




conejo valley

BONSAI society

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A member of the Golden State Bonsai Federation 

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President's Message

Spring Is My Favorite Bonsai Season

By Damon DuBois

Spring is here! This has always been my favorite time of year for bonsai. Everything is blooming and growing again, and many of our trees are looking great in their new pots as we reach the end of repotting season. The growing season is starting in earnest and we should all be thinking about what we hope to accomplish with our trees this season.

For our April 18th meeting, I will lead our five-minute bonsai discussion. The topic will be Juniper Foliage: The differences between "Mature" and "Juvenile" foliage and what causes a tree to grow one or the other.

On April 20th, David and June Nguy will hold a "Friendship Through Bonsai" celebration at their garden in Chino. The event will be from 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM with a lunch break from 11:30 AM – 2:30 PM. There will be a demonstration by David Nguy from 12:30 – 3:00 PM. The demonstration tree will be raffled. Other raffle items will include pots, soil, trees, wire, and more. A bonsai display stand and a shohin display stand will be sold at a silent auction.

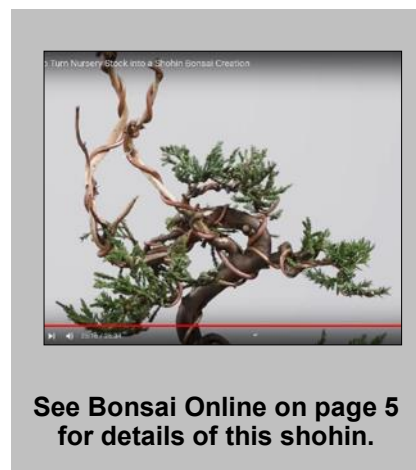
David and June have an amazing garden that is well worth visiting. Seven CVBS members are already planning to go. If you are interested in going to this celebration, please let me know soon and I will provide the necessary details.

We also have a demonstration confirmed for our June 20th meeting. It will feature Colin Purcell discussing the Fundamentals of Wiring. Colin is the manager of California Bonsai Studio. He did a five-year apprenticeship under CBS Owner Travis Goldstein and took over day-to-day management of the nursery about five years ago.

Our April 18th meeting will be a workshop, so bring your trees! See you at the meeting! 🌲



Damon DuBois



See Bonsai Online on page 5 for details of this shohin.

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

CVBS Membership

Final Reminder: Past 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— BRING YOUR TREES
February 15	7:30 PM: Brief Meeting followed by TREE CRITIQUE —ROY NAGATOSHI BRING YOUR TREES FOR ROY TO ANALYZE
SPECIAL WORKSHOP March 9	12:00 Noon: Special Workshop TREE POTTING & REPOTTING —KEN FUENTES CALIFORNIA BONSAI STUDIO, THOUSAND OAKS
March 21	7:30 PM: Brief Meeting followed by Workshop— BRING YOUR TREES
April 18	7:30 PM: Brief Meeting & Discussion: Juniper Foliage led by Damon DuBois followed by Workshop— BRING YOUR TREES
May 16	7:30 PM: Brief Meeting followed by Workshop— BRING YOUR TREES
June 20	7:30 PM: Brief Meeting followed by DEMONSTRATION —COLIN PURCELL: WIRING FUNDAMENTALS
July 18	7:30 PM: Brief Meeting followed by Workshop— BRING YOUR TREES
August 15	7:30 PM: Brief Meeting followed by Workshop and Swap Meet — BRING YOUR TREES AND OTHER BONSAI ITEMS
September 19	7:30 PM: Brief Meeting followed by DEMONSTRATION —TBA
October 17	7:30 PM: Brief Meeting followed by PEER CRITIQUES —BRING YOUR EXHIBITION TREES
TENTATIVE November 8 – 9	TENTATIVE NOTE: FRIDAY–SATURDAY 21ST ANNUAL CVBS EXHIBITION GARDENS OF THE WORLD
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

Busy Days for Growers of Deciduous Bonsai

By Jim Barrett

Since our [newsletter publication dates are near] the middle of the month, we will attempt to include information that is important for the next month as well.

This time of year can be a very busy one for those of us with deciduous trees.

Deciduous trees need constant attention to keep upper growth in balance with the middle growth and the lower areas. Cut long shoots in the tops of maples, elms, and especially zelkova, to one or two nodes or leaves. Rub off unwanted sprouts before they develop into shoots.

Prune for shape and remove large leaves that block sunlight to the interior of the tree. From now on our task should be to encourage ramification, shape, and health.

Fertilize your trees with slow-acting fertilizers or time-release plant food. It is better to feed a little more often than a lot once in a while.

Resist candle pruning your black pine bon-



Jim Barrett

sai until June or later. Black pine, in growing containers that need more development, can be candle pruned in May.

Repotting—bonsai pot to bonsai pot—can still be done safely, especially pomegranate, most ficus, elms, wisteria, junipers, and azaleas. Olives can be potted, or if you wish, they can be worked on now.

Watch for powdery mildew on maples, quince, crabapples, and crapemyrtle.

Watch for aphids and spider mites. They will be very active this year. If your trees are infested with black ants, chances are you have aphids or scale. Keep after the trees you want to show. A little work often will save a lot of work later on and the tree will look super. 🐜

Refreshments

April	Becky Hosseini
May	Ron Manwill
June	Antonio Viscarra
July	Volunteer Needed
August	Volunteer Needed

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 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

April	Colin Purcell
May	Volunteer Needed
June	Volunteer Needed
July	Volunteer Needed

CVBS Membership

Interested in CVBS?

Please welcome new member Chris Sanborn of Agoura Hills 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

Chinese Elm: Driveway Weed to Bonsai Forest

Editor's Note: Antonio Viscarra showed this Chinese elm (*Ulmus parvifolia*) forest as the niche display at CVBS's March 2024 meeting. Here's what Antonio said about his bonsai.

I got this Chinese elm forest from Marj Branson, CVBS co-founder and long-time president, at the time she moved out of state in 2023. From what I understand, she practically grew them from seed: they were little trees that had sprouted in a friend's driveway. She picked them and nurtured them to where they are now. I don't know how old they are.



Antonio Viscarra's Chinese elm forest (above) and a closeup of the foliage (inset, left).

Beautiful Bonsai from Nursery 'Junk'

By Ken Martin

Online Video Review: Ryan Neil demonstrates creating bonsai out of neglected nursery stock.

Ryan Neil
Bonsai Mirai
St. Helens, Oregon
How To Turn Nursery Stock into a Shohin Bonsai Creation.
YouTube
26 minutes

A year ago in this 26-minute video, St. Helens, OR-based Bonsai Mirai owner Ryan Neil said; "Every holiday at Mirai, we pick out a neglected piece of nursery stock—often a recycled holiday tree or overlooked landscaping materials. This year, we acquired a dilapidated blue rug juniper with tremendous potential for bonsai creation. Build your skills around maximizing the quality of nursery stock, transforming a commonly available material into a spectacular shohin [less than about nine inches tall] bonsai display."



Ryan and the tree (above). It was one of thirty or so in a nursery. The sign on them said "Holiday Living Adornment."



For this tree, a larger bunjin or scholar's style (above left) was possible.



Ryan decides on a cutting some branches and stripping and adding some wire to others (above middle) for a smaller bonsai. Ryan usually places the rest of the branches prior to potting, but in this case he wants to see the base of the trunk and the roots first.



Ryan shows the 'finished' tree (above). The basic framework is set, but there will be refinements.

A closeup of the branches on this shohin bonsai (below).



I would encourage folks, especially beginners or near-beginners, to review this excellent video, go pick up a cheap, non-descript juniper in a small can, and have fun practicing. Bring it to the next workshop if you'd like help. 🌲

All screen captures by Ken Martin

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.

—Mike Blumenberg

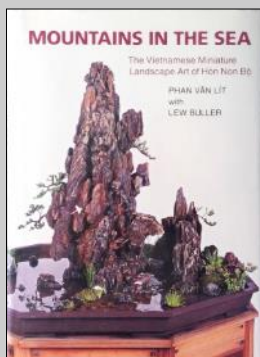
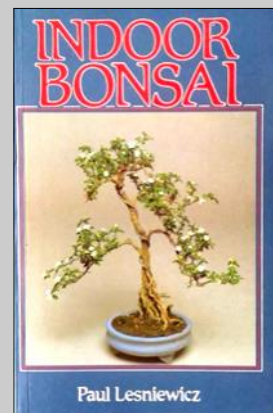
Book of the Month

Dick Knudsen, benefactor, Conejo Valley Bonsai Society Library (2024).

This issue’s Book of the Month is a short synopsis of the books that Dick Knudsen of Ventura recently donated to the CVBS Library. Thanks Dick!

- *Indoor Bonsai* by Paul Lesniewicz (Blandford Press, 1985)

Paul Lesniewicz was the President of the German Bonsai Club and founder of the first bonsai center in the German-speaking world. In this book, Lesniewicz looks at tree species that can be kept indoors and offers comprehensive guidance on creating and maintaining indoor bonsai.

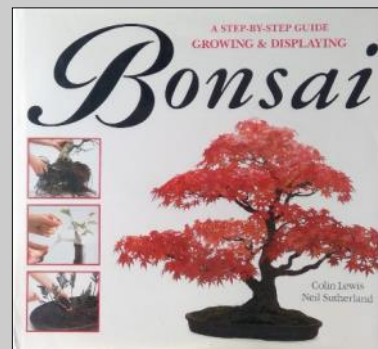


- *Mountains in the Sea* by Phan Van Lit (Timber Press, 2001)

This book focuses on Hon Non Bo, or miniature Vietnamese landscapes. Similar to bonsai and penjing, Hon Non Bo uses trees and rocks to create imaginative plantings but Hon Non Bo also reflects the “mountains, coastal scenery, and lush vegetation” of Vietnam. The book provides a history of this art form and guidance on creating a Hon Non Bo.

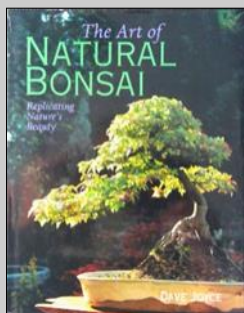
- *Bonsai: A Step-by-Step Guide to Growing and Displaying* by Colin Lewis and Neil Sutherland (CLB Publishing, 1993)

Colin Lewis is a well know bonsai artist from London and has published several bonsai books. This book provides comprehensive guidance along with excellent illustrations to explain the techniques and art of bonsai.



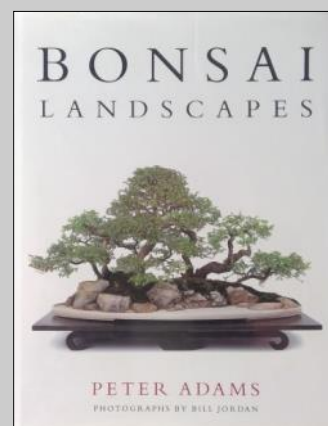
- *The Art of Natural Bonsai: Replicating Nature’s Beauty* by Dave Joyce (Sterling Publishing Co., 2003)

The book’s jacket says that Joyce “distills thirty years of experience in cultivating and researching bonsai into advice that anyone can follow.”



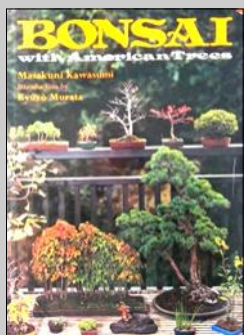
- *Bonsai Landscapes* by Peter Adams (Work Lock Publishing, 1999)

“This definitive guide to re-creating your favourite landscape in miniature is the inspiration of one of the world’s leading bonsai experts.”



- *Bonsai with American Trees* by Masakui Kawasumi (Harper & Row, 1975)

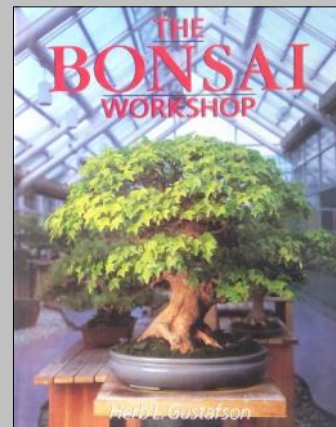
“The famous art of growing miniature trees and shrubs has been adapted specially to the soil and weather conditions of America for the first time by Japan’s leading authority on the art of bonsai.”



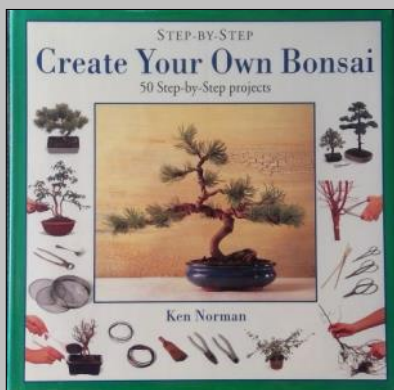
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Photos by Mike Blumenberg

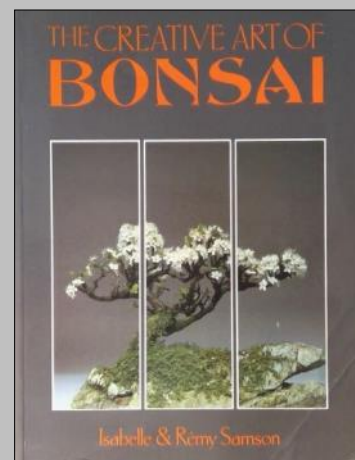
- *The Bonsai Workshop* by Herb L. Gustafson (Sterling Publishing, 1994)
 “Create your own beautiful bonsai garden – inside or outside – regardless of weather or time limitations. With over 400 color photos, this workshop-in-a-book has it all.”



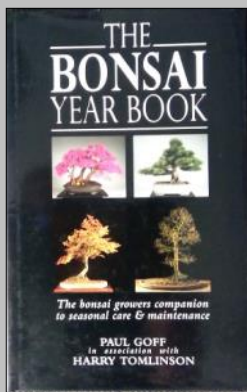
- *Create Your Own Bonsai: 50 Step-by-Step Projects* by Ken Norman (Anness Publishing Limited, 1996)
 This book “uses accessible language and provides you with all the knowledge you need to master an intriguing, stimulating and spiritually satisfying creative art.”



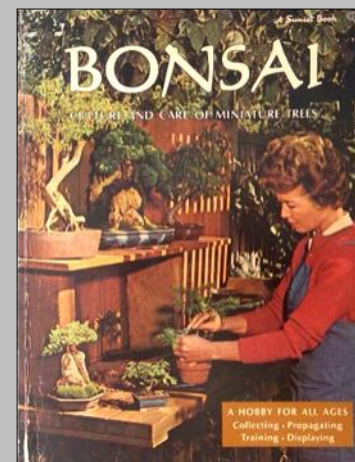
- *The Creative Art of Bonsai* by Isabelle & Remy Samson (Borda, 1986)
 “This book deals with experience and conditions in France, as regards the cultivation of bonsai, which can range from a continental climate of extremes in the interior of the country to the milder Mediterranean coasts,” which is similar to the Conejo Valley climate.



- *The Bonsai Year Book* by Paul Goff (Stone Lantern Publishing Co., 1994)
 “A comprehensive guide to seasonal care and maintenance produced as a month-by-month workbook.”

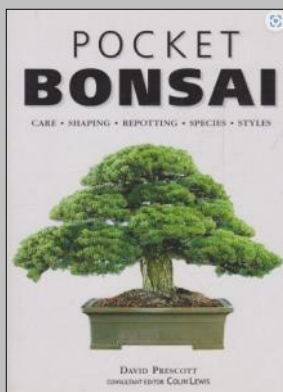


- *Bonsai: Culture and Care of Miniature Trees* by Sunset Books (Lane Magazine & Book Co., 1967)
 “A hobby for all ages; Collecting, Propagating, Training, Displaying.” An oldy but goody.



- *Pocket Bonsai* by David Prescott (New Holland Publishing, 1994)
 “Gardeners can participate in the wonderful tradition of bonsai cultivation with the help of this definitive, pocket-size yet extremely thorough guide, written by an expert.”

—Mike Blumenberg



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

2024

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 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 or club website: 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.

Coming Event
Friendship Through Bonsai

Saturday, April 20, 2024

Hosted by David & June Nguy
Chino, California

9:00 AM – 5:00 PM

11:30 AM – 2:30 PM Lunch

12:30 – 3:00 PM **Demonstration** by David Nguy

Raffle:

Demonstration tree plus pots, soil, wire, and other bonsai items.

Silent Auction:

- Bonsai Display Stand
- Shohin Display Stand

Please contact CVBS President Damon DuBois for location and details.