

# VALLEY BONSAI SOCIETY

DECEMBER 2020 – THE SHELTER IN PLACE VERSION...

*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
- DECEMBER MEETING
- JANUARY MEETING
- SENPAI CORNER
- 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'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

50 weeks.

## 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 via 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](mailto:bonsainut@comcast.net)). We have a website! Visit us at [www.valleybonsaisociety.com](http://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](mailto:BelgianBea@yahoo.com). **Dues are waived for 2021 until we can resume our meetings at Alden Lane.**

## DECEMBER MEETING BY CHARLES

Our December meeting was again relatively short, with only a handful of people “Zooming” in; but with a quick question and answer and well wishes for the coming holidays we all had a great time.



## JANUARY MEETING BY CHARLES

January will be our annual soil meeting. I have some of the soil components for sale, with “curbside pickup”. However, due to Covid and imports issues, etc. my usual source did not have any Akadama. She hopes to get some in February. If I can source it prior to our meeting, I will let everyone know. I will set up a zoom meeting which will include some new things I have learned as reported below in my Senpai corner.

## SENPAI CORNER BY CHARLES

All, I want to start this section by extending a major and heartfelt apology! As my header implies, Senpai means – student teacher, which is exactly what I am. I am always learning new things. For Christmas, my family gave me a book that is totally shaking up my beliefs and opinions about Bonsai care and feeding. The book is “*Bonsai Heresy*” by Michael Hagedorn (pub.2020). I was misinformed with my past learning and thus, have been giving you incorrect information. For example, I have lectured in the past about soil and that having sharp particles encourage ramified roots. In reality, roots will split and develop with good nutrients and appropriate water availability and not with having soil particles with sharp edges. However, there was a lot of information that supports my encouragement to use the mix of Akadama, lava and pumice. As I read further, I will share more insights with you, and we will all improve together. I want to also take this opportunity to wish each and every one a happy, healthy and prosperous new year. Stay safe and stay sane.

## TIDBITS BY BEA

Not much to say this month, other than I am hoping that this year will be better than last year and that we will be able to meet again at Alden Lane. Zoom sessions are ok, but it definitely does not compare with meeting in person. Please continue to work on your trees and keep in mind that we may have a show this year so start the process of selecting trees for that purpose. If we cannot have a "live" version of the show, maybe Alden Lane would have a virtual one??

## THANK YOU ALDEN LANE



981 Alden Lane  
Livermore, CA 94550  
(925) 447-0280  
[www.aldenlane.com](http://www.aldenlane.com)

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

<b>President</b>	Charles Harder	<a href="mailto:bonsainut@comcast.net">bonsainut@comcast.net</a>
<b>Vice President</b>	<b>Open Position</b>	
<b>Secretary</b>	Bea Bauerly	<a href="mailto:BelgianBea@yahoo.com">BelgianBea@yahoo.com</a>
<b>Treasurer</b>	Bea Bauerly	<a href="mailto:BelgianBea@yahoo.com">BelgianBea@yahoo.com</a>
<b>Membership</b>	Bea Bauerly	<a href="mailto:BelgianBea@yahoo.com">BelgianBea@yahoo.com</a>
<b>Fund Raising</b>	<b>Open Position</b>	
<b>Newsletter</b>	Charles Harder	<a href="mailto:bonsainut@comcast.net">bonsainut@comcast.net</a>
<b>Website</b>	Bill Bauerly	<a href="mailto:Bill46@pacbell.net">Bill46@pacbell.net</a>

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