BONSAI CLUB OF SANTA BARBARA

SINCE 1971

BONSAI CLUB
OF SANTA BARBARA

P.O. BOX 3703
SANTA BARBARA, CA 93130

SANTABARBARABONSAI.ORG

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

APRIL 2, 2026

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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Dear members and friends,

Spring is here and it's time to plan our club's annual Bonsai Exhibition, held on May 16th and 17th! Once again our show will be hosted by the Montecito Union School – thanks to the school superintendent and bonsai club member, Anthony Ranii!

Our club's mission is to promote the understanding and appreciation of the culture and art of bonsai. This annual exhibition of our members' trees is the most impactful way to share the transcendent art of bonsai, and to encourage our community to join our club and experience the pleasure of bonsai for themselves. The time is now for you to evaluate your collection of trees and consider which one(s) you would like to enter in the show.

Whether or not you plan to enter a tree in the show, you should not miss our next club meeting on Thursday, April 16th. This is one of the most educational meetings of the year when we discuss the art of bonsai that extends beyond the tree and pot, to include the stand and accent plant(s), to create the most aesthetic display. Those of you who attended last October's meeting featuring Jonas Duprich will recall our discussion about display, and now we have the opportunity to practice it!

Please come on April 16th and bring your trees you would like to place in the show! As important: if you have stands and accent plants, please bring those, too! Choosing an appropriate stand is a critical aspect of the art of bonsai, as consideration is given to the tree's style, pot shape, and desired display height, aiming for a harmonious balance that complements the tree's natural beauty while remaining understated. Our seasoned club members are skilled at assessing these considerations, and even if you don't submit a tree - but you should - it's worth watching the process of stand selection (and it's so interesting!). We will discuss the steps to prepare your tree and pot for show, as well as establishing moss and selecting an accent plant. This is a great way for you to see your tree(s) in a completely different perspective and get expert advice.

If you have a tree that's not quite ready for primetime, consider placing it in our exhibition's trees-in-training display; a powerful way to illustrate some of the steps in creating bonsai, and show that young and recently trained trees are already works of art that can be easily created by anyone.

There are other important show planning items to discuss at our meeting. The day of set-up, Friday, May 15th, we need help to get the show up and ready. We also need club members to help run the show on the 16th and 17th to greet guests, answer questions, and help with auction and sales purchasing. We'll have sign-ups for various aspects of show duties at the meeting.

If you need help from seasoned members in preparing your tree(s) for the show, plan to attend the free club workshop on April 18th, 9am to 1pm, or to just come to continue working on trees in your collection. Please let me know if you will attend. Also, if you have trees, pots, and any other bonsai-related items you are ready to part with, you can donate these to the club for the silent auction table, or submit items to the sales table with 15% of the proceeds going to the club. A final request: please start saving empty cardboard boxes - we will need boxes for guests to carry away all the items they purchase at the show.

Looking forward to seeing you on April 16th!
Gwen

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CLUB NEWS

ENTER A TREE IN OUR ANNUAL SHOW

We'd love to see your trees on display at this year's show!

Whether it's your first time exhibiting or you've shown before, submitting a tree is one of the best ways to grow as a bonsai artist. Preparing a tree for display sharpens your eye, builds confidence, and helps elevate the overall quality of our club show.

You don't need a "perfect" tree, just one you're proud of and excited to share. Our show is about participation, learning, and celebrating the work we're all putting into our trees.

If you've been on the fence, take this as your sign. Enter a tree!

TIPS + INFO + INSPO

BONSAI INSPIRATION

This month, we're focusing on preparing your trees for exhibit, with guidance from Jonas Dupuich of Bonsai Tonight, who will also be a vendor and demonstrator at this year's show alongside Mel Ikeda. More information to follow!

Join us as we break down the process and share practical tips to help you confidently prepare a tree for display at our upcoming show.

Based on a timeline outlined on Bonsai Tonight, preparing a bonsai for exhibit should start up to a year in advance, with major work done early and the final months focused on refinement, cleaning, and presentation.

Bonsai Exhibit Prep Timeline
(**https://bonsaitonight.com/2024/06/07/timeline-for-preparing-bonsai-for-exhibit/**)

- ~12 months out
  Start planning. Choose your tree, finalize display elements (pot, stand, accent), and map out any work needed to get it show-ready.
- 8–12 months out
  Finish major work like heavy pruning, wiring, and repotting. After this point, the tree should mostly be in refinement mode.
- 3–6 months out
  Do your last growth-stimulating work (cutbacks, defoliation, decandling) so new foliage fills in before the show.
- 1–2 months out (we are here now)
  Detail cleaning phase
  – Clean bark and lifelines
  – Refresh deadwood
  – Start dialing in presentation
- ~1 month out
  Do a full mock display to catch any issues early.
- 1–4 weeks out
  "Show prep" begins
  – Fine pruning, needle/leaf work
  – Moss/top dressing
  – Clean pot and stand
- 1–2 days out
  Final touch-ups and adjustments before transport.
- Day of show
  Final check after setup. Only last-minute tweaks if absolutely needed.

THURSDAY, APRIL 16TH MEETING

EXHIBITION PREPARATION

On Thursday, April 16th, we'll be hosting an essential meeting on how to properly prepare your bonsai for formal exhibition. With our club show rapidly approaching, this is a meeting you won't want to miss. We'll walk through the critical steps to ensure your tree is presented in the best possible light, covering everything from preparing your tree and pot to selecting the right stand and choosing an accent plant.

As part of our club's tradition of collaboration and sharing, we'll also focus on borrowing stands and accent plants from fellow members. If you plan to exhibit a tree in our annual show on May 16–17, we strongly encourage you to bring it to the April meeting. This will give experienced members a chance to assess your tree's size, proportions, and overall presentation, offering valuable feedback and possibly suggesting a stand you can borrow.

Your attendance is important to make sure your tree is show-ready and to take advantage of this opportunity to collaborate with fellow members. We truly value the sharing and support that make our club's community so special.

Attached to this newsletter is a form for those who plan to exhibit a tree and need to borrow a stand.

Please complete and submit it by April 15th.

Ann Erb's tree and accent display demonstration at last year's meeting

BONSAI CLUB OF SANTA BARBARA

ANNUAL BONSAI SHOW SUBMISSION FORM MONTECITO UNION SCHOOL

-List in order of preference, one to three trees that will be ready for display show time. If space permits, all entries may be exhibited.
-Only your name, the common plant name and the bonsai style will appear on a card on the table. Additional information is needed for planning and arrangment.
-To enter a multi-level shohin stand use the reverse side for a diagram of stand and placement of the trees, with overall dimensions. List the common name and style for each tree.
-Please fill out and send to bonsaiclubsantabarbara@gmail.com or give to a club officer

EXHIBITOR'S NAME _____

WILL YOU NEED TO BORROW A STAND FOR YOUR TREE? (CIRCLE ONE) YES NO

#1 BONSAI- (PLEASE PRINT)

COMMON NAME_____STYLE_____

BONSAI (CIRCLE ONE) WITH WITHOUT STAND AND THE OVERALL DIMENSIONS:

HEIGHT _____WIDTH _____

SHITAKUSA (ACCENT PLANT) HEIGHT_____WIDTH_____

TREE TO BE PLACED ON THE(CIRCLE ONE) RIGHT LEFT

POT LENGTH_____ WIDTH_____HEIGHT_____

#2 BONSAI- (PLEASE PRINT)

COMMON NAME_____STYLE_____

BONSAI (CIRCLE ONE) WITH WITHOUT STAND AND THE OVERALL DIMENSIONS:

HEIGHT _____WIDTH _____

SHITAKUSA (ACCENT PLANT) HEIGHT_____WIDTH_____

TREE TO BE PLACED ON THE(CIRCLE ONE) RIGHT LEFT

POT LENGTH_____ WIDTH_____HEIGHT_____

#3 BONSAI- (PLEASE PRINT)

COMMON NAME_____STYLE_____

BONSAI (CIRCLE ONE) WITH WITHOUT STAND AND THE OVERALL DIMENSIONS:

HEIGHT _____WIDTH _____

SHITAKUSA (ACCENT PLANT) HEIGHT_____WIDTH_____

TREE TO BE PLACED ON THE(CIRCLE ONE) RIGHT LEFT

POT LENGTH_____ WIDTH_____HEIGHT_____

SATURDAY, APRIL 18TH WORKSHOP

FOLLOW-UP EXHIBITION PREP WORKSHOP

Following our meeting on April 16th, we'll be holding a follow-up workshop to continue preparing our trees for the upcoming show. This hands-on session will take place on Saturday, April 18th and will be led by club members to help you with the final steps of prepping your trees.

During this workshop, we'll focus on pruning, applying moss, and selecting the perfect accent plants and stands for your tree. It's a great opportunity to fine-tune your tree presentation with guidance from experienced members who can share their tips and techniques. Whether you're a first-time exhibitor or a seasoned pro, this workshop is a valuable way to ensure your tree is show-ready and looking its best.

We'll work together to create the perfect display for each tree and offer feedback and advice throughout the process. If you weren't able to bring a tree to the April 16th meeting, don't worry – you're still welcome to participate in the workshop and learn helpful techniques for preparing your trees for future shows.

Time: 9am-1 pm
Location: Bethany Congregational Church
556 N Hope Ave, Santa Barbara

We look forward to seeing you there and helping you make the most of your bonsai collection!

Examples of moss from the Pacific Bonsai Expo 2024

Photos by Aaron Kupferman

BONSAI IN CALIFORNIA

UPCOMING EVENTS

- American Bonsai Association Sacramento Bonsai Show
  April 11–12 — Sacramento, CA
- Phoenix Bonsai Society Annual Bonsai Show
  April 18–19 — Phoenix, AZ
- Modesto Bonsai Club 43rd Annual Spring Show
  April 18 — Modesto, CA
- Kusamura Bonsai Club 66th Annual Show
  April 18–19 — Palo Alto, CA
- Santa Cruz Bonsai Kai & Monterey Bay Area Cactus & Succulent Society Show & Sale
  April 25–26 — Capitola, CA
- San Diego Bonsai Club Spring Show & Sale
  April 25–26 — San Diego, CA
- Sacramento Bonsai Club 80th Annual Show & Sale
  May 2 — Sacramento, CA
- Watsonville Bonsai Club Show & Sale
  May 3 — Watsonville, CA
- Bay Area Satsuki Aikokai & Yamato Bonsai Show
  May 30–31 — Oakland, CA
- Sei Boku Bonsai Kai Annual Show & Sale
  June 13–14 — San Mateo, CA
- Valley Bonsai Society 17th Annual Show
  June 20–21 — Livermore, CA

AUGUST 22-23, 2026

THE NAKA MEMORIAL EXHIBIT

Please join us at this community-driven event to see a selection of beautiful bonsai! Submissions open until June 15th.

What: Southern California's premier juried bonsai exhibit
When: August 22nd & 23rd
Where: George J. Doizaki Gallery
244 San Pedro St #505, Los Angeles, CA

More info: **nakamemorialexhibit.com**
Contact: **nakamemorialexhibit@gmail.com**

Featured Artists:

- Seth Nelson
- Ryan Pitts
- Julian Tsai
- Fred Miyahara
- Caroline Scott

JOSHUA ROTH RISING STARS TAKE CENTER STAGE
APRIL 27TH, 2026 @ 6:30PM

GOLDEN ZOOM SERIES

Six rising bonsai artists took the stage to share their vision, creativity, and passion. The Joshua Roth Rising Star Competition was an inspiring showcase of emerging talent. Now, we're bringing that energy back, with our own Daniel Martinez—the competition winner—joined by fellow contestants as they share their experiences from the event. Link to follow.

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

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: EXHIBITION PREPARATION
SAT - APR 18	9:00AM – 1:00PM	WORKSHOP: EXHIBITION PREPARATION – NO FEE
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: GUARDIAN TREE
SAT - JUN 20	7:00PM – 9:00PM	WORKSHOP: GUARDIAN TREE
THURS - JUL 16	7:00PM – 9:00PM	MEETING: DAVID CUTCHIN- TROPICALS
SAT - JUL 18	9:00AM – 12:00PM 1:00PM – 4:00PM	WORKSHOP: DAVID CUTCHIN – BRING YOUR OWN TREE

BONSAI CLUB OF SANTA BARBARA

CLUB MEETINGS

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556 N HOPE AVE,
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TIME:
7:00 PM - 9:00 PM

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DANIEL OHLINGER

NEWSLETTER
SEBASTIAN FRAYE

WEBSITE
DANIEL MARTINEZ

WORKSHOP / PROGRAMS
MARK BRITTON

HONORARY SHOW CHAIR
ANN ERB

DATE	TIME	DESCRIPTION
SAT - AUG 8	9:00AM – 12:00 PM 1:00PM – 4:00PM	SUMMER POTLUCK
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 12	11:00AM – 3:00PM	HOLIDAY POTLUCK

HIGHLIGHTS

JASON CHAN (EASTERN LEAF) DEMO MEETING

Jason showing members the trunk line and front he would select.

Jason working on a boxwood that he illustrated beforehand.

The material before he started, explaining how he selects material .

The final results of the boxwood.

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

@BONSAI_CLUB_OF_SB BONSAISB SANTABARBARABONSAI.ORG

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