at this time for black pine and most junipers. Repotting flowering and fruiting bonsai from bonsai pot to bonsai pot can be done, provided the root ball is not drastically disturbed and the tree is reasonably healthy.

Pay attention to watering schedules this month and next. Keeping plants too wet may promote root rot, especially if the tree is not actively growing. Watch for fungus, spider mites, and scale.

Remember to start choosing ... show trees for next spring [if you plan to exhibit in one of the area's shows such as the Descanso Bonsai Society's in June 2018]. Keep your eyes open for quality pots you may wish to use for these trees. 🌲



Jim Barrett

Refreshments

Looking Ahead

All the volunteers we need for 2017 are in place—thanks everyone for stepping up to finish out the year.

Mike Mulhern will be bringing treats to the October meeting while Nancy Smeets will bring cold drinks.

It's time to look ahead to 2018. We're looking for volunteers to kick off the new year. You can contact refreshments chair Denise Snavelly at (562) 964-9284 to volunteer or save the phone call and sign up at the next meeting.

2017 Refreshments		
	Cold Drinks	Eats / Sweets
Oct.	Nancy Smeets	Mike Mulhern
Nov.	Marj Branson	Denise Snavelly
Dec.	HOLIDAY POTLUCK, RAFFLE & AUCTION	
2018 Refreshments		
Jan.	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed
Feb.	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed

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

14th Annual Exhibition: The People Speak

By David Whiteside

One of the most popular features of the Conejo Valley Bonsai Society's annual exhibition is the People's Choice competition in which visitors are asked to identify their favorite bonsai from all those on display. For this year's October 7 – 8 show at Gardens of the World in Thousand Oaks, club members exhibited 33 trees from which the "judges" could select only one that they thought was the best. More than 100 visitors of all ages, knowledge of bonsai, and backgrounds voted for their best choice. Rick Naber's large foemina juniper forest (see right) won by a landslide.

Another very popular bonsai was Marj Branson's fruit-bearing pomegranate (see page 5), which garnered the second most votes. This author's liquidambar came in a distant third (see page 6).

Ken Fuentes' two juniper demonstrations also were popular. On Saturday afternoon, an estimated eight visitors watched—which in most years would be counted as a big success for one of our demonstrations. But that turnout was dwarfed on Sunday afternoon when a standing-room-only crowd of 35 witnessed Ken's second demonstration of the weekend.

Between the quality of the bonsai members provided for the exhibition and the size of the crowds of visitors, longtime members rated this show as perhaps the most successful in 14 years of holding the annual event. 🌲

Foemina juniper forest (right) by Rick Naber won the People's Choice award.



Photos of exhibition bonsai by David Williams

David Whiteside, Ann Lofquist, Marj Branson, and Larry Kimmelman (left to right in photo at left) share one of the few quiet moments during the exhibition on Sunday.

Ann Lofquist (left in photo bottom left) answers questions from a visitor.

The standing-room-only crowd at Ken Fuentes' Sunday afternoon demonstration (below).

Photos left and below by Ken Martin





**Shimpaku juniper (above),
Nancy Smeets.**

**Pomegranate (top right),
Marj Branson.**

**Elm Forest on a rock (right),
Rick Naber.**





**Portulacaria Afra (top left),
Ken Fuentes.**

**San Jose Juniper (above),
Larry Kimmelman.**

**Liquidambar Orientalis
(left), David Whiteside.**



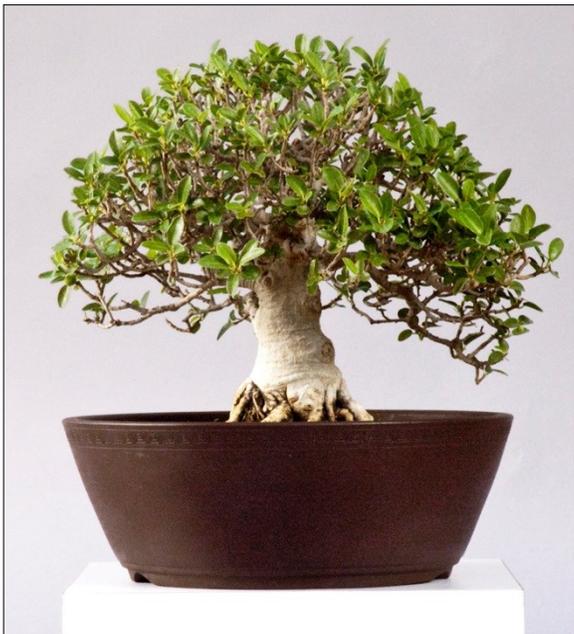
Willow Leaf Ficus (above), David Williams.



Bougainvillea (right), Richard Winston.

Boxwood Forest (below), Rick Naber.





Ficus Burt-davyi (above), Ken Fuentes.



Brazilian Rain Tree (right), Nancy Smeets.

Elm Forest (below), Larry Kimmelman.





Ficus Genseng (above), Larry Kimmelman.

Rosemary (right), Ann Lofquist.

Juniper Procumbens Nana (below), Marj Branson.





Juniper (top left), Nancy Smeets.

**Shimpaku Juniper (above),
Ann Lofquist.**

Boxwood (left), David Whiteside





Juniper (above), David Williams.

Bush Cherry (top right), Ann Lofquist.

Ficus Banyan (right), Larry Kimmelman.





Boxwood (above), Ken Martin.

Shimpaku Juniper (right), Ann Lofquist.

Elm (below), Marj Branson.

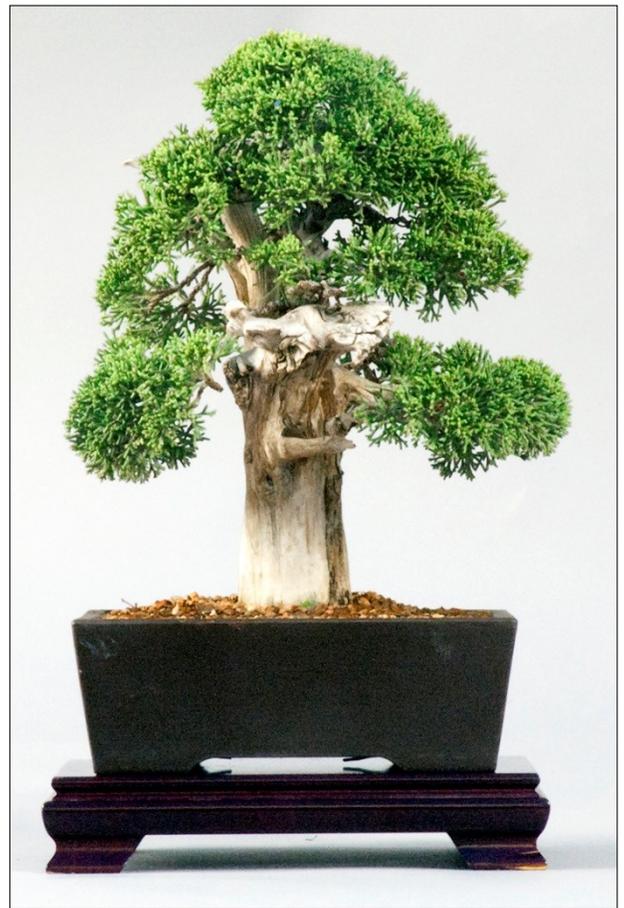




Willow Leaf Ficus (above), Larry Kimmelman.

Shimpaku Juniper (right), Ann Lofquist.

Black Pine (below), David Whiteside.





Juniper Procumbens Nana (above), Ann Lofquist.

Chinese Elm (right), Ken Martin.

Ficus Salicaria (below), Ken Fuentes.





Olive (right), Marj Branson.

Shimpaku Juniper (below), Ann Lofquist.



2017

October

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.

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.

President’s Message (continued from page 1)

and we would welcome additional participation. It’s an experience you’ll not forget.

Second, we are approaching the year end so don’t forget our annual Holiday Potluck, Raffle & Auction in December. This is our annual get-together and the raffle and auction are our only fundraiser, so please come and bring your checkbook.

Third, the election of CVBS officers for 2018 is coming up. The new officers will then appoint committee chairs. Please contact Larry Kimmelman, who is in charge of nominations, if you have any questions or would like to volunteer. The election will be held during our November meeting.

Our September meeting was a demonstration/workshop revisiting tanuki, led by Ann Lofquist of our club. Members who purchased components at our earlier tanuki demonstration had the opportunity to make our bonsai with Ann’s guidance. The story and photos will be featured in the November newsletter. Thank you Ann!

See you Thursday, October 19th.

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 2018 calendar and let us know when you would like to present your display.

—Marj Branson

2017 Niche Displays	
Oct.	People’s Choice Winner
Nov.	Nancy Smeets
Dec.	Holiday Potluck No Niche
2018 Niche Displays	
Jan.	Volunteer Needed
Feb.	Volunteer Needed

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