



conejo valley

BONSAI society

Volume 19 Number 6 June 2022

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

New Worry: Water Restrictions

By Marj Branson

New drought-induced water restrictions may be a problem for all of us, but it is difficult to generalize as each area has different rules. In my location, I can only run my sprinklers once a week (on Saturday). I hand water my bonsai trees.

There are constant water-restriction updates, but there is no central clearing house of information. For details in your area, check the *LA Times* or *Ventura County Star* or search the web for your particular water district. Also, see websites for Los Angeles County, Ventura County, or City of Ventura:

- www.dpw.lacounty.gov/wwd/Web/Conservation/WaterRestriction.aspx
- www.vcpublishworks.org/wsd/waterconservation/
- www.cityofventura.ca.gov/893/Water-Shortage-Update

If anyone is having problems with watering their bonsai trees, let's discuss it at our June meeting.

Meanwhile, we started our program of member-led short talks and discussions at our May meeting. The May discussion was on fertilizers; it was led by Ken Martin. Everyone reported the fertilizer practices that work for them.

For June, Mike Blumenberg will lead the discussion on Pot Selection. If you want help selecting a pot for a tree, bring your bonsai and discuss with Mike and the group.

For future topics, see CVBS Programs 2022 on page 2 of every issue of

this newsletter.

Members are starting to feel comfortable coming to our monthly meetings. If you have not yet attended, I urge you to come. Our presentations and workshops provide very useful, informative evenings.



Marj Branson

Please remember that our meeting location, the Westlake Village Community Center, is in Los Angeles County and requires that we follow that county's rules. Current regulations recommend, but do not require, that masks be worn during indoors public meetings.

If you have not yet paid your CVBS dues for 2022, see below and page 3. Bring your check to the next meeting.

Please remember the upcoming bonsai shows this spring/summer. We are getting updated information, which is added to the calendar on page 7. Keep an eye on the dates. Maybe members could carpool, considering the current cost of gas.

If you are working on a bonsai project, you are invited to take some pictures and send them along with some description to CVBS Editor David Whiteside for inclusion in a future issue of this newsletter.

See you Thursday, June 16th. 🌳

CVBS Membership

Last Call for 2022 Dues

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. With in-person meetings resumed 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 led by Ken Martin followed by PEER REVIEW/WORKSHOP: BRING YOUR TREES
June 16	7:30 PM: Brief Meeting & Presentation: Pot Selection led by Mike Blumenberg followed by WORKSHOP: BRING YOUR TREES
July 21	7:30 PM: Brief Meeting & Presentation: Air Layering led by Ken Fuentes followed by WORKSHOP: BRING YOUR TREES
August 18	7:30 PM: Brief Meeting & Presentation: Show Preparation led by Marj Branson followed by Workshop and Swap Meet—BRING YOUR TREES AND OTHER ITEMS
September 15	7:30 PM: Brief Meeting & Presentation: Bonsai v. Penjing led by David Whiteside followed by PEER CRITIQUES—BRING YOUR EXHIBITION TREES
October 7 – 8	19TH ANNUAL CVBS EXHIBITION Gardens of the World NOTE: FRIDAY –SATURDAY
October 20	7:30PM: Brief Meeting & Presentation: Selecting a Tree led by Rick Boyer followed by WORKSHOP: BRING YOUR TREES
November 17	7:30 PM: Brief Meeting with Club Elections & Presentation: Wiring led by Ken Fuentes followed by WORKSHOP: BRING YOUR TREES
December 15	7:30 PM HOLIDAY POTLUCK, RAFFLE & AUCTION

Pay Attention to Each Species' Needs

By Jim Barrett

If you have been pruning your deciduous trees properly, you should be seeing more and finer twigs, which, in turn, make for a more mature-looking tree and a great winter silhouette.

Continue to prune fast-growing elm, zelkova, and maple twigs, leaving one or two nodes on each new branch. Usually the distance between nodes is regulated by the amount of nitrogen the plant is able to use. The more available nitrogen, the longer the internodes—this assumes that the plant is healthy and vigorous.

Because not all bonsai grow at the same rate, you must pay attention to the habits of each one. If you have crab apple, ume, or quince, prune all new growth to one or two nodes around the first week in July. Then do not prune again until next fall. Flower buds form during summer and early fall and pruning during this period reduces the number of flowers you may get next spring.

Along with this procedure, feed high-phosphorus and low-nitrogen fertilizers. Satsuki azaleas should not be fed until after blooming. Once the peak blooming period is over, pluck, or better yet, cut all of the flowers off, making sure to remove any seed pods.

If you have black pine bonsai, try to finish your favorite candle pruning procedure by mid-July or earlier. How you need to prune black pine will depend on the health, the age, and



Jim Barrett

your goals for each tree.

Check with your instructor or bring your untrimmed black pine to your club's next meeting for advice.

Aphids are really out in force now. Watch for them especially on apple, quince, and ume. Spray with an appropriate insecticide. You may want to introduce ladybugs purchased at your local nursery. (Let me know how you keep them in your yard.)

Warm days are ahead of us, so pay attention to your watering program and hold back on the high-nitrogen fertilizers.

You should be able to replot ficus, pomegranate, and atlas cedar anytime now. If you need to replot elm and

maple, make sure the new growth has hardened somewhat and try not to remove too many fine roots. You may find trident maples have developed a thick pad of roots on the bottom of the root ball. Add soil as needed and return the tree to its place. Save any major root pruning for next January or February. 🌲

2022 Refreshments

June	Ken Fuentes
July	David Williams
August	Volunteer Needed
Sept.	Volunteer Needed

CVBS Niche Displays

Niche Display Program

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)

June	Antonio Viscarra
July	Dick Winston
August	Volunteer Needed
Sept.	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 presentations by bonsai experts, workshops, critiques, member swap meets, field trips, a custom-made name badge, and this award-winning newsletter.

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

Dave 'BlueSky' on Bonsai via YouTube

By Ken Martin

Online Video Review: All on YouTube

Dave "BlueSky"

Blue Sky Bonsai

YouTube: Developing Great Nebari

9 min 37 sec

Dave of Blue Sky Bonsai is something of a mystery. I've researched but couldn't find where he is located or even his real last name. In the second demonstration, he mentions the hot Madrid sun, which could be a clue, do ya think? But his accent clearly is not Spanish. Wherever Dave resides, he has a series of useful videos on YouTube.

In this video, Dave demonstrates putting a flat stone or other object under the tree when repotting. This forces the roots to grow laterally and fattens the nebari. (Similarly, I've seen where others have screwed a small circular plywood or plastic disk to the bottom of the nebari with equal results.)

Dave with two deciduous bonsai that have flat root balls (right). Note the shallow pots.



Dave "BlueSky" again

YouTube: Ginkgo Forest.

13 min 20 sec

Dave's words; "How to design and create a 9-tree bonsai forest from some nursery stock ginkgo biloba bonsai trees and an older group planting. With design input from John Naka and Peter Chan." Another outstanding forest planting book in my (Ken Martin's) mind is *Forest, Rock Planting & Ezo Spruce Bonsai* by Saburo Kato.

Dave's planting features the three tallest trees in the front left of an oval pot; the middle three trees in the middle rear and the three smaller trees in the left just forward of the middle trees resulting in an isosceles triangle shape. 🌲



Before (above): the nine trees destined for Dave's forest planting.

After (left): Dave's 9-tree ginkgo forest, ready for some fine-tuning trims.



Screen captures by Ken Martin

A Massive Base Highlights This Olive Tree

Editor's Note: At the Conejo Valley Bonsai Society's May 19, 2022 meeting, Rick Boyer presented this olive tree bonsai with its huge nebari. Here are some details from Rick about this bonsai.

This bonsai is an *Olea europaea*, Manzanillo variety, which is a Spanish variety. I have owned the tree for quite some time. The trunk has grown approximately 2 inches in circumference while I have had the tree. I have not changed the general shape of the canopy, which has filled in quite nicely in the past four years. The tree is approximately 35 years old, based on the estimate of the fellow I purchased it from.

I repotted it two years ago. The tree gets morning direct sun light, shade the balance of the day.

—Rick Boyer

Rick Boyer's olive (below) with its massive nebari.

Photo by David Whiteside



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

Bonsai Techniques II, by John Yoshio Naka, Bonsai Institute of California, Whittier, California, 1982.

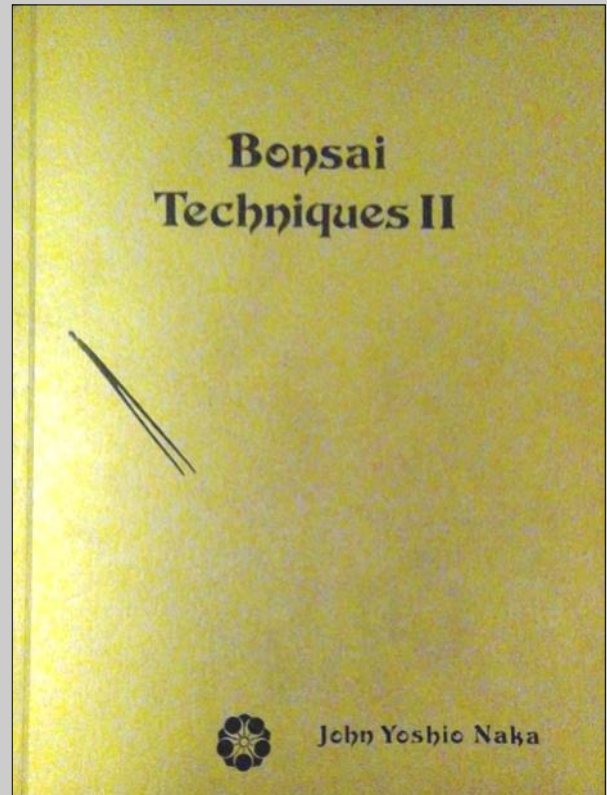
Our Book of the Month for this issue is John Naka's *Bonsai Techniques II* originally published in 1982 for the Bonsai Institute of California. If this title sounds familiar, then you get the gold star because I wrote about *Techniques II* in our February newsletter. My February review, however, was more of a wish list than a book review because the CVBS library doesn't include a copy of this famous book. Since then I've been able to borrow an autographed copy of *Techniques II* from a fellow club member. So now we can take a closer look at this book.

In the author's preface, Naka explains that this book was intended to provide more "advanced knowledge" of bonsai and complement his *Techniques I*. He also emphasizes how bonsai imitates nature and how our local area (southern California) provides ample bonsai models. Following this second theme, I decided to review the chapter titled "Trees to Study, Not to Collect."

In this chapter, Naka shares photos from nature along with sketches of how the natural trees would look as bonsai. For example, the picture below shows a California live oak in the field and the sketch is Naka's vision of that same tree as a bonsai.

It's fascinating to see how this bonsai master can find the bonsai within each natural tree. It makes me want to take a hike and study some trees. I would like to say you could check out this book yourself, but I'm still looking for a copy to add to our library!

—Mike Blumenberg



John Naka's *Bonsai Techniques II* (far right) with his autograph (right).

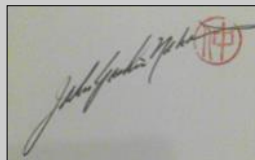


Photo of a California live oak (below left) and Naka's vision of it as a bonsai (below right).



Photos by Mike Blumenberg

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

IN-PERSON BONSAI EVENTS IN CALIFORNIA HAVE RETURNED FOR THE REMAINDER OF 2022 (see below). MOST 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

June

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 2 – 3, 2022 Garden Grove, California

The Vietnamese Bonsai Society cordially invites you to attend The 22nd Annual Bonsai and Nonbo Exhibition 2022. Time: 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM. Vietnamese American Temple, 12292 Magnolia St. Garden Grove, CA 92841 (Magnolia / Lampson). Demonstration at 1:00 PM on both days. Plants, Old pots Sale & auction. For more information please call (949) 331-4050. Visit www.hoicaykiengvietnamusa.com.



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.

August

August 6, 2022 San Rafael, California

Marin Bonsai Club (MBC) and Redwood Empire Bonsai Society (REBS): Joint Bonsai Sale, hosted by MBC and REBS, on Saturday, August 6, 2022, from 11:00 AM to 4:00 PM, at the Terra Linda Community Center, 670 Del Ganado Rd, San Rafael. The sale will include established and starter bonsai trees, pots, tools, etc. Checks and cash accepted. Free admission. Parking available. For details, contact Diane Matzen at dmatzen@gmail.com or George Haas at gwhaas@comcast.net.

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.



October 8 & 9, 2022 Santa Nella, California

Golden State Bonsai Federation Bonsai Rendezvous 2022: Annual GSBF event held at Hotel Mission de Oro, 13070 S. Highway 33, Santa Nella, CA 95322. Free and open to the public. 30+ vendors from northern and southern California as well as several out of state vendors will be on hand both days. Admission is free, donations are appreciated. Free demonstrations throughout the days. Bring-your-own bonsai work area. Mel Ikeda and his tomodachi group will demonstrate the art of creating bonsai amongst friends. Silent auctions of bonsai trees and related material will be held both days. Consignment silent auction sells opportunities are available. Rendezvous hotel room rate \$155 two-night minimum. For more information contact Rich Guillen at richguillen@att.net or (831) 348-5015.



October 15 & 16, 2022 Sacramento, California

The Capital City Bonsai Association Show will be held at The Shepard Garden and Arts Center (in McKinley Park), 3330 McKinley Blvd. Sacramento, CA 95816. Show hours are 10 AM – 4 PM both days. The show is a benefit to raise funds for the Bonsai Garden at Lake Merritt and will feature trees from: • American Bonsai Association, Sacramento • Bonsai Sekiyu Kai • Sacramento Bonsai Club • Satsuki Aikokai Association. The sale will include established and starter bonsai, pots, tools etc. Admission is free. Contact Paul Holtzen for more information at pbholtzen@sbcglobal.net.

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 to Pacific Bonsai Expo at www.pacificbonsaiexpo.com.

