



# California Bonsai Society

Next Meeting on Wednesday July 17 at 7 PM at Nakaoka Community  
1700 W. 162nd St., Gardena 90247

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Visit CBS at

## President's Message



Its hard to believe that it's July already. This year instead of meeting in August, which is just too darn hot, our meeting will be on July 17<sup>th</sup> at 7pm in the usual place.

The CBS Visiting Artist Program welcomes Liliana Marcela Tello Ortiz from Columbia by way of Costa Rica as our guest for July. She is a very skilled and passionate bonsai artist who will show us how bonsai is done in south America. She is skilled with tropical, South American natives as well as more traditional types of material like junipers. After 20+ years as a medical doctor she has decided to embrace her passion and do bonsai professionally. See her bio elsewhere in this newsletter for more info about her. I hope we have a very large turnout to welcome her to Los Angeles.

The CBS visiting Artist program has brought in highly skilled bonsai artists from around the world to share their knowledge and love of bonsai not just with us but with a number of other local clubs as well. This program has been very well received by all the clubs that have taken part in it and has become a great resource for Southern California bonsai. In the coming year we'll have several US bonsai artists from and N.J., Colorado and Puerto Rico as well as from Croatia

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## Events and Opportunities

### **Vietnamese Bonsai Society Annual Bonsai and Nonbo Exhibition**

**July 6 and 7, 9 AM to 5 PM**

**Vietnamese American Temple**

**12292 Magnolia St.**

**Garden Grove**

**Demonstrations at 1:00 PM**

**Vendor, Plant Sales and Auction**

**info: 949-331-4050**

### **Kofu Bonsai Kai Show at the Bowers Museum**

**Labor Day Weekend**

**Thursday August 29 - Sunday  
September 1, 10 AM - 4 PM**

**Demonstration on Saturday  
August 29 at 1 pm**

**2002 N. Main St.  
Santa Ana**

**No charge for admission to the  
bonsai exhibit, regular fees  
apply to the rest of the museum**

## **IMPORTANT**

**Ryan Niel is working on the CBS  
Ben Oki tree which will be  
auctioned to support the Ben  
Oki scholarships.**

**Ryan requests any video or  
photos featuring Ben Oki that  
you're willing to share for a  
documentary he is making of  
this process.**

**If you have photos or video of  
Ben to share please contact Bob  
Pressler.**

and Slovenia; all very skilled artists that we're going to really be pleasantly surprised with. If anyone has suggestions for future artists in 2022 and beyond, let me know and we'll put them up for consideration.

Last month we gave out five two hundred dollar scholarships through our Ben Oki Scholarship fund. This is our second year doing this and we had 37 applications from all over the US. Five winners were randomly drawn and each was awarded two hundred dollars to further their bonsai knowledge. Congratulations to Otis Gordon of Los Angeles, Vincent Munoz of Spring Hill Florida, James Yoo of Skokie IL., Sean Campbell of Lancaster, CA and Gabriel Gonzalez of Covina CA

If anyone would like to help keep this wonderful program going we will happily accept donations of cash or bonsai materials that can be sold and earmarked for this program. See me for more info on how to help.

It's not too soon to start thinking about the trees you want to show in our exhibition next March. It would be great if it is our best show ever.

There have been lots of changes in the last year and lots of new members as well. One thing I am really pleased about is how some of our newest members have jumped right in and taken on responsibilities that help keep our club running and cutting edge. Some of our newer members who really put themselves out there include our technology people- Jason Saito, Jonathon Jee and Mel Carrillo who have started and or improved our social media platforms; Facebook, Live streaming, Instagram and coming soon our Youtube channel. Another new member who has gone above and

beyond is our webmaster Diem Van Groth who created and maintains our website [www.californiabonsai.com](http://www.californiabonsai.com) which everyone should check out. These are some of the people who are the future of southern California bonsai.

Anyone who has ideas of anything that we can do to help improve the club or make us a better resource are invited to let me or a member of our board know and we will take them under consideration. This is our club and it'll only be as good as we make it so don't just stand in the background, get involved and help us remain one of America's premier bonsai clubs.

I'm looking forward to seeing many of you at our next meeting- so until then stay cool and keep those bonsai hydrated.

BP  
President  
California Bonsai Society

# California Bonsai Society May Meeting

Wednesday May 15 at 7 PM

Nakaoka Community Center, 1700 W. 162nd St., Gardena

## CBS Welcomes

# Liliana Marcela Tello Ortiz



Lilliana Ortiz is the latest bonsai artist to visit us thanks to the CBS visiting artist program. She is a medical doctor by profession, born in Bogota Colombia and living in Costa Rica and has now been practicing bonsai as her main activity for two years. She began her bonsai journey when she moved to Costa Rica 20 years ago and found a teacher who had trained with bonsai master Salvatore Liporace in Europe. She has trained with many others including our friend Pedro Morales of Puerto Rico. She has traveled to many countries and was invited to an event in Shanghai by Robert Steven where she did demonstrations and workshops. She was also at the exhibition of the Spanish Bonsai Association and has recently demonstrated in Bogota at the Golden Dragon bonsai school. This February she was in Belgium for the 'Best of 20 Year Trophy' exhibition and then went on to Barcelona for a week at Gabriel Romero's school. Though Dr. Ortiz is devoted to practicing medicine, she says that bonsai is truly the passion of her life.



***"I have had the opportunity to participate in several important events as a guest, in several countries and now I am sharing my experience with you which is exciting for me and I am very happy to continue meeting wonderful people and lovers of this beautiful art."***



CBS May Meeting with

# Tomohiro Masumi

When CBS invites a bonsai artist to Southern California we enjoy the opportunity to increase our knowledge of the Art and we also hope that new connections will be made and old ones renewed.

Tomohiro Masumi shared with us his approach to shohin and also did some visiting.

Clockwise from top left, Tomohiro with Gary Ishii at Chikugo-En; with Larry and Nina Ragle who have known him since he was a boy, at Kofu Kai; at Bob Pressler's nursery for a shohin workshop; a visit with Peter Macasieb for a shohin workshop.

