

VALLEY BONSAI SOCIETY

MAY 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

MAY MEETING

Our May meeting was a unique experience – but kind of fun - since we had it virtually. I created a quick Saikei, with random pieces I had lying around showing how one could quickly put together an attractive planting in a short period. I hope you all had an opportunity to view the YouTube video I created regarding “Muck”. I will work with Bea to get it linked to our website, Instagram and Facebook sites. I was asked to create more videos, so I will keep you posted as I create them. I hope that you are all trying your hands at your own plantings and will share them with the group. Perhaps at our next meeting? Or an email string? Let’s see your creations!



For those interested, the “Muck” recipe:

Equal parts of:

- Sphagnum moss cut or torn into 1” or smaller strips
- Akadama dust (or just soil dust) using your finest screen (or cheap dollar store flour screen/sifter)
- Corn starch pudding

For the cornstarch pudding: Begin with ~2 cups cold water and add $\frac{3}{4}$ to 1 cup of corn starch: bring to a boil stirring constantly otherwise it’ll get lumpy and you might as well start over. Then let cool enough to handle and mix to above proportions into a sticky mess.

JUNE MEETING

For our June 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 seemed to work out relatively well. If we end up as a virtual meeting, for those of you that do not have access to a computer or smartphone, let me know and we will come up with some sort of solution. Since we normally have our show at this time, how about if we have our own personal show. If we meet at Alden Lane, please bring a tree you want to show off to the group, and if we “zoom” meet, then drag one you want to show off in front of the camera. More to follow as I get more detail from Alden Lane.

UPCOMING EVENTS

That is a really good question: Stay Tuned!

SENPAI CORNER

Wow! There is an old curse that says: "May you live in interesting times..." I wonder who I upset??? I hope that you are all staying sane during this time, and I wanted to caution you that since we are "stuck at home" there may be a tendency to spend a lot of time fiddling with our trees, so I would remind everyone that sometimes your trees need a break. This year might be a good year to just let some of your trees grow and relax without wire for this growing season.

Quoting Michael Hagedorn.. Even Athletes Need a Break.... *"If we constantly nibble at our bonsai with scissors or pruners throughout the year, we usually don't get anywhere good. Bonsai that don't get a break from our delight at cutting back become exhausted. In weightlifting and other extreme sports you can't lift every day of the week..."*

ELECTIONS

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

THANK YOU ALDEN LANE



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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!

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.

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.