



conejo valley

BONSAI society

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A member of the Golden State Bonsai Federation 

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President's Message

CVBS Show a Great Success

By Marj Branson

The 16th Annual Conejo Valley Bonsai Society Exhibition the weekend of October 5 – 6 was a great success. Held in the Resource Center of the Gardens of the World in Thousand Oaks, the 37-tree exhibit drew many compliments from our visitors. The perfect weather helped bring out the crowds: based on the 149 People's Choice Award votes and the fact that not everyone voted, it would be safe to say we had an average of 80 visitors both Saturday and Sunday.

This year there was no art exhibition at the Resource Center during our show, so the walls were bare. All the trees popped against the white walls.

Many of our visitors said they had a difficult time selecting just one specimen for the People's Choice Award, so all members showing trees should be very proud of their bonsai and the work and effort put into making the show a success.

The People's Choice winners are:

- 1st Choice: Rick Naber for his upright boxwood (see photo, below)
- 2nd Choice: Nancy Smeets for her blooming bougainvillea
- 3rd Choice: Rick Naber for his cascading shimpaku juniper on a rock

A special thanks to CVBS Advisor



Marj Branson

Ken Fuentes for doing both the Saturday and Sunday demonstrations. The two junipers he worked on will be auctioned at our Holiday Potluck, Raffle & Auction, which is coming up Thursday, December 19th. This is our annual get-together and main fundraiser, so please put it on your calendar now and plan to come prepared to participate in the fun.

On Sunday afternoon, CVBS mem-

Continued on page 8

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/conejovalleybonsaisociety

This year's People's Choice Award, chosen at the Conejo Valley Bonsai Society's 16th Annual Exhibition in the Resource Center at the Gardens of the World in Thousand Oaks on October 5 – 6, 2019, goes to Rick Naber's large upright boxwood (right).



Photo by David Williams

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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.

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

This Month Is Black Pine And Juniper Work Time

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



Jim Barrett

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 2020]. Keep your eyes open for quality pots you may wish to use for these trees.

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.

Refreshments

Boo and All That

October is my favorite month of the year. Not only is it the unofficial beginning of the holiday season, it's also my birthday month.

October contains several holidays, some well-known, some not so much. We celebrate Columbus Day or, alternatively, Indigenous People's Day. Then there's Fire Prevention week. We'll have to work on that one a little harder. Reptiles have their special day as does candy corn. And of course there's Oktoberfest.

Tacos are celebrated along with chocolate, boyfriends, moldy cheese, and farm animals. (Really?) The 31st of October gives us a great Holiday: "Halloween." Goblins and ghouls, witches and jack-o'-lanterns, bats and black cats all make trick or treating more fun!

The 17th is also a lot of fun: our next CVBS meeting. David Williams will provide cold drinks and Mel Carrillo is in charge of sweets. If there is an issue, call or text me at (562) 964-9284 or email me at refreshments@cvbs-bonsai.org. See you on the 17th.

—Denise Snively

2019 Refreshments

| | Cold Drinks | Eats / Sweets |
|-------------------|--|-------------------------|
| Oct. | David Williams | Mel Carrillo |
| Nov. | Nancy Smeets | Ken Fuentes |
| Dec. | HOLIDAY POTLUCK, RAFFLE & AUCTION | |
| 2020 Refreshments | | |
| Jan. | Volunteer Needed | Volunteer Needed |

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

Matthaei's Bonsai and Penjing Garden

By David Whiteside

While visiting family in Ann Arbor, MI late in September, I went to the Bonsai and Penjing Garden at the University of Michigan's Matthaei Botanical Gardens. Described as "a handcrafted space built to display our large collection of bonsai and penjing," on the day I was there the garden exhibited more than two dozen of Matthaei's 80-some bonsai and penjing collection. The collection continues to grow, in part through the efforts of one major anonymous donor.

To Matthaei's credit, most of the trees were labeled with information about species (often with both common and scientific names) and donor. Some labels included additional details such as age or years in training. One bonsai—a Rocky Mountain Juniper—was estimated to be 800 to 1,000 years old (see photo, page 5). Missing, however, was whether each specimen was classified as bonsai or penjing.

The collection includes an interesting variety of species, both conifer and deciduous, although there wasn't much fall color in evidence. Most of the trees are fairly large, but about a half-dozen might qualify as shohin.

I was interested to see some species that are common in Southern California collections such as trident maples, black pines, and Korean hornbeam. But there were many that I've seldom, if ever seen in our area: Eastern white cedar, Scots pine, Japanese yew, etc. I was especially impressed by several lovely Japanese white pines.

An attendant told me that the trees on display are rotated out of the whole collection, so most of the trees were either in a restricted outside area or, in the case of tropical species, in a greenhouse for the winter. Although the greenhouse also was closed to the public, one of my favorites was a large ficus on display in a semi-enclosed, controlled climate "house" containing plants from Mediterranean and warmer areas of temperate biomes (see photo, page 6). There was no label on this tree, so I don't know the specific variety of ficus nor its age, but its base and trunk were massive.

If you're ever in southeastern Michigan, it's worth the trip to Ann Arbor to visit this collection of bonsai and penjing. I hope you enjoy the photographs, which I took with my trusty smart phone's camera on an overcast afternoon.

Photos by David Whiteside



A Japanese white pine greets visitors in the entrance to the University of Michigan's Matthaei Botanical Gardens' Bonsai and Penjing Garden in Ann Arbor, MI. The tree was started in 1967, has been in training as a bonsai since 1972, and was donated by Howard Wright.



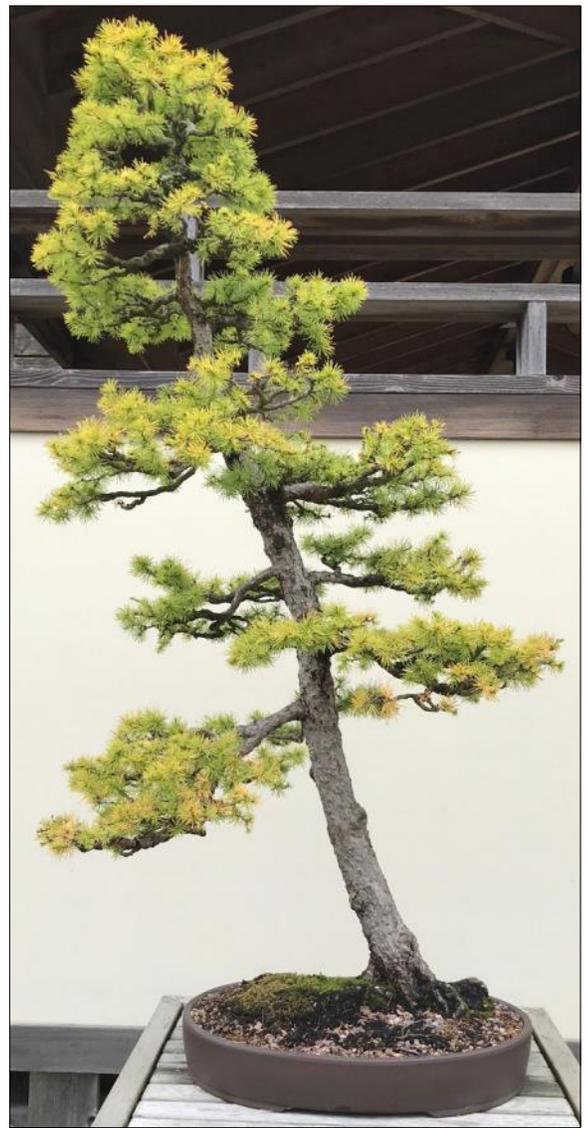
Shohin size Cotoneaster (above). Started 1979, trained since 1984, donated by Howard Wright.



Amur maple (above). In training since before 1997, donated by Maurice Seever. Note the hollow trunk.



European larch (above), in what appears to be a raft style. Trained since 1999. Doner: Gordon Hoialmen.



Larch or Tamarack (above). Started 1981, trained since 1987. Howard Wright, donor.



Rocky Mountain juniper (left), estimated to be 800 – 1,000 years old (small wonder it needs the bamboo support). Donor: Dr. Melvyn Goldstein.



Large Satsuki azalea (left) in root over rock style. No donor tag.

Dwarf Japanese yew (below), shohin size. Trained since 1971. Donor: Howard Wright.





Eastern white cedar (above). Started and trained since 1983. Donor: Jack Wikle.



Large Japanese black pine (above). Donor: Dr. Melvyn Goldstein.

Trident maple (below) with a touch of fall color. Started and trained since 1985. Donor: Jack Wikle.



Large ficus (below) in the Mediterranean biome 'house' separate from the Bonsai and Penjing Garden. No donor tag.



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 2020 calendar and let us know when you would like to present your display.

—Marj Branson

| 2019 Niche Displays | |
|---------------------|--|
| Oct. | David Whiteside |
| Nov. | Ken Fuentes |
| Dec. | HOLIDAY POTLUCK, RAFFLE & AUCTION— NO NICHE |
| 2020 Niche Displays | |
| Jan. | Volunteer Needed |

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.

—Mike Blumenberg

Book of the Month

Bonsai Techniques I, John Yoshio Naka, Bonsai Institute of California.

John Naka's *Bonsai Techniques I*, originally published in 1973, still is widely considered by many to be the best bonsai guidebook available in the U.S. That's why it was the first book that I reviewed two years ago after becoming the Conejo Valley Bonsai Society Librarian; it's also the reason why I'm returning to this book now.

My first review was a broad overview of the book that praised its breadth, but that didn't reflect the practicality of Naka's techniques. I've been reading the book in detail lately so let's take a closer look at a specific chapter.

Several recent book reviews discussed wiring techniques, so I decided to review Naka's guidance on removing wires. His opening statement addresses the most common question: When do I remove wire? The initial answer is "it depends"! He goes on to explain that wires are typically removed 6 to 12 months after wiring, but it really depends on the tree's growth rate. It is important to check wire frequently and remove wire before it begins to cut into the bark.

Naka then offers straight forward guidance on how to remove the wire by cutting when possible or unwinding if necessary. If the branch springs back after removing the wire, Naka suggests rewiring the branch and making a small cut in the branch so the resultant scar tissue helps hold the branch in the desired position. This chapter is only a single page and is easy to read and easy to understand. It's a good example of the guidance offered throughout *Bonsai Techniques I*. Check it out at a future club meeting.

—Mike Blumenberg

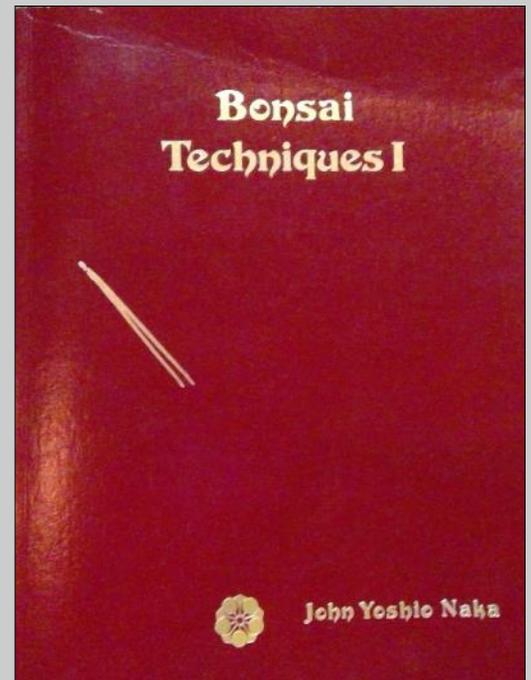


Photo by Mike Blumenberg

Coming Events (Click on the Addresses to visit Websites or send Emails)

October

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.

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 for the full schedule of seminars, demonstrations, tours, workshops, and events.



November

November 9, 2019 Las Vegas, Nevada

Las Vegas Bonsai Society: Viva Las Bonsai: A Bonsai Exhibit and Show at the Nevada Garden Center, Northwest corner of Lorenzi Park, 800 Twin Lakes Drive from 10 AM to 4 PM. Bonsai Demonstration by Jan Culek, professional bonsai artist from the Czech Republic. Discussion on Zen and the Arts by Zen Master Ji Haeng. Bonsai Exhibit of Society member trees. Local vendor sales of bonsai related items and club tree sale. Parking and admission is free but donations are welcome. Raffle and silent auctions immediately following the demonstration. For further information contact irasisson@hotmail.com.

November 23, 2019 Clovis, California

Fresno Bonsai Society will conduct their eleventh consecutive bonsai yard sale from 8 AM until 2 PM at the Clovis Botanical Garden. The garden is located at 945 North Clovis Avenue in Clovis. The sale will be held under and around the big tent area. The event is free and the parking is free. Vendors of bonsai, pots and all related items are welcome free of charge. Everyone is welcome to buy, sell, or trade. There will be bonsai from both private collections and from the GSBF Clark Bonsai Collection. There will be used pots, hand-thrown pots from local potters. Look for books and magazines and display stands. The coffee is free and sandwiches will be available for \$10. Come early for the best deals. Vendors are very welcome. Please contact Mike Saul (tinytreeme@sbcglobal.net) for assistance. This is an entertaining event every year and a wonderful opportunity for new bonsai hobbyists to acquire better quality material for very reasonable prices.

2020

January 18 – 19, 2020 Arcadia, California

Baikoen Bonsai Kenkyukai, “Winter Silhouettes,” 56th Annual Exhibition, at the Los Angeles Arboretum, Ayres Hall of Environmental Education, located at 301 North Baldwin Ave., Arcadia, CA 91007. Show hours on both days are 10 AM to 4:30 PM. Deciduous bonsai in all their leafless glory are featured from club members and invited guests. The Nagata-Komai award winner will be announced, and there will be a demonstrator at 1 PM on both days. There will be a sales area with club and vendor plants, pots, tools, and more. For more information, please visit baikoenbonsai.com or email Ken Teh at kenwth6@gmail.com.

President’s Message (Continued from page 1)

ber David Williams photographed each tree that was in the show. The show pictures will be in our November newsletter. Thank you to the crew that helped with his photography: Nancy Smeets, Mike Blumenberg, Ken Martin, Rick Naber, and David Whiteside.

Back to the Future

Our club’s annual election of officers is coming up at the November 2019 meeting. We will be calling for nominations committee volunteers at our October meeting with the election held at the November meeting.

In this election, CVBS members will select the four officers: president, vice president, treasurer, and secretary for the remainder of 2019 and through November of 2020. Officers automatically are installed at the conclusion of the business meeting during which they are elected.

As a reminder, the newly elected president, in consultation with the other officers, will appoint our committee chairs. If you have any questions or would like to volunteer to serve either as an officer or chairing a committee, please see me.

The Golden State Bonsai Federation’s 42nd Annual Convention is coming up October 24 – 27. CVBS is a member club, and I urge everyone to try to take in at least one day of this event. If you haven’t signed up for a workshop, there are some openings left—or for the price of a day pass you can observe workshops and demonstrations by some of the leading bonsai experts in the U.S. There’s also always a great vendors’ area where you can shop for everything you need for your bonsai—including new trees. See listing above for more information and go to the GSBF website for details and sign-up options.

Thank you again for all your help in making our annual exhibition weekend a success.

See you Thursday, October 17th. 🌲