

VALLEY BONSAI SOCIETY

MARCH 2024

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?



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' 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

50 weeks.

MEETINGS

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

NEWSLETTER, EMAIL LIST AND WEBSITE

We maintain an e-mail distribution list of our members to release announcements and send out the monthly 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. Follow us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/ValleyBonsai> or Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/Valley_Bonsai_Society

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 would 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

MARCH MEETING BY CHARLES

At the March meeting, we talked about how to prepare for the upcoming show, emphasizing the need for spraying for pests. We will be looking for no more than 2 or 3 trees per member as last year got a little out of hand with a large amount of trees. Also, **we will no longer accept trees the morning of the show**. All trees will need to be in the day before (Friday). Just a reminder that Alden Lane closes at 5:00. If that is an issue, please check with Charles to make alternative plans. Charles will be accepting trees after 3:00 on Friday, so that he has enough time to set up the room prior to the trees arriving. We also spent some time discussing wiring; the need for clean /even wiring, the need for anchoring the wiring and sometime using some other structure. We also talked about even spacing and how to determine the types and sizes of wire to use. The remainder of the meeting was a general workshop.





APRIL MEETING BY CHARLES

Our April meeting will be a discussion on repotting techniques, and then a general workshop. Not to sound like a broken record, but now is the time to start thinking about which tree(s) you might want to put into the show this year.

UPCOMING EVENTS

41st Annual Modesto Bonsai Club Spring Show. Bonsai Demonstration at 1:00 by Sam Adina. Exhibits and sales of plants, pots other Bonsai items. Raffle Apr 20, 2024, 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM
Stanislaus County Harvest Hall, 3800 Cornucopia Way Suite E, Modesto, CA 95358, USA

64th Annual Show of Kusamura Bonsai Club of Palo Alto
Over 60 bonsai on display. Demonstration by Headliner, Mike Pistello will be held at 1:30 pm Saturday. A Club Demonstration will be held on Sunday at 1:30 pm. Benefit Drawing will occur daily at 3 pm. Sales of pre-bonsai, bonsai, books, pots, and stands. Show hours are Saturday, April 20 Noon - 4pm and Sunday, April 21 11am - 4pm. Tours of the show will occur throughout both days. Show Critique at 4 pm on Saturday. Educational guide of bonsai terminology will be available. Signup for beginner workshops. Phone: (+1) 6505041518 Apr 20, 2024, 12:00 PM – Apr 21, 2024, 4:00 PM
Addison Elementary School, 1045 Webster St, Palo Alto, CA 94301, USA

Watsonville Bonsai Club Show

Demonstration by Gareth Shepherd will be conducted at 1:30 pm. Door prizes & raffle of bonsai material, including demonstration tree will be held. Many plants and pots available for purchase. Free admission (donations appreciated). For more information contact us at 831-247-9028. Apr 28, 2024, 11:00 AM – 4:00 PM
Watsonville, 423 Bridge St, Watsonville, CA 95076, USA

SENPAI CORNER BY CHARLES

Springtime. This is the time of year, when I am excited to see that nature is doing what nature does! Leaves are coming in; flowers are blooming and a new season of Bonsai work is upon me. I am always happy to see this new energy emerging across all my trees. I have already begun wiring and pruning my trees and getting them back into shape from last year. I am marking my calendar for when I need to fertilize, and even though it is still (occasionally) raining, I still check the moisture levels in the soil. Now is the time for me to pull weeds, remove any dead leaves that I was too lazy to clean up last fall, and spraying for those insects that are also embracing spring and warmth and getting ready for a nice snack on the trees. Even with bugs, and weeds, I am still very content to spend the time and reacquaint myself with my friends that are just now waking up from their winter nap. Happy Bonsai spring to everyone.

ELECTIONS

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

TIDBITS BY BEA

I would like to share with you some sources to get nice Bonsai at a decent price.

First, Brussel's Bonsai. (<https://brusselsbonsai.com>) I know a couple of our members have ordered from this site and have been very satisfied. I recently ordered a Ginseng grafted Ficus – shown below.



The screenshot shows the Brussel's Bonsai website interface. At the top, there is a navigation menu with links for SHOP ALL, SPECIALS, NEW ARRIVALS, CARE & VIDEOS, EVENTS, and GIFT CA. The Brussel's BONSAI logo is on the left, and a search bar is in the center. Below the navigation, the breadcrumb trail reads HOME / INDOOR BONSAI / GINSENG GRAFTED FICUS - CT7012GMF. The main product image is a Ginseng Grafted Ficus in a green pot, with a large, gnarled root system. To the left of the main image are four smaller thumbnail images showing different views of the tree. To the right of the main image, the product title "Ginseng Grafted Ficus" is displayed, along with the price "\$45.00" and a star rating of 5 stars (6 REVIEWS). Below the price, the item code "CT7012GMF" and botanical name "Ficus microcarpa 'Ginseng'" are listed, along with "AGE: 4" and "HEIGHT: 6 - 8\"". A section titled "RECOMMENDED ADD-ONS" lists four items: "101 Essential Tips for Bonsai Care - \$9.00", "Getting Started With Bonsai - \$14.99", "Humidity Tray 8\" - \$9.00", and "8\" Pruning Shears - \$20.00". At the bottom, there is a quantity selector set to "1" and a share button with social media icons. A green "ADD TO BAG" button is at the very bottom.

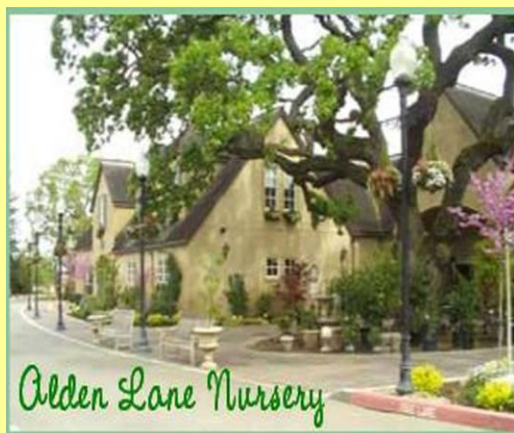
Now, for those who wonder if what I received matches the picture on their site, well here it is. Pretty close to the picture and the packaging was unbelievably good. This little guy arrived just in a few days in perfect condition. The soil was moist and no damage to the foliage. It was smothered in packing peanut. I am very happy with what I received. Their price range is from reasonable to expensive, but I think it is worth a look.



The second site that I recently came across is Lucky Bonsai Limited (<https://lucky-bonsai.com/>). Unlike Brussel's Bonsai where you can purchase a mature Bonsai, and though they do sell mature Bonsai, this site seems to be set up for starters. Their mature Bonsai are a little pricey. They also sell pots at what seems to be reasonable price and tools.

And of course, we also recommend Stone Lantern (<https://stonelantern.com/>) That is the to go site for tools at a very reasonable price, wire, pots and books.

THANK YOU ALDEN LANE



Thanks to Alden Lane for sponsoring our meetings at the nursery. The 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.

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

SOCIETY OFFICERS AND CONTACTS

President	Charles Harder	bonsainut@comcast.net
Vice President	Open Position	
Social Media	Gerardo Gutierrez	gguti18@yahoo.com
Secretary	Bea Bauerly	BelgianBea@yahoo.com
Treasurer	Bea Bauerly	BelgianBea@yahoo.com
Membership	Bea Bauerly	BelgianBea@yahoo.com
Fundraising	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.