

# VALLEY BONSAI SOCIETY

JANUARY 2018

*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](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. 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](mailto:bb1727@att.com))

## JANUARY MEETING

At the meeting, we discussed soil, what components we use, why we use

them and in what the proportions. Proportions should be based on the type of tree you are transplanting. As usual, there was plenty of basic components available for people to make up their own.

Here is a general summary of soil: soil ranges from organic, to inorganic. Your organic material (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 to 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. The fun part is to find the right balance for your microclimate and trees.

## FEBRUARY MEETING

AT our February meeting, we will cover wiring. I know we cover this every year, but wiring is one of the critical techniques that we use for developing successful Bonsai. Wire placement, and how it is anchored, is important; therefore the need to get regular important reminders of good wiring practices. This will also be good instruction for our newer members.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### February 17 – 18, 2018 Oakland, California

**GSBF Bonsai Garden at Lake Merritt:** The Annual Mammoth Auction and Sale Fund Raiser will be held at the Lakeside Park Garden Center, 666 Bellevue Ave., Lake Merritt. Saturday: Auction preview at Noon with Auction starting at 1 PM. Sunday: Vendor Sales start at 9 AM; Plant Sales start at 10 AM; Demonstrations start at 1 PM. Everyone is encouraged to submit their bonsai and bonsai related items for consideration to be included in the Mammoth Auction at the earliest date possible. The Bonsai Garden at Lake Merritt will be open that weekend 10 AM to 4 PM on Saturday, and Noon to 4 PM on Sunday. Please visit the Garden and observe the many installments under the Garden Revitalization Opportunity (GRO) project. For more information or to sell bonsai, email [bonsailakemerritt@gmail.com](mailto:bonsailakemerritt@gmail.com) and visit <http://gsbf-lakemerritt.org>

### March 24 – 25, 2018 Oakland, California

**Bay Area Bonsai Associates:** 37th Annual Bonsai Exhibition at the Lakeside Park Garden Center, 666 Bellevue Avenue. Show hours are 5 – 9 PM Saturday and 10 AM – 4 PM Sunday. Light dinner at 5:30 PM Saturday followed by a bonsai demonstration by club members from 6:30 to 9 PM. Benefit drawing of demo tree(s). Winning ticket must be present to win. Sales of plants, bonsai, and other bonsai related items both days. Admission is free. Parking fee to the Lakeside Park entrance is required during the park hours. For more information, please contact Janice Dilbeck [janicedilbeck@comcast.net](mailto:janicedilbeck@comcast.net)

### March 31 – April 1, 2018 Sacramento, California

**Bonsai Sekiyu Kai:** 41st Annual show at the Sacramento Buddhist Church, 2401 Riverside Blvd. Show hours are 10 AM – 4 PM daily with a demonstration at 2 PM. Amenities include refreshments, light snacks, door prizes, raffles

and a silent auction. Member and vendor sales of plants and bonsai-related items, as well as a food vendor. For more information contact Bonsai Sekiyu Kai at [bonsaisekiyukai@gmail.com](mailto:bonsaisekiyukai@gmail.com)

## SENPAI CORNER

Spring is in the air! It almost feels like winter is behind us, however, we probably have another 9 to 12 weeks before spring is really here!!!

Your trees are starting to wake up, and these last couple of warm days are fooling them and us. Pay close attention to the weather, as we may still get a couple of nasty days (at least I hope we get a few more days of rain). Beginning from now is a good time to consider re-potting and also start thinking about starting up your fertilizing regimen. If you can make it, the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> is the Mammoth auction and sale for the Golden State Bonsai Federation. The auction is on Saturday and the sale is on Sunday. There is a lot of good material available and is a good opportunity to stock up.

## ELECTIONS

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

## TIDBITS

Just to reiterate what Sensei wrote about the Mammoth auction is worth a trip. You will not be disappointed.

## 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

<b>President</b>	Charles Harder	bonsainut@comcast.net
<b>Vice President</b>	Open Position	
<b>Secretary</b>	Bea Bauerly	bb1727@att.com
<b>Treasurer</b>	Bea Bauerly	bb1727@att.com
<b>Membership</b>	Bea Bauerly	bb1727@att.com
<b>Fund Raising &amp; Plant Tager</b>	Open Position	
<b>Newsletter</b>	Charles Harder	bonsainut@comcast.net
<b>Website</b>	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.