



*conejo valley*

**BONSAI** society

Volume 16 Number 9 September 2019

A member of the Golden State Bonsai Federation

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### President's Message

## 16th Annual Exhibition

By Marj Branson

Amazingly, our annual Bonsai Exhibition is just a few weeks away, so preparation time is running short. This is our 16th annual show, so let's make it special.

As you know, the dates are Saturday and Sunday, October 5th and 6th. As usual, our venue is the Gardens of the World in Thousand Oaks.

The exhibition will be in the Gardens' Resource Center. We'll be open to the public from 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM each day.

While the show is going on each day, as in past years, we will have a public demonstration at 1:00 PM in the bandstand. We are also offering the services of the Bonsai Doctor, featuring our club advisor, Ken Fuentes as the doc-in-residence.

Setup for the show will be Friday afternoon. Each member is encouraged to bring up to three trees for display. We will breakdown the display Sunday afternoon.

This exhibition takes a lot of work and requires everyone's cooperation. For the show we will need tables and volunteers. If you can work a morning or afternoon on Saturday or Sunday, please sign-up. Your assistance is needed to welcome our show visitors, assist them in viewing our trees, and answer any questions they may have regarding the show or our club.



**Marj Branson**

At our September meeting, we will go through these details of the program, so we would appreciate your input. Please let us know where and when you can help.

Here's what each member needs to be working on now:

- Selecting which tree(s) to display
- Cleaning each tree's pot and soil surface, fine-tuning trimming

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**The Conejo Valley Bonsai Society's 15th Annual Exhibition in the Resource Center at Gardens of the World in October 2018 (below).**



### 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](https://www.facebook.com/conejovalleybonsaisociety)

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(Click on Email Address)

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# CVBS Programs 2019

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

<del>January 17</del>	7:30 PM: Brief Meeting with <b>Club Elections</b> followed by <b>DEMONSTRATION: Roy Nagatoshi</b> / Tree Critiques <b>BRING YOUR TREES</b>
<del>February 21</del>	7:30 PM: Brief Meeting followed by Workshop— <b>BRING YOUR TREES</b>
<del>March 21</del>	7:30 PM: Brief Meeting followed by <b>DEMONSTRATION: Frank Yee</b> / Cork Jade & Forest Planting
<del>April 18</del>	7:30 PM: Brief Meeting followed by <b>DEMONSTRATION: Jim Barrett</b> / Group Planting <b>JIM BARRETT DEMO CANCELED DUE TO ILLNESS</b>
<del>May 16</del>	7:30 PM: Brief Meeting followed by <b>DEMONSTRATION: Mel Ikeda</b> / Rock Planting
<del>June 20</del>	7:30 PM: Brief Meeting followed by Workshop— <b>BRING YOUR TREES</b>
<del>July 18</del>	7:30 PM: Brief Meeting followed by <b>DEMONSTRATION: Jason Chan</b> / Wiring Techniques
<del>August 15</del>	7:30 PM: Brief Meeting followed by Fertilizer Talk, Workshop and <b>Swap Meet</b> — <b>BRING YOUR TREES AND OTHER ITEMS</b>
September 19	7:30 PM: Brief Meeting followed by Bonsai Styles Talk by Ken Fuentes and <b>PEER CRITIQUES—BRING YOUR SHOW TREES</b>
October 5 – 6	<b>16TH ANNUAL CVBS EXHIBITION</b> Gardens of the World
October 17	7:30PM : Brief Meeting followed by <b>DEMONSTRATION: Kathy Benson</b> / TBA
November 21	7:30 PM: Brief Meeting with <b>Club Elections</b> followed by Workshop— <b>BRING YOUR TREES</b>
December 19	7:30 PM <b>HOLIDAY POTLUCK, RAFFLE &amp; AUCTION</b>

# Here Are Some of the Many Things To Do About Fall

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



**Jim Barrett**

**Quince and crabapple bonsai can be moved to their winter pots later this month and next.**

**Juniper bonsai, especially foemina junipers, can be pruned drastically and wired for detail now and next month.**

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. 🌲

## Refreshments

### Foodies Month?

It's not officially designated "National Foodies Month," but September has so many food and beverage celebrations Congress might want to consider consolidating them into this one category. The whole month is Better Breakfast, National Chicken, National Honey, and National Papaya Month. September 1 – 8 is National Waffle Week.

There are 22 special food and beverage days during the month, starting off with World Coconut Day on the 2nd. Weiner Schnitzel, Linguine, Guacamole, Lobster, Dumplings, and Pancakes all have their special days. On the sweets side, there are days for Ice Cream Cones, White Chocolate, and Cherries Jubilee.

This month, Ben Conway will bring cold drinks and Mike Blumenberg will tempt us with a sweet treat. Refreshments volunteers have signed up for the remaining months—and December is our Holiday Potluck. Thank you one and all.

Any problems with your schedules, please let me know by calling (818) 865-1034, or emailing me at refreshments@cvbs-bonsai.org.

—for Denise Snavely

#### 2019 Refreshments

	Cold Drinks	Eats / Sweets
Sep.	Ben Conway	Mike Blumenberg
Oct.	David Williams	Mel Carrillo
Nov.	Nancy Smeets	Ken Fuentes
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: CVBS Membership, c/o Marj Branson, 1169 Triunfo Canyon Road, Westlake Village, CA 91361.

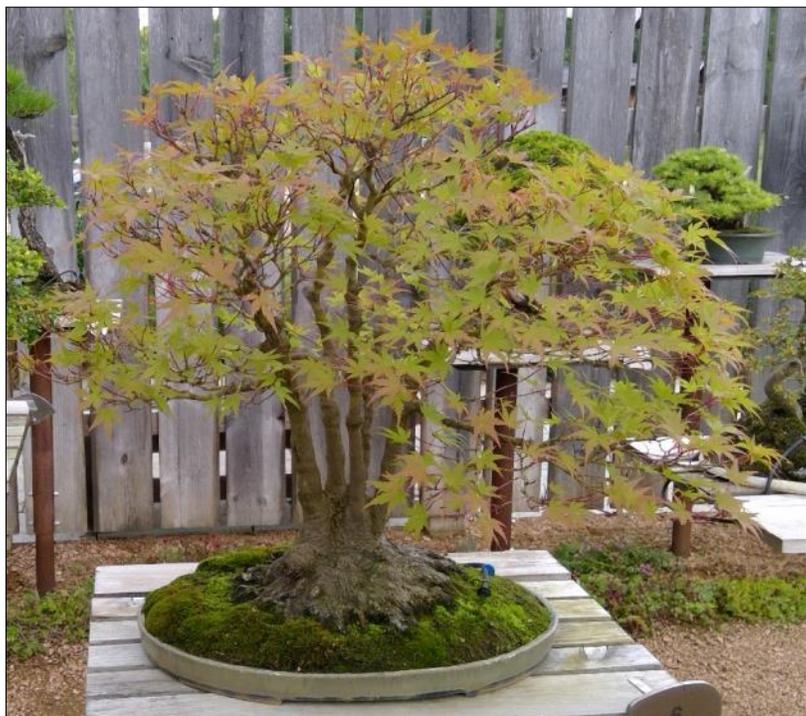
—Nancy Smeets

# Bonsai at the Lynden Sculpture Gardens

By Mike Blumenberg

Earlier this year, I was in Milwaukee visiting family for a weekend when my brother mentioned that the Lynden Sculpture Gardens has a permanent bonsai exhibit. I had to check it out. I learned that the Bradley family – an old and important family in Milwaukee – turned a farm into an outdoor garden with large outdoor sculptures. That happened way back in 1929, and it was a private family garden for decades. In 2009, the family decided to open the gardens to the public. Around this same time one of the leaders of the Milwaukee Bonsai Society (MBS) wanted to start a permanent bonsai exhibit in his hometown. A successful fundraising effort generated enough funds to start the project and the Bradley family became a welcoming host. The bonsai collection is a collaboration of the Lynden Sculpture Gardens with the Milwaukee Bonsai Society and the Milwaukee Bonsai Foundation. The result is a small but diverse collection of impressive bonsai trees. Here are pictures of a few memorable trees.

- A beautiful multi-trunk Japanese maple.
- A Corkbark Elm that was a rescue project. In the 1980s it had died back to single branch with a single bud. That bud was cared for and cultivated over the next 40 years to reshape the tree into what it is now: beautiful!
- A Ginkgo forest bonsai.
- A Ponderosa Pine is believed to be over 400 years old. It was harvested in Colorado in the 1980s and has been trained as a bonsai since.
- A beautiful Pasture Juniper harvested (of course) from a Wisconsin cow pasture. 🌲



Japanese Maple



Corkbark Elm

Photos by Mike Blumenberg



**Ginkgo Forest**



**Ponderosa Pine**



**Pasture Juniper**

## 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 2019 calendar and let us know when you would like to present your display.

—Marj Branson

2019 Niche Displays	
Sept.	Ben Conway
Oct.	David Whiteside
Nov.	Ken Fuentes
Dec.	<b>HOLIDAY POTLUCK, RAFFLE &amp; AUCTION— NO NICHE</b>

## 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](mailto:librarian@cvbs-bonsai.org).

—Mike Blumenberg

## Book of the Month

*Introduction to Indoor Bonsai*, Jerry Meislik, American Bonsai Society.

This issue's Book of the Month is the American Bonsai Society pamphlet, "Introduction to Indoor Bonsai" by Jerry Meislik. This is one in a series of "Bonsai Features" pamphlets published by the ABS.

I chose this book because many people unfamiliar with bonsai assume that bonsai are grown indoors (like many potted plants), but we soon learn that almost all bonsai are grown outdoors. I have heard about a few varieties that can be grown indoors. This is why I was intrigued by this pamphlet. I thought it would identify a couple of species that I could grow inside my home and avoid the extremes of some Southern California micro climates.

The pamphlet wasn't what I expected. Instead of showing me some new varieties of trees, it explained how to open a large-scale bonsai greenhouse, complete with lighting, ventilation, and watering techniques. This pamphlet was written for a serious bonsai enthusiast living in a colder climate. In fact, Meislik became interested in tropical species for bonsai while living in Florida in the 1970s. He was particularly taken with figs (*figus*), and has since become an internationally known expert on the species, authoring two books and 70-some articles on the subject. But Meislik later moved to Michigan and then again to Montana, where he continues to specialize in figs and other tropicals. Because frost is possible virtually every day where he now lives, his trees live year around in what he calls his bonsai room (it's not really a greenhouse with glass walls) with artificial light.

You can check the ABS pamphlet out for yourself at our next club meeting. Maybe the club should send it to our honorary life member Ann Loftquist, who is in the process of moving to Massachusetts.

—Mike Blumenberg

American Bonsai Society

Bonsai Features



Introduction to  
Indoor Bonsai

Jerry Meislik

# Cork Bark Bonsai in a Formal Display

Editor's Note: Mike Blumenberg provided the August 2019 niche display. Acquired from a well known bonsai nursery in Nipomo, CA, Mike combined it with a companion plant and a Japanese wall scroll to create a formal, three-point display. Here's what Mike said about his display.

I displayed a cork oak bonsai. I originally bought this tree from Muranaka Bonsai Nursery in Nipomo, CA. George Muranaka runs a low-key nursery, but he has a big selection of trees and is super friendly and helpful. It is worth the drive to Nipomo.

I bought the tree in June 2018 and kept it in a nursery pot until this past winter. I potted it in February 2019, selecting a somewhat oversize bonsai pot because oaks typically send down a tap root and can't tolerate too much root trimming. After potting, I did some branch wiring and discovered through trial and error that oak branches are very stiff and hard to move after they've transitioned from green shoots to grey bark. I broke one valuable branch in the process, so now I wire more gently and rely more on the "clip and grow" approach to shape this tree.

Along with the tree, I displayed a small accent plant that was originally handed down from Marj Branson—sorry, but I don't know what it is.

Finally, I included a Japanese wall scroll that I purchased while touring Japan last summer.

—Mike Blumenberg



Photo by David Whiteside

**2019**

**September**

**September 21, 2019 San Andreas, California**

Mother Lode Bonsai Club: Fifth Annual Bonsai Exhibition at the San Andreas Public Library, 1299 Gold Hunter Road (off Mt. Ranch Rd.), San Andreas. Show hours are 10 AM to 4 PM. Demonstrations at 11 AM and 1:30 PM with prize drawings immediately following. Vendor and member bonsai-related items will be available for sale. Open to the public with free admission and free parking. For more info, contact Richard McKinstry (209) 288-2330 or email richard-wandr@aol.com. Visit club website at [www.motherlodebonsai.org](http://www.motherlodebonsai.org).

**October**

**October 5 – 6, 2019 Thousand Oaks, California**



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Conejo Valley Bonsai Society: 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Bonsai Exhibition at the Resource Center at the Gardens of the World, 2001 Thousand Oak Blvd. Show hours are 9 AM – 4 PM with demonstrations in the Bandstand at 1 PM both days. Free Admission. No sales of bonsai or 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 12 – 13, 2019 Oakland, California**

East Bay Bonsai Society: Annual Show at the Lakeside Park Garden Center at Lake Merritt, located at 666 Bellevue Avenue. Show hours are Saturday 10 AM – 5 PM and Sunday 10 AM – 4 PM with a demonstration at 1 PM on Sunday by Sergio Cuan, notable bonsai artist awarded the “finest deciduous bonsai” at the US National Bonsai Exhibition. There will also be a benefit drawing and sale of bonsai and related materials. For additional information, visit [www.eastbaybonsai.org](http://www.eastbaybonsai.org).

**October 24 – 27, 2019 Riverside, California**

Golden State Bonsai Federation: 42nd Annual Convention: Bonsai Forever. Riverside Convention Center. Hotel: Marriot Riverside at the Convention Center, 3400 Market Street, Riverside, CA 92501. Headliners include Taiga Urushibata of Japan, Enrique Castano of Mexico, and Ryan Bell from the USA. Other bonsai experts leading seminars, workshops, critiques, and demonstrations include Kathy Shaner, David Nguy, Peter Macasieb, Lucy Judd, Ted Matson, and Tak Shimazu. Steve Valentine and David Nguy are co-chairs. Visit the GSBF website at [www.gsbfbonsai.org](http://www.gsbfbonsai.org) for the full schedule of seminars, demonstrations, tours, workshops, and events.



**President's Message** (Continued from page 1)

- Planning your volunteer contributions
  - ◇ Checking your calendar for which day(s) you can be at the show—the more members who are there, the better
  - ◇ Picking a morning or afternoon shift for each day you plan to attend
- Contacting me if you have tables we can use for the exhibit

Finally, in preparation for the exhibition, the club's September meeting will be a members' critique of our show trees. If you want help with final preparations to make your trees show ready, please bring them in to discuss. Or if you have a problem tree and would like suggestions or opinions from your fellow members, our mentors, or our advisor, please bring it in.

**Mini Lectures**

At our August meeting, Ken Martin started the evening off with a 5-minute discussion of fertilizers. This proved to be a good discussion topic with many members asking questions and sharing what they have found works best for them in their location. We will do the same at the beginning for our September meeting with club advisor Ken Fuentes discussing “bonsai styles.”

And here's another reminder: The Golden State Bonsai Federation Convention is also coming up fast. Built around the theme of “Bonsai Forever,” it's slated for Thursday, October 24 through Sunday, October 27 in the Riverside, CA, Convention Center. (See Coming Events, this page, for some details.)

See you all at our September meeting, Thursday the 19th. 🌳