



*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  
**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)

### **President's Message**

## **Fuentes Leads Repotting Workshop**

By Damon DuBois

The weather is warming up and things are starting to bud out and bloom. During the month of March, most species of trees can be safely repotted (see Barrett's Bonsai Tips on page 3 for more details). This is also a great time to be propagating from cuttings. March 19th marks the official start of the spring season!

Our March meeting will be a workshop, so bring your trees! Also, we will be bringing back our five-minute bonsai topic discussions at the beginning of our meetings. This month the talk will be "How to View Trees" led by Ken Martin.

On Saturday, March 9, we held a repotting workshop at California Bonsai Studio. It was led by club advisor Ken Fuentes. We had perfect weather and a great turnout. The workshop covered most of the fundamentals of repotting, including making staples to attach screens, tie down wires, root-work, and chopsticking technique. Ken discussed repotting strategies, soil mixes, and aftercare in detail, including his technique of bagging trees to prevent moisture loss after repotting.

It was a great learning experience and we got a lot of trees into nice new pots. I'd like to thank California Bonsai Studio owner Travis Goldstein for letting us use the space at his nursery for the club workshop. I'd also like to thank Collin Percell, who manages

the nursery, and his partner Chiharu Namba for hosting the workshop.

And I especially want to thank Ken Fuentes for leading the workshop!

Roy Nagatoshi did a tree critique for our February meeting. Roy is a wellspring of bonsai knowledge and as always gave a lot of great advice on everyone's trees. Get all the details in the feature article by David Whiteside and Ken Martin starting on page 4. David Williams provided over 20 photos to illustrate the story.

See you at the meeting on March 21st! 🌳



**Damon DuBois**

**Colin Percell, CVBS member and manager of Travis Goldstein's California Bonsai Studio in Thousand Oaks (at right in photo below), welcomes our special repotting workshop.**



Photo by Damon DuBois

### **CVBS Membership**

## **Reminder: It Is Time To Pay 2024 Dues**

If you have not already paid, this is a reminder that it is time to pay your Conejo Valley Bonsai Society dues. They remain \$25 for one, or \$30 for couples. Simply write a check made payable to "Conejo Valley Bonsai Society" and mail it to: CVBS Membership, c/o Wendy Dubois, 4549 Alamo St. Unit H, Simi Valley, CA 93063 or bring it to our next meeting.

—Jim Falkin

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(Click on Email Address)

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# CVBS Programs 2024

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

|                                    |   |
|------------------------------------|---|
| January 18                         | 7:30 PM: Brief Meeting followed by Workshop— <b>BRING YOUR TREES</b>  |
| February 15                        | 7:30 PM: Brief Meeting followed by <b>TREE CRITIQUE</b> —ROY NAGATOSHI<br><b>BRING YOUR TREES FOR ROY TO ANALYZE</b>        |
| <b>SPECIAL WORKSHOP</b><br>March 9 | 12:00 Noon: Special Workshop<br><b>TREE POTTING &amp; REPOTTING</b> —KEN FUENTES<br>CALIFORNIA BONSAI STUDIO, THOUSAND OAKS |
| March 21                           | 7:30 PM: Brief Meeting followed by Workshop— <b>BRING YOUR TREES</b>  |
| April 18                           | 7:30 PM: Brief Meeting followed by Workshop— <b>BRING YOUR TREES</b>  |
| May 16                             | 7:30 PM: Brief Meeting followed by <b>DEMONSTRATION</b> —TBA  |
| June 20                            | 7:30 PM: Brief Meeting followed by Workshop— <b>BRING YOUR TREES</b>  |
| July 18                            | 7:30 PM: Brief Meeting followed by Workshop— <b>BRING YOUR TREES</b>  |
| August 15                          | 7:30 PM: Brief Meeting followed by Workshop and <b>Swap Meet</b> —<br><b>BRING YOUR TREES AND OTHER BONSAI ITEMS</b>        |
| September 19                       | 7:30 PM: Brief Meeting followed by <b>DEMONSTRATION</b> —TBA  |
| October 17                         | 7:30 PM: Brief Meeting followed by <b>PEER CRITIQUES</b> — <b>BRING YOUR EXHIBITION TREES</b>                               |
| <b>TENTATIVE</b><br>November 8 – 9 | <b>TENTATIVE</b><br><b>NOTE: FRIDAY–SATURDAY</b><br><b>21ST ANNUAL CVBS EXHIBITION</b><br><b>GARDENS OF THE WORLD</b>       |
| 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<br><b>HOLIDAY POTLUCK, RAFFLE &amp; AUCTION</b>   |

# Here's What Is Okay to Pot or Repot Now

By Jim Barrett

If you plan to transplant wisteria after blooms are gone, don't fertilize for at least one month after repotting. If you have wisteria and do not plan to repot, fertilize right after the blooms are gone. It is said that wisteria require three to four times as much fertilizer as most bonsai. Just make sure the fertilizer you use is slow release.

Fertilize quince, ume, crabapple, and pomegranate this month. Do not fertilize satsuki azaleas until blooms are gone.

If you plan to repot azaleas, you can still trim fairly severely. Azaleas that have not been repotted for two or more years may be repotted this month, especially if the plant is to be heavily pruned. Wash all of the exhausted soil from the roots, making sure that you clean out all of the old soil directly under the base of the tree. Be careful of the fine feeder roots and do not let them dry out.

Several soil mixes are now being used. All provide excellent drainage with the ingredients tending to provide an acid reaction on the pH scale (pH 5 to 6 is recommended by Mr. Richard Ota).

Repotting or potting for the first time:



Jim Barrett

• Black pine from nursery container to pot or pot-to-pot

• Trident maple from nursery container to pot or pot-to-pot

• Zelkova from nursery container to pot or pot-to-pot

• Beech, hornbeam, juniper, and Atlas cedar may all be potted or repotted now

Most deciduous trees should be in full leaf by now, so wait until the new

growth has hardened if you plan to repot maple, elm, hornbeam, and zelkova.

Fertilizers such as cottonseed with bone meal and blood meal may be used. Use four parts cottonseed and one part bone meal to make a good, safe fertilizer for the promotion of blooms and good color. Stop feeding one month before blooms appear.

If your elms, Japanese maples, pomegran-

*(Continued on page 13)*

## Refreshments

|       |                         |
|-------|-------------------------|
| March | Mike Blumenberg         |
| April | Becky Hosseini          |
| May   | Ron Manwill             |
| June  | Antonio Viscarra        |
| July  | <b>Volunteer Needed</b> |

## Foodies Needed

We need volunteers to bring refreshments to our meetings. We have coverage through June but July through November need volunteers. Please contact me at [shebacoleman@hotmail.com](mailto:shebacoleman@hotmail.com) or text (818) 970-8935 to let me know what month you can volunteer.

—Sue Falkin

## 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 calendar for 2024 and let me know when you would like to present your display.

—Antonio Viscarra

## Niche Displays

|       |                         |
|-------|-------------------------|
| March | Antonio Viscarra        |
| April | <b>Volunteer Needed</b> |
| May   | <b>Volunteer Needed</b> |
| June  | <b>Volunteer Needed</b> |

## CVBS Membership

# Interested in CVBS?

Please welcome new members Ron Manwill and Susan Milano of Thousand Oaks to the Conejo Valley Bonsai Society. We look forward to seeing you at our meetings.

CVBS is open to anyone interested in the horticultural art of bonsai. If you are not a member, consider joining now. We meet at 7:30 PM on the third Thursday of every month at 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 easy to join. Annual dues are \$25 for one, or \$30 for couples. Simply write a check made payable to "Conejo Valley Bonsai Society" and mail it to: CVBS Membership, c/o Wendy Dubois, 4549 Alamo St. Unit H, Simi Valley, CA 93063 or bring it to our next meeting.

—Jim Falkin



# Roy Nagatoshi: 'Treat Bonsai Like a Person'

By David Whiteside & Ken Martin

Treat bonsai like a person," Roy Nagatoshi told the February 15, 2024 meeting of the Conejo Valley Bonsai Society. Bonsai are like humans, he said: they have legs (roots), a body (trunk), arms (branches), and a head (apex). But, he added, "some bonsai need help."

And that's why Roy, the owner of Fuji Bonsai Nursery in Sylmar, was leading the CVBS meeting—to help members help their bonsai. During the meeting, he reviewed 16 bonsai that club members had brought in for him to critique.

The first tree Roy looked at was a small savin juniper (*Juniperus sabina*) that belongs to Bill Arnold. Although "everything is overgrown" with branches all over and some not in proportion, the tree is "nice and strong," Roy said. He does not recommend sabinas for bonsai because of their foliage ("it will always have long, droopy foliage"), but this tree has potential for bonsai "maybe in ten years." Roy borrowed Bill's tools and went to work shaping the juniper, removing two branches that were too fat. He cut them long so they can be jinned.

"He was not a fan of the type of juniper" I brought in, Bill Arnold commented. "But after a while he saw some good quality in the structure. I'm happy Roy found some good in my little tree and that I now have a Nagatoshi in my humble collection."

Next up was Arbi Baghdanian's black pine. "This tree has potential for a good bonsai, but it has many long shoots," Roy noted. "If you can't see inside, there is a lot of garbage" that needs to be removed. "When working on black pine, do not reach in from above because the needles and buds are very tender," Roy explained as he did what he called "housekeeping." After he removed some branches and plucked needles, the tree was much more open. Asked about the tree's bar branches, Roy explained that he worries a lot more about "spoke branches" that radiate out from the same point in the trunk like spokes of a wheel.

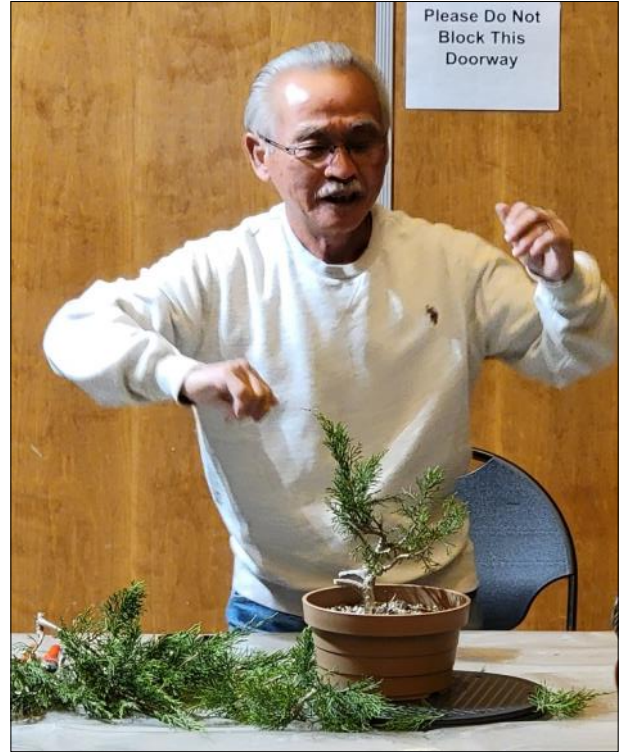
A Japanese boxwood that also belongs to Arbi was "very old. It's overgrown, so dense that you cannot see what's inside," Roy said. About half the tree was dead with lots of deadwood in the trunk that has been carved, which Roy did not like: "It looks man-made." Roy suggested reducing a large dead branch (jin) near the top and removing wire that had begun to grow into the tissue. Despite its flaws, he said that the tree "has potential."

Arbi said that he learned "to use larger gauge wires because smaller ones get lost and forgotten."



Photos by David Williams

Roy Nagatoshi (left in photo above) was the guest speaker at CVBS's February 2024 meeting. He is introduced by Program Chair Nancy Smeets.



Bill Arnold's savin juniper before Roy worked on it (left above) and after (above right).

(Continued on page 5)



**Nagatoshi**  
(Continued from  
page 4)

Also, he said, “if you have shorter branches, it will make the tree look older.”

Another, smaller boxwood belonging to Sue Falkin had a dead side branch that “needs to be removed or reduced.” And a dead top that Roy said should be cut off and the highest branch wired up “to become a living apex.”

Sue said that she learned that she needs to reduce one-third of the root ball, put in new soil, and remove all of the wires. “I need to learn wiring technique,” she added.

Nancy Smeets presented an elm—probably Chinese but definitely not a Catalin, Roy noted. There was one thick branch high up in the structure that takes away from the rest of the tree, he said. “The first thing is to get rid of it.” Roy also pointed out some roots that were growing over the main root; he recommended removing the offending roots.

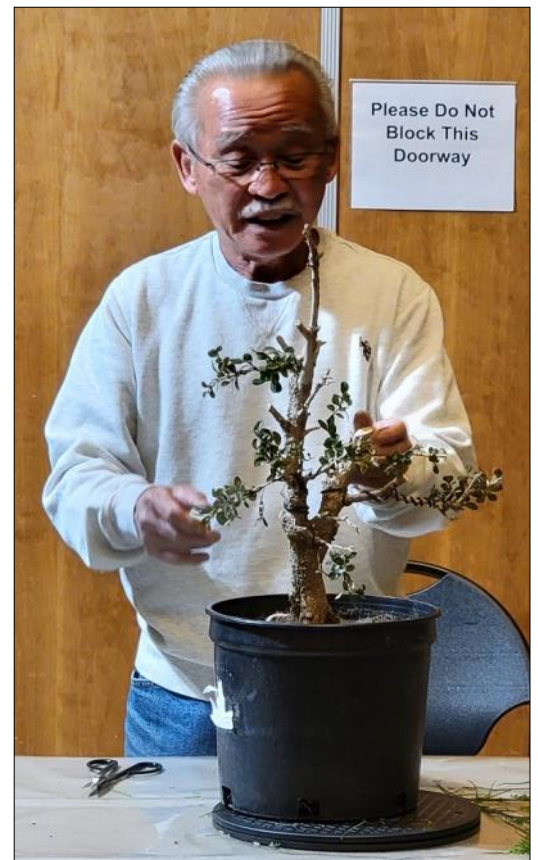
A shim-paku juniper grafted on San Jose juniper root



**Arbi Baghdanian’s black pine before (above left) and after (above right).**



**Arbi Baghdanian’s boxwood (above).**



**Sue Falkin’s boxwood (above).**

(Continued on page 6)





Nancy Smeets' elm (above).

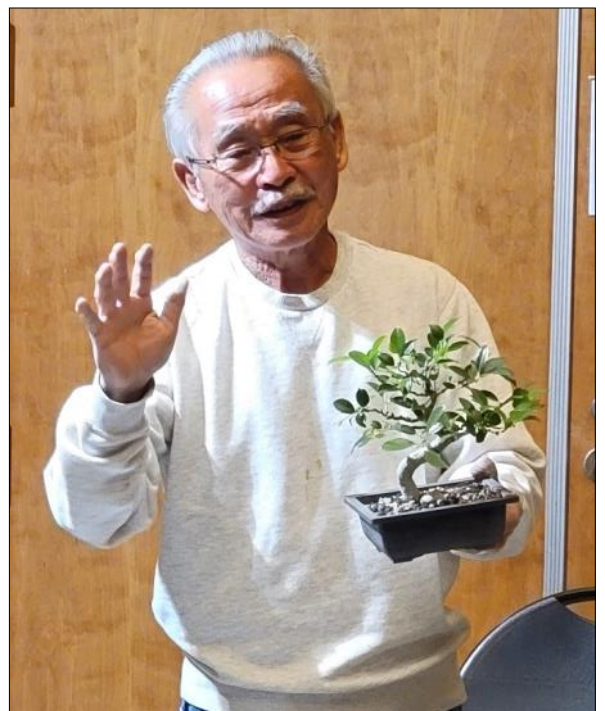


David Whiteside's shimpaku juniper grafted on San Jose rootstock (above).

*Nagatoshi (Continued from page 5)*

stock was “too dense—it needs to be thinned out,” Roy said. “Go through every clump and remove the garbage, then you can start the design,” he told the owner, David Whiteside. Roy added that some foliage needs to be brought down into the empty, negative space to the left of the apex. “Roy did the original graft on this tree about five years ago,” David said, “so it was interesting to hear what he had to say about the next stage of development.”

Next up was Jim Falkin's olive. “You should replace the black lava rock with red,” Roy told Jim. “Black gets too hot and can burn the plant.” He also suggest-



Damon & Wendy DuBois' ficus (above).

Jim Falkin's olive (left).

*(Continued on page 7)*





**Becky Hosseini's shimpaku juniper as Roy examines it (above left), with Alex Martinez working on it (above middle) and after they both have worked on it (above right).**

*Nagatoshi (Continued from page 6)*

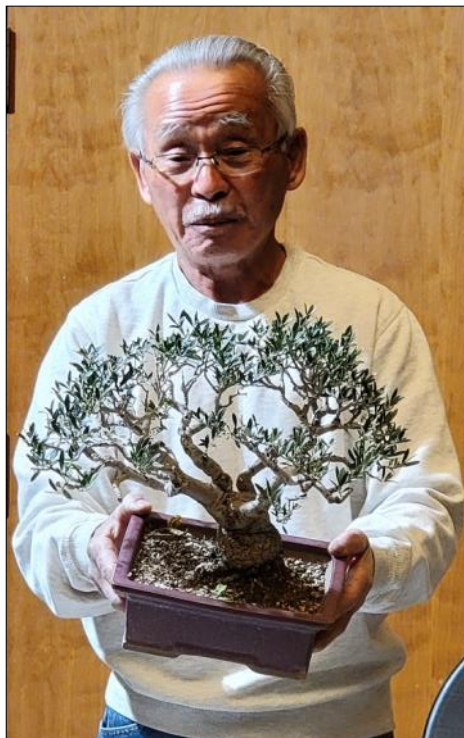
ed removing a low branch in the back. "The lowest branch should be on either side of the tree and not directly in the front or back," he said. "I have owned this tree for about a year," Jim said, adding that following the demonstration he had already removed the low back branch and plans to replace the black lava with a lighter color.

"There is too much negative space between the base and the first branch," Roy commented about Damon and Wendy DuBois' shohin fig, a *Ficus microcarpa*. Roy said they should wire the first branch down into the empty space. "It's a tree we bought from California Bonsai Studio as a small, recently trimmed tree that was little more than a trunk, but a trunk with movement in it that I really liked," Damon said. "Over the last year and a half I've been developing its canopy."

A small shimpaku juniper owned by Becky Hosseini was the next tree Roy critiqued. As Becky noted, Roy said to remove the garbage (parts of plants that don't get sunlight) to be able to see the trunk and middle without picking up the tree. He also said to "take off the wire and retrain the lower branch towards the front." Roy then asked his assistant, Alex Martinez, to work on Becky's tree so we all could see how to bring out its potential.

Ken Fuentes had two olives for Roy's critique. The first one was "a very interesting tree," Roy said. But Ken should remove all inward growing branches. Ken's second olive also had too many branches growing into the tree, but otherwise "has a very interesting arrangement of branches."

New member Colin Percell asked for Roy's opinion of a large San Jose juniper. The tree "has too much foliage," Roy remarked. He also said that it was time for the wires to be removed and recommended that Colin jin the back



**Ken Fuentes' two olives (above left & right).**

*(Continued on page 8)*



Nagatoshi (Continued from page 7)  
branch.

Roy said that a large boxwood that belongs to Rolando Guevara “needs some serious work.” Although the tree has “a nice bottom of the trunk,” it has too many limbs that are way too thick and too many “bodies” in heavy, upward growing branches. Roy and Alex worked on this tree, producing a simplified, shorter bonsai. “He cut down 80% of the tree,” Rolando said. “And gave me an idea for the years to come. He gave me a good idea of what to see when making cuts.”

The first branch of a juniper procumbens that also belonged to Rolando was too long. “It makes the whole tree look young,” Roy commented. He removed the offending branch but left a stump for a future jin.

Rolando’s willow leaf fig (*Ficus salicaria*) had “too many branches coming from the same spot—they will develop a bulge in the trunk,”

(Continued on page 9)



Colin Percell’s San Jose juniper (above).



Rolando Guevara’s boxwood before (above) and after (right).

Rolando’s procumbens juniper (below).







**Rolando's ficus narifolia (above).**

*Nagatoshi (Continued from page 8)*

Roy warned. Overall, the tree needs to be thinned out and cut down to make room for the sun to shine through.

A fruit-bearing olive presented by Ken Martin is a graft, Roy pointed out. Despite the graft, Roy liked the base and body of this tree, but it had two apexes. He suggested that Ken do it in a broom style, “but even a broom style should have an apex.” The tree needed a good haircut, Roy said: “Don’t let shoots get too long. You have to keep pruning—the more you cut, the more ramification you will get.”

As an aside, contrary to common practice, Roy explained, round pots should be shown with one leg in the front of the bonsai.

Ken also presented a Japanese black pine that had reverse taper at the base. Roy suggested developing new roots up higher and planting the tree deeper in the pot so the soil would hide some of the skinny trunk.

“What a wealth of knowledge from such a pleasant man,” commented Becky Hosseini. “He worked tirelessly for over two hours.” But Roy Nagatoshi probably did not think he was working because he regards bonsai as something to enjoy. “If bonsai becomes a chore, get out,” he said. “It is a hobby to enjoy.”

On this February evening, Roy looked like he was having far too much fun to “get out” anytime soon—and we are very grateful that he shared his knowledge and passion for bonsai with us.



**Ken Martin's black pine (above) and olive (below).**





# San Jose Juniper Finds a Good New Home

Editor's Note: Jim and Sue Falkin showed this San Jose juniper (*Juniperus chinensis* 'San Jose') as the niche display at CVBS's February 2024 meeting. Here's what Jim said about their tree.

The tree is a fifty- or sixty-year-old San Jose juniper. Sue and I obtained it from a couple who could no longer care for it. We purchased the tree near Cambria in Nipomo. George Muranaka (owner of Muranaka Bonsai Nursery) helped us with the purchase. We have owned the tree for only a short time. What sold us on buying the tree was its grace and beauty, which we appreciated. We wanted to give it a new home. The accent plant is dwarf Mondo Grass.



Photo by David Williams



# Gentle and Severe Bends in One Bonsai

By Ken Martin

Online Video Review: Jason Chan demonstrated how to bend a tree's trunk, including one severe, 180° apex.

**Jason Chan**  
**Eastern Leaf Bonsai Nursery**  
**Chino, California**  
**Bending Bonsai: Aggressive versus Conservative**  
**YouTube**  
**13.03 minutes**

Jason Chan has been a demonstrator at our club meetings several times. This YouTube video is a trunk-bending tutorial.

In this demonstration, Jason worked on a thin, tall blue atlas cedar. He discussed three options including just chopping the tree three-quarters of the way up, making a literati bonsai with all the green near the top, and a third option, which he chose to make an unusual bonsai.

To demonstrate both mild and severe bending in the same tree, he wrapped raffia around the trunk from the base nearly to the top. He then put #7 wire three-quarters of the way up.

After this preparation, he made some gentle bends near the base. Then he wired the branches with a smaller diameter wire. Finally, he made a series of severe bends starting about two-thirds of the way up the trunk, which put the top third of the tree behind the trunk. (You can see this in the photos on this page.)

The result was an unusual tree that combines both gentle and severe bends. Jason showed how and where to bend trunks and branches ending up with a tree that will require more styling in the future.



Jason and a straight 3-foot blue atlas cedar (above) before he started working on it.

A severe bend about two-thirds of the way up the trunk creates the new apex of this unusual bonsai (below). Note the gentle bends lower in the trunk.





# CVBS Bonsai Library at Your Service

Please remember to return any overdue items borrowed from the Conejo Valley Bonsai Society library. But also 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 CVBS website [www.cvbs-bonsai.org](http://www.cvbs-bonsai.org).

—Mike Blumenberg

## Book of the Month

Herb L. Gustafson, *Keep Your Bonsai Alive & Well*, Sterling Publishing Co. Inc. (New York, June 30, 1995).

This month I’m going to review Herb L. Gustafson’s guidance in his *Keep Your Bonsai Alive & Well* regarding when to water bonsai. I intend this to complement last month’s discussion regarding the best time of day to water bonsai, but this discussion is more focused on the process of watering and how to adjust that process for each tree species.

Gustafson dedicated a chapter of his book to “Watering” because “it’s the lifeblood of the plant.” He states that “careful attention to watering bonsai is critical” and he uses the graph below to explain when to water.

The vertical scale on the graph shows the moisture content of the soil in the bonsai pot while the horizontal scale shows relative time. The time scale is relative to the species of bonsai, the season, and the day’s weather. The relative time from A to H varies by all these conditions and “could be as little as three hours or as much as a week.”

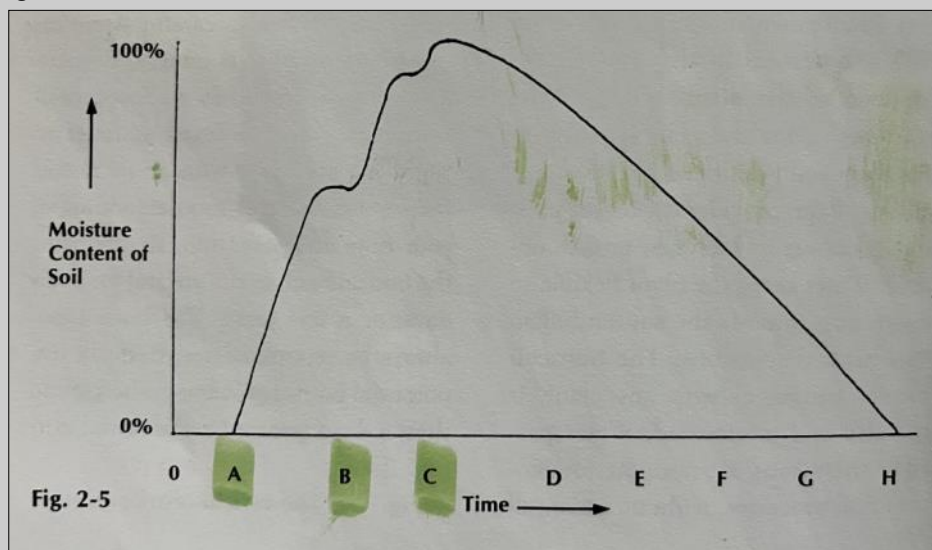
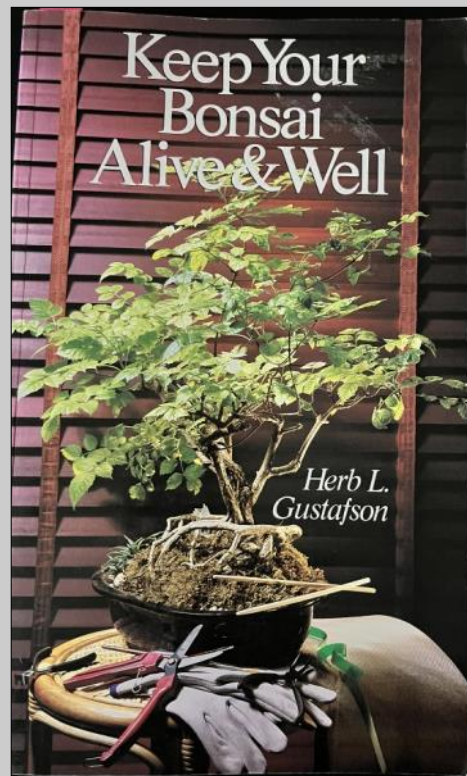
At time A, Gustafson starts the watering process by lightly misting the bonsai soil for a few seconds. The dry soil will initially resist the water but then begin to absorb some moisture. A few minutes later, at time B, the soil is ready to receive and absorb more water. Watering thoroughly at this time will increase the soil’s moisture content significantly. After the soil becomes saturated, the building surface tension of the water in the pot creates a flushing action that results in water freely flowing out of the drain holes. This flushing also pulls air down into the soil. Another author compared this flushing process to a toddler peeing his pants, which is a visual most parents will recall!

Between time B and C, Gustafson says another important process occurs. He explains that when the soil moisture content is near 100% there is an equilibrium between the water pressures in the pot and within the tree’s roots. This equilibrium allows the tree to dispose of waste products, assess nutrient levels, and adjust those levels. Allow this process to work for 10 to 15 minutes, then water again at time C. This third watering is crucial for tree health because it removes waste products, which Gustafson equates with taking out the garbage.

According to Gustafson, “correct watering always begins with the three initial waterings (A, B & C described above), then proceeds to locate the proper time to begin the sequence again.” The times D through H on the graph show how the soil moisture level will drop over time. The key decision is when to resume the process. Gustafson explained that time F is when the soil surface has dried but a probing finger can find a little moisture below the surface; there is no visible wilting of leaves. For most deciduous bonsai, this is the preferred time to start the watering cycle again. Watering junipers and other hardy semiarid plants should wait until time G; watering cactus and succulents should wait until time H (zero moisture in the soil).

You can check out Gustafson’s book from the CVBS library and read the rest of the chapter on Watering as well as his other advice on seasonal care, repotting, pests, soil, and fertilizer.

—Mike Blumenberg





**Most gardens are open—confirm status and Covid protocols of the garden ahead of time.**

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**2024**

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**April**

**April 13 – 14, 2024, Sacramento, California**

American Bonsai Association Annual Show. 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM, 3330 McKinley Blvd, Sacramento, CA 95816. Headliner, Tyler Sherrod, Professional Bonsai Artist/Teacher from Georgia, will conduct a live demonstration each day at 1:30 PM. A large Exhibit of beautiful bonsai developed by our members. Northern California vendors selling all things bonsai. Member Concession Tables • Beginner's Workshop: Sunday, 10 AM – 12 PM, includes tree, pot, and instruction. (Call Dodie Newman at (916) 799-9575 to reserve a space.) Daily Benefit Raffle will include each day's demonstration trees and many bonsai and related items. Check out our website [www.abasbonsai.org](http://www.abasbonsai.org) for more information. Phone: (916) 799-9575.

**April 20 – 21, 2024, Palo Alto, California**

64th Annual Show of Kusamura Bonsai Club of Palo Alto. Addison Elementary School, 1045 Webster St, Palo Alto, CA 94301. Show hours are Saturday, April 20 12:00 PM – 4:00 PM and Sunday, April 21, 2024, 11:00 AM – 4:00 PM. Tours of the show will occur throughout both days. Show Critique at 4:00 PM on Saturday. Educational guide of bonsai terminology will be available. Signup for beginner workshops. Phone: (650) 504-1518. Over 60 bonsai on display. Demonstration by Headliner, Mike Pistello, will be held at 1:30 PM Saturday. A Club demonstration will be held on Sunday at 1:30 PM. Benefit drawing will occur daily at 3:00 PM. Sales of pre-bonsai, bonsai, books, pots, and stands.

**April 20, 2024, Modesto, California**

41st Annual Modesto Bonsai Club Spring Show, Stanislaus County Harvest Hall, 3800 Cornucopia Way Suite E, Modesto, California 95358. 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM. Bonsai demonstration at 1:00 PM by Sam Adina. Exhibits and sales of plants, pots other Bonsai items. Raffle. Free Admission - Public Welcome.

**April 28, 2024, Watsonville, California**

Watsonville Bonsai Club Show. 423 Bridge St, Watsonville, CA 95076. Demonstration by Gareth Shepherd will be conducted at 1:30 PM. Door prizes and raffle of bonsai material, including demonstration tree, will be held. Many plants and pots available for purchase. Free admission (donations appreciated). Plenty of parking for bus groups. Tea and cookies will be served. Please join us. For more information contact us at (831) 247-9028.

**May**

**May 4, 2024, Sacramento, California**

Sacramento Bonsai Club's 78th Annual Show. May 4, 2024, 11:00 AM – 4:00 PM. Buddhist Church of Sacramento, 2401 Riverside Blvd, Sacramento, CA 95818. Join us for our 78th annual show as well as celebrating the 125th anniversary of the Buddhist Church of Sacramento. Demo by Instructor Sam Adina will occur at 1:30 PM followed by a raffle. Sales (all day), Workshops (\$20 pre-register), Free admission (donations accepted). For more information contact: Lucy Sakaishi-Judd at (916) 300-8103 or [juddbonsai@att.net](mailto:juddbonsai@att.net) or club website: [www.sacbonsaiclub.com](http://www.sacbonsaiclub.com).

**May 18 – May 19, 2024, Oakland, California**

Bay Area Satsuki Aikokai (BASA) and Yamato Bonsai Kai joint Bonsai Show, May 18, 2024, 10:00 AM – May 19, 2024, 3:45 PM Oakland, Lakeside Park Garden Center, 666 Bellevue Ave, Oakland, CA 94610. Join us to view Azalea bonsai in full color. There will be a large members' sales area and imported Japanese material as well as outside vendor sales. Club demonstrations will be held from 1:00 – 3:00 PM on Saturday (BASA) and Sunday (Yamato). For more information see <https://satsukiazaleabonsai.org>.

**June**

**June 1 – 2, 2024, San Mateo, California**

Sei Boku Bonsai Kai Bonsai Show, demonstrations, vendor and club sales, and raffles. June 1, 10:00 AM – June 2, 3:00 PM. San Mateo Garden Center (Beresford Park), 605 Parkside Way, San Mateo, CA 94403. Bring your bonsai to "Dr. Bonsai" to get a free diagnosis and prescription for improvement. View some of the most outstanding bonsai creations in the Bay Area. Saturday, demonstration by Sensei Gordon Deeg. Sunday, workshop by renowned Japanese certified bonsai artist Adam Toff. Free Admission. More information at: [www.seibokubonsikai.org](http://www.seibokubonsikai.org).

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**Barrett's Bonsai Tips** (Continued from page 3)

ates, etc., are leafing out, wait until this new growth hardens before repotting

Look out for wooly aphids on apple, quince, and other plants attractive to aphids. Malathion with a little horticultural oil mixed in should do the trick. The oil allows the Malathion to stick and penetrate the white fuzz covering the critter. Spray again in about ten days. This treatment will also take care of regular aphids and spider mites.

Start fine-tuning show trees [for the CVBS annual exhibition or for a niche display]. Trees to be shown should not have large-gauge wire on trunks or visible on large branches. It is, however, permissible to have wire

on medium to small branches providing it is neatly applied. Annealed copper or anodized aluminum are preferred wire choices.

If you wish to darken bright copper wire, soak it overnight in Purex or diluted muratic acid (swimming pool acid). Wash it with clear water before using.

Start getting rid of moss growing on trunks and base roots. Be careful not to damage rough-bark trees such as black pine and cork bark elm.

Are you planning to change pots before [showing your bonsai]? Do it now so the tree will look settled in its show container. This is a common practice in Japan. The show pot is then stored away after the show and the tree is returned to its everyday pot. 🌱