



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
3rd Thursday of the Month
7:30 PM – 9:00 PM

Visit Our Website
www.cvbs-bonsai.org

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conejovalleybonsaisociety](http://www.facebook.com/conejovalleybonsaisociety)

President's Message

Tours and Exhibitions Galore

By Marj Branson

Maybe you thought your Conejo Valley Bonsai Society's fall calendar was full—but now we are launching an experimental new series of programs. Under the guidance of CVBS Vice President Ann Lofquist, we are planning bonsai garden tour "open houses" starting in September and running through November.

Details of this program are still being worked out, but already a number of you have responded positively to the idea of opening up your home bonsai garden to other CVBS members. For one thing, this will allow members to satisfy their curiosity about how fellow members keep and display their trees. In addition, it is hoped that the visits will encourage an exchange of ideas about how to keep and maintain bonsai collections in our urban, Southern California environment.

If you wish to participate as either a visitor or to show your own collection (or both), please contact Ann Lofquist at (805) 484-3140 or vice.president@cvbs-bonsai.org. This is not intended to be a backyard showpiece contest, but rather a learning exercise for us all! So no matter how large or small, novice or advanced your collection and display are, all are encouraged to participate.

The tentative schedule of home bonsai garden tours is:

- Saturday September 22, 1 - 4 PM
Westlake Village/Oak Park
- Saturday October 20, 1 - 4 PM
Newbury Park/Thousand Oaks/Moorpark
- Saturday November 17, 1 - 4 PM
Camarillo/Ventura
- Other/Far Flung Locations
To Be Announced

Meanwhile, CVBS is continuing to prepare for our 15th Annual Bonsai Exhibition and Demonstrations at Gardens of the World in Thousand Oaks on Saturday and Sunday, October 6 and 7.

The first thing we are doing to prepare for the exhibition is dedicate our September 20th meeting to peer critiques for which all members are invited to bring in trees that you plan to display—or just trees that you want some creative input on regardless of whether you plan to display them. Priority will be given to show trees, but we will discuss as many trees as possible.

Again, I want to emphasize that the purpose of the meeting is twofold:

- Preparing your trees for our October show will be our main focus. It can be for last-minute trimming or for soil or pot preparation.
- If you would like to have help with a problem tree, please bring it for our fellow member suggestions.

All this activity is aimed at helping create the best annual exhibition possible. First and foremost, all members are asked to display at least one and up to three trees.

As many of you know from past years, our exhibition is held in the Resource



Marj Branson

Continued on page 3

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(Click on Email Address)

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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 Workshop— BRING YOUR TREES
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 / Group Planting
April 19	7:30 PM: Brief Meeting followed by DEMONSTRATION: Bob Pressler / Styling a Cedar
April 21	ACTIVITY / FIELD TRIP: Nursery Crawl Fuji Bonsai Nursery / Kimura Bonsai Nursery Members Only. See President's Message for details.
May 17	7:30 PM: Brief Meeting followed by Workshop and PEER CRITIQUES—BRING YOUR TREES
June 21	7:30 PM: Brief Meeting followed by DEMONSTRATION: Ann Erb / Pine Candling
July 19	7:30 PM: Brief Meeting followed by Workshop— BRING YOUR TREES
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 PEER CRITIQUES—BRING YOUR SHOW TREES
October 6 – 7	15TH ANNUAL CVBS EXHIBITION Gardens of the World
October 18	7:30PM : Brief Meeting followed by DEMONSTRATION: Cesareo Perez / TBD
November 15	7:30 PM: Brief Meeting followed by Workshop— BRING YOUR TREES
December 20	7:30 PM HOLIDAY POTLUCK, RAFFLE & AUCTION

As Fall Approaches, Lots To Do

By Jim Barrett

Full 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

Drinks, Please!

Welcome to September, the month that signifies the beginning of autumn. The ninth month also allows us to celebrate some of our favorite foods. September honors cheese and pepperoni pizzas, Wiener Schnitzel and beer. The All American Cheeseburger and guacamole each have a day. September 13th thrills Jimmy Carter: It's National Peanut Day. Coffee, pancakes and the ice cream cone have been honored with their own National Days. With all these wonderful taste delights, it seems only fitting that September also is Peripheral Artery Disease Awareness Month.

All this talk about food and drinks reminds me we still need someone to volunteer to bring cold beverages to our September, October, and November meetings. If you haven't volunteered yet, now is the time. Call me at (818) 865-1034 or email me at refreshments@cvbs-bonsai.org and let me know what month you want. Don't be the only one Who Didn't Volunteer.

—Denise Snavelly

President's Message (Continued from page 1)

Center at the Gardens of the World. As usual, we will set up Friday afternoon, which is October 5. The show is open to the public 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM both Saturday and Sunday, and we breakdown the display Sunday afternoon.

We also will be having demonstrations for the public. There will be one demonstration each day at 1:00 PM in the bandstand. We are also offering the services of the "Bonsai Doctor"—with CVBS Advisor Ken Fuentes fulfilling that role.

For the show, we will need tables and volunteers to set up on Friday afternoon. Moreover, if you can work a morning or afternoon on Saturday or Sunday, please sign up. Your assistance is needed to welcome show visitors and assist them in viewing our trees and answering any questions they may have about the show or our club.

At our September meeting we will be going through these details and organizing for the program, so we would appreciate your input. Everyone please plan to attend this important monthly meeting to assist in the planning and to let us know where you can help.

Now let me once again remind you of the Golden State Bonsai Federation's Convention, "Creativity Taking Flight" October 24 – 28, 2018, in Sacramento. This will be GSBF's 41st annual convention (see page 8 for more details).

See you all on Thursday the 20th. 🌲

2018 Refreshments

	Cold Drinks	Eats / Sweets
Sep.	Volunteer Needed	Dick Winston
Oct.	Volunteer Needed	Mike Blumenberg
Nov.	Volunteer Needed	Nancy Smeets
Dec.	HOLIDAY POTLUCK, RAFFLE & AUCTION	

CVBS Membership

Interested in CVBS?

CVBS is open to anyone interested in the horticultural art of bonsai. If you are not a member, consider joining now. We meet 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.

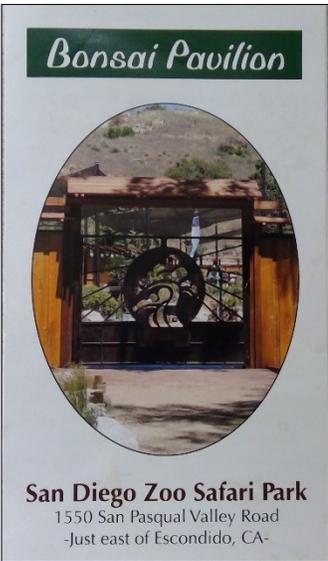
It's inexpensive and easy to join. Annual dues are \$25 for one, or \$30 for couples. Simply bring cash or a check (made payable to the Conejo Valley Bonsai Society) to our next monthly meeting. You may also mail a check to: Larry Kimmelman, CVBS Membership Chair, 2727 Autumn Ridge Drive, Thousand Oaks, CA 91362.

—Larry Kimmelman

Visiting San Diego Zoo's Bonsai Pavilion

By Mike Blumenberg

While my family and I were exploring the San Diego Zoo's Safari Park, I stumbled upon the Bonsai Pavilion tucked into a back corner of the park. This terrific pavilion was first opened in 1987 when John Naka cut the ribbon for the first permanent bonsai display in the Western United States. The San Diego Bonsai Club developed the pavilion and continues to display their bonsai and maintain the overall pavilion. Renovated in 2011, the pavilion features a waterfall, meandering stream, and three bridges, making a tranquil setting to enjoy many beautiful trees. Some of my favorites are pictured on these pages. 🌳



Photos by Mike Blumenberg



Elm Forest (*Ulmus parvifolia*)
—Melba Tucker (right)



Viewing Stone (*Murphys California*)—Harry Hirao (above)



Shimpaku Sargent Juniper (*Juniperus chinensis Sargentii*)
—Kaz Yoneda (right)

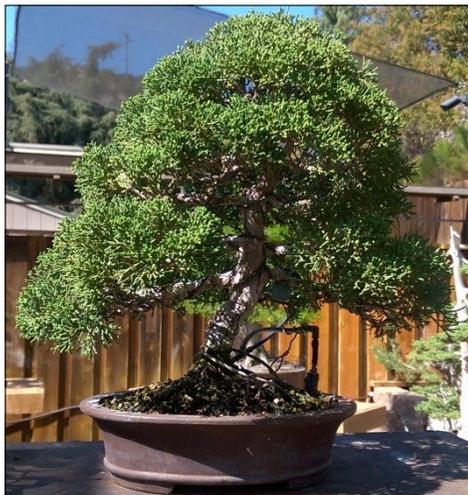


Crabapple (*Malus*)—Dave Woodall (above)

Bald Cypress
(*Taxodium Distictum*)
—Donated by B.J. Pat-
terson (right)



Foemina Juniper Grove (*Juniperus
chinensis 'Foemina'*)
—Ted Schwartz (left)



Cork Bark Elm
(*Ulmus parviflora*)
—Dave Woodall
(right)

Juniper
(probably *Juni-
perus chinensis
'Shimpaku'*)—
Part of shohin
display, owner/
artist unidentified
(left)



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

2018 Niche Displays	
Sept.	Volunteer Needed
Oct.	Larry Kimmelman
Nov.	Volunteer Needed
Dec.	No Niche: Holiday Potluck

Library

Check Out the CVBS Library

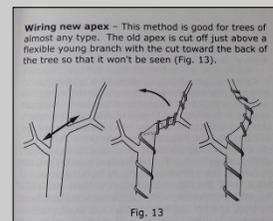
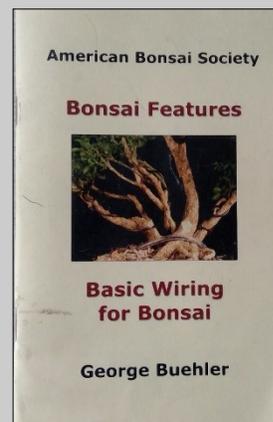
The Conejo Valley Bonsai Society has an extensive library of books, magazines, and DVDs available for members to borrow at no charge. The collection is available for your review at each monthly meeting. Material may be borrowed for a month at a time, so take home a book or DVD from our next meeting and 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 Features: Basic Wiring for Bonsai

Our next 'Book of the Month' is *Bonsai Features: Basic Wiring for Bonsai* by George Buehler, published by the American Bonsai Society (\$12.95). In addition to our books, magazines and DVDs, the CVBS library has several succinct booklets on basic bonsai skills. This booklet is only 38 pages, but it provides a good discussion of all the aspects of this essential skill in bonsai, including wire type and size, tools, timing (e.g., winter is the ideal time to wire a deciduous tree), techniques, and lots of tips from an experienced bonsai artist. It includes many useful diagrams (see sample, right). Check it out at our next CVBS meeting.

—Mike Blumenberg



Bonsai Volunteer Summer Hours at the Huntington

Ted Matson continues to organize volunteer work weekends at the Huntington Gardens (see table, right). Work is on bonsai trees in both the Golden State Bonsai Federation's collection and the Huntington's own collection. There are two weekends planned each month from July through September. All levels of bonsai knowledge are welcome and sometimes he has mini teaching sessions, so no one feels overextended.

"Again, parking is available at the Ikebana House lot. You're responsible for any lunch you need, water will be provided," Ted said. "Bring your own tools, but if you don't have any, we have tools to lend. We'll start at 8 AM, so we will be able to work in the cooler parts of the morning as we move into summer."

If you are interested, please let me know or contact Ted at tmatson@earthlink.net.

—Marj Branson

2018 Work Dates
June 23 – 24
July 14 – 15
July 28 – 29
August 11 – 12
August 25 – 26
September 15 – 16
September 29 – 30

Five-Tree Hackberry Forest Planting

Editor's Note: Richard Winston provided this hackberry forest planting for the niche exhibit at CVBS's August 2018 meeting. Here's what Richard says about his five-tree forest.

I purchased five one-gallon hackberry trees from Bob Pressler's Kimura Bonsai Nursery in 2015 with the intention of creating a small forest planting. They spent the next year in their nursery cans and in early 2017 they were repotted into smaller pots to reduce the root ball size. In March of this year, at one of Bob's bonsai classes, we constructed the forest. It is still a work in progress, needing to build apexes and ramification. I am pleased with the way it is progressing so far and feel that within a couple of years it should be ready to show.

—Richard Winston



Photo by Ken Martin

2018

September

September 22, 2018 San Andreas, California

Mother Lode Bonsai Club: 4th Annual Bonsai Exhibition at the San Andreas Public Library, 1299 Gold Hunter Road (off Mt. Ranch Rd.). Show hours are 10 AM - 4 PM with demonstration by bonsai artist Joan Scroggs at 1 PM and benefit prize drawing immediately following. Vendor and member bonsai-related items will be available for sale. Open to the public with free admission and parking. For more info, contact Richard McKinstry (209) 288-2330 or email richardwandr@aol.com. Visit club website at www.motherlodebonsai.org.

September 29 – 30, 2018 San Diego, California

San Diego Bonsai Club: Annual Fall Show at the Casa Del Prado, Room 101, Balboa Park. Show hours are 10 AM – 5 PM with demonstrations at 11 AM and 1 PM on both days. Show is free and is open to the public. We will be selling bonsai and bonsai-related items (bonsai, pre-bonsai, bonsai pots, and others). For more information, please visit sandiegobonsaiclub.com.

October

October 6, 2018 Cupertino, California

Midori Bonsai Club: 57th Annual Bonsai Show at the Quinlan Community Center, 10185 N. Stelling Road. Show hours are 10 AM – 5 PM with a bonsai demonstration by Jonas Dupuich at 1:30 PM. The demonstration tree will be raffled off at the end of the demonstration. There will be a Beginners Workshop for those new to bonsai. A tree will be provided along with basic instruction. The workshop will begin at 10 AM, with a nominal fee. We will also be available to take a look, and advise you on any bonsai you'd like to bring in. There will be several bonsai vendors to supply you with plant material, tools, pots, etc, and a club member's plant sale. Admission is free, with plenty of parking available. Come join us for a fun day of bonsai! For further information contact: Jack Christiansen (408) 280-7539, or Jackchristiansen@sbcglobal.net

October 6 – 7, 2018 Thousand Oaks, California

Conejo Valley Bonsai Society: 15th Annual Exhibition. At the Resource Center of the Gardens of the World, 2001 Thousand Oaks Boulevard Thousand Oaks, CA 91362—across from the Civic Arts Plaza. Hours are 9 AM—4 PM both days. Demonstrations both days in the grandstand 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.

October 24 – 28, 2018 Sacramento, California

Golden State Bonsai Federation: Convention 41 “Creativity taking Flight” held at the McClellan Conference Center. Registration begins July 1st online at <http://www.gsbfcconvention.org/> for Convention, Workshops, Seminars, Excursions, etc. GSBF recommended lodging is Lion’s Gate Hotel at McClellan Park. This year's headliners are Yasuo Mitsuya, Suthin Sukosolvisit, and Bjorn Bjorholm. Please join GSBF and Yasuo Mitsuya’s esteemed students in honoring Mitsuya-san for his influence on bonsai in the modern era. Hosting Yasuo Mitsuya’s visit are: Kathy Shaner, Hideko Metaxas, Boon Manakitivipart, Kenji Miyata, Cheryl Manning, David DeGroot, Gordon Deeg.

December

December 1, 2018 Clovis, California

Fresno Bonsai Society and GSBF Clark Bonsai Collection: 10th Annual Bonsai Yard Sale at the Clovis Botanical Garden, 945 North Clovis Avenue, from 8 AM until 2 PM. Free parking and bargains galore on bonsai, pre-bonsai, pots, books, stands, accent plants and all things bonsai. Everyone one is welcome to buy, sell or trade. Come early for the best selection. Contact Dave Soho for more information at 530 722-7132 or Mike Saul at tinytreeme@sbcglobal.net.

2019

February

February 16 – 17, 2019 Oakland, California

GSBF Bonsai Garden at Lake Merritt: The Annual Mammoth Auction and Sale Fundraiser will be held at the Lakeside Park Garden Center, 666 Bellevue Ave., Lake Merritt . Saturday: Auction preview at Noon with Auction starting at 1 p.m.. Sunday: Vendor Sales start at 9 a.m.; Plant Sales start at 10 a.m.; Demonstration start at 1 p.m. Everyone is encouraged to submit their bonsai and bonsai related items for consideration to be included in the Mammoth Auction at the earliest date possible. “Private collections to be featured.” The Bonsai Garden at Lake Merritt will be open that weekend 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, and Noon to 3 p.m. on Sunday. Please find time to visit the Bonsai Garden and observe the many installments under the Garden Revitalization Opportunity (GRO) Project. For more information or to sell bonsai, email bonsailakemerritt@gmail.com and visit <http://BonsaiLakeMerritt.com>.

Feb. 23 – 24, 2019 San Marino, California

Bonsai-A-Thon XXIII 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 The GSBF Collection at The Huntington.
