

VALLEY BONSAI SOCIETY

FEBRUARY 2020

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

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

FEBRUARY MEETING

Our February meeting, was our annual soil meeting. We discussed the various components that make up bonsai soil and their purpose. If you were unable to attend, or did not purchase enough, I will bring more along at the next couple of meetings.



MARCH MEETING

At our March meeting, I will demonstrate a root – in – rock technique. I will use a hollowed-out pumice stone and show you how to get all of those roots into that tiny hole at the top. Time permitting, I will incorporate that into a saikei.

UPCOMING EVENTS

March 28 – 29, 2020 San Jose, California

San Jose Betsuin Bonsai Club: 49th Annual Spring Exhibit at the San Jose Buddhist Church Betsuin, 640 North Fifth Street. Hours are 11:00 AM – 5:00 PM Saturday and Noon – 4:00 PM Sunday. Demonstration at 1:00 PM, both days with guest demonstrator David Nguy on Saturday and a club member demonstration on Sunday. Club sales of plants and pots. Vendor sales include West America (June and David Nguy) and Bonsai Fusion. For further information, call Bob Shatsky (408) 353-3239 or Susan Yea (408) 464-7340.

April 4 – 5, 2020 Sacramento, California

Bonsai Sekiyu Kai: 43rd Annual Show will be held at the Sacramento Buddhist Church, 2401 Riverside Blvd. Hours are 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM with a demonstration at 2:00 PM each day by Yuzo Maruyama. Free Admission. Amenities include refreshments, light snacks, door prizes, raffles, and silent auction, as well as a member and vendor sale of plants and bonsai related items. Drop-in mini bonsai lessons will be held from 10:00 AM-12:00 PM for \$15. For more information, contact the Bonsai Sekiyu Kai at bonsaisekiyu-kai@gmail.com.

April 11 - 12, 2020 Sacramento, California

American Bonsai Association, Sacramento: Annual Spring Show at the Shepard Garden and Arts Center in McKinley Park, 3330 McKinley Blvd. Show hours are Saturday, 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM, and Sunday, 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM, with a demonstration by Dave De Groot at 1:30 PM, both days. Beginner workshop: Sunday morning from 10:00 AM – Noon. Large member sales and vendor areas, free admission and parking. Benefit drawings, both Saturday and Sunday, will include each day's demonstration tree and many bonsai and bonsai related items. For additional information visit our website: <http://www.abasbonsai.org> or contact Renee Seely, 916-929-2106 or email breadcrumb@comcast.net.

April 18, 2020 Modesto, California

Modesto Bonsai Club: 38th Annual Spring Show at the Stanislaus County Harvest Hall, 3800 Cornucopia Way. Show hours are Saturday, 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM, with a demonstration at 1:00 PM by Sam Adina. Exhibits, sales, plants, pots, tools and more, multiple raffles. Free admission and parking. Benefit drawing Saturday, will include demonstration tree and many bonsai and bonsai related items. For additional information visit our Club Facebook Page [Modesto Bonsai Club](#), or contact our Club President Peter Camarena, 209-529-1759 or email pete.camarena@sbcglobal.net.

April 18 - 19, 2020 Santa Cruz, California

Santa Cruz Bonsai Kai: 31st Annual Bonsai Show at the Museum of Art & History, 705 Front Street. Show hours are from 10:00 AM – 5:00 PM with demonstrations at 11:00 AM and 2:00 PM. Saturday's demonstrators are Enrique Castano at 11:00 AM and Gordon Deeg at 2:00 PM and Sunday's demonstrators are Enrique Castano at 11:00 AM and Scott Chadd at 2:00 PM. Demonstration trees and trees prepared by club members will be part of the raffle after each day's demonstration. Sales area will include quality vendor and member trees, pots, and other related bonsai items. Come and enjoy the Museum of Art & History, over 100 bonsai trees on display, and demonstrations on how to create bonsai from nursery stock. In addition, enjoy the Watsonville Taiko Drummers, a hang drum demonstration, and other Japanese cultural events in the recently revitalized Abbott Square next to the Museum. For this weekend only, admission price is \$5.00 for both the Museum and the Bonsai Show (Half off the normal Museum entrance fee). For more information, contact Sarah Tiller at sarah.tiller@gmail.com or Robert Potts at cbobgo@gmail.com.

April 25 - 26, 2020 Palo Alto, California

Kusamura Bonsai Club: 60th Annual Show, Lucie Stern Community Center, 1305 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto. Show hours are Saturday, Noon – 4 PM, Sunday 11 AM – 4 PM. Free admission. Bonsai trees, pots, and other bonsai-

related items will be for sale. Bring your tree to our Bonsai Clinic for advice on care and development. Tours of the show will be held starting at 1:30 PM, each day. For more information contact Charlene Fischer at charlene@mac.com or visit www.kusamurabonsai.org.

SENPAI CORNER

Spring has sprung! The grass has rizz! I wonder where all my flowers is? With the recent unseasonably warm weather, a lot of my trees are leafing out and blooming, which is wonderful. However, remember, that we are still technically in winter (Ends March 19th if you're wondering), so there may still be a freeze or heavy storm. Be prepared if the weather guessers start talking about the possibility. Also, if you have not yet started, now is the time to begin your fertilizing program. If you are using cake type or pellet type fertilizer, keep them close to the trunk. This will promote strong root growth near the trunk – increasing the nebari.

ELECTIONS

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

TIDBITS

How to water a Bonsai Properly.

When growing and training a Bonsai of any type, one of the most important aspects to success is water. While you will find watering techniques do vary, most trees used for Bonsai have the same watering requirements. Just remember that the majority of Bonsai that die are due to improper watering. Therefore this is crucial to understand when growing Bonsai.

The general guideline is to water the soil when it becomes dry below the surface. Now, the important thing to remember is that sometimes, the soil can seem dry. Therefore, before you water your Bonsai, you should check the soil below the surface, which can be done by pushing your finger about an inch or so into the soil. That way, you can tell if there is still moisture. If the soil is still damp, then no watering is needed.

Another important thing about watering Bonsai trees is that the way in which the soil responds at the gardening center, nursery, or in the forest could be different from how the soil will respond where you live. Therefore, you also want to consider temperature and atmospheric changes. Even with change, Bonsai trees for the most part are resilient, meaning they will soon adjust to the new climate in one to three weeks.

It is common during this initial transition period to see a few of the tree's leaves turning yellow or falling off completely but again, this is considered normal. When checking the soil, follow the simple rule – if the soil is moist, then do not water but if the soil is dry, water. When you do water a Bonsai tree, you want to water it so the water runs out through the drain holes in the bottom of the container. What you want to avoid is allowing the plant to sit in

water, which will lead to root rot, thus killing the three.

Typically, the soil of your Bonsai tree should only be checked every two weeks. From that, you could be able to see a pattern of how much water your particular tree needs, which will make accurate watering possible. Then, most Bonsai need more water or more frequent watering during the hot summer months and less during the colder winter months. Therefore, you would simply make the appropriate adjustments, which may require you checking the soil more often to determine a new pattern.

Then, if you keep your Bonsai tree outdoors, you would only water in the fall and winter months when temperatures are 45 degrees or more. Remember that just about every species of tree used for Bonsai growing needs moisture at the roots in order to survive.

For the plant to continue its life process, there needs to be moisture. If you find the leaves turning brown and drying up, this would be a sure sign that the tree is drying out. Finally, these are guidelines to follow so when you buy a particular species, it would be beneficial to do a little research or talk to a professional about any special watering needs for that tree.

“The above is a reprint of Bonsai Gardening Tips from Erick A. Olsen”

THANK YOU ALDEN LANE



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www.aldenlane.com

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!

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.

SOCIETY OFFICERS AND CONTACTS

President
Vice President

Charles Harder
Open Position

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Secretary	Bea Bauerly	BelgianBea@yahoo.com
Treasurer	Bea Bauerly	BelgianBea@yahoo.com
Membership	Bea Bauerly	BelgianBea@yahoo.com
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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.