

VALLEY BONSAI SOCIETY

SEPTEMBER 2026

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)

IN THIS ISSUE:

- WHAT IS THE VALLEY BONSAI SOCIETY
- MEETINGS
- NEWSLETTER, EMAIL LIST AND WEBSITE
- MEMBERSHIP
- SEPTEMBER MEETING
- OCTOBER MEETING
- UPCOMING EVENTS
- SENPAI CORNER
- ELECTIONS
- TIDBITS
- THANK YOU ALDEN LANE
- VALLEY BONSAI SOCIETY OFFICERS & CONTACTS

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' 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

We maintain an e-mail distribution list of our members to release announcements and send out the monthly 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. Follow us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/ValleyBonsai> or Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/Valley_Bonsai_Society

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 would 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

SEPTEMBER MEETING BY CHARLES

The September meeting was wonderful! Set up on the back deck, we enjoyed the nice weather and the acorns dropping onto the deck with a resounding "thunk!". Thank you to all who attended and brought their trees. It was great to see the direction your trees are taking and will soon developed. Some branches were trimmed, wired and a few trees were put into their new homes.





OCTOBER MEETING BY CHARLES

At our October meeting, I will be talking about wiring, the techniques, the importance and the reason we wire. The remainder of the meeting will be another general workshop, and depending upon the weather and forecast perhaps there will still be a small window to repot any trees if you do not want to wait until early spring.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Bonsai & ikebana - Midori Bonsai Club 63rd Annual Bonsai Show

Sat, Oct 03 Quinlan Community Center

This year's theme is a celebration of the beauty of two classic Japanese arts: Bonsai and Ikebana. Bonsai is the Japanese art of living trees in miniature form. Ikebana is the Japanese art of flower arrangement. Free admission. Demonstration. Beginner's Workshop. Dr. Bonsai. Club and Vendor Sale.

Oct 03, 2026, 10:00 AM – 5:00 PM

Quinlan Community Center, 10185 N Stelling Rd, Cupertino, CA 95014, USA

East Bay Bonsai Society Annual Show and Sale!

Sat, Nov 14 Lakeside Garden Center

The East Bay Bonsai Society is hosting a two-day free show November 14th (10am - 5pm) and 15th (11am to 4pm) at the Lakeside Garden Center. Headliner is renowned bonsai artist, author and teacher, Dave De Groot. The show includes a sale of bonsai trees, pots, tools and related materials.

Nov 14, 2026, 10:00 AM – Nov 15, 2026, 4:00 PM

Lakeside Garden Center, 666 Bellevue Ave, Oakland, CA 94610, USA

SENPai CORNER BY CHARLES

The weather guessers are telling us, it will be "A Super El Niño" this fall/winter; supposedly, lots of rain, storms, and wind. So, we probably should prepare the trees for that possibility. Any tall trees should be moved down off the benches or tables when the forecast is calling for it, or strapped down.

Remember that even when excessive rain is predicted, not to assume your

trees will get the water they need. It is a great time to pay attention to pooling water in your pots. Take note of those, as they will need repotting come spring. You may also put a rock or something under one edge to give it a slant to help with drainage.

We have another month or so for fertilizing, not that it will harm your trees to continue through the winter, it is just that your trees are “sleepy” and not very hungry, so it will mostly just go to waste.

Once the leaves fall, clean them up so they don’t provide homes for pests, and tidy up the last of those persistent weeds, otherwise come spring, you will have twice the work to keep them under control.

During the trees’ resting period, since there is not much else to do, use the time to clean up or look for pots, sharpen and clean your tools.

With the deciduous trees, once the leaves have dropped, is a great opportunity to look at the trunk and branch structure. Take notes and maybe some pictures to help plan out the pruning and placement that we will be working on late winter /early spring.

And they say this is the quiet time of the bonsai year! In the meantime, I sit here and eagerly await the promised rain.

ELECTIONS

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

TIDBITS BY BEA

As previously announced, we have received a grant from GSBF for a specific project. Our project (which will need to be documented and reported back to GSBF) will involve giving the willing participating members a starter tree. Each participant will then show his/her knowledge of the Bonsai art, by shaping, potting and wiring the tree. All this under the guidance of our Sensei.

We anticipate starting this project in January/February time frame. Please let me know if you are interested. We are thinking Junipers which are very forgiving, but if you prefer something different, please let us know as soon as possible as we have to purchase the trees. Keep in mind this project is going to go on for several months.

Before I forget, I will be out of the country most of October, enjoying my umbrella drinks on the beach under the Tahitian sun. I will see you all in November – last meeting of the year!

THANK YOU ALDEN LANE



981 Alden Lane
Livermore, CA 94550
(925) 447-0280
www.aldenlane.com

Thanks to Alden Lane for sponsoring our meetings at the nursery. The nursery has evergreen, 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 wherever you look along with the friendly, knowledgeable staff of Alden Lane. Do not forget to say THANK YOU for the incredible support!

SOCIETY OFFICERS AND CONTACTS

President	Charles Harder	bonsainut@comcast.net
Vice President	Michael Miller	mr.miller5500@gmail.com
Social Media	Gerardo Gutierrez	gguti18@yahoo.com
Secretary	Bea Bauerly	BelgianBea@yahoo.com
Treasurer	Bea Bauerly	BelgianBea@yahoo.com
Membership	Bea Bauerly	BelgianBea@yahoo.com
Fundraising	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.