BONSAI CLUB OF SANTA BARBARA

MARCH 2026 NEWSLETTER

SINCE 1971

BONSAI CLUB
OF SANTA BARBARA

P.O. BOX 3703
SANTA BARBARA, CA 93130

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

MARCH 3, 2026

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DANNY MARTINEZ DEMO

Dear BCSB members and friends,

In recent gatherings of our club, there have been many conversations about nature's rhythm being "off." Our winter featured consistently above-average temperatures and drenching rainstorms, and that may have disrupted our trees' normal response to [what did not feel like] a typical winter dormant season. Members are talking about some of their trees "acting differently". Most especially, some deciduous trees held onto last year's leaves into late winter, and some may still have last year's leaves even while this year's leaf buds are starting to swell.

If the timing for repotting these trees is confusing, ignore the old leaves and pay attention to what this year's leaf buds are doing. If those buds are swelling, then you should be repotting. Instead of waiting for last year's leaves to naturally senesce, simply cut them off at the petiole (the stalk between the leaf blade and the node) . Removing last year's leaves will stop your tree from pushing resources into old, unproductive leaves, and will enable your tree to focus all of its energy on this year's growth of new and more productive leaves.

March is also a good month to propagate deciduous trees from cuttings. The method will vary, depending on the species of tree, the size of the cutting, and if you are taking root, stem or branch cuttings. That information is easy enough to find on the internet, but if you want to start with some basic information on spring propagation of deciduous trees, take a look at the propagation chapter in John Naka's book, Bonsai Techniques, available in our library.

YES! We have a library! It is located in a side room at Bethany Congregational Church where we meet every month. However, we have not actively shared the library because we lack a librarian. This is unfortunate. The library is a valuable asset of the club and ought to be leveraged more effectively as a valuable resource for members to further their understanding and appreciation of bonsai – the main purpose of our club. While we want to share that asset, we also want to preserve it, and so we need a librarian to manage our stacks and track book loans. It's not an onerous task as our library is small - only two cabinets. If anyone is interested in taking on this important role for the club, please let me know and I will happily give you a (very short!) tour of the library and discuss the modest librarian duties.

As we go into spring, we are excited to welcome back Jason Chan, bonsai artist and founder of Eastern Leaf, to lead another club demo (March 19th) and workshop (March 21st). Jason was one of the demonstration artists at Bonsai-A-Thon, and his tree, an upright foemina juniper, was auctioned off after very lively and high bidding at the end of the event. We hope to see you all at the March meeting!

Cheers to trees and the vernal equinox!
Gwen

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CLUB NEWS

BCSB AT BONSAI-A-THON

This year's Bonsai-A-Thon was the 68th anniversary of the annual event presented by the California Bonsai Society at The Huntington Library, Art Museum, and Botanical Gardens to support the Golden State Bonsai Federation's collection of bonsai curated at The Huntington. BCSB was well represented, with 20 members of our club joining the greater bonsai community on the last day of February to study and enjoy an exhibit of bonsai, including a tree belonging to our club founder, Wally Kunimoto. The day-long event included interactive demonstrations by professional bonsai artists who answered questions and talked with attendees as they worked on their trees. Attendees also took advantage of the busy vendor marketplace, finding pots, tools and plants to further their bonsai journey. The afternoon featured a silent auction, followed by an exciting live auction in which the demo trees and many other donated trees were sold. The event wrapped up with an extensive raffle of pots and other goodies. Many BCSB members came home with something, from aggregates and tools to that "perfect" pot, as well as some awesome auction and raffle winnings. Mostly, we had a great time engaging with our fellow bonsai enthusiasts, reuniting with old friends and expanding our knowledge of and appreciation for bonsai.

Wally's Juniper root over rock tree on display at the this year's Bonsai-A-Thon

INSPIRATION FROM

100TH KOKUFU BONSAI EXHIBITION

We're sharing a video from the 100th Kokufu Bonsai Exhibition in Japan to spark some inspiration. This is one of the most prestigious shows in the world, and the quality of the trees is incredible.

As you watch, notice the refinement, balance, and overall presentation. The level of detail and long term development is something we can all learn from. Our former president Jeff Sczechowski attended in person, and we're looking forward to hearing his firsthand impressions and stories from the trip.

Enjoy the video and let it fuel your next step forward in your bonsai practice.

- **[4K all trees] 100th Kokufu Bonsai Exhibition part 1 2026** (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0j4Pj7EyHPI&t=3987s)

THURSDAY, MARCH 19TH MEETING

JASON CHAN
EASTERN LEAF

For our next BCSB club meeting on **THURSDAY** we will feature a special demonstration by Jason Chan, a seasoned bonsai artist with over 15 years of experience. As a former board member of the Golden State Bonsai Federation and past editor of their quarterly publication, Jason will bring a wealth of knowledge to the gathering.

During the meeting, Jason will share his expertise on bonsai styling techniques, pruning methods, and seasonal tree care. Attendees have the opportunity to ask questions and observe hands-on demonstrations, gaining valuable insights into bonsai cultivation. Known for his dedication to the bonsai community, Jason will also provided guidance on best practices for beginners, drawing from his book Bonsai Pocket Guide: A Beginner's Journey.

Thursday, March 19
Doors Open at 7:00 PM
Meeting Begins at 7:15 PM

Location: Bethany Congregational Church
556 N Hope Ave, Santa Barbara

Images from: easternleaf.com

Eastern Leaf Nursery

Jason Chan at last year's workshop – Photo by Joseph Baldassini

SATURDAY, MARCH 21ST WORKSHOP

FOLLOW-UP BONSAI WORKSHOP WITH JASON CHAN

Building on the insights from his recent club demonstration, Jason Chan will be hosting a hands-on bonsai workshop, giving members the opportunity to refine their own trees with expert guidance. This interactive session is designed for all skill levels, from beginners to seasoned enthusiasts, and will focus on personalized tree styling, pruning techniques, and seasonal care.

Participants are encouraged to bring their own bonsai trees to work on during the session. Jason will provide individualized advice, helping members apply the techniques discussed in his demonstration while addressing the unique needs of each tree.

Workshop Fee: $50 per person
All skill levels welcome! Bring at least 2-4 trees if not more, your tools, and your questions.

Session Times:
Morning: 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM (8 Spots Available)
Afternoon: 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM (8 Spots Available)

Location: Bethany Congregational Church
556 N Hope Ave, Santa Barbara

Reserve Your Spot:
Space is limited—please email **bonsaiclubsb.treasurer@gmail.com** to sign up ASAP!

Jason and Carol - Photos by Joseph Baldassini

Gwen and Steve

Raffia Wrapping - Jason and Gwen

GET YOUR OWN

BONSAI CLUB OF SANTA BARBARA T-SHIRTS

Support the Bonsai Club of Santa Barbara in style. We'll be selling club t-shirts for $**20** each starting at our March 19 meeting. Proceeds go directly toward supporting club activities, workshops, and our growing bonsai community.

Quantities are limited—pick yours up at the meeting and represent the club with pride!

BONSAI CLUB OF SANTA BARBARA

CLUB MEETINGS

LOCATION:
BETHANY CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
556 N HOPE AVE,
SANTA BARBARA, CA 93110

TIME:
7:00 PM - 9:00 PM

CALENDAR

BCSB PROGRAMS 2026

MEETINGS + WORKSHOPS + EVENTS

OFFICERS

PRESIDENT
GWEN STAUFFER

VICE PRESIDENT
MARK BRITTON

TREASURER
DIANA BOYDSTUN

MEMBERSHIP COORDINATOR
JOE BALDASSINI AND
CINDY DRAZYNSKI

SECRETARY
DANIEL OHLINGER

NEWSLETTER
SEBASTIAN FRAYE

WEBSITE
DANIEL MARTINEZ

WORKSHOP / PROGRAMS
MARK BRITTON

HONORARY SHOW CHAIR
ANN ERB

DATE	TIME	DESCRIPTION
THURS - JAN 22	7:00PM – 9:00PM	MEETING: SAM TAN PRESENTATION
SAT - JAN 24	9:00AM – 12:00 PM 1:00PM – 4:00PM	WORKSHOP: SAM TAN – BRING YOUR OWN TREE
THURS - FEB 19	7:00PM – 9:00PM	MEETING: DANNY MARTINEZ ON PROPER REPOTTING TECHNIQUES
SAT - FEB 21	9:00AM – 12:00 PM 1:00PM – 4:00PM	WORKSHOPS: CLUB WORKSHOP - NO FEE
THURS - MAR 19	7:00PM – 9:00PM	MEETING: JASON CHAN PRESENTATION
SAT - MAR 21	9:00AM – 12:00PM 1:00PM – 4:00PM	WORKSHOP: JASON CHAN – BRING YOUR OWN TREE
THURS - APR 16	7:00PM – 9:00PM	MEETING: MAY EXHIBITION PREPARATION
FRI - MAY 15	TBD	SHOW SETUP CLUB EXHIBITION
MAY 16-17	10:00AM – 4:00PM	BCSB 2026 CLUB EXHIBITION
SAT - MAY 30	9:00AM – 12:00 PM 1:00PM – 4:00PM	WORKSHOP: BEGINNERS WORKSHOP
THURS - JUN 18	9:00AM – 12:00 PM 1:00PM – 4:00PM	MEETING: TBD
SAT - JUN 20	7:00PM – 9:00PM	WORKSHOP: TBD
THURS - JUL 16	7:00PM – 9:00PM	MEETING: TBD
SAT - AUG 8	9:00AM – 12:00 PM 1:00PM – 4:00PM	SUMMER POTLUCK

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JOE BALDASSINI AND
CINDY DRAZYNSKI

SECRETARY
DANIEL OHLINGER

NEWSLETTER
SEBASTIAN FRAYE

WEBSITE
DANIEL MARTINEZ

WORKSHOP / PROGRAMS
MARK BRITTON

HONORARY SHOW CHAIR
ANN ERB

DATE	TIME	DESCRIPTION
THURS - SEP	7:00PM – 9:00PM	MEETING: TBD
SAT - SEP	9:00AM – 12:00 PM 1:00PM – 4:00PM	WORKSHOP: TBD
THURS - OCT	7:00PM – 9:00PM	MEETING: TBD
SAT - OCT	9:00AM – 12:00PM 1:00PM – 4:00PM	WORKSHOP: TBD
THURS - NOV 12	7:00PM – 9:00PM	MONTHLY MEETING: TODD SCHLAFER PRESENTATION
SAT - NOV 14	9:00AM – 12:00PM 1:00PM – 4:00PM	WORKSHOP: TODD SCHLAFER – BRING YOUR OWN TREE
SAT - DEC 5	11:00AM – 3:00PM	HOLIDAY POTLUCK

HIGHLIGHTS

DANNY MARTINEZ DEMO AT BCSB MEETING

Danny assessing front of tree an container position

Danny demostrating chopsticking in soil

Danny working the rootball and explaing how to create chop sticks from bamboo rounds

Danny demostrating chopsticking in soil

FOLLOW AND TAG US ON SOCIAL MEDIA FOR A CHANCE TO BE FEATURED

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