



conejo valley

BONSAI society

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A member of the Golden State Bonsai Federation 

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President's Message

Despite Disasters, CVBS Set for a Good New Year

By Marj Branson

What a way to end one year and start another: California's worst recorded wildfire ravaged many acres of Ventura, Santa Barbara, and Los Angeles counties in December 2017 followed by deadly floods and mudslides in January 2018! Sadly, many lives and homes were lost in the dual disaster. I have received no reports of members being affected by either event, and I hope that all members of the Conejo Valley Bonsai Society—and the area's bonsai community—have come through these disasters safely.

As a club, our new-year transition was much happier. First, 2017 came to a successful close as our annual Holiday Potluck, Raffle & Auction was a blast. As usual, members provided the event with delicious food, good conversation, and bonsai camaraderie. Also, Guy Ervin was at the piano providing seasonal music. And due to enthusiastic raffle ticket purchases and auction bidding, we raised \$825 to fund our programs in the new bonsai year.

Second, that means CVBS is off to a good start in 2018. We will begin with a



President Marj Branson

demonstration by one of the region's most popular bonsai masters, Ann Erb, who will show us how to repot a tree with the proper soils and pots at our

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Conejo Valley Bonsai

Society Meetings

Westlake Village City Hall
Community Room
31200 Oakcrest Drive
Westlake Village, CA 91361
7:30 PM—9:00 PM

Visit Our Website

www.cvbs-bonsai.org

Follow Us on Facebook

[www.facebook.com/
conejovallebonsaisociety](https://www.facebook.com/conejovallebonsaisociety)

This Issue: Editor's Note

This is a not-so-special "special issue" of the Conejo Valley Bonsai Society's monthly newsletter. Readers will note that it is shorter than most issues (4 pages vs. the more typical 8), that some features are missing (no Coming Events department or Niche photographs, for example).

This is a temporary change caused by the untimely permanent crash of my editorial computer. To produce this issue, I've pressed into service an old computer that does not have the standard templates, style sheets, or fonts that occupy the machine I normally use. Happily, my usual computer is under warranty and is out for "free" repairs. Unhappily, this will take many weeks of impatient waiting on my part. I hope to return to normal production with the February 2018 issue. Thanks for your understanding.

—David Whiteside

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CVBS Programs 2018

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

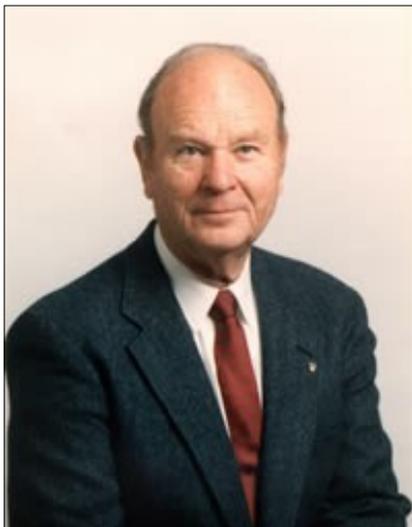
January 18	7:30 PM: Brief Meeting followed by DEMONSTRATION: Ann Erb / Repotting
February 15	7:30 PM: Brief Meeting followed by Workshop— BRING YOUR TREES
March 15	7:30 PM: Brief Meeting followed by DEMONSTRATION: Ted Matson / TBA
April 19	7:30 PM: Brief Meeting followed by DEMONSTRATION: Bob Pressler / TBA
May 17	7:30 PM: Brief Meeting followed by Workshop— BRING YOUR TREES
June 21	7:30 PM: Brief Meeting followed by Workshop— BRING YOUR TREES
July 19	7:30 PM: Brief Meeting followed by DEMONSTRATION: TBA / TBA
August 16	7:30 PM: Brief Meeting followed by Workshop and Swap Meet—BRING YOUR TREES
September 20	7:30 PM: Brief Meeting followed by Workshop— BRING YOUR TREES
October TBA	15TH ANNUAL EXHIBITION Gardens of the World
October 18	7:30PM : Brief Meeting followed by Workshop— BRING YOUR TREES
November 15	7:30 PM: Brief Meeting followed by Workshop— BRING YOUR TREES
December 20	7:30 PM HOLIDAY POTLUCK, RAFFLE & AUCTION

Time to Clean & Groom

By Jim Barrett

Most hardy evergreen bonsai such as Japanese black pines and junipers may be repotted at this time. Wait until next month to pot for the first time (nursery can to bonsai pot).

Now is the time to clean and groom most bonsai. Black pine needles that are discolored because of age or disease may be removed. Leave more needles on weak and low branch terminals, fewer on middle branches, and fewer yet on upper growth. How many you leave depends on the age and health of the tree. All terminal buds should be fat, healthy, and beginning to grow this month.



Jim Barrett

Slow-release fertilizers such as one of the Osmocote® formulas, bone meal, blood meal, cottonseed meal, or any of the rapeseed pellets may be applied now. It takes a while for the organic fertilizers to break down and become available to the plant. Wait another month or so before you use liquid chemical fertilizers.

Blooming bonsai such as ume, apple, plum, and wisteria can be moved to show pots at this time, providing they are already in bonsai pots.

Prune all deciduous trees, removing heavy, overgrown branches and twigs—especially in the upper areas of the tree. Upper story branches tend to grow unnoticed during the year and now is a good time to trim or remove them. If you are into making cuttings, these older branches that are removed may take root. I use a rooting medium of 80% perlite (sponge rock) and 20% peat moss. Drench the rooting medium with a good fungicide such as benomyl.

Deciduous tree branches are fairly flexible now and can be wired. If you are using copper wire, make sure it has been annealed. Think about paper wrapping heavier wires before applying them to Japanese maples

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Refreshments

A New Beginning

Happy New year everyone! I hope you all had a wonderful holiday.

Once again we need volunteers to provide refreshments for our monthly meetings. You can “bake it or buy it.” Sign up early and beat the rush, pick your favorite month.

You can sign up at our next meeting or email me at refreshments@cvbs-bonsai.org.

Looking forward to seeing you at the meeting on the 18th.

—Denise Snavely

2018 Refreshments		
	Cold Drinks	Eats / Sweets
Jan.	Mike Blumenberg	Denise Snavely
Feb.	Sheila Galinsky	Marj Branson
Mar.	Ken Martin	Volunteer Needed
Apr.	Mel Carrillo	Steve Riley
May	Volunteer Needed	Dick Winston
June	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed

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 a good display. We aspire to present the best display possible, so the niche often is 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 relatively newcomer feels his/her trees are not ready for a finished display, it is worthwhile to create a display that is a work-in-progress.

We encourage all members to sign up for the niche display! Please have a look at our 2018 calendar (at right) and let me know when you would like to present your display.

—Marj Branson

2018 Niche Displays	
Jan.	Mike Blumenberg
Feb.	Volunteer Needed
Mar.	Steve Riley
Apr.	Mel Carrillo
May	Ken Martin
June	Volunteer Needed

January 18 meeting. Meanwhile, Program Chair Nancy Smeets is working on a stellar lineup for the rest of the year. She already has scheduled two more of our area's best known bonsai pros for the spring: Ted Matson and Bob Pressler (see page 2). And Nancy promises there's more to come.

Plan To Help at Bonsai-A-Thon

Third, the annual Bonsai-A-Thon is coming up at the Huntington Gardens in San Marino on Saturday and Sunday, February 24 and 25. This is Southern California's premier bonsai event with a high-quality exhibition, many fascinating demonstrations, a large vendors' area, and for early birds, tours of the Huntington's Chinese and Japanese gardens. All proceeds from the Bonsai-A-Thon go to maintaining the Golden State Bonsai Federation's bonsai collection at the Huntington. Your club is a member of the GSBF.

I'm looking for volunteers to help out at this year's Bonsai-A-Thon. We could use folks in the sales area, food area, and registration as well as helping out at the Saturday morning workshop from 9 AM to noon. If you're planning to attend the Bonsai-a-Thon, think about donating a few hours of your time to help out. It's a great way to get to know other bonsai enthusiasts, and to help a worthy cause. We

will be circulating a sign-up sheet at our January meeting.

CVBS Workshops, Mentors, and Activities

This year we will continue our tradition of alternating demonstrations with workshop nights when members bring in their trees to work on with either club Advisor Ken Fuentes or their mentors. If you are new to the club and would like more information regarding the mentoring program, please see Membership Chair Larry Kimmelman.

New for 2018, we are planning a series of five-minute talks at the beginning of workshop evenings. We plan to cover a variety of bonsai-related topics such as how to select nursery stock for bonsai trees, wiring, documenting your bonsai, how to set up a show display, and selecting pots for your trees. We are working out the details of this new program so please let us know if you have any ideas of topics you'd like to see covered.

Also, we are looking for suggestions for nursery trips or other activities. We want the program and activities to meet members' interests and needs, so your suggestions would be appreciated.

Finally, before we know it, spring will be upon us, so now is the time to start planning to visit the many bonsai shows sponsored by local clubs. I urge you to try to attend as many as possible.

See you Thursday, January 18, 2018. 🌳

Membership

Dues Are Due

Happy New Year—it's time to pay your annual Conejo Valley Bonsai Society dues. It's still a bargain at only \$25 for one person, \$30 for couples. That gets you a rich program of bonsai demonstrations, workshops, and activities as well as this award-winning newsletter.

Simply bring a check made payable to the Conejo Valley Bonsai Society to our next meeting or mail it to me, CVBS Membership Chair, 2727 Autumn Ridge Drive, Thousand Oaks, CA 91362.

—Larry Kimmelman

Barrett's Bonsai Tips (Continued from page 3)

and other tender-bark trees.

When you are finished cleaning and pruning your trees, spray them with a good dormant oil spray such as Ortho's volck oil. You may want to combine it with Ortho's lime sulfur dormant spray. One is for bugs; the other is basically a fungicide. Follow directions on the labels and cover your soil and pot with plastic or a towel. Lime sulfur will stain the pot if not washed off.

Don't forget to choose your trees for this year's show [if you plan to enter the Descanso Bonsai Society's annual exhibition in June].

Detail wiring is a tedious and boring chore, but is a must if you want your trees ready to exhibit in June. You'll be glad you did it.

We are coming into prime potting and repotting time. From now until April, try to get all of your trees that need it repotted. If you need pots, ask around—supply seems to be good for both new and used pots.

[And plan to visit the vendors' area at the Bonsai-A-Thon later in February (see article, above). There will be plenty of pots on sale there.—Editor]

If you haven't done so, get your soil mix prepared and stored. I use a trash can with a tight lid. 🌳

Library

Collection Includes Naka's *Bonsai Techniques*

The Conejo Valley Bonsai Society has an extensive library of books, magazines, and DVDs available for members to borrow at no charge. The collection is available for your review at each monthly meeting. Material may be borrowed for a month at a time, so take home a book or DVD from our next meeting and return it at the following meeting. If you have any questions regarding the CVBS Library, please contact me at librarian@cvbs-bonsai.org.

Book of the Month

Bonsai Techniques I by American bonsai pioneer John Yoshio Naka. According to a recent review on Amazon, "John Naka is well known throughout the bonsai community across the globe. His books and writings reveal knowledge from basic to advanced for enthusiast to expert. It is without a doubt the best book on the market today and shall be for all time."

—Mike Blumenberg