

# Kofu Bonsai Kai [kofukai.org](http://kofukai.org)

Saturday May 16 Meeting, 6 PM in the Choir Room

Usually Meeting at the Anaheim United Methodist Church, 1000 S. State College Blvd., Anaheim

**Our meeting hours will vary in 2026**

**CBS Visiting Artist Philippe Baron demonstration**

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## Important Announcement

Beginning this year, some of our meetings will be at 1:00 PM, not 6:00 PM. Please check each month in the newsletter or on the website to see the time. Our meetings that feature the CBS visiting artists will still be at 6:00 PM because that is when they are available. Our annual benefit auction will still be in the evening.

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Please join us on Saturday, May 16 at 6 PM for a demonstration by CBS visiting artist Philippe Baron.

Philippe Baron is a Los Angeles–based bonsai artist with over 20 years of dedicated practice and study. He has trained extensively with Mauro Stemberger for the past nine years, contributing to the care and development of trees in private collections across the region and traveling to Italy to work on Stemberger’s collection.

He currently helps maintain the exquisite bonsai collection of Hank Fawcett and also works with Daniel Deephouse,

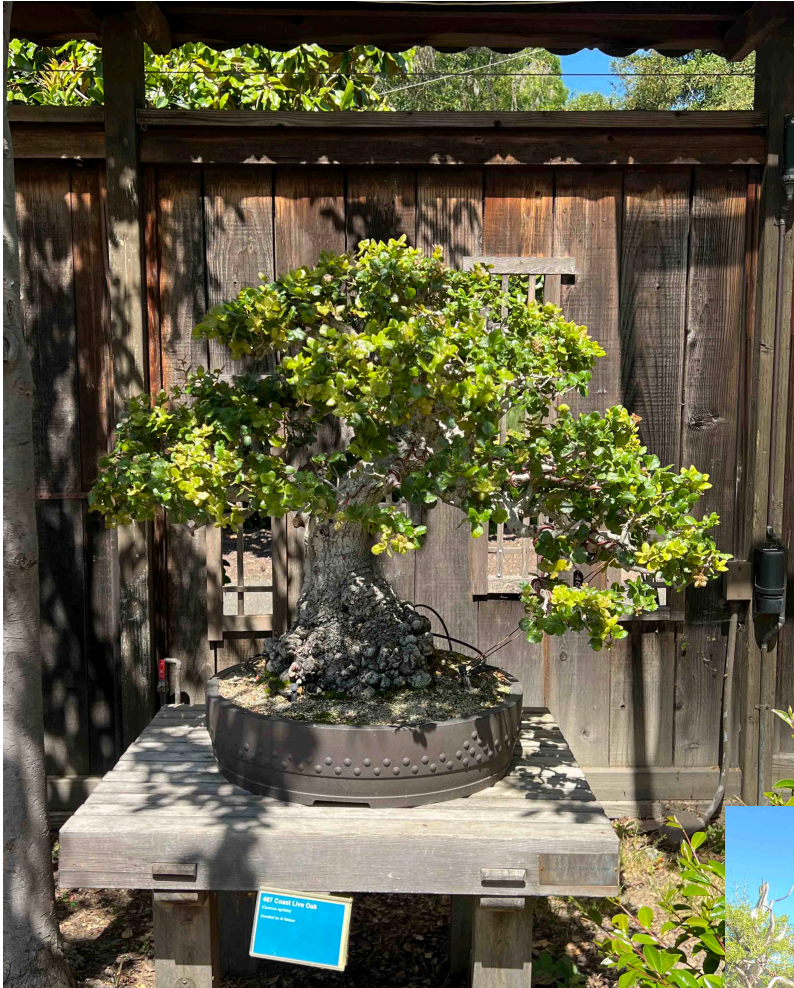
Assistant Curator of Bonsai at the Huntington Library and Gardens.

Philippe will be working on a tree owned by Robert Pressler and will be talking about advanced pad development and apex design and development in junipers so come to this meeting and find out how to advance those prostratas you have lurking around your yard.



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Al Nelson passed away on April 29, 2026 at the age of 94



Al Nelson was a huge contributor to the bonsai community for decades. He championed his favorite bonsai species, coast live oak (see the photo at left of his tree at Lake Merritt). He often gave very detailed talks about the various oak species that we can grow here in California. He also championed the art of saikei and would field a whole crew of helpers for saikei and oak demos. His trees can be seen in major collections including Lake Merritt and the National Bonsai and Penjing Museum in Washington DC. But by far the most important contribution Al made to bonsai was his patient and tireless mentoring of bonsai artists.

He realized early on that one of the barriers to learning to do bonsai is the fact that beginning practitioners have very few trees to work on. His solution was to have classes at his home and have his students work on his many trees, thus learning about all aspects of bonsai practice.

He was always so positive and supportive of Kofu Kai and, until his health kept him closer to home, always available to show a tree or do a demonstration.

We will miss him very much.



# Kofu Bonsai Kai [kofukai.org](http://kofukai.org)

Kofu Kai April Double Header at David and June's and at The Bowers



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Thank you very much to all who participated.



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## OMIYA TRAILER PARK

Where Bonsai Artists go to retire.

*A last joke from an old jokester....*



In memory of  
Al Nelson:  
Friend,  
Teacher,  
Sensei.  
1932-2026

## Upcoming Events

May 9 - 10, Dai Ichi Bonsai Kai annual show 'Serenity Through Bonsai' includes beginner's workshop and demonstration plus vendors and club sales. See the site for details, [daiichibonsaikai.com](http://daiichibonsaikai.com)

May 16 at 6 PM, Kofu Kai hosts the CBS visiting artist, Phillips Baron, at the church at 6 PM

May 23 - May 25. Santa Anita Bonsai Society annual show and members' sale. L A Arboretum in Ayers Hall. [sabonsai.org](http://sabonsai.org)

May 30 - May 31 Coastal Bonsai Club annual show at Sherman Library and Gardens in Corona Del Mar. Contact Debra Melitz for details. [coastal.bonsai.23@gmail.com](mailto:coastal.bonsai.23@gmail.com)

Continuing. Tuesday Evenings mentoring workshop with Mel Ikeda. 6:00 -8:00 most every Tuesday. Bring your own tree and table cover. \$15 per session. 11832 Euclid Avenue, Garden Grove. It's ok to just show up. Contact Paul Minerich with questions. [pminerich@sbcglobal.net](mailto:pminerich@sbcglobal.net)

Kimura Bonsai Nursery in Castaic; Classes and workshops. Check their website for the latest offerings. 30535 Harley Canyon Rd, Castaic. [kimurabonsainursery.com](http://kimurabonsainursery.com)

David Nguy, Bonsai Jidai, offers once-per-month workshops year round. [bonsajidai.com](http://bonsajidai.com)

Peter Macasieb also offers workshops. @petermacasieb for instagram photos and videos.

# Kofu Bonsai Kai [kofukai.org](http://kofukai.org)

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