



VALLEY BONSAI SOCIETY

www.valleybonsaisociety.com

Newsletter vol 4: April 10, 2009



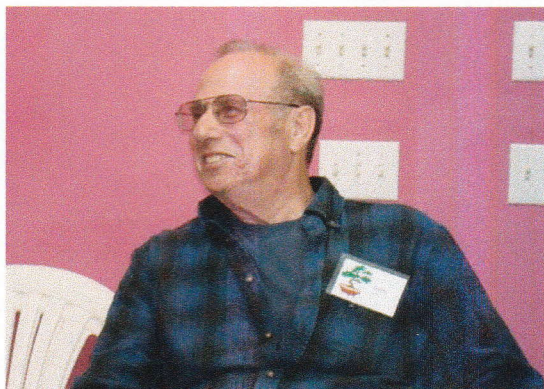
March 21st Meeting

Our last meeting was at Alden Lane on Saturday March 21st at 1pm. We had a good turnout and a full agenda. After an update on the show (see Show article), Charles gave a brief demo on creating deadwood (Jin and Shari) to give your tree an aged and weathered look. Using a Mound Juniper he was beginning to work on he took us through placement, bark stripping and the use of lime sulfur to turn the wood to a weathered bleached white.



Thanks Larry!

Thanks to Larry who brought in Ponderosa Pine Seedlings. Even though we all failed the guess the seedling quiz, we each got to take one home. Thanks Larry!



Speaking of Seedlings...

Martin Tucker who came down from Antioch brought an Elm he has been working on for 50 years starting as a seedling in San Jose through moves to and around So Calif and back to the Bay area. It has been in its current container for 20 years. Thanks Martin!



Tree Forum

The balance of the meeting was an open forum as different members shared some trees they had questions or concerns about. It was great opportunity for us to not only learn from Charles, but to compare notes, learn from and encourage each other and get some ideas.



Next Meeting is Saturday, April 18th at Alden Lane at 1pm. If anyone has a technique they would like to see demonstrated send your ideas to Charles. Bring your trees to work on or to discuss with the group.

Bonsai Show: Don't forget..our first Bonsai Show is June 6th & 7th at Alden Lane. We will need help setting up and breaking down as well as people to take 2 hour shifts during the show. Tree's of all levels of experience and age will be shown. Get yours ready!

Thanks to **Bob Wyckoff** for taking over the Membership responsibilities and thanks to **Bea Bauerly** for taking over as our new Valley Bonsai Society Secretary!

2009 Dues: Thanks to those of you who got paid their 2009 dues in February and March. As we wrestle with the initial cost of non profit incorporation and putting on our first show it helps for people to get caught up. Dues are \$30 a year (\$40 for couples). There is a \$5 drop in fee for those who are just passing through! Celeste and Bob Wilson are always happy to receive your dues. Their contact information is at the end of the newsletter if you have any questions.

Library: Thanks to those of you who contacted Charles about any books you have borrowed. But his Library Box still has a lot more room in it than it once did. 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.**

Website: www.valleybonsaisociety.com We have a website! It's just getting going but it's looking good. Thank you Neema Koopole for your hard work.

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. As our March meeting showed, we have some people with extensive collections and trees they have trained for 50 years. We also have people who haven't had a tree survive 50 weeks (or less!) and are figuring it out as they go. 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. It doesn't matter. So join us and explore and grow your interest to the extent you desire. We are all learning together!

He's at it Again!

Charles is getting ready to begin another series of Bonsai Classes. If you didn't get Charles email the information is below. Feel free to spread the news with friends who have expressed an interest. Alden Lane also includes information on the E-Newsletter. You can sign up for the newsletter on their website. www.aldenlane.com It's a very informative newsletter from our friends at Alden Lane.

The classes are at 10:00-1:00 on the 3rd Saturday of each month, Alden Lane is charging \$40.00 per class and says that all classes must be signed up for and pre-paid in advance to allow for planning and supplies. **Please call Alden Lane at 925-447-0280 to reserve your spot.**

April class: *Introduction to Bonsai: Juniper* 4/18

This class will provide general information on the care and styling of bonsai. We will explore some of the basic styles used in bonsai and you will be provided with the techniques needed to get started in this fascinating art form. The class will consist of an introduction to bonsai with a demonstration, and then you will have an opportunity to try out your knowledge and style your own tree to take home by the end of class. A tree, pot, wire, soil and all materials will be provided. Some tools will be available to borrow, however, if you have your own, feel free to bring them.

May class: *Cascade or Root in Rock style: Cotoneaster* 5/16

Students will be provided with the techniques needed to style their tree in the cascade, semi-cascade and root in rock styles. Class will consist of a basic overview of bonsai so you need not to have attended any of the previous classes, with a demonstration, then students will have an opportunity to try out their knowledge and style their own tree. A tree, pot, wire, soil and all materials will be provided. Some tools will be available to borrow, however, if you have your own, feel free to bring them.

June class: *Introduction to Bonsai: mixed* 6/20

It's Fathers day! This would be a perfect gift: Either send dad to a class on bonsai or take the class yourself and make dad his gift! This class will provide general information on the care and styling of bonsai. You will explore some of the basic tree styles used in bonsai and you will be provided with the techniques needed to get started. The class will consist of an introduction to bonsai with a demonstration, and then you will have an opportunity to try out your knowledge and style your own tree to take home. A tree, pot, wire, soil and all materials will be provided. Some tools will be available to borrow, however, if you have your own, feel free to bring them.

Charles classic "Squirrels...Terror at our Doorsteps" class has not been announced.



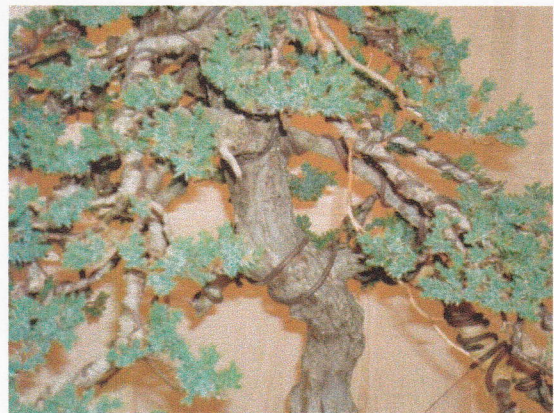
INSPIRATION

Bea Bauerly has sent in some photos from the Hayward show in January. I have included some shots from the SF Bonsai Society's show at the SF Flower and Garden Show in March. Enjoy!

Hayward



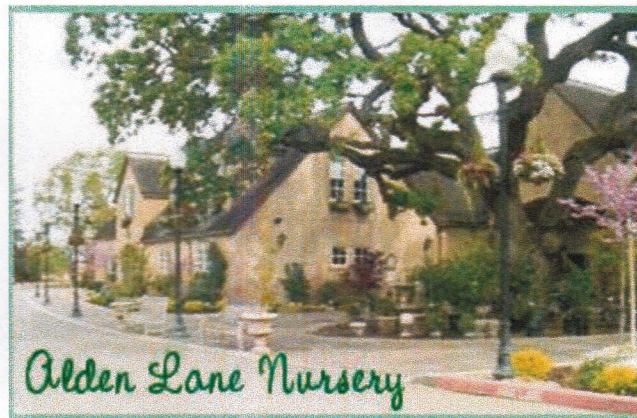
San Francisco



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 and blooming trained Bonsai specimens in many sizes for indoors and outdoor gardens. Stop in and let one of our Bonsai experts help you design your own Bonsai masterpiece from our selection of Bonsai pots and starter plants. We 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 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!