

VALLEY BONSAI SOCIETY

APRIL 2021 – THINGS MAY BE IMPROVING...

Livermore, California

MISSION: To encourage and equip each other as we share a common interest and enjoyment of Bonsai and to encourage others to explore this art form.

[HTTP://WWW.VALLEYBONSAISOCIETY.COM](http://www.valleybonsaisociety.com)

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WHAT IS THE VALLEY BONSAI SOCIETY?



50 weeks.

Founded in February 2008 by Charles Harder, this organization was established to create a group of local Bonsai enthusiasts with all level of expertise. Many of us started by taking one or more of Charles's classes, some received a plant as a gift and some had been struggling on their own. We currently have some people with extensive collections; some have trained trees as long as 50 years and some are still trying to get a tree to survive

MEETINGS

The club usually meets at Alden Lane every third Saturday of the month at 2:00PM. Everyone is welcome! However, with current situation, we are now meeting on Zoom. Invites will be sent out prior to the meeting.

NEWSLETTER, EMAIL LIST AND WEBSITE

An email list is maintained to release announcements and send out an electronic newsletter. Please send a request to be added to (or removed from) this list via e-mail to Charles Harder (bonsainut@comcast.net). We have a website! Visit us at www.valleybonsaisociety.com

MEMBERSHIP

Membership is open to anyone who shares an interest in the ancient oriental horticultural art of Bonsai. The annual dues are \$30 a year for an individual or \$40 for couples or families. If you'd rather not pay for a membership, you have the option of paying \$5.00 per visit. If you have questions regarding membership or would like to join, please contact Bea Bauerly BelgianBea@yahoo.com

Fees are waived for 2021 due to the Pandemic and limited ability to have live meetings.

APRIL MEETING BY CHARLES

Our April meeting, besides being a Zoom meeting also had several people show up at my house. This month was a basic workshop; we talked about de-candling pines and general tree care and maintenance. With more people hanging out than were on the zoom call. Thank you to all who attended.



MAY MEETING BY CHARLES

For our May meeting, I will try an experiment. Lotus bonsai in Placerville is having a spring sale, and I want to check it out.

Therefore, I am going to propose that our May meeting be a virtual field trip! **Also because of timing of the sale (9:00 to 5:00) I would like to change our meeting time to 12:00 noon.**

I will set up the zoom call as normal, but instead of my back yard, I will use my phone and wander around Lotus Bonsai and show off what is available. I hope that the cell coverage will allow for this. I am willing to grab any items people are interested in, and will arrange payment. Upon my return, I will contact you to arrange for pick up and reimbursement.

Fair warning, the owner is VERY proud of what he has, so his prices might be a little higher than you would expect.

If it is a nice day and you feel like making the trip, I encourage you to come and meet me there – but not in my car...I am not planning on coming home until Sunday ☺. Here is the address: 1435 Lower Lake Drive, Placerville, CA 95667.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Nothing is posted currently for CA

SENPAI CORNER BY CHARLES

Wow, normally by now I would be freaking out about our upcoming show which should only be less than 2 months away; however, my family is grateful for not having to lug all the stuff back and forth.

I am hopeful for next year though. I really miss seeing your trees as you work on them through the year, and then all dressed up for the show. As I said, maybe next year.

Since we did not have a show last year or this year, I was thinking of ways to get a little fundraising in. Bea suggested that we set up an online store, either on our website or on our Facebook page. Then if people have extra pots or trees or material, this would be a good venue - a virtual sales table – with the club getting a percentage of the sale. I am open to other ideas or suggestions, or we could just wait until next year's show...

ELECTIONS

Positions on the Board are still available. Please contact Bea if you are interested.

TIDBITS BY BEA

As I continue my search for more natural ways to fertilize, I have come across a couple more.

Epsom salt: Epsom salt has so many uses, including aiding in a beautiful and healthy garden. It's rich in magnesium and sulfate which are crucial to plant life. For potted plants, mix a couple of tablespoons of the salt into your watering can once or twice a month. You can also sprinkle it in your garden's soil to help your seeds germinate better. Tomatoes and peppers benefit the most because they both tend to have a magnesium deficiency. Add a tablespoon or so in with the soil when first planting, and then sprinkle more in to the soil once mature.

Vegetable cooking water: The water has many nutrients that your garden thrives on. Wait for the water to cool down first, and then use it to "fertilize" your garden and potted plants. This makes for a green and happy garden!

Eggshells: Never throw eggshells away. I keep a Ziploc bag in my kitchen. Any time i use eggs, I put the shells upside down on a paper towel and let them dry overnight, then the next day, I put them in the bag and crush them. When I have enough, I sprinkle them in the garden. The calcium from eggshells is welcome in garden soil, where it moderates soil acidity while providing nutrients for plants. As an added bonus, slugs, cutworms, and other insects are put off by the crunch when they crawl over the sharp edges and will leave for softer pastures. I almost forgot, don't throw away the water you use to boil your eggs. Let it cool and then use it to water your plant, it is also full of nutrient.

Lemon peels: Leftover lemon peels can be used to acidify the soil. Just dry the citrus peels and grind them into a powder. Sprinkle this on soil and mix it. It is a great and all natural way to increase the acidity of the soil (Remember,

the lowering of soil pH depends on the amount of citrus peel powder you'll use. As an added bonus, it also adds some essential micro and macro nutrients to the soil.

Well, here you have it, more way to fertilize the natural way.

THANK YOU ALDEN LANE



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Thanks to Alden Lane for allowing us to meet for free at the nursery as we start up. Alden Lane Nursery has evergreen and blooming trained Bonsai specimens in many sizes for indoors and outdoor gardens. Stop in and let one of the Bonsai experts help you design your own Bonsai masterpiece from the selection of Bonsai pots and starter plants. They also carry Bonsai tools and enough useful Bonsai accessories to satisfy even the most dedicated bonsai tree hobbyist.

The nice thing about meeting at Alden Lane is that you have the opportunity to not only pick up bonsai stock and supplies but to shop under the oaks amongst one of the most extensive offerings for your home and garden. Inspiration and beauty abounds where ever you look along with the friendly, knowledgeable staff of Alden Lane. Don't forget to say THANK YOU for the incredible support!

SOCIETY OFFICERS AND CONTACTS

President	Charles Harder	bonsainut@comcast.net
Vice President	Open Position	
Secretary	Bea Bauerly	BelgianBea@yahoo.com
Treasurer	Bea Bauerly	BelgianBea@yahoo.com
Membership	Bea Bauerly	BelgianBea@yahoo.com
Fund Raising	Open Position	
Newsletter	Charles Harder	bonsainut@comcast.net
Website	Bill Bauerly	Bill46@pacbell.net

If you need to contact any of the above, please make sure to reference "Valley Bonsai Society" in the subject line.