



VALLEY BONSAI SOCIETY

www.valleybonsaisociety.com

Newsletter vol. 8: June 2, 2010



What Is The Valley Bonsai Society?

We are a group of folks who share a common interest in this ancient oriental horticultural art form. It is our goal is to encourage and equip each other as we share our common interest and enjoyment of Bonsai and to encourage others to explore this art form. We have a diverse range of experience and interest. Many of us started exploring their interest level by taking one or more of the classes Charles teaches thru Alden Lane, some have had a plant they received as a gift and some had been struggling along on their own. We even have some people with extensive collections and trees they have trained for as long as 50 years. We also have people who are still trying to get a tree to survive 50 weeks. It doesn't matter. So join us and explore and grow your interest to the extent you desire. All are welcome. We are all learning together!

Meetings

We meet the third Saturday of each month at 2pm. Currently we meet at Alden Lane Nursery in Livermore. See the last page of the newsletter for Alden Lane Info. This June on the 19th & 20th we will be holding our 2nd Annual Bonsai Show in lieu of our June Meeting.

Newsletter, Email List & Website

An email list is maintained to release announcements and send out an electronic newsletter. Please send an email request to be added (or removed) to this list to Bill Boehner per the contact information at the end of the newsletter. We have a website! It's just getting going but it's looking good. Thank you Neema Koppole for your hard work. Visit us at www.valleybonsaisociety.com

Membership

Membership is not required, but if you have been visiting with us for a while we do ask you to consider supporting the society by paying annual dues of \$30 a year (\$40 for couples) or \$5 a meeting. We are always happy to receive your dues. If you have any questions regarding membership please contact Bob Wyckoff. Their contact information is at the end of the newsletter. If you haven't paid your 2010 dues, please see Celeste, Bea or Bob.

May 15th Meeting

What a great meeting we had with many new faces. Rather than a demonstration, we discussed and planned for the upcoming Bonsai Show. Afterwards we had some tree clinic time with Charles and an extended time to work on our trees together as we talked among ourselves. A report out on the Field Trip to Blue Oak Nursery in Modesto revealed that though the turn out was smaller than last year, the spending was still quite vigorous with Larry's truck once again returning full of plants. A good time was had by all, which isn't a surprise since we seem to always have a good time when we get together. Miss it? Some interest was expressed in trying to arrange a second trip since so many had to miss it due to conflicts. Details to follow.



Welcome Gracie!

Among the new faces at our May 15th meeting was Gracie a 8 ½ year old bonsaist in 4th grade. She and her mom picked up a few new tree's at Alden Lane, and as Charles answered questions from her and gave her some advice on how to style the trees. She was very focused. She is already talking about having tree's she expects to have with her as she grows up. Welcome Gracie and Erika (her mom)!



IT'S BACK!!!!!!

2nd Annual Valley Bonsai Society Show June 19th & 20th at Alden Lane

On the weekend of June 19th & 20th from 10:00 – 4:00pm the Valley Bonsai Society will hold its 2nd Annual Bonsai Show at Alden Lane Nursery as part of an upcoming “Black & Blues” Event they are holding. Last year’s show far exceeded our expectations and we are out to do it again. We are again planning 2 demonstrations again this year. We will be welcoming back Sam Adina for a workshop. Right now we are expecting our own Charles ‘Chip’ Harder to do the other workshop. We will again be raffling off the demonstration trees with proceeds going to the club treasury. In addition this year we will want to have different people working on their tree’s out front to stimulate interest. If you are interested in helping with this Charles will be taking sign-ups for 1 or 2 hour segments. Last year quite a few people left the show and went to the Bonsai section of Alden Lane to get started. Since it is also Father’s day weekend, it is a great way to stimulate interest by encouraging a Bonsai Father’s day gift.

As a club, we pride ourselves in being open to Bonsaists of all levels of interest, experience and ability. We want our show to reflect that and have trees from those who have been at it for decades, those who are just getting started and anyone in between. So don’t worry if you think your tree’s aren’t good enough, they are. Don’t worry if you just styled it and got it in a pot. We need those as well.

Let’s see if we can exceed last year’s success and encourage people to give Bonsai a try!

Getting Ready For The Show

We will again have door prizes. Thank you to those of you who took home the donated plants to work on them for this. Don’t forget to bring them in. If anyone else that wishes to donate trees, starters, books, pots etc to the door prize pile, it would be appreciated and make for more excitement for the attendees.

Charles needs a list of plants and a count (# of trees) so we can plan the tables - that you think you might want to show - even if you do not end up bringing a particular plant, I would rather have a label printed out and space available, and not need it, than trying to print something and squeeze in space during the show. The information needed is below. Ideally this information is needed this week (by June 4th) to allow proper planning.

common name

scientific name (if you know it)

your name

Getting Ready For The Show (cont'd)

- Clean up your pots – a scroungie and some light soapy water will clean them up. A light rub with mineral oil will restore a sheen to them if they are looking a bit tired.
- Look for mats or stands to display them on. Dollar Tree, etc often has very inexpensive reed place mats. Cutting up wood strips into varying lengths provides a nice display base. Stands that fit your pots are always good. Try to maintain a reasonable proportion of the display to the tree. But don't worry if you can't find anything or aren't sure. We will have some extras and will make adjustments as we set up.
- Charles will be at Alden Lane around 2:00 - 3:00 on the Friday before the show, so if you want to bring your trees by then, we can start setting up a little early.
- If you have some tree's but can't attend the show, let Charles know so arrangements can be made to get your tree and care for them until your return.
- No Tree? – how about grabbing a juniper and style that. Most of us started on junipers anyway. Starter tree's are always welcome.

Volunteers Needed

We also need volunteers to be at the show to answer questions, keep little fingers out of the pots and keep pots from "walking away", etc. I would like people to come for a minimum of 2 hours

Saturday	Sunday
Setup 9-10	Setup 9-10
10 - 12	10 - 12
12 - 2	12 - 2
2 - 4	2 - 4

We need all people that are showing trees to either plan on being there at 4 on Sunday afternoon to pick up trees or make arrangements for someone to take your trees - if it is someone we do not recognize, then include a letter or something - we will not let a stranger walk away with your trees.

Thank you to all that have already signed up to help make this successful (radio, newspaper etc) and I am looking forward to an amazing show.

Newsletter Coverage

I am trying to get the newsletter back out on a more regular basis. But when I don't make a meeting I have no content for the newsletter. I will be in the middle of an extended vacation during the show. I need some people to submit photos and some articles on the workshops, etc for the July newsletter. Thank you Neema for volunteering. But photos from different different times and perspectives are needed. Please send me an email to confirm.

THANK YOU ALDEN LANE

Thanks to Alden Lane for allowing us to meet at the nursery . Alden Lane Nursery has evergreen and blooming trained Bonsai specimens in many sizes for indoors and outdoor gardens. Stop in and let one of their Bonsai experts help you design your own Bonsai masterpiece from their 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.

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. More importantly don't forget to say THANK YOU for their incredible support!



Alden Lane Nursery
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Valley Bonsai Society Officers & Contacts

President: Charles Harder
Vice President: Larry Levin
Secretary: Bea Bauerly
Treasurer: Currently Open
Membership: Bob Wyckoff
**Fund Raising
& Plant Tagger:** Larry Levin
Newsletter: Bill Boehner
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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!