




conejo valley

BONSAI society

Volume 19 Number 11 November 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

Big News: An Election & an Exhibition

By Marj Branson

Urgent: attend the Conejo Valley Bonsai Society's November 17 meeting. That's when all members in good standing will vote for next year's officers. If you cannot be there, you may notify Nominations Chair Damon DuBois in writing via email (damondubois@gmail.com) how you wish to vote. Election of the four officers is by simple majority of those members voting in person or in writing.

The slate of officers that Damon has presented is:

- President: Marj Branson
- Vice President: Damon DuBois
- Treasurer: Ken Fuentes
- Secretary: Ken Martin

The election will take place during the business meeting and the new officers automatically are installed at the close of business. The new officers for 2023 then name chairs of our standing committees.

To help the incoming officers, Damon has surveyed the existing chairs (see list on page 2) and has confirmed that all but one are willing to continue serving if asked. The chair of the Publicity Committee is open. Please contact Damon or any of the new officers if you are interested in serving in this, or any other position.

That said, the majority of this month's newsletter is devoted to CVBS's 19th Annual Bonsai Exhibition, which again is a virtual event that replaced our traditional exhibition at the Gardens of the Word in Thousand Oaks. Members sent photos of their show trees to editor David Whiteside. (See pages 4 – 11.) Thanks to the participants.

At our October meeting, Rick Boyer led a discussion on selecting a tree for bonsai. Rick provided a handout covering what to look for when buying stock.

One of the most important points is to be sure the tree is healthy. Check the roots and branch position. Rick has been in the nursery business for many years and has his own bonsai collection,

which he had to restart when he moved to this area. Our dry hot winds killed many of his trees more suited for a different climate.

Members had many questions and had a good discussion of their experiences buying trees.


At our November meeting, Ken Fuentes will lead a discussion on wiring. This is something we all have a love/hate relationship with but is most important.

We have received the renew application from the Westlake Village Community Center for the 2023 year. This is the room we use for our monthly meeting. The application has been submitted and accepted. Our usual third Thursday of the month has been confirmed.

On November 5, we had a workshop at Rick Boyer's family-owned Ventura County Nursery. It was a beautiful day, and we all had a good session working on our trees (see story, page 12). Rick said we are welcome to have more workshops there, so keep this in mind for the future.

The Bonsai-A-Thon has been confirmed for February 18 – 19 at the Huntington Gardens (see page 12). Due to renovations at the Huntington, there will be changes to some of the activities, but all the usual features you have enjoyed in the past will be on!

Remember that December is our Holiday Potluck dinner. This is also our annual fund raiser with both a raffle and an auction. Please support your club by contributing bonsai or bonsai items and bring your money to pick up some bonsai specials

See you Thursday, November 17. 



Marj Branson

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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 WORKSHOP: BRING YOUR TREES
October 20	7:30 PM: Brief Meeting & Presentation: Selecting a Tree led by Rick Boyer followed by PEER CRITIQUES—BRING YOUR EXHIBITION TREES
November 1	PHOTOS DUE FOR 19TH ANNUAL CVBS EXHIBITION (VIRTUAL) SEND BONSAI PHOTOS FOR INCLUSION IN THE NOVEMBER CVBS NEWSLETTER TO: CVBS.EDITOR@EARTHLINK.NET
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

The November Weather Puzzle: What To Do?

By Jim Barrett

November can be a frustrating month for hobbyists as well as for our trees. Most trees will continue to grow as long as the weather stays balmy with warm nights (above 45 degrees F).

So what to do? If the weather stays warm, we can still repot (pot-to-pot) black pines and most junipers. It would be better to wait until spring, but if you can't and have been waiting for cooler weather, it can be done now using common sense with regard to soil and root removal.

If your maple leaves are still relatively fresh, they might give you some fall color. If the leaves are tired and worn out, think about removing them. Make sure they are destroyed and not left on branches or soil surfaces of the bonsai. If you are planning to remove the



Jim Barrett

leaves, then spend some time pruning your unwanted twigs, branches, and deadwood.

Check all wire on your trees this month and remove it if it was applied last spring or if it is beginning to scar the bark.

Black pines should have had their fall candle and branch pruning by now, but if it was not done last month go ahead and do it this month.

Watch for pests, especially red spider mites on junipers. If the weather stays

warm, you may find aphids

on your crabapples, quince, and other fruiting bonsai. Check for scale on elms.

This month is a good time to restyle junipers and black pines. They will develop their foliage mass quicker in the spring.

Black pines should have had their fall candle and branch pruning by now, but if it was not done last month go ahead and do it this month.

2022 - 2023 Refreshments	
Nov.	Mary Welz
Dec.	Holiday Party
Jan. '23	Mary Welz
Feb. '23	Antonio Viscarra

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 2023 calendar (see the list of current display volunteers at right—2022 is filled and 2023 already has some scheduled) and let us know when you would like to present your display.

—Marj Branson

2022 Niche Displays (Month of meeting)	
Nov.	Ken Fuentes
Dec.	None: Holiday Party
2023	
Jan.	Nancy Smeets
Feb.	Mike Blumenberg
March	Dick Winston

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 lifted for now, 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

Our 19th Annual Bonsai Exhibition (Virtual)

By David Whiteside

The Conejo Valley Bonsai Society's 19th Annual Bonsai Exhibition was, again, a virtual affair. Somewhat smaller than last year's virtual event, ten society members contributed from one to four bonsai photographs each for a total of two dozen displays.

There was a nice mixture of species represented. Junipers were the most common with several species in the show: a couple of Japanese garden junipers (*Juniperus procumbens* 'Nana'), a creeping juniper (*Juniperus horizontalis* 'Prostrata'), one Taiwan juniper (*Juniperus formosana*), and one Shimpaku juniper (*Juniperus chinensis* 'Shimpaku').

Figs and boxwoods were the second largest groups, with three each. All the figs were from Ken Fuentes. He showed one Ficus Burt Davy and two willow leaf figs (*Ficus salacaria*). Two of the boxwoods were Japanese (*Buxus microphylla* var. *japonica*), one of uncertain species.

There were two olives (*Olea europae*). Rick Boyer's (page 9) has an impressive nebari while Larry Kimmelman's giant is probably the largest of the bonsai presented in this virtual show (page 11).

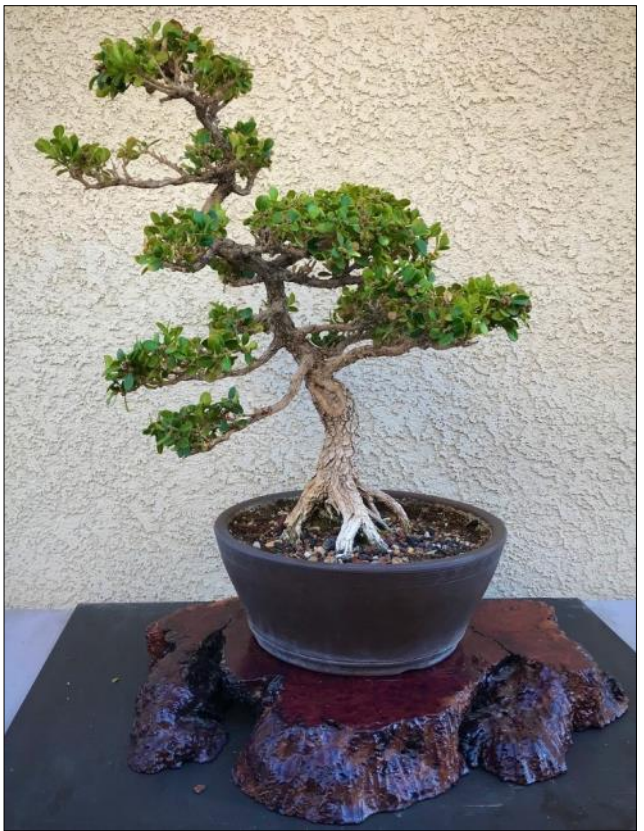
The fall season was evident in Marj Branson's Japanese zelkova (*Zelkova serrata*) in winter silhouette (see photo, this page). My Natal plum (*Carissa macrocarpa*) flowers and fruits in the fall; sharp-eyed observers may note two still-green plums on the lower branches (photo at right).

Unique species included a brush cherry (*Syzygium paniculatum*), a rosemary (*Salvia rosmarinus*), a Brazilian raintree (*Pithecellobium tortum*), and an Indian hawthorne (*Rhaphiolepis indica*), among others. 🌳

Natal plum (*Carissa macrocarpa*),
David Whiteside (right)

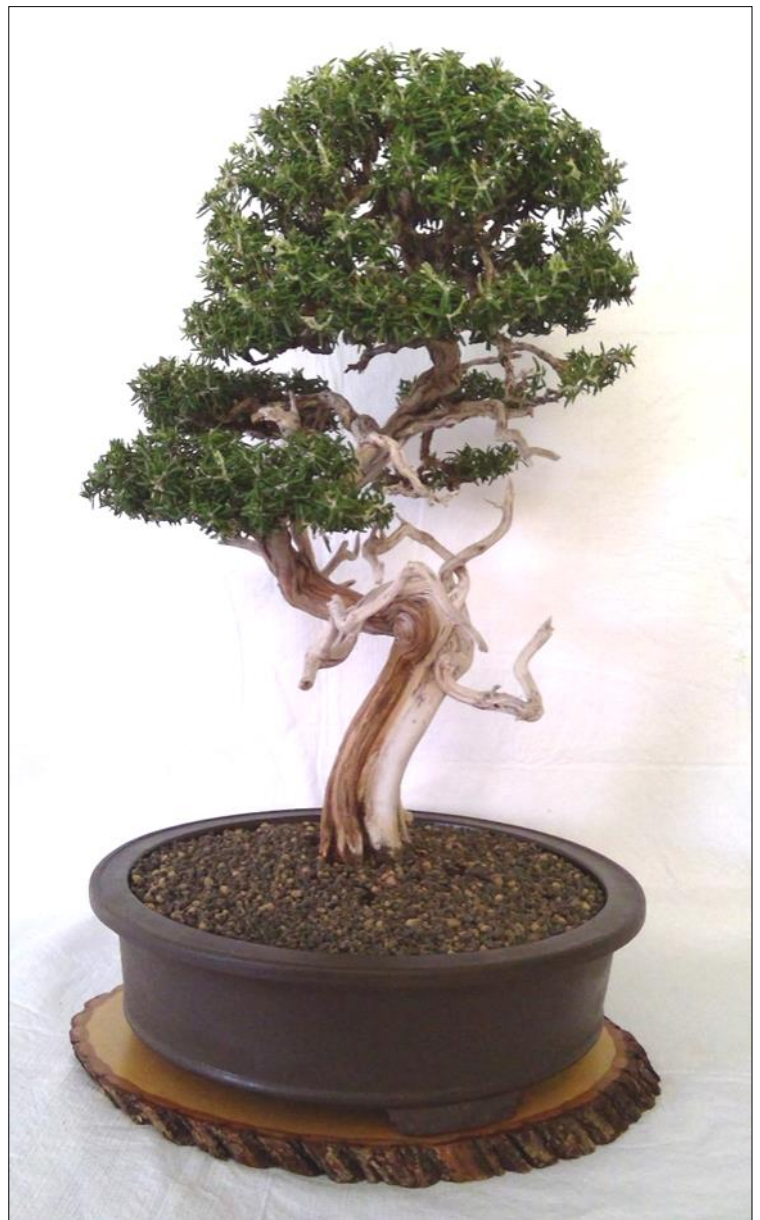
Japanese zelkova (*Zelkova serrata*),
Marj Branson (below left)

Boxwood (*Buxus* sp),
Larry Kimmelman (below right)



CVBS Exhibition continued next page

Rosemary (*Salvia rosmarinus*),
Mike Blumenberg (right)



Willow leaf fig (*Ficus salacaria*),
Ken Fuentes (below)



Japanese garden
junipers (*Juniperus
procumbens* 'Nana'),
Ken Martin (right)



Japanese boxwood (*Buxus microphylla* var. *japonica*),
Ken Martin (right)



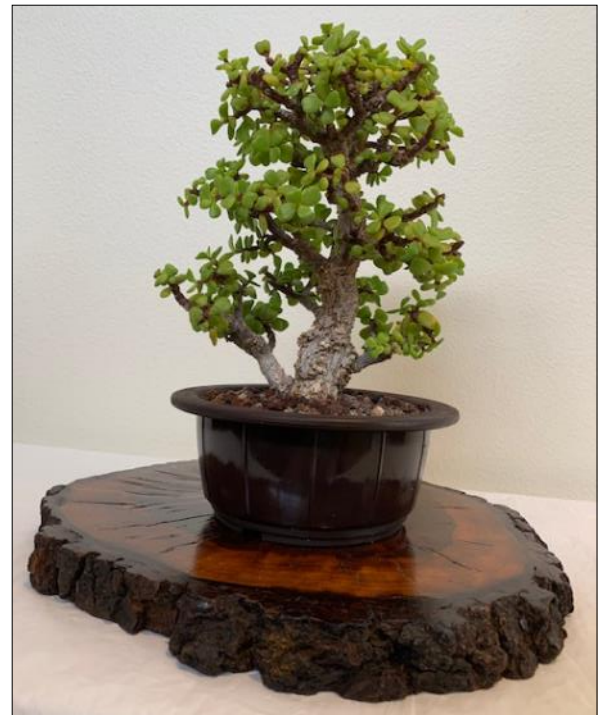
Taiwan juniper (*Juniperus formosana*),
Nancy Smeets (below)



Japanese garden juniper (*Juniperus procumbens* 'Nana'),
David Whiteside (below)



**Corky jade (*Crassula ovata*),
Marj Branson (right)**



**Willow leaf fig (*Ficus salacaria*),
Ken Fuentes (above)**

**Brush cherry (*Syzygium paniculatum*),
Damon & Wendy DuBois (right)**



**Shimpaku juniper (*Juniperus chinensis* 'Shimpaku'),
Marj Branson (right)**



**Ficus Burtt Davyi (*Ficus Burtt Davyi*),
Ken Fuentes (below)**



**Cork oak (*Quercus* sp),
Mike Blumenberg (right)**

Olive (*Olea europaea*),
Rick Boyer (right)



Bougainvillea (*Bougainvillea* sp),
Nancy Smeets (below)



Creeping juniper (*Juniperus horizontalis*
'Prostrata'),
Marj Branson (right)



Chinese elm (*Ulmus parvifolia*),
David Whiteside (right)



Indian Hawthorne (*Raphiolepis indica*),
Larry Kimmelman (below)



Japanese boxwood (*Buxus microphylla*
var. *japonica*),
Ken Martin (right)



**Volkameria (*Volkameria* sp),
Nancy Smeets (right)**



**Olive (*Olea europaea*),
Larry Kimmelman (below)**



**Brazilian raintree (*Pithecellobium tortum*),
Antonio Viscarra (below)**



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

In-person bonsai events have returned (see below). Most gardens also are open—confirm status and Covid protocols of the garden ahead of time. We also list virtual bonsai events.

2022

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, 210 Burma Road, Oakland, CA 94607, USA. Show hours are 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM. 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.

2023

January

January 21 & 22, 2023 Temple City, CA

Baikoen Bonsai Kenkyukai: 59th Winter Silhouette Show and Sale, Temple City Live Oak Park Community Center, 10144 Bogue Street, Temple City, CA 91780, 10:00 AM to 4:30 PM. Sales and demonstration at 1:00 PM on both days. Deciduous bonsai are featured from club members and invited guests. The Nagata-Komai award will be presented, and there will be a demonstrator at 1:00 PM on both days. There will be a sales area with club and vendor plants, pots, tools and more. For more information, please visit www.baikoenbonsai.com or email Joe Galgoul, joegalgoul@yahoo.com.

January 23, 2023 Zoom

Golden State Bonsai Federation Golden Zoom Series. Sergio Cuan. For Members of GSBF Clubs Only! GSBF Clubs (which includes CVBS) will get the Zoom link to share with their membership for an evening with Sergio Cuan.

February

February 3 – 5, 2023 Santa Nella, California

California Shohin Society 18th Biennial Shohin Seminar, Hotel Mission de Oro Conference Center, 13070 CA-33, Santa Nella, California 95322. Every two years the California Shohin Society organizes a Shohin Seminar, where bonsai masters, teachers, students, and general enthusiasts from all over the country gather to learn and share their love of shohin bonsai. Schedule: Friday 10:00 AM – 8:30 PM; Saturday: 8:00 AM – 10:00 PM including Dinner Buffet, Benefit Drawing & Auction; Sunday: 8:00 AM – 12:00 Noon. Demonstrations, vendor sales, and workshops. All workshops are on Saturday: Session A: 9:00 AM – 11:45 AM; Session B: 2:00 PM – 4:45 PM. All workshops are by lottery. For more information and registration, please visit California Shohin Society website at www.calshohin.org.

February 18 – 19, 2023 San Marino, California

Golden State Bonsai Federation Bonsai-A-Thon at the Huntington Library, Art Museum, and Botanical Gardens, 1151 Oxford Road, San Marino 91108. GSBF has announced the dates, details to follow. Watch this space for more information as it is released.

CVBS Program

Saturday Workshop in Somis

On Saturday, November 5, 2022, Conejo Valley Bonsai Society members Marj Branson, Nancy Smeets, Damon DuBois, and Ken Fuentes joined Rick Boyer at his family's Ventura County Nursery in Somis.

"We had a very nice afternoon," Rick reports. "No wind, good conversation, lots of interaction." By all accounts, it was a fun and productive afternoon.

—David Whiteside

CVBS Members Rick Boyer (from left in photo below), Marj Branson, Nancy Smeets, and Ken Fuentes (with his back to the camera).



Ken and Rick examine a large specimen (above right).

Marj and Nancy work on their bonsai (right).



Photos by Damon DuBois

