

VALLEY BONSAI SOCIETY

JUNE 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)

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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

JUNE MEETING

Our June meeting was so different from previous years. For one thing, I spent Father's Day at home, which was weird, since for the last several years, I was used to spending the weekend with my bonsai family. Several of us had a chance to "show off" some of our trees on our virtual meeting, and it was nice to catch up and see how people are doing.

JULY MEETING

For our July meeting, I still need to get confirmation from Alden Lane if we will be allowed to meet there. If not, then we will have another "Zoom" meeting – which seems to work out relatively well - Invite will be sent out shortly if that is how we will meet. Traditionally, this month has been a field trip to area nurseries, which is not feasible at this time, so I will talk about what to look for when choosing nursery stock.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Japanese-style Living Environment

The free webinar presentation on Tray Landscapes needs examples to show the audience. Email photos, or even better, bring one to the Bonsai Garden at Lake Merritt, in time for the July 19th event. Email jpnliven@gmail.com to make arrangements.

Click on the links provided in order to register for events.

The free webinars on The Japanese-style Living Environment are produced by the Oakland-Fukuoka Sister City Association and funded by the Japan Foundation.

Japanese-style Living Environment Webinar Events 2020

Apprenticeship in Japan, Sunday July 19th 10:00 – 13:00 PST

Kathy Shaner will show and tell the story of her traditional apprenticeship in Japan living and working with Yasuo Mitsuya, his family and other apprentices. And she will share her discovery and pursuit of the Japanese art of bonsai all the way to the top of that field - from novice to master. Kathy became the first Japanese-certified bonsai master outside of Japan and first female bonsai master in the world. Her journey continues as she proceeds to travel widely teaching her own students and working on public and private bonsai collections in the years that follow. Kathy is the curator and artistic director at the Golden State Bonsai Federation's Bonsai Garden at Lake Merritt in Oakland, California, USA. It preserves outstanding bonsai and suiseki for everyone's enjoyment. Created and now tended by volunteers under Kathy's guidance, it is also a new model of mastery through service learning.

https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUudO-sqzlrGtwyIXZeU_ngB6aYqWr-dzmk

Tray Landscapes, Sunday July 19th 14:00 – 17:00 PST

Bob Hilvers will demonstrate making a tray landscape (Sai-kei/Pen-jing) out

of stones, trees and soil. Tray landscapes encompass worlds of wonderment in a very small space. So, they are well suited as every-day recreation for the modern life, even if time, land, means of travel, and other resources are limited. They are also useful to modeling larger landscape projects. Bob studied with Zhao Quing Quan, foremost master of Pen-jing and author of the leading book on the subject. While crafting tray landscapes before your eyes, Bob will also converse on their history, cultural background and aesthetics. Bob is the long-time Curator of the Golden State Bonsai Federation sponsored Clark Bonsai Collection at the Shinzen Friendship Garden in Fresno, California, USA, and tended by volunteers under Bob's guidance.

https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUf-urrjguHNEB4tfuWRd_McLlpdzb3ZRY

Introduction to Japanese Residential Architecture, Saturday July 25th 10:00 – 13:00 PST

Frank L. Chance lived in Japanese style structures for nearly a decade. He brings this personal experience as well as experience with historic buildings such as Shōfūsō, the Japanese House and Garden in Fairmount Park, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA, to his presentation. He serves as Secretary of the Japan America Society of Greater Philadelphia, the organization that oversees the preservation of Shōfūsō. Since retiring as the Associate Director of the Center for East Asian Studies in Philadelphia, Frank has undertaken the Shikoku Eighty-Eight Temple Pilgrimage on foot, presented on the subject in Japan, North America and Europe, and published an article on it in *Education About Asia*. He has also written about modern Japanese prints in the *Journal of Japanese Studies*. His next publication will be about the late Edo eclectic painter Tani Bunchō. He collaborates with the Foreign Policy Research Institute and the United States Japan Foundation programs to train American teachers to include Japanese studies in the high school curriculum.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZlpce2grj8iH9Aq0XMSZxfjxJ6skOrC0sHF>

Wood Joinery Carpentry, Sunday August 2nd 14:00 – 17:00 PST

Jay Van Arsdale will show and tell about the art and craft of woodworking in Japan: tools, techniques, and the built environment of a traditional Japanese living environment. Jay is a building contractor in Oakland, California, USA, with an MFA (Master of Fine Arts) degree. He received his early training in Japanese tools and joinery from the master temple carpenter Makoto Imai. Since the 1980's, Jay has taught Japanese joinery and tool use to hundreds of students in the San Francisco Bay Area, at Laney and Merritt Colleges and the Arques School of Boatbuilding in nearby Sausalito. He is known to wider audiences in North America and Japan for his book *Shoji — Designing, Building, and Installing Japanese Screens* (1986: Kodansha), his video *Introduction to Japanese Woodworking* (1987) and his contributions to *The Complete Japanese Joinery* (1969: Cloud Press). His magazine publications, seminars, and television appearances in the US and Japan are too numerous to list here. Jay is also the founder of Daiku Dojo, a Japanese woodworking group.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMrcuCpqDosHN2zhcJPdDoLkgZJPU6eZeul>

Making the Japanese Aesthetic Our Own, Sunday September 20th 10:00 - 13:00 PST

Bill Castellon will show and tell how to design and build a garden celebrating anywhere by employing the aesthetics and methods developed in Japan. Bill is a landscape contractor out of Oakland, California, USA. He and his crew build Japanese style gardens and other-regional naturalistic gardens. Placing rocks is their specialty. Bill's other specialties are pruning and bonsai. Bill learned garden building with Mas Imazumi and pruning with Dennis Makishima. He spent a month at Kinkaku ji, as the guest of Tokushirou Tamane, head gardener. Bill has made presentations for the International Symposium of Japanese Gardens, North American Japanese Garden Association, and contributes regularly to *Sukiya Living Magazine*. His company has built a number of gardens in the US with the JDA Suirakuen crew from Japan. His broad interdisciplinary experience in fostering and rehabilitating such gardens, and familiarity with the integrated living environment developed in Japan inform his garden building. Bill is also active in the East Bay Bonsai Society, as a master teacher for the Merritt College Bonsai and Aesthetic Pruning Clubs, in the Aesthetic Pruner's Association and North American Japanese Garden Association.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYofumtrz8vHNGCxsr-ArG8gfKwtHZH5iJx>

Curating the Japanese-style Garden, Saturday September 26th 10:00 – 13:00 PST

Randall Lee will describe the growth, fostering and life-long care of a Japanese-style garden. He will describe fostering freshly born gardens as well as remedial work on gardens in disrepair. Randall will highlight the role of plants, especially woody plants, in the Japanese living environment's garden component. Randall's specialties are aesthetic pruning of ornamental trees and shrubs. He has made presentations for the North American Japanese Garden Association, Aesthetic Pruners Association, Merritt College Aesthetic Pruning Club, and numerous Bonsai Clubs in California. Randall brings over thirty years' experience specializing in Japanese black pines, Japanese maples, Japanese garden pruning, dwarf conifers, bonsai re-potting and pruning. Pruning consultations, lectures and bonsai workshops. His broader interdisciplinary experience in creating gardens, fostering their development and sustaining their infrastructure, and familiarity with the integrated living environment developed in Japan inform this presentation. Randall is also active in the East Bay Bonsai Society, as a master teacher for the Merritt College Bonsai and Aesthetic Pruning Clubs, and in the Aesthetic Pruners Association (Past President). He is also a member of the American Conifer Society and North American Japanese Garden Association.

https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYvdemorTltGdVuSGHi0eYexn_Z

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SENPAI CORNER

I received this as an email recently and am considering this program for my personal growth:

“In these times of Covid19, bonsai clubs are looking for ways to continue offering value to their members even though meeting in person is restricted. We are working together with a few clubs to offer our online bonsai courses to their members and decided to reach out to you to see if you might also be interested.

You might be familiar with our courses, created with teachers including Bjorn BJORHOLM, Michael HAGEDORN and Mauro STEMBERGER - but if not perhaps check here: <https://www.bonsaiempire.com/courses>

These online courses offer well thought-out curriculums and come with life-time access. We could offer them at discounted rates if purchased wholesale by the club, or offer a discount to be applied on checkout exclusively to your members.

The most popular courses right now are the Intermediate course (with Bjorn BJORHOLM), and the Developing Bonsai courses (with Mauro Stemberger, Walter Pall and Harry Harrington). “

Kind regards,
Oscar Jonker

Bonsai Empire
info@bonsaiempire.com
<https://www.bonsaiempire.com/>

ELECTIONS

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

THANK YOU ALDEN LANE



Thanks to Alden Lane for allowing us to meet for free at the nursery as we start up. Alden Lane Nursery has evergreen, 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

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www.aldenlane.com

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 wherever you look along with the friendly, knowledgeable staff of Alden Lane. Do not 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.