

VALLEY BONSAI SOCIETY

FEBRUARY 2025

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
- FEBRUARY MEETING
- MARCH 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

FEBRUARY MEETING BY CHIP

Our February meeting was well attended and we covered repotting, since now is a good time to consider it. We also talked about making muck, if you missed it, here is the recipe:

The “Muck” recipe:

Equal parts sphagnum moss cut or torn into 1” or smaller strips / akadama dust (Or just soil dust) using your finest screen (or cheap dollar store flour screen/sifter / cornstarch pudding.

For the cornstarch pudding: Begin with ~2 cups cold water and add $\frac{3}{4}$ to 1 cup of corn starch: bring to a boil stirring constantly otherwise it’ll get lumpy and you might as well start over. Then let cool enough to handle and mix to above proportions into a sticky mess.





MARCH MEETING BY CHIP

In our March meeting, we will cover wiring plus a general workshop. I will be bringing soil for those might need more.

UPCOMING EVENTS

San Jose Betsuin Bonsai Club 50th Annual Bonsai Exhibition

March 29 and 30: Demonstration at 1 pm both days with David Nguy on Saturday and club member on Sunday. Benefit Drawings, Plant Sales, Vendors: West America from Chino and Legacy Cork Oak from Hacienda Heights. Saturday 11am to 5 pm, Sunday 12 noon to 4 pm. San Jose Buddhist Church Betsuin, 640 N 5th St, San Jose, CA 95112, USA

American Bonsai Association Sacramento 65th Annual Bonsai Show and Sale

Sat, Apr 12, 13 Shepard Garden and Art Center

Daily demos at 1:30 pm by headliner Carmen Leskoviansky. Daily raffles including the demo tree. Large vendor and consignment sale areas. Reserve your space in the Beginners' Workshop on Sunday at 10AM by emailing abasbonsaiclub@gmail.com. Cost \$20 (tree, pot, soil and instruction). Free admission.

65th Annual Bonsai Show Kusamura Bonsai Club of Palo Alto

Apr 26, 2025, 10:00 AM – Apr 27, 2025, 4:00 PM

Addison School, 1045 Webster St, Palo Alto, CA 94301, USA

Please join us for the 65th Annual Kusamura Bonsai Club Show and Sale

featuring headliner Sam Tan. Daily demonstrations at 1.00 pm. View the 60+ bonsai on display. Sales include bonsai, pots and stands. Bonsai Doctor, Gordon Deeg will be available for consultation.

Santa Cruz Bonsai Kai and Orchid Show and Sale

May 03, 2025, 10:00 AM – May 04, 2025, 4:00 PM

Capitola Mall, 1855 41st Ave, Capitola, CA 95010, USA

Join us for club shows and sales hosted by Santa Cruz Bonsai Kai and the Santa Cruz Orchid Society. Bonsai demonstrations from 1:30pm to 3pm both days. Robert Potts on Saturday and Gareth Shepherd on Sunday. Quality bonsai displays, raffles, vendor and member sales, free admission and parking.

SENPAI CORNER BY CHARLES

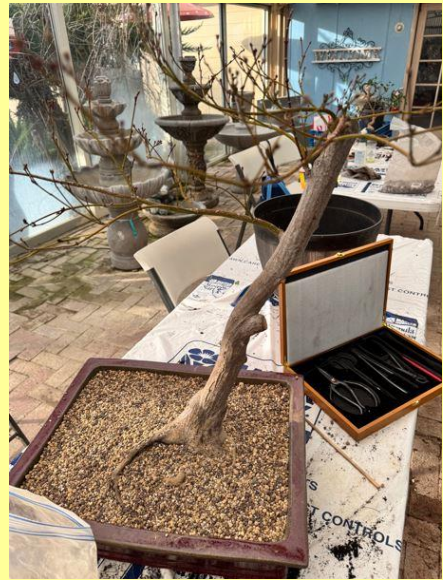
I always enjoy this time of year, when my trees start to wake up from winter and the leaves start to emerge, the blooms are getting ready to.... well, yes, bloom. I start to think about where and how I should be trimming the new growth or sometimes even some of the old growth, to bring it back to some semblance of presentability. Speaking of presentation, it is not too early to start thinking about our show coming up in June - can you believe that we are talking 3 months away? I am going to request that you limit your entries to one or two trees. Each year our show improves a little more than our previous years, however, with all the excellent and exuberant entries, we have tended to be a little crowded in recent years, so that is why we are keeping the number of entries down, so every tree is displayed without having distractions of a tree right next to each other. Start working on your neat and tidy wiring or removal of wiring, trim unnecessary foliage or branches to get it into or maintain its shape, select that special pot to display your tree in - or clean up the pot it is currently in. I am looking forward to getting at least one of my trees ready, and am looking even more forward to seeing your trees as they get ready to be presented at our show.

ELECTIONS

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

TIDBITS BY BEA

As Charles mentioned, our February meeting was well attended; however, what he did not mention was that we had a special repotting project that day. One of our members brought her grandfather's tree, which was in much need of a repotting and some TLC. Here are some pictures of the project including the challenging removal of the rebar, which was imbedded in the root system.





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	Open Position	
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.