

VALLEY BONSAI SOCIETY

AUGUST 2023

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)

IN THIS ISSUE:

- WHAT IS THE VALLEY BONSAI SOCIETY
- MEETINGS
- NEWSLETTER, EMAIL LIST AND WEBSITE
- MEMBERSHIP
- AUGUST MEETING
- SEPTEMBER MEETING
- UPCOMING EVENTS
- SENPAI CORNER
- ELECTIONS
- TIDBITS
- THANK YOU ALDEN LANE
- VALLEY BONSAI SOCIETY OFFICERS & CONTACTS

WHAT IS THE VALLEY BONSAI SOCIETY?



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' 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

50 weeks.

MEETINGS

The club meets at Alden Lane every third Saturday of the month at 2:00PM. Everyone is welcome!

NEWSLETTER, EMAIL LIST AND WEBSITE

We maintain an e-mail distribution list of our members to release announcements and send out the monthly 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. Follow us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/ValleyBonsai> or Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/Valley_Bonsai_Society

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

AUGUST MEETING BY CHARLES

At our August meeting, we had a recap of our June show – what worked, what did not. We had great input from the attending members. Before next year show, we will review that list to make sure everything is addressed.

- Greeters should be more vocal to welcome visitors
- Ability to take credit card (Square, Venmo, etc.)
- “Trees are not for sale” signs
- More tables or less trees!
- Microphone for the demo (it is sometime hard to hear when people are talking on the exhibit side)
- Or move the demo to a different room so there is no interference with people talking.
- Have members wear their Bonsai shirt and walk thru the nursery to let people know that there is an exhibition
- More signs on the road to direct people to Alden Lane

I also brought in a boxwood shrub to discuss how to trim for growth. Than the members made some suggestions on how this tree should be trimmed for future style, shape and growth.





SEPTEMBER MEETING BY CHARLES

September meeting will be a discussion on pot selection. I know everyone knows about conifers are in non-glazed pots, and deciduous trees are in glazed; but there is more to it than just that, so we will talk about “beyond the glaze” and selecting that ideal pot. The rest of the meeting will be a general workshop.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Yamato Bonsai Kai Show

Exhibition of Bonsai trees, plant sales, and vendors. Free admission and free parking. Demonstrations both days at 1:30 pm, with Jonas Dupuich on Saturday and Yamato Bonsai Kai Club demonstrator Howard Correa on Sunday. Oct 14, 10:00 AM – Oct 15, 4:00 PM Union City, 32975 Alvarado-Niles Rd, Union City, CA 94587, USA Demonstration trees will be raffled off as grand prize each day. For more info and updates find us on Facebook by searching "Yamato Bonsai Kai". Phone: (+1) 510-378-9150 Email: irishfish-boy@yahoo.com

East Bay Bonsai Society

The show features an impressive exhibit of quality bonsai as well as a demonstration by Jason Chan, owner of Eastern Leaf Bonsai Nursery, past board member of GSBF and author of a bonsai book dedicated to helping beginners and new bonsai enthusiasts. Oct 14, 10:00 AM – Oct 15, 4:00 PM Oakland, Lakeside Park Garden Center, 666 Bellevue Ave, Oakland, CA 94610, USA There will also be a raffle, silent auction and a sale of bonsai and related materials. For information, visit website www.eastbaybonsai.org. Or contact Michael Hylton mhylton@rocketmail.com.

GSBF Rendezvous

Bonsai Sales • Auction • Workshops • Demonstrations • Joshua Roth New Talent Competition • Lectures • Community Friday – Sunday Oct 20, 10:00 AM PDT – Oct 22, 4:00 PM PDT Santa Nella, 13070 CA-33, Santa Nella, CA 95322, USA,

SENPAI CORNER BY CHARLES

Here are a couple of good sources that Larry provided me recently:

#1. Here is a link to Rocket Farms Wholesale Nursery in Half Moon Bay, which now has a section open to the general public. I did not see the word "bonsai" specified on the website, and, to tell the truth, would not have expected to find it. This is where Trader Joe's buys many of its plants for sale in the Livermore store. The plants seem well cared for, which I think speaks well for the nursery.

<https://rocketfarms.com/wholesale-shop/>

#2 Here is a link to the newly opened Pottery Planet store on Old Crow Canyon Road in San Ramon -- near the Home Depot. It opened very recently and has a small selection of well-priced glazed (only) pots of varying sizes. Many pots come with plastic screening and copper wire to secure the trees. An extra bonus! The fellow told me they have a larger selection at their Santa Cruz store and have many customers who are members of a Santa Cruz area club(s).

<https://www.potteryplanet.com/>

Otherwise, August and September are slow months for our trees. We still trim to maintain shape, and in some cases, perform major pruning (boxwood and even Junipers) but otherwise, we continue to water, fertilize and are waiting for the end of September into October for our next opportunity to repot. This is a good time to be planning for the next phase of our trees, as well as looking for that special pot or wire or tools. Enjoy this quiet time and stay hydrated – both you and your trees.

ELECTIONS

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

TIDBITS BY BEA

At the last meeting, I shared with those present that I have installed an "on demand" watering system for my Bonsai. It is a product from Austria, the company is called Blumat. I have dealt with their reseller, Sustainable Village, located in Boulder, Colorado. Their website is



www.sustainablevillage.com. Thanks to my neighbor and member of our club for mentioning this system. It looks like a drip system but it definitely does not work like one. I have two style of sensors (they look like carrots), the classic that works well for the majority of my Bonsai and then the shorter version (pictured on the left) made specifically for Bonsai – this version is much shorter and works well for the shallower pots.



It is amazing to see it working, if the “soil” is very dry the water drips at a faster rate, if it is wet enough, it stops. Each works independently of the other...they all request their water when needed.

A conventional drip system waters at a scheduled time for a preset amount of time. This however is whenever it is needed based on each plant’s requirement.

It is very easy to install once you have figure out all that you need to complete your set up.

THANK YOU ALDEN LANE



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www.aldenlane.com

Thanks to Alden Lane for sponsoring our meetings at the nursery. The 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 wherever 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

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Secretary
Treasurer
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If you need to contact any of the above, please make sure to reference

“Valley Bonsai Society” in the subject line.