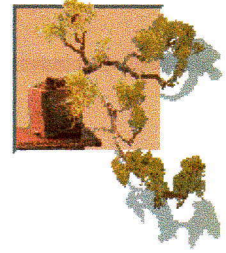




VALLEY BONSAI SOCIETY

www.valleybonsaisociety.com

Newsletter vol 3: March 1, 2009



SHOWTIME!

Valley Bonsai Society will have its first Bonsai Show on June 6th & 7th at Alden Lane. This event will be held in conjunction with an Orchid Show and a Carnivorous Plant Show that is being held at the same time.

Perhaps you are thinking that it is a bit early in the life of Valley Bonsai Society to be having a show. After all we are only in our second year. And to be honest, our meeting attendance has never created a parking problem for Alden Lane. Not to mention that many of us are just getting started and are still learning as we go and have few mature trees, if any. So does it really make sense to have a show?

YES!!!! One of our goals as a bonsai society is to encourage interest in bonsai and to educate. VBS was started after an series of classes Charles taught at Alden Lane. It was the interest generated by those classes that led to VBS being formed. It has become a vehicle for us to continue to learn and explore the world of bonsai whether it's a short demonstration by Charles or as we work on our trees and ask questions, see what each other is doing and compare notes. A show will allow others an opportunity to see what we are about and encourage them to join a group of people who share their interest and continue their journey with some pretty nice people.

A show is also an opportunity to see a lot of trees and gather ideas for our own collections. Right now many of us are consulting Charles library of books or searching on-line for pictures and ideas to inspire us. But that does not compare to seeing trees in person and up close. It is our hope that the show will both stimulate interest and ideas. So we may have more trees closer to 1 year old then 100 years old but it will be a wonderful opportunity to see trees of various ages and skill levels. And at VBS we welcome all skill levels.

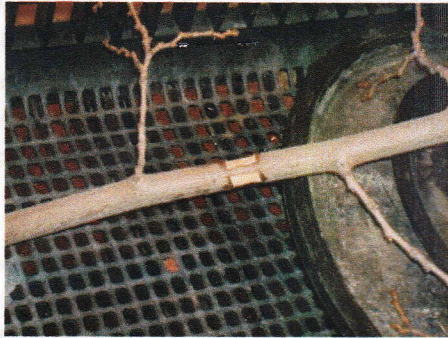
We will be very fortunate to have a guest speaker to do a demonstration on Saturday, Sam Adina. Sam Adina does all the Bonsai training and design for Blue Oak Nursery, a bonsai nursery in Modesto. He is actively involved in several Bonsai clubs in the Central Valley and Bay Area and is highly respected for his remarkable abilities and design talent. Charles is working on getting some vendors attend as well.

What we need to do:

1. It would be nice if each member could have 1 or 2 trees to display at the show so we have a good amount of trees. If you aren't sure about your trees bring them to our next meeting for some advice and an opportunity to work on them in a group setting. Or bring some stock planting and begin the process of transitioning it into a tree.
2. We need volunteers to setup the Friday before and cleanup after the show on Sunday.
3. We need supplies like pens, Sharpies, receipt books, name tags, etc.
4. Come to our next meeting and give us your ideas!

February 21st Meeting

Our last meeting was at Alden Lane on Saturday February 21st at 1pm. After an update on the show plans, Charles did a demo on air layering. Air layering is another way to get bonsai stock (potentsai) from trees or shrubs. Air layering involves removing the bark and cambium layer of a branch, wrapping it in damp moss and sealing it in plastic until roots grow out allowing you remove the plastic and moss and cut the branch and plant a new tree for future development & training.



The remainder of the meeting was dedicated to working on our trees.



IT'S DEAD!



Rest in Peace little tree. We hardly knew you

Remember Charles "It's Alive" root over rock (Sekijoku) demonstration tree? At our last meeting Charles finally admitted that it isn't exactly alive. He "claims" some terrorist squirrels attacked his yard and did significant damage.....no comment



Library

Charles Library Box isn't looking this full anymore. If you have borrowed a book from Charles Bonsai Library please remember to return it.



Thanks to Charles generosity and trust, we have the opportunity to explore and borrow from an extensive library of Bonsai books. During meetings people are often looking through these books for styling ideas, etc. **Let's make sure the books make it home next meeting or let Charles know its status.**

Next Meeting is Saturday, March 21st at Alden Lane at 1pm. If anyone has a technique they would like to see demonstrated send your ideas to Charles.

Website: www.valleybonsaisociety.com

We have a website! It's just getting going but its looking good. Thank you Neema Koopole for your hard work.

DUES are DUE!!

Annual dues are only \$30/year for an individual and \$40/year for a couple. If you are receiving this newsletter you have already expressed an interest in joining. Just bring your dues to the next meeting. ***Want to 'try us out first'?*** drop in dues are \$5/meeting. Extra donations are always welcome!

Looking for Pots?

Need some pots for those tree's you are getting ready for the show? Oriental Vase & Furniture has been mentioned at previous meetings as a great place to get bonsai pots at a low price. I just picked up 6 pots for \$18.00. The bonsai pots are in the back and it could be better lit but you can't beat the prices. Bring some will power. You'll need it!

Oriental Vase & Furniture

2756 Alvarado St
San Leandro, CA 94577
(510) 351-9223

Is the Valley Bonsai Society for Me?

YES!! No experience or expertise needed. All that is required is an interest. We are for anyone who has, or thinks they may want to have, an interest in this ancient oriental horticultural art form. Many people bring current trees or plants they wish to train into bonsai to work on, discuss or ask questions about. Some of us started exploring their interest level by taking one or more of the classes Charles taught thru Alden Lane, some have had a plant they received as a gift, some are more experience. It doesn't matter. So join us and explore and grow your interest to the extent you desire. We are all learning together!

THANK YOU ALDEN LANE

Thanks to Alden Lane for allowing us to meet for free at the nursery as we start up. The nice thing about meeting at Alden Lane is 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 visit the Coffee Bar! More importantly don't forget to say THANK YOU for their incredible support!



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If you need to contact any of the above please make sure you reference Valley Bonsai Society in the subject line!