BONSAI CLUB
OF SANTA BARBARA

AUG 2026 NEWSLETTER

SINCE 1971

BONSAI CLUB
OF SANTA BARBARA

P.O. BOX 3703
SANTA BARBARA, CA 93130

SANTABARBARABONSAI.ORG

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

AUG 4, 2026

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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2026

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DAVID CUTCHIN
MEETING AND WORKSHOP

Dear BCSB members and friends,

August ushers in the high summer season and what seems to be the doldrums of bonsai, when the most important daily activity is keeping our trees properly watered. In my own garden, I've had to move some trees into shade, inspect the moisture content in every pot every day, and change up my watering regimen accordingly. This is also a good time to inspect trees that were wired months ago to be sure the trees have not outgrown the wire. If wire is "biting" or cutting into a tree, it should be removed immediately, and new wire applied as needed to continue the tree's training. Wire off – wire on.

This is the time of year when we take a pause from our meeting and workshop schedule to gather for our summer potluck and fully embrace the club's mission to promote fellowship among our members. This is a great time to trade bonsai stories, seek out answers to your bonsai questions, share tips, and just have fun. The potluck always features a lively auction, and this is where many members have the very special opportunity to acquire trees. This swapping of trees is one of the greatest benefits of being a member of BCSB. Members who are ready to let go of a tree to the auction can feel confident that their tree is going to someone who will love it and know how to care for it. Members who acquire a tree in the auction are gaining not just any tree, but one that has a known provenance that comes with background information, pointers, and a legacy. Speaking of legacy, this year's potluck auction will feature the last few trees that were bequeathed to the club by the late John Bleck.

Recently, our club has benefited from the generosity of others, and their gifts are worthy of mention because they make a difference for our club. We recently received a generous cash gift from a club member to support the club's workshop programs. We also received a donation to fund the purchase of a specialized tool for the club, which club members may rent to use. (See the article in this newsletter for more details.) And we also received sponsorships from Canoe Footwear and Sonos for our annual show in May.

Bonsai Club of Santa Barbara is a 501(c)3 nonprofit. What that means is BCSB is a charitable organization that operates to specifically deliver on its mission and most importantly - to support its membership. It also means that, as a nonprofit, the club may seek and accept donations. Gifts to the club help it thrive, and enable the club to deliver even more programming and opportunities to its members. We deeply appreciate the donor support!

I am hoping to see all of you at our potluck on August 8th!

Cheers!
Gwen

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CLUB NEWS

THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS AND SPONSORS

The Bonsai Club of Santa Barbara is grateful for the generosity of our members and community supporters. We recently received a generous donation from an anonymous member, which will help support future educational programs, workshops, demonstrations, and other club activities.

We would also like to recognize Canoe Footwear and Sonos for their sponsorships of our Annual Show in May. Their support helped make this year's event a success and is greatly appreciated.

Important Payment Reminder: If you use Zelle to make club payments, please send them only to bonsaiclubsantabarbara@gmail.com.

CANOE

CANOEFOOTWEAR.COM

api@SONOS

TIPS + INFO + INSPO

CLUB EQUIPMENT RENTALS

Following a discussion during last month's workshop, the Bonsai Club of Santa Barbara has added a Merlin 2 power carving tool to our club equipment library.

Merlin 2 Power Carving Kit: The club's new Merlin 2 includes the power carving tool, carbide carving wheel, flap sanding wheels, abrasive disc, safety glasses, and a carrying bag. Designed for shaping deadwood, carving shari and uro, and refining jin, the Merlin 2 provides members with a versatile tool for creating natural-looking aged features on bonsai.

The complete kit is available for checkout by club members with a signed liability waiver and a **$20 rental fee**.

To reserve or check out the tool, please contact a club officer, who will coordinate availability, paperwork, and pickup.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 8TH

ANNUAL SUMMER POTLUCK

Join us for the Bonsai Club of Santa Barbara's Annual Summer Potluck! Enjoy an afternoon of great food, good company, and our always-popular member auction. It's a wonderful opportunity to connect with fellow members, share a favorite dish, and browse bonsai-related trees, pots, tools, and other items offered by members.

Members are encouraged to bring a dish to share, their significant other, and any bonsai-related items they'd like to sell during the auction (10% of proceeds benefit the club).

We also welcome donations of bonsai-related items for the raffle. Be sure to bring cash or Zelle if you plan to bid or shop.

Saturday, August 8

Time:
11:30 AM – 3:00 PM

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

RSVP:
Please RSVP to Bonsai Club of Santa Barbara at **bonsaiclubsantabarbara@gmail.com** so we can plan food, drinks, and seating.

ANNUAL BCSB POTLUCK

SATURDAY, AUGUST 8, 2026

11:30 AM - 3:00PM

BETHANY CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
556 N. Hope Ave., Santa Barbara

PLEASE BRING:
A TASTY DISH TO SHARE,
TREES, POTS, BONSAI-related ITEMS TO AUCTION (SELL)
(10% preceeds go to BCSB),
TREES, POTS, BONSAI-related ITEMS TO RAFFLE (DONATE),
CASH TO BUY TREES AND STUFF!!!
CASH IS KING, BUT ZELLE and CHECKS ALSO ACCEPTED

RSVP to GWEN at:
bonsaiclubsantabarbara@gmail.com

BONSAI CLUB OF SANTA BARBARA

SELLER_____

Auction Submission

ITEM DESCRIPTION (SPECIES, DESIGN STYLE, APPROX AGE, BACKSTORY/ADDITIONAL INFO): _____

_____

_____

STARTING BID: _____

ADMIN:

BUYER:_____

SALE PRICE: _____BUYER PAYMENT MADE (INITIALS)_____

PAY TO SELLER: (-10% CLUB):._____CLUB PAYMENT MADE (INITIALS)_____

Auction Submission attached in Potluck email*

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

DATE	TIME	DESCRIPTION
SAT - AUG 8	11:00AM – 3:00PM	SUMMER POTLUCK
THURS - SEP	7:00PM – 9:00PM	MONTHLY MEETING: JEREMIAH LEE REDWOODS PRESENTATION
SAT - SEP	9:00AM – 12:00 PM 1:00PM – 4:00PM	WORKSHOP: JEREMIAH LEE – BRING YOUR OWN TREE
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

DAVID CUTCHIN HIGHLIGHTS

MEETING AND WORKSHOP
PHOTOS BY JEFF SCZECHOWSKI ANS MARK BRITTON

Before

After thinning on a ficus tree that was created by former member Susanne Barrymore

David helping members with repotting

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

@BONSAI_CLUB_OF_SB BONSAISB SANTABARBARABONSAI.ORG

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