



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

President's Message

CVBS Plans Workshop Meetings

By Marj Branson

Following our very successful April meeting, a workshop, we are planning more meetings like it for the remainder of 2022 (see Program Schedule, page 2). Members are invited to bring trees to work on. Club advisor Ken Fuentes will be available for anyone wanting help. We are holding a few slots open for possible demonstrations depending on the Covid situation.

In a new practice, we will begin each monthly meeting with a 5- to 10-minute talk on various bonsai topics. We will start the program at our May meeting with Ken Martin discussing fertilizers, so bring your questions on fertilizers to the meeting. Ken will be asking for contributions from the floor, so please come prepared to talk about any nutrition secrets or hints you have picked up while working with your trees.

Members have emailed me suggested topics, which include:

- Air layering
- Pot selection
- Watering as a function of soil type, composition
- When to repot
- Preparing trees for show (what to do about moss)
- Bonsai styles—classical styles such as formal upright, bunjin, etc.
- Bonsai, Penjing, and Saikei—the history, the differences
- History of Bonsai in the USA, California, other parts of the world
- Wiring trunks and branches

- Selecting a tree to purchase:
- ◊ Select for developing bonsai skills, types of trees that are easy to work on and maintain



Marj Branson

- ◊ Selecting for showing in 2 years or 4 – 8 years

So, what interests you? Please let me know which topics you favor. We have six months from June through November, so we will select six topics.

Upcoming Bonsai Exhibitions

We are happy to report that following the Covid-induced hiatus in club shows for the past two years, many clubs are having exhibitions this spring. See page 8 for a list. Most of the shows include an exhibition and demonstrations. A few of them include sales by members and/or vendors, so check out the details for the shows if you are interested.

Please remember that our own Conejo Valley Bonsai Society exhibition will be October 7 and 8. Note that unlike prior years, this will be a Friday – Saturday event. So put it on your calendar and start grooming your show trees now. (This does depend on the Covid situation in the community at that time, of course.)

See you Thursday May 19th. 🌳

CVBS Membership

2022 Dues Are Overdue

It's time to renew your Conejo Valley Bonsai Society membership. It's still a bargain at \$25 for one person, \$30 for two or more. As in-person meetings resume following the coronavirus pandemic, you'll get a rich program of bonsai demonstrations, workshops, and activities as well as this award-winning newsletter and a custom-made name badge.

Simply bring a check made payable to the Conejo Valley Bonsai Society to the next meeting or mail it to: CVBS Membership, c/o Marj Branson, 1169 Triunfo Canyon Road, Westlake Village, CA 91361.

—Nancy Smeets

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(Click on Email Address)

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CVBS Programs 2022

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

January 20	CANCELED DUE TO COVID 7:30 PM: Brief Meeting followed by Workshop— BRING YOUR TREES
February 17	CANCELED DUE TO COVID 7:30 PM: Brief Meeting followed by DEMONSTRATION: TBA
March 17	CONFIRMED! 7:30 PM: Brief Meeting followed by Workshop— BRING YOUR TREES
April 21	7:30 PM: Brief Meeting followed by PEER REVIEW/WORKSHOP: BRING YOUR TREES
May 19	7:30 PM: Brief Meeting & Presentation: Fertilizers followed by PEER REVIEW/WORKSHOP: BRING YOUR TREES
June 16	7:30 PM: Brief Meeting & Presentation followed by PEER REVIEW/WORKSHOP: BRING YOUR TREES
July 21	7:30 PM: Brief Meeting followed by DEMONSTRATION: TBA
August 18	7:30 PM: Brief Meeting & Presentation followed by Workshop and Swap Meet — BRING YOUR TREES AND OTHER ITEMS
September 15	7:30 PM: Brief Meeting & Presentation followed by PEER CRITIQUES—BRING YOUR EXHIBITION TREES
October 7 – 8 NOTE: FRIDAY –SATURDAY	19TH ANNUAL CVBS EXHIBITION Gardens of the World
October 20	7:30PM: Brief Meeting & Presentation followed by Workshop— BRING YOUR TREES
November 17	7:30 PM: Brief Meeting with Club Elections followed by DEMONSTRATION: TBA
December 15	7:30 PM HOLIDAY POTLUCK, RAFFLE & AUCTION

Some May Flowers Should Be Gone by Now

By Jim Barrett

Satsuki azaleas should be nearly through blooming this month. If your azalea has an established shape, now is a good time to clean out extra and unwanted growth. Trim for form and style.

Make sure all seed pods are removed as soon as possible. Leaving the seed pods to mature tends to weaken the tree and new growth is likely to be weak. Repotting of azaleas can be done now. It might be wise to wait to move your azaleas from nursery containers to bonsai pots until next spring.

Pomegranates and olives may be potted from nursery containers to bonsai pots during June and early July. Protect any newly potted plants from direct sun for a week or so. Black pines should have had their candles pruned by the end of this month and certainly by the middle of July.

Deciduous trees such as elms, Japanese and trident maples, liquidambar, etc. should have slowed down by now. Trim all new twigs to one or two sets of leaves. Pay attention to the way new buds point and trim for direction. Established bonsai should be developing the ramification needed to create the illusion of a mature tree. Remember that most deciduous trees in nature develop soft outlines and rounded apexes. Trim accordingly.

Fertilize trees that develop flower buds in early summer, such as crab apple, quince, ume (Japanese apricot), and



Jim Barrett

wisteria with a low nitrogen, rich phosphate fertilizer. Repeat throughout the summer at least two more times.

Powdery mildew is already showing up on maples, crapemyrtle, and quince. Spray with Benomyl or a good fungicide that is recommended for mildew.

Pine tip moth has been active again. The grub eats the center of new pine candles. If your black pine candles turn brown at the very tip, chances are that pine tip moth grubs are active. Pick off the brown end and inspect the inside. You should find the grub, a pupae, or the pupae case. Destroy the critter and dispose of the candle tip.

Since this grub lives inside the candle, only a systemic poison would be effective.

Cygon-2, Borer Control, or a systemic rose insecticide in granular form might work.

Pay special attention to water schedules. Gloomy May days can be deceiving when it comes to watering needs of our plants.

2022 Refreshments

May	Damon DuBois
June	Ken Fuentes
July	David Williams
August	Volunteer Needed

CVBS Niche Displays

Niche Display Program Change

In the Niche Display Program, club members set up a mini exhibition display. Such a display consists of: the tree in a nice bonsai pot; a display stand; and an accent plant.

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.

However, it is also our desire to give everyone an opportunity to learn by doing. So if any less experienced member feels their trees are not ready for a finished display, it is worthwhile creating a display that is a work-in-progress. It will be up to the club member to determine which category their 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 2022 calendar (see the list of current display volunteers at right) and let us know when you would like to present your display.

—Marj Branson

2022 Niche Displays

(Month of meeting)

May	Rick Boyer
June	Antonio Viscarra
July	Dick Winston
August	Volunteer Needed

CVBS Membership

Interested in CVBS?

The Conejo Valley Bonsai Society is open to anyone interested in the horticultural art of bonsai. If you are not a member, consider joining now. With Covid-19 restrictions lifting, we have resumed meeting at 7:30 PM on the third Thursday of every month in the Westlake Village City Hall Community Room (31200 Oakcrest Drive, Westlake Village, CA 91361). Membership includes demonstrations by bonsai experts, workshops, critiques, member swap meets, field trips, a custom-made name badge, and this award-winning newsletter.

Dues for 2022 are now payable (see page 1). It's inexpensive and easy to join. Annual dues are \$25 for one, or \$30 for couples. Simply write a check (made payable to the Conejo Valley Bonsai Society) and mail it to: CVBS Membership, c/o Marj Branson, 1169 Triunfo Canyon Road, Westlake Village, CA 91361, or bring it to our next meeting.

—Nancy Smeets

Neil Presents 13-Video Beginner Series

By Ken Martin

Online Video Review

13 great videos: Ryan Neil instructs a beginner.

Ryan Neil

Bonsai Mirai

Portland, Oregon

YouTube Bonsai Beginner Series

Ranging from 3+ to 33 minutes

Go to YouTube, search for Bonsai Beginner Series

Ryan put together a series of thirteen short “how to” videos in which he instructs a beginning bonsai student in selecting appropriate material, finding the front, cleaning conifers, etc. The series is definitely worth watching for beginners as well as a great review for the rest of us.

The videos range in length from three-plus minutes to 33 minutes. I did not look at all of them, but I watched enough to want to revisit them all. An up-front disclosure; there are Spanish translations at the bottom of the screen, which didn't bother me.

I personally think Ryan, near Portland, Oregon, and Bjorn Bjorholm in Tennessee are the two top bonsai instructors in the USA today. Two big pluses; they both have studied in Japan and both are fairly young. 🌳



A beginning student and Ryan Neil (at right in photo above) at a nursery selecting a tree.

Cleaning a deciduous tree (below). Primarily just removing deadwood. You don't need to get rid of masses of foliage to see the branch structure as you would on a conifer.



Screen captures by Ken Martin

Photos continued on page 5

Determining the front (right). The width at the base as well as root structure are two important deciding factors.



Structural wiring of trunk and main branches off the trunk (left). Ryan says you need about 20% extra wire to use as a lever when wiring near the tip. He suggests 55° – 60° between loops for structural wiring.

Selecting a pot (right). The size and color of the tree and pot, the shape of the tree, size of the root mass as well as other factors are considered. I like the pot that was selected for the deciduous tree.



A Gnarly, Five-Tree Olive Grove with a Path

Editor's Note: At the Conejo Valley Bonsai Society's April 21, 2022 meeting, Marj Branson presented this group planting of five olive trees with a path among them. Here are some details about this bonsai.

I planted my olive grove in February 2021. I got the olive trees from Jim Barrett and had been grooming them for a year and a half prior to then. I had originally planted three trees—however, it did not look right, so I changed it to five. I wanted the trees to look old and gnarly—not like lush green trees. That was the effect I was trying to achieve with the weathered old rocks. The path leads the viewer up a hill to a quiet secluded area.

—Marj Branson

Instead of an accent plant, Marj Branson used this small viewing stone as a companion piece.



Marj Branson's olive grove (below) originally had only three trees. To get the desired look, she later added two more. A path of light-colored gravel runs among the trees to an imagined quiet, secluded place.



Photo by David Williams

CVBS Bonsai Library Back to 'Normal'

Now that the Conejo Valley Bonsai Society has restarted in-person meetings, it's time to return any overdue items borrowed from the CVBS Book Mobile while our club meetings were suspended amid the Covid-19 outbreak. But remember that if you want a good bonsai book or DVD to review, you can see me during a meeting or give me a call and request a book, pamphlet, periodical, or DVD. For a complete list of our library holdings, please see "Library" under the "Resources" tab on the revamped CVBS website www.cvbs-bonsai.org.

—Mike Blumenberg

Book of the Month

"Creating Bonsai by Airlayering" by Andy Walsh, *Bonsai, Journal of The American Bonsai Society*, Volume 36, Number 2 from the Summer of 2002.

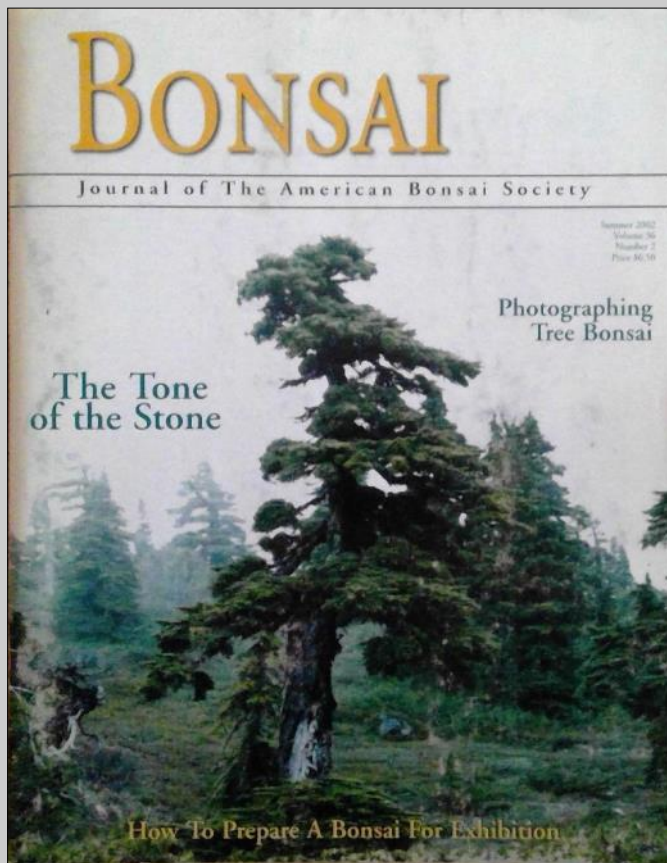
For this month's book review I decided to select a random periodical from the "archives." The CVBS library consists of two book boxes; the first box is full of books and the second is full of older periodicals. When I look through these older and mostly out-of-print periodicals, I'm always pleasantly surprised to find an interesting article or two. The art of bonsai evolves slowly, so a 20-year-old article is usually still accurate and relevant.

My random selection for this BOM pulled out *Bonsai, Journal of The American Bonsai Society*, Volume 36, Number 2 from the Summer of 2002. In this issue I saw a couple of interesting articles, including one on how to prepare a bonsai for show and another titled "Creating Bonsai by Airlayering" by Andy Walsh. Andy Walsh is the founder of the Bergen Bonsai Club in New Jersey, has a master's degree in microbiology, and his writings about bonsai biology can be found across many internet sites.

Finding this article was serendipitous because I was just talking to my son about using air layering to jump start his bonsai collection. I explained how to do the air layer (just as Ann Lofquist explained it to me several years ago) but could not adequately explain why air layering works. This article by Andy Walsh explains the how and the why.

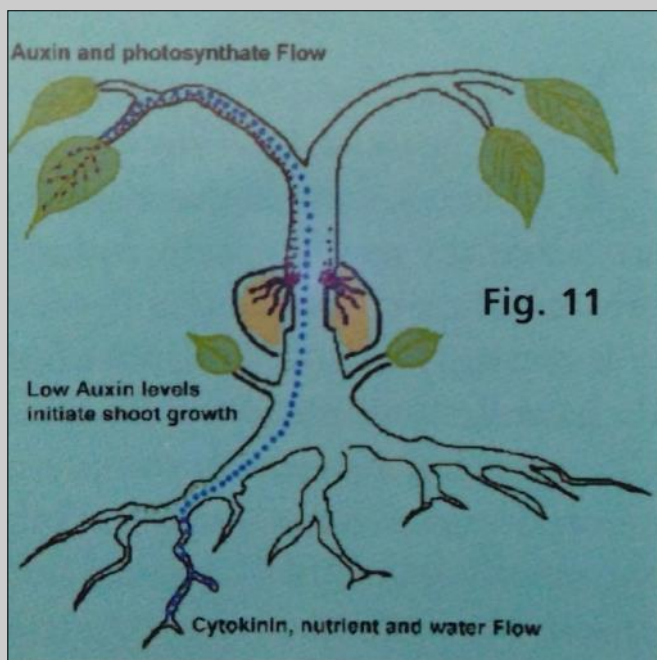
In short, air layering physically "prevents carbohydrates, photosynthates and auxin from flowing down the trunk" while still allowing "water, mineral nutrients and cytokinin to flow upward to the leaves." This keeps the leaves alive and establishes an environment that encourages root germination and growth. Figure 11 from the article is shown below and illustrates the overall process. Let me know if you would like to read the article yourself to better understand the detailed microbiology. I will gladly bring the "archives" to a future club meeting.

—Mike Blumenberg



The American Bonsai Society's Summer 2002 issue of its journal, *Bonsai* (above) is in the CVBS library "archive."

How air layering works (left) illustration from the ABS article.



Photos by Mike Blumenberg

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

IN-PERSON BONSAI EVENTS IN CALIFORNIA ARE RETURNING FOR THE REMAINDER OF 2022 (see below). MANY GARDENS ALSO ARE OPEN—BUT CONFIRM STATUS AND Covid PROTOCOLS OF THE GARDEN AHEAD OF TIME. WE ALSO WILL CONTINUE TO LIST VIRTUAL BONSAI EVENTS IF ANY ARE ANNOUNCED (NONE ARE LISTED AT THIS TIME).

2022

May

May 21, 2022 Modesto, California

Modesto Bonsai Club: Annual Spring Show located at the Stanislaus Agricultural Center, 3800 Cornucopia Way, Modesto. Show hours are Saturday, 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM, with a demonstration by club Sensei Sam Adina at 1:30 PM Admission and parking will be free. The show will include both Bonsai Trees and Suiseki. There will be a club member sales area with a good selection of bonsai and bonsai related items for purchase. For additional information visit our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/Modesto-Bonsai-Club-421910751256491/ or contact our Club President, Peter Camarena by email: pete.camarena@sbcglobal.net.

May 21 – 22, 2022 Oakland, California

Bay Area Satsuki Aikokai (BASA) 25th Annual Satsuki Azalea Bonsai Show, featuring azalea bonsai in full bloom. Join us on May 21 & 22, from 10 AM to 5 PM on Saturday and 10 AM – 4 PM on Sunday, at 666 Bellevue Ave., Lakeside Park Garden Center, Lake Merritt, for the display of beautiful flowering bonsai. Featuring large member sale and imported Satsuki azalea from Japan. Demonstration from 1 – 3 PM, Saturday with raffle of the demo tree. Vendor area. Free admission. Public parking available. For information, contact Darren Wong at sohjuen@aol.com or visit our website at www.satsukiazaleabonsai.org.

May 28 – 30, Santa Anita, California

Santa Anita Bonsai Society 56th Annual Bonsai Show, Memorial Day Weekend LAC Arboretum 9 AM – 4:30 PM daily. Exhibit, sales table, demonstrations

June

June 4 – 5, 2022, San Mateo, California

Sei Boku Bonsai Kai: Come celebrate Sei Boku Bonsai Kai's 37th Anniversary Bonsai Show, June 4 and 5, 2022, from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM at the San Mateo Garden Center, 605 Parkside Way, San Mateo. Saturday demonstration by Steve Iwaki at 1:00 PM; Sunday workshop by Jerry Carpenter and Valerie Monroe at 1:00 PM. Raffles, door prizes, tree clinic, vendor sales, plant sales. Free admission. POC is Jeremy Foster at coastaqua@yahoo.com.

June 8, 2022, Oakland, California

East Bay Bonsai Society Annual Auction: The East Bay Bonsai Society will be having an in-person bonsai auction on Wednesday evening, June 8th at 666 Bellevue Ave., Lakeside Park Garden Center (Lake Merritt) in Oakland, California. The auction will start at 7:30 PM with a preview at 7:00 PM It will include established and starter bonsai trees, pots, tools, etc. Credit cards, checks, and cash accepted. Free admission. Parking available. Sales tax will be added to purchases. Masks are required.

June 18 – 19, 2022 Livermore, California

Valley Bonsai Society: 12th annual show at Alden Lane Nursery, 981 Alden Lane. Show hours are 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM with a demonstration at 1:00 PM on both days. The finished tree will be raffled off at the end of the demonstrations. Bonsai pots, soil, etc. available for purchase. Admission is free.

July

July 9, 2022, Oakland, California

Bonsai Garden at Lake Merritt (BGLM): BGLM will conduct a special one day auction and sale of bonsai trees from the personal collection donated by Dennis and Joanne Makishima, on July 9, 2022, at the Lakeside Park Garden Center, 666 Bellevue Ave., Lake Merritt, Oakland, California. Preview of auction will start at 11:00 AM and live auction at 12:00 PM Sale follows immediately after auction. This event is predicated on the largest single donation ever made to BGLM. Bonsai trees include legacy pines, cedars, maples, and more, dating back to the early 1950s and 1960s. All proceeds go to support the newly created Dennis and Joanne Makishima BGLM curator fund. For further information, contact George Haas at gwhaas@comcast.net or visit the BGLM website www.bonsailakemerritt.com.

October

October 7 – 8, 2022 Thousand Oaks, California

Conejo Valley Bonsai Society 19th Annual Exhibition, The Gardens of the World, 2001 Thousand Oaks Boulevard Thousand Oaks, CA 91362. 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM Friday & Saturday. Demonstrations both days. No sales. Admission free. For more information, please email President Marj Branson president@cvbs-bonsai.org, visit our website www.cvbs-bonsai.org or see The Gardens of the World calendar at www.gardensoftheworld.info.

November

November 12 – 13, 2022 Oakland, California

The Pacific Bonsai Expo is to be held November 12 – 13, 2022 in Oakland, CA at the Bridge Yard. The Pacific Bonsai Expo is a juried exhibition featuring 70 outstanding bonsai displays and a selection of the community's top vendors. The Jurors, Bjorn Bjorholm, Ryan Neil, and William N. Valavanis will select the trees. For more information, go to the homepage using the following link Pacific Bonsai Expo at www.pacificbonsaiexpo.com.