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# CBS Newsletter

January 2020

Meeting: Sunday January 12<sup>th</sup>, 10:30 am

## Christmas Fling A Success

### Santa was Generous to all, Naughty or Nice

Judging by smiles, the Society Christmas party was a success. All attending members were presented with a society pin. In addition, all attending members were automatically entered into a surprise raffle gift [a bonsai turntable]. The handsome looking gentleman [see below] who won the bonsai turntable was John McDonald. In keeping with the bonsai season, 8 members entered their decorated bonsai trees and members voting with secret ballots picked the best-looking tree. The winning tree was entered by MJ and Sarah Laiw who received a bottle of Champagne [see winning tree below].

Thanks to all the members who brought their favorite potluck dishes to share with all. No one had any excuses for going home hungry.



*Raffle Winner with Prize*



*Winning Bonsai Christmas Tree*



## Christmas Tree Bonsai Entrees



## January Agenda

### Nomination of CBS Officers [President, Vice President and Secretary]

The CBS bylaws set January as the time for society members who are interested in tendering their names for consideration as President, Vice President or Secretary for the 2020 year to come forward. The elections will take place in February and the position begins in April after the annual show in March. Please see addendum for the various duties.

In addition, various positions are open for members who would like to share in expanding our society and the art of bonsai in the community. These positions when available are ideal for members who want to contribute to the society but have time constraints. These tasks include; web page, social media, newsletter, reserving the room and opening and closing meetings, society store, auction facilitator, etc. A partial list of any openings for these volunteer positions will be part of the January agenda.

### Thinking Ahead with Your Bonsai

This month will be a working bee. Bring in a plant you would like to show and tell and have advice on styling from club members.

#### What to Bring to Meeting:

- Any plant material, you have questions about or would like advise for the spring season.
- Anything bonsai you would like donate for the **raffle table** [all proceeds donated to the bonsai society].
- Bring a tarp to catch cuttings and soil

# Bonsai in the News

## Have you seen this Tree?



This 400 yo Shimpaku Juniper was stolen from Seiji and Fuyumi Iimura from their garden in Saitama, near Tokyo last February and has not been recovered. This bonsai has an estimated value of \$91,000.

Bonsai theft is not limited to foreign locations. Leo Martinez reported a valuable suiseki collection that was looted in Grass Valley within the last year. Sadly, in addition to regular maintenance and care, bonsai security for valuable plant material is now a consideration in our changing world.

What low or high technology have you used to protect your bonsai? If you are currently using any security measures, please contact John McDonald (530-321-1139 or [jemcdonald@protonmail.com](mailto:jemcdonald@protonmail.com)) at the newsletter. A list of measures that our society members and other individuals use will be covered in next month's newsletter.

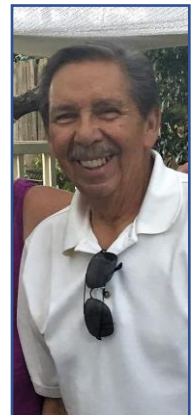
Source: <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-47207417>

# CBS Potpourri

## Lifelong Learning Institute Spring Class: Introduction to the Art of Bonsai



A CBS member Leo Martinez will be conducting a two-week class on April 27<sup>th</sup> and May 4<sup>th</sup> through the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at CSU, Chico. The location is Bradley 1 at 1400 W 3<sup>rd</sup> Street: Hwy 32 / Walnut St. Registration is required. Call 530-898-6679 for details or



## Long-time Society Member now in Bend

Bob Nottelmann, a member and contributor to our society for many years recently pulled up stakes and is putting down new roots in Bend, Oregon. The move will put Bob closer to family and will require less airport commute time for work.

Bob had an extensive collection of plant material some of which was sold at a silent auction at his home before moving. The society wishes Bob the best as an Oregon Duck. Bob has promised to keep in contact and from time to time contribute a few articles for our newsletter [see unique bonsai this newsletter].



*Bob Nottelmann [left] Sal Cordaro [right] and Pat Gilmore [not pictured] harvesting a Camellia at Bob's house.*

## Membership and Finances

Current Membership for 2019 was 48. Treasurers report for 2019 will be presented at January meeting.

## CBS Store

Our CBS store is now fully stocked and open. New polo shirt design is now available. See: Steve Liner at our meeting for details prices and details.



# Bonsai Potpourri

## Cork Bark Oak and Understanding Hardiness Zones

By Bob Nottelmann

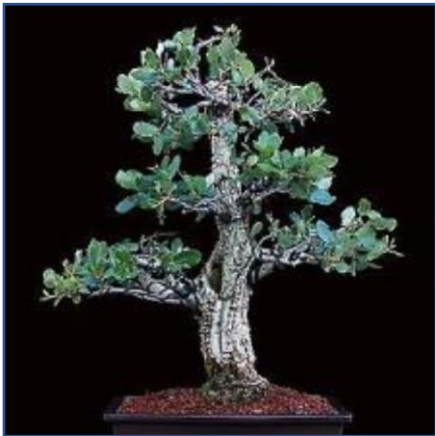
### Question put to Bob about care of *Quercus suber* or Cork Bark Oak:

My biggest concern with Cork Oaks is their cold hardiness. I'm not sure if you are familiar with the USDA Cold Hardiness classification for plants but it merits consideration; see below. The Chico area is estimated to be in Zone 8 with expected winter lows of about 20 degrees F; I've seen temperatures as low as 18. Cork Oaks are estimated to be cold hardy to Zones 7 or 8 (a low of in the teens). But it's important to realize that a potted plant is probably 5 to 10 degrees more sensitive than one planted in the ground. If you push bonsais hard with fertilizer beyond mid-summer, you risk entering into winter with particularly green and sensitive tissues.

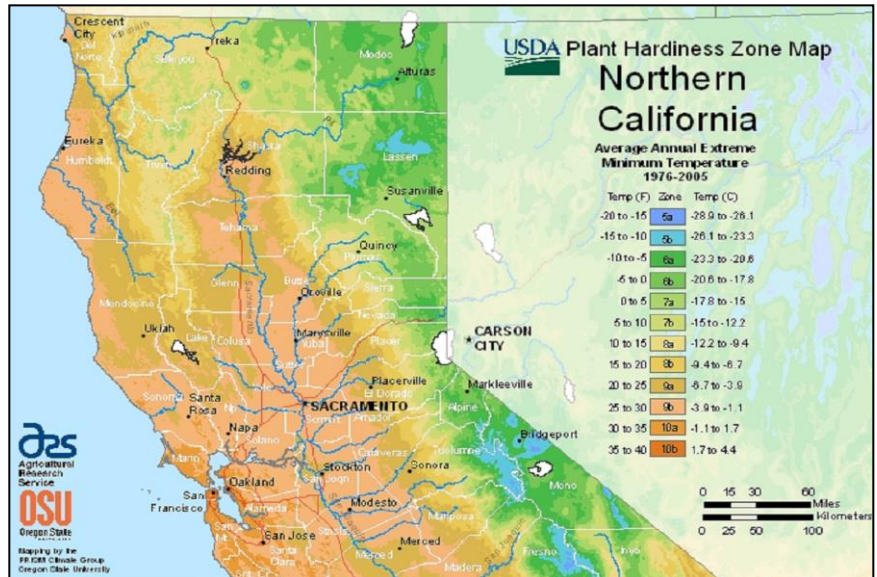


## Cork Bark Oak and Understanding Hardiness Zones cont.

I don't fertilize beyond July 1st for this reason. Most of the growth in a season is in the spring and fall. I like to avoid excessive fall growth except for my trees under protection of my greenhouse. I consider tridents and interior live oaks to be of similar cold hardiness. Merely placing potted bonsais on the ground, as opposed to on benches will afford them some degree of protection from winter injury; probably about 3 degrees.



Cork Bark Oak *Quercus suber*



Northern California Hardiness Zone

### Care Guide for Cork Oak Bonsai

<b>Lighting</b>	Oak trees require full, direct sun. However, in areas where summers are hot and dry, the trees should be grown where filtered afternoon sun is provided.
<b>Temperature tolerance</b>	Sensitive to hard frosts. [see article above]
<b>Repotting tips</b>	Sensitive to root pruning. Repot in spring growth. Fertilize one month after repotting and throughout the growing season.
<b>Planting medium</b>	Will grow in variety of bonsai media
<b>Feeding</b>	During growing season. [see article above]

### References

Cork Bark Oak Image Retrieved from <http://indoorbonsai.biz/2016/04/27/bonsai-tree-cork-bark-oak-in-tokona-me-pot/>  
<https://homeguides.sfgate.com/make-oak-bonsai-tree-45986.html>  
<https://www.bonsaitreegardener.net/bonsai-trees/species/oak>

# Bonsai Maintenance

November [SF Bay Area – Please compensate for differences in Chico weather]

## January

### General

- Move all trees into full sun
- Take advantage of dormancy to photograph deciduous trees and to study branches and styling
- Plan for the year—especially for trees you are going to exhibit
- Rotate trees at least once a month to promote symmetrical growth of roots and canopy

### Fertilizing

- Feed evergreens and conifers lightly with liquid 0-10-10 fertilizer; many suggest this zero level of nitrogen during winter, especially for Japanese black and other hard pines. Some say junipers especially are not completely dormant in our climate. Do not fertilize satsuki azaleas.

### Watering

- Reduce watering because the sun is low, not hot or drying. Trees are probably in shade. Deciduous trees especially transpire very little water through bark of limbs and trunk.
- Do not water too little! Satsuki azaleas and evergreens, especially junipers, may be growing slowly; days can be warm
- Water during prolonged dry spells between storms
- If drainage is inhibited (ponding occurs), repot immediately
- Prop up one end of pots to help drainage during prolonged storms

### Insect, disease, & weed control (see Appendix 9)

- Watch for insects and fungi; aphids become active during warm periods.
- Apply lime-sulfur for the third time (first in November, second in December)
  - Follow manufacturer's directions, but use only 1 tablespoon per gallon of water on pines
  - Cover roots and pot to protect from damage
  - Be careful not to spray new sprouts and buds
  - If you have pruned, wait 3 or 4 days before spraying
  - **Do not use lime-sulfur on**
    - ezo spruce, satsuki azaleas, camellias, ume, or any plants showing growth of buds
    - trees to be displayed in an exhibit within a few weeks
  - Shake plants vigorously after spraying to remove excess spray and avoid burning of foliage

- Do not use any solution containing Volck oil on cedars or ezo spruce
- Do not use any pesticides on ezo spruce

### Styling/Pruning

- Okay to wire, but be careful of brittle foliage and new buds
- Check old wiring—green portions become woody and swell so wire may be biting in
- Maples: do not prune, they bleed heavily
- Satsuki azaleas: OK to wire and bend; larger branches can be stiff and brittle; thin out new growth so blooms in May will not encroach on each other; seal all wounds
- Sasanqua camellias: after blooming cut back to two leaves, wire and shape
- Black and other hard pines: wire and bend; pull old needles if not done earlier
- Monterey pines: if heavy cut-back is necessary, complete it this month

### Repotting

- Plan for repotting during next 3–4 months (see Appendices 1–4 for potting mixes)
- Review and, if needed, replenish supplies of potting mixes
- Screen materials and aggregates (e.g., pumice, sand, lava rock, decomposed granite, etc.) as well as humus (i.e.: fir and cedar bark, redwood)
- Mix bone-dry ingredients and store for use during next few months
- Camellias, sasanqua, immediately after blooming and cutting back to one or two leaves
- Maples, elms, akebia, quinces, and California oaks: start repotting early budding deciduous trees late in January when buds begin to swell, become shiny, change color

### Propagating/Collecting

- Start grafting and air- and ground-layering late this month (for conifers, February is better)
- Graft most species (see Appendix 8)
- Gather seedlings and collect wild trees
- Pollinate early-flowering fruit and berry trees

### Personal reminders:

# From the President's Desk

## Behind the Scenes

### **CBS Board and Club Meeting Minutes Submitted by Luke Smith**

#### Attendees

Stephen Liner, Leo Martinez, Ruben Rodarte, Sal Cordaro, Patrick Gilmore, Dave Mahan, Jeanie Alvidrez, Paul Huston, Karen Reid, Margaret Best, Jill Collins, Carol Crljenica, John McDonald, Adam Jacobsen, Luke Smith (15) - Head count at the end of the meeting was 23 adults and 3 children.

#### Agenda

##### Old Business

- This month was a special event. The club did not discuss old business in the meeting.

##### New Business

- Every member to arrive received a door prize raffle ticket. 12 items were available for the winners.
- Gift exchange material was a success.
- The CBS member sale table was set up.
- The member brunch was a hit! Some of the items included lasagna, pumpkin pie, brownies, Krispy Kreme donuts, carrot cake, cinnamon rolls, chips, dip, pie The Keurig coffee was an added bonus.
- John set up a photo booth for members to capture quality images of their trees.
- Patrick supplied the club members with large yellow produce crates for \$1 (funds raised went to the club).
- (8 or 9) members brought trees for the decoration competition. Tree #4 won (Sarah & MJ Laiw - Mother and daughter).
- Keep an eye open for stolen Suseki stones. A Grass Valley club member recently experienced an incident. CBS members briefly discussed various security systems they had in place.
- Bob is selling trees at his home as he is moving to Bend, Or. Silent auction will last until 2pm (Bob extended sale to Monday afternoon).
- Jeanie A Alvarez paid 2020 dues.
- Club asking to have 2020 dues received by April.
- Michael brought new name tags for members and took new orders for more.



## Action Items

- Website: Updated calendar, where to get resources, bio content for board members, seasonal tree care information.
- Social Media: FB and IG management
- Shows: Firm date for the 2020 Annual Show, Quarterly Shows.
- Outreach: Advertising, demo or class at local businesses, park, or ? (Patrick)
- Name tags for members
- Television/Radio advertising options (Michael)

## Next Meeting Agenda Items

- Options for other shows: quarterly shows. Where, when and how?
- Other club meeting locations: Club discussion around having Club meetings in Gridley, Durham & Oroville. Discuss a possible show in Bidwell Park.
- Club publications: Discussion around a Club Brochure.
- Website & Social Media updates: Updated calendar, where to get resources, bio content for board members, seasonal tree care information.
- Social Media: FB and IG need a member to help manage content
- Outreach: Advertising, demo or class at local businesses, park, or ?
- Name tags for members (ongoing)
- Television/Radio advertising options

# Future Calendar of Events

**Unless noted, board meetings are at 9:30 am and regular meeting starts at 10:30 am**

- |                            |               |   |                           |
|----------------------------|---------------|---|---------------------------|
| • January 12 <sup>th</sup> | Meeting/Board | • May 2 <sup>nd</sup> and 3 <sup>rd</sup> | <b><u>Annual Show</u></b> |
| • February 9 <sup>th</sup> | Meeting/Board | • May 10 <sup>th</sup>                    | Meeting/Board             |
| • March 8 <sup>th</sup>    | Meeting/Board |   |                           |
| • April 12 <sup>th</sup>   | Meeting/Board |   |                           |



**Chico Bonsai Society (CBS)** is a non-profit organization whose intent it is to promote the appreciation, knowledge, and cultivation of Bonsai through education, publicity, display and any other means which would advance the Art of Bonsai.

**Membership:** Chico Bonsai Society is a social hub based on the common interest of the Art of Bonsai. Membership is open to the general public, come join us. Guests and visitors are always welcome.

Annual Individual Memberships dues are \$30.00 per year plus \$5.00 for each additional member of the household. To join the CBS, mail your name(s), address, telephone and e-mail address plus a check made payable to the CBS for the correct amount to: **Leo Martinez, 1236 Whitewood Way., Chico, CA 95973.**

#### **CBS Board of Directors**

President	Adam Jacobsen	adamjacobsen33@gmail.com
Vice President	John McDonald	jemcdonald@protonmail.com
Secretary	Luke Smith	smit5821@gmail.com
Treasurer	Leo Martinez	LeoRMartin@gmail.com
Annual Show	Patrick Gilmore	gilappl@gmail.com
Society Store	Steven Liner	stephenliner7@gmail.com
Director	Ruben Rodarte	rubenrodarte123@gmail.com
Newsletter	John McDonald	jmcDonald@protonmail.com
Refreshments	Carol Crljenica	tambura33@sbcglobal.net

The **Golden State Bonsai Federation (GSBF)** is an educational organization which provides services and activities promoting the wonderful art of bonsai. GSBF is made up of member clubs in California and affiliate clubs in the adjoining states.

- **Publication:** [Golden Statements Magazine](#) [free digital version], the official publication of GSBF, is printed four times each year with current bonsai articles and calendars of local club shows and events.
- **Education:** The Federation awards grants to assist the clubs with programs and provides several categories of bonsai scholarships which are available to worthy individuals. There is also an internship program in which qualified students are given assistance to study with a bonsai master in Japan or elsewhere.
- **The Chico Bonsai Society is a current member.**

The **American Bonsai Society (ABS)** is an international non-profit corporation founded in 1967 to promote knowledge of, and interest in, bonsai – and to serve as a national focal point for bonsai fanciers. The ABS publish the *ABS Bonsai Journal*, hold member conventions, and provide educational and support services to the bonsai community.

Individual Membership dues are \$45.00. Join the ABS online at: <https://www.joinit.org/o/american-bonsai-society/4n47EfHaY6Fs6oMoy>.

