

VALLEY BONSAI SOCIETY

JANUARY 2017

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. 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 (bb1727@att.com)

JANUARY MEETING

This meeting we discussed root over rock and root in rock planting. Our



demonstration was with a small maple and we set it up to grow as a root over rock. This process will take time until it establishes itself on the rock. We attempted to demonstrate a root in rock planting, but when we removed the juniper from the pot, we realized that it was incredibly root bound, so would take a lot of work to loosen the roots, and the rock that I was planning on using, had too small of a hole to place the tree. So we postponed doing anything until another time.

FEBRUARY MEETING

Our February meeting will cover soil; what the components are that make up our bonsai soil, what each component's purpose is within our soil and general guidelines for soil recipes. As usual, I will bring the various components for you to purchase and you can mix up your own. If you wish help in re-potting at the meeting, feel free to bring your tree and either I, or one of the mentors, will assist you.

UPCOMING EVENTS

February 19 - 20, 2017 Oakland, California

GSBF Bonsai Garden at Lake Merritt: The annual Mammoth Auction and Sale Fund Raiser will be held at 666 Bellevue Ave. (Garden Center Building). Saturday: Auction preview at noon with Auction starting at 1 PM. Sunday: Vendor Sales start at 9 AM, Plant Sales start at 10 AM, and demonstrations at 1 PM. The date for this year's event is a week earlier than in the past to let attendees and vendors participate in both the Mammoth and the Bonsai-a-Thon. You are encouraged to submit your bonsai for consideration to be included in the Mammoth Auction as soon as possible. Items will be considered

on a first-come-first-considered basis. The Bonsai Garden will be open 10 AM to 4 PM on Saturday and Noon to 4 PM on Sunday, so you can check out the many changes that have been made this year. For more information or to sell trees, email bonsailakemerritt@gmail.com and visit www.gsbf-lakemerritt.org.

SENPAI CORNER

First, if you have not already heard, on January 24 2017, we lost a dear member of our club; Jack Ellis, he had a passion for bonsai and was always willing to share his knowledge, with any and all. He will be missed.



Posted: Thursday, February 2, 2017 12:00 am

Jack W. Ellis, age 84, passed away on January 24, 2017 due to heart complications. Jack was born in Washington State, and after attending Whitman College in Walla Walla, Washington, he moved to the San Francisco Bay area.

He was married to Gayle Ellis for 46 years where they resided in Pleasanton and Livermore. Jack retired from LLNL in 1993. His true love was the Art of Bonsai, he was a member and served as President of the Yamato Bonsai Kai Club for several years.

He leaves behind his much loved wife Gayle and three (3) devoted sons, Steve, John and his wife Susie who live in Florida, Jim and his wife Shari, three (3) grandchildren Jessica Muirhead, Jackie and James Ellis, and a great granddaughter Leighton.

He was loved by everyone who knew him.

If you are unable to attend our February meeting, here is a general summary of soil: soil ranges from organic, to inorganic. Your organic materials, fir bark humus etc. will hold moisture longer, but will break down over time, which can lead to blockage of drainage holes and even reduce root growth. I am not saying do not put any organic in your soil, but be aware that you will need to monitor the condition of your soil over time. Your inorganic material, pumice, lava, decomposed granite etc. assist with promoting fine hair root growth and soil bulk. The fun part is to find the right balance for your microclimate and trees. (Please refer to your member's binder for info on soil components).

ELECTIONS

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

TIDBITS

Thank you to those who already have paid their 2017 dues. For the

remainder, please bring to next meeting or mail a check made out to: Valley Bonsai Society

To:

Bea Bauerly
873 Curlew Rd
Livermore, CA 94551

THANK YOU ALDEN LANE



981 Alden Lane
Livermore, CA 94550
(925) 447-0280
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

President	Charles Harder	bonsainut@comcast.net
Vice President	Open Position	
Secretary	Bea Bauerly	bb1727@att.com
Treasurer	Bea Bauerly	bb1727@att.com
Membership	Bea Bauerly	bb1727@att.com
Fund Raising & Plant Tager	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.