

VALLEY BONSAI SOCIETY

JANUARY 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

JANUARY MEETING

At our January meeting, we covered wiring techniques. The attending members each got a small stone pine that I picked up on sale from a shopping cart. They did not look too healthy, but it did provide us an opportunity to practice. For those who received one of these little trees, do not be disappointed if they do not make it, since we do not know how well they were taken care of before we got a hold of them.

FEBRUARY MEETING

Our February meeting will be our annual soil meeting. I will as usual bring the raw materials needed to make up the majority of our bonsai soil. It will be available for \$5 per gallon, so bring your bags and buckets and stock up for the year. If you cannot make it, let me know and I will make alternate arrangements.

UPCOMING EVENTS

February 15 and 16, 2020 Oakland, California

Annual Bonsai Garden at Lake Merritt Mammoth Auction & Sale will be held on Saturday, February 15 and Sunday, February 16, 2020 at 666 Bellevue Ave., Lakeside Park Garden Center in Oakland. You are invited to the biggest auction and sale of bonsai, pre-bonsai, pots, books, stands, art, and jewelry. It is a giant fundraiser with all proceeds going to support the Bonsai Garden at Lake Merritt. Saturday auction preview starts at Noon with auction starting at 1:00 p.m. Sunday sale 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., vendors, plant sale, and much more. Purchase your bonsai needs. For further information, contact George Haas, at gwhaas@comcast.net or visit web site bonsailakemerritt.com.

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.

SENPAI CORNER

WARNING! I am about to inflict science! I have mentioned several times when we are getting freeze warnings, to water your plants in preparation, and someone asked why? Imagine you know that it will freeze, so you take 2 glasses of water, one is full, and the other has only a half inch of water. Unless you're in Wisconsin, typically the full glass would only have a "crust" of frozen water, whereas the other glass would probably be frozen solid. Now here is the science part: the full glass has more thermal mass than the par-

tially filled glass. The same is with your trees. By watering before the freeze, you are providing more thermal mass within the pot, which will provide better protection against freezing.

ELECTIONS

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

TIDBITS

I was “fortunate” enough this week to have to perform my civic duties (Jury Duty that is) at the Court right across the Lake Merritt Bonsai Gardens. Since I had 3 hours to kill, I decided to walk around Lake Merritt and to visit the Gardens, which I never visited before. They were in full preparation of this weekend show and lots of Bonsai had already been delivered for the huge sale event. I had the chance to meet Kathy Shaner (the first western woman and the only Japanese-certified bonsai master in the United States), the Curator and the artistic director for the collection. I spent a few minutes with her discussing the collection and I inquired why were they all big specimens (right up Mike Miller’s alley).



Apparently, they have made a conscious decision to have the large specimens in the Garden and keep the small specimens behind the gate since some of the Bonsais were stolen last Christmas. A couple got recovered when they tried to sell them on line, unfortunately they were damaged...the others are still out there. I then went around the corner to visit the small waterfall Japanese Gardens.



It was a great day, sunny and warm. They also have a herbs and fragrant garden and a sense of humor!



It is a long trip to just go and visit the Gardens, but if you are already there for some reason, take a few minutes to check it out.

THANK YOU ALDEN LANE



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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	BelgianBea@yahoo.com
Treasurer	Bea Bauerly	BelgianBea@yahoo.com
Membership	Bea Bauerly	BelgianBea@yahoo.com
Fund Raising	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.