

# VALLEY BONSAI SOCIETY

NOVEMBER 2014

*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'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 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

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](mailto:bonsainut@comcast.net)). We have a website! It's just getting going but it's looking good. Thank you Bea Bauerly for keeping it going and up to date. Visit us at [www.valleybonsaisociety.com](http://www.valleybonsaisociety.com)

## MEMBERSHIP

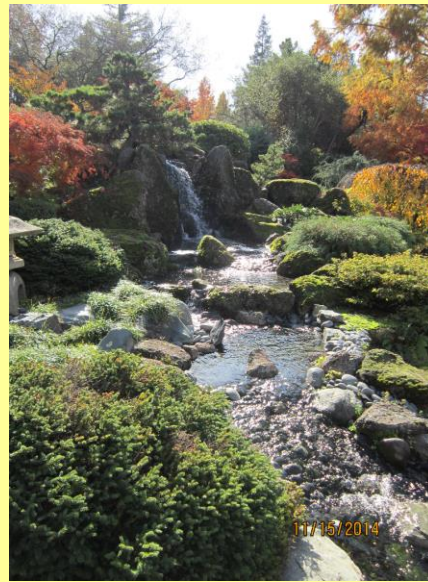
**RENEWAL DUE BY JANUARY 1, 2015.**

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. 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 ([bb1727@att.com](mailto:bb1727@att.com))

## SOCIETY OFFICERS & CONTACTS

## THANK YOU MARTIN FOR ORGANIZING THE NOVEMBER TRIP

Our November meeting was a fieldtrip to Boonie Lang's beautiful Japanese garden in Granite Bay which she opens for viewing for a short time in the spring and again in the fall. The stories she had to tell were delightful and the garden is amazing. If ever you have an opportunity to go, I would highly encourage you to do so. (See website for more pictures).



## DECEMBER MEETING

December is our annual Holiday party at Uncle Yu's at 12:00 on December 20<sup>th</sup>. **Make sure that you RSVP to Bea to finalize our reservations.**

## JANUARY MEETING

Our January meeting will be at Alden Lane at 2:00 as usual. For this meeting we are going to do something a little different. For all interested members, the club will be supplying a 3-5 gallon juniper prostrata which each member will style and develop over the course of several months. We will take photos of the evolution and then the idea would be to have a separate table to show off everyone's trees at our Annual Bonsai show, with a collage of the progress from raw material to what the tree has become.

## POTS

The club has come into possession of several nice pots. The majority of the pots are from the late 60's to early 70'. Some are Tokoname, and I am trying to identify the chop marks to determine the artists and kiln they came from. If you are looking for a specific size or style, let me know and I will check if we have one in that suits. The prices will be extremely reasonable and I will start bringing a selection of them to each meeting for your perusal. If you want something before our January meeting feel free to contact me by email at [bonsainut@comcast.net](mailto:bonsainut@comcast.net). Remember – the Holidays are coming and they would make a great gifts

## SENPAI CORNER

Hello everyone; this time I want to talk about fertilizing. We all know that we are supposed to fertilize, and that we look for NPK on the label and depending on when and the condition of our plant we will want a balanced fertilizer or a high nitrogen fertilizer.

But what does it all mean and what does it do for our trees?

NPK stand for: (N) nitrogen (P) phosphorus (K) Potassium – usually identified as a number value (i.e. 10-10-10)

**(N)** If you do not have enough nitrogen, it will cause weakening of leaves and reproductive ability (flowers) this will be evidenced by your tree not being as vibrant green and can result in yellowing or even loss of foliage. Too much nitrogen will cause overgrowth of branching and foliage, which can lead to long internodes between branches which would make your tree disproportionate.

**(P)** Phosphorus is important for cell formation and division, insufficient phosphorus, will slow down root growth, which will weaken the tree and cause the foliage to lose its color.

**(K)** Potassium, has great influence on photosynthesis, it increases the transportation of nutrients from the roots to the branches and then to the leaves. Potassium helps aid the plant in the absorption of nitrogen and phosphorus. Symptoms of low potassium, are not obvious, when potassium is severely lacking it may show up on the leaves as yellow spots and leaf edge browning, similar to leaf burn.

If you have decent well draining soil, it is almost better to over fertilize with a weaker solution of fertilizer, then to not provide enough.

## ELECTIONS

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

## TIDBITS

Have you lost some Bonsai this summer and cannot figure out why? Well, it could just be the water quality! We recommend you use a filter to help get rid of those nasty chemicals by using the Boogie Blue filter

<http://www.boogiebrew.net/water-filter/>. You can purchase it on line from Monstergarden.com.

Are you a tea drinker? Well, do you know you can use the tea bags as a mild fertilizer for your plants...don't discard them, use them.

Did you know that the Gingko is the only survivor of a group of trees that flourished some 200 million years ago? The Gingko is only native to a remote part of China where it was adopted as a sacred tree by Buddhist monks who carried it to Japan. From there it was introduced to Europe and America in the eighteenth century. Specimens planted then still survive and an immunity to air pollution and most pests and diseases makes Gingko ideal for towns.

## THANK YOU ALDEN LANE



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(925) 447-0280  
[www.aldenlane.com](http://www.aldenlane.com)

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.

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

<b>President</b>	Charles Harder	bonsainut@comcast.net
<b>Vice President</b>	Open Position	
<b>Secretary</b>	Bea Bauerly	bb1727@att.com
<b>Treasurer</b>	Bea Bauerly	bb1727@att.com
<b>Membership</b>	Bea Bauerly	bb1727@att.com
<b>Fund Raising &amp; Plant Tager</b>	Open Position	
<b>Newsletter</b>	Charles Harder	bonsainut@comcast.net
<b>Website</b>	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.